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ESA '24 PORTO

16th CONFERENCE

27-30 AUG 2024 PORTO-PORTUGAL

TENSION, TRUST AND TRANSFORMATION



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RS19 – Rethinking Dependence: Trust and Social Hierarchies in an Era of Uncertainty
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Tension, Trust and Transformation

What is the value in thousands of social scientists gathering in one location to discuss their work? What value accrues from a large international conference and what is lost without it? Since pandemic restrictions were implemented in the last few years, we have become more familiar with on-line meetings and seminars, with the 15th conference being held online and widely regarded as highly successful. Indeed, it is probable that many forms of work, especially that of academic research, will henceforth use online facilities to a much greater extent than in previous times when the technological capacity may have existed but the psychological mind-set to fully engage with the world of online, work may not have. However, it may also be fair to say that in-person meetings are also now being re-evaluated for their intrinsic value. We always suspected that there was equal value in interactions outside the conference seminar room and now, it is widely accepted that the physicality of a conference cannot be substituted by a screen call i.e. while online work may have resulted in greater efficiencies related to less travel and higher frequency of meetings, it has also inhibited the depth of communication that exists when working in-person with others. During face-to-face conferences, the dynamic within the seminar room, walking around book fairs and the continuation of discussions over coffee, lunch and evening meals are human activities which cannot be substituted.

The COVID-19 pandemic, while acutely felt the world over, was but another driver of inequality, which added to increasing geo-political tensions across the world. Societal challenges were manifold before the pandemic and are not likely to disappear. Arguably, the ways in which societies across the world have dealt with COVID-19 and other challenges has been in some ways correlated with regionally specific longer range socio-cultural traditions. No country has been immune to the tensions of societal limitations on working and family life, not least in the form of travel restrictions. Similarly, there is manifest variability in the trust that people have in scientists and policy makers responsible for dealing with COVID-19. Sociological work is fundamental for dealing with societal challenges, and sociological conferences are the engines driving the ideas which can address these challenges.

The title of the theme for the 16th conference: “Tension, Trust and Transformation”, seeks to capture the experiences of recent times, crises and global challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change debates and activism, inequalities and violence, persisting levels of populism and the politics of instability. At the same time, it raises sociological concerns about perennial and new problems to assert the potential for sociological work to have a transformative societal impact in different social spheres.

What do the social sciences have to offer a world going through a persistent pandemic, increasing concern about the acceleration of climate change, a noticeable retreat from democracy and a crisis due to war in Europe?

We know that the heterogeneity of sociology in terms of both theory and methods is at the core of its strength. Given any aspect of society, there are likely to be a wide range of perspectives, each of which have established literatures,

case studies, endemic findings, and critiques of other perspectives. Theoretical frameworks span micro social relations to macro analyses of institutional structures. Methodologies help us to understand phenomena in terms of the actor's understandings and their lived context, through to statistical representations and models, making space for subjectivist as well as more objectivist scientific approaches. This multiplicity of possibilities means that sociology has always, well before the push for multidisciplinary, had the potential to throw light upon causes and consequences of inequalities in a variety of ways unhindered by a narrower approach. Debate and disagreement, discussion and discourse, hypotheses and evidence are at the heart of the discipline, and the 16th ESA conference will be the prime forum to showcase our work, argue for different positions, hone methodologies and arguments against opposing perspectives, as well as to joint networking.

Tension

Societies are riddled with tensions. Forms of nationalism are in the ascendancy where borders are being strengthened, cultural differences are being used to promote political ends, and forms of authoritarianism are taking hold. The consequences of political, cultural, historical and economic tensions are felt in harsh terms when conflict between nations escalates. There are, nonetheless, some familiar tensions in terms of the persistent inequalities of class, gender, ethnicity, intersectionality, as well as political and economic tension between rich and poor countries, and in many cases also between different areas of the same country. To these, we can add more recent tensions related to sexualities, gender, transgender, gender-based violence, climate change and the expansion of digital society such as the ways in which social media is used to leverage anger and negativity.

Trust

Trust in institutions and key individuals such as scientists and politicians can be seen as being closely associated with stable and robust systems. The trajectories of trust in government, media, science, business and criminal justice ebb and flow but the rising tide of populism, the growing presence of movements founded on conspiracy theories, and the increasing difficulty with which democratic societies face the process of governing, suggest that there is a crisis of trust. A paradox for sociology is that it must remain at the critical edge of discourse to identify institutional and systemic failures and yet it must also be involved in finding solutions to wicked problems through in-depth analysis of the individual's practices and understandings, and thereby contribute to the building and maintenance of trust.

Transformation

For those engaged with funded research and evaluations of research and publications, the need to demonstrate impact has been a growing requirement over the years. For some this has been a distraction from undertaking pure research but for many it has been a welcome exercise in refocusing research to maximise its transformational potential. The theoretical and methodological diversity of sociology and its importance to all cognate social science disciplines renders it productive at many levels from campaigning activists to policy makers, from ethnographic to (inter)national studies, incorporating subjective and objective perspectives, and through exploratory and explanatory frameworks. The desire to make a difference, to have an impact, to transform society for the better is widespread among sociological projects.

The 16th ESA Conference will be a place to tackle tensions and trust and to discuss alternatives for social transformation.

Types of sessions

While Research Network and Research Stream sessions cover the immense variety of sociological inquiry, Plenary, Semi-Plenary and Midday sessions offer the opportunity to engage in core debates. All session formats will include time for open discussion.

- **Plenaries (P)** address the main conference theme. They take place in the evenings (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday).
- **Semi-Plenaries (SPs)** discuss the main conference theme from the viewpoint of different fields of research. They promote discussion between speakers, next to that with participants. SPs are based on proposals made by the ESA Research Networks.
- **Midday (MD)** sessions cover topics which are relevant for sociology as a discipline and/or for the day-to-day work of sociologists. They are offered at lunchtime (on Wednesday and Friday).
- **Research Network (RN)** sessions feature research papers submitted in response to the Call for Papers. The majority of sessions is organised by ESA's 37 Research Networks. RNs are open to all ESA members. All RNs hold a business meeting at the conference (this time on Thursday, August 29, at 13:00, after Time Slot 5. New members are cordially invited to join one or several RNs of their choice. Note that many RNs organise **Joint Sessions (JS)**.
- **Research Stream (RS)** sessions are made by sociologists from several European countries who come together to organize sessions on specific sociological topics. RSs are self-organised bodies with a loose structure which is determined by the researchers who join the stream. While some RSs are regularly organizing sessions at ESA conferences, other RSs offer ad hoc sessions around spur-of-the-moment topics.

Plenary 1

Tension

27 Aug 2024 | 17:30 | Super Bock Arena – Rosa Mota Pavilion

With: **Michael Burawoy and Anália Torres**
Chair: **Lígia Ferro (ESA President 2021-24)**

Michael Burawoy (University of California Berkeley, USA)

Exiting from Settler Colonialism: Comparing Israel/Palestine and South Africa

There are times when sociology must address real-world problems, however divisive and intense. Today the relationship between Israel and Palestine compels such a response, despite the risks – risks that are trivial considering the mounting death toll of the Gaza war. Many have already stepped up to the plate, trying to make sense of this human disaster. What tools does sociology possess to examine this problem fruitfully, constructively, realistically? My own approach is comparative history. That escapes the dangers of false uniqueness, directs us to causal analysis of why things are the way they are, and suggests alternatives. It cannot be neutral, but it can offer engagement at a critical distance. I compare the histories of Israel/Palestine and South Africa as two species of settler colonialism. This is a point of departure – inevitably controversial but a starting point that can be defended – for examining the internal and external forces that have led to their distinctly different trajectories and outcomes.

Biography

Michael Burawoy has been a participant observer of industrial workplaces in four countries: Zambia, United States, Hungary and Russia. His projects attempt to illuminate, in turn, the contradictions of postcolonialism; the organization of consent to advanced capitalism; the peculiar forms of class consciousness and work organization under state socialism; and, finally, the dilemmas of the Soviet transition to capitalism. No longer able to work in factories, he turned to the study of his own workplace – the university – to consider the way sociology itself is produced and then disseminated to diverse publics. His advocacy of public sociology has generated much heat in many a cool place. Of late, with teaching assistants, he has been developing a labour theory of pedagogy. He has been president of the American Sociological Association, president of the International Sociological Association, founding editor of the magazine, Global Dialogue, and co-chair and secretary of the Berkeley Faculty Association.

Anália Torres (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

From turbulent to dangerous times: Gender issues on the battlefield

From Turbulent times, the theme of 10th ESA conference held in Geneve in 2011, where I used financial war as a metaphor for what we were living by then, times turned out to be very dangerous. This is far from imagining that 15 years later we would end up with real war in Europe; or that the rise of extreme right parties, and of xenophobia, nationalism, racism and sexism would be realities we had to deal with nowadays daily.

From all terrains of confrontation gender issues are also a real battlefield. Actually, “Fighting a Battle Our Grandmothers Won” is a phrase that we can read in posters in prochoice demonstrations. Gender issues, as well as women’s and LGBTQ+ rights, are hot topics on the polarized political debate in many countries around the world.

After decades of progress concerning gender equality rights, and the constitution of a study field that impacted on not only social sciences and humanities, but also on natural sciences, today gender issues, and gender studies are highly contested and controversial matters. What has been called antigenderism became a central theme in extreme right wing political agendas.

How come that granddaughters and grandmothers now join the same demonstrations and file for rights that years ago seemed guaranteed? How did we get here? I will discuss this topic using sociological tools, mainly benefitting from a very rich field of knowledge constituted by theoretical frameworks and empirical research coming from women, gender and feminist studies.

Biography

Anália Torres, PhD in Sociology, full professor and coordinator of the Department of Sociology in the Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences (ISCSP), University of Lisbon. She has founded and directs the Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies (CIEG), the only centre for Gender Studies in Portugal graded as Excellent by international panels of the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). She was President of the European Sociological Association (2009-2011), of the Portuguese Sociological Association (2002-2006) and has been a member of the European Research Council’s (ERC) evaluation panels.

Expert on gender and family issues, she created doctoral, master’s, and postgraduate courses on sociology and on these fields, and coordinated several research projects in national and international research networks. Author, co-author, and editor of more than 20 books and of 80 book chapters and articles in national and international scientific journals in several languages. She was awarded the Medal of Scientific Merit in 2023.

Plenary 2

Trust

29 Aug 2024 | 18:30 | Alfândega do Porto

With: **Chantelle Lewis, Jason Arday and Nira Yuval-Davis**
Chair: **Teresa Sordé**
Chantelle Jessica Lewis (University of Oxford, UK) and Jason Arday (University OF Cambridge, UK)

"I'll Stand by You: Love, Trust and the Politics of Neurodiversity"

Over the past 5 years, social justice movements have garnered unprecedented levels of media coverage. The zeigeist of this moment continues to be in the struggle to imagine liveable lives for as many people as possible. In this plenary presentation, we position the possibilities of disability justice as providing some of the most imaginative and plausible suggestions for a better world. Through its origins in the toxic fusion of capitalism, racism and ableism; we posit neurotypical hegemony as one of the primary urgencies for modern day social justice work. Expect to be taken on a hopeful, loving yet critical exploration of how race and class become the modality in which neurotypical hegemony persists.

Biography

Chantelle Jessica Lewis is the Andrew Pitt Junior Research Fellow in Black British Studies at Pembroke College, University of Oxford. a public sociologist, presenter, broadcaster and social commentator. Her interests are situated at the intersections of sociology, politics, Black feminism, families and love. Dr Lewis is currently a trustee at The Sociological Review and on the editorial board of Lawrence Wishart Books. Dr Lewis co-founded and presents on the hugely popular and Radio Academy award nominated Surviving Society, a political podcast exploring the local and global politics of race and class from a sociological perspective. She is regularly featured as a commentator and expert on radio, podcasts, and in magazines.

Jason Arday is Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education. Previously, Jason was Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Glasgow in the School of Education, College of Social Sciences. Professor Arday has also held the position of Associate Professor in Sociology at Durham University in the Department of Sociology and Deputy Executive Dean for People and Culture in the Faculty of Social Science and Health. He is a Visiting Professor at The Ohio State University in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and an Honorary Professor at Durham University in the Department of Sociology. Jason holds other Visiting Professorships at University of Glasgow and Nelson Mandela University. He is a Trustee of the Runnymede Trust, the UK's leading Race Equality Thinktank and the British Sociological Association (BSA). In Nov 2023, he was named the 4th most influential person with a disability in the UK on the Shaw Trust Disability Powerlist 100.

Nira Yuval-Davis (University of East London, UK)

"Belonging, bordering and contemporary necropolitics"

We are living at a time in which the Durkheiman pre-contractual contract, so essential for the possibility of trusting any social and political solidarity, is highly damaged. The double crisis of governability and governmentality of neo-liberal globalisation has brought with it the rise of different kinds of identity politics, both on the Right and on the Left, as defensive strategies.

In this presentation I shall discuss some of the manifestations of these strategies and their effects on contemporary politics of belonging. I shall focus on the role of everyday bordering in these strategies and the growing necropolitics – the dehumanization of 'the Other' and their entitlement to life – as one of their outcomes.

Biography

Nira Yuval-Davis is Professor Emeritus, Honorary Director of the Research Centre on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) at the University of East London. A diasporic Israeli socialist feminist, Nira has been active in different forums against racism and sexism in Israel and other settler colonial societies as well as in the UK and Europe. Among other activities she has been the President of the Research Committee 05 (on Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnic Relations) of the International Sociological Association, founder member of Women Against Fundamentalism, the international research network on Women in Militarized Conflict Zones and Social Scientists Against the Hostile Environment.

Nira Yuval-Davis has won the 2018 International Sociological Association Distinguished Award for Excellence in Research and Practice. The article she has written with G. Wemyss and K. Cassidy on 'Everyday Bordering, Belonging and the Reorientation of British Immigration Legislation', Sociology, 52(2), has won the 2019 Sage Sociology Award for Excellence and Innovation.

Among her books Woman-Nation-State, 1989, Racialized Boundaries, 1992, Unsettling Settler Societies, 1995, Gender and Nation,1997, The Warning Signs of Fundamentalism, 2004, The Politics of Belonging: Intersectional Contestations, 2011, Women Against Fundamentalism, 2014 and Bordering, 2019. She is currently developing her recent article in Sociology on Antisemitism as Racism into a book. Her works have been translated into more than ten languages.

Plenary 3

Transformation

30 Aug 2024 | 18:00 | Casa da Música

With: **Michael Biggs and Jana Hainsworth**
Chair: **Gary Pollock**
Michael Biggs (University of Oxford, UK)

"How critical social theory has transformed institutions and culture"

In the last ten years, Western societies have experienced a significant transformation in their institutions and culture, with increasing emphases on race, gender, and sexuality. This transformation has many potential causes, such as the rise of digital social media. My aim is to evaluate the impact of academic theories developed in the 1980s, such as queer theory and critical race theory. Can we view such theories as self-reinforcing prophecy? I will draw on the literature on the performativity of economics, which argues that economic theories construct as well as describe their object. A case study will illustrate how Judith Butler's conception of gender impacted the operation of English prisons in the 2010s.

Biography

Michael Biggs is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Oxford and Fellow of St Cross College. His primary research focuses on social movements and political sociology. In the area of sex and gender, he has published on various subjects. One is on the evidence for puberty suppression in children experiencing gender dysphoria. He has acted as an expert witness in legal cases in England, Australia, and the United States. Another subject is the influence of queer theory on prison policy. Most recently he discovered serious errors in the gender-identity question used by the 2021 Census of England and Wales.

Jana Hainsworth (Independent Consultant)

"Science, Politics and Activism: Together advancing children's rights and well-being across Europe"

When and why did the European Union start to champion children's rights? What and who influences policy making and politicians at EU level? What is the current state-of-play post-European Parliament elections June 2024? What does the future hold for collaboration between research, civil society and politics to protect and promote a rights-based approach to social progress and investment in children and families across Europe?

This presentation draws on the speakers' experience leading a European NGO advocating for the rights and well-being across Europe from 2006-2022. It traces the steps that led to the adoption of a European Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee by European leaders in 2021. It maps the dynamics of EU influence over time, exploring the relationship between research, evidence and activism and some of the tensions therein.

Between 6-9 June 2024, around 400 million Europeans can vote for their representatives to the European Parliament. The results will determine who leads the EU institutions and their political priorities for the next 5 years. The presentation will reflect on the outcomes and the risks and opportunities for academia and civil society working to advance children's rights and well-being across Europe.

Biography

Jana Hainsworth is an expert in EU social policy and children's rights. She has over 25 years' experience working at EU level, influencing policy and helping organisations to communicate and implement those policies at national level.

From 2006 to 2022 she was Secretary General of Eurochild, a network of organisations promoting the rights and well-being of children across Europe. She helped design advocacy campaigns on early childhood development and deinstitutionalisation. During her leadership, Eurochild influenced several EU policy milestones, notably the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee.

From 2015-2019 she was elected President of Social Platform bringing together 45 civil society networks advocating for a stronger social Europe. In 2017 she led Social Platform's delegation to the Gothenburg Summit where Heads of State signed the European Pillar of Social Rights. The 'Social Pillar' remains the North Star of EU social policy today.

Jana is an independent consultant since March 2023. She works at the intersection of private philanthropy, civil society and the EU. Her mission is to help social change advocates more effectively harness EU policies and funding.

SP01 | "Building Open Science Together: Transformative Concepts and Practices"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC4.0.41 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Nick Lindsay and Elena Giglia**
Organisation and chairs: **Lígia Ferro (ESA President 2021-24)**

Different European agencies and countries have been reinforcing the open access policies at the level of research funding, which has contributed to a spirit that open access to publish and read, thus to production and access of scientific knowledge, is a basic right of citizens and the optimal strategy to pursue in the upcoming years. Universities and research centres are increasingly publicly committed to open access. Several sociology, social sciences and humanities journals have been shifting to open access lately and there is a wide understanding that the community as a whole should work together to contribute to this process.

Open access has been a subject of intensive discussion within the ESA for the last few years. The ESA envisions access to knowledge as a human right and as a means to pursue social justice. Open access allows for research and innovation improvement while it can also contribute to decision-making at different societal levels and build better societies. Inspired by MIT's excellence, upon witnessing its investments in successfully pursuing Open Access and after getting to know the MIT Shift + Open Initiative), the ESA Executive Committee decided to go fully open access with its journals in partnership with the MIT Press.

So far, debates about open science have focused mainly on access to knowledge by the readers. Nonetheless, there are also unequal funding and publishing opportunities, and it is vital to ensure access to research excellence, regardless of any submitters' characteristics: their economic resources, territorial location, gender, ethnic, sexual orientation, or age. The open-access model allows to guarantee equal access for both authors and readers while siding libraries' pursuit of affordable knowledge diffusion. In this sense, investing in open access should be a real priority for sociologists and social scientists in general as it will improve public engagement.

At this session, the speakers will bring transformative concepts and practices to engage the scientific community in this collective and essential task: building open science together.

Nick Lindsay (MIT Press, Director of Journals and Open Access)

Access to Science and Scholarship, Key Questions About the Future of Research Publishing

In November of 2023, members of the MIT faculty and staff at MIT Press release a report entitled, Access to Science and Scholarship, Key Questions About the Future of Research Publishing. The report lays out a research agenda for the future of scientific publishing and suggests many questions that need to be answered in order to create and protect a robust and equitable publishing ecosystem. This talk will expand on several topics related to the report, including peer review, open access, open science practices, and open infrastructure to support the publishing enterprise.

Biography

Nick Lindsay has worked for The MIT Press since 2008 where he leads both the journals division and the Press' open access efforts. He's focused on developing new titles and business models to support the Press and has worked extensively with scholarly societies, university departments, and others on innovative journal projects, including Rapid Reviews: Infectious Diseases. Before MIT, Nick worked at the University of California Press in their journals group.

Elena Giglia (University of Turin)

Why do we need Open Science

Open Science is often perceived as the umpteenth administrative burden, or something imposed by European rules in research programs. Actually, Open Science is a powerful tool to get a research process which is more efficient, as every component is ready to be reused and build upon, and more respondent to societal needs, as built in dialogue and co-creation with society. In this way, Open Science can work as a corrective in the current scholarly communication system which is plagued by retractions and scientific misconduct induced by the hypercompetitive evaluation criteria in place. Open Science is functional to research integrity as the entire research workflow is transparent, allowing for checks and reproducibility. Sensitive and personal data are considered the logic "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" and are enabled by the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). In the end, Open Science can be both boosted by and act as an enabler of the ongoing reform of the research assessment framework under the COARA initiative.

Biography

PhD, Masters' Degree in Librarianship and master's degree in public Institutions Management, is Head of the Open Science Unit at the University of Turin. She was a member (2019-2020) of the Committee on Open Science at the Ministry for University and Research (MUR), in charge of drafting the National Plan Open Science. She actively collaborates with ICDI – Italian Computer and Data Infrastructure Competence centre on Open Science, EOSC and FAIR data,

organizing the Open Science café and collaborating with the editorial board of open-science.it. She is the delegate of OPERAS, the Research Infrastructure for Open Science in the Social Sciences and the Humanities, in the EOSC Association, where she is a member of the Task Force Researchers Engagement and Adoption. Since 2017, she has been a partner in 8 EU-funded projects. She has been part of the European Open Science network for many years, attending national and international conferences, and writing and lecturing on Open Access and Open Science. She never stopped learning and attends training courses and workshops.

She takes part as invited expert in several EU Workshops on Open Access and Open Science. She coordinated (2019-2021) the CO-OPERAS Implementation Network in GO FAIR and represents Italy in the OPERAS research infrastructure Executive Assembly. She serves in several Scientific Committees and Advisory boards. She served as one of the Italian National Open Access Desk-NOADs for OpenAIRE. She has edited since 2010 the web portal OA@UniTO, www.oa.unito.it.

SP02 | "Culture and Education for Transforming Societies"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC4.0.40 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Isabel Menezes and Pedro Abrantes**
Organisation: **Local Organising Committee: João Teixeira Lopes (University of Porto), Carla Malafaia (University of Porto) and Sílvia Silva (Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra)**
Chairs: **Carla Malafaia and Sílvia Silva**

The sociological perspective places education and culture as the bases for action and democracy. Assuming that education and culture intersect and accumulate in the promotion of both transformative public policies and grassroot communitarian practices, this semi-plenary intends to reflect on the state of the art of this intersection, opening up avenues for shaping the future. To do this, it will look at education and culture in terms of their intrinsic values and outside economic instrumentality, with which they establish non-subalternate connections. Culture and education must forge alternative economic logics, giving them their social roots, criticising their abstract nature and contesting their detachment from social processes and practices. Current times of socio-political turmoil strongly call for efforts to imagine new cultural toolkits and educational bonds that can enact collectiveness and be sustained by transgressive modes of meaning-making and knowledge production.

In this way, the logics of education and culture will contribute to a plural perspective on social phenomena, focusing on the forms of socialisation, the conditions of communication, and the possibility of acquiring dispositions and skills not limited to reproducing business as usual. At the education-culture intersection, we can find the foundations for a new social contract based on autonomous, responsible and supportive individuation, on exchange and interculturality, relational and critical subjectification, and a shared sense of societal transformations outside of one-dimensional, top-down, authoritarian and bureaucratic logics.

Speakers

Isabel Menezes (PhD, Full Professor, Centre for Research and Intervention in Education (CIIE-FPCE.UP), University of Porto)

On (political) emotions and education in contemporary democracies

There has been a 'rediscovery of passion' (Marcus, 1991) in politics, even if not without ambivalence. For some, the growing emotionality in politics would be related to the rise of (mostly right-wing) populism, with strong connections between anger, fear, and authoritarianism – following Le Bon's (1895) cautionary notes of the 'exaggeration of the sentiments and its risks for political principled reasoning. For others, emotions are an inevitable part of political participation, and the lack of a 'public culture of emotion' (Nussbaum, 2013) that celebrates the love for pluralism and radical equality is one of the contemporary dangers for the survival of democracies. I will depart from recognizing the transversality of emotions and relationality in political phenomena across time and space, and how denying it is a basis, now as in the past, for excluding a significant part of political actors, including children and young people. Then, I will explore how spaces for collectiveness and pluralism, such as schools, can engage emotions, reflexivity, and participation as essential for generating more complex, collaborative, and creative ways of relating with the political.

Biography

Isabel Menezes has a degree and a PhD in Psychology and a habitation in Education Sciences from the University of Porto, where she is a Professor in the Department of Education Sciences. Her research deals with the civic and political participation of children, young people and adults, with a particular interest in groups at risk of exclusion. The main goal is to explore if and how formal and non-formal education (including artistic) experiences can generate more complex ways of relationship with the political. She coordinated several funded inter/national research projects and is currently the Director of the CIIE – Centre for Research and Intervention in Education.

Pedro Abrantes (Universidade Aberta, Centro de Estudos Globais and ISCTE-IUL, Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia)

Education and Social Classes in Europe: tensions, trust and transformation

This intervention will discuss recent trends and some current prospects regarding the relation between education and social classes, in Europe. Education is often referred either as a central leverage of transformation, trust and social mobility or an arena of (class/ethnic) tensions and inequality reproduction.

Based on recent research on this topic, as well as an analysis of comparative data, this session aims to provide an overview on how education has contributed to social mobility/reproduction in Europe, during the last 50 years, comparing different countries and generations. Acknowledging the relevance of the socioeconomic indexes and the racial categories, this analysis sustains the enduring relevance of the concept of social class to understand domination, distinction and closure strategies, as well as democratization, mobility and usurpation movements. Trust is here conceived as a key element to avoid tensions, highly dependent on the consistency of public policies to promote Constitutional rights and people's aspirations.

After, we aim to reflect upon two ongoing processes – the increase of international schools and the "full-time

education" policies – as "case studies" to contribute for the discussion on how the current (social) tensions between social classes are transforming the (primary and secondary) education systems in Europe. Such relation between (private) distinction and (public) democratization movements is paramount to forge the future of our societies.

Biography

Pedro Abrantes is Professor at Universidade Aberta and at Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon. He holds a bachelor's degree (2002) and a PhD (2007) in Sociology, focusing his work on education, socialization, social inequalities, and life pathways. Member of the Portuguese Sociological Association, where he coordinated the Sociology of Education section (2009-13), and currently coordinates the Classes and Inequalities section. He developed research for some years in Mexico and collaborates regularly with international agencies on education development. From 2016 to 2022, he worked for the Portuguese educational administration, as Minister's advisor and deputy director of the statistics department. Among dozens of titles, he published "Socialization and inequality" (Current Sociology), "Gendering social mobility: a comparative perspective on the nexus of education and class in Europe" (Gender and Education), "Full-time Schools in Portugal" (Journal of New Approaches in Educational Research), "Analysing biographies in transnational educational spaces" (Globalisation, Societies and Education).

SP03 | "From the Risk Society to Surveillance Capitalism and Authoritarian Modernity: Theorising Contemporary Society"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.001 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Sylvia Walby and Christian Fuchs**
Organised by RN18 Sociology of Communications and Media Research and RN29 Social Theory
Coordinators and Chairs: **Thomas Allmer (University of Paderborn), Paško Bilić (Institute for Development and International Relations, Croatia), Mikael Carleheden, (University of Copenhagen) and Frank Welz (University of Innsbruck)**

This semi-plenary will ask in which society we live, how it is best termed and how it is best theorised. Back in the 1980s and 1990s, some sociologists claimed that we live in a risk society (Ulrich Beck and Anthony Giddens) or a network society (Manuel Castells). While millions have been hit hard by the financial crisis, austerity cuts and the rise of precarious working and living conditions around the globe, the reference to capitalism has come back to the sociological agenda. Concepts such as capital in the twenty-first century (Thomas Piketty), digital capitalism and surveillance capitalism (Shoshana Zuboff) have been made popular recently. Currently, there is a debate on how far we still live in a neoliberal or rather a post-neoliberal world order. Nancy Fraser and Wolfgang Streeck both suggest that we live – in reference to Antonio Gramsci – in an interregnum, where the old neoliberal order is coming to an end and the new system cannot yet be born. Regarding the overall conference theme, the task will be analysing tensions in contemporary society, characterising the spreading of trust and discussing sociology's role in societal transformation:

1. Theorising tension: More specifically, to study the tensions and contradictions between the haves and have-nots along class, racism and gender relations in contemporary Europe and beyond.

2. Theorising trust: In particular, to develop an understanding of how trust, solidarity and democracy are shaped in the twenty-first century.

3. Theorising transformation: In detail, to investigate the broader political realities and potentials in terms of transforming modern society to a more equal and just society.

The semi-plenary wants to debate these questions and tasks with international experts in the field.

Speakers

Sylvia Walby (Professor, School of Law and Social Sciences, Royal Holloway, University of London)

Theorising Contemporary Society: From Risk Society to Authoritarianism

Rebuilding the concept of society to address the turn in modernity towards authoritarianism is the aim of this paper. I address the tensions generated by intersecting regimes of inequality, and the role of crises in societal transformation. I rework the concept of society, using complex systems theory. I argue for the inclusion of violence alongside economy, polity, and civil society; and the inclusion of gender regimes and coloniality alongside capitalism. Without including violence, gender, and coloniality, it is hard to theorise the turn to authoritarianism. The concept of modernisation is pluralised into multiple varieties: authoritarianism is distinguished from neoliberalism (Streeck, Fraser, Bruff) and fascism (Mason, Robertson), as well as social democracy. The analysis of change, using complexity theory, includes crisis, tipping points and path dependency. I draw on classical (Durkheim, Weber, Marx, Du Bois, Gilman), recent (Giddens, Beck, Tilly, Mies), and contemporary (Go, Bhambra, Scott) sociology. I address societal transformation in modernity/ies (Eisenstadt, Giddens, Beck), including globalisation (Castells, Wallerstein, Chase-Dunn), (post) colonialism (Du Bois, Go), and gender transformations (Fraser, Gottfried, Shire). The substantive focus is the (re) turn to authoritarianism, linked to de-democratisation and declines in trust (Lombardo, V-Dem, Verloo) and to crises (Gramsci) of finance (Minsky, Piketty), war (Mann), and climate (Urry). Yet, these crises can be resolved in other ways. I develop the concept of society, deploy complex systems theory, include gender regimes and coloniality, and identify the importance of violence, to analyse the return to authoritarianism and alternative trajectories.

Biography

Sylvia Walby is a Professor in the School of Law and Social Sciences, Royal Holloway, University of London. She holds the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Anneliese Maier Research Award and is Visiting Professor, University of Duisburg-Essen. She is a Fellow of the British Academy, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Sylvia was the founding President of the European Sociological Association. She is founding Co-President of the International Sociological Association's Thematic Group on Violence and Society and was President of ISA's Research Committee 02 on Economy and Society. She was Chair of the Sociology sub-panel for REF2021. Sylvia held the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research at Lancaster University. Books include Crisis (Polity 2015), Globalization and Inequalities: Complexity and Contested Modernities (Sage 2009), and The Concept and Measurement of Violence against Women and Men (Bristol 2017). Her next book is Trafficking Chains: Modern Slavery in Society (Bristol 2024).

Christian Fuchs, Professor, Department of Media Studies, Paderborn University

Critical Theory Foundations of Digital Capitalism: A Critical Political Economy Perspective

The overall task of this paper is to outline some foundations of a critical theory of digital capitalism. The approach of the Critique of Political Economy is taken as the starting point for theorising (digital) capitalism.

First, the paper discusses selected classical definitions of capitalism. Theories of digital capitalism must build on definitions and theories of capitalism. If capitalism is a societal formation and not only an economic order, but the analysis of capitalism is also the analysis of economic exploitation and non-economic domination phenomena and their interaction. Theories of digital capitalism should also address the question of how class, racism, and patriarchy are related in the context of digitalisation. Second, the author introduces a notion of digital capitalism that is based on Marx's approach of the Critique of Political Economy. Third, the paper engages with one influential contemporary approach to theorising capitalism, Nancy Fraser's Cannibal Capitalism. The author discusses what we can learn from Fraser's approach to theorising digital capitalism. Fourth, the author discusses existing understandings of digital capitalism that can be found in the academic literature. These definitions are compared to the understanding advanced in this article. Fifth, the paper discusses the relationship of the notion of digital capitalism from a Critical Political Economy perspective in comparison to the notions of the network society/informational capitalism (Manuel Castells), surveillance capitalism (Shoshana Zuboff), and platform capitalism (Nick Srnicek). Sixth, the paper reflects on the relationship between digital capitalism and violence as we live in a (digital) age where a new World War is all but uncertain. Finally, some conclusions are drawn.

Biography

Christian Fuchs is a critical theorist. He is co-editor of the journal tripleC: Communication, Capitalism and Critique and a professor at Paderborn University.

SP04 | "Decolonizing youth mobility: beyond the normative and Eurocentric youth/mobility nexus"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC1.0.03 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Shannon Philip and Aleksandra Grzymała-Kazłowska**

Organised by RN30 Youth and Generation and RN35 Sociology of Migration
Coordinators and Chairs: **Michela Franceschelli (University College London, UK) and Ilenya Camozzi (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)**

The recent growing interest in the forms of mobility/migration of the younger generations as an entry point for studying their transition processes to adulthood lies at the heart of this joint reflection between RN 30 and RN 35.

In the early 2000s, the announcement of a 'mobility turn' in the social sciences (Urry 2002) offered an opportunity to re-conceptualise youth transitions as 'mobile' and so mobility as a new marker of adulthood. Today global transformations such the climate crisis or the pandemic are inevitably reshuffling the configurations and features of both human mobility and life course transitions. Yet, the 'mobility turn' only partially addresses these new tensions and the inequalities entailed by increasingly diverse flows of moving people.

With this proposal, we aim to open a dialogue and reflect on the inter-connected risks of normalising various forms of movement under one category anchored in an idealised view of youth and restricted to a privileged segment of subjects. These include the risk of neglecting of gender and structural inequalities (Philip, 2022; Nayak 2026), immobility (Cairns and Clemente 2023), the experiences of minoritised youth (Frisina and Hawthorne 2018), the role of whiteness in shaping migration and adaptation journeys (Morosanu et al 2019), the risk of polarising the actors involved in the movement: labour migrants versus mobile high-skills actors (Faist 2002) and of not problematising notions of identity and integration (Grzymala-Kazlowska 2016).

Finally, with decolonising youth mobility, we seek to challenge normative notions about the youth/mobility nexus entangled in the Western-centric gaze (Boatcă 2016) lurking behind the mobility turn.

Speakers

Shannon Philip (Sociology, Associate Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, School of Social Work, University of East Anglia)

Caught-In-Between: Decolonising Young Men's Mobility and Immobility in Neoliberal India and South Africa

Youth mobilities have often been imagined in linear and normative ways within mainstream 'youth sociology'. However, in various post-colonial global contexts like Brazil, Egypt, India or South Africa, deeply embedded colonial legacies, intersecting with dynamics of deep racial and class inequality, as well as rapid neoliberal transformations and consumer cultures, have opened important questions around the idea of 'youth' and their 'mobility'. From a gendered perspective, the lives of young men offer an interesting vantage point to explore how patriarchal obligations, male privilege, as well as men's vulnerabilities and anxieties, shape their mobility as well as their immobility.

In this paper, using qualitative and ethnographic data from longitudinal fieldwork with young men aged between 18 – 29 from New Delhi and Johannesburg, I argue that young men are 'caught-in-between' various gendered dynamics of mobility and immobility. Critically understanding this in betweenness of young men, makes two primary contributions: 1) It challenges the normative and often heteropatriarchal ideas of young men's mobilities and 2) It provides empirical evidence to think beyond Western-centric approaches to life-courses whilst contributing further to the research and political aims of Global Sociologies and Connected Sociologies.

Biography

Shannon Philip is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Sociology at the University of East Anglia and a Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg. He recently published his first monograph with Cambridge University Press entitled Becoming Young Men in a New India: Masculinities, Gender Relations and Violence in the Postcolony (2022). His current research comparatively explores youth, masculinities, sexualities, urban transformations, and gender relations in South Africa and India.

Aleksandra Grzymała-Kazłowska (University of Warsaw)

Mobility, anchoring and inequality. Looking at the youth/mobility nexus from the processes of adaptation and settling

The talk will argue for the need to rethink established concepts such as identity and integration to capture multidimensionality and complexities of processes of adaptation

and settling in the context of youth mobility. To untangle the youth/mobility nexus, contemporary fluidities, complexities, diversities and inequalities must be brought to the fore, so the previous notions should be reconceptualized or new tools developed in our analyses. After the critical assessment of the existing conceptualizations in migration studies concerning migrants' adjustment and functioning, the paper will discuss the opportunities and challenges in employing the concept of anchoring, which links the notions of adaptation, identity, and settling while highlighting the issues of safety and stability. Anchoring will be presented as a potential alternative lens to the notion of integration, offering a more multidimensional and dynamic perspective to better understand the experience of adaptation and settling among today's migrants in complex, diverse, fluid and divided societies, particularly in the current time of tensions, conflicts and uncertainties. It allows for capturing transnational processes, uneven and relational character of settling and changes in anchoring – its flexibility and reversibility, including the processes of un-anchoring or re-anchoring. Analytically and empirically distinguished anchors provide a useful tool for analysis. Anchoring acknowledges, on the one hand, human agency and the cognitive and emotional aspects of establishing footholds and, on the other hand, inequalities and structural constraints in establishing a sense of stability and safety. It may enable us to see how individuals' positionality influences both their levels of exposure to risks and uncertainties as well as capacities for agency, ability to deal with challenges and make use of opportunities.

Biography

Aleksandra Grzymala-Kazlowska (PhD Hab.) is a Professor at the University of Warsaw in the Faculty of Sociology and the Centre of Migration Research. Professor Grzymala-Kazlowska is the Editor-in-Chief of the Central and Eastern European Migration Review. She is a sociologist with a background in psychology and anthropology and an interest in social policy, conducting cross-disciplinary research focused on different dimensions and implications of migration and diversity related to adaptation, identity, discourses, inequalities, and inclusion. Her recent book "Rethinking Settlement and Integration. Migrants' Anchoring in an Age of Insecurity" was published by the Manchester University Press in 2020.

SP05 | "Knowledge and the Planet – how can we transform environmental governance?"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.0.02 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Karin Bäckstrand and Florian Rabitz**
Organised by RN32 Political Sociology and RN12 Environment and Society
Coordinators and Chairs: **Louisa Parks (University of Trento), Ebru Özturk (Mid Sweden University), Audrone Telesiene (Kaunas University of Technology) and Çigdem Adem (Ankara Rivers Study Group, Turkey**

Controversies and tensions over the integration of different types of knowledge in decision-making are at the forefront of many public debates, and environmental decision-making is no exception. This semi-plenary hosts experts on different aspects of knowledge politics who will discuss the different tensions at play, as well as the potential of plural approaches to knowledge in the transformation of environmental politics. The role of Enlightenment-method scientific knowledge in the construction of global environmental problems like climate change and biodiversity loss is well known, yet tensions remain in the construction of global framings of issues with complex and inevitably local impacts, as well as in the failure of this type of scientific knowledge alone to drive effective governance. At the same time, regulatory interventions on high-risk environmental technologies are increasingly proposed as a way of avoiding slippery slopes towards their deployment. This creates a complex decision environment as regulators and wider public's demand information that can only be provided through research activities that could initiate path dependencies. The role of traditional ecological knowledge has also come to the fore as holding potential answers for effective governance, yet here too effective spaces for meaningful engagement with such knowledge and its holders is a source of tension, with serious issues about how to design such spaces given longstanding trust issues. The speakers will discuss the intricacies of these tensions; point to whether and, if so, how, knowledge plurality could come about to transform environmental governance; and discuss the extent to which research governance is becoming an integral aspect of contemporary environmental governance.

Speakers

Karin Bäckstrand (University of Stockholm, London School of Economics)

The Politics and Governance of Decarbonization. The Interplay Between State and Non-state Actors in Sweden

How and under what conditions can states – in collaboration with societal actors –steer and govern to accelerate the large-scale transformation that is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement? This intervention presents novel theoretical findings and empirical insights on how the state governs through collaborative climate governance, which is a mode of governance that aims to foster cooperation, deliberation and consensus between state and non-state actors. The focus is on interplay between the state and non-state actors in Sweden, which announced its goal to become the world's first fossil-free welfare state at the United Nations climate summit in Paris in 2015. What is role of the state in collaborative governance as well as the mix between hard (regulation) and soft modes of governance (orchestration) to achieve decarbonization in after the adoption of the 2017 Climate Policy Framework and in the context of the European Green Deal and EU's Fit for 55 packages? Highlighting state-led transformation I critically examine Sweden's progress towards its overarching goal to become the first fossil-free welfare state in the world by 2045. I investigate Sweden's national strategies and governance modes to achieve decarbonization and overcome carbon lock-ins through institutional, economic, technological and behavioral transformation. Sweden's path to decarbonization – like many other countries – resembles more of an incremental transition limited to certain sectors rather than the wholesale transformation toward achieving a fossil-free society.

Biography

Karin Bäckstrand is a Professor in Environmental Social Science in the Department of Political Science at Stockholm University, Visiting Professor at London School of Economics and Political Science and senior research at the Institute for Future Studies. She is a former member of the Swedish Climate Policy Council. Her research revolves around global environmental politics, the democratic legitimacy of global governance and the role of state and non-state actors in climate governance.

Florian Rabitz (chief researcher in the Research Group Civil Society and Sustainability at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania)

Paradoxes of precaution: The Institutional Lock-in of Technological Risks

Global politics today confronts a vast variety of regulatory challenges across diverse technological fields, from biotechnology over energy technologies up to digitalization and artificial intelligence. The typical global response to the emergence of potential technological risks is the formation of various types of assessment processes which, in turn, are expected to enable high-quality regulatory decision-making further down the road. Increasingly, there are concerns that this may result in slippery-slope effects: the institutionalization of assessment processes can create multiple drivers of path dependence that might lead to the deployment of high-risk technologies, even where their risks turn out to outweigh their benefits. I discuss the conditions under which institutionalized assessment processes can lead to the lock-in of technological risks that would otherwise be avoidable. I also discuss institutional design options for avoiding institutional lock-in. Throughout, I will be illustrating the theoretical argument by drawing on contemporary debates on climate modification, large-scale genetic engineering and Artificial Intelligence. The broader message is that international processes for generating knowledge on technological risks can be risky in themselves, thus requiring careful and reflective institutional design.

Biography

Florian Rabitz is a chief researcher in the Research Group Civil Society and Sustainability at Kaunas University of Technology. He holds a PhD in political science from the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and has previously taught at the Institute of International Relations of the University of São Paulo. His work explores questions of institutional adaptiveness and effectiveness regarding technological challenges and opportunities in the global politics of environmental sustainability. He is the author of Transformative Novel Technologies and Global Environmental Governance (Cambridge University 2023) and The Global Governance of Genetic Resources: Institutional Change and Structural Constraints (Routledge 2017).

SP06 | "Advancing Public Sociology in dealing with stakeholders and policy makers on social issues: challenges and perspectives in Europe"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.2.00 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Esther Oliver and Joana Almeida**
Organised by RN16 Sociology of Health and Medicine
Coordinators and Chairs: **Guido Giarelli (University 'Magna Graecia', Italy) and Sandra Racionero-Plaza (University of Barcelona, Spain)**

The title of the next ESA conference speaks of tension, trust, and transformation, brought by diversity of experiences of current times. Old inequalities persist, manifest in new forms, while novel problems emerge together with new tensions. Sociological work can play a key role in shedding new light on old and new social problems, and to provide sociologically informed inspirations that enlighten transformation. This semi plenary session will star 2 speakers presenting sociological research that is excellent illustration of how sociology can have a transformative impact in different social spheres, such as climate change, gender violence, labour exclusion, etc., touching on those topics as questions of public health concern. The semi plenary session will show that the social sciences can enrich health and medicine for a greater impact, and vice versa, but this occurs when these disciplines exchange not only between themselves but also with diverse stakeholders, policy makers and general citizenry. The presentations will combine novel social sciences analyses of most pressing social problems during and after the pandemic together with how such analyses have informed policies and interventions that have contributed to the building and maintenance of trust. Likewise, the two presentations will share information on how such sociological work has had impact in society, so that our commitment and desire as sociologists to improve society has come true in those examples. By sharing such theoretical and empirical investigations, this semi plenary session will contribute to advance public sociology by means of inspiring with what is already out there.

Speakers

Esther Oliver (University of Barcelona, Spain)

Heath consequences of Isolated Gender Violence. A sociological analysis with crucial social impact

Gender Violence (GV) is a major problem in current societies and its impact on health is widely researched. However, there is a lack of scientific evidence regarding the impact on the health of Isolating Gender Violence (IGV), which is the violence perpetrated against those who support victims of gender violence, and the results from such support. The aim of individuals engaged in IGV is to isolate victims of gender violence and dissuade them from reporting or seeking assistance.

Research has already shown that overcoming IGV is central to eliminating gender violence, informing policies as when the Catalan Parliament approved by unanimity, in December 2020, the creation of a new juridical figure and legal victim that never existed in the world before: victims of IGV.

This paper provides evidence on the health consequences of IGV from a qualitative research study, which analysed, in a group of advocates for victims of GV in Spanish universities, whether and how the experience of IGV they had experienced deteriorated their physical and mental health. This novel analysis provides key sociological knowledge to overcome barriers in the fight against gender violence, because identifying the health consequences of IGV and informing policies to improve the protection of those who support victims of GV, can contribute to reducing their fear of reprisal for their support, and it is a key aspect towards the elimination of any form of gender violence in society. The findings can also help sociologists and health professionals to better respond to IGV survivors' needs.

Biography

Dr. Esther Oliver is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology of the University of Barcelona and affiliated to the CREA, Community of Research on Excellence for All. Her research focuses on preventive socialization on gender violence. She has been the principal researcher of the national RTD project named "The mirage of upward mobility" and has participated in several RTD Spanish projects in this area. Her work has been published in indexed journals in Web of Science or Scopus such as Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Research Evaluation, International Journal of Qualitative Methods, Qualitative Inquiry or PLoS ONE, among other scientific journals

Joana Almeida (University of Bedfordshire, UK)

The Transformative Impact of Sociology on Precarious Employment and Working Conditions of Long-term Personal Care Workers

While demand for long-term personal care (LTPC) for the elderly and people with disabilities and chronic conditions is growing across the European Union (EU), formal LTPC work is also underpaid and undervalued. According to a recent Eurofound report (2020), formal LTPC workers working in residential, community or home care receive well below average in most EU countries, with Portugal offering the lowest wages among EU countries. There is also a growing shortage and high turnover of LTPC workers, who are predominantly female and low educated. By focusing on the Portuguese case, the proposed semi-plenary explores the transformative impact of sociology in addressing and mitigating labour exclusion and precarity experienced by LTPC workers, mainly those working in community–care and social support services, a segment of the workforce often overlooked. It seeks to raise awareness of the systemic challenges and barriers that perpetuate inequality and inefficiency within the LTPC work and workforce, and contribute to their precarious employment and working conditions, including low wages, insufficient training and funding, limited career development opportunities, and high turnover. By increasing awareness and visibility of LTPC work and workforce, sociology has also the power to challenge and reshape prevailing norms, public and governmental attitudes and perceptions, and advocate for interventions and policies that address the precarity experienced by these workers, particularly after the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to more equitable and dignified employment.

Biography

Dr Joana Almeida is a health sociologist and Senior Lecturer in Applied Social Studies (Health and Social Care) at the School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom. Joana earned a PhD in Health Sociology from Royal Holloway, University of London in 2012, a master's degree in communication, Culture and Information Technologies from ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon in 2004, and a BSc in Sociology from the University of Coimbra in 1997. In 2013/14 Joana was also a Mildred Blaxter postdoctoral research fellow from the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness, UK. Joana has expertise/research interests in the dynamics of professional work, complementary and alternative therapies, the social determinants of health/health inequalities, addictive behaviours with a focus on prescription drugs, and qualitative research methods. Joana is the Vice-President of the ISA RC15 – Sociology of Health.

SP07 | "Digital Data-Driven Technologies meet Sociology"

28 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC1.0.07 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Tommaso Venturini and David Dueñas**
Organized by the International Committee for the Digital ERA
Coordinators: **Lígia Ferro (ESA President 2021-24) and Nathalie Lewis (Université du Québec à Rimouski, Canada)**
Chairs: **Bernadette Brereton (Chair of the Council of Research Networks) and Nathalie Lewis (Université du Québec à Rimouski, Canada)**

The objective of this semi-plenary is to discuss the possible establishment of an International Committee on Digital Data-Driven Technologies (ICD3). Created under the auspices of the European Sociological Association (ESA), the Association internationale des sociologues de langue française (AISLF), the Association internationale de sociologie (ISA) and the Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS), the committee would serve as a platform to promote collaboration and share sociological reflections about the transformations brought about by data-intensive infrastructures and computational techniques.

It would offer a venue where diverse traditions from across the social sciences (and possibly beyond them) can meet to consider the tensions generated by digital technologies, the asymmetries that they create or reinforce, and the ethical problems and political challenges that they raise. It would help reunite sociological research and distill it in formats that, while preserving diversity and internal debate, can be more easily appropriated by decision-makers and the public.

After decades during which digital innovations have been welcomed with general optimism, the last few years have witnessed growing concern and increasing distrust about these technologies. The ICD3 would offer an occasion for social scientists to offer their viewpoints on these tensions and their help in addressing them. Yet, its exact nature, its precise objectives, its "rules of engagement", and the expected outcome of its work remain to be defined. This semi-plenary is an occasion to collectively brainstorm about them.

Speakers

Tommaso Venturini (Medialab, University of Geneva and Center for Internet and Society, CNRS)

The Wind has Changed

Something has changed in the way we think of data and digital technologies. Since the dawn of the Internet and maybe since the advent of computers, digital technologies have been met with great expectations and general optimism. While many did worry about possible misuses of digital technologies, few considered the increase in data and computational power as a societal problem and even fewer demanded regulations to restrain it.

The mood, however, has changed. At some point, or rather at many points in the last few years, the relentless digitalization and datafication of society has started to be perceived as a problem. A series of scandals about micro-targeting in political and commercial marketing, the increasingly oligopolistic structures of digital infrastructure, new privacy regulations in Europe and elsewhere, the implosion of many crypto currencies, the startling power of generative AIs, and many other small and big events have opened deep cracks in our digital optimism. While all these events have roots that extend far back in the history of digital technologies, their accumulation has somewhat abruptly brought our societies to realize that the development of data and computational infrastructures is as much a social as a technological issue.

In this talk, I will consider this change in our technical imaginary and the way in which it offers to social sciences new opportunities and new responsibilities to contribute to the development of digital technologies.

Biography

Tommaso Venturini (tommasoventurini.it) is associate professor at the Medialab of the University of Geneva, researcher at the CNRS Centre for Internet and Society, and founder of the Public Data Lab. He has been advanced research fellow at INRIA and "digital methods lecturer" at King's College London. From 2009 to 2015, he coordinated the research of the médialab of Sciences Po Paris. His research focuses on digital methods, controversy mapping, online attention economy and Internet subcultures at the intersection between STS and media studies.

David Dueñas Cid (Department in Management in Networked and Digital Societies, Kozminski University ul. Jagiellońska 57/59, 03-301 Warsaw (Poland))

"Trust, distrust and data-driven technologies: Is the digital changing the way we trust?"

Globalisation and digitalisation have unleashed a crisis of trust, as traditional institutional and interpersonal logics are not attuned to deal with the risks introduced by the prevalence of digital technologies (Bodó, 2021, p. 2668). Besides assuming the renewed notoriety of the concept of trust, this presentation aims to put in context the discussion on whether the use of digital technologies is renewing the notion and functioning of trust and distrust. The second is often defined as an opposite to trust in a somehow simplistic manner. This presentation will provide a definition of both concepts and their interrelation, an overview of its use in current literature and a reflection on the suitability of current definitions of trust and distrust when applied to the implementation of current data-driven technologies.

Biography

David Dueñas Cid is an Associate Professor in Digital Sociology and e-Governance. He serves as President at the Thematic Group on Digital Sociology at the International Sociological Association.

SP08 | "Far Right-Wing Populism in Current Democracies: Habits, Emotions, and Gender Performances"

29 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.0.02 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Ov Cristian Norocel**
Organisation: **RN20 and RN32**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Ulrike T. Kissmann (University of Kassel, Germany) and Carlo Berti (Rovira i Virgili University, Spain)**

Many democracies are currently facing the rise of far right-wing populism such as was seen in the election of Donald Trump as president of the US. The success in elections coincides with the resurgence of xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, sexism and anti-queerness. The majority of sociological studies focuses on conscious attitudes, pointing out the connections between populism and the resentments towards migrants, black people and other ethnic or religious groups, as well as the distrust towards institutional politics and economic fears. However, such studies assume that the attitudes in question are reflexively available to the full extent to the participants and that they can easily be retrieved through questionnaires. The taken-for-granted assumptions that feed conscious attitudes are seldom empirically analysed. However, an increasing number of studies moves beyond the analysis of conscious attitudes and investigates instead less-than-conscious habits, emotions as well as gendered performances in populism. Shannon Sullivan's work was dedicated to the analysis of unconscious habits and current publications such as, for example, Carolyn Pedwell emphasizes the relevance of routines in nowadays societies. The aim of the semi-plenary is to discuss present theoretical and methodological approaches that enable the analysis of far right-wing populism, paying particular attention as to how less-than-conscious habits, emotions, and gendered performances can be theoretically framed and empirically analysed. The contribution of quantitative, qualitative as well as mixed method methodologies will be equally considered. Early career scholars are particularly encouraged to apply.

Speaker

Ov Cristian Norocel (Lund University, Sweden)

Performing Hate as Harmless Banter – Communicating Far-Right Metapolitics, One Political Cartoon at a Time

This contribution brings novel insights and argues that the hateful opinions (be them racism, xenophobia, sexism, anti-LGBTIQ as well as anti-poor stances) that underpin the far-right ideological universe reach out to larger audiences though their discursive packaging as allegedly harmless banter. It presents a qualitative analysis of controversial political cartoons drawn by a controversial USA-based cartoonist posted on X (formerly Twitter) within the last year. Of interest here are those cartoons that envisage a common transnational far-right endeavour, focusing on the elections the Netherlands, Argentina, EU, and USA. The analysis highlights the importance of an intersectional analysis of emotions (attentive to imbrications of gender and sexuality, race, religion, and social class) in the communication of far-right politics, and points out two crucial aspects. First, it concerns the medium of communication, whereby the quasi-ubiquitousness of social platforms – driven among others, by and through emotional messaging, personal choice, and personalised experiences – makes them ideal communication channels. Here, political cartoons serve as seemingly humorous takes on political events, spreading widely otherwise controversial political concepts. Not totally concealed or denied, hateful opinions are rather performed through these so that to allow them a wider circulation. Second, it concerns the far-right agenda beyond politics (thus meta-politics) to achieve a shift in generally held opinions, which are deemed socially acceptable on matters of social and cultural diversity, gender, and sexual equality. This agenda is pursued by various entities across the globe: radical-right populist parties and their leaders contesting parliamentary elections (e.g. the Party for Freedom and Geert Wilders in the Netherlands); radical-right candidates leading former mainstream parties (Donald Trump); or more diffuse extreme right entities (the Alt-Right in the USA).

Biography

Ov Cristian Norocel is Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies, at Lund University (Sweden). He is Doctor of Social Science in Political Science from the University of Helsinki (Finland). Norocel applies an intersectional lens to issues of far-right political communication and anti-gender mobilization. He examines these phenomena in a comparative perspective in Europe (focusing on Sweden, Finland, Hungary, and Romania). In his latest projects, he deploys in a syncretic manner critical discourse studies, digital ethnography, and critical big data analysis to map out far right metapolitics, as well as anti-gender politics.

SP09 | "Contribution of the ESA to the European Sociology and European Society" – Celebrations of the 30th ESA Anniversary

29 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC4.0.41 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Martin Kohli, Carmen Leccardi, Marta Soler, Sylvia Walby and Frank Welz**
Organisation: **ESA Executive Committee and ESA Past Presidents**
Chair: **Lígia Ferro (ESA President 2021-24)**

The European Sociological Association was officially established in 1994 and it is celebrating its 30th anniversary at the ESA Porto Conference. This session is organised by the ESA Executive Committee and the ESA Past Presidents and will include testimonies of the challenges and opportunities encountered all over the last decades in building the sociological community and giving positive contributions to the diverse and complex social problems faced by European societies.

Speakers

Martin Kohli was born in 1942 in Solothurn (Switzerland), and studied at the Universities of Geneva, Cologne, and Bern, where he obtained his doctorate. After a few years at the Ministry of Education of the Canton of Zurich and as Assistant Professor at the University of Constance (completed by his "habilitation") he went to the Free University of Berlin in 1977 as Professor of Sociology. In Berlin he initiated and directed the Research Group on Aging and the Life Course (Forschungsgruppe Altern und Lebenslauf, FALL). He is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and from 1997-99 served as President of the European Sociological Association (ESA). From 2004-2012 he held the Chair of Sociology at the EUI.

Since 2012, Kohli is Emeritus Professor at the EUI and Distinguished Bremen Professor at the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS). He has been a member or Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), at the Collegium Budapest, and at the Hanse Institute for Advanced Study (Delmenhorst/Bremen). He has also been a Visiting Professor at Harvard University, Stanford University, Columbia University, the University of North Carolina, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Carmen Leccardi is Professor Emerita, Sociology of Culture, at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca. Here she has been Director of the PhD program in Applied Sociology and Methodology of Social Research. Vice Rector for equal opportunities (2012-2013), she was Director of the 'Gender Cultures' Inter-university Research Centre (2013-20). From 2013 to 2015 she was President of the European Sociological Association. Has researched extensively in the field of social time, youth, gender and generations, cultural models and processes of cultural and social change. From a methodological point, she is interested in qualitative research methods, in particular hermeneutical approaches. Her last book (2023) is Exploring New Temporal Horizons, Bristol University Press (with P. Jedlowski and A. Cavalli).

Leccardi have conducted theoretical/empirical research (at both European and national level) in the following areas: youth cultures and inter-generational comparisons, biographical constructions, gender differences, sociological study of time, changes in cultural models, qualitative research methods. The last conference she organized is the 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association "Differences, Inequalities, and Sociological Imagination", Prague, 25-28 August 2015). She has published widely on cultural changes, young women's cultures, youth and its cultural practices (with specific attention to the changing life course perspective) and temporal orientations.

Marta Soler-Gallart is Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Barcelona and Vice-president of the International Sociological Association. She is currently Democracy Visiting Senior Faculty Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School (Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation 2023-24). She has been President of the European Sociological Association (2019-2021) and Editor in Chief of the journal "International Sociology" (2015-2022). She has been at the Governing Board of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH, 2016-2019). She was the first researcher in the social sciences to be at the ORCID Board of Directors (2014-2016).

Soler-Gallart is Director of CREA (Community of Research on Excellence for All), where her research focuses on dialogic democracy to address social inequalities. She was the Main Researcher of the H2020 Project "SOLIDUS" on the analysis of solidarity acts with social impact during the crisis in Europe. Besides, she has been the Knowledge Management Coordinator of the FP7 Project "IMPACT-EV" on evaluation of scientific, political and social impact from research. She recently published the book "Achieving Social Impact. Sociology in the public sphere" (Springer). She is among the ten first researchers worldwide in the categories of social impact and gender violence in Google Scholar.

Sylvia Walby is Professor at Royal Holloway, University of London, and holds the Anneliese Maier Award from the Humboldt Foundation. She chaired the Steering Committee setting up the European Sociological Association, 1992-5, and was elected founding President of the European Sociological Association, 1995-7. She was co-founder of the International Sociological Association's Thematic Group 11 on Violence and Society, 2018-2023, and the Working Group 11 on Violence and Society (2023-27). Walby was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2022, elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2007 and awarded an OBE for services to equality and diversity in 2008. She was the founding chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Gender Research, 2008-2019. She chaired the Sociology Sub-Panel in REF2021. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Queen's University Belfast in 2017. Walby's research is focused on rebuilding the theory and concept of society to take account of gender as a regime of inequality and violence as an institutional domain (Globalization

and Inequalities: Complexity and Contested Modernities, Sage 2009), the better to understand contemporary social change and the possibilities of alternatives (Crisis, Polity 2015). She theorises gender regimes of inequality (Theorizing Patriarchy, Blackwell 1990) and projects attempting its transformation (The Future of Feminism Polity 2011; Gender Transformations, Routledge 1997). She is developing the methodology to better count violence, especially to reduce the underestimation of its scale and consequences against women and minorities (The Concept and Measurement of Violence against Women and Men Policy, 2017) and to inform the development a theory of change of violence, and the theory of society.

Frank Welz has been teaching sociology at the Innsbruck School of Social and Political Sciences since 2006. He was a Research Fellow at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Onati, Spain, at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) at Bielefeld University, Germany, and at the Department of Sociology of the University of Cambridge, UK. He served as the 11th President of the European Sociological Association (ESA) in 2015-2017 and as a member of the Executive Committee and vice-president of the ESA from 2011 to 2015. He has further been a Governing Board member of the European Alliance for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) and a Founding Member of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE). He coordinated ESA's Social Theory Research Network (RN29) 2007 to 2011, and he also served as Vice-President of the Austrian Sociological Association.

Recently, Welz has been publishing on sociological theory, sociology of culture, particularly law, and the history of sociology. His initiatives at Freiburg have been awarded with several prizes, among others e.g. the State's Excellence in Teaching Award 1999, the Heilmann Prize for the 'virtual' seminar series "LEC" Freiburg-JNU New Delhi (2000) and the BMW Group Award (Munich 2005) and Stifterverband/ DAAD's quality label "Top 10 International Master's degree courses made in Germany" (2006) for the GSP.

SP10 | Tensions and Transformations in European citizenship and identity. Can we trust an inclusive future?

29 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC1.0.03 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Manuela Boatcă and Annalisa Pelizza**
Organisation: **Council of National Associations**
Chair: **Maria Carmela Agodi (University of Naples Federico II)**

The focus of this SP are current tensions in European self-representation, involving the presence and fluxes of multiple ethnicities, languages, histories. While coloniality, as a phenomenon that started with the European colonial expansion, continues to characterize global asymmetries and epistemologies today, we can also observe counter currents, resistances, appropriations, and the emergence of new hegemonies. Re-discovering European internal diversity as a sociological and historical reality would be a contribution to deconstructing the future of our continent as depicted by new and old nationalistic and post-colonialist scenarios.

Speakers

Manuela Boatcă, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Romani Europeans and the Challenge of Unthinkable Histories

Present in Europe for centuries, but still not considered of Europe or addressed as Europeans, the Roma are not part of Europe's reckoning with either racism or enslavement. Such reckoning routinely restricts European racism temporally to the Holocaust, conflating racism with antisemitism; and relegates enslavement spatially to Africa and the Americas, equating enslavement with the transatlantic trade. The Roma falls through these temporal and spatial cracks in Europe's current politics of memory. I trace this structural oblivion to an Occidentalist imaginary that equates Europeanness with whiteness and that has historically produced unequal Europes in the South and East of the continent to which non-white and other non-conforming populations, histories, and events can routinely be relegated. Drawing on Michel Rolph Trouillot's analysis of the Haitian Revolution as an "unthinkable history" made by enslaved Black people, I argue that European politics of memory will remain incomplete as long as the history and the present of anti-Roma racism, the legacies of Romani enslavement, and the implications of such histories for the (im)possibility of constructing an identity as Romani Europeans are deemed unthinkable in an Occidentalist white Europe.

Biography

Manuela Boatcă is a professor at the Institute of Sociology and Head of School of the Global Studies Program at the University of Freiburg, Germany. She was Visiting Professor at IUPERJ, Rio de Janeiro in 2007/08 and Professor of Sociology of Global Inequalities at the Latin American Institute of the Freie Universität Berlin from 2012 to 2015. She has published widely on world-systems analysis, decolonial perspectives on global inequalities, gender and citizenship in modernity/coloniality, and the geopolitics of knowledge in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. She is the author of Global Inequalities Beyond Occidentalism, Routledge, 2016 and co-editor of Decolonizing European Sociology. In 2018 she was awarded an ACLS collaborative fellowship alongside literary scholar Anca Parvulescu (Washington University in St. Louis, USA), for a comparative project on inter-imperiality in Transylvania. The resulting co-authored book, Creolizing the Modern. Transylvania Across Empires, Cornell University Press, 2022, also translated in German, and in Romanian, has received Honourable mention for the 2022 George Blazyca Prize in East European Studies from the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (Basees) and the 2023 René Wellek Prize for best monograph from the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA).

Annalisa Pelizza, University of Bologna and Aarhus University

Processing Alterity, Shaping the European Order

This lecture introduces the concept of "alterity processing" to account for the simultaneous enactment of individual "Others" and emergent European orders mediated by data infrastructures for migration management. Alterity processing refers to data infrastructures, knowledge practices and bureaucratic procedures through which populations unknown to European actors are translated into "European-legible" identities.

Drawing upon a Science and Technology Studies perspective, the lecture provides empirical evidence and theoretical reflections on the co-production of migrant people and Europe as a polity through the digitization of registration and identification of third-country nationals. It shows how different registration and identification procedures compete to legitimize different chains of actors, data, and metadata as more authoritative than others. Competing procedures have governance implications, as well, with institutional boundaries shifting de facto, if not de jure. In this tension, it is not only the individual Other that is enacted but also specific bureaucratic orders cutting across old and new European actors and distinctive understandings of "Europe." The lecture draws upon data collected in the context of the "Processing Citizenship" project (ERC StG No 714463, https://processingcitizenship.eu/).

Biography

Annalisa Pelizza is Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the University of Bologna and at the University of Aarhus (Denmark), Department of Digital Design and

Information Studies. Her research and teaching interests span: Governance of and by technology; Sociotechnical aspects of data infrastructures, including ontologies and interoperability; The long-term relationships between modern polities and infrastructures for populations and territory management; Social informatics and its methods. Prof. Pelizza has been the recipient of excellence science grants, including the Processing Citizenship research project funded by the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. She is member of the Editorial Board of Science, Technology and Human Values, of Tecnoscienza and vice president of STS Italia. She was elected member of the EASST Council (2019-2022). She acts as reviewer for science agencies and journals in STS, information systems, governance. She held visiting fellowships in U.S., Germany, France and the Netherlands.

SP11 | Academic Freedom in Times of Division

29 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.0.01 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Judit Takács and Geoffrey Pleyers**
Organisation: **Lígia Ferro, Gary Pollock, Teresa Sordé, Maria Carmela Agodi, Bernadette Brereton, Kaja Gadowska and Tiziana Nazio (ESA Executive Committee)**
Coordinators: **Kaja Gadowska, Nilay Çabuk Kaya, Krešimir Žažar, Tiziana Nazio, Maggie O'Neill, Ana-Cristina Santos**
Chair: **Kaja Gadowska**

This semi-plenary will consider academic freedom through the prism of personal experience in Hungary, Belarus, Turkey, and beyond. Academic freedom is central to the very idea of the university and crucial to discussions regarding Tension, Trust and Transformation.

There is currently a global tendency towards division, compartmentalization, and the resulting polarization. Critical for scholars is the freedom to choose research and teaching topics. Yet, increasingly, certain subjects are sidestepped due to (explicit or implicit) injunctions powered by financial pressures. Agents of influence are persuasive sociopolitical ideologies, ruling political systems, (in)formal social organizations, public/private sponsors of research, and so on. The effects of such tensions are especially apparent at state universities where approvals and funding for curricula, research projects, information resources, equipment, etc. are determined (more or less) by the government as well as special interest groups. Constraints on the subject matter of scientific inquiry severely undermine the conception of learning and education as an autonomous activity, rather leading towards the emergence of an "academia on demand" model.

Around the world, authoritarian political movements constrict the rights of academia to freely conduct inquiries, teach, and express views inconsistent with or challenging a government's ideological line. Constants are efforts to supress discourses questioning existent power structures and to undercut financial support for uncomfortable issues. This may lead to the distortion of research and misrepresentation of outcomes by way of supporting one ideology over another. Ultimately, aware of incentives and sanctions, scholars may increasingly choose self-censorship.

Speakers

Judit Takács (Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

Self-censorship: Between academic freedom and exile

During the last decade Hungary has faced increasing concerns regarding not only the state of democratic institutions, media freedom, and civil liberties but also academic freedom. Changes in the governance of Hungarian universities, the closure of the Central European University in Budapest, the forced restructuring of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and its network of research institutes are among the key issues we can consider.

According to the EP Academic Freedom Monitor 2023, in Hungary the level of academic freedom "is low compared not just to all other EU Member States, but also globally (the bottom 20-30% of countries worldwide)". Thus, my home country can offer an extremely rich research field for scholars interested in academic freedom related issues. However, it is not always easy to cope with such richness, especially while living inside the research lab (it is a bit as if Alfred Jarry's play King Ubu is no longer an absurd spectacle but has become part of everyday life).

In my talk I will focus on the following questions: What is the measurement of (self)censorship? How free are we academically and otherwise to act as responsible scholars? How free are we to conduct research of our choice in limited and limiting social contexts?

Biography

Judit Takács is a Research Professor at the Centre for Social Sciences, a Centre of Excellence of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her main research interests cover family practices, childlessness, caring masculinities, the social history of homosexuality, homophobia and genderphobia; while also having extensive research experience in HIV/AIDS prevention, community engagement in the context of public health preparedness, and measuring social attitudes. She completed an M.A. in Social Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, holds a Ph.D. in sociology, a Diploma Habilitationis, and a Doctor of Science title. Her recent publications include a co-edited volume on Paradoxical Right-Wing Sexual Politics in Europe, thematic issues on Gender Studies in Exile and Fragile Pronatalism; a book chapter on How to Conserve Kertbeny's Grave? A Case of Post-Communist Queer Necrophilia, and a co-authored article on Resisting Genderphobia in Hungary

Geoffrey Pleyers (ISA and Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium)

Sociologists at risk. Academic freedom in times of rising authoritarianism

The ISA is alarmed by the backlash against social sciences, and the rise of threats against academic freedom. The rise of authoritarian leaders, far-right movements and their stances during the COVID-19 pandemic have fuelled a backlash against science. All scientific disciplines are concerned. However, due to the nature of the discipline, the critical outlook on social facts and their commitment to democracy, sociologists are more frequently threatened. They pay a high price, mostly in authoritarian countries and in countries where reactionary leaders are on the rise, but also in countries long considered among the most solid Western democracies. The war in Gaza has added fuel to the fire. To forestall further catastrophic loss of life, well-informed and

nuanced debate and a historicized and sociological understanding of the ongoing war and atrocities are required. At this critical juncture, the ISA and the international community of sociologists cannot stand idly by as spaces of public and academic debate shrink and are increasingly policed. Protecting and promoting academic freedom and supporting our colleagues who are victims of repression and threats has become an intrinsic part of global sociology. It is a core duty of the ISA and a shared responsibility for all scholar associations in sociology and social sciences. To be up to this historic task, we need to foster new collaborations among sociological associations and mobilize the international academic community in new ways.

Biography

Geoffrey Pleyers is the current President of the International Sociological Association. He is a FNRS Professor of Sociology at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and holds a doctorate in sociology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris, 2006). His research focuses on social movements, global studies, youth, religion and Latin America. He is the author of “Alter-Globalization. Becoming Actors in the Global Age” (Polity, 2011). His latest books “Social Movements and Politics in the Pandemic” (edited with B. Bringel, Bristol University Press, 2022).

SP12 | "Energy Transition in the City: Socio-technical Challenges and policy implications"

29 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.2.00 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Harald Roracher and Catherine Butler**
Organisation: **RN37 Urban Sociology and RN12 Environment and Society**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Gabriele Manella (Università di Bologna, Italy) and Natalia Magnani (Università di Trento, Italy)**

Cities occupy only 4% of the EU area, but 75% of EU residents live there. Moreover, cities globally consume over 65% of energy and they cause over 70% of CO2 emissions (European Union, EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, 2022).

If they are the main determinants of climate change, they can also be the main contexts for creating solutions (Harriet Bulkeley, Cities and Climate Change, 2013). The concentration of people, industrial and cultural activities can make them laboratories of innovation (UNHABITAT, Global Report on Human Settlements, 2011), for efficiency and adaptation strategies to reduce climate change vulnerability. Cities are also important to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, as foreseen by the ambitious EU Green Deal program. Moreover, the EU has also foreseen some Missions in the Horizon Europe 2021-2027 program to produce tangible results already by 2030 in 100 cities, through the combination of research and innovation in new forms of participatory governance and collaboration.

Despite this awareness, many problems make this goal very complicated to achieve. In a context of energy crisis affected by the war between Russia and Ukraine, growing inequalities in access to energy are developing in the urban areas, which are combined with a crisis of trust in the public and private actors who manage its supply and a lack of citizen engagement in the ecological transition.

On this background the session we propose intends to combine two strands of sociological research, namely research on the environmental issue and research on the urban question, focusing on the energy theme and moving from the keywords (Tension, Trust, Transformation) of the ESA conference in Porto.

Speakers

Harald Roracher (Linköping University, SWE, Department of Thematic Studies, Tema T – Technology and Social Change)

Beyond urban experiments: governance innovations for accelerating urban energy transitions

Pilot projects, experiments, or living labs have increasingly become key tools for governing transformative change in general, and urban energy transitions in particular. Books such as "The Experimental City" (Evans et al., 2016) give witness of these shifts in urban governance in times of multiple crises and grand societal challenges. The idea is to test alternative socio-technical configurations in real-life settings, use them for learning how to do things differently and eventually scale them up to the whole city and beyond. In practice these projects and experiments are ridden by many problems which limit their contribution to urban transitions – they may be isolated from each other, no systematic learning is taking place, they are 'projectified' with a focus on short-term outcomes, they are highly situated and contextualised, or they may be captured by incumbent actors. In this talk I will critically analyse some examples of urban experimentation such as the development of positive energy districts or urban smart grid experiments as part of Swedish energy transition efforts. In a further step I will discuss different attempts of governance innovations beyond pilot projects which aim to achieve some level of systemic integration through transformative portfolios, system demonstrators, reflexive monitoring or alternative strategies of scaling.

Biography

Harald Rohracher is Professor of Technology and Social Change at Linköping University, Department of Thematic Studies, since 2012. He has a background in sociology as well as science, technology and innovation studies. He has been co-founder and director of the Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture (IFZ), Graz, Austria (1999-2007), Joseph A. Schumpeter Fellow at Harvard University (2009-10) and Simon Visiting Professor at Manchester University (2013). From 2014-2023 he has been Associate Editor of the journal 'Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions'. In his research he is interested in the governance of socio-technical change, societal transformations towards greater sustainability as well as urban and regional low-carbon transitions.

Catherine Butler (University of Exeter, Geography Department UK)

Energy poverty and sustainable transitions in the city

Within energy research and policy, there is an often-cited tension between the need to address energy poverty and

the requirements for sustainable transitions. For this talk, I draw on my research examining experiences of energy poverty and transition in UK cities to critically engage with this framing of these dual issues. While much energy research has focused on either energy poverty or energy transitions, in this analysis I examine the intersections to reveal the ways that transitions can be addressed at the dynamics underlying and constituting energy poverty in the city. In this I pursue three different points of departure. The first places inequalities at the heart of debates about the advancing energy intensity of contemporary societies, examining the long run processes of governance that have constituted both energy dependencies and deprivation. The second looks how socio-technical interventions in communities vulnerable to energy poverty have done little to transition homes and mobilities in directions that support sustainability and improve wellbeing, with consequences for relations of trust in transition processes. The third examines how locally based organisations work to navigate the fault lines of distrust and disenfranchisement in such communities to build toward transformations that reduce energy poverty along with wider inequities and offer routes to environmental sustainability. With this third point of departure, I end on a hopeful examination of the ways that those working within these challenging contexts have moved forward and of what could engender greater longevity, stability, and reach of such activities to create sustainable equitable cities.

Biography

Catherine Butler is Associate Professor in Human Geography within the Environment and Sustainability Research group at University of Exeter. Her research examines processes of societal transitions required to address environmental challenges and linked issues of equity, justice, and wellbeing. Prof Butler has published widely in this area (> 50 journal articles) including her recent book (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) which brought focus on issues of inequality by looking at how sustainable transitions might also address energy poverty in the UK. She has coordinated >16 funded research projects and is the University of Exeter lead for a new AHRC project examining retrofit of homes in UK cities. She is Chair of the Royal Geographical Society Energy Geographies Research Group, formerly Convenor of the British Sociological Association Climate Change study group, and associate editor for the journals Environmental Research Letters: Climate Change, Frontiers in Climate, and GEO: Geography and Environment.

SP13 | "Considering Humanism and Post-Humanism in Sociology. Lessons from within Critical Sexuality Studies"

29 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC1.0.07 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Pam Alldred and David Alderson**
Organisation: **RN23 Sexuality**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Christian Klesse (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Isabel Crowhurst (University of Essex, UK)**

With the death of Prof Ken Plummer (4 April 1946 – 4. November 2022), the sociological community lost an innovative voice on sociological theory (symbolic interactionism, pragmatism, deviance, narrative sociology), sexuality and the body (LGBTQI+ studies, aging and illness) and methodology (life stories, documents of life). Over the last decades, Plummer systematically elaborated an approach he called critical humanism (Plummer, 2001, 2018, 2021). Plummer asserted the prime significance of embodied human experience and agency. He proposed critical humanism as a normative stance for an ethical publicly engaged sociology and – as the founding editor of the leading journal Sexualities – critical sexuality studies. This commitment put him at odds with key developments in critical sexuality studies and gender studies, which took inspiration from poststructuralist perspectives that solidified around queer theory (Alderson 2016, 2017). Ken Plummer (2013) saw the queer turn as indicative of a wider shift to post-humanist sexuality studies. In recent years, propelled by debates around new materialism we have seen an intensified outpouring of post humanist work in sexuality studies (Fox and Alldred 2013, 2017). Like Plummer's critical humanism, post humanist work in gender and sexuality studies postures and self-represents as a pointedly ethical framework (Braidotti 2013). This panel stages a constructive dialogue between humanist and post-humanist positions in sexuality and gender studies. Dialogue across different positions has also been a key concern of Plummer's idea of a politically engaged sociology. This renders such a panel an apt way to memorise the passing away of one of the most prolific European humanist sociologists.

Speakers

Pam Alldred (Nottingham Trent University, UK)

What Can We Say About the Sexuality of the Posthuman?

Humanism held the hand of the civil rights movement and the democratising, anti-war and egalitarian struggles of the 1960s and 70s. In Anglo-American cultures this left the sense of humanism as 'the good guy', especially in the psy-disciplines, where Carl Rogers epitomised the best of liberal humanism in bequeathing us Unconditional Positive Regard. But while there were revolutionary currents flowing, the revolution was not complete. As Weeks (1986) explained, identity politics were necessary to the Gay and Women's Liberation Movements, but not sufficient. As Braidotti (2013) showed, the model human turned out to be white, male, straight and able-bodied. Even where identity was plural, understandings of diversity were limited to 'shades' of the subject, with some seen as further from the Enlightenment model, or as burdened by additive subordinated identities. As Lorde (1984) showed, humanism needs to capture how gender is diffracted through race, and sexualities through racialised genders. This meant that further imperialist damage has been waged by societies believing that they had made a humanist turn. Posthuman feminisms, particularly Braidotti (1994; 2013; 2021), are a radical effort to question these remaining normativities in humanism. I will describe what I think this posthuman 'turn' offers the study of sexualities, drawing on concepts in my work such as the sexualities-assemblage and gender-related violence. Posthumanism is not a substitute for humanism's ethics of inclusion, but a necessary corrective to its certainty. I will query the title's 'sexuality of the posthuman', and sketch the posthuman promise of plural, emergent, undecidable sexualities.

Biography

Pam Alldred is Professor of Youth and Community Studies, in the Department of Social Work, Care and Community, at Nottingham Trent University, UK, and research sexualities, sexualities education, consent, gender and sexual violence, parenting and inequalities interventions. She has led large EU-funded projects on gender-related violence and sexual violence and is co-editor of the Handbook of Youth Work Practice (Sage, 2018), and with Nick Fox co-author of Sociology and the New Materialism (Sage, 2017) and is currently editing a Sociology of Sexualities Research Handbook for Edward Elgar.

David Alderson (University of Manchester, UK)

Liberation, Chemsex and the Posthuman

This paper considers the phenomenon of chemsex among gay men in relation to debates central to claims about our posthuman condition, especially the potential for freedom, the possibility (and desirability) of autonomy and the technological determination and transformation of our understanding of each. It will discuss the way chemsex is represented in critical chemsex studies, public health discourse and cultural representation, focusing on identity politics, history and temporality, as well as the marketized dissolution and reconfiguration of private/public distinctions. The framework for the discussion will be a cultural materialist one, indebted principally to the work of Alan Sinfield, but it will also draw critically on a Marcusean framework that relates sexual possibilities to the dominant reality principle. It will therefore offer a different kind of humanistic

perspective from that of Ken Plummer, while paying tribute to his achievement.

Biography

David Alderson is Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Manchester. He has written extensively about gender, sexuality and the neoliberal transition, and is the author of Sex, Needs and Queer Culture (Zed, 2016), as well as co-editor, with Robert Spencer, of For Humanism (Pluto, 2017). He is currently researching a project on cultural representation and the political economy of the family.

SP14 | Sociology in Action: Co-creating Integration Solutions with Migrant and Refugee Children in Europe

30 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC4.0.41 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Adnan Abdul Ghani and Mateja Sedma**
Organisation: **Teresa Sordé and Gary Pollock (Chairs of the Conference)**

Migration, mobility, and forced displacement, with a special emphasis on the experiences and impacts on children, are integral elements that have shaped for decades European societies. This session will revolve around the need to generate knowledge by considering the views, experiences, knowledge, and insights of refugee and migrant families and children on social inclusion. Drawing on European research results, personal experiences, and extensive work from the grassroots up to the EU level, a discussion around effective strategies to embrace meaningful co-creation processes that define new responses in dialogue with, and not aside from, refugee and migrant families and children will be held. Effective practices that foster empowerment, emotional well-being, and social belonging among migrant and refugee children, as well as the tailored support systems in facilitating the inclusion and empowerment of adults and youth will be presented.

Speakers

Adnan Abdul Ghani (Member of EU Commission Expert Group on migration, asylum, and integration)

Empowering Resilience: Advancing Psychosocial Support and inclusion for Refugees and Migrants in Europe.

Reception of migrants and refugees in Europe presents unique opportunities and challenges for host societies. This presentation will delve into the empowerment and psychosocial support strategies implemented to enhance the well-being and resilience of these vulnerable populations. Drawing on the experience with Save the Children and the European Commission Expert Group of the views of migrants on asylum migration and integration, we will explore effective practices that foster empowerment, emotional well-being, and social belonging among migrant and refugees. The discussion will include case studies and evidence-based approaches. Additionally, some personal insights from a refugee journey highlighting the importance of tailored support systems in facilitating the inclusion and empowerment of adults, youth and children. This session aims to provide valuable insights and practical recommendations for better inclusion strategies in our European societies.

Biography

Adnan Abdul Ghani is project Manager and a Migration thematic expert in Save The Children Sweden where he developed Re-Act Model for refugee's empowerment, self-organization, and strategic cooperation. As a refugee from Syria, he started a movement to train refugees to lead community, the movement has spread to other parts in Europe. – Thematic adviser for Region Västra Götaland, Sweden for the regional development strategy 2020 to 2030. – Member of EU Commission Expert Group on migration, asylum, and integration.

Mateja Sedmak (Institute for Social Sciences at the Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia)

Child-Centred Approach to Migrant Children's Integration

The presentation will critically discuss the integration of migrant children in educational settings in the European context. From the prevailing adult-centred perspective (of educators, researchers and policy makers), successful integration is perceived as migrant children adopting the local language and cultural values, achieving academic success, progressing to the next grade, avoiding dropping out of school and eventually finding a job. Furthermore, integration often assumes integration into an imaginary homogeneous national culture. We will critically reflect on these traditional notions basing on a child-centred approach that recognises (migrant) children as active participants. With child centred approach we shift the focus from an adult-centred perspective to children's experiences of migration and integration, viewing them as experts, skilled communicators, rights-holders and meaning-makers (Clark and Moss, 2005; Fattore, Mason and Warson, 2007). What integration is from a child-centred perspective does not necessarily coincide with adult-centred perspective. This is illustrated using data collected as part of the MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe Horizon 2020 project in eight European countries (UK, Slovenia, France, Poland, Austria, Denmark, Spain, Greece) and Turkey in 2019-2022 through comparative multi-method research.

Biography

Mateja Sedmak, PhD in Sociology, is Principal Research Associate and the Head of the Institute for Social Sciences at the Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia. Her research interests include ethnic and intercultural studies, migration and integration, management of cultural diversity, and topics in sociology of everyday life and sociology of the family. She is vice president and the Head of the Section for Intercultural Studies at Slovenian Sociological Association. She is the editor of the journal Annales – Series Historia et Sociologia (SI) and member of the editorial boards of: Social Science Discussions (SI), Italian Sociological Review (IT) and Demography (SR). She has been the leader of many national and international projects, including the MiCREATE project – Migrant Children and Communities and A Transforming Europe, funded by the Research and Innovation Grant Scheme, Horizon 2020 program.

SP15 | Harassment in Institutions and Society

30 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.0.01 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Ana Bull, Anneleen De Cuyper and Sarah Van de Velde**
Organisation: **RN33 Women's and Gender Studies**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Elisabetta Ruspini (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy) and Ana Vidu (University of Deusto, Spain)**

Harassment is still a severe problem in different spheres of society, affecting people, especially women, of all cultures, races, ages, religions, social classes, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Research has also shown that the most vulnerable people, such as LGTBIQ+ communities, are potentially at a higher risk of being harassed, bullied, or discriminated against.

Harassment can take many forms and can take place in many situations. Victims of harassment suffer significant physical or psychological problems such as depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, family tensions. Employees who experience sexual harassment can suffer significant effects, including low self-esteem, low job satisfaction, job burnout, isolation. Harassment produces high individual and social costs: its impact on women, families, vulnerable communities, institutions, organizations and policies requires greater attention.

Harassment is already on the agenda of most world-known companies, top universities, non – governmental organizations and social policies. However, sexual, domestic, workplace and online harassment must be specifically addressed by scholars aligned with the perspective of women's and gender studies. Effective action to address harassment and its multiple expressions in various forms and contexts require a broad and diverse view that pays attention to the close connection between harassment and gender systems. To this end, the intersectional feminist perspective and the gender – sensitive lens are valuable keys to understanding and responding to the phenomenon.

Based on these premises, the current call aims to discuss harassment and its link with gender norms, gender power relations, gender stereotypes, and other forms of discrimination, e.g., the maternal wall. What contribution can the intersectional approach and gender perspective make to understanding the causes that generate harassment? What actions should be implemented in institutions to prevent and respond to this problem? How are support networks built to overcome isolation toward those who choose to speak up? Are there generational differences when it comes to sexual, domestic, workplace and online harassment?

Speaker

Ana Bull (University of New York)

Navigating Feminist Debates On Due Process For Addressing Gender-Based Violence And Harassment Within Organisations: Findings From A Qualitative Study Of Survivors' Reporting Experiences Within UK Higher Education

Increased public and media attention is currently being paid to how workplaces and education institutions are addressing gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH). Scholarly and activist debates on this issue are divided. On one hand, some argue that survivor-centered, feminist forms of 'due process' should be adopted within institutions and therefore, feminists should work to improve formal reporting processes within institutions for GBVH. On the other hand, others argue that institutions where violence and harassment occur must be inherently discriminatory – across gender, class, race, disability, and/or caste lines – and therefore cannot adequately manage reports of these issues. This position can lead survivors to take steps such as naming those responsible for harassment. Alongside this, many activists and scholars are advocating transformative justice solutions that entirely bypass existing institutional processes.

Despite these febrile debates, research literature on complaints, grievance and disciplinary processes for addressing sexual harassment within workplaces and education institutions remains limited. This paper addresses these debates using qualitative interview data from twenty-seven students and staff who reported GBVH their higher education institution in the UK between 2016-21. Building on Sara Ahmed's work on 'complaint', the paper takes the perspective of an 'institutional mechanic' (Ahmed, 2021) to explore why and how reporting processes for GBVH are often unsatisfactory for reporting parties. The paper also interrogates debates around informal versus formal processes, exploring whether more formality in institutional processes in this area is likely to be more helpful for survivors who need to report GBVH.

Biography

Anna Bull is a Senior Lecturer in Education and Social Justice at the University of York, and co-director of *The 1752 Group*, a research and campaigning organisation working to address staff sexual misconduct in higher education. As well as multiple academic and public-facing publications on sexual misconduct in HE, Anna was an academic advisor to the National Union of Students for their report *Power in the Academy: staff sexual misconduct in UK higher education.* She sits on national advisory boards to address gender-based violence in higher education in the UK and Ireland, and co-authored The 1752 Group and McAllister Olivarius' *Sector Guidance to address staff sexual misconduct in UK higher education*. She has also conducted research into inequalities in classical music education and industry and sexual harassment in the film and television industry.

Anneleen De Cuyper (University of Antwerp)

Reporting Sexual Harassment in Higher Education: A Case Study of a Belgian University

The university setting is often characterised by a steep hierarchy, power imbalances and professional dependency. This makes it challenging for people who have experienced sexual harassment at university to file an internal, formal complaint. This study wishes to analyse the reporting procedures at the University of Antwerp: How do people decide whether to report sexual harassment? If one does report, what is the outcome? Who falls through the cracks of these internal procedures and how? Do significant differences exist in reporting behaviour and outcome between groups with distinct socio-demographic and/or professional characteristics? To answer these research questions, the Belgian sample of the Uni4Equity questionnaire dataset on sexual harassment in higher education will be analysed using regression methods. This data will be complemented by in-depth interviews with various university stakeholders (e.g. policy makers, leadership, staff and students). Preliminary results reveal respondents expect to not contact specific university services due to: A lack of information about their setup (62,5%), confidentiality and anonymity concerns (34,6%) and preferring to seek help from family, friends and/or partner (29%). Interestingly, of the 9,1% who actually has been confronted with sexual harassment at the University of Antwerp, close to no one filed a formal complaint. Reasons included being concerned about not being believed by the university, that nothing would happen, and the reporting procedure being too difficult. These first results indicate a lack of knowledge and trust in university reporting services. However, additional research will provide more extensive data on the reporting procedures and decision-making processes involved.

Biography

Anneleen De Cuyper is a researcher at the Sociology department of the University of Antwerp. Her research focuses on sexual harassment in higher education. More specifically, she aims to get a better understanding of the reporting behaviour of people who have experienced sexual harassment and the decision-making process of university members tasked with handling sexual harassment reports. Throughout her study, she combines quantitative and qualitative data collected for the Uni4Equity project. This is an international cooperation between several European higher education institutions, including the University of Antwerp, focused on preventing and identifying online and offline sexual harassment in higher education. Before her start at the University of Antwerp, she obtained master's degrees in Organisational Psychology (Ghent University), Management (Lund University) and Conflict and Development studies (Ghent University), enabling her to approach topics from various theoretical perspectives.

Sarah Van de Velde (University of Antwerp)

Biography

Sarah Van de Velde is a Professor of Medical Sociology at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. She is a leading researcher in the field of social disparities in SRH and mental health, as well as access to healthcare. Her SRH research topics include abortion, female genital mutilation/cutting, contraception, and sexual harassment. She employs both quantitative and qualitative research methods and has extensive expertise in developing (multi-country) surveys. She is the Vice-President of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology, co-chair of the scientific board of The Social Study, board member of VLIR-UOS, and editorial board member of BMC Reproductive Health. She teaches several courses in the fields of Medical Sociology, Social Inequality, and Family Sociology.

SP16 | Homelessness and Housing distress in Europe

30 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.0.02 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Eoin O'Sullivan and Luís Mendes**
Organisation: **RN27 Southern European Societies and RN37 Urban Sociology**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Teresa Consoli (University of Catania, Italy), Inês Vieira (Lusófona University, Portugal) and Gabriele Manella (University of Bologna, Italy)**

The European Commission has defined homelessness as "situations of living in temporary, insecure or poor-quality housing". It clearly is a wide definition, which includes people who sleep on the streets, in the cars, in tents and/or in shelters. Covid-19 pandemics dramatically affected this part of population, but several data show that housing distress started even before: homelessness in EU countries had a 70% increase in the last ten years, and around 700,000 people are estimated to be homeless on a given night.

A report from FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless) pointed out that many people are "increasingly marginalised by a private rental market that feeds off a systematic lack of affordable housing": not only the migrants but also women and young people are at risk, showing new areas of social tensions and the urgency to rethink homelessness as a wider and increasing phenomenon.

If the trend has emerged throughout Europe, Finland seems the only country that has been able to reduce homelessness significantly: – 19% between 2009 and 2017 and finally declared to have ended homelessness through a long-term orchestrated housing-led political strategy.

Our proposal moves from these considerations and focuses on two questions:

- Which methods and approaches can be used to analyse the conditions of homeless people but also the ones of people at risk of becoming homeless? Which policies and data collection on the phenomenon of homelessness can be strategic in the transformation of the welfare system and the public debate on housing?
- What is happening in the European countries and, specifically in southern European cities to tackle (or worsen) this situation?

This challenge clearly requires new welfare organizations as well as the sharing of data and methods. We boost the specificity of sociological approaches on homelessness and housing but also strongly encourage an interdisciplinary public debate on both issues.

Speakers

Eoin O'Sullivan (Professor in Social Policy, Trinity College of Dublin, Ireland)

Effective Systems to End Homelessness in Europe

The objective of this paper is to provide a conceptual framework to understand the dynamics of homelessness, drawing on key lessons from research, and how these lessons can inform, through mutual learning and collaboration, the configuration of practices and policies in devising effective systems to end homelessness in Europe. Social science research has clearly demonstrated that the experience of homelessness is a dynamic process and that those who experience homelessness are not randomly distributed across the population but are part of a larger population of disadvantaged households, for whom housing precarity and insecurity is omnipresent. Given this understanding of homelessness, effective systems to end homelessness must orientate towards changing the "homelessness system" (that is the assemblage of services and policies that respond to those experiencing homelessness) rather than "changing people". This is driven by an evidence-based understanding that homelessness is solvable, when the appropriate policies and practices are in place, rather than an unresolvable "wicked problem" as sometime portrayed. The objective of effective homelessness systems should be to prevent entries to homelessness in the first instance. For those that do experience homelessness, the objective should be to provide appropriate temporary accommodation to prevent literal homelessness, and to minimize the duration of stay in such accommodation by rapidly exiting households to secure affordable housing, with support if required. This will reduce the likelihood of a further experience of homelessness, allowing for the reduction of costly emergency accommodation and the alleviation of the individual trauma associated with a spell of homelessness.

Biography

Eoin O'Sullivan is a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin, Senior Dean and Professor in Social Policy in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. He is a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness since 1992, and editor of the European Journal of Homelessness since 2009. Recent books include Ending Homelessness? The Contrasting Experiences of Denmark, Finland, and Ireland (2020), Reimagining Homelessness (2020) and his co-authored book Decades in the Making: The Roots of the Homelessness Crisis in Ireland will be published in early 2024.

Luís Mendes (CEG, IGOT-UL, Lisbon, Portugal)

Housing crisis: main drivers and the question of homelessness

Undoubtedly, one of the problems that mark the current situation in Europe, Portugal and Lisbon, still in the 21st century, is the growing difficulty of the population in accessing

the Right to Housing, a corollary of a structural crisis in the sector that has been going on for decades, intrinsic to the very functioning of the economic and social mode of production of the contemporary society, and which was particularly acute after the capitalist crisis of 2008-2009 and with the pandemic crisis of 2020-2022 and now resurfaces with the inflationary crisis. The purpose of this presentation is to analyse the main drivers of the contemporary housing crisis, mainly: touristification, neoliberal urban policies, and financialization of housing and rental market. We will also analyse the impact of this crisis on the galloping expansion of homelessness, which in the last half decade alone in Portugal increased by 78% reaching 11,000 people and in Europe the number reached 900,000 people. The presentation will conclude with an apology for the general principles and specific measures for an effective and consequent Public Housing Policy in the path of universal realization of the inalienable and unconditional Right to Housing in national territory and Europe.

Biography

Geographer. Guest Lecturer and Permanent Researcher at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Lisbon (IGOT-UL). He is a technical and scientific consultant in public and private institutions, as well as national and international projects. Author of more than 250 titles: papers, presentations, book chapters, books, technical opinions and reports, in addition to publications on gentrification, housing and urban regeneration. His work has been recognized and cited in the national and international media where he has a frequent presence. He has also worked in the last 25 years as a board member in several civic associations and 7 years as activist in the social movement Morar em Lisboa.

SP17 | The relevance of teaching social theory today

30 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | LC.2.00 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

With: **Ramon Flecha and Hubert Knoblauch**
Organisation: **RN10 Sociology of Education and RN29 Social Theory**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Adriana Aubert (University of Barcelona, Spain) and Mikael Carleheden (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)**

For the first time the European Commission has set its research priorities with a social dimension focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Therefore, research in all sciences today must have this social dimension which makes crucial the inclusion of social theory in social research and teaching of professionals as sociologists, educators, social workers, economists or lawyers even more relevant.

Learning social theory today means having better access to the best scientific knowledge available to understand current "tensions", and to understand the transformation towards a more democratic, just, egalitarian and sustainable society.

The session proposed responds to the ESA's approach of revitalising citizens' trust in science, and science cannot be understood without social theory. We contribute to the creation and maintenance of "trust" in institutions and key individuals such as scientists and politicians. Finally, we aim to shed light onto the teaching of social theory for future social science professionals who will have a key role on the processes of social "transformation" and thus on the achievement of social improvements. Social sciences offer to a world of uncertainties, conflicts and persistent crises, key elements of analysis and, importantly, the possibility to identify and analyse actions already reversing them.

Speakers

Ramon Flecha (Emeritus Professor, University of Barcelona)

The impact of teaching dialogic elaborations of social theories

Now more than ever, without social theory, science cannot be understood. The current priority of social impact and co-creation (in research and in society) has created the best scenario in history to improve sociology and its contribution to the improvement of society. Sociologists have co-led the elaboration of this priority that is transforming all sciences and their relations with citizens. Today, the dimension of social impact is an increasing requirement. New legislation is being approved, for instance by the EC, to make compulsory for companies reports of their social impact. Citizens are claiming to participate in the assessment of the social impact of companies, governments and academia, including sociological theory and sociology of education. Scientists from physics, neuroscience, mathematics and other areas are asking sociologists to develop the social impact dimension of their studies. They discover now their need for social theories able to contribute to their dialogue with society and the improvement of their social impact. Never, Nobel prizes of different sciences have been so motivated by sociology, and concretely by those social theories that make them able to improve their dialogue with citizens. Dialogic sociology is not one more theory different or competitive with other social theories, but the relevant orientation of recent elaborations of diverse social theories. Students are receiving with enthusiasm those elaborations and the clear transformations of society they are generating.

Biography

Prof. Flecha is the highest ranked scientist worldwide in the category "Social Impact" (Google Scholar) and the 7th in the category of "Sociological Theory", Emeritus Professor at the University of Barcelona and Doctor Honoris Causa from Vest University of Timişoara. His recent book "The Dialogic Society" (2022) is published in English, Spanish, Basque, Chinese, Catalan and Portuguese. In his book "Contemporary Social Theory" (2003) with a preface by U. Beck, he already discussed the importance of the dialogic society in social theory. He was the Chair of the Expert Group from all scientific fields to develop Horizon Europe's social impact and co-creation criteria.

Hubert Knoblauch (Technische Universität Berlin)

The 'Institutionalization of Permanent Reflection'. Sociological Theory and Societies in Transformation

In the last decades, sociology has in fact got in dialogue with many partners. Having been confronted with the demand for interdisciplinary and the "mode 2" transdisciplinarity, it has opened also for participating in public discourses as a primary goal and, after its extension to a "global sociology", lastly, for postcolonial critique of its Western perspectivity. As important as the instrumentalization of sociological knowledge to various social actors has been for sociology as a profession, it not only made it increasingly difficult to teach "Sociological Theory" as a somehow bounded field of knowledge; in addition, it has led to some confusion about the discipline itself, to severe tensions and even schisms even in Sociology between different "paradigms". As a result, the role of Sociological Theory at Sociological Institutes, at universities and in Academia in general seems to have waned in many national and international academic systems.

There is no doubt that Sociology as pluralistic and highly differentiated body of knowledge does need to go in dialogue with as many social actors as possible, yet because of that, to be a trusted, respected actor, sociology needs to communicate internally about its own subject matter to maintain a disciplinary identity. This holds particularly

for the current transformation of societies, the tensions involved with that as well as the crisis of scientific expertise (i.e. what we called the refiguration of societies). As a discipline which is studying society as well as the role of knowledge and the sciences in society, sociology needs to be able to reflect in its own terms about societies, about its empirical observations as well as its own changing role in science and society. These terms are provided by, reflected and corrected by the institutionalized field of "Sociological Theory" which, I argue, constitutes a unique and, because of its reflection, trustful perspective relevant also for students in an age of digitally mediated, algorithmic and artificial machines of sense-making.

Biography

I am Chair for General Sociology/ Theory of Modern Societies and Co-Speaker of the Collaborative Research Center "Refiguration of Space" funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) at the Technical University of Berlin's Institute of Sociology. I have been teaching Sociological Theory for 20 years and doing research in the Sociology of Knowledge, Culture, Religion, Communication, Methodology and, of course, Social Theory. Based on a wide range of empirical studies with different methods and methodologies, I have been trying to contribute to develop further the Social Constructivist Theory into what is now Communicative Constructivism. Latest publications: The Communicative Construction of Reality. London/New York: Routledge 2022; with Michaela Pfadenhauer: Construction versus Realism? The Unrealized Potential of Communicative Constructivism, in: Sociologica V. 17, No.1, 119-136 (2023) *https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.1971-8853/16725*

SP18 | Social conflicts at work and around work: challenging inequalities and redefining boundaries

30 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC1.0.03 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Michele Lamont and Donatella Della Porta**
Organisation: **RN17 Work, Employment and Industrial Relations and RN25 Social Movements**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Guglielmo Meardi (Scuola Normale Superiore), Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven) and Elena Pavan (University of Trento)**

The challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and post pandemic, combined with changing technology, demographic trends, armed conflicts and concerns about energy and the environment, have brought about a resurgence of social conflicts both at work and about the boundaries of work. On one side the re-emergence of inflation has given new centrality to wage issues, with waves of strikes and policy developments, for example on minimum wages. On the other the idea of work itself has been newly problematized. The reported emergence of labour shortages questions the future of labour supply, i.e. the availability of people for paid employment, in the way it has been known and largely taken for granted so far. The balance between work and life, the relationship between home and workplace, the distinction between employment, self-employment and other forms of activity appears much less clear cut than they have long assumed to be.

The semi-plenary proposes to reflect both theoretically and empirically about the social turbulences and the emergence of new forms of conflict from below at work – i.e., regarding wages and working conditions – and about work – i.e., the importance of work as a sense of identity and value for citizens and people alike – in the post-pandemic world. Issues like the 'great resignation', falling labour supply, new forms of labour power in politics and the workplace, and the redefinition of care work between market, household and society are important examples of topical societal concerns that require such reflection.

RN17 is well placed to propose evidence-based and theoretically informed reflections that directly address the ESA Conference's theme of 'tension, trust and transformation' on a key social setting (work) and on very topical developments.

The proposed Semi-Plenary will consist of presentations on the social conflicts at (and about) work, and their antecedents and societal challenges for trust and social cohesion. The specific issues on which contributions will be called for from among the several colleagues working on this topic is:

- Social conflict at work on wages and on restructuring, new actors and new forms of mobilisation
- Social conflict on work-life balance, on remote work, and on technological change such as digitalization and Artificial Intelligence
- Social conflict on working time and on the duration of the working life (e.g., pensions, parental and care leaves)
- Social conflicts on care work, on its redefinition as key work and on its distribution between genders and between state, family and market
- Social conflicts on the redefinition of employment, e.g., in the platform economy, freelancing, and new grey zones between employment and self-employment

Speakers

Michele Lamont (Professor of Sociology and of African and African American Studies)

Seeing Others: How to Redefine Worth in a Divided World

Growing inequality and the decline of the American dream are marked by a mental health crisis across all social classes in the United States. I consider what alternative hopes are taking shape based on interviews with 80 Gen Zs and 185 agents of change who are producing new narratives in entertainment, comedy, advocacy, art, impact investing, and other fields of activity. They are offering alternatives to neoliberal scripts of self by producing narratives that emphasize inclusion, authenticity, and sustainability. They contribute to social movements that aim to extend recognition to the largest numbers, even in a context where political backlashes are multiplying. These transformations point to how to broaden cultural citizenship, not only in the United States but in other societies.

Biography

Michèle Lamont is an influential cultural sociologist who studies boundaries and inequality, she has tackled topics such as dignity, respect, stigma, racism, class and racial boundaries, and how we evaluate social worth across societies. Her most recent book is Seeing Others: How to Redefine Worth in a Divided World (Penguin 2023). Lamont's a leader in the study of culture and inequality in the United States and beyond, helping to redefine the field of sociology as we know it today. Her many awards include the C. Wright Mills Award for The Dignity of Working Men, the 2014 Guttenberg Award, the 2017 Erasmus Prize, and honorary doctorates from six countries. She served as President of the American Sociological Association in 2016, was a Carnegie Fellow in 2021-2022, co-chaired the advisory board to the 2022 United Nations Human Development Report, and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2023.

Donatella Della Porta (Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence)

Labour conflicts in post-pandemic times: a social movement perspective

Pandemic times can be defined as emergency-driven critical junctures, having produced sudden breaks in routine and calls for deep transformation. Eventful protests were triggered during the pandemic, as it exacerbated intersectional inequalities, making their killing effects more visible. In the field of labour, mobilization addressed the very definition of essential works, the health conditions at work, the impact of precarity in and beyond job conditions, but also the suspension of some unions and workers' rights. As health rights became a bridging frame, conceptions of care and caring classes come to the fore. Building upon a social movement perspective, the paper will discuss if and how the opportunities opened by the critical juncture, but also it is challenges resonated in the mobilization around work issues, affecting repertoires of action, organizational networks and collective framing.

Biography

Donatella Della Porta is professor of political science at Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, where she also leads the Center on Social Movement Studies (Cosmos). She is the author or editor of over 90 books and 150 journal articles on topics including social movements, political violence, terrorism, corruption, the police and protest policing. She has recently published "Regressive Movements in Times of Emergency: The Protests Against Anti-Contagion Measures and Vaccination During the Covid-19 Pandemic" (Oxford University Press, 2023) and, with Riccardo Emilio Chesta and Lorenzo Cini, "Labour Conflicts in the Digital Age. A Comparative Perspective" (Britsol University Press, 2022).

SP19 | Just Transition after Cop28. Closer or farther from environmental justice?

30 Aug 2024 | 9:00-10:30 | FC4.0.40 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

With: **Patricia Vieira and Gerard Mullally**
Organisations: **Communications Committee and The European Sociologist**
Discussants: **Aleksandra Wagner (Jagiellonian University Krakow) and Pia Laborgne (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)**
Chair: **Luigi Pellizzoni (ESA Vice-Presidetnt)**

The idea of environmental justice began to develop as local protests exposure to toxic waste and other environmental degradation and health risks unfairly affecting socially disadvantaged and discriminated people. It quickly escalated to social mobilizations claiming the need to address environmental issues and social inequalities and injustices at once, as intimately connected within and across nations. Joan Martinez-Alier, Ramachandra Guha, Donna Haraway and many others contrasted views of ecological problems as a matter of conservation or growing technical efficiency with a view of them as primarily a matter of moving away from exploitative thrusts and finding ways of living and prospering together, humans and nonhumans. The rise of climate change as the epitome and synthesis of ecological problems led to a reframing of environmental justice as a question of just transition in the first place.

The division that has emerged at the recent COP28 climate change negotiations in Dubai is not simply between the good and the bad, between supporters and opponents of the need to move away from fossil fuels, but between those for whom the transition is financially viable (Europe and North America in particular) or dramatically imperative (such as island nations from the Pacific and the Caribbean), and those for whom a sudden phasing out of fossil fuels is tantamount to a climate disaster and, moreover, raises the risk of renewed forms of ('green') colonialism, based on technological dependence on rich countries.

If timing and modalities of the transition are issues that have long been addressed in the Just Transition framework, are we facing a new phase in the global ecological conflict? What scenarios for transition do the agreement for an exit from fossil fuels by 2050 open? Are we getting closer or farther from environmental justice?

Speakers

Patricia Vieira (Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal)

Environmental Justice and More than Human Rights: A View from the Amazon

In this talk, I reflect upon the issue of environmental justice from the perspective of Amazonian communities that include both human and more than human beings. I discuss key features of Amazonian thought and the way it envisions a collaborative, symbiotic relationship between human and more than human sentient, intelligent beings as a significant contribution to current debates on climate change and environmental degradation. I then analyse the emergence of so-called "rights of nature" in Amazonian countries such as Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia and analyse the ties between Indigenous knowledge and the legal framework of environmental rights. I finally reflect on whether and how the COP negotiations, and their current state, affect the legal and political case for indigenous rights and approach to environmental justice.

Biography

Patricia Vieira is Research Professor at the Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Her fields of expertise are Latin American and Iberian Literature and Cinema, Utopian Studies and the Environmental Humanities. Her most recent book is States of Grace: Utopia in Brazilian Culture (SUNY UP, 2018) and her most recent co-edited book is The Mind of Plants: Narratives of Vegetal Intelligence (Synergetic, 2021). She is currently heading a European Research Council funded project titled ECO – Animals and Plants in Cultural Productions about the Amazon River Basin and co-coordinating a Gerda Henkel Foundation funded project titled Resilient Forest Cities: Utopia and Development in the Modern Amazon. For more information check: www. patriciavieira.net

Gerard Mullally (University College Cork, Ireland)

Hope for future(s): How soon is now?

Prior to embarking for CoP 28 in Dubai, Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), Chair of the Elders, addressed the Sustainable Futures Forum in University College Cork. Her theme proved apocryphal to eventual outcomes, lauding progress on "loss and damage" she later lamented that "transparency, equity and climate justice have been undermined by misleading language, false solutions and game-playing".

Despite the relationship between cognate fields of justice, social justice, environmental justice, energy justice, climate justice and Just Transitions there is still considerable divergence regarding their intersections, practices,

and theorisations. Just Transitions has tended to focus on extractive industries like mining but has recently expanded to include a focus on agriculture which has generated significant and powerful counter-movements (Stark et al.).

Recognising the value of transdisciplinary research, we need to (re-)consider questions of ethics, politics, and engaging publics in realising possible and desirable futures. Beyond environmental sociology (Abram et al., Aldoff and Neckel, Altstaedt, Delanty, Goldman, Strydom) there is a growing sense that we need to embrace futures that reimagine the sociological imagination and social imaginaries in the new times of the Anthropocene, theoretically, critically, and imaginatively! (Adam, Sarren et al.)

Biography

Gerard Mullally is a lecturer in Sociology in the School of Society, Politics and Ethics at University College, Cork. He lectures in the Sociology of the Environment and the Sociology of Community and is Co-director of the post-graduate programme of the Sociology of Sustainability and Global Challenges and the award-winning University Wide Module: Sustainability. Gerard is co-editor of Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Transitions to Sustainability and Metaphor, Sustainability, Transformation: Transdisciplinary Perspectives (Routledge).

MD01 | The future of the Evolving Landscape of Survey Research: Theoretical and Practical Implications in the Age of AI

28 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | FC4.0.40 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

Organisers and Chairs: **Gary Pollock and Teresa Sordé (Conference Co-chairs)**

This session delves into the dynamic and complex world of survey research, with a particular focus on the European context. It brings together different perspectives that explore both the promise and challenges of contemporary survey research practices. The evolution of survey research, from traditional methods to the incorporation of administrative data and AI will be examined, with its theoretical and practical implications of these developments, discussing the potential of longitudinal data, the role of AI, and the impact of selection biases in data harvesting. An on-the-ground view of conducting large-scale survey research in Europe will be offered by discussing the experiences of leading participation in major surveys, paying special attention to the challenges encountered, from securing funding to ensuring response quality, and calls for united efforts to address these issues. The session aims to foster a critical and constructive discussion on the future of survey research, exploring how we can navigate its evolving landscape to continue producing robust, valuable and excellent insights into our societies.

Speakers

Tiziana Nazio (Turin University)

From survey research to administrative data and AI: theoretical and practical implications

Great investments in data infrastructures and swift distribution have promoted an increase in high-quality survey-based research. Meanwhile, longitudinal surveys have gained relevance as valuable data sources for social scientists to produce stronger empirical evidence in support of theory-driven research. Longitudinal data allowed an increasing refinement of modelling that accounts for the dynamism and complexity of human lives, for the time ordering of events, for time-varying characteristics, and for interdependencies between individuals and life-domains. Large-scale survey projects like national panel data and comparative efforts in the last decades have vastly increased the reach and robustness of results afforded by social scientists, fostering knowledge and helping policymakers. More recently, the use of administrative data for research and their linkage with surveys has fostered even more high-quality, crucial sources of empirical data. Increased data availability, modelling development and comparative designs fostered studying not only probability, timing, sequence, and order of events but also how individuals' behaviour is situated within cultural, institutional and relational contexts of opportunities and constraints. Most recently, Artificial Intelligence (AI) modelling has entered research practices and analyses, with consequences that are yet to be fully understood. I will discuss my experience in using data for research and teaching and the scope for maintaining comparative data collection efforts. I will also critically reflect on the promises and limits of AI with respect to the advancement of the field and the selection biases in data harvesting. I will conclude by discussing the implications for the validity and pace of theoretically informed research.

Biography

Tiziana Nazio is an Associate Professor at Turin University, a Fellow at Collegio Carlo Alberto and a former Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB). After her PhD in Bielefeld (2004), she worked at the Centre for Demographic Studies and Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona, 2003-05) and at the University of Oxford and Nuffield College (2005-08). Her research examines individuals' life courses, emphasizing the role of social background, employment, social interactions, and institutional settings. She works at the intersection of sociology, demography, and social stratification. Her research has been funded by ECSR, FP7 and H2020. She has published in prominent journals like European Sociological Review, European Journal of Population, Work, Employment and Society, Demographic Research, and International Migration Review. She was an associate Board member of Work, Employment and Society 2017-2019.

Sigrún Ólafsdóttir (University of Iceland)

The challenges and promise of survey research in Europe

European researchers have united in groundbreaking work of collecting large-scale survey research in Europe and around the world. These include the European Social Survey (ESS), European Values Study (EVS) and the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). These studies have represented the state-of-the-art in survey research for decades with their careful theoretical, conceptual, cultural and methodological co-ordination. As a result, they have provided European researchers and policymakers with invaluable insights into key societal issues and challenges for the past forty decades. However, recent decades have witnessed increasing challenges to such efforts, including difficulties in securing funding, lowering response rates, especially for certain population, and difficulties guaranteeing the quality of our survey responses. In this talk, I will briefly discuss my experience in leading Iceland´s participation in the ESS (since 2018), EVS (since 2017) and ISSP (since 2009) with a focus on the challenges we have encountered as well as the value that is associated with understanding public views and experiences in Iceland in a comparative perspective. I will then discuss on the major challenges of continuing participation in such cross-national efforts within and across nations. Finally, I turn attention to recent challenges survey researchers face, including how recent developments regarding AI may threaten survey research. Overall, I argue that while survey research currently faces difficult challenges, the promise of such work is still significant and call on survey researchers across national boundaries to unite to work toward creative solutions to continue high quality surveys in Europe.

Biography

Sigrún Ólafsdóttir is a professor of sociology at the University of Iceland. She obtained her PhD at Indiana University (2007) and was faculty at Boston University until 2016. Her research interests lie at the intersection of medical, political and cultural sociology. She has published on, among other things, health inequalities, public attitudes toward inequalities and stigma of mental illness. Much of her work relies on cross-national survey work. She has led Iceland´s participation in the European Social Survey since 2018, the European Values Study since 2017 and the International Social Survey Programme since 2009. Her has published in some of the most prominent sociological journals, including American Journal of Sociology, European Sociological Review, and Journal of Health and Social Behavior. Her research has been funded by the Icelandic Research Fund, the U.S. National Science Foundation and U.S. National Institutes of Health. She was a co-editor of Acta Sociologica from 2018-2022.

MD02 | City of Porto

28 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | LC.0.01 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

Chairs: **Lígia Ferro (ESA President 2021-24) and Paulo Peixoto (LOC Chair)**

In recent years, Porto has undergone a remarkable transformation, establishing itself as a vibrant and dynamic city of culture. This change is visible not only in the diverse cultural programme, but also in the growth of independent cultural programming, the countless cultural events and the high-quality cultural facilities that enrich the city.

Porto's cultural programme reflects its rich historical heritage and its openness to the new and the innovative. From music, theatre, dance and film festivals to contemporary art exhibitions, the city offers a variety of events that appeal to locals and international visitors alike. Renowned institutions such as the Casa da Música, the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art and the São João National Theatre are just a few examples of how Porto has invested in cultural venues that are true icons of the city.

Independent cultural programming has also flourished, with countless local collectives and artists developing innovative projects that challenge conventions and offer new perspectives. Venues such as Maus Hábitos, Mira Forum and Mala Voadora are examples of how independent culture contributes to Porto's diversity and cultural richness. These spaces promote bold and experimental programming, providing a platform for emerging artists and establishing a constant dialogue with the community.

Speakers

Virgílio Borges Pereira (Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto)

Renewing sociological research on the city of Porto with Bourdieu

Although it is not always seen as a reference programme for the development of sociological research on the city, Bourdieu's sociological work can be mobilised for the development of innovative research on the relationship between space and society, helping to renew and reinvent the research agendas devoted to it. In fact, from a relatively early stage, Bourdieu was able to integrate into his research, in an original way and using different methodological strategies, a systematic concern with understanding the relationship that social agents establish with physical space. Whether in his Algerian phase, in his work on the French countryside, or in his established research on social classes, the understanding of positions in social space and their respective inscriptions in physical space has operational and heuristic contours. For more than three decades, the city of Porto, in north-western Portugal, has been studied under the theoretical, methodological and technical implications of Bourdieu's research programme, contributing to a renewal of the sociological view of the city. I will try to show how, in the city of Porto, sociability, inequality, housing policy, territorial valorisation and stigmatisation gain a more evident sociological coherence when they are conceived and analysed in the light of Bourdieu's concepts and his research on the relationship between social space and physical space.

Biography

Virgílio Borges Pereira is Full Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto, where he has taught since 1994, and a researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Porto. Since 2003, he has collaborated with the Faculty of Architecture of the same university. He specialises in the sociology of social classes and symbolization, paying attention to the legacy of Pierre Bourdieu's work. Taking the city of Porto and the regions of the Ave and Sousa valleys as a reference, he has privileged the construction of social spaces, spaces of lifestyles and representations, and the analysis of their relations with physical space. Combining sociological and historical approaches, he has studied dominant social groups, intellectuals, institutions and relations with less privileged groups. Housing policy and activity in the construction industry have also been areas of research.

Vânia Rodrigues (University of Coimbra)

Porto: challenges and shortcomings of a budding cultural ecosystem

In little more than a decade, Porto has tried to revamp its arts and culture ecosystem: it reopened the main city theatre and one of its historic cinemas, renewed the municipal galleries and some of the museums, reinstated and promoted flagship curatorial programmes with international reach, established new dedicated funding mechanisms for artistic creation, internationalization, artistic residencies and visual art spaces. These changes were spearheaded by the city hall, and heavily marketed as part of a neoliberal political project to make Porto 'attractive' and 'cosmopolitan' – a bittersweet concurrence which cultural agents have been hesitant to disentangle. The institutional strategies accompanying this overhaul have been far less innovative, resorting to age-old cultural management models of centralized bureaucracy and strong hierarchy, thus pointing to an arts management ethos that is more compliant than transformative. Combining recent research on changing organisational structures in the arts with reflective notes from first-hand experience as a theatre manager and programmer in the city, this intervention muses on the conditions for institutional experimentation and democratic co-existence.

Biography

Vânia Rodrigues worked as an arts manager for several cultural organisations before transitioning to a research career. Currently, she is an Integrated Researcher at CEIS20 – Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Coimbra, where she leads the exploratory project GREENARTS (FCT). She founded and coordinates the RandD platform Modes of Production – Performing Arts in Transition, the Post-Graduate Diploma in Arts Management and Sustainability and is the Principal Investigator of the exploratory project GREENARTS (FCT) – three initiatives dedicated to reflection on the ethical, political and practical challenges raised by the context of ecological emergency.

MD03 | How to get your paper published?

28 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | FC4.0.41 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

Chair: **Michalis Lianos (ESA Executive Committee)**

This session is dedicated to helping interested colleagues to better understand various aspects of the process of academic publication, namely,

1. Selecting the journals to submit to.
2. Writing with a specific journal in mind.
3. Cover letter/note to the editor(s).
4. “Behind the scenes” process: desk rejection, reviewer selection, double-blind reviewing…
5. Dealing with reviewers’ comments.
6. Dealing with rejection and considering resubmission to another journal.

Speakers

Paul Blokker is professor in political sociology, University of Bologna. He has been one of the editors of the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology since 2020.

Veikko Eranti is assistant professor of urban sociology at university of Helsinki. His work situates at the intersection of political and urban sociology. Drawing from pragmatist and cultural theory, he is interested in questions of urban conflict, participation in land use, and questions of general sociology. He has been one of the editors-in-chief of the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology since 2020.

Patrick Präg is one of the Editors in Chief of “European Societies”. He works as an associate professor of sociology at the École nationale de la statistique et de l’administration économique (ENSAE) in Paris.

MD04 | Consumption, social class, and environmentalism: from tensions to transformations

28 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | B2.12 (Faculty of Architecture – Venue A)

Organisation: **RN5, Sociology of consumption, and RN12 Environment and Society**
Coordinators and Chairs: **Marlyne Sahakian (University of Geneva, Switzerland) and Audrone Telesiene (Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania)**

Imagining transformations to more sustainable societies in the future requires grappling with tensions and conflicts in the present. This special session considers the ways in which power plays out at different scales, from private consumption to public action, from communal living to market-based solutions. The two panellists engage with questions of social and environmental justice and will be brought into dialogue around their recently published books. Author of Recycling Class: The Contradictions of Inclusion in Urban Sustainability (MIT Press 2024), Manisha Anantharaman links middle-class, sustainable consumption with the environmental labour of the working poor to offer a situated and intersectional analysis of the class, gender and caste politics of urban sustainability in India. Her talk will discuss the class and caste tensions that emerge when diverse social groups come together to solve urban environmental problems and discuss under what conditions transformative cross-coalitions can emerge. In dialogue with Anantharaman is Arve Hansen, author of Consumption and Vietnam's New Middle Classes: Societal Transformations and Everyday Life (Palgrave, 2022). He will discuss the changing consumption patterns of Asia's new middle classes, focusing on the relationship between everyday life, capitalist transformations, and social and environmental sustainability. He will pay particular attention to questions of agency and power in relation to the conditioning effects of political-economic processes. The semi plenary will be moderated by the Chairs of RN5 and RN12, who will prepare an engaging discussion between the authors and with the audience, gleaning insights on how to support more just transformations.

Speakers

Manisha Anantharaman's (Centre for the Sociology of Organisations, Sciences Po) research examines how economic and political ideologies, socio-cultural identities, and inequalities affect how ecological transitions are conceptualized and enacted at multiple scales: from the household to the city to the transnational milieu. Applying ethnographic and community-engaged methodologies, she studies everyday sustainability practices and political mobilizations in relation to each other. As a critical scholar, she pays specific attention to how "environmental" initiatives—be it municipal recycling schemes, green space development, or global circular economy transition plans—reinforce or contest intersectional manifestations of race, class, gender, and caste-based inequality. Her publications include a co-edited volume "The Circular Economy and the Global South" (Routledge, UK, 2019), and a book "Recycling Class: The contradictions of inclusion in urban sustainability" (MIT Press, 2024). Her current research projects include a US National Science Foundation and Belmont Forum funded project studying Digitalization and Sustainable Consumption and a collaborative project on pro-poor circular economies. Beyond research, Manisha Anantharaman is an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House's Environment and Society Program, through which she serves as an expert consultant for organizations such as the UN Environment Program.

Arve Hansen (Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo) is Senior Researcher at the University of Oslo's Center for Development and the Environment. With a PhD in Human Geography obtained in 2016, his academic interests encompass a range of topics including consumption and sustainability, development in emerging economies, and the dynamics of the new middle classes in Asia. His recent research has been particularly focused on food and meat consumption, , with a specific emphasis on Vietnam. Additionally, he leads SUM's research group on sustainable consumption and energy equity and co-directs the Norwegian Network for Asian Studies. He has co-edited various books, including Consumption, Sustainability and Everyday Life (Palgrave Macmillan: 2023), with Kenneth Bo Nielsen; and Changing Meat Cultures: Food Practices, Global Capitalism, and the Consumption of Animals (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers: 2021), with Karen Lykke Syse. His monograph, Consumption and Vietnam's New Middle Classes: Societal Transformations and Everyday Life (Palgrave Macmillan: 2022) studies the dramatic changes in consumption patterns in Vietnam over the past decades, combining a focus on everyday practices and societal transformations.

MD05 | European Research Opportunities

28 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | LC.0.02 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

Chair: **Anna Burger**

Learning by doing, improving by sharing

In addition to scientific knowledge and a good publication history, other skills are required to write a successful research project. From the EU to other international opportunities, both public and private, finding and then accessing funding opportunities means developing skills and abilities.

The presentation is dedicated to sharing more than 20 years of experience as a project evaluator and successful project author. The talk will focus on sharing the way to develop a possible successful project (both RIA and IA) considering different funding opportunities ranging from EU (HE, ERC, MCS) to private funders (e.g. family, bank and corporate foundations). Starting with some ideas on how to review calls and funding opportunities, to key tips on how to get good/awarded projects off the ground, the aim is to develop (or improve) a way to translate scientific expertise, networks and methodological advice into funding opportunities.

Roberta Ricucci is Full Professor of Sociology of Migration and Sociology of Islam at the University of Turin. She deals with migration processes, researching the paths of integration of young protagonists, religious dynamics in the diaspora and practices and policies for dealing with cultural diversity in local contexts and was consulted as an expert on these topics in the definition of the Global Compact documents on migration and asylum at the UN. She coordinated and coordinates a number of international and national research projects (funded by international and EU funders, as Templeton Foundation in the US, Conicet in Latin America, EU with its several opportunities) on integration dynamics and processes, with a focus on the youth component and the transformation of religious identities in migration: recently, she has been the PI of the Horizon 2020 project KIDS4ALLL – Key Inclusive Development Strategies for Life-LongLearning, leading a consortium of 15 institutes spanning from Europe and Asia, which has been recognized as 'successful' by the European Commission.

Valeria Pulignano will share her experience as the PI of an ERC AdG ResPecTMe, which aimed at theorizing and measuring precarity at the continuum between paid and unpaid work in creative work, care work, and platform work. The results of this research have been published in several international peer reviewed journals, for example: Human Relations; Work, Employment and Society; Research in the Sociology of Work; Industrial and Labor Relations Review; the European Journal of Industrial Relations; the Cambridge Journal of Economics, and several others. Her forthcoming book 'The Politics of Unpaid Labour: How Can Unpaid Labour Help to Address Inequality in Precarious Work' (Oxford University Press) theorizes the class-based inequalities stemming from the precarious employment and life conditions in contemporary labour markets in Europe.

Valeria Pulignano is Professor of Sociology, with expertise on work, employment (industrial) relations and labour markets and Francqui Research Professor of Sociology at the Centre for Sociological Research at KU Leuven. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and a scholarly background in socio-economic studies. She is PI of the ERC AdG ResPecTMe and Coordinator of the RN17 Work, Employment and Industrial Relations at the European Sociological Association (ESA) and researcher at the Inter-University Research Centre on Globalization and Work (CRIMT), research fellow at Warwick University (UK) and LISER, Luxemburg. She is Editor of Work, Employment and Society, Associate Editor of the Journal of Industrial Relations, and former Chief-editor of Work, Employment and Organizations (Frontiers). Valeria's research lies in work, employment (industrial) relations and labor markets, their changing nature and implications for voice at work and inequality as differences in wages, working conditions, job quality, precarity and wellbeing across different sectors and national settings. She is Winner of the James G. Scoville Award 2015 from LERA, and she holds a Chair Jacques Leclerq at UCL. She has a forthcoming book with OUP on The Politics of Unpaid Labour. How Can Unpaid Labour Help to Address inequality in Precarious Work. Among her recent books Shifting Solidarities. (2020, Palgrave-MacMillan) with I. Van Hoyweghen and G. Meyers; Reconstructing Solidarity (2018, Oxford University Press) with V. Doellgast and N. Lillie.

MD06 | How artificial intelligence realigns sociological research

28 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | LC.2.00 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

Organisation: **RN20 (Qualitative sociology), RN21 (Quantitative methods) and RN24 (Science and Technology)**
Chairs: **Silvia Cataldi (University La Sapienza, Roma, Italy), Fabrizio Martire (University La Sapienza, Roma, Italy) and Heta Tarkkala, University of Helsinki, Finland**

Sociological research is transforming. The diffusion of digital technologies changes how societies work and how we can study them. Artificial intelligence plays a prominent and heavily debated role in this transformation – creating promises for new societal potentials as well as fears of being controlled and exploited. As a result, the digital transformation brings about social tensions and tests our trust in societal structures and technologies. This semi-plenary session helps sociologists assess the social effects of artificial technologies and the resulting changes in sociological research. Dan Kotliar discusses how artificial intelligence changes societies. He views the effects of artificial intelligence as cultural phenomena, on which he critically reflects in a country-sensitive perspective. He shows how artificial intelligence creates new social institutions and practices, e.g., in the fields of surveillance and the relationship to one's own body. Afterwards, he discusses the ethical implications of these changes. Next, Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen reflects on how ChatGPT may change sociological research methods. ChatGPT is a rapidly developing generative artificial intelligence chatbot which can produce, e.g., text and computer code according to natural language instructions of the user. As such, it can be used to analyse texts in a qualitative way, and to support statistical data analyses. Komp-Leukkunen explores when it assists sociological methods, and when it hinders them.

Speakers

Dan M Kotliar is a lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the Department of Sociology, University of Haifa. His areas of interest include critical algorithm studies, sociology of knowledge, STS, and sociology of emotions. Kotliar's work has been published in Theory and Society, New Media and Society, Science, Technology and Human Values, among others. His more recent research projects include algorithmic production in Israel and Silicon Valley, Israeli surveillance firms, emerging data infrastructures, and the ties between AI, science, and start-up culture.

Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen (PhD, prof., LUT University, Finland) **is** Professor in social sustainability and welfare policies. Research focussed on work and retirement, social sustainability, population ageing, digitalization, welfare policies, and research methods. Formerly Marie Curie fellow, treasurer of the European Sociological Association, and chair of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe. Expert assignments to, e.g., the European Commission, Council of Europe, Bank of Finland, and Governments of Finland and Romania. Certified project manager. Executive education.

MD07 | Addressing equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) issues in sociology: reflections from practitioners

30 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | FC1.0.05 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

Organisation and Chair: **Chiara Cocco**

In this interactive workshop, we will introduce our research in the EDI Caucus (EDICa) – a UKRI-funded project (with support from the British Academy) focusing on creating equitable and inclusive careers across the research and innovation sector in the UK. EDICa's research is conducted across three workstreams: the career lifecycle; the research process; and the organisation of work. Across the work of the caucus, we have identified recurring themes, including bias in the peer review process, bullying and harassment in research workplaces intersecting with established issues such as ableism, gender and racial discrimination. We acknowledge that EDI issues are understood in different ways across countries and disciplines and seek to discuss how EDI translates internationally and how issues are researched, experienced and performed in other institutions across Europe.

In this workshop, we encourage you to apply the sociological lens to sociology itself as a place of work and to sociologists who research sociology as a discipline. Specifically, we invite you to reflect on your role as manager, supervisor, colleague, and educator. Drawing from the themes identified in our studies, we encourage sociologists to reflect on the dynamics of their work, relationships and interactions with an EDI agenda in mind. The questions we will ask in this interactive workshop include: what is it like to work in sociology, what are the EDI barriers, what are the challenges that different identities experience, and what are the EDI priorities for European sociology?

In other words, this will be an opportunity for sociologists operating across Europe and beyond to come together and reflect on how we can transform sociology to be more equitable.

Speakers

Chiara Cocco holds an MSc in Cultural Resource Management from Heriot-Watt University, and she has recently submitted her PhD thesis on performance and experience in the Festival of Sant'Efisio in Sardinia, her home country. Chiara has been engaging with EDI issues for over a decade, as she worked in schools supporting disabled and d/Deaf students. She holds 3rd level certificates both in Italian Sign Language (LIS) and British Sign Language (BSL). She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the UKRI funded Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Caucus (EDICa) at Heriot-Watt University. Her role in the caucus is to explore the relationships between life events and career, by focusing on menstrual health and (peri)menopause in the workplace. Her main concern is to address barriers to inclusion, development, and progression for those who experience problematic menstruation and (peri)menopause in research and innovation careers. Her research interests and expertise also lie in ethnographic methods, particularly autoethnography. Her own experience as a menstruating researcher with caring responsibilities informs her current work with EDICa and drives her commitment to improve inclusion and enable fulfilling and accessible careers for all.

MD08 | Casualisation, Precarity and Career in Higher Education

30 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | LC.0.01 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

Organisation: **Postgraduate Committee of the ESA Executive Committee and The European Sociologist**
Chair: **Maggie O'Neill (University College Cork)**

This lunch time special was sparked by an online seminar we held in September 2023 that was organised in collaboration with postgraduate scholars. What is clear from the seminar and our subsequent discussions (including a special issue of the European Sociologist on this issue) is how complex, multi-dimensional, and multi-layered a phenomenon the precarity of early career scholars is. How far-reaching are the social repercussions casualisation and precarity produces and how it reshapes universities. At the centre of the lunch time special is a commitment to facilitating space for dialogue and research on casualisation, precarity and career in Higher Education especially about how we might contribute in concrete ways to address these deeply problematic neo-liberal tendencies in Higher Education.

Speakers

Experience of an academic research career and its uncertainty

Despite efforts to encourage women's participation in science, their underrepresentation in academia persists. This manuscript presents a woman's personal journey in academia, revealing the challenges she encountered. Originating from an immigrant background, the author faced lower expectations from pursuing higher education. Despite these barriers, she pursued an academic career, then navigating issues such as academic hierarchy, structural power dynamics, and the law of silence. Furthermore, the manuscript discusses ongoing uncertainties even after obtaining prestigious grants and addresses reasons why academia might be an uncomfortable environment for women. This analysis underscores the obstacles obstructing women's advancement in academia and underlines the urgent need for this situation to change for many women and girls dreaming of an academic career.

Ana Vidu is a Marie Sklodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Deusto. She is member of the ESA Executive Committee and co-coordinator of the RN33. Ana is chair of the Gender Committee of the Horizon Europe project "SCIREARLY" and was chair of the DEI Committee of the Berkeley Postdoc Association. She leads the "UniswithHeart" research project on solidarity networks to improve prevention, action and support mechanisms against sexual harassment in academia. She defended the first doctoral dissertation on sexual harassment in universities in Spain and co-founded the first support network in the country, – today called "MeToo Universidad"-, recognized as Good Practice by the Spanish Government. Her work on gender violence, sexual consent, and isolating gender violence has been published in many peer-reviewed scientific articles, more than a hundred conferences and invited talks, and is widely present in national and international media.

Gender and Precarious Careers in Academia

This contribution aims to analyse how the principal transformations of the higher education sector, including globalisation, marketisation and neoliberalism, affect the relationships between gender inequalities and precariousness among early-career researchers. To discuss different perspectives on academic careers, the dynamics distinguishing three distinct levels of analysis will be examined, focusing on institutional, organisational and subjective levels. Particular attention will be paid to the general process of precarisation within higher education, and its connections with gender differences in academia. In the conclusion, the need to develop alternative policies and practices will be discussed, with the aim to resist and challenge the rules of neoliberal academia and to counter the reproduction of gender inequalities.

Annalisa Murgia is Associate Professor in Sociology at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Milan, where she is also the Scientific Coordinator of the research centre GENDERS. She is the Principal Investigator of the ERC project SHARE – 'Seizing the Hybrid Areas of work by Representing Self-Employment' (2017-2024). In 2014-2016, she co-coordinated the European FP7 project GARCIA – 'Gendering the Academy and Research: Combating career Instability and Asymmetries' at the University of Trento. Her main research interests lie in qualitative sociological and ethnographic studies, with a focus on precarious labour and its implications for workers' agency, emerging forms of collective organising, and the social construction of gender in organisations. Her work appears in such outlets as Organization, Research in the Sociology of Organizations, Gender, Work and Organization, Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management, Work, Employment and Society, as well as in edited scholarly books.

MD09 | LGBTQI+ Tensions and Transformations

30 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | FC1.0.03 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

Chair: **Ana-Cristina Santos (Centre for Social Studies, Portugal)**

LGBTQI+ issues have been at the forefront of positive changes and backlash in recent times, signalling tensions that call for a serious sociological examination. In this session, we draw our attention to movement, travel and mobility from a queer perspective. In particular, the speakers explore the intersectional, nuanced and complex challenges that the study of LGBTQI+ issues offer, cherishing the potential of theoretical and empirical insights with scientific as well as political impact on everyday life.

Speakers

Transformations and Tensions of Queer Family Migrations

Queer families increasingly use the transformations of various countries' family and immigration regimes to have their families recognized, protected or reunified. For example, same-sex couples may migrate together, choosing a country recognizing same-sex partnership or marriage and/or providing legal pathways to parenthood and protection of LGBTQI+ parenting rights. Or LGBTQI+ residents of such countries may sponsor their partners' spousal visas or apply for family reunification programs. Furthermore, LGBTQI+ people also increasingly use transnational strategies to sidestep some countries' restrictions, such as travelling temporarily to third countries to access ART or surrogacy process, and then returning to their countries to regulate their family status and rights. These developments, however, are also fraught with many tensions. At the level of countries' family and immigration regimes, for example, they increasingly expose inequalities and hierarchies inscribed in these systems, as individuals' access to both family and immigration rights are not only negotiated within heteronormative frameworks, but also structured across classed, gendered and racialized lines. At the level of queer families as well, international migrations and transnational strategies of familyhood are often complicated matters involving, for instance, multiple migrations or prolonged legal and administrative struggles. These often carry heavy emotional and mental health burdens for queer families themselves, as individuals may be faced with personal losses or compromises in return for family recognition, protection or reunification. The topics above are just beginning to be investigated in the sexualities and migrations research, but these emerging studies already clearly demonstrate transformations and tensions of queer family migrations.

Tanja Vuckovic Juros received her PhD in Sociology from Indiana University Bloomington. She is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) post-doctoral research fellow at the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb, where she is finalizing a project on how citizens interpret anti-gender messages in Croatia and Belgium. Her research has been funded by the Croatian (Doctoral Fellowship) and the US National Science Foundations (Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant), as well as by the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (two Individual/Postodoctoral Fellowships). This research is situated mostly at the intersections of cultural and political sociology, with a deep interest in families and sexualities. Her recent articles appear in Sexualities, Gender, Place and Culture, and Journal of Family Issues. She is currently a member of the board of the Research Network Sexuality of the European Sociological Association, as well as a member of a COST action LGBTI+ Social and Economic (in)equalities.

Sexualities and the labour of mobilities production: queer transport as a site of tension and transformation

Despite the proliferation of work on the sexual and queer politics of movement across a range of disciplines across the social sciences, transport has rarely received the explicit critical attention that it deserves given its significance within queer lives. Recently there has been a growth in work examining LGBTQ+ people's experiences accessing and using public transport, but the paper argues that there is scope for a more expansive examination of the broader relationships between sexualities, transport and mobilities. Accordingly, this paper examines the study of these relationships in broad interdisciplinary context. In doing so, it highlights the often-neglected role of LGBTQ+ workers within the transport sector as producers as opposed to consumers of mobility. Moreover, an important theme within this work is on transport as a key site of queer labour solidarity and activism. The paper argues that this foregrounding of queer working-class experience within studies of transport can complement existing research on queer mobilities which has hitherto tended to focus on LGBTQ+ people as consumers of mobility. In forging a research agenda for a queer politics of transport, I suggest that work on queer labour activism within the transport sector can contribute towards a centring of labour and labour politics within geographical and other understandings of queer mobility. Moreover, I argue that it can also help to re-centre class and labour politics as key sites of tension, struggle and transformation within sexualities studies more widely.

Jon Binnie is Reader in Human Geography at Manchester Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom. His research interests focus on the LGBTQ+ politics in an urban, transnational and European context; transnational LGBTQ+ activism and queer film festivals. He is the author of The Globalization of Sexuality (Sage); co-author of The Sexual Citizen: Queer Politics and Beyond (Polity) and Pleasure Zones: Bodies, Spaces, Cities and co-editor of Cosmopolitan Urbanism (Routledge). His work has also been published in journals including Environment and Planning D: Society and Space; European Journal of Women's Studies; Gender, Place and Culture; International Journal of Urban and Regional Research; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Progress in Human Geography; Sociology; The Sociological Review and Urban Studies.

MD10 | The Role of Social Sciences in Shaping Research and Policy Frameworks

30 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | LC.0.02 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Venue L)

Organisers and Chais: **Teresa Sordé (Conference Co-chair) and Lígia Ferro (ESA President 2021-24)**

This midday session will explore the critical role of social sciences in influencing European research funding and policy-making processes through the presentation of two examples. The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) has been instrumental in advocating for dedicated research funding for these disciplines, ensuring that European scholars continue to excel globally. Simultaneously, the session will address the challenges and opportunities of evidence-informed policymaking across Europe. It will highlight the efforts of the Spanish grassroots association "Ciencia en el Parlamento" in expanding the science-for-policy ecosystem. The discussion will focus on engaging society in the creation of mechanisms that integrate scientific evidence into policymaking, emphasizing the relevance of science for policy to all citizens. The session aims to underscore the collaborative efforts and the crucial role sociologists and the broader social sciences play in ensuring that scientific input in policymaking is inclusive and serves the broader public interest.

Speakers

EASSH Commitment in reshaping SandT narrative to include SSH research

The European Commission is at the early stages of formulating the successor programme to Horizon Europe [1] – European Framework Programme 10 (FP10). Negotiations over the programme and the size of the FP10 budget will start in 2025. The academic and research community is not a passive recipient of the outcome of this process, but as a key stakeholder is increasingly an interested and active participant. The largest Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe (EASSH) has now been active for over five years to ensure a dedicated space in the research funding for these disciplines where European scholars have consistently delivered in terms of quality at global scale. The talk will provide some practical examples of how the Alliance is engaging at political levels in the shaping of the new framework programme.

[1] In December 2023 the European Commission assembled an independent adviser group for the EU's next research programme, officially launching the drafting process for Framework Programme 10.

Gabi Lombardo (PhD) is Director of the European Alliance for SSH one of the largest advocacy and science policy organizations in Europe and advocates for an evidence-based approach to policymaking, and researchers' inclusion in funding design. High-level experience in strategic and 'foresight' planning in international organisations like LSE, ERC and Science Europe. She's an evaluator for SSH and ethics for the EU, WB, COST. Gabi received the Young Academy of Europe Prize in 2018.

Ciencia en el Parlamento as Catalyst for Widening the Science-for-Policy Ecosystem: In the Service of Society

Evidence-informed policymaking is widely discussed across Europe, aiming to enhance decision-making processes and develop public policies that better serve citizens. However, the challenge lies in creating structures and mechanisms that facilitate the integration of scientific evidence into policymaking. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure that these processes genuinely benefit society. This raises important questions for sociologists: What role does Sociology, and the broader Social Sciences play in ensuring that science truly serves society?

In this session, we will explore the efforts of the Spanish grassroots association "Ciencia en el Parlamento" as a catalyst for expanding the science-for-policy ecosystem. We will discuss how to engage society in informing the creation of these mechanisms and emphasize the importance of demonstrating that science for policy is relevant not only to policymakers and scientists but to all citizens. Through this presentation, we aim to highlight the collaborative efforts and the crucial role sociologists can play in ensuring that scientific input in policymaking is inclusive and serves the broader public interest.

Emilia Aiello-Cabrera is Ramon and Cajal research fellow (2023) at the Department of Sociology at the Universidada Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), and member of the interdisciplinary Community of Research on Excellence for All (CREA). Between 2019-2022 she was EU Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School of Government (Ash Center) and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB, Sociology Department). Emilia's research interests are focused on how the most vulnerable social groups organize at the grassroots level to overcome inequalities. Currently, she is the principal investigator of the #FriendsMatter project. Friendship Networks of Immigrant and Ethnic Minority Women that Are Conducive to Social Integration (PID2022-140540OA-I00), funded by the Spanish National RandD Plan of the Ministry of Science and Innovation. Her works have been published in journals such as International Sociology, Plos One, Evidence and Policy, Qualitative Inquiry, among other. Editorial Board member of the journal Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, of the Springer-Nature group, in the Sociology section (2023, to date). Outside the academic field, she is vice president of the Science in Parliament association, and member of the Board of Directors of the Drom Kotar Mestipen Roma Association of Women.

MD11 | Is there a European Health and Medical Sociology? An international survey on sociological associations in Europe

30 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | FC4.0.40 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

Organisation and Chair: **Guido Giarelli (RN16 Coordinator)**

The paper presents the main results of a cross-sectional survey on the development of the health and medical sociology associations in Europe over the past few decades conducted between May and August 2023 by a joint group of the ESA RN16 Sociology of Health and Medicine and of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS).

After identifying the challenges faced by the sub-discipline such as generational changes and criticism of "parochialism", it aims to identify and characterize both Health and Medical Sociology formal national associations and informal groups in Europe. Employing a macro-regional approach and thematic content analysis, the results reported show the current status of European Health and Medical Sociology, characterised by varying degrees of institutionalisation and professionalisation across macro-regions. The interdisciplinary orientations and the attempts to engage with professional and public spheres of most of these associations are also discussed, thus providing a comprehensive overview of the field's development and future perspectives in Europe.

Speakers

Guido Giarelli (ESA's RN16 Coordinator) is a Ph.D. at University College London is full professor of General Sociology at the University 'Magna Græcia' of Catanzaro (Italy). He was a founder and first president (2002-2005) of the Società Italiana di Sociologia della Salute (S.I.S.S.); secretary (2005-2008) and then member (2008-2011 and 2017-2020) and coordinator (2020-2023) of the board of the Section of Sociologia della salute e della medicina of the Associazione Italiana di Sociologia (AIS); member of the board (2004-2006) and then elected president (2006-2010) of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS); member of the Board (2010-2014) and then vice-president (2014-2018) of the Research Committee 15 (Sociology of Health) of the International Sociological Association (ISA); and he is currently coordinator of the board of the Research Network 16 – Sociology of Health and Medicine of the European Sociological Association (ESA).

He has been research associate of the Institute of African Studies of the University of Nairobi, adjunct associate professor of the School of Health Sciences of the Oakland University of Rochester (Michigan), visiting scholar at the New York Academy of Medicine and at Harvard Medical School of Boston, visiting professor at the University of Oviedo (Spain), at the Escola de Saúde Pública do Ceará di Fortaleza (Brasil), at the Centre for Sociological Theory and Research on Health Division and Population Health of University College London, at the University of Coimbra, at the University of Lisbon, at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences of Athens and at the Miguel Hernandez University of Alicante. His main research interests are in the Sociology of health and medicine, comparative health systems, self-help and civil society in health care reforms, non-conventional medicines and integrated medicine, illness narratives, ageing and life course.

Dino Numerato (RN16 board and Charles University Prague) is Associate Professor and Vice-Director for Research at the Institute of Sociological Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic). He is also the Co-Principal Investigator of the Czech National Institute for Research on Socioeconomic Impacts of Diseases and Systemic Risks (SYRI). His research interests focus on the sociology of health and medicine (healthcare professionalism, vaccine hesitancy, patient and public involvement, health and communication) and the sociology of sport (sport governance, football fandom and activism, sport and corruption). His work has been recently published also in Social Science and Medicine, Sociology of Health and Illness, Health Sociology Review, Qualitative Health Research, Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics, Sociology of Sport Journal, Governance or VOLUNTAS. He serves as ESA RN 16 Sociology of Health and Medicine Board Member (Midterm Conference Chair).

MD12 | Midday Special on the ESA Best Article Awards and ESA Young Scholar Award*

30 Aug 2024 | 13:00-14:00 | FC4.0.41 (Faculty of Science – Venue C)

Organisation: **Krešimir Žažar and Michalis Lianos on behalf of the Awards Selection Committee**
Chair: **Krešimir Žažar**

After its inception at the 15th ESA Barcelona Conference in 2021, this is the second edition of both: ESA Best Article Awards and ESA Young Scholar Award. Whereas the former refers to best articles published in the two ESA's journals European Societies and European Journal of Cultural and Political SocioloMDgy in the 3 preceding years (2021-2023), Young Scholar Award is assigned to the best yet unpublished paper stemming from a Ph.D. dissertation defended in the same time framework. In this very special session, winners within the 3 denoted categories will present their valuable works, while also vibrant responses from the audience is expected, as best articles will certainly ignite vivid discussion.

*The winners will be announced during this session

RN01 | Ageing in Europe RN01 | T01_01: Ageing in Place

Aging Together, Living Individually: A Case Study on Aging in Place

Shlomit Manor

Western Galilee college, Israel

Contemporary trends indicate a growing preference among individuals to age within their own homes, in familiar surroundings where they have lived most of their lives. This preference has led to the concept of 'aging in place'. However, 'place' encompasses not just the physical home but also the neighborhood, environment, and community. Consequently, the role of a supportive community becomes particularly significant, and even more so for older adults living alone.

The current study focuses on three newly formed communities, established four years ago in Harish, Israel. The aim was to understand what community and communal living mean from the perspective of the older people living there. The study also examines how community members, who were strangers before moving in, experience community life and whether a community made up only of older people meets their diverse needs and expectations.

The research was conducted qualitatively through in-depth interviews with members of these communities. The most notable finding revealed ambivalence and mixed feelings regarding the meaning of living in the community, particularly concerning the community's ability to alleviate loneliness and act as a substitute for family. The findings highlight the complexity and challenges associated with community life in old age. While the community model in Harish is not perfect, it meets several basic needs, such as social interaction, balance between community involvement and maintaining individual privacy and autonomy.

In summary, aging in place offers manifold benefits and significantly contributes to the well-being of the older adults. However, an exclusively positive portrayal of this phenomenon is reductive and potentially misleading. Aging in place is accompanied by inherent challenges, underscoring its status as a multifaceted and multidimensional reality.

The Contextual Pre-conditions For Ageing In Place: A Multidimensional And Comparative Perspective

Marco Arlotti, Micol Bronzini, Giovanna De Santis

Marche Polytechnic University, Italy

The experience of ageing in place cannot be taken for granted: not only is it not possible for everyone, but it may not even be necessarily a positive experience.

Specific contextual pre-conditions may strongly shape and mediate the relations between ageing in place and older people's quality of life. Successful ageing in place relies on the accessibility of appropriate housing, living in a safe neighborhood, and the possibility of social interaction. When older people are affected by functional limitations, the availability of care services or support provided by informal caregivers may also be crucial. However, such contextual pre-conditions, and their interdependencies, are highly differentiated in Europe, shaping diverse ageing in place experiences. To understand the different configurations of pre-conditions in which ageing in place is embedded in Europe, the paper focuses on two central contextual dimensions: the structure of care and housing systems.

Drawing on two previously uncombined research strands, we present a preliminary typology of integrated long-term care and housing systems in Europe through a quantitative analysis of secondary data retrieved from Eurostat and OECD. The first step of the analysis involved selecting relevant indicators for each of the two separate domains, capturing the current diverse features of national long-term care and housing systems. Subsequently, a cluster analysis was performed using data from 24 European countries to identify distinct types. The resulting typology aims to deepen our understanding of specific contextual preconditions that may significantly shape ageing in place experiences and quality of life for older individuals.

Ageing In Place And Meals On Wheels: Insights From Southern Switzerland

David Maciariello, Laurie Corna, Stefano Cavalli

University of Applied Sciences & Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Centre of Competence on Ageing, Switzerland

Facilitating 'ageing in place' is an oft-cited policy goal in ageing societies, as it aims to reduce or delay institutional care costs while also meeting the desire of many older people to age at home. Achieving this requires an inter-sectoral approach, including networks of informal care and formal community-based long-term care. The aim of our paper is to assess how one community-based service, Meals on Wheels, supports older people in Southern Switzerland to continue to live at home.

We conducted a mixed-methods study with current users of the service and their informal caregivers between April and June 2023. A paper-based or online questionnaire was first completed by a total of 806 users (mean age=83) and 557 informal caregivers, followed by semi-structured interviews (28 users, 22 informal caregivers). Three-fourths of the users perceived the service as highly beneficial for facilitating ageing in place, with women, high-intensity users and those in poorer health more likely to affirm its value. Imagining a hypothetical scenario without the service, strategies for coping with its absence ranged from preparing one's own meals (24%) and reliance on family members (20%) to contemplating having to leave their home (9%) or general uncertainty regarding how they would manage (13%).

Our findings offer valuable insights into the perceived benefits of Meals on Wheels for ageing in place. Considering growing pressures on systems of informal and formal long-term care due population ageing, the value of such services for facilitating ageing at home must be recognized, and their resources protected.

Ageing in Place in Post-pandemic Societies: Qualitative Longitudinal Study in ten small towns of Northern Italy

Francesco Diodati, Simone Carlo

Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy

In many European Countries, 'ageing in place' is widely accepted as the most sustainable model to foster in the context of population ageing and shrinking welfare states. In this view, gerontologists promote the spread of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) among older adults to enhance ageing in place and active ageing. Indeed, the pandemic has deeply accelerated the digitization of social interactions, welfare services, and economic activities. Many scholars have advocated for more qualitative research on the way older adults relate to ICTS within specific social-cultural contexts and living environments. Recent studies have also underlined that the contemporary digital acceleration risks increasing the digital divide rather than reducing it.

This paper aims to discuss the extent to which ageing in place can effectively help elderly people adapt to the challenges of post-pandemic societies. This contribution presents the preliminary results of the fourth wave of the longitudinal qualitative research that investigates older people's experience of the pandemic in ten Italian small towns of the first COVID-19 'Red Zone' in Europe – 'ILQA_19'.

In this setting, we register the presence of strong family obligations to care for and generational control over older adults. On one side, older people without digital skills can rely on close family networks. On the other side, however, some interlocutors complain about losing their independence due to the digitalisation of services.

We will also underline how, in the absence of public support, in Italian small towns digitalization has a negative impact on frail older people without social support networks.

RN01 | T01_02: End of Life and the Oldest Old

Doing Death: Relational Agency And Interdependency

Bernhard Weicht

University of Innsbruck, Austria

The legal possibilities of euthanasia and assisted suicide have fundamentally altered our understanding of one of the most crucial transitions of existence – the one from life to death. Having been understood previously as the "ultimate humiliation of reason and control" (Bauman), over the last years the imaginations of what constitutes a dignified death have gained additional momentum by the possibilities of choice and control over the end of life. Various countries have seen debates on euthanasia and assisted dying taking up the ideals of choice and control to combat challenges and fears associated with the latest life stages. In sociological understanding, these developments have often been described as logical continuations of the normativity of autonomous and independent agency into very old age. Similarly, critics of liberalisation attempts have warned from a wrong idealisation of autonomy and control. However, both analyses seem to be limited by its own theoretical starting point: the centrality and primacy of the autonomous individual.

Drawing on a discourse analysis of several examples from European public debates on euthanasia regulations, I investigate the underlying conceptualisations of agency and the individual subject. Rather than understanding the wish for assisted dying as emblematic for individual agency, I demonstrate the strongly relational nature of the conceptualising of this (final) transition. Using a relational ontological theoretical perspective, I explore the different ways in which old age in euthanasia policy proposals is characterised by relationality and relationships. This perspective may counterbalance a theoretically one-sided analysis that inevitably reads the debates on assisted suicide as prolongation of societal individualisation processes. Doing euthanasia is a relational process that cannot be limited to individual agency, control and autonomy.

Exploring The Gap: Care Needs, Preferences, And Actual Support For Oldest Of Oldest People In A Nordic Welfare State

Jiby Mathew Puthenparambil

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Social care services for older people in Finland has been in a state of flux for quite a while. The policy of promoting ageing in place, supporting older people to continue living in their own homes, has been presented as a key to reducing

welfare expenditure in ageing societies. Additionally, the promotion of marketisation of care and support for refamilisation has been used to justify reducing publicly funded universal services. This study examines older people's care needs and preferences in a Nordic welfare state. The question asked here is what kind of social care needs older people have and how these care needs are covered (e.g., public, private, informal source of support) in the last decade. Do older people's actual sources of support differ from their care preferences, and has there any change in the actual support and their preferences for care in the last decade? This study employs quantitative data gathered from older people aged 80 and above who lived at regular home in Finland during 2010 and 2020 in two cities, Tampere and Jyväskylä. According to preliminary results, approximately 71-80% of participants reported having at least one practical care need, while 14-16% reported having at least one personal care requirement. Compared to earlier surveys, the 2020 data indicates an increase in older people receiving informal care support, primarily from their children, while public support has decreased. There is a discrepancy between the preference for and actual utilization of public care provision, particularly in practical care services. Contrastingly, informal care support aligns closely with both preference and reality. The perceived entitlement to public care services is diminishing among older people in Finland.

Older Adults' Attitudes Towards Using Euthanasia At The End-Of Life: Cancer Versus Parkinson's Disease

Rinat Lifshitz[1], Sara Carmel[2], Yaacov Bachner[2]

1The Max Stern Academic College of Emek Yezreel, Israel.; 2Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

There is a paucity of studies that compare attitudes towards Euthanasia (EUT) in

different illnesses. This study assesses older adults' attitudes towards Euthanasia at

the end-of life in cancer versus Parkinson's disease.

A total of 501 individuals aged 75 and above participated in the study. Attitudes towards EUT were measured using vignettes which described metastatic cancer and advanced stage of Parkinson's disease. The questionnaire also included measures of past experience, self-efficacy, will to live, satisfaction with life, will to prolong life, fear of death and dying, social support and background characteristics.

A more positive attitude towards EUT was found for cancer than for Parkinson's disease. Being a woman, higher education, lower religiosity level, and higher levels of fear of death and dying and self-efficacy manifested more positive attitudes towards EUT for both end-of life conditions.

These findings shed light on older adults' attitudes towards EUT in different illnesses.

The Temporalities of Being 'Exceptionally Old' – Doing Age and Doing Future in the Lives of Centenarians

Vera Gallistl, Katrin Lehner, Viktoria Greber

Karl Landsteiner University of Health Sciences, Austria

In many European countries, adults with an age over 100 years are the fastest growing population group. Existing research has explored the lives of centenarians mainly from a psychological or public health perspective, arguing that centenarians are prototypes for healthy, successful, and exceptional ageing (Borras et al. 2020; Araujo et al. 2016; Motta et al. 2005; Santos-Lozano et al. 2016). From a sociological perspective, centenarians offer unique insights into the social practices of age differentiation, particularly as individuals move from being perceived as "old" to being perceived as "exceptionally old".

This paper uses the everyday experiences of centenarians as a starting point to explore how age, as a social category of difference, is established as individuals reach an age of 100 years. Drawing on practice theories as well as new materialist ageing research (Gallistl & Wanka, 2023), we frame centenarianism as a material-discursive practice of creating age-boundaries. We explore these through 12 interviews with centenarians and 12 interviews with other actors close to our primary interview partners. Data was analyzed using situational analysis (Clarke 2012) and boundary-making analysis (Höppner et al. 2024).

Results uncover the co-constitutive relationship between age-boundaries and diverse temporalities: While the centenarian's social network considers the past as most impactful in defining age-boundaries between centenarians and non-centenarians, centenarians themselves exhibit practices that cater to the future rather than to the past. These future practices we uncover in the lives of centenarians highlight the role of diverse and contested futures in the social construction of ageing.

RN01 | T01_03: Digital Technologies and Ageing (I)

Digital Literacy Among Older Women Who Transform Their Communities.

Mimar Ramis-Salas, Lidia Bordanoba

UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA, Spain

Many older women are excluded from digital learning opportunities (UNESCO, 2019). To contribute to the generation of knowledge that can overcome this expression of inequality the R+D+i project ALLWOMEN. The Empowerment of All Women through Adult Education for a Sustainable Development, has delved into the analysis of the actions in adult learning and education that are contributing to the empowerment of women in a situation of greater vulnerability. Through the development of different case studies, the project is providing evidence of the actions that have a greater social impact focusing on the identification of the characteristics that make these actions replicable and transferable to other contexts, thus enabling a more active and fair ageing process for women from vulnerable backgrounds. The present paper introduces evidence of a case study on the social impact of actions in digital literacy on older women based on the use of smartphones, implemented by an adult education federation in Barcelona. This case study delved on the reflections and evidence provided by the realization of three daily life stories and a communicative discussion group with women who are participating in these actions, and an interview with one of the educators. The main results show that older women with a low level of ICT skills can develop a successful digital literacy process with different positive consequences for them and their close communities, with an impact on their wellbeing.

COVID-19, Older Adults' Digital Experiences, and Representations of Ageing: a Qualitative Longitudinal Case Study in Italy

Giulia Melis

University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

As world population is progressively ageing, a greater attention is paid to the role of older individuals in contemporary societies. However, although the need to promote an active ageing framework to maintain social inclusion, a multifaceted generalization still portrays older adults either as indispensable contributors to social sustainability or as a vulnerable category. The spread of digital technologies constitutes a key area of ageist exclusion, posing new challenges in terms of access and support.

COVID-19 prompted an intensification of this phenomenon: while institutions implemented social distancing measures, their justifications often perpetuated an ageist portray of older individuals; moreover, the forced digitalization of society, not accompanied by a proper support, might have contributed to older adults' internalization of ageist discourses.

The research here discussed, ILQA-19, is an ongoing longitudinal qualitative case study, initiated in 2020, which focuses on older adults aged 65-80 residing in ten villages in Italy which constituted the first Red Zone in Europe. It explores everyday life transformations, older adults' well-being, personal and social resources, and the role of ICTs in adapting to a post-pandemic society.

Drawing on the analysis of the initial waves, this contribution will focus on two main aspects: older adults' reframing of old age due to the pandemic experience, and the intricate relationship between these narratives and digital practices. In conclusion, this study aims to contribute to the active ageing debate, shedding light on the nuanced challenges faced by older individuals in the context of ageism, digital exclusion, and the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Artificial Intelligence and the recurring Narrative of the 'Vulnerable Old' – A Systematic Literature Review

Katrin Lehner

Karl Landsteiner University of Health Sciences, Austria

With demographic change, a shortage of care personnel and the associated problematization of age(ing), care facilities increasingly rely on innovative technology, such as artificial intelligence (AI), to reduce burden on care staff and increase 'vulnerable' care recipients' safety (Neven & Peine 2017). From a sociological perspective, it is noteworthy that 'vulnerability' is a recurring theme in the scientific discourse on AI, especially when the technology is implemented on older adults. While the inherent (socio-technical) agism and age-bias of technology development is widely discussed in sociological ageing research (Neves et al. 2023; Chu et al. 2022; Stypinska 2022), thorough investigations of the seemingly established connection of old age and vulnerability in the context of AI are yet to be made.

This article makes a novel contribution by critically examining scientific publications, asking how age and vulnerability are constituted in discourses around AI. To explore this a systematic literature review was conducted by searching the database 'Scopus' for peer-reviewed articles and reviews that reported on old age, AI and vulnerability in their abstract and were published between 2018 and 2024.

Findings highlight a co-constitution of ageing as vulnerable mainly through technology development and application. Also, they reveal why this constitution is reasonable, especially for engineering: Focusing on old people as vulnerable justifies and necessitates new technological developments (Neven & Peine 2017). This is further emphasized by beneficial aspects of AI as the discourse's main focus, while heterogeneous perspectives and needs of older people are hardly considered. These findings illustrate an understanding of

vulnerability in old age that is characterized as a construct of inequalities and power relations.

As a first year PhD student at the University of Vienna I am concerning myself with bias of algorithms in long-term care. The ESA PhD Summer School would give me the opportunity to refine the above paper, exchange experiences and connect with peers. As I have not participated in an ESA Summer School before, I would be pleased about a positive response.

Ageing Societies in the "Era of Games" – Challenges and Opportunities

Damian Gałuszka

AGH University of Krakow, Poland

The increasing prevalence of digital games among older adults, termed "silver gamers," presents a unique opportunity to explore the potential benefits and challenges of this emerging practice. This presentation will delve into the socio-cultural factors – starting from reflections on the unstoppable (?) megatrends of demographic ageing, digitization, and the ludification of culture – driving the adoption of digital gaming among older adults and critically examine its implications for active and successful ageing.

Silver gaming, under certain conditions, can foster cognitive stimulation, physical activity, and social engagement, potentially contributing to fulfilling and engaged later life. However, potential drawbacks such as excessive screen time and social isolation require careful consideration. The presentation will introduce the "developmentally beneficial gaming scheme" as a framework for maximizing the positive aspects of silver gaming while mitigating potential risks. The presentation draws upon a combination of existing research and the author's own qualitative investigations: (1) on online forums for mature gamers using virtual ethnography methods, and (2) interviews with Polish silver gamers aged 58 and above.

The overarching goal of the presentation is to enhance understanding of the role of digital games in the lives of older adults and underscore the need for further research and development in this area. With the growing popularity of silver gaming, social scientists can play a crucial role in shaping a more positive and beneficial landscape for older citizens who have to function in what Frans Mäyrä described as a "ludic society" or "the era of games" (2017).

Mäyrä, F. (2017). Pokémon GO: Entering the Ludic Society. Mobile Media & Communication, 5(1), 47-50. https://doi.org/10.1177/2050157916678270.

RN01 | T02_01: Ageing and the Social Context

Exploring Meaning-making Around Civic Engagement Among Older Migrants: A Qualitative Study In Four European Countries

Karima Chacur[1], Sandra Torres[2], Pernilla Ågård[2], Emilia Häkkinen[3], Bas Dikmans[4], Toon Vercauteren[4], Rodrigo Serrat[1], Fredrica Nyqvist[3]

1University of Barcelona, Spain; 2Uppsala University, Sweden; 3Åbo Akademi University, Finland; 4Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Research on migrants' civic engagement has tended to solely rely on academic definitions of this term instead of exploring how migrants themselves make sense of civic engagement in general or their own engagement in particular. This presentation taps into both of these knowledge gaps by bringing attention to the meaning-making that older migrants engaged on when asked about their civic engagement.

Conducted as part of a European research project (CIVEX), which investigates the exclusion of older people's civic engagement, this presentation departs from a project that brings attention to the civic engagement of potentially marginalized groups of older people. Sixty migrants aged 60 or over, who migrated during adulthood, were interviewed. They were asked about their involvement in various civic engagement activities, and their own meaning-making as far as this engagement is concerned.

The findings suggest that while some of their meaning-making aligns with the scholarly literature (e.g., volunteering, participation in associations), most of it is actually broader. For the participants civic engagement extends beyond traditional definitions, containing aspects such as contributing to society, being a law-abiding citizen, contributing to the bettering of other people and/or surroundings, among others.

The findings challenge conventional academic definitions of civic engagement by exposing alternative meanings attributed to the concept. As such, they offer a theorizing ground from which researchers of civic engagement, in social gerontology and in migration studies could expand their own scholarly imagination about how themselves make sense of civic engagement, and how research on this topic could be further developed.

Co-creation Sessions As An Example Of A Participatory Approach For Identifying Views Of Older Citizens About the Quality of Life in Their Cities

Milena Maj[1], Natalia Nowak-Krygowska[1], Aleksandra Trybalska[1], Loredana Ivan[3], Zsuzsu Tavy[2], Jan Kazak[4], Joost van Hoof[2], Jolanta Perek-Białas[1]

1Jagiellonian University, Poland; 2The Hague University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands; 3The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania; 4Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland

Population ageing and urbanization are the two dominant forces shaping the social and economic life of today, especially in thinking about the future of sustainable cities, inclusive for all ages. Therefore, the challenge is to prepare for these changes in such a way that current and future generations of older people can benefit from age-friendly strategies in cities (van Hoof et al. 2018). While ageing in place, defined as the ability of older people to live safely, independently, and comfortably in their own homes and communities, has become a priority policy agenda in many countries (WHO 2015) there are still many aspects not well explored with the active participation of older citizens.

The presentation aims to take a closer look at the co-creation process with older people focusing on their quality of life in cities concerning WHO's domains in four European cities, like Kraków, Wrocław, Bucarest, and the Hague.

We draw our analysis based on the qualitative component of a larger international study City and Co project funded by ENUTC (2021/03/Y/HS6/00213). We have in total four cities with about 30 participants over the age of 65 years who participated in repeated co-creation sessions.

Preliminary findings show similarities and differences in the perception of quality of life by older people from individual cities and the types of issues they would like to report through an online tool developed under the project. The co-creation sessions appeared to be a useful method of gaining in-depth insight and iterative cooperation with participants.

Social Participation, Education and Healthy Ageing in Italy

Paolo Pasetti[1], Loris Vergolini[1,2]

1University of Bologna, Italy; 2FBK-IRVAPP

The aim of this paper is to analyse the relationship between education and social participation among elderly people in Italy. We consider social participation as one of the possible dimensions of successful ageing. More precisely, under the umbrella of social participation we analyse three sub-dimensions: political participation, voluntary activities, and social connectedness. The analytical strategy plans to compare the social participation of elderly people with different levels of education. Indeed, the level of education can be related to social participation in at least two ways. Firstly, education could lead to the acquisition of certain lifestyles and cultural tastes that lead individuals to conduct a more active social life. Secondly, social participation is a costly activity and people have to invest time and/or money to play an active role in community life. Therefore, education could have an indirect impact through the attainment of remunerative occupation. Another aspect to consider is the state of health: education can have an impact on the health status of elderly people through the two channels described above, which in turn affects social participation. Using ISTAT (Italian National Statistical Institute) data (Aspects of daily life) from 2013 to 2021, we estimate a first model to identify the effect of education on social participation and then conduct a mediation analysis to understand how much of the total effect of education passes through health status.

RN01 | T02_02: Digital Technologies and Ageing 2

Digital Ageing: A Comparative Study of Elderly Perspectives on Technology Before and After the Pandemic

Claudio Melchior

University of Udine, Italy

The process of digitalization and an ageing population are two phenomena that characterize the dynamics of contemporary Western societies. The literature on the digital grey divide highlights how the elderly population often has low digital literacy and poor use of technology, which exposes them to risks of exclusion. Hence the importance of measuring the phenomenon and its dynamics, to be able to intervene with specific projects in order to improve the digital skills of the elderly population, thus fostering inclusion and active ageing processes.

Our quantitative survey compares data from 1,381 questionnaires collected in northern Italy in 2019 and 2022 (before and after the Covid-19 pandemic) to investigate 1) transformations in the frequency of use of digital devices; 2) comfort in use (and subsequent estimation of digital literacy) and 3) opinions and motivations related to technology and digital education by the Italian over-60s.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the related push for digitalization, appear in our data, especially in terms of an increase in the frequency of use of digital technology devices by the elderly (anyway, still low in absolute numbers). However, this increased frequency is not matched by an improvement in comfort and ease of use, suggesting that this dynamic has not been accompanied by an improvement in digital literacy or a willingness to improve in this direction. All this in a context in which the opinion and motivation of the elderly toward the digital world appears to have worsened rather than improved as a result of the pandemic emergency.

Exploring Heterogeneity in Digital Skills and Training Needs among Older Adults in Switzerland

Lisa Katharina Kortmann, Sarah Speck, Miriam Wallimann

OST – Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Switzerland

Population ageing and digitalization represent two prominent contemporary mega trends. The pervasive integration of digital technologies into both daily life and professional spheres underscores the increasing importance of digital skills. Although research on the digital skills of older adults is rapidly advancing, existing studies indicate a “grey divide” concerning access to, utilization of, and competencies related to digital technologies. Digital divides are also found for gender and educational level. However, the prevalent use of a dichotomous categorization for digital competencies overlooks distinct skill levels and domains of digital skills.

This study aims to address this gap by providing a nuanced exploration of sociodemographic differences among individuals aged 50 and above in Switzerland, specifically focusing on various domains of digital skills and related training needs. Our primary objective is to investigate age, gender, and educational disparities across seven different digital skill domains and associated training needs. We seek to understand whether these potential differences exhibit variability between skill domains and training needs.

Our research employs survey data representative of the Swiss population aged 50+ (n=400) from the year 2021, supplemented by an ongoing online survey conducted from 2022onwards. We anticipate identifying general age, gender, and educational differences, with variations dependent on the specific digital skill domain. The findings of our study hold significant implications for policymakers and practitioners, enabling them to tailor targeted interventions aimed at enhancing digital skills and fostering digital participation among older individuals.

Balancing Acts: Exploring Older Adults’ Relationship with Digital Technologies in Aging Belgium

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It has long been known that digital technology can positively impact the physical and mental health of older people. However, older adults are often less accepting and more distrustful of these technologies. This paper, informed by 96 interviews with older adults, both Internet users and non-users, explores the motivations older adults have for their acceptance or resistance to digital technologies. My study finds that older adults interact with technology in complex ways that go beyond simply identifying the positives and the negatives. Individuals may vary in their idiosyncratic reasons for embracing a particular technology, while they simultaneously have different motivations for opposing the same technology. For older adults, the decision to engage with technology often resembles a delicate balancing act, where personal, interpersonal, and societal factors all play an influential and sometimes contradictory role. The paper shows that older adults are not merely uninformed bystanders or passive victims of digital inequalities, but rather active agents who make decisions rooted in their lifelong experiences and the current realities of aging. Drawing on these findings, I argue that current digital inclusion efforts are overly focused on boosting acceptance among older adults. Achieving uniformity across generations is a goal that seems unlikely to be achieved. More emphasis is needed on embracing digital diversity, which refers to the various ways different demographic groups use and experience digital technologies.

A Longitudinal Analysis of Older Adults' Internet Use and Health Outcomes Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

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This paper investigates the relationship between pre-pandemic digital literacy, as measured by internet usage, and the subsequent health outcomes – both in terms of physical and mental health – of older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. The central research question guiding this study is: Did older adults with higher levels of ICT use before the COVID-19 pandemic experience better physical and mental health outcomes during the pandemic?

The hypothesis posits that, although overall physical and mental health may have declined for the majority of older adults during the pandemic, those who were digitally adept may have exhibited better health outcomes due to improved access to medical care facilitated by technology.

To address this research question, we utilize data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and employ longitudinal statistical analyses, incorporating a regression discontinuity design and a model with random effects. This approach allows us to discern the impact of pre-pandemic internet usage on mental and physical health outcomes (self-reported) during the pandemic.

The paper contributes to the broader understanding of the intersection between digital literacy, health, and crisis management among older populations. By employing rigorous statistical methods, we aim to uncover nuanced insights into the potential protective effects of digital literacy on the well-being of older individuals during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings have implications for public health policies and interventions aimed at supporting older adults in navigating health challenges, especially in the context of increased reliance on digital technologies for healthcare delivery.

RN01 | T02_03: Work, Retirement and Ageing 1

Importance of Work-Related Factors for Labour Market Participation After Retirement

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Today's retirees are healthier than ever before, and many continue to work after old-age retirement. Working in retirement is often occassional and part-time, but it has many benefits for individuals and society. The aim of this study was to examine whether pre-retirement work-related factors are associated with work in retirement among those who have retired from paid work to an old-age pension.

Finnish survey data from 2022 (response rate = 68%), supplemented by register data, included 3,056 retired persons aged 63-70 who retired from paid work with an old-age pension between 2019-2021. Logistic regression analysis was used to estimate ORs and 95% CIs for working in retirement.

The results showed that a third of old-age pensioners had worked after retirement. Those who had been employed were often in good health and capable of working. Many pre-retirement work factors were associated with working in retirement. Experiencing work as an important part of life and receiving positive support at work had a positive effect on older workers' willingness to continue working after retirement. Those retired people who found the demands of work too strenuous were less likely to have worked in retirement. Higher occupational status was also associated with working in retirement.

The study indicates that good health, favourable working conditions, and positive work experiences, increase pensioners' interest in working alongside their pension.

Retirement and Cognitive Abilities – Evidence from Germany

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Due to the consequences of demographic change, the prolongation of older people's participation in the labor market is a recurring topic of public debate. The focus of our analysis is the contribution of prolonged labor force participation to the preservation of cognitive abilities, which at the same time is important for active aging.

In the present paper, we investigate how labormarket participation at older ages affects cognitive performance. Specifically, we investigate how retirement and retirement timing affect mathematical and reading competence. For this analysis, we use a data basis unique to Germany – the

National Educational Panel Study (NEPS). NEPS includes very comprehensive tests on mathematical and reading abilities, observed in 2011 and 2017.

Under using a difference-in-difference propensity score matching approach our results show that retirement is associated with a decline in reading and mathematical competencies. In addition a late retirement has a more negative effect on reading competencies than on mathematical competencies.

Timing Of Retirement From Work And Changes In Quality Of Life

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Postponing retirement is a central goal of pension policy, and our research evaluates the individual outcomes related to quality of life to this end. We explore how timing of retirement from work is associated with changes in overall QoL by paying attention into retirement at general retirement age (on time) versus postponing (later) retirement. We further analyze and how this is associated with changes in the satisfaction with the amount of leisure time and social relationships, self-rated health, perception of coping and income adequacy.

Analysis is based on the "From Work to Retirement" survey, collected in 2022 in Finland. The sample (n=3 378) includes Finnish pensioners, who were employed before retirement and started to receive old-age pension between 2019–2021. Analysis is based on retrospective questions on QoL before retirement and currently.

Results with FE regression models show that before retirement, quality of life was lowest among on-time retirees and highest among the longest postponers. After retirement, quality of life of on-time retirees increased and was at the level of average, while the quality of life of longest postponers remained basically unchanged. Much of the increase in QoL of on time retirees was explained with increases in the satisfaction with the amount of leisure time and feeling of coping. Overall, retirement timing seems to work as means of balancing overall quality of life. Results increase knowledge on individual's retirement timing and adds to the discussion over policy target of prolonging working lives and wellbeing in older age.

An Agent-Based Approach to Age Management and Retirement Behaviours: From Exclusive Human Resource Investments to Social Inequality?

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Recent developments in computer simulations, such as Agent-Based Modelling (ABM), offer novel ways to study organisational dynamics and employment relations from a complex-system perspective. This approach allows insights into bottom-up, complex and dynamic relationships, such as those between older workers, employers and the organisational environment.

In this project, we are connecting older workers with their organisations to study how different organisational settings (e.g., policies), employer approaches (e.g., mental models), and social norms (e.g., retirement norms) affect work and retirement at older ages. Drawing upon a multilevel organisational theory, employer decision-making theories, and organisational inequality paradigm, this study aims to understand better the mechanisms behind beneficial and harmful workplace practices and their wider impact on labour markets and social inequalities. In particular, we focus on human capital investment strategies (e.g., inclusive and exclusive) and their consequences for older workers' retirement behaviours. We hypothesise that exclusive approaches (e.g., supporting only talented workers) can lock specific groups in disadvantaged career paths, counteracting ageing policies and contributing to inequality in the ability to work longer.

For this, we designed an ABM simulation model for human capital investment mechanisms, using external data for empirical calibration (to reflect real-life settings better). An additional experimental (vignette) survey verifies simulation results about employers' decision-making. In the presentation, we discuss the key findings related to the role of within-organisation processes for retirement behaviours and macro-level patterns. We also reflect on the potential of computational simulations for ageing studies.

RN01 | T03_01: Generations and Ageing

Framing the Climate Crisis as a Generational Matter

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This study investigates how climate crises is discussed in relation to generations and how discourses of solidarity, blame and ressentiment are constructed in current climate movements. On one hand, older populations, more specifically the so-called baby boomers are being targeted and often scape-goated as a generation that has wasteful and reckless consumption habits and indifference to nature by younger generations. On the other, Greta Thunberg's school strike for climate, and the movements inspired from her protest as well as independent and scattered movements around Europe and North America are shown as the new face of climate movements. Younger generations are portrayed as the 'solution' or 'rescuers' in the media against the older generations. Thus, the question of 'who to blame?' becomes entangled with intergenerational conflict. Replacing the class discourse with generational discourse blurs the lines of power relations between disadvantaged and privileged groups and carries the danger of reducing the climate injustice to a generational issue. It also overlooks the intergenerational solidarity that is already prevalent in many climate movements.

Generational Divides in Poland. Exploring Sites of Intergenerational Ambivalence Outside Family Environment

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The paper addresses the topic of intergenerational relationships among individuals from different age cohorts within the context of social polarization linked to the ageing society in Poland. Polarization along the lines of age, encompasses phenomena such as deficiencies in cooperation between young people and seniors, linked to rapid social change (Lowenstein 2007). Polarization in Poland has become a part of the political game through emphasis on opposing values of different generations (Cześnik, Zagórski 2022).

In this paper, the focus is on two selected areas of intergenerational conflicts and ambivalence. First, the tensions manifested in the perceived electoral advantage of older individuals as those who vote for changes that exclusively benefit their age group are discussed. Secondly, the differences in proficiency towards using new technologies are explored, as younger individuals demonstrate greater aptness in this area.

The basis of the analysis concerns material gathered through the individual in-depth interviews conducted in Warsaw in 2023 with young individuals (16-20) and seniors (68-80). The generational approach adopted for the purposes of this presentation (Mannheim 1970) aims to present the narratives of both cohorts in the context of – on the one hand – the perception of potential intergenerational conflicts, and on the other hand, the potential and foundations for building intergenerational solidarity.

In the process of data analysis, the concept of generational ambivalence (Lüscher & Pillemer 1998) was centralized, as this category allowed us to capture contradictions in relationships between members of different generations and their manifestations in interactions. During the presentation, it will be shown how the concept of ambivalence can be applied to foster a better understanding of intergenerational relationships outside the family environment in Poland and beyond.

Exploring Intergenerational Communication through Arts-Based Collaborations among Youth and Older Adults

Seran Demiral

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This study aims to foster various ways of intergenerational communication to transcend biases against older adults and marginalizing perceptions of aging. As a researcher who usually works with children and young people, I have been focusing on the capabilities of youth within a human capability approach, addressing their marginalized status in society. Technological competency and the inclination to learn new developments in digital technologies can provide advantageous positions for younger generations in changing societal settings. On the other hand, due to the same core, older adults may face even more difficulty in the face of upcoming circumstances. Hence, this study has emerged to build new bridges between generations with an awareness and understanding of perceptions of ageing.

Through interviewing a group of university students actively participating in artistic and performative activities and discussing the elder members in their families, this preliminary research aims to understand their perspectives on older people in their social networks. Additionally, it seeks to reveal how their reciprocal communication differs with the introduction of new technologies. Secondly, by conducting an intergenerational theater workshop, the interactions between youth and older adults will be observed. The potential collaboration between the participants of the study will be facilitated through arts-based methods, aiming to enhance intergenerational understanding among the study participants.

Continuity and Change in Intergenerational Care during Times of Crises: Insights from the SHARE Corona Survey

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Recognizing that individuals play a crucial role in supporting their aging parents, especially in countries with limited welfare systems, we delve into how this support adapts during times of heightened vulnerability, such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The frequency and intensity of support vary by individual's resources for intergenerational solidarity, by the needs arising from their parents' health, financial or emotional challenges, as well as by family and cultural-contextual structures. Utilizing data from the 2020 and 2021 waves of the SHARE Corona Survey, we analyze how the pandemic has redefined intergenerational support towards the elderly. Our focus is on understanding which forms of support persisted, which were disrupted, the changes in support intensity, and how socioeconomic status influenced these dynamics under the new pandemic conditions.

Our sample includes eight countries recently added to the SHARE project, offering a diverse cultural and geographical perspective: Lithuania and Latvia (Baltic), Romania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia (Central and Eastern Europe), Malta and Cyprus (Southern Europe), and Finland (Northern Europe). In our analysis, we control for individual and family-level characteristics and draw comparisons across different welfare and intergenerational solidarity regimes.

Preliminary findings indicate that during the initial lockdown, older adults experiencing some form of deprivation—material or social—were less likely to maintain contact (direct or electronic) with their adult children and were also less likely to receive increased support. This study sheds light on the evolving nature of intergenerational care in times of crisis, highlighting the complex interplay of individual, familial, and societal factors.

RN01 | T03_02: Work, Retirement and Ageing 2

Ageism in Employment: A Framed Field Experimental Approach

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With life expectancy growing, ageism has received increasing interest from researchers and the general public. This is understandable, as ageism can have many serious financial and health consequences for the victims of such discrimination. In this study we focus on ageism in the employment context by examining whether older applicants are evaluated differently than younger applicants and whether recruiters have negative intentions towards hiring older workers. We use a framed field experimental design that has recruiters with hiring experience as participants. Using this research design, we are also able to study the various recruiter traits and how these are related to ageism. Our results show that recruiters have less intention to hire older applicants compared to younger applicants. The results also show that older applicants are evaluated lower on physical fitness, health and attractiveness compared with younger applicants. Lastly, young, and less experienced recruiters showed more signs of ageism, whereas more experience recruiters and older recruiters showed no difference in intention to hire older or younger applicants. Implications for organizations are discussed, underscoring the need to train recruiters as well as implementing action focused on reducing ageism in hiring.

Age-friendly Workplaces – a Management Training Model

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A sustainable society is dependent on high labour market participation, and across Europe there is a growing worry about an ageing workforce. Demographic change and the ageing population puts stress on workplaces to initiate age-friendly HRM-policies to keep their older workers engaged and motivated to work longer. One challenge is how managers can support their employees in prolonging careers?

In this paper we will explore a management training model to support this aim. The empirical data is from a large Norwegian financial institution and is based on background documentation and notes from multistep group interviews with two groups of managers. Between the first and second round of interviews the managers participated in a training day organized and run by Centre for Senior Policy, a national Norwegian "resource centre dedicated to the stimulation and development of policies concerning older workers in the workplace" (https:/seniorpolitikk.no, 2024).

The first stage of group interviews engaged managers in discussions on what challenges they experienced concerning the older workforce and what they expected from the training day. Second stage group interviews asked about what they had learned and how/if new knowledge had changed practice.

The outcome of the process was increased knowledge and raised consciousness about the situation for older workers in the organization. In addition, the combination of multi-stage group interviews and training day gave the added value of offering managers an opportunity to reflect together and explore possible initiatives across the different departments in the organization.

Beyond Numbers: Exploring Ageism and Retention Challenges for Poland's Aging Workforce

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Contemporary labour markets are under constant pressures and changes. Among these challenges is the retention of older workforce as a response to rapid population ageing. Delving into the experiences of older workers (aged 50+) in Poland, this study examines age management practices from workers' perspective. By moving beyond the quantitative data previously gathered from employers, this research illuminates the lived experiences of extended working life from the workers' viewpoint.

The research methodology employs in-depth remote interviews to explore the narratives of older workers across various industries. These interviews focus on understanding the workers' firsthand experiences with stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination in the workplace. Special attention is given to age management practices within organizations and how they affect the day-to-day experiences of these employees. The study also investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work life of older individuals, examining any shifts in employment patterns, workplace dynamics, or attitudes towards older employees during and after the pandemic.

The findings of this research contribute to the ongoing dialogue on ageism in the workplace, specifically in the context of an aging population and evolving labor market dynamics. By capturing the voices of older workers, the study provides critical insights into effective age management practices and highlights areas where improvements are needed. The ultimate goal is to inform and guide policymakers and corporate leaders in developing strategies that not only retain but also empower and respect the older workforce, ensuring their valuable contribution to the economy and society.

The Consequences of Young People's Labour Market Uncertainty for Future Pension Savings

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Following the gradual shift from primarily public to multi-pillar pensions systems, young people in European countries are increasingly expected to supplement contributions to public pension schemes with own private savings to ensure a decent standard of living for their later life. At the same time, however, many young people in Europe increasingly face difficulties in entering the labour market or finding a stable, permanent and decently-paid job. For young Europeans, the increasing expectation to make savings for older age thus is accompanied by a decreasing ability to make such savings within specific parts of the population. Yet, until now, only little research has explicitly analysed this "long-term link" between current youth labour market uncertainty and future pension outcomes.

Drawing back to findings from two recent EU-funded projects (EXECPT, YOUNG-IN) and using evidence from a recent edited volume based on this research (Hofäcker, D. and Kuitto, K. (eds.) "Youth Employment Insecurity and Pension Adequacy"), the presentation first will outline current trends in unemployment and atypical employment among youth today. In a stylized way, it will then discuss how such labour market uncertainties are treated in contemporary public and private pension systems and which risks such insecure employment patterns entail for savings behaviour and pension accrual.

Building on this, the presentation will finally develop recommendations on how public policies can mediate the detrimental effect of insecure employment on future pensions savings. In particular, it will discuss possible strategies in social as well as labour market policies.

RN01 | T03_03: Long-term Care

The Imaginaries Behind Logics of Care. Insight from Ethnographic Inquiries of Long-stay Institutions Dealing with Dementia

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The care of older people with severe dementia living in long-stay institutions took a decisive turn in the 1990s, with the development of « person-centred approaches » (Kitwood, 1988). Moving away from a biomedical vision, in which people suffering from dementia are seen as diseased and invalids, these approaches look at dependency through the prism of a relational conception of autonomy, and aim to provide individualised care. Valuing dementia people as individuals, such approaches explicitly project a moral horizon. The aim is to provide the care that will enable residents, despite their impairments, to fulfil their potential as « persons » and to be recognised and recognisable as members of the human community. That being said, these new « logics of care » (Mol, 2008) involved different representations of what a human being is, called « implicit anthropologies » by Rigaud (1998). In other words, a certain way of imagining what a person is made up of is embedded in such innovative caring. On the basis of two ethnographic inquiries covering a total of 7 care homes in French-speaking Switzerland between 2018 and 2024, this paper will highlight, on the basis of the empirical material collected (mainly interviews and observations), two anthropologies underlying this new caring. More specifically, the paper will show that (i) these two anthropologies imply specific ways of articulating the two central dimensions of body and mind, (ii) and set up forms of life, which people with dementia are invited to inhabit, that have their own consistency.

Discussing Deficiencies in Older People Care: Supervisors' Responses to Care Workers Raising Concerns About Their Work Practices in Care Homes

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Ageing societies are facing an increasing need for professional care workers who take care of the oldest old. Care work in older people care can be physically and emotionally burdensome. Support from their supervisor is an important factor in contributing to workers' professional self-esteem, well-being and reducing their likelihood of deciding to leave their jobs. To improve the quality of care and the workers' working conditions it is important that the care workers feel able to speak up. The aim of this study is to examine care home supervisors' discursive strategies when responding to care workers' concerns regarding their work practices.

The data consists of six performance appraisal interviews and 13 other workplace meetings in four care homes in Finland. The method of analysis is discourse analysis with emphasis on supervisors' discursive strategies.

Care home supervisors responded to care workers' concerns using six discursive strategies: encouraging, activating, directing, reconciling, taking responsibility, and justifying. Supervisors could use several discursive strategies in one discussion and thus construct different, sometimes overlapping, positions for themselves.

Supervisors need to ensure that care workers feel safe to voice their concerns. Supervisor's use of language in these situations plays a major role. This study provides new knowledge about micro-level workplace interactions in care homes and helps to identify supervisors' different strategies in responding to care workers' work-related concerns. These can have impact on the care workers' work-related well-being and the quality of the care provided in older people care services.

Robot Literacy of Fourth Agers in Care Homes – an Institutional Ethnography

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Digital technologies play a central role in the everyday life, well-being, learning, and societal participation of individuals throughout lifespan. However, to use the increasing amount of information disseminated through digital technologies, citizens need media literacies (MLs), that is, competencies in accessing, analyzing, evaluating, communicating, and creating messages in a variety of contexts. Older people may lack adequate MLs to support their everyday life, well-being, lifelong learning, and participation in society. Therefore, special efforts should be made to ensure that the older population is adequately equipped with MLs.

This project will focus on robot literacy (RL), a subset of ML, in care homes for older adults, homes of fourth agers. Robots are becoming more popular in both domestic and institutional contexts. Robots can function as providers of information and services, which require people to have RL, that is, competences to understand and interact with robots. We ask, what kinds of robot literacies and support needs are reported in care homes. The research will apply institutional ethnography (IE) and participatory action research (PAR) in care homes with older adults and care professionals. The communal, collaborative, and situated nature of MLs will be emphasized. The reason for studying care homes is that, since aging in place is highlighted in the care of older adults, care homes are seen as the final

housing destination and homes of fourth agers. Care homes are highly invisible to the public.

The Transformation of Knowledge Related to Long-term Care: Implications for Transiting Change and Trust-building.

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The actual systemic crisis manifests the profound changes which are taking place in contemporary long-term care systems, leading to new care modalities in society. Through 26 interviews conducted with caregivers, family members, and older adults with care needs, this communication presents the study that aims to make visible the transformation in the conceptions of care in the Basque Country (north of Spain). The results revealed the socio-cognitive tensions and transformations experienced by the actors, through three main processes (Jovchelovitch & Priego-Hernández, 2015). The first process shows the displacement of familialist ideas in favor of individualization; the second, the contextual validation of the institutionalization and outsourcing of care; the third, the hybridization of ideas that lead to new care modalities, such as professionalization and personalization. The relevance of a dynamic and situated approach to the theory of social representations, and its contribution to the analysis of new knowledge disseminated in a changing cultural and organizational context are discussed. The potential of the findings for promoting collective trust in care provision are also examined, considering the actor´s diverse dialogues and positions.

RN01 | T04_01: Informal Care and Ageing 1

Caring for Older Parents in Norway – How Does it Affect Labor Market Participation?

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Introduction: As the population ages, younger generations will increasingly be called upon to provide informal care to their aging parents. To prepare for this development, it is essential to understand how employees combine the dual responsibilities of work and caring for aging parents. Methods: By analyzing data collected in Norway in 2022 from a nationally representative sample of 6052 respondents, aged 35 to 67, we investigated how caring for older parents affects labor market participation and work absence. We provide descriptive statistics and conduct analyses with structural equation modeling

Results: The analyses indicated that caregiving had no substantial impact on overall participation in the workforce. However, employees did use work absences to assist their parents. We differentiate between using holidays, compensatory time, and three types of formal leave: paid, unpaid, and sick leave. More than a third of the formal leave was taken as sick leave. Women were moderately more likely to use work absence to care for their parents. Conclusions: We conclude that caring for old parents has little effect on work participation and attribute the favorable situation in Norway to its comprehensive public elderly care system. However, a contributing factor is Norway's generous sick leave policy. Although intended for use when employees are sick themselves, sick leave is used to provide care to old parents. Sick leave seems to act as a safety valve. To mitigate the effects on work participation, welfare states may create conditions that allow employees to combine work and care without resorting to unauthorized sick leave. A solution could be to extend the existing support scheme for employees with young children to those providing care for their aging parents.

Combining Informal Care for the Aged with Employment – Not Only a Double Burden.

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Informal care is the dominant model of care for the aged in most European countries. Welfare state concepts for the aged are mostly based on the assumption that care for aged is a family duty. But informal care brings along several risks

to receive several "penalties" (Yeandle): Economic losses, social exclusion and losses of mental and physical health. Several of these losses are related to decisions to reduce or quit employment – a reaction that welfare state policies so far do not try to counteract.

Concerning health effects, combining employment and informal care seems to be considered a double burden situation with giving up one half as a plausible relief. So far there is very little systematic knowledge about practices at the workplaces and especially about the perception of specific health risks and chances in this context.

The presentation proposed comes out of the context of the project Combining Employment with Care for the Aged – COMBECA. This is a cross-national, multi-perspective study in Austria and Switzerland on the relevance, practices and effects of combining in the workplace context.

Focus of the analysis will be the perceived health risks of carers, but also positive health opportunities in 14 companies and the perceived welfare state support for combining employment and care. The paper utilizes a multi-dimensional health concept, including perspectives on physical, mental and also social health by Pelikan (2007, 2009).

First results indicate that certain practices of carers and management seem promising to manage stress and help employees in retaining positive effects of inclusion in working life. Analyses also indicate that welfare state practices could be improved to increase chances of positive health outcomes.

Pathways in Caregiving: Strategies of Employed Informal Caregivers to Reconcile Paid Work and Family Care in Familialist Welfare State

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Informal care plays a pivotal role in sustaining long-term care systems throughout Europe, particularly in familialist care systems like Slovenia's, where strong social norms emphasize family care for elderly relatives, and legal obligations support care from adult children to their parents (Saraceno 2016; Filipovič Hrast, Hlebec & Rakar 2020). However, with the increasing demand for elderly care and rising of the retirement age, the number of informal caregivers balancing paid work and family caregiving is growing (Pickard et al. 2015). This paper focuses on pathways to care (the freedom of choice in becoming a caregiver) and pathways through care (the capabilities of caregivers to reconcile paid work and caregiving) in Slovenia. Pathways, in this context, refer to the dynamic course of processes within broader family constellations, connecting family caregiving in later life with events and processes in earlier life stages, relationships with others (e.g., siblings, family members), and contextual factors such as public policies and cultural norms (Rodrigues et al, 2022). Special attention will be given to understanding how local welfare systems, gender, and socioeconomic status shape the choices and capabilities of employed family caregivers. The analysis draws on the Slovenian portion of data collected as part of the Det_Caremix project, specifically in-depth interviews with 47 working caregivers in Slovenia engaged in mixed care arrangements. The paper employs reflexive thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2018) to identify various pathways in caregiving and their impact on caregivers' freedom of choice and capabilities to balance paid work and family care.

Transforming Care: Social Practices in Companies to Combine Employment and care for older Relatives. An international Comparison between Switzerland and Austria

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Due to demographic change, aging workforces, and shortages of labour force, employers are seeking to strengthen retention activities. This includes activities to improve possibilities to combine employment and care for older relatives. The position of employees with care obligations has also been strengthened by recent welfare policies. Switzerland, a "non-familiarized welfare state" (Esping-Anderson) and Austria, a "familiarized welfare state" have implemented measures to support employees with care obligations. So far, there is little knowledge on the impact of these changes in everyday work life. Before this background and within a comparative, international study, company case studies in both countries analysed social practices that have been developed to combine employment and care for older relatives.

In Switzerland (n=9) and Austria (n=6) company case-studies were conducted in a mixed method design. In each organization qualitative, guided interviews were conducted (n=7 per company) and analysed according to Grounded Theory (Charmaz). Additionally, an online questionnaire was offered to the employees to find out how many workers are combining employment and care, and what stresses and strains are resulting from that situation. The research was funded by the Swiss National Research Foundation (SNF) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) from 2020-2024.

The case studies show that the companies emphasise that care for older relatives is a single-case-issue which cannot be solved by standardized general measures or packages. In those organizations that were aware and sufficiently interested in the issue, procedural practices are the dominant feature – in Switzerland as well as in Austria – based on the key-category "negotiating employment and care obligations". Welfare state legislation and services seem relevant to reduce the workload and stress for informal carers.

RN01 | T04_02: Health and Ageing in Social Context

An Investigation of the Causal Association Between Social Participation and Health Outcomes in Later Life: findings from a Nationally Representative Sample Using Marginal Structural Models

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This paper draws on Bourdieu's capital-based theory (economic, social and cultural capital to examine the effects of social participation on depressive symptoms and cognitive function in later life. Social participation is the key variable of interest, operationalised in terms of types of social networks, including informal and formal social networks. Based on data from four waves of the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) over 7 years (2011-2018), we use marginal structural models (MSMs) with stabilised Inverse Probability of Treatment Weights (IPTWs) to estimate the causal effect of different types of social participation on mental and cognitive outcomes. Missing data is imputed by Predictive mean matching (PMM). E-value is used to assess how sensitive the results are.

After controlling for economic and cultural capital and a set of demographic and health variables, the results show that two measures of social capital, interaction with friends and caring for a sick adult have strong associations with lower risk of depressive symptoms. Similarly, we find social participation was generally associated with better cognitive function across waves. The findings of this paper have the potential to enhance the usefulness of Bourdieu's forms of capital in explaining the production of practices of social participation and their effects on health, as well as contributing to a further understanding of social stratification in later life.

Living Alone, Poor Social Support And Loneliness: An Analysis Of Their Association With The Health Of Older Adults

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Living alone, lacking social support, and suffering from loneliness have been shown to have significant negative consequences on the health of older adults. Nevertheless, our understanding of their combined influence is still limited. In this study, we aim to investigate the interplay of these three factors and their potential association with health outcomes. To achieve this objective, we employ data from a sample of older individuals aged 65 and more included in wave 7 (2022) of the Swiss Health Survey, a repeated cross-sectional study conducted every five years in Switzerland. We perform multinomial logistic regression models to assess the relationship between combinations of solo dwelling, poor social support (Oslo Social Support Scale) and feelings of loneliness (direct question), and various health-related measures, including but not limited to, self-rated health, mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety), activities of daily living, sleep health, presence of chronic ailments and frequency of medical visits. We hypothesise that individuals exposed to more factors will demonstrate a stronger correlation with adverse health outcomes than those with fewer exposures. Furthermore, we anticipate that the link between factors and health issues might not completely coincide. Our results will shed light on the possible cumulative impact on health of the most common forms of exclusion from social relations. In so doing, they will offer evidence of the intricate interplay of social factors in the health of older adults.

The Role Of Physical Exercise In Combating Loneliness Among The Elderly

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The definition of aging is quite complex due to its multifactorial nature, however, it can be understood as a set of changes that occur gradually, progressively and irreversibly, causing a series of changes, including motor, sensory, psychic and social. With the reform, transformations can be observed in practical terms, in which the elderly have their routine taken away, also taking away social relationships built at work. In this way, the elderly are excluded from the social environment, which can lead to loneliness. In order to combat it, physical exercise is seen as a tool for this, as elderly people have the opportunity to develop new social ties, improving aspects directly related to the problem. The main objective of this study is to understand, from the perspective of the elderly, the effect that physical exercise has in the context of loneliness. The present study has a qualitative approach, with its data collection instrument being a semi-structured interview, constructed in three blocks of questions (indicators of loneliness, physical exercise and the impact of physical exercise on loneliness), and its data processing based on content analysis. 22 elderly people participating in a project from the Faculty of Sports of the University of Porto were interviewed. According to the reports collected, it was possible to observe that performing physical exercise was able to change the state of loneliness, especially in elderly people with many indicators, as it was able to offer elderly people a new look at their reality, making them socially active once again. It is concluded that physical exercise is capable of effectively combating loneliness among the elderly.

Not All Bad News: Early and Late Life Social Determinants of Physical Limitations Trajectories Across Different Cohorts from Portugal, Estonia and Slovenia

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Research on age trajectories of physical limitations provides valuable insights. Understanding the average trend in the number of physical limitations in a given population provides valuable information for healthcare needs, social policy development, and even personal health management. It is well established in the literature the role of social circumstances on health and ageing. Less often, research captures the dynamic nature of these associations. Understanding how younger cohorts differ from older cohorts will generate a clearer picture of how the ageing process is changing in a given context, allowing a better calibration of policy intervention and priorities. This paper tries to contribute to the gap using data from the SHARE survey to compare functional limitation trajectories based on early and late life social determinants across generations in Estonia, Portugal, and Slovenia. Trajectories for physical limitations are modelled using ageing vector models. The estimated parameters are then used to derive cohort trends, which are adjusted by incorporating early, adulthood, and later-life social determinants of health, along with controls. This approach allows for the estimation of cohort trends while accounting for different sets of determinants. Results suggest that younger cohorts are undergoing a relatively more accelerated ageing process, characterized by an earlier onset of health limitations in the three countries. Cohort differences are wider when controlling for the effects of health behaviors suggesting they are mitigating the disadvantage of the younger cohort. Data seem to indicate that health behaviours even late in life are a crucial entry policy point to ensure better prospects for physical ageing trajectories and compensate for the potential increase of health hazards experienced in younger cohorts.

RN01 | T04_03: Ageing and Social Networks

How to Increase Trust in Institutions and Co-design Innovative Transformation for Increased Safety of Older Adults Living with Dementia? The Role of Social Workers in Interprofessional Collaboration Before, During and After a Missing Episode of Persons Living with Dementia in Risk of Disappearances.

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Aim of paper is to present results from an ongoing research project on increased safety for people living with dementia/ cognitive impairments in risk of risk of wandering away, disappear and go missing.

Project purpose was to identify “best practices” of a missing episode from the perspective of persons living with dementia, their relatives, eldercare workers and the Police and to initiate and develop routines, training and collaboration initiatives to prevent or hinder a new missing episode. The project was developed in close collaboration between municipal eldercare, the Swedish Police and Swedish Dementia Centre for a Dementia Friendly Society and researchers from different disciplines to improve efforts before, during, and after a missing episode of persons living with dementia, their relatives, professionals and volunteers involved in the missing process.

Methods used are 1) Knowledge overview – of statistics, steering documents & guidelines, 2) Case studies and individual interviews with persons living with dementia and their relatives 3) Interviews – with “experts” to identify crucial factors in finding a missing person living with dementia, 4) focus group – and individual interviews on experiences of effective co-operation in the disappearance and search for a person with dementia and 5) development, implementation and evaluation of a document “My life story/ Historia Vitae – for increased safety in the event of missing episodes”.

Preliminary results point out there is a lack of shared information and knowledge on “the others” possibilities and obligations, legislation and routines. Social support and technical devises are available but often unknown by relatives. Social workers have an important role to increase trust in institutions and co-design innovative transformation of missing process in collaboration with persons living with dementia, relatives and Police.

Why is Psychological Wellbeing Associated with the Composition of Older Adult's Care Network: An Application of the Self-Determination Theory

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Objectives: Older care recipients differ in types of care used: some receive mostly partner or other types of informal care, whereas others use mostly formal or privately paid care. This may add to differences in psychological wellbeing. Applying Self-Determination Theory (SDT) to the care context, we hypothesize that care networks types differ in the extent that they foster feelings of relatedness, autonomy and competence , resulting in different levels of psychological well-being.

Methods: Data are from ten observations of the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam (N= 18,434 observations from 4,837 older Dutch adults, from 1992 until 2022). Care network types are created a priori composed of (mainly) partner, informal, formal or privately paid care. Mixed-model regression analysis of depressive symptoms as measure of well-being is applied on care network type and loneliness (indicator of relatedness), mastery (autonomy) and care sufficiency (competence). Hybrid models disentangle between and within subjects effects.

Results: Receiving care from a partner care network contributes the most to psychological wellbeing. Those with a formal care network type are worse off. Loneliness and care sufficiency partly explain these differences. Results of between and within effects are comparable.

Conclusion: The findings support that applying SDT concepts of basic needs helps to understand how care from different care networktypes impact psychological wellbeing.

The Role of Social Network Characteristics in Long-term-care Networks Among Older Adults in The Netherlands

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The increasing demand for long-term care among European societies calls for a better understanding of how older adults build long-term care (LTC) networks consisting of informal and formal caregivers. Having supportive family members and friends is generally associated with receiving informal care, yet how different characteristics of individuals' social networks relate to LTC networks is not fully understood. Therefore, this study investigated how the size, composition and relationship quality of individuals' social network influences what type of LTC network they have. Data was used from the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam that measured LTC use and social network characteristics of older adults (55 plus) in three-year intervals from 1992 to 2022. The sample contained 18252 complete observations from 4859 participants. Using multilevel latent class analysis, co-residing, children, distant family, non-kin, formal and privately paid LTC networks were identified. Cluster-robust multinomial logistic regression analyses revealed that network size, composition and quality all were associated with membership in different LTC networks. In particular, having partners and children living in proximity contributed to an informal LTC network. If these were not available, other family members and non-kin can act as substitutes. The impact of relationship quality was limited, which suggests that older adults may refrain from using the full potential of their social network to build informal care networks, maybe because they prefer not to involve relatives or non-kin into caregiving or prefer formal or privately paid care.

Social Integration And Well-being In Later Life Across Europe

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Background

Countries across Europe are facing challenges associated with increasing life expectancy, such as enabling social integration and high well-being until old age. So far, few studies have investigated the patterns of social integration and later life well-being from a country comparative perspective.

Data and Methods

Based on data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), we rely on a comprehensive index of social integration (Berkman & Syme 1997, Am J Epidemiol 109: 186-204). Our study examines the following questions: (i) Does the social integration of older adults differ across Europe? (ii) Which population groups are more likely to lack social integration, and (iii) how is social integration associated to various dimensions of well-being?

Results

More than 40 percent of older Europeans achieve low social integration scores. Low social integration is highly prevalent in Southern and Eastern Europe. Especially men, individuals with a low socioeconomic status and those affected by health limitations bear an increased risk. From a longitudinal perspective, higher levels of social integration are related to better well-being outcomes, including reduced depressive symptoms, a higher quality of life and overall life satisfaction, better self-rated health and less mobility limitations.

Discussion

Low social integration is a risk factor for low mental and physical well-being and might rein-force pre-existing inequalities in the well-being of ageing populations. In further analyses, we will examine contextual factors that explain the cross-country differences in social inte-gration.

RN01 | T05_01: Ageing in Rural and Urban Contexts

Formal and Informal Support for Older Adults Living in Rural Areas: Insights from Poland

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Given the scarcity of literature and research on ageing in place in rural Poland as well as other countries, the main aim of this paper is to explore experiences of older adults living in the Polish countryside, and how their needs and expectations are addressed at the local level. The main research question is whether small rural communities can provide their older residents with opportunities to age well and in what way. The main focus is on analyzing various types of formal and informal support available in the community, and how these correspond with what older adults need. The primary source of data for this paper is 20 in-depth interviews conducted in 2023 in a rural commune of northern Poland, which is an area affected by unemployment and poverty. Half of the interviewees were older adults aged 65 and up living in the commune's various villages. They were diversified in terms of age, education level, health, and a general life situation. The remaining 10 interviewees were local stakeholders including local authorities' representatives and other local leadership members competent in the topic. The results confirm the importance of informal support provided by family and neighbors, which is often taken for granted. The outcomes show a division between active older adults effectively using local opportunities and those who are excluded due to their health, immobility or social, as well as spatial isolation. These results inform future efforts for creating age-friendly environments in rural areas.

Experience of Rurality and Perceptions of Quality of Life in Aging: What community social support systems?

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Objectives: To understand the importance of the rural environment factor in older people's perceptions of quality of life (QoL), explaining interactions with visions of access to health services and social support, and with expectations of access to support systems for ageing in rural communities.

Methodology: An experiential model inspired by symbolic interactionism, immersion and action research was adopted. Case study in the municipality of Vila Marim, located in the northern interior of Portugal. In methodological terms, the case study articulated the qualitative method and the ethnographic method, whose design can also rely on the results of a more comprehensive quantitative investigation carried out in the same parish (Sequeira, et.al, 2023). We carried out semi-structured interviews with forty-six elderly people spread over the 7 villages of the parish. And we proceeded to the observation of rural daily life, which was later systematised through categorical and discourse analysis.

Results: The results show how rural experiences in particular partially explain the quality of life of rural older people. The perception of quality of life is influenced by the way each individual experiences ageing, by biological, social, economic and cultural conditions. There are ambivalences marked by feelings of loneliness and scarce social support, which are stronger in isolated and mountainous areas, challenging local actors to innovate support mechanisms and strengthen access functionality.

Ageing at the Edge of Europe – A Case Study from Madeira

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INRCA IRCCS Italy

This paper will examine different experiences of ageing in Portuguese island of Madeira in the Atlantic Ocean. Traditionally island of emigration and in jargon a place for "newlyweds and nearly-deads", in pandemic and post-pandemic times attracted many new people from EU, UK, USA and beyond to live and/or work on the island remotely, which was supported by some incentives of the local government and promotion of the island as welcome place for 'digital nomads' as well as wealthier older adults. Older adults and retirees from continental Europe and beyond choose Madeira as their retirement place for various reasons such as moderate climate, beautiful landscapes, friendliness of locals and with increasing inflation they still can live more affordable lifestyles while saving on heating etc. However, practices and experiences of aging as a local or as an immigrant are different concerning lifestyle, family support, networks, wealth, health, and wellbeing. Differences are reflected in transformations, tensions and trust on the island that this paper aims to examine. How those tensions are played out through policies, health and design around aging in place and assistive technologies? Marketing of products is more often targeting richer foreigners, but how about ageing experiences of the locals? How do they experience place, identity and attachments differently will be analysed through interdisciplinary perspectives of environmental gerontology, sociology and anthropology. What are social and cultural aspects of aging on the island for people with different life courses and 'insideness' (Rowles 1983)?

Caring Communities as Spaces of Engagement. Research Evidence from Rural and Urban Hungary

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Care marketization tendencies are manifested in a slightly different way in Hungary than in Western European countries, partly due to the shortcomings of state regulation. The Hungarian eldercare sector has been facing several challenges: in terms of funding, workforce, decent working conditions of the workers, regulation of the market, and the lack of central intention to improve the standards of the provision. However, caring communities might have a special role in localities regardless of the access to care provision. While community-based initiatives have not yet spread in the country, there are some good practices of age-friendly communities. The presentation is based on empirical research conducted between March – November 2023 in Hungary. The observation took place in an economically deprived county, both in small villages, and in the county seat. The paper seeks answers to the following questions. Based on the empirical results: What are the roots, requirements and driving forces of developing an age-friendly community; How do caring communities contribute to the quality of life of older adults in rural and urban settings; What suggestions can be offered to local municipalities in order to develop community-based innovations both in towns and villages? Results show that municipal practices, civil initiatives, and local identity are important factors in enhancing engagement in the community. While older adults take part in organizing themselves both in rural and urban environment, differences can be observed regarding the institutional background and commitment towards their communities.

RN01 | T05_02: Home Care

The Logic of 'Home Care Time'

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The study investigates temporal aspects of home care in Sweden, as experienced and interpreted by older care users. The data consists of 34 qualitative interviews with 36 care users aged between 68 and 96 – 22 women and 14 men – in southern Sweden and 15 observations of home care provision. By focusing on care users' recalibration of time and events, the analysis identifies a form of interpreted experience – here termed 'home care time' – that comprises two governing sublogics – care users understanding of themselves as part of the home care organisation, and care users' empathetic understanding for care staff – where each sublogic evolved from several approaches where care users expressed time empathy, tried to increase time efficiency, or adapted to other care users. Some care users described attempts to take control and influence temporal aspects. Such attempts resulted in adjustments to services at the individual care user's request, but they were also associated with the risk of conflict between care users and care workers. The study addresses the gap in the literature, which mostly studies and theorises care from a care provider perspective. The logic of home care time identified in the study can explain why older people may say they are satisfied with services though poorly performed due to time shortages. This explanation is a corrective to ageist stereotypes that portray older care users as docile and grateful.

Individual, Household and Contextual Characteristics Linked to the Selection of Home Care Strategies for Older Dependents

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Care strategies for older dependents are determined not only by individual or network characteristics but also by contextual factors. We aim to determine whether the individual, household and urban (neighbourhood) characteristics are linked to the use of family care (informal), public services or private care at home (formal). We applied logistic regression analysis to data from the Survey on Care Strategies for Older Dependents 2023 (DEPCURA-BCN project). The sample was composed of 1,600 older people (65+ years old) living at home (no care institutions). The sample is representative of dependent older people in Barcelona (Spain). Our results suggest that differences in urban socioeconomic contexts determine some inequalities. The type of neighbourhood is relevant in explaining the home care older dependents receive, especially in private (paid)

care. In high socioeconomic level neighbourhoods, dependents are more likely to use private services, even after controlling for household income and other individual and household characteristics. Dependent women show a higher probability of using paid services. Both the number of people living in the household and income are the main factors associated with family care. The higher the household size and/or household income, the higher the probability of receiving family care. On the contrary, the lower the household size and/or income level, the higher the probability of using public care services. Understanding the factors that determine the use of public care services, private care services or family caregiving is increasingly relevant due to the increase in the number of dependent older people.

Dealing With Ageing Challenges: housing conditions and residential mobility of Italian older adults

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Housing provision and adequacy pose unique challenges along the ageing process, especially when ageing in place becomes a policy goal. Individuals are differently equipped to deal with challenges regarding housing quality and the capacity to adjust to their changing needs in later life. Drawing on housing inequalities literature, we analyse the living conditions and housing adjustments in later life using data from the first retrospective wave of ITA.LI survey, a representative household panel of the Italian population. First, we describe the housing conditions of older adults (60+) living in private households, focusing on the characteristics of their spatial context (dwelling, location) and their family configuration (their household members). Then, we examine residential mobility patterns in later life and their association with individuals' characteristics. Results show that factors such as living in non-owned housing and residing in rural areas are associated with a higher likelihood of relocation, along with partnership dissolution and retirement. Additionally, higher educational attainment is associated with a greater probability of relocating. We discuss these results in light of the capacity to adjust one's own housing conditions to changing needs along with the ageing process.

You Could Use a Cup of Coffee! Recipients in the Home Care Sector in French-speaking Belgium

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For some years now, Belgium has been developing policies to keep elderly people at home. The authorities have made efforts to support the home care sector in a strong welfare state tradition. Public or semi-public structures (subsidised by the region) have been able to develop around a very broad and open concept of home care. People in need can use this sector, with the costs being covered partly by the beneficiaries themselves (depending on their means), but mainly by the public authorities.

From a theoretical perspective resulting from critical gerontology, the aim of our contribution is to understand the itineraries and experiences of home care recipients. As a first step, it aims to show to which extent the pathways of dependency that require recourse to assistance are crossed by gendered logics. In a second phase, a typology of the experiences of the assistance relationship will be developed to complete the analysis by crossing the dimensions of gender and social class. Sharing a cup of coffee with home care professionals is not neutral and can be interpreted from an intersectional perspective.

This contribution is based on a double quantitative (a survey of recipients with over 2600 responses) and qualitative survey of recipients of home care in French-speaking Belgium (20 in-depth interviews with recipients).

RN01 | T05_03: Work, Retirement and Ageing 3

Stuck Between Unemployment and Retirement: Negotiations of Age and Duty to Work in Early Exit Decisions

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Alongside extending working lives agenda, there is a growing need to better understand why and how a number of workers choose to exit the labour market early. Grounded in discursive gerontology, this presentation delves into the underlying norms and patterns that guide retirement behaviour near retirement age and inform us the right time to do things. Using qualitative longitudinal interview data from recently dismissed workers near-retirement age in Finland, this study explores how individuals choosing early exit position themselves between unemployment and retirement by drawing on age specific discourses. Findings show that being under the old-age pensions age, individuals feel morally accountable to explain their exit behaviour against the extending working lives agenda and duty to work. Although individuals were eligible for early exit, they did not see themselves as retired, but stuck in a limbo between unemployment and retirement, where exit was seen as the least problematic option for their age. Retirement then, could only be achieved by reaching the retirement age, and early exit was merely seen as a waiting room for the time being. This shows that age and age specific discourses play great roles in retirement decisions and exit negotiations. In addition, the results indicate that extending working lives agenda has succeeded in its efforts to create moral accountability for individuals unwilling or unable to continue working longer.

Changes in Social Fabric upon Retirement Transition

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In the workplace, individuals forge connections that often develop into enduring bonds. While previous research notes the impact of retirement on social life, ambiguity persists regarding the nature and direction of these changes.

Our study investigates retirement's impact on close social networks and social participation in organized group activities. We explore interactions between retirement and gender, partnership status, or region of residence. Additionally, we examine how reasons for retirement may elucidate changes in social interaction.

The research used fixed-effects estimates based on data from the fourth and sixth survey rounds of the SHARE-dataset. In the initial time point, our analytical dataset comprised, depending on the outcome variable between 6,118-12,922 respondents from 14 European countries.

Our results reveal subtle changes in both close social networks and social participation, relating to size, composition, and frequency of contact. The most consistent change, evident across sub-groups, is a decline in the presence of colleagues in close social networks. Conversely, great stability is observed in the proportion of relatives and friends, as well as satisfaction levels with the close network, highlighting the resilience of these relationships amid life transitions. Additionally, most sub-groups displayed heightened social participation when retired. However, men and individuals living in Southern and Eastern Europe exclusively exhibited a loss in relationships without compensatory developments. In contrast, partnered individuals experienced growth in both close networks and social participation.

Our research enhances comprehension of dynamics altered by retirement transition.

The Role Of Health In Retirement Planning Towards Extended Working Lives

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Decades of research have shown that health is a key determinant of labour force participation in later life. As the ageing global population necessitates extended working lives (EWLs) for broader economic sustainability, the importance of the older population for the labour market is emphasised. Understanding the role of health and health inequality across the life course is crucial for impactful policy development to protect the health of the older workforce and encourage participation in EWLs.

Using 100 interviews on risks and turning points in working life with older workers in Germany, Poland, Sweden, and the UK, this research explores the role of health as a barrier and facilitator of EWLs across the working life course. Drawing on policy and literature to contextualise our findings, this research reveals the role of health in retirement planning, including assumptions about health decline, impact on work, and the importance of partner's health. Health as a 'push and pull' factor is also explored, with good health both fostering labour market engagement and encouraging early retirement, while physical and mental health can be both positively and negatively impacted by work. Inequalities by sector of employment, gender, and education level are also explored, with all four countries facing a 'double bind' whereby the most vulnerable must work longer for financial security but are limited by poor health.

For future older populations to be healthier and more productive the current treatment-based European model of health care needs to be challenged with preventative policy interventions throughout the life course.

Regulating Ageing: Ageing Workforce Management through Collective Bargaining in Italy and the Netherlands

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Workforce ageing is one of the most critical challenges in contemporary economies. The work experience of workers over 50 has specific characteristics that may make the work less sustainable from different points of view. Our analysis focuses on the role of sectoral collective bargaining in supporting age management, i.e., human resource management policies with age-related issues as their primary concern. Our analysis focuses on the role of sectoral collective bargaining in supporting age management. We adopt a comparative research design by focusing on two Western European countries. We conducted a content analysis of Italy and the Netherlands' most representative sectoral collective agreements. We code all the voluntaristic provisions regulating specific dimensions of employee relations. The codes were grouped as representing an example of age management policy or targeting women, young, foreign, or fragile employees to weigh social partners' awareness of age management compared to other groups. We then conduct a netnography on social partners' communication on the most common social media (Facebook) to examine the prevailing meanings attached to older workers' and social partners' approaches to deal with the process of workforce ageing. We find that Dutch collective agreements specifically target older workers with several dedicated provisions, while Italian collective agreements neglect age management apart from a few exceptions focusing on early retirement. We assume that Italian unions perceive older workers as soon-to-be-retired. Unions focus on retirement-related services instead of collective representation on 'proactive measures' due to membership strategies. Indeed, pensioners unions have a pivotal role in Italian unionism compared with the Netherlands since retirees account for half of confederal union members.

RN01 | T06_01: Communities, Ageing and Ageing Communities

Ageing and activism: Co-creating spatial justice in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in Manchester, UK.

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Unjust geographies and power structures shape the ageing experience of many older communities in cities (Buffel et al., 2024). This paper explores how local activism led by older people can provide opportunities to affect positive change in response to inequalities in rapidly changing urban environments. In the context of inner-city Manchester (UK) that is affected by deprivation and gentrification, we focus on initiatives of older activist tenants that live in a high-rise social housing tower and their collective efforts to co-create a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) as a response to the challenges of ageing experienced in the block and neighbourhood. Originating in North America, NORCs are an alternative model to specialist housing for older people living in cities, where integrated services of support are clustered around the existing accommodation older people live, facilitating ageing in place. However, little is known about how NORCs can be developed in diverse, international contexts, or the ability of NORCs to address issues of spatial injustice or marginalisation. From insight gained through a co-production methodology, we explore how precarity creates multiple barriers to co-developing the NORC in marginalised communities, but also how activism provides opportunities for older tenants to generate resources and a sense of belonging. We argue that the NORC model's focus on place-based initiatives that prioritises older tenants' voices is an appropriate mechanism for more activist approaches supporting ageing in place, grounded in the view that tenants have the right to determine what ageing well means for themselves and their community.

The Self-managed Collaborative Housing (Cohousing): Singularities, Limitations, And Demands In The Spanish Case

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The objective of this communication is to analyse the expansion of collaborative housing for the elderly in Spain as a new space for the provision of care. This modality of

coexistence has re-emerged in Europe in the 21st century as an alternative for those elderly people who do not want to face their old age stage and the possible care that entails, neither institutionally nor isolated in their homes under single-family supervision, or through the acquisition in the market of a paid worker.

Through a qualitative methodology, based on an ethnographic work of case studies and in which the active participation of the people interviewed in the course of the investigation has been promoted (under the so-called paradigm of co-creation), this study analyses comparative ways several collaborative coexistence initiatives in different territories of Spain, thus giving strength to the spatial context in which they develop, as an explanatory dimension of their emergence. In this sense, the values that have set them in motion, their operation, relations with the surrounding public and private powers, and the possibilities of becoming public provision providers are studied. The theoretical approach is built through the feminist framework of care in the community and the common to find out the transformative potential of these initiatives in the field of democratisation of care.

Ensuring Age-friendly Communities: An Explorative Research Study On Kiyota's Ibasho Concept

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The current demographic transition to aged societies affects most of the world's societies and brings a range of challenges. Several aspects of life such as housing, financial situation or health-related issues urgently need to be addressed, rediscussed and reshaped. So, how can we ensure age-friendly communities? The Ibasho concept of Kiyota*, based on co-creation approaches, develops and creates (caring) communities directly with older adults that socially integrate and value older people. It refers to a place where one feels accepted and valued and feels a sense of belonging. Ibasho is implemented successfully in Japan, Nepal, and the Philippines. However, such concepts hardly have been researched and verified to date.

This applied research study aims to fill this gap by qualitatively exploring already implemented Ibasho. Extracting from empirical findings, the aim is to bring Ibasho to Switzerland and implement the concept in collaboration with a local project partner, involving older adults. Among others, we want to investigate how the concept works and what needs to be considered and culturally adapted when implementing it.

This paper is a reflexive review of Kiyota's Ibasho approach compared to (emerging) caring community approaches tailored to the specific group of older adults. It sets the outline for upcoming field research to explore in-depth the impacts of Ibasho on older people's well-being and their lives, and the use for creating age-friendly communities. We assume that participation of older adults in Ibasho will improve their daily life, their mental health and helps to strengthen social relations.

Theorizing Loneliness in Later Life – a Micro, Meso and Macro Perspective

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The aim of this theoretical paper is to chart theories of loneliness relevant for older adults through micro, meso, and macro-level perspectives and discuss to what extent they are complementary. Loneliness has been addressed across various disciplines, including psychology, public health, and social policy, all of which are explored in this paper. On the micro-level, intraindividual factors such as biological, developmental, cognitive, personality factors, and existence contribute to the understanding of loneliness among older adults. For instance, attachment theory purports to account for later-life loneliness. Moving to the meso-level, interpersonal networks and relationships play a crucial role in shaping the experiences of loneliness in later life. For example, the Convoy model and the Theory of Socioemotional Selectivity provide frameworks for examining the dynamics of social connections, emphasizing the impact of close relationships, social support and the reciprocity of interactions on loneliness outcomes for older adults. At the macro or societal level, structural and cultural factors come into focus. Welfare institutional arrangement, culturally-determined relationship expectations, socioeconomic disparities, and ageist attitudes within communities contribute to loneliness among older adults. Understanding the influences on loneliness from the micro-level to broader contextual factors is essential for developing comprehensive intervention strategies and informing policies. By synthesizing micro, meso, and macro perspectives, this theoretical study offers a holistic understanding of loneliness in older adults. Recognizing the interconnectedness of individual, interpersonal, and societal factors provides an urgently needed foundation to address the complex nature of loneliness in later life.

RN01 | T06_02: Diversity and Ageing

Unveiling Queer Aging Realities: Preliminary Findings from "Imagining Queer Aging Futures"

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The international project, "Imagining Queer Aging Futures," (PI: Linn Sandberg, Co-Is: Joanna Mizielińska, Agata Stasińska, Rebecca Põldsam) delves into the nuanced experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals aged 50+ in Poland, Estonia, and Sweden. The Baltic Sea region, facing one of Europe's swiftest ageing populations, represents a vital yet underexplored terrain for ageing research. Within this demographic landscape, the experiences of sexual and gender minorities, grappling with persistent discrimination and stigma, remain conspicuously overlooked. Previous studies, predominantly situated in Anglo-American contexts, underscore the vulnerabilities confronting ageing LGBTQ+ individuals. However, these vulnerabilities are intricately linked to the unique sociocultural contexts of the region, marked by variations in eldercare provisions, civil rights, and attitudes towards minorities.

This project aims to bridge the gap in knowledge by focusing on the ageing trajectories of LGBTQ+ individuals aged 50 and older in Poland, Estonia, and Sweden. Participants are encouraged to articulate their visions of liveable later lives by employing a qualitative mixed-methods approach—encompassing focus groups, individual interviews, and innovative visualisation methods. The study seeks to unravel the everyday practices and adaptive strategies LGBTQ seniors employ as they navigate ageing.

Drawing upon our preliminary findings, this presentation offers early insights gleaned from workshops and interviews with LGBTQ+ 50+ informants in Poland. Our discussion extends to methodological intricacies and recruitment challenges encountered in diverse Baltic Sea localities where the study is conducted. Inspired by queer and ageing methodologies, alongside the principles of public sociology, our study aims to contribute valuable perspectives on the needs and aspirations of ageing LGBTQ individuals in the Baltic Sea region, thereby informing strategies to enhance their wellbeing.

Dealing with Diversity: Views of Native-Dutch Urban-dwelling Older Adults on Neighborhood Characteristics for Well-being

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As many cities in Western countries undergo profound demographic transformations, the impact of superdiversity on the well-being of native populations, particularly older adults, remains underexplored. This study employs Q-methodology to unveil three distinct viewpoints among native-Dutch urban-dwelling older adults (>65 years) regarding neighborhood characteristics crucial for well-being. Analyzing responses from 28 participants revealed diverse perspectives represented by the viewpoints "well-equipped and connected," "afraid and frail," and "green and clean." Notably, the findings underscore the heterogeneity of older adults' viewpoints and emphasize the pervasive influence of neighborhood ethnic diversity. While participants did not overtly express a preference for homogeneity, discussions frequently centered on immigrants, linking their presence to various issues and highlighting cultural differences. The preservation of Dutch identity in the neighborhood emerged as a recurring concern. These findings stress the necessity for policymakers and scientists to recognize the diversity within this aging population, especially as aging in place gains prominence. The study underscores the nuanced relationship between neighborhood ethnic composition and well-being, urging a comprehensive consideration of ethnic diversity in future research, local policymaking, and urban planning.

RN01 | T06_03: Family and Ageing

Understanding Unmet Care Needs in Dyads: Spousal Characteristics, Gender, and Unmet Care Needs among Older Adults in England

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With the rapid population ageing and declining state-funded formal care, understanding the extent and causes of unmet needs for social care across different groups of older people becomes critical to both policy and practice in England. Although spouses are often heavily involved in care arrangements for people in need, most studies have focused on individual-level determinants of unmet care needs and few studies examine unmet care needs considering the interpersonal context. This study adopts a dyadic perspective, investigating how the risk of experiencing subjective and objective unmet care needs relates to spouses' socioeconomic characteristics, health, and caregiving behaviours; and gender differences in these relationships. Drawing on data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, we matched older people with information on their care needs and spouses using random effect modelling to account for the longitudinal nature of the data. The results show that older people whose spouses had more ADL difficulties or chronic conditions were more likely to experience objective and subjective unmet needs. The association between spouses' employment status and objective unmet care needs was gendered, with wives' engagement in paid work significantly associated with their husbands' higher risk of experiencing unmet needs. In caregiving couples, female care recipients had a greater risk of objective unmet needs when their spousal caregivers did not receive assistance. However, the relationship is reversed for male care recipients. The findings provide important insights into how European social care systems can be transformed to ensure the equitable distribution of care resources.

The Ageing of Divorce: Exploring the Causes and Consequences of Late Divorce

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During the decades following the implementation of the Divorce Law in 1981, statistics recorded a significant increase in the total number of divorces in Spain, and since 2006, this increase has stagnated. However, available data show that the number of divorces in people over 60 years of age is increasing at the same time as the number of divorces in younger population groups (under 50 years of age) is decreasing.The general objective of this thesis is to study the phenomenon of divorce in the Spanish population over 60 years of age, analysing its characteristics, causes and consequences. To achieve this, a mixed methodology is being used, combining different qualitative and quantitative methods. On the one hand, a quantitative methodology is being used based on a statistical analysis of various secondary sources containing data on divorce in the national and international contexts. In addition, an analysis of primary data obtained from a survey designed to ascertain the perception of the target population on variables of interest to the study will be carried out, which will facilitate the analysis of the social perception of the Spanish population towards divorce from the age of 60 onwards.

Preliminary results of the study show the multidimensionality of the phenomenon of divorce in general, but with some particular features in the older population and with large gender differences. Specifically, higher educational level, economic resources, and unstable marital biography increase the probability of divorce in older people.

Widows: How Can We Learn From Their Experience And What Can We Learn About It?

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This communication relates to the findings of a PhD research on female widowhood within the Portuguese context, where demographic and cultural factors make widowhood predominantly female, particularly in advanced age groups. As female widowhood is a complex phenomenon full of specificities regarding several dimensions of life, its analysis must be grounded on knowledge relating to social structures but also on the link between widowhood and other experiences – such as ageing – that both shape and are shaped by widowhood. It is a subjective experience that must be analysed in the light of other individual categories, as well as a process that is shaped by social and historical factors that interfere with the way it is personally experienced.

The weight of widowhood among the 65-plus population led to the conduction of interviews with widows from this age group, allowing us to explore the specificities of the older population in relation to female widowhood. To understand the experience of these women it is necessary to understand the positions they hold and the roles they play in society, as well as in the private, family and conjugal spheres – before and after ageing and the death of their partner.

Based on these widows' narratives, it is possible to say that the reality of older women is diverse and complex and that there is a clear need for an in-depth study about their place in society, framed by the country's social structures and linked to the social roles attributed to them.

Intergenerational Relations in Migrant and Non-migrant Families with Parents Aged 50 and Above – an International Comparison of Frequency of Contact

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Frequency of contact is at the heart of intergenerational relations within families, this holds for all families independent of migration status. We investigate the frequency of contact with parents as well as with adult children of adults aged 50 and above among the migrant and non-migrant families throughout Europe, analysing data from wave 7, wave 8 and the COVID-19 wave of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). In addition, we compare frequency of contact with parents and children during the COVID-19 pandemic with patterns observed before, assuming a decrease in frequencies of contact and an even stronger decrease among the migrant population.

While the frequency of contact is very high among parents with a majority reporting daily contact with adult children and also high among children aged 50 and above with a majority reporting contact with parents at least several times a week, results reveal that migrants aged 50 and above have slightly less frequent contact with their parents and more frequent contact with their children than the non-migrant population in Europe. As the groups did not change the frequency of contact behaviour during the pandemic, differences between the migrant and the non-migrant populations remained stable over time, a result of an increase in usage of video calls, messenger apps and the like. COVID-19 has challenged intergenerational relations, this holds for migrant and non-migrant families alike, but did not stop familial generations to communicate with adjusted means to keep contact.

RN01 | T07_01: Migration and Ageing

The Effect of Transnational Ageing and Volunteering on Social Trust

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Social trust is an element of social capital embedded within relations with strangers, reflecting the expectation of another's trustworthiness based on personal experience. Volunteering is often believed to build trust among fellow members of society by nurturing what Putnam calls bridging social capital.

This study aims to examine potential predictors of social trust, in terms of migration background (natives, the first and second-generation migrants), discrimination experience (age, nationality, ethnicity, race or colour), sociodemographic factors, and volunteering among 50+ population in addition to four country categories based on Active Ageing Index (AAI) 2018 scores. Data of 11 European countries with similar migration histories (n = 15045) from the European Social Survey wave 10 is used.

According to the final model of the hierarchical linear regression results (Durbin Watson= 1.976, VIF<10, adjusted R square = .142), the beta coefficients are high for, higher level of education, good health, and difficulty in perceived income. Among all variables considered, volunteering emerges as an important factor associated with social trust, even after controlling for other predictors.

Overall, our results suggest that residing in a European country that values active ageing, having higher socioeconomic resources and better health, and not experiencing discrimination by nationality or age positively effect social trust. Among the individuals in 50+ population, volunteering and age also demonstrate a positive effect. Based on our analysis, there is no significant effect of migration background and citizenship.

Civic engagement in later life is crucial for social inclusion. Further studies with a broader range of activities (e.g. active membership in associations) and categorising migrants by origin country can significantly contribute to our understanding.

The Quest For Security – Multiple Motivations For International Retirement Migration To Hungary

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The paper is based on 40 semi-structured interviews conducted in multiple locations in peripheral municipalities in

Hungary between March 2022 and November 2023 with older adults who migrated to Hungary, either from Western Europe or from Ukraine. The research employs the theoretical framework of international retirement migration while broadening the geographical scope of related research. Our contribution explores the multiple motivations and compares the strategies of older migrants from the East and West. The research delivers new data on a topic that has been overlooked in post-socialist countries such as Hungary and explores the peculiarities of the narratives of older adult migrants. Our data draws on the understanding of geographical arbitrage described by Haynes (2014) as „enable individuals to take advantage of historical structures of global inequality in order to offset the loss of financial security or to enhance material lifestyles in retirement." (Hayes, Matthew, 2014, p. 14). Based on the interviews, we could identify similar – mainly economic – motivations for migration. Our paper demonstrates how structural constraints and uneven development determine and reproduce existing hierarchies within the region in the case of older adult migration. Noteworthy is that that sense of security (with altering meaning) appeared as a narrative strategy in both groups, partly to conceal the economic reasons. Western European older migrants list ideological reasons for moving to Hungary, which they describe as secure and traditional. Migrants from Ukraine – overwhelmingly ethnic Hungarians – additionally point out their sense of belonging to the motherland.

The Role of Family in the Decision-Making of Elderly Japanese Women to Stay in Germany

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Germany is currently a home to about 2.7 million migrants of various ethnic groups and the proportion of elderly population with a migrant background is projected to increase sharply in the future years. Three categories of migration—labor migrants, retirement migrants, and return of labor migrants—are documented by previous research on elderly migrants in Europe. Less research exists on elderly migrants with German partners and their decision-making processes regarding life after retirement. This qualitative study delves into the decision-making processes of elderly female Japanese migrants in Germany, the largest destination country for Japanese migrants in the EU. The number of Japanese women living abroad has steadily increased over the last two decades, bringing them a new challenge: how best to age. How do they determine where to spend their final years? What kinds of influences play a role? The study is based on eight semi-structured interviews and one expert interview with a Japanese support organization for elderly migrants in Germany. Thematic analysis was conducted to discern common patterns and uncover new insights in the data. The findings highlight that a good relationship with a German partner and family plays a significant role for female Japanese migrants to decide to stay in Germany. This is reinforced when they are embedded in their local German communities. The analysis also emphasizes the role of language (communication competence) as another important element in the decision to (not) relocate. Ultimately, the research contributes to scholarly inquiry about migrants agency with a focus on retired migrants.

Experiences of Mobility Among Retirees Leaving Italy: Between New Cultural Models and Forms of Precariousness

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This paper aims to discuss the construction of new identities and cultural scripts linked to the ageing process. In a context where mobility and ageing have often been seen as opposites, what we see today with demographic and cultural transformations are other scenarios, including Italian seniors undergoing migration processes, as other european cases as the one of north europe (Sardinha et al., 2015, King et al., 2021, Gehring, 2019). Therefore, this study aims to discuss the migration preferences and motivations of Italian pensioners, their migration paths and the repercussions these processes have on integration and the perception of age discrimination. In addition, this work sought to understand how migration experiences redefine or help shape new meanings of ageing, those experienced outside the country of origin. The methodology chosen for this work was qualitative, through direct observation and semi-structured interviews with pensioners who had migrated to other countries (EU and non-EU). Some preliminary results will be presented from interviews (40) conducted in Portugal and Tunisia, which show how the migration process of Italian retirees challenges social definitions of age and life stages in different contexts. Furthermore, some preliminary results show that many interviewees report an improvement in their social conditions and lifestyles (especially those associated with physical activities and a good diet) that can be linked to the idea of active ageing.

RN01 | T07_02: Norms, Values and Images in Ageing

Ageing Bodies in the Culture of Cosmetic Surgeries: The Margins of Research Regarding Old Age and the Medicalisation of Beauty in Poland

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As societies age, the perception of the ageing body as the 'rejected body' – and of old bodies as 'problem bodies' – intensifies. The presentation focuses on the concept of the biosocial ageing body, analysing the ways in which older men and women construct themselves through cosmetic surgery and non-surgical procedures adhering to imposed beauty norms. The presentation is an attempt at reflection on older adults' beauty practices as a form of oppression, i.e. the disciplining of "vulnerable old bodies", and a dimension of choice, i.e. – a reflexive way for older men and women to manage their ageing.

The important part of this presentation involves the results of two research projects: 1) individual semi-structured interviews with 84 women and 74 men between the ages of 50 and 89 from Polish cities and the rural communities, 2) an exploratory qualitative study based on individual in-depth interviews with three plastic surgeons. The first study investigates how gender and age are manifested in perceptions of the role of one's own body and the degree of satisfaction with one's own physicality. The statements from plastic surgeons broaden the knowledge on the older individuals' attitudes to, and experiences of, aesthetic anti-ageing surgeries and technologies as well as the relationship between these practices and their well-being. The results of the studies suggest that it is possible to theorise about cosmetic surgery without constructing older men and women who engage in its discourses and practices as 'cultural dupes'. They can also engage in beauty practices as aesthetic entrepreneurs

Ageing Bodies In The Urban Space

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Discourses on active and successful ageing are based on neo-liberal economic ideology and, in focusing on individual responsibility for one's state of well-being, blame those who are unwilling or unable to conform to the ideal model of the active elderly person with an able body (Rubinstein and de Medeiros 2015; Stephens 2017).

Efforts to separate the ageing body from 'youthfulness' can also be read from a spatial perspective that distinguishes public and accessible space for active older people with a performing body, from a private – and institutionalised – one in which declining bodies are confined, whether these spaces are people's homes or residential facilities.

Elaborating on a qualitative research carried out with 17 individuals aged 65 or over and 18 key informants working in services for the ageing population in a Northern Italian metropolitan city, the contribution aims at reflecting on the relationship of older adults with their space of living, looking especially at the interrelations between the transformations of the urban space – at the neighborhood, block and house level – and the sense of belonging related to the concept of 'ageing in place'. The analysis shows that the city struggles to include ageing bodies, especially if the ageing process is not 'active' or 'successful', which can bring to a progressive social and spatial exclusion of older adults, up to the institutionalisation or the confinement in the private space of unfit bodies. Furthermore, it sheds light on the strategies that older adults put into play to make sense of such transformations in their daily routines.

Understanding and Centering 'Old Age' Normative Markers in Baltic States

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Vytautas Magnus university, Lithuania

The research field of life course predominantly focus on the demographic life events which are more related to transition from adolescence to adulthood, as it is significant point in time when individuals start or able to start their self-independent life. An in-depth understanding of life events of younger age is important as it provides with the understanding about wide range of macro societal and demographic changes in late modernity societies. However, the 'old age' is usually left as the last marker of post-adulthood sequence in life course trajectory.. The presentation aims to look what is the situation regarding the ageing visions in contemporary Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania by showcassing the most prominent/dominant images of life events in each country.

European social survey round 9 data of module "Timing of Life" provides us a comparative possibilities to look at the different ageing visions based on various definitions of ageing across Baltic states by basing on the concepts and insights of F. Billari, G. Hagestad, A. Liefbroer, and others. The presentation aims to reveal how Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians tend to distance 'old age' stage to the person who would be considered as entered the age of 'adulthood' and reached the 'middle age'; how wide is the differentiation between the definition of 'old age' marker and ideal age of retirement and the other normative deadlines to perform certain roles (i.e., to live with parents, become parent, have a job, etc.). Lastly, we would consider if these demarcations are related to certain value orientations by looking at S. Schwartz Human scale as covariates.

Perceptions of Elder Mistreatment: A Mapping Review of Existing Academic Research

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"Elder mistreatment" (EM) encompasses problematic, transgressive behaviour towards older people. This includes physical, psychological, financial, and sexual abuse, and neglect. Since the mid-1980s, this topic has also been researched in the context of lay perception. What is meant by EM? How congruent are the definitions of the population (and subpopulations) with those of science and politics? These and similar questions are addressed in the 65 articles compiled for this mapping review. However, the mapping review is less concerned with answering these substantive questions than with providing an overview of the research context and attempting to answer the following questions:

In which countries is this topic primarily researched? Which (sub)populations have been researched using which methods in order to record their perception of EM? Which types of EM have been at the centre of this research? In which years does this research occur? Are there any other peculiarities in these publications? Are there "trend topics" in certain years or countries?

This rather explorative approach serves as a kind of preliminary work to present the knowledge and gaps on the topic of perception of EM, so that my doctoral thesis can be conclusively linked to it. Therefore, there is no theoretical framework for this part.

A mapping review includes a systematic literature search with defined search terms and clear inclusion and exclusion criteria. This resulted in a corpus of 65 scientific articles published in the period from 1991 to 2022, to which the application of exploratory mapping refers. The results are presented descriptively.

So far there are no overview articles on this topic, so this will be my contribution.

RN01 | T07_03: Discourses of Ageing

Foucault Care Of The Self And The Status Of Old Age

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This paper draws attention to Foucault's 1981/82 lecture series on The Hermeneutics of the Self . These contain the only direct reference Foucault ever made to the topic of old age. In them, he observes how, in the first and second centuries of the Common Era, Greco-Roman philosophy shifted its emphasis from 'knowing thyself' to 'becoming one's self'. While these writers saw the practice of the arts of living as desirable at every stage of life, they considered them most effectively cultivated in later life, when the individual is least constrained by the subjectifications imposed by the world. Their focus upon the 'arts of living' was later replaced by what Foucault considered a 'rules of living' approach, evident in the early Christian church teachings, and later by the institutions of the state. Foucault's endorsement of the art of living in later life can in turn be contrasted with other modern thinkers who have perpetuated such 'rules of living' approaches. Set against Foucault's support for an aesthetics of lifestyle, writers working largely within an ageing studies/gerontology framework have advocated what might be called a public health endorsed agenda to age actively or successfully or have prescribed other morally desirable pathways for older people to develop integrity, self-realisation and/or bodily transcendence. Foucault's advocacy of an art of living in later life has been neglected by those using his work to emphasise the governance, rather than the freedoms of old age. Drawing attention to these overlooked lectures may help re-balance this view

Ageism and Age Logics in Social Policy and Social Work

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Age serves as a prevalent criterion in social policy, social work, and various human services. The inherent disparities associated with age often obscure the identification and interrogation of ageism. Conversely, some scholars posit that ageism, as a label for age-related differences, has become excessively encompassing. Moreover, instances exist where vulnerable individuals derive benefits from arrangements that may be characterized as ageist. This presentation endeavors to introduce the concept of age logics, an alternative and complementary framework. Age logics denote culturally embedded age-related reasoning employed to elucidate or rationalize specific societal arrangements.

To scrutinize the use of age logics in social work, this study draws upon data derived from investigations into 'wet' care facilities catering to older individuals grappling with

substance dependence and complex needs. The analysis discerns four distinct age logics associating chronological age with its connotations: (a) A logic of changeability, positing that individuals with an extensive history of substance misuse in their later years are uanble to change. (b) A logic of lifestyle, demarcating the active nature of the young from the sedentary disposition ascribed to the old within an institution for those over 50. (c) A logic of function, characterizing residents as prematurely aging, their bodies deemed worn out and thus necessitating elderly care. (d) A logic of administrative fit, where the alignment between a resident's chronological age and existing age limits justifies their placement. In the presentation we will discuss the potential use of age logics in research and practice.

Digital Inclusion and Ageism in Narratives of Age and Technology

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Accessing government services, shopping, maintaining social connections, most of these activities have transitioned partially or completely to a digital format. This has influenced a transformation of the life world of older adults, in which the ability to work with digital technology has become essential for full and complete participation in society. The influence of digital technology use on the construction of the ageing identity has received relatively little attention, especially when it is viewed from the perspective of the digital included older adult. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate how older adults use their digital technology to make sense of their ageing process.

A thematic analysis of 37 semi-structured interviews with Belgian older users found that they use digital inclusion tropes as a narrative device in their construction of their ageing experience. It shows that digital technology skills can be used to construct and transform their understanding of their life world. The sense-making itself often involves positioning their place within a digital society in opposition to those without digital skills. This results in a unique new form of ageism aimed towards those not skilled in digital technology use. The implication here is that digital technology and older adults create a new social ageing world that is only accessible for those with the correct skills. The influence of digital technology on ageing and especially on the social world of ageing needs to be better understood to ensure that no one is left behind.

RN01 | T08_01: Inequalities and Ageing

A Problem of Gendered Injustice? Objective and Subjective Poverty Among Older Women and Men Across European Welfare Regimes

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Using European Social Survey data, we study the prevalence of objective and subjective poverty among older women and men (60+ years) in 21 European countries. Objective poverty refers to whether one's disposable income falls below the poverty line whereas subjective poverty relates to the capacity to make ends meet. We analyze gender differences in these two dimensions of poverty and the role of gender as an explanation to these phenomena while controlling for other individual-level variables as well as the role of welfare state regimes. We find that older women are more exposed to objective poverty than men, and that female gender remains strongly and positively correlated with this kind of poverty even when controlling for other variables. Other individual-level variables, such as partnership, paid work and education curbs objective poverty, while the type of welfare regime does not matter. As to subjective poverty, on the other hand, there is no significant association with female gender, nor with the type of welfare regime, while individual-level variables such as subjective health, partnership, and paid work are negatively correlated with this dimension of poverty. Subjective poverty is somewhat more influenced by contextual factors than objective poverty although the type of welfare state regime is not significantly associated with subjective or objective poverty. Gendered poverty among today's older populations in Europe requires public attention as it not only may affect the overall well-being of older women but also becomes increasingly important due to the expected predominance of females in the aging demographic.

Are People with Higher Pensions Happier Than Others? The Link Between Life Courses, Pension Entitlements, and Well-being in Germany

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Life course trajectories have become increasingly important for retirement and pensions as recent reforms have strengthened the link between lifetime employment and old-age provision, introduced measures to lengthen working lives and increased the role of private supplementary

pensions. At the same time, life courses are increasingly fragmented due to diversified and discontinuous employment, family dynamics and migration. These developments raise concerns about the adequacy of pensions as well as socioeconomic and gender inequalities in old-age income, not only for current but also for future retirees. The connection between income and life courses has been examined many times from a structural perspective. However, how socioeconomic situation is assessed from an individual perspective is rather unclear.

Against this, using survey and administrative data of the German study on "Life courses and old-age provision" (LeA) for people aged 40 to 59, we analyze the interplay of (non-) employment biographies, old-age provision, and subjective well-being for various domains (health, work, income, housing). To examine what raises or lowers satisfaction, we consider – in addition to comprehensive life course information (e.g., full-time/part-time work, domestic work, unemployment) – different aspects of old-age provision: 1) the type of statutory, occupational, and private pension scheme, 2) the mix of different schemes (e.g., statutory pension insurance, civil servants and farmers pensions), and 3) the accumulated amount of pension entitlements. Finally, we include indicators of the actual socio¬economic position and further socio¬demographic variables (e.g., age, sex, partnership, parenthood, health, housing, region) to control for other effects in our multivariate models.

The Health And Social Care Divide in Sweden's 1992 ÄDEL-reform

Anton Petersson

Lund University, Sweden

In many national contexts there has been talk of a divide between health and social care (Glasby, 2003; Kröger, 2011). This divide is particularly evident in institutionalised care for the elderly. This practice can sometimes fall under the category of health care, addressing the medical needs of the elderly, or in other cases be characterised as a social service. In some welfare systems, this fluidity can have profound effects on the financing and charging of these services.

In Sweden, legislation implemented in 1992 decided that all former long-term hospitals should be converted into homes for the elderly. Administrative responsibility for these services was transferred from the health service to the social services. Doctors could no longer be employed in these homes. On 1 January 1992, 44,990 nurses and nursing assistants changed employers overnight (Landstingsförbundet, 1993). They no longer provided medical care for the elderly in the country's long-term care hospitals. Instead, their professions became part of the social services and they suddenly found themselves working in specialised homes for the elderly. Through the magic of a parliamentary vote, the same grey concrete complexes that had once been long-term care hospitals were transformed into homes for the elderly.

My dissertation aims to describe and understand this reform and to place it in a broader sociological context. What happens to a welfare service when it is decided that it will change from medicine to social care? For the ESA conference, I will be submitting a draft paper that focuses on deconstructing the argumentation and constructed rationale for the reform.

Does Caregiving Add To Already Existing Disadvantages?

Marco Albertini, Francesca Zanasi

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In ageing societies, the increasing quota of older and frail individuals creates unprecedented needs for care. Governments face the economic challenge of long-term care (LTC) policies that support older people with limitations in everyday activities.

All over Europe, care responsibilities for older individuals fall on the shoulders of family members, particularly partners and children, usually wives and daughters and daughters-in-law. The care load can negatively affect various outcomes, mainly psychological and physical health. Nonetheless, the socio-economic characteristics of informal caregivers remain overlooked by research.

In the present study, we aim to uncover socio-economic differences (regarding education, income, and wealth) in the probability of providing informal caregiving to older parents (and parents-in-law) in Europe, using the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE, 2004-2020).

Preliminary results indicate that there is a positive gradient between women's/households' socio-economic status and providing support to parents(in-laws); educational level appears to be the dimension along which differences in care provision emerge the most. Such provision is at low-intensity levels, and it may be offered as a complement to formal services that high socio-economic status individuals can afford to purchase on the market. A lower commitment to older parents(in-laws) can be experienced as less burdensome and be offered at the daughters' (in-laws) discretion. However, it emerges clearly that low-income groups compensate for lack of resources with co-residence with older parents, allegedly as a strategy to care for them.

RN01 | T08_02: Ageing and Sustainable Societies

Do Age Gaps Between Political Leaders and the Public Reduce Support for Democracy among the Young?

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Some recent research suggests that younger people may be less committed to democratic governance than older people. Why would the young support democracy less? In this paper, we propose that age differentials between political leaders and the general public may cultivate perceptions among younger generations that the political system is unresponsive to their preferences, leading to a perception of inefficacy in democratic representation. We test this argument in three ways. First, we use data from the World Values Survey to analyze whether younger people are particularly less likely to support democracy when the age gap between political leaders and the public is larger in their respective countries. Second, drawing on original survey data from Italy, South Korea, and the United States, we investigate whether dissatisfaction with democracy is more prevalent among younger individuals who perceive personal age-related disadvantages. Third, we use a survey experiment in the aforementioned three countries to assess whether priming the age gap with political leaders diminishes satisfaction with democracy among younger individuals. This research contributes to understanding popular support for democracy across age cohorts at a moment when popular politics is contributing to democratic backsliding in several countries.

Empowering the Future: Social Investment Strategies for Active Ageing in Lithuania

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The study is based on the understanding that the aging population has significant implications for the welfare states, many of them exceeded their capacity to meet welfare commitments. Social investment strategies could respond to a radically changed economic and social demographic order by providing individuals with the resources and skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world, it can help older people to stay active and avoid early retirement as well. Even though the social investment perspective has been discussed for the past decades, in current literature there is still a void of empirical evidence to explain how social investment affects older adults. Most empirical attempts to assess the impact of social investment focus on objective material socioeconomic conditions such as employment and poverty among working-age groups.

This study aims to examine the results of social investment for active aging. Within the social investment framework, there are three main policy functions of the modern welfare state; stock, flow, and buffer policies (Hemerijck 2015; 2017). The active aging model is based on the Health, Lifelong Learning, Participation, and Security pillars (Zaidi, 2015; Rojo-Perez et al., 2022).

To investigate the research question, Secondary quantitative data analysis was performed of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) wave 8 (Lithuania N = 1437). In the analytical phase, quantitative Principal Component Analysis and Cluster Analysis (SPSS 26). The results reveal different active aging profiles (low activity; moderate activity; balanced activity; and high activity). The first two profiles are characterized by bad aging conditions such as bad health, a large share of social benefits in income, and insufficient social investment interventions. The last two profiles are described by better conditions and confirm the positive impact of the social investment.

Social investment strategies could play a crucial role in creating an environment that supports active aging by addressing various aspects of an older individual's life, including health, education, employment, and social inclusion. These strategies aim to maximize the potential of older individuals and enable them to lead fulfilling and active lives as they age.

Silver Awareness Sustainability: Towards the Construction of a Checklist for Sustainable Development in an Aging Society

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The aging of the population poses significant social, economic, and ecological challenges that require the identification of factors capable of improving the well-being of the entire population from a perspective of generational, environmental, and consumption sustainability. The 2030 Agenda has established clear goals for Global Sustainable Development, considering generational differences.

Within the context of the Age-it project, which explores the consequences and challenges of aging, this contribution investigates key indicators supporting the awareness of the older population on sustainable development. The qualitative research, based on the consensus method using the Delphi tool, initially identified the main indicators found in literature, policy briefs, and national and international reports aimed at supporting the well-being and awareness of the older population in relation to sustainable social development.

Based on the collected data, the main areas of interest and indicators were formulated for the construction of a

checklist on Sustainable Development for the older population, termed "Silver awareness sustainability" (SAS). Both the areas and indicators were discussed by a group of 20 experts, including professionals, academics, healthcare professionals, representatives of political, associative, and volunteer groups. The objective was to define a tool that is: comprehensive, encompassing all relevant aspects in defining sustainable development for the older population, clear in the definition of its components, and immediately usable by policymakers, analysts, and interest groups. This contribution aims to present the initial results of the research, illustrating the outcomes of the participatory reflection on the definition of areas and indicators of the checklist.

Aging and Sustainable Tourism: a New Model of Tourist Coexistence

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Aging population can be considered both a success of public health policies and of socioeconomic development. But aging also constitutes a challenge for society, since the phenomenon of aging forces societies to change and adapt in order to improve the health and functional capacity of older people as well as their participation in society (World Health Organization, 2018).

Although aging is the result of human progress in terms of healthcare, quality of life and well-being, it also poses challenges in areas such as health, financial security and social inclusion of the elderly.

In this context, sustainable tourism can play a key role, since it can help to face the social isolation that an important part or the elderly are facing. By participating in tourist activities, old people can have the opportunity to interact with people with different ages and backgrounds.

This research aims to address a new concept of tourism model, in which sustainable tourism together with aging can merge into an alliance that can face a series of social and environmental challenges.

Through an active participation of old adults in experiences of sustainable tourism, we can foresee a new model of coexistence. The aim of this model is to achieve a balance between cultural and environmental preservation, social inclusion and the empowerment of the elderly.

In order, to do so we will develop a theoretical framework using the documentary analysis. On a second stage, we will study several cases of sustainable touristic experiences of old people. Finally, we will carry an analysis of those experiences with the use of a comparative analysis methodology.

RN01 | T09_01: Informal Care and Ageing 2

Resources Of Family Carers Of Elderly Relatives In COVID-19

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In ageing societies, the provision of elderly-care is an increasing challenge. The role of family carers is increasing as care systems become overburdened. Our online questionnaire survey (n=1004) of family caregivers of elderly relatives during the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020 was primarily designed to investigate the burden on family caregivers in Hungary. The other main focus of the research was the impact of caregiving burden on professional work, and therefore we analyzed the relationship between caregiving and burnout. The third dimension of our research is the impact of the pandemic situation on the caregiving process. In 2022, the research was extended: firstly, the online family carer questionnaire survey was extended and repeated with a larger sample (n=1760), secondly, in-depth interviews with family carers were conducted (n=20) and focus group interviews with employers were carried out (15 interviews with a total of 90 participants).

In our presentation, we will publish the findings related to the resources of family caregivers: respondents reported an increase in their existing burden related to the pandemic situation and faced several specific challenges. The increase in caregiving burden also had a negative impact on the subjective experience of the caregiver role. The presentation will describe the additional burdens experienced by family caregivers during COVID-19, what family caregivers drew strength from to carry the increased burdens, and what they needed to cope with the difficulties.

Our findings can provide important guidelines for supporting family carers, especially in coping with specific situations.

Social Heterogeneity in the Effect of Informal Caregiving for Older Individuals on Social Withdrawal

Francesca Zanasi, Marco Albertini

University of Bologna, Italy

All over Europe, care responsibilities for older individuals fall on the shoulders of family members, particularly partners (usually wives) – with negative consequences on a range of outcomes, including psychological and physical health, loneliness, and social isolation. Among these consequences, and a key factor in leading to other negative outcomes, is the phenomenon known as 'social withdrawal':

a withdrawal from social activities and relationships they previously enjoyed, following the time priority required by caregiving. Despite the extensive study of the caregiver burden, the socio-economic heterogeneity of its effects remains under-researched. Not all caregivers are equal, and we may expect the consequences of the care burden to be moderated by key individual/household characteristics connected with social stratification – such as education, income, wealth, and social class. In the present study, we aim to uncover socioeconomic differences in the probability and severity of social withdrawal among European informal caregivers using the Survey of Health, Aging, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE, 2004-2020). Operationally, we leverage health shocks experienced by the partner, such as heart attacks, strokes, and hip fractures, to estimate the effect of starting informal caregiving on reducing or stopping tout court to attend a range of social activities and meetings with close friends and relatives. We expect the effect to be stronger for more disadvantaged individuals, with limited possibilities to 'buy time for themselves' by purchasing services on the market. Preliminary, descriptive results confirm a strong social withdrawal effect of caregiving, even though it appears evenly distributed across the social strata. In conclusion, the present study advances our understanding of informal caregiving's multifaceted and heterogeneous consequences.

International Recommendations vs. Unequal Local Implementation of Policies to Support Informal Care of Frail Older People: Results from a National Programme for coordinating multi-level strategies in Italy

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A national three-year participatory multi-level programme to promote more comprehensive policies to support informal carers of older people with long-term care (LTC) needs is being implemented since summer 2022 in Italy. The Italian context is characterised by a regionalisation of care competencies that leads to strong regional inequalities and some resistance by regional authorities to State interference. The dramatic impact of the pandemic has radically questioned the validity of this approach, and an advanced proposal to reform the system is currently under discussion by the Parliament. This paper provides a state of art of Italy's regional policies for informal carers of dependent older people with LTC needs, via a secondary data analysis, expert interviews and a bottom-up consultation of main stakeholders involved in the current design of the nation-wide LTC reform. These policies will be analysed in the light of the main European recommendations on this topic. Starting from an analysis of regional differences in informal care policies (considering both dedicated laws and laws that indirectly deal with informal carers), key elements will be identified and compared with what main international recommendations provide for. Strengths and weaknesses of Italian policies will then be highlighted, in order to indicate the gaps on which regional authorities should work to improve supports for informal carers and to increase the overall quality of informal care, also combating policy inequalities in different areas of the country.

European Policies for Supporting Caregivers of Older Adults with Long Term Care Needs: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Review

Marco Albertini, Eva Bei, Federico Toth

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Background: In an era marked by the imperative to restrain costs within health and social care services throughout Europe, informal caregivers of older adults assume a pivotal role as primary providers of long-term care. Informal caregiving, however, often requires those who provide care to acquire information and skills; moreover, providing long-term care to family members may have significative negative effects on care providers' health. Nevertheless, there remains a shortage in mapping the various social policies pertaining to both direct and indirect support for informal carers across the various EU member states.

Objective: This mixed-method systematic review synthesizes data on care policies related to diverse support forms implemented across EU countries to assist caregivers.

Methods: A comprehensive search strategy was conducted in three electronic databases and grey literature to minimise publication bias.

Results: Preliminary findings of studies published between 2010 and 2023 indicate that various forms and levels of support have been introduced or reformed over the past 13 years across EU countries to support caregivers. Despite the challenges posed by population ageing, there is significant policy development disparity among EU members, with some countries to have established mechanisms aside financial assistance to support carers, while others to only now starting to express interest in developing such services. Financial support, primarily through cash-for-care schemes, emerges as the predominant form of assistance, followed by respite care, while other policies in terms of training and mental health services exhibit a notably lower level of development within the EU social policy landscape.

RN01 | T09_02: Experiences of Ageing

Age Self-identification: Reconstruction of Older People's Ideas About Age and Social Status

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Our paper is devoted to a preliminary analysis of how older people construct their ideas about old age and social status. We draw on the results of semi-structured interviews with people over 60 years of age (N=34). Preliminary results of our study indicate that elders have not developed a common understanding of the chronological boundaries of elderly and old age. In the assessments of our informants, the "beginning" of old age and old age is not associated with the moment the right to receive an old-age pension arises. In general, in their answers, our informants referred to discussions in the media about age limits and made attempts to "attribute" themselves to certain social groups. Also, from the point of view of our informants, the media has a responsibility to shape the image of an elderly person. It is emphasized that today the media show the image of an ugly old age: poor and sick. This significantly affects social status in old age and the (not) desire to identify with this socio-age group.

Older People Living With Early-Onset Motor Disability: Do They Perceive Themselves As Aging Successfully?

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Some approaches to successful aging (e.g., Rowe & Kahn, 1998) tend to set high standards to define certain ways of aging as 'successful', which may alienate some collectives, such as older people living with disability, from that process. The objective of this study is to explore what definition of successful aging older people living with disability have, and to what extent they perceive themselves as aging successfully. We interviewed 30 people aged 60 years or older (19 women, 11 men) living with motor disabilities for at least 25 years. Their definitions of successful aging contrast to the academic ones. They were focused on sustaining agency and assuring that their main life priorities were still accessible. The importance of relational and contextual (e.g., physical context, policies, social attitudes) aspects for successful aging were also highlighted. In participants' responses we found some adaptative mechanisms in which they ground their agency, such as reappraising priorities and expectations, selecting and designing accessible close living contexts or optimizing remaining capabilities. Such strategies are interpreted using adaptation theories. To conclude, most older people living with disabilities, despite recognizing their additional barriers and lower resources, perceive themselves as aging successfully, underlining psychological, relational and contextual aspects in that process.

"You're Only as Old as You Feel": The Role of Personality and Social Networks for the Subjective Experience of Ageing in Europe

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Although aging is a natural phenomenon, people perceive and experience this process considerably differently. The subjective age, indicating how old individuals feel themselves, has been highlighted as an important predictor of physical and psychological well-being in various research across different disciplines. However, besides socio-demographics it is mainly unclear which circumstances affect that some individuals feel younger than their chronological age and vice versa. Therefore, this study shed some insights in this phenomenon by investigating whether and how a discrepancy between subjective and objective age varies by individual, familial and contextual characteristics. Moreover, we contribute to the existing research and focus on the role of personality traits and individual social network, namely their composition and interaction, to analyse more detailed the patterns for the subjective experience of ageing.

The analyses are based on representative data for 28 countries from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). The data – conducted in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic (summer 2021) – are based on over 38,000 respondents aged 50+ and indicate that the majority of Europeans feel subjectively younger than their chronological age. On average, participants rated their subjective age approximately five years younger than they actually are. However, feeling younger but also older does not depend on socio-demographics only. In this vein, our multivariate analyses found, in addition to country-specific differences and pandemic-related circumstances, that a mismatch between subjective and objective age varies significantly by personal traits and is in turn affected – albeit different – by the availability of and the interaction with various types of social network members (e.g., children, parents, relatives, and friends).

Voiceless Older People: Source Analysis of News Reporting on Older People's Problems in National Quality Newspaper Through Five Parliamentary Election Years (2004-2018)

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In democratic societies the media serves as a key platform for public discussion for opinion formation and decision making. This function becomes particularly important during parliamentary elections, which decide who will address and tackle the challenges that the population ageing is linked to. While many authors have researched media representations of old age in newspapers, the literature on who is constructing news reporting on older people's problems is scarce. Source selection is important for the journalist's construction of related social problems because sources shape, structure, (re)interpret information and determine meaning.

We were interested in knowing who constructs older people's problems in newspaper reporting. We conducted a study in the Slovene national daily quality newspaper Delo, focusing on five sequential parliamentary election years between 2004 and 2018. Following a systemic selection process of news articles retrieved from Delo's internal electronic archive, we identified 124 newspaper articles reporting specifically on the older people's problems. We conducted a content analysis using a taxonomy model of news sources to identify source voicing older people's problems.

We found that older people rarely get to voice their problems or comment on issues directly affecting them rather the news coverage on older people's problems is predominantly constructed by elites. Particularly underrepresented are older women's voices, which can indicate the double jeopardy of older women. As newspapers are one of the key infrastructures for enabling political recognition, there is an untapped potential in news reporting on age-related problems for fostering older people's civic inclusion during parliamentary election years.

RN02 | The Sociology of the Arts

RN02 | T01_01: Gender in Art Practices and Music

"Blend" in Trans* Choral Musicking

Holly Patch

TU Dortmund University, Germany

This talk investigates what it means to "blend" in a trans* chorus, specifically following the gendered implications of this choral sound ideal. Drawing from ethnographic research conducted with the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles (TCLA), one of the largest and longest running outwardly trans*-identified choruses, I argue that, even in a chorus that prioritizes empowerment and celebrates diversity, blend is a technology that regulates bodies, selves, belonging, and exclusion. The first section of the talk will illuminate the structural component of this regulation: traditional choral performance practices where visual uniformity (arrangement of bodies and performance attire) underpins the perception of one collective voice also often regulate gender, for example. The second section closely examines the singers' perspectives and experiences singing within their voice sections in the TCLA and in other ensembles to show how the singers concomitantly use the notion of blending as a descriptor for how they relate to others in their voice sections and as a chorus in terms of sound, and to qualify gendered belonging and visibility. By focusing on what blending means to them, the chapter also sheds light on liberatory moments for the singers enacted by their choral singing practice. Finally, I address the limits and possibilities of blend in the case of trans* choral musicking, focusing specifically on social attunement and representation.

Is It Not for Fun? Work And Gender in The Jazz Scene

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Work is a dynamic and complex concept that has extensively been explored in Sociology as a field of knowledge. It is probably more complex to define when we refer to it as artistic profession, especially when the intent is to understand professional trajectories and social interaction dynamics which are part of the music scenes. Specifically, insecurity and job intermittency are characteristics of artistic work (Menger, 2011, 2016), but if we exclusively observe jazz professional practices, we can confirm that many of those present specific characteristics. The main aim of this contribution is to reflect on those characteristics to show how gender and professional practices interact with each other in the current jazz scenes. Those interactions make the definition of work not only more complex from a sociological point of view, but they also bring professional and personal experiences to light that must be analyzed from a gender perspective. Is the way of facing the risk and uncertainty inherent to artistic professions particularly determining women's professional trajectories in the jazz scene? Based on 42 in-depth interviews, this communication analyzes how women find relevant difficulties when developing professional practices in jazz. In short, this communication highlights that gender experiences must be considered to understand the artistic work development in the music scenes. Only embracing an inclusive and holistic perspective we could address present and future tensions, truths, and transformations that shake artistic work professions.

Socially Engaged Art between Radical Democracy, Statement Markets and Cancel Wars

Karen van den Berg

Zeppelin Universität, Germany

"Socially Engaged Art Between Radical Democracy, Statement Markets And Cancel Wars"

My contribution examines the role of socially engaged art projects in our current struggle for a new world directedness – epistemically, geo-politically and somatically. For a long time socially engaged art projects operated with an aesthetic of the provisional. They relied on Deleuzian "becoming", insisted on the intelligence of the many, pursued practices of solidarity and promoted care work. These presiding conditions have always had a certain proximity to a symbolic statement market. However, it is precisely this market that seems to contaminate more and more recent projects. A new logic of indignation, guilt and collective judgement is leading increasingly to withdrawal, de-platforming and jeopardising solidarity-based work. As such, this presentation presents projects that promote radical democracy, relevant to our times. Radical democracy assumes that social dissent, which has always existed, cannot be resolved. Therefore, one of the tasks of socially engaged art, in times of violent social upheaval, is to create new spaces for dialogue, provide infrastructures that make dissent visible, and its conditions bearable and liveable. Using the example of three projects in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, I will show which strategies institutions have developed for this. The presentation is based on interviews and field studies.

"It's Supposed to be Anti-all of the Bullsh*t That Happens Outside": Challenging Sexual Harassment and Inequality in Australian Music Scenes.

Freya Langley

Griffith University, Australia

In Australian music scenes, and indeed music scenes globally, women and gender-diverse people are critically underrepresented both on and off stage, and this is inextricably linked to broader societal patterns of patriarchal subordination and domination. Despite the promise of social belonging, resistance and alterity to the mainstream, there are clear inequalities within music scenes which limit women and gender-diverse peoples' participation. In Australia, women and gender-diverse people experience high rates of sexual harassment and violence in music scenes. The Australian music scene in 2024 does not appear much different to what Sara Cohen (1997) described of the Liverpool music scene over 25 years ago: men continue to dominate the relationships, activities, and networks within the scene, and this dominance alone works to exclude women and gender-diverse people from full participation, creative expression, representation, and safety.

However, music scenes are also significant spaces for forging and affirming identities and opportunities for cultural change and resistance. Recent grassroots developments in Australia highlight the transformative potential of music scenes. Women and gender-diverse participants in these scenes are increasingly challenging the structures that marginalise them through DIY and grassroots initiatives (such as the de-legitimation of male-dominated performance line-ups, statements of inclusion and action plans for patron safety at venues and events).

As Australian music scenes reckon with their #MeToo moment, it is important to consider the systemic barriers women and gender-diverse people face in order to forge a way forward. Drawing on ethnographic observations and interviews with women and gender-diverse participants in Australian dance and rock scenes, I will explore the ways women and gender-diverse people creatively challenge sexual harassment and inequality to transform these spaces.

RN02 | T01_02: Audiences and Consumption

Music Festivals, Organisational Artefacts Of Control And The Audience's Trust

Marcin Poprawski

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The aim of this research paper is to explore the theme of music festivals during and immediately after the pandemic period from the perspective of the concept of organizational symbolism (Strati 1998, 1999), with a particular focus on organizational artefacts (Gagliardi 1990, Strati 1998, Royer 2020) that served both to exercise power and control and to facilitate the trust and shared values of festival audiences. The empirical part of the material was collected during the qualitative research through over 50 individual in-depth interviews with two groups of respondents: the organisers and participants of 7 music festivals, and the experts of the festival scene.

This paper essentially concerns the festival as an organisational format and object of "planning" treated as a clear example of organisational symbolism. Of additional significance here are the circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis, which gave "planning" with its organisational heroism, the status of an even more complex and symbolically relevant activity.

The results of the research showed that the 'organisational artefacts' identifiable within a festival allow organisers to control the situation during concerts. This is exemplified by a wristband that identifies a person as being entitled to enter the festival grounds. However, this marking of the wrist of a festival participant also has other, symbolic meanings for the person wearing it. Artefacts, in material terms they enable, facilitate, or hinder organisational activities. On the other hand, artefacts influence our perception of reality, to the extent that they subtly shape cultural beliefs, norms, and values. Artefacts materialise the bond and trust between the audience and the festival.

Shifting Perspectives on Audiences through the Observation of Practices in Cultural Interstices.

Elisa Ullauri Llore

Aix-Marseille Université, France

By turning "audiences" in culture into a social fact, our approach reexamines the concept of "non-audiences". Through the observation of cultural and leisure practices of local audiences occurring in the spatial and symbolic interstices, this presentation aims to reflect on how this extensive regime of diverted uses shapes hybrid spaces and border audiences.

Can we speak of audiences for contemporary art when neighbors visit a contemporary art place for a neighborhood gathering? Or audiences for the Archives when they attend a Scape-Game?

By shifting the boundaries of categories used to define audiences and non-audiences in culture, using theoretical tools from the fields of cultural sociology, art, and reception, drawing on frameworks like Bourdieu's and considering indicators of cultural eclecticism, omnivorousness (Peterson, 1992), cultural rights, or recent categories such as "not yet public" (Girel, 2023), we propose to examine the broad spectrum of "non-publics" (Jacobi and Jason Luckerhoff, 2012).

To do this, we utilize the results of an audience survey conducted during the first edition of the "Biennale de la Joliette," led by the parliament, composed of around twenty cultural structures and community stakeholders, including residents and merchants who were entrusted with part of the programming. The event aimed to revitalize the social fabric of a neighborhood grappling with significant socio-territorial challenges. The urban redevelopment project of Euroméditerranée, envisioned this area as a cultural and commercial hub for the city, but cultural participation remains very limited.

By intersecting three relational dimensions—artistic competence, habitat activism, cultural rights—we identify three layers: parliament, neighbor programmers, and audiences. Thus, we propose to delve into the machinery of weak, discreet, or distracted uses of art and territorially embedded cultural offerings.

Performing Musical Multiculturalism: A Case Study of the Rap Duo Karpe's Impact on the Norwegian Civil Sphere

Ingebjørg Sofie Larsen

Norwegian Academy of Music, Norway

Alexander's Civil Sphere Theory (CST) conceptualises values of common humanity in modern democracies and how the inclusion of out-groups can be achieved. The Norwegian rap duo Karpe, comprising the rappers Magdi and Chirag, has endeavoured to broaden "Norwegian-ness" to include more mixed and multicultural identities over the past two decades. This article argues that Karpe's album "Omar Sheriff" (2022) pushed the Norwegian civil sphere in a more multicultural direction through a specific kind of audience fusion, comprising emotional identification and symbolic extension. This process depended on 1) the duo's position as national icons, 2) how intellectuals and critics (with and without minority backgrounds) negotiated this position and 3) Karpe's artistic and social performance on "Omar Sheriff".

The argument is grounded in a qualitative analysis of two datasets. The first includes all articles about Karpe and/or "Omar Sheriff" published in Norwegian legacy media between Jan 2022 and April 2022 (n = 92), supplemented by selected social media discussions on "Omar Sheriff" from the same period. The second dataset comprises Karpe's artistic work, specifically "Omar Sheriff" and its associated discourse, encompassing press releases, a documentary, and selected award speeches.

A narrative analysis inspired by Alexander (2006) is employed to map the civil sphere discourse, and a performance analysis inspired by musicological methods from Auslander (2021) and McCormick (2006) is employed to examine Karpe's social and artistic performance. Beyond its empirical contribution to Norway, this study offers insights into the potential impact of music on national civil spheres, bridging sociological and musicological methodologies.

Towards A Comprehensive Understanding: Mapping Concepts of Audience Experiences and Engagement in the Cultural and Creative Experience Sectors

Eirini Tsitse, Izabela Derda, Ellen Loots, Susanne Janssen

Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Netherlands, The

This paper conducts a comprehensive mapping of the concepts of audience experiences and visitor engagement within the cultural and creative sectors and industries (CCSIs), focusing specifically on the experience sectors as categorized by NESTA (Flew, 2012). Employing a systematic literature review, this research aims to delve into the evolution of concepts relevant to audience experiences which is particularly crucial especially in the context of emerging technological applications. As cultural participation has been a predominant research topic in audience studies during the last decade, ranking as the 3rd most popular theme based on of arts marketing articles in 2007-2016 (Walmsley, 2019a), little attention has been given to phenomenological research necessitating a comprehensive mapping and understanding of the topic and related concepts.

In response to the call for "defragmentation" of phenomenological studies advocated by scholars like Martin Barker and Kristy Sedgman (Walmsley, 2019b), this systematic review endeavors to synthesize the (co-)evolution and empirical dimensions of concepts. Moreover, recognizing the heightened expectations for personalized and controllable art experiences by audiences/visitors (Kemp and Poole, 2016; Novak-Leonard and Brown, 2011), the paper delves into multiple concepts linked to the term "experience" as it becomes evident that various sectors use the term differently while it consists of the main intangible output within the context of the creative experience sectors. Unraveling the distinct opportunities and limitations inherent in each concept becomes pivotal for adapting to the evolving cultural consumer expectations and aims to provide valuable insights to both researchers and practitioners in the field.

RN02 | T01_03: Inclusion, Diversity and Participation (I)

The Sociology of Art-based Research Methods: Music As a Tool to Include Underage Migrants in Europe.

Alix Didier Sarrouy

Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

The Sociology of the Arts has mainly based its research on two methodological paths: history-based sociology (White & White 1965; Moulin, 1967); ethnography and contemporary document analysis-based sociology (Becker, 2010; Faulkner & Fred, 2017; Hennion, 2015; Menger, 2002). The discipline has more recently been influenced by art-based research methods (Leavy, 2019; Pink, 2015), in which the processes and results of artistic productions are being used as research tools to approach the complexities of the interactions between all the involved actors at micro and macro-levels (Sarrouy, 2022).

Based on a research project titled "YouSound – Music education as an inclusive tool for underage refugees in Europe" (2022-23), in which I have been the Principal Researcher (www.yousound.eu), I will analyse some of the possibilities and complexities when using art-based research methods in the specific context of young asylum seekers in two music programs: the Swedish Dream Orchestra (Gothenburg); the El Sistema Greece (Athens). Daily music learning and playing have served as research contexts, in which the relationships built around musical instruments, repertoires, classes, and concert settings reveal the nature of the social interactions between all the social actors, including the powerful macro and invisible ones (i.e. the State; national and international laws).

Finally, I will analyse some of the assets and risks (namely ethical) when applying art-based research methods in studying the use of music education for the social inclusion of migrant youth in Europe (Lenette, 2019; Mienczakowski, 2018; Nunn, 2020; Vougioukalou et al., 2019).

Visual Art And Practices Of Creative Subversion In The Public Sphere

Lia Luchetti

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Recent research has highlighted the performative nature of the arts and the social and cognitive effects of the arts for the identity formation, the body representation, the social transformation (Hennion, Grenier 2000; Tota, De Feo 2020) and the power of the arts on social structures (Gaupp et al. 2022) and in educational settings (Tota, De Feo 2022). Different forms of art, such as visual art on which this paper aims to focus, can become resources that people use in everyday life for constructing meanings and shaping social experience (DeNora 2011). Emphasis will be on "artivism", i.e. the use of art to mobilise people and to express demands for social justice in the public sphere (Danko 2018; Trione 2022). Within this framework, this paper aims to explore the ways in which art – as arts-in-action (DeNora, Ansdell 2017) – can affect the public discourse. The focus will be on the relationship between artistic practices realised in the context of culture jamming and brandalism (Allgajer 2020; Lekakis 2017) and social imaginaries, with regard to the components involved in the processes of signification. Starting from this approach and using the methodology of qualitative interviews with Italian subvertising activists, we will discuss the capacities of artistic practices to turn into symbolic devices capable of challenging, for example, ethnic and gender stereotypical representations (Tota et al., 2023) and contributing to articulate concepts such as democracy, equality and social inclusion in the public discourse.

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The art museums and expectations of Gen Z

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The art museums are institutions that are undergoing a profound transformation. They are being transformed from institutions based on the concept of the object-centred museum into institutions based on the concept of the client-centred and/or community-centred museum (Gurian 2010). This direction of change is the result of a fundamental reflection on the social functions of the museum and the nature of the relationship with the social environment and the need to implementation of accessibility policies.

However, these activities aren't fully satisfactory. It is worth noting that art museums enjoy very little interest from generation Z, who are an important segment of the cultural public, because they will determine the situation of museum institutions in the future. Hence, it seems that art museums should better prepare themselves for the expectations of this audience segment.

The aim of my speech is the presentation of the results of a qualitative study conducted among representatives of generation Z in Krakow and Opole (in Poland). The issues of this study focused on the way in which representatives of generation Z perceive the offer of art museum institutions and on the identification of directions for desirable changes that could make these institutions more permanent and attractive to them. Conclusions formulated based on the study allow us to identify areas and directions of change, and their implementation in the museum environment may encourage representatives of this generation to take a greater interest in the offer of art museums.

Perspectives On The Impact Of Artistic Interventions. Observations From Fieldwork Within A German Activist Choir And Orchestra

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The article examines the perspectives on the impact of artistic interventions within the practices of artistic-activist collectives. Drawing on fieldwork conducted with the German activist collective Lebenslaute that integrates civil disobedience and classical music, the study explores the contested notions of impact, embedded in internal and external legitimization and poetic and political programmatics, of a specific intervention – the blockade of a military air base while performing music.

Guiding the analysis is the research question: How do distinct expectations regarding the impact of artistic interventions manifest within the Lebenslaute collective's practices, and how do these expectations relate to explicit and implicit ideas about art's societal function? The theoretical framework adopts a practice-theoretical understanding of society, wherein societal structures materialize as meaningful interpretative patterns and implicit knowledge within cultural practices. The investigation of art activist practices yields insights into renegotiations of the relationship of art and politics, since ideas about art and its societal role are part of artistic-activist practice as implicit knowledge, while the practices at the same time performatively alter cultural structures, in this case the relationship of art and politics.

Methodically, a combination of ethnography, predominantly participant observation, and situational analysis is employed. The latter, as a form of grounded theory, seeks to generate theory from empirical research. For this reason, no predefined hypotheses are formulated. Preliminary findings indicate impact to be a strongly contested concept within the group, manifesting itself among two main axes of conflict: aesthetics vs. politics, and (prefigurative) practice vs. goals. Motives behind the groups activities are subtly inscribed into the group's practice rather than openly discussed.

This research addresses a gap in theory and art sociology, where emphasis on reception dominates the study of the relationship between art and politics, and questions of impact are not a major concept of interest. As aesthetic and creative practices are becoming increasingly ubiquitous in late capitalist society, the need to legitimize arts as politically relevant grows. This study aims to capture these shifts at the level of concrete practices.

Note: I have not participated in an ESA Summer School before.

RN02 | T02_01: Inclusion, Diversity and Participation (II)

From Intensity to Social Engagement. Sociology of the Arts and Refugee Involvement in Participatory Art

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In the present study, we will trace the trajectories of creators who participated in the Blind Platform artistic project (2016). The main purpose of the artistic action was to intervene in refugee crisis and to creatively empower a group of refugees who were accommodated at Eleonas Camp (Athens). In the beginning, a cross-cultural, multidisciplinary residency for refugee, local and international artists was created (Volanakis, 2016). Following the residency, a sustainable supportive network was grown.

A qualitative survey was developed and in-depth interviews were conducted with 3 refugees and 4 local artists (2021-2). Interviewees' social and cultural background was investigated and also their trajectories in education, employment, and participation in organizations or collective bodies were traced. Their interaction and cooperation in the art residency was examined (expectation, participation, possible outcome). Participants described their route in the project as a passage from tension to collaboration and engagement.

The research project was enriched by sociological and art theory approaches to art producers (Bourdieu, 1993 & 1996; Becker, 1982; Elias, 1993; Heinich, 2004), collaboration/ participation (Becker, 1974; Sennett 2012; Goffman, 1972; Dezeuze 2010; Bishop, 2012), and the concept of the stranger (Simmel; 1908, Wood; 1934, Park; 1928, Schutz; 1944, Bauman; 2016).

The qualitative research followed the approach of Discursive Psychology through the ten stages in the analysis of discourse (Potter & Wetherell, 1987; Phillips & Jorgensen, 2009). In data analysis, we used shift of pronouns and interpretive repertoires, to elaborate the participators' narrations.

Illustrating Dissent: Visual Analysis of 2013 Gezi Protests

Selen Sarıkaya Eren

Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy

One of the results of the amplified visuality of social movements in the last decade has been the increased use of illustration as protest art. Illustration has been an understudied genre both in art history and social sciences despite its commonness. The recent literature shows that such graphic protest art can undercover motivations, identities, emotions, and cognitive experiences in social movement research. The 2013 Gezi Protests in Turkey was one of the first events in the country's history where protestors individually created illustrations and shared them on social media as a way of showing support. Although these illustrations have not been ignored by scholars, they have not been the focus of a systematic analysis either.

This paper will analyze the visual expression of the 2013 Gezi Protests in the illustrations, focusing on the creation process, the protestor figures and visual narrative. It will employ an innovative and interdisciplinary methodology called three-step visual analysis. The undertheorized category of illustration will be discussed and conceptualized with the introduction of nascent Illustration Studies. The paper aims to contribute to the visual analyses of social movements by analyzing the highly visual case of Gezi; to further develop the newly emerging three-step methodology by introducing conceptualization and insights from the Illustration scholarship; and to contribute to the wider discussion regarding the art of social movements in Turkey.

Semanitcs of Participation in Art – How Participatory Art Protects Employ Diffeernt Modes of Collectivity for Social Critique

Alice Neusiedler

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Participatory art practices have become increasingly popular to foster social change by involving those actors, who's situation they attempt to change, empathizing art's potential to disrupt habits of perception and the potential to reimagine social orders. However, the inclusive potential of such projects has been contested, and participatory projects have been criticized for exploiting participants and diminishing artistic potential for change when they give up artistic autonomy from other fields, studies in other fields – form social work to organization studies – placed much. Both, hope and critique, have convincing arguments. Yet, we still know little about different semantics of participation at play and the mode of social critique.

To explore this tension of hope and critique in participatory art projects, I investigate which narratives of collectivity and related modes of social critique contemporary participatory art projects discursively employ. Acknowledging the performative character of visuals to (re-)produce "cultural ideas of difference" (Swan 2010, 83), I draw on visual data from 84 participatory art projects, such as official project pictures, projects description on artists websites, and online reviews of art projects, which I analyze with Visual Situational Analysis (Clarke 2006) and with the analytical lens of Reckwitz' (2020) concept of singularity.

I show that contemporary participatory art projects lean on four main semantics: (1) Sharing competences; (2) Providing infrastructures; (3) forming environmental actors; and (4) Forming new collective bodies. I will argue how each of these semantics relates to different narratives of social critique and modes of organizing these semantics engage with.

Sensory Approaches, Arts and Sociology: a Path to Inclusivity

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The intersection between art and sociology is particularly interesting in the methodology. As Back and Puwar note (2012), the methodological boundaries between disciplines are eroding. Aural sociology is well established in Canada and the UK, in Spain it is seen as a venture into the Arts instead of a hybrid approach between Sociology and Art. Hybrid methodologies combine aural, sensory and/or corporeal methods, emotional cartographies, focus groups, interviews and more traditional qualitative methods. Combining Sociological with Artistic methods can enable a methodological ecology that visibilises social transformations processes from a perspective rooted in the diversity of bodies and ways of inhabiting.

This article, reviews sensory approaches and artistic aural methodologies arguing how artistic aural methodologies are key tools to warrant an equitable research process including and visualising the variety of social realities and participation of social actors. Integrating the Arts in Sociology is to highlight a focus on participation. It enables diversity and diversely functional individuals and their relationships to social life to be made visible and play an active part of the research from process to results. This coporeal approach can make research more accessible to several collectives with diverse functionality and, as such, it is an equitable and inclusive path to social research. Hence it's a path to inclusivity and social transformation. This article concludes with an argument for the inclusion of sensory and artistic practices in our sociological research to be active contributors in social equity and represent society inclusively.

RN02 | T02_02: Inclusion, Diversity and Participation (III)

Live Fast, Die Old. Experiences of Ageing in DIY Creative-Music Scenes

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Globally, over the last decade, a broader cultural fabric has gained traction, with a DIY ethos that has been a source of new forms of (artistic) music scenes and their derivatives: video, street art, design, and illustration. The fact that the producers of these scenes have not just grown up with punk or indie rock but have grown older with it has challenged conventional readings of youth culture, which has become more focused on lifestyle. The participation of older generations goes beyond the delay of youth transitions; it doesn't reflect a refusal of adult obligations, nor is it confined to emergent adulthood. Several producers have continuously participated in punk, rap, EDM, indie-rock, and other cultural scenes well into their forties and beyond. These encompass not only producers (i.e., artists), but also a range of different activities related to the cultural and creative ecosystem, whose DIY musical scenes have been the leitmotiv: design, illustration, journalism, digital arts, and management. The fundamental aim here is to systematise the lifestyles in these composite cultural scenes poured into cultural/creative experiences translated into the body, fashion, and style; mirrored in family relationships, parenting, gender; experienced in careers; and materialised in practices, discourses and patrimonial and mnemonic objects. The methodological basis of this chapter is centered on the data analysis of 15 in-depth interviews with key actors of the scene over 50 years old conducted between 2018 and 2022 in Portugal and Brazill.

'Cultural Ecosystem' As Tool For Researching Alternative Cultures – Potentials, Limits And The Question Of 'Another Black Box'

Robin Kuchar

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Since the beginning of the 2010s, the notion of cultural fields as ecosystems has been increasingly gaining popularity – especially in terms of cultural policy and creative industries analyses (Holden 2015), but as well within research on urban (live) music cultures (Behr et al. 2016; v.d. Hoeven et al. 2020). While cultural ecosystems so far have primarily been understood as an integrative perspective for identifying beneficial factors and to emphasize aspects of social and cultural value creation, at the level of a more detailed theoretical understanding, the concept still appears little elaborated and 'black boxed'.

In order to initiate a more theory-based discourse, this paper critically discusses opportunities and possible ways of how cultural ecosystem might be a valuable approach to further conceptualize alternative cultural production and in which way the historical use of ecological language in social science and humanities might be helpful for this. Against the backdrop of growing complexity and multi-layered facets and spaces within the spheres of cultural production and distribution, the conceptual base of 'cultural ecosystem' will be further traced by also taking a closer look at its current weaknesses and blind spots.

As an exemplifying case of applying 'ecosystem' and alternative cultural production, the relationship of 'music scene' and 'cultural ecosystem' will be explored by questioning different aspects of compability and combinability. In which way the scene perspective might be a valuable approach to further conceptualize music ecosystems? Can scenes be considered as more or less self-reliant entities or 'biotopes' within a greater 'music ecosystem'?

Audience Development as a Resilience Strategy for Arts Organizations: Talks Before and After an Arts Event

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The approach of developing the audience of art organisations acquires special importance in the context of financial, security, and the COVID-19-caused crisis. Data from monitoring of cultural consumption in Latvia show that pre-pandemic art consumption behaviour patterns are renewed only for a small segment of the active consumption audience. In our research audience development solutions are viewed as part of the resilience strategy of arts organisations, which is aimed at creating new relationship models with the audience. The 2022 audience research revealed that the period of restrictions on in-person events created not only "longing" for art events and excellence in artists' performances, but also deepened the sense of solidarity and empathy between artists and the audience, which was strengthened by negative emotional experiences.

We put forward two research questions: 1) check whether performing arts organizations, when developing strategies for the resilience, use new forms of dialogue between organisations, artists, and the audience; 2) based on case studies of theatre organisations, analyse pre – and post-performance talks as a tool for reducing mutual emotional, cognitive, physical, and status barriers, and for expanding the range of the audience. The theoretical basis of the study is the analysis of types of resilience strategies (Woodley et al. (2018), Frigotto et al. (2021), Nieuwborg et al. (2023)), where special attention is paid to transformational changes in the relationship between art organisations and the audience. Qualitative research design – case studies, analysing the experiences of state and privately funded theatres – is used in the empirical part. Reflexive in-depth interviews (N12) with audience representatives and artists, as well as participant observation of "before" and "after" conversations, were used as data collection methods.

"We want to improve upon the culture that's been built": The Transformative Potential of Scene-based Initiatives for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Safety in Live Music Spaces

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In popular music, it is common to conceive of aesthetic innovation as originating at the 'grassroots' level of local scenes, and then filtering upward to the industry. What about social innovation?

Music industry leaders have increasingly recognised and committed to addressing chronic inequalities based on gender, race, indigeneity, sexuality, and disability. However, much of this is yet to translate into action. The recent (and longer) history of scene-based cultural change may offer leadership from the bottom at a critical juncture for equality, diversity, and inclusion in Australian music. Recent developments in small-scale, DIY/DIO and underground/alternative live music spaces in Australia highlight the transformative potential of these spaces. These developments include: gender and racially diverse event programming; acknowledgment of and engagement with local First Nations communities; statements of inclusion and action plans for patron safety at venues and events; staged and sliding-scale pricing, including waivers for particular groups; and exclusive events and spaces. These initiatives range from informal to formal, and from symbolic to material.

Drawing from the presenters' adjacent, ongoing ethnographic research in Australian music scenes, this paper details observations and interviews with participants – including patrons, musicians, event promoters and venue operators in dance and rock scenes – about the above changes. We consider sources of motivation and information; outcomes, experiences, and feedback; challenges, limitations, and lessons. We seek to gain a better understanding of cultural change in action, as well as considering how such change may or may not succeed, endure, and filter upwards in music industries.

RN02 | T02_03: Art Fields (I)

What About the Arts? Exploratory Results on Private Support for the Arts and Corporate Social Responsibility in Portugal

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In contemporary times, especially in Europe, a widespread narrative about the need to increase the private support for the arts has gained visibility and even some commonality. This is not only a result of cultural policies retrenchment (the welfare state in general) under neoliberalism and the various economic and social crisis. That narrative has been generated around the idea that the private support for the arts should be more than just a complement of the state: as the arts are, in general, considered part of our collective benefits (common good), some collective responsibility for their existence and sustainability is acknowledged. Additionally, widening the support for the arts to private companies would be, in this sense, a demonstration of those benefits, or, in other words, a contribution to the positive value of the arts and the artists, as well as a means to accomplish their social responsibility.

Nevertheless, private support for the arts is far from going towards being a generalised practice (or should we say, 'a generalised intention', instead?), especially outside the legitimated field, i.e., the publicly supported arts (including the public sector of arts production). Beyond this well-known and longstanding situation, research is still scarce to understand the reasons behind it.

We developed an exploratory research aiming to contribute to the understanding of why the arts remain so distant from the contemporary practices and discourses of corporate social responsibility.* We will present our main results, based on a sample of different artistic organisations and private companies that were interviewed.

* Arinto, I.L.A.L.B (2023). What about Arts? Private Support and Corporate Social Responsibility, Master in Management, University of Porto, Faculty of Economics, av. at https://hdl.handle.net/10216/155881.

What is Alternative Film Exhibition and What it Does? A Statistical Analysis of the Portuguese Case Between 2007 and 2022

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Film exhibition is the most fragile segment of the cinema industry circuit. It is highly dependent on market forces, which is not new and has been complicated by the development of streaming platforms, eventually compromising the accessibility of alternative cinema, as well as theatrical screenings. The pandemic brought new challenges into this scenario, putting pressure on alternative exhibitors (mainly film societies) to programme and attract audiences. They are essential in providing diversity in supply, screening national and non-national films that otherwise would not meet the potential audiences.

We have been investigating NCE as part of public policies for film exhibition in Europe (Santos & Miranda, 2023)*. A statistical analysis of selected results of the database of the Portuguese Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual, between 2007 and 2022, will be presented, focusing on a set of variables that will allow significant insights on the exhibition practices at the local levels, as well as their evolution over time. We will analyse the main aspects of the subfield's performance, identifying several of its driving factors. The effects of the pandemic will be highlighted.

* Santos, H. & Miranda, M. (2023). Disentangling economics and culture in European policies for cinema: what can we learn from Portugal and non-commercial exhibition?, International Journal of Cultural Policy, 29:6, 733-751, DOI: 10.1080/10286632.2022.2109628.

A ''Connected Lives'' Perspective On Art and Money : The Case of Istanbul's Art World

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This research aims to analyze the complex intertwinements and mutual transformations of the art and market worlds, characterized by presumed disparities in their value systems and operational mechanisms, by focusing on Istanbul's art world. The artistic field in Istanbul has been transformed and restructured by the neoliberal economic policies that have prevailed in Turkey since the 1980s. With the state's withdrawal from the areas of culture and art, new economic actors have become effective and visible in the production, the distribution and appreciation of contemporary art in particular. The artistic field cannot be solely reduced to the ''external'' struggle among various actors for dominance as described by Pierre Bourdieu. It also has an internal

dynamic structure that is shaped and transformed by the interactions, both conciliatory and conflicting, among the network of actors. We asked in which contexts the intertwining of these two worlds leads to tensions, as well as in which contexts these tensions dissipate and the two worlds are reconciled by the artists. In this regard, Viviana Zelizer's ''connected lives'' perspective will enable us to fully grasp and understand the dynamics of the transformation of the art world and the economic world in the context of Istanbul. We will conduct exploratory research by carrying out semi-structured in-depth interviews with the economic actors, the artists who have been supported by those actors and the curators as intermediaries.

Success in the Field of Art – a Relational Survey of Craftspeople and Designers Socioeconomic Positions

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This paper will examine the socioeconomic positions and conditions for craftspeople and designers in Denmark (Baldin & Bille, 2021; Bille et al., 2017; Peters & Roose, 2022). Craftspeople and designers are cultural producers who produce artefacts which have the potential to become art if they are consecrated in the field of art (Alexander, 2018; Rössel & Weingartner, 2015). Because of the precarious position of both the artisans and their work, this paper will examine how the relational position in the field of art affects the acceptance of artefacts as art (Heinich, 1996). The paper builds on a survey of 3.561 correspondents supplemented by register-data. By mapping the field of craftspeople and designers, using multiple correspondence analysis (Le Roux & Rouanet, 2010), this paper examines their working conditions as well as how they perceive their own position in the field of cultural producers (Abbing, 2002; Bourdieu, 1996; Menger, 1999). The paper is also interested in the distinctions within the field between different disciplines (Luckman, 2020). The paper finds that the field is highly stratified with a creative elite, who excel at creating and selling their work as art, as well as receiving state grants. The majority of the field is made up of struggling artists who rely on working grants and jobs not involving their own practice. Unlike other artistic fields, this field is also occupied by artisans who distance themselves from artistic qualities and instead attribute value to their craftsmanship (Becker, 1978; Sennett, 2008).

RN02 | T03_01: Theorizing the Arts

Alternative Perspectives On The Social Organization Of Art

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From the 1970's onwards, a vital sociological interest on arts and culture has been raised. One can speculate about the multiple reasons for this renewed interest in the sociology of arts but what is commendable is the diversity and plurality of the variety of theoretical perspectives that all have tried to answer one central question. How do contemporary societies organize various artistic activities from production to distribution to consumption, including valuation and archiving? Putting the focus on "how" implies references to formation and institutionalization but also to transformations and unforeseen and unintended ruptures. This question explains why the sociology of arts, and especially theories of the social organization of arts, are closely connected to general social theories. This insight has motivated us to analyze and compare the shaping and reception of seven particular sociological perspectives on the social organization of arts. These perspectives are the interactionist approach of art worlds, the structural field theory, the systems theory of arts, the production of culture perspective, neo-institutionalism, cultural institution studies (inspired by practice-theory and pragmatist approaches), and sociological network theory. What do they have in common, where do they deviate from each other? All these approaches depart from an anti-essentialist understanding of arts and apply contextual and relational thinking. They have emerged from very different theoretical foundations and scholarly contexts. Our analysis and comparison will not be evaluative – creating a ranking of theories – but epistemological, which presupposes an appreciation of each distinct perspective aiming to advance the understanding of theory building and theoretical innovation in arts sociology and in general social theory.

For a Sociology of Aesthetics in the Contemporary Art World

Guillaume Sirois

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Most sociological studies on visual contemporary art are conducted at the infrastructural level (institutional formations, power dynamics, career trajectories, etc.), consciously avoiding deep discussions on works of art and aesthetic considerations. Such orientation can be explained historically, as the sociology of art first needed to distinguish itself from other disciplines, mainly art history, which typically concentrates on the artwork as its primary object. This paper follows recent academic literature (Highmore, 2019)

that calls for a reconsideration of this division, or even an "aesthetic turn" (Olcese & Savage, 2015) to open a new space for the sociology of arts and culture. This perspective invites to study the "social life of objects", and more specifically, its aesthetic dimension as a central component of its production and reception. I argue in this paper that the perspective is particularly fruitful in the case of contemporary visual art. All too often, contemporary art is accepted as a given category by sociologists studying this world, therefore reconducting a form of exceptionalism that is prominent in this social formation. By contrast, an examination of the category, based on aesthetic considerations, would open a space to probe how creative processes are influenced by discussions with various players (Becker, et.al., 2006) and ultimately curbed by aesthetic expectations dictated by the demand (Witkin, 2005). As contemporary art has become increasingly global, it may also bring a new perspective of understanding to the local/global dynamics at play in this world, as local practices are inevitably influenced by international aesthetic standards.

Studying Cultural And Artistic Production Through Infrastructuring: A Conceptual Exploration

Marthe Nehl

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Witnessing the omnipresence of the notion of infrastructure across disciplines, this paper sets out explore its current use and future potential for the study of arts and cultural production. A tentative literature overview shows a tendency that infrastructure in arts and culture (and cultural policy) accounts primarily for buildings and to some extent, digital platforms, but is limited to being a 'material' object of study. The infrastructural turn though, and with it the suggestion to think through infrastructure as a verb, opens to explore the social in relation to the material and entangled complexity through which the crucial question of the possibility of cultural production may be posed. Thinking in terms of infrastructure (i.e. asking for the systems and operations that are generative for the phenomena under study) allows us to study cultural and social phenomena systematically as achieved and not as given." (Meyer, 2023, p. 49). Scholars in cultural organization have pointed out, that cultural production always also organizes, or in other words, it involves the arranging of people and objects in space and time, always generating knowledge, building relations, and sometimes opening possibilities for future production. The analytical concept of infrastructure promises to be more agency-inclined and time-sensitive than 'structure', but more structured than ecological perspectives and more directed than networks. Whether and how working with infrastructuring as analytical approach helps to address phenomena like precarity as one consequence of longstanding hierarchies and inequalities remains to be explored.

The Art World and the Art Dimension

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Involvement in the visual arts has many faces in the contemporary scene. There are diverse roles and strategies available to the professional and a range of social functions involved.

The authors – practitioners themselves – conduct their field study in the cities of Budapest, Hungary and Barcelona, Spain, and pitch the findings against a constantly shaping theoretic framework developed by them throughout these years.

In the present paper, we bring insights from the respective art scenes about the changing dynamics of mainstreaming, periphery and marginalisation within the art world, and the fluid borders between the art world and lay audiences in light of the multifaceted strategies.

The goal of the present investigation is to test candidates for a theoretic framework that can embrace these diverse phenomena as a unified dimension within society: what would be the elements of such a framework, how it could be explanatory for past and present transformations in the social world in relation to phenomena of art, and how it could speak to the current situation in a meaningful way.

We will highlight tendencies synthesized from an ongoing longitudinal interview study to present the approach we propose in action.

RN02 | T03_02: Anti-racism, post – and de-colonial perspectives

Understanding the Values of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in British Arts Organisations

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This paper draws insights from two case studies of arts organisations – Gasworks in London and the Nottingham Contemporary in Nottingham, England – which have been particularly active in promoting the values of 'equality, diversity, and inclusion' (EDI). The presentation covers some important initiatives undertaken by these organisations to provide context, and then turns to questions of how arts organisations understand 'EDI', how arts organisations evaluate the initiatives they undertake relative to such values, and the implications of these findings for publicly funded arts organisations.

In the United Kingdom, organisations funded by Arts Council England must attend to EDI issues as a condition of funding. The research, therefore, asks specifically how arts organisations understand EDI, both in general but also relative to public funding. Further, the study investigates how these organisations evaluated their EDI activities. The study finds that there are externally driven, internally focused, and co-created forms of evaluation in both organisations. Tensions emerge across evaluation systems. The paper considers the implications of these findings for cultural policy and for evolving understandings of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Rubiane Maia's deriva [drift] between the body-territory in the Global South

Sofia Sousa, Paula Guerra

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This proposal intends to present a visual and content analysis of the art project entitled Divisa, by Brazilian artist Rubiane Maia. Focussing on this artistic creation and drawing on the renewal of contemporary creative experiences in the Global South, our main objective is to demonstrate interconnected aspects of this innovative/creative project, such as the accentuation of symbolic and historical-social landmarks that, in turn, restrict a territorial drift. Thus, the concepts of border and 'crossings' are mirrored, represented, and contested by the artist in states such as Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais, in Brazil. In addition to reflecting on these concepts, we also intend to establish theoretical-artistic connections with notions such as body-territory, displacement, and art-place, as well as with the concepts of resistance and memory, taking as our starting point a process of re-signifying the lived experiences of connection between the human body and the body-territory.

Towards a Conceptual Framework of Cultural Justice – A Normative Turn in the Sociology of Arts Inequalities

Tal Feder, Emil Israel

Technion, Israel

In the field of sociology, cultural inequalities have been thoroughly examined using descriptive and explanatory frameworks. However, these inequalities have seldom been analyzed within a normative context. This paper introduces a theoretical framework for studying justice in the field of art and culture engagement, which we term "cultural justice." Focusing on the arts-related aesthetic domain, we consider three forms of cultural engagement: consumption, creation, and education and develop the notion of cultural justice as an expression of social justice characterized by the unique ways art is embedded in the cultural dimensions of social life. The proposed framework builds upon two theories of justice. Sen and Nussbaum's capabilities approach highlights the observable and hidden dimensions of cultural engagement, focusing on people's actions and the conditions that facilitate or restrict them. Fraser's dual perspectivism approach complements the capabilities approach by differentiating between tangible and intangible levels of justice related to cultural engagement. Combining both approaches, we construct a holistic model of justice for the culture and art domains and demonstrate its application in the context of cultural consumption.

Creative Spaces as Sites of Radical Possibility for Re-imagining Policing

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In this paper, we explore the possibilities afforded by arts and creative spaces as sites of radical possibility for a re-articulation of policing, in its broadest sense. In doing so, we draw on our extensive body of empirical work exploring policing through creative practice. As part of this research, we partnered in 2022 with the Coventry Belgrade Theatre, first to commission and share a new play drawing on the themes of our critical evaluation of the West Midlands Police partnership with the Coventry UK City of Culture. And, most recently, to co-construct a project with several schools which offers a space for pupils to explore their own experiences and understandings of policing – both by the police as a force, and by other state and non-state actors. In this paper, we draw on insights from the 'affective turn' across diverse sociological and legal fields (e.g. Fortier 2016; Zembylas 2021; and Bergman Blix and Wettergren, 2018) to centre emotion in our analysis, asking how these creative spaces might operate as sites of affective power

within and through which those involved might begin to 'think otherwise' (Carlen, 2017). In doing so, we consider the generative possibilities within these spaces to disrupt existing power dynamics and to contest and rearticulate policing, community, safety, and care.

RN02 | T03_03: Critiques and Disruptions of Power in the Arts

Critiques and Disruptions of Power in the Arts – Transnational Co-Creation and Collaboration as democratic practice

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The contemporary time can be described as time of multi crisis. Issues of sustainability, political insecure times and global pandemic. The insecurity of possible futures worries a whole generation and evolve in right wing movements and (re-)building walls all around the world, as Wendy Brown described in "Walled States, Waning Sovereignty". At the same time, however, we are witnessing growing solidarities that stand against these drastic and widening inequalities, from small-scale neighbourhood projects to, on a global scale, the Black Lives Matter and the #MeToo movements. The acceptance of cultural organizations is also further called into question by decolonial perspectives, which expose the persistence of neocolonial and Eurocentric power relations in culture. The presentaion intends to take these developments as a starting point for collective engagement with the pressing questions they entail. The presentation will be committed to both voicing critiques of power in the field of arts and culture as well as to discussing "ways to do it otherwise" based on transcultural co-creation groups while understanding processes of power and inequality as inherently interwoven. Four project examples of "ways to do it otherwise" will be given and analyzed. For example the ITI Academy, which is an exchange and qualification programme for emerging transnational working artists and curators consisting of various formats. All these "how to do it differently" projects provide interesting results which lay bare the intervened lines between cultural, political and social background of the individual participants and co-creation and collaboration as democratic practice.

Cultural Activism and Eurocentric Power Relations in Cultural Diplomacy

Meike Lettau

Zeppelin University, Germany

The presentation analyses solidarities, disruptions and hegemonic structures between cultural activism and Eurocentric

power relations played out in cultural diplomacy. It investigates existing narratives and places the neo-colonial top-down policies of international funding organisations, such as the Goethe-Institut, in critical contrast to the self-positioning of cultural activists from the so-called partner countries which are often working based on self-generated structures and methods. By using examples from Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia the presentation discusses the topics of the ESA conference – tension, trust and transformation – as well as current challenges of transcultural cooperation between Europe and the WANA region (West Asia-North Africa).

Starting from the position of a cultural activist arguing "The funders need us, we do it anyway", the presentation investigates shifting narratives in cultural diplomacy in the framework of democratization as well as re-democratisation processes. These processes are considered as part of a decolonial and power-critical approach, which is fundamental for democratic change as a bottom-up process starting from civil society.

The research is part of the project 'Tawasol – Cultural Production and Policy Network' (https://www.zu.de/lehrstuehle/cultural-media-policy-studies/news/tawasol-network.php) which investigates socio-political dimensions of artistic formats between the WANA region and Germany. Artists and cultural activists have contributed to democratisation processes in many countries of the WANA region, created forms of exchange and dialogue, and thus have a relevant effect on shaping society through artistic production and international cultural collaboration.

Challenging Powerful Institutions in the Cultural Field

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It is now commonly acknowledged that we live in times in which radical global inequalities continue unabated. Also in the cultural field, the structural divide along lines of discrimination, sexism, racism, classism, ableism etc. has become even stronger and more evident. At the same time, however, we are witnessing growing solidarities that stand against these drastic and widening inequalities, from small-scale neighbourhood projects to, on a global scale, the Black Lives Matter and the #MeToo movements.

The planned paper presentation intends to take these developments as a starting point for engaging with the pressing questions they entail. It will be sketched how power laden social and cultural institutions govern how things are handled in the cultural field and which strategies of solidarity challenge such hegemonic institutions in the arts. The discussion will be committed to both voicing critiques of power in the field of arts and culture as well as to problematizing "ways to do it otherwise" while understanding processes of power and inequality as inherently interwoven. In a sociological understanding with a praxeological reading, institutions are understood as symbolic orders and practices that form a framework for how people communicate and interact with one another linked to and based upon certain individually assigned cultural meanings. It will be shown how, if a cultural institution is imposed on someone else from a more powerful position, this can, for example, lead to or justify discrimination, ideologies and inequities. In parallel, unlearning powerful cultural institutions can be a way of not only voicing critique but also of challenging unequal power relations in the cultural field.

RN02 | T04_01: Carreers and labour conflicts in the arts

Facing multiple crisis: Employment precarity and coping strategies of Performing Arts and Entertainment professionals in Greece

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In the Greek context, as in other countries, creative sectors are among the most affected by the pandemic crisis, bringing to the surface structural problems that these sectors have long been facing. In Southern European countries such as Greece, which have experienced almost a decade of the aftermath of the financial crisis and austerity policies, creative workers seem to be living in a state of continuous crisis. Drawing from the first results of a nationally funded research program (Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation-HFRI) on "Labour Precarity and Social Cohesion: The Case of the Cultural & Creative Industries (CCIs)" the proposed paper focuses on the core CCI of Performing Arts and Entertainment – an industry that encompasses a complete and multifaceted ecosystem of cultural and creative professions. Based on the findings from qualitative research through an array of research methods (ethnography, focus groups, and semi-structured interviews) and the analysis of institutional changes/reforms (desk research) during the multi-crises especially on employees/workers' collective protection the paper will examine: a) the ways employment in the Performing Arts and Entertainment sectors and professions are (re)shaped within 'crisis-scapes' and the main parameters affecting employment and working conditions whilst also accelerating precarization b) the strategies of individual workers and collective organisations (unions, emerging grassroots practices etc.) to resist/respond to the predicaments of the Performing Arts and Entertainment sectors and to tackle precarity and exclusion c) the obstacles and challenges of the institutional attempts to (re) regulate the highly unregulated labour markets of the Performing Arts and Entertainment sectors. Emphasis is given on core professions within the Performing Arts and Entertainment sectors, such as actors/actresses, musicians, and dancers.

Innovation and Adaptation: Contemporary Street Art in Contemporary Social Crises

Anna Garbaruk

European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia

This study focuses on street artists, their creativity and their innovative strategies for adapting to evolving social landscapes, including legislative amendments and sociocultural shifts. The study aims to explore the ways street artists solve problems and bring new elements to the city's art scene.

The central research question concerns the techniques and methods used by street artists to adapt to social changes, including the introduction of new regulations and increased penalties for unauthorized art. On the one hand, the study focuses on the specific methods that artists use to adapt to legislative changes. On the other hand, it explores the impact of the working environment on street artists, especially in the context of immigration or relocation. The empirical field includes street artists from Russia, as well as curators, researchers and gallery workers who directly interact with the artists.

The study contributes to a deeper understanding of how street artists are embedded in sociocultural dynamics from a cultural and social perspective. The presentation will highlight insights gleaned from interviews with street artists and exhibition curators, and offer a unique perspective on the adaptive strategies used by artists who began making street art before 2018, engaged in significant unauthorized work, and continue to shape the evolving landscape of urban art.

Music Careers And Cultural Policies. Considerations Based On The Independent Music Scenes Of Lisbon and Porto

Ana Sofia Oliveira

Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

Music and, more broadly, culture have become part of the political agenda. In different contexts and on different scales (international, national, and local), it is common for political discourse to associate them with creativity, urban development, and tourism. Multiple social actors recognise the importance of culture and music for the regeneration and revitalisation of urban areas, for improving the quality of life and promoting the well-being of populations, and for the social and economic development of local communities. Based on this framework, this communication focuses on the Portuguese case, analysing the independent music scenes in Lisbon and Porto. We seek to understand the place of culture, and specifically music, within the framework of local cultural policies and how these are related to the development of musical careers. To this end, we analysed data collected through 80 interviews with different

actors in the music world and political players in the cultural sphere. Our analysis suggests that although the importance of (independent) music for cities is recognised, its translation into cultural policies is questioned or several shortcomings are pointed out. These are essentially anchored in the lack of knowledge about the independent music sphere and the working conditions of musicians and others involved in the music world.

RN02 | T04_02: Careers and labour conflicts in the arts II

Culture, Commerce and Crowdfunding: Artists' Experiences of Crowdfunding and Surviving the Covid-19 Crisis in Japan

Takao Terui

Xi'an Jiatong Liverpool University, Japan

Recently, cultural crowdfunding came to be spotlighted as an emerging funding instrument to collect micro-donations from supporters more efficiently. However, research on cultural crowdfunding remains limited. This paper aims to make an original contribution by studying the impacts of cultural crowdfunding in Japan and the voices of performing artists and representatives of cultural organisations. In exploring the recent trends of cultural crowdfunding in Japan, this paper applies mixed methodologies, including interviews with artists and members of cultural organisations, document analysis covering national newspapers, art magazines and public documents, observation of symposia and online events and a questionnaire on performing artists. To examine the artists' attitudes and approaches to cultural crowdfunding, this paper employs theories of justifications proposed by Boltanski and Thévenot, specifically contrasting values of the inspired world and market world. Drawing on the research on cultural crowdfunding in Japan, this paper broadens the understanding of artists' policy and the roles of public aids for the culture in the post-pandemic society. This paper significantly contributes to the scholarship of the sociology of the arts and creative industries by bringing two new perspectives. First, this paper broadens our understanding of crowdfunding in the creative industries by investigating artists who are severely critical or intentionally distance themselves from the practice of crowdfunding. Second, this paper is the first academic writing featuring cultural crowdfunding in the Japanese context. This exploration of the development of the creative industries in Japan has demonstrated how locally structured beliefs and policies can activate or hinder crowdfunding in the cultural sector.

Different Career Trajectories in Different National Contexts

Andrea Csaszni Rygh

University of Stavanger, Norway

How are we to understand different artistic career trajectories? While previous research on artistic careers has mostly been oriented towards reasons for entering an artistic career and presenting individualized explanations for enduring precarity as an artist, less attention has been given to the role of social communities for artists' choices and experiences of exiting or staying in the art world over time.

There has also been little research comparing artists' careers in different national contexts. This paper is oriented towards understanding how artists in two different national contexts, Hungary and Norway, understand their artistic career trajectory and artistic identity in relation to aspects such as precarity and social communities. The data consist of 40 life story interviews, 20 from each country, with visual artists who have committed to an artistic identity through arts education and in professional life. In terms of comparing national contexts special emphasis is put on how different degrees of economic precarity in the two countries affect career choices and possibilities, but also how such difference may influence artists' sense of what is required to assert to an artistic identity. The analysis focus on the social world of the artists, their own descriptions and understandings of their career paths, choices, and what the idea of social communities means to them.

Negotiation and Recreation in the Careers of "Folk" Musicians in Portugal in the 21st Century: The Case of Medieval Fairs and Historical Recreation Events

Pedro Belchior Nunes

INET-md, NOVA-FCSH, Portugal

In this paper I will address the practices and values of musicians within the particular universe of rural folk music, taking as a case study their involvement in historical recreation events in 21st century Portugal. I will address this topic based on a set of semi-directed interviews, carried out with musicians within this universe as well as onsite observation. Theoretically I sustain my approach on a critical and sustained dialogue with the notions of artistic worlds (Becker, 1982) and DIY music production modes, proposed by several authors over the last twenty years (Bennett 2018, Guerra 2018, Haenfler 2018, Haynes & Marshall 2018, Tarassi 2018, Threadgold 2018, Schmidt 2019, Jones 2021). I start from the previously claimed assumption (Nunes 2023) that folk musicians opt, out of necessity rather than ideological imperatives, for DIY modes of musical production, but without fully adhering to a corresponding ethos and maintaining institutional connections through state support and organizations such as city halls. I will argue that the idea of musician independence commonly advocated in studies on DIY music production modes is constantly negotiated by folk musicians since the constraints of the subfield in which they operate force them to navigate between institutional commitments and, at least partial, control of the means of production. We invoke historical recreation events with a particular focus on medieval fairs as a case study that highlights a negotiation stance, involving moments of commitment and resistance on the part of musicians, in relation to the event producers and the public's expectations.

Sociology of Music and Qualitative Methods in Contemporary Perspective

Barbara Jabłońska

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, Poland

People's musical practices are an exciting and important area of sociological reflection. So how can we study them, especially in the context of the changing nature of social reality, new technologies, globalization, and the mediatization of society? The paper aims to present selected methodological perspectives and qualitative research methods in the field of studying people's musical life. Therefore, the subject of consideration will be a review of the most important qualitative research methods concerning the research field of the sociology of music. First, the so-called sociological-auditory approach will be discussed (see Jabłońska 2016). Next, research methods such as observation (including online observation) will be characterized. Emphasis will also be placed on qualitative analysis of musical discourse and discourse on music, including in particular critical discourse analysis. The issues of narrative analysis and multimodal analysis in research on people's musical lives will also be discussed, especially in the context of online discussions (Internet forums, social networks). Multimodality will be shown here as a combination of audial, visual, and linguistic modes. Musical netnography and the study of musical-discursive narratives will be characterized. The whole discussion will be guided by Christopher Snow's assumption, according to which music is a process and something that is produced in interpersonal relationships.

Finally, the question will be posed about the future of research methods in sociology, especially in the context of hybrid music practices, artificial intelligence, and multimedia communication, in which the diversity of communication intertwines.

RN02 | T04_03: Creativity and its discontents

Doing Creativity – in the Field of STEM

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Creativity is commonly associated with the arts as a means of self-expression. However, it has become crucial in many other areas. The ideal of creativity has permeated the dominant sectors of postmodern culture and their working practices as a dispositive. In STEM, creativity is recognised as a key factor for innovative solutions and technological advances in our increasingly sustainable and complex world. It is a key skill for future engineers to navigate complex tasks and problems. But beyond technical innovation, the individual's creative impulse lies in the quality of connecting to the self. The joy of creative doing leads to a sense of an autonomous, self-efficient individual. Experiencing one's own creativity can enhance self-efficacy. The result is greater motivation and thus greater interest in the subject. Thus, this can lead to a clearer sense of purpose and belonging. The aim is to highlight perceptions of creativity as an important determinant. Encouraging positive experiences of creativity could support sustainable labour market integration and future career success, by leading to higher levels of job satisfaction and commitment as well as self-awareness. Accordingly, this research focuses on exploring different manifestations, perceptions and meanings of creativity and its inherent consequences in STEM. To gain further empirical insights, data from a mixed-methods study is collected using narrative interviews of students and employees, as well as a questionnaire with young professionals of mechanical and plant engineering. The aim is understanding the stimuli of creativity, as well as its framing, conceptualisation and negotiation as a social, cultural and historical phenomenon within the field.

Innovations in contemporary art, from Becker to Baudrillard

Lorenzo Pardi

Gabriele d'Annunzio University, Chieti – Pescara

Based on Howard S. Becker's Art Worlds (1982), this proposal aims to analyze the transformative role of artistic innovation within street art. The central research question seeks to understand how artists operating on the fringes of the art scene contribute to the modification or creation of new aesthetic worlds, specifically examining the interplay between institutional structures, grassroots expressions, and the assimilation of new artistic forms.

The ability of these artists, including Bansky and Shepard Fairey, to modify or even create a new aesthetic world is related to the figures involved in the institutional and production chain. In this sense, Becker's work is expanded with a reference to Jean Baudrillard's text, The Symbolic Exchange and Death (1976), in which the author argues that the aesthetic system tends towards 'indefinite reproduction' and the incorporation of new artistic forms from grassroots origins

Our research employs a comparative analysis between two distinct forms of street art expressions: the grassroots-driven graffiti and murals versus municipally initiated 'City Walls.' We aim to elucidate the radical need for affirmation that arises from below in the former, in contrast to the top-down approach in the latter. Through an examination of works, such as Banksy's "Love is in the bin," a transposition of "Girl with Balloon", we unravel the transformative processes at play, transcending the original street context.

The main results of our study reveal a nuanced understanding of how street art innovators navigate the tension between institutional structures and grassroots expressions, shaping contemporary aesthetic preferences. By establishing an opportunity to link Baudrillard's insights and Becker's sociological framework, in a broader context of sociology of art applied to new forms of creative enterprise.

We're all Alone In This Together: Grime Music As Theoretical Toolkit for Navigating Elite Spaces As A Working-Class Student

Éireann Attridge

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My love for Grime and UK rap, along with my dedication to access and widening participation, appeared to find a perfect union when artists Stormzy and AJ Tracey created scholarships to support Black students at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. However, this music and educational work had already been perfectly paired in my mind throughout my time navigating these elite institutions as they guided me and enabled me to make sense of what was going on around and within me. This presentation reflects on how my personal journey through academia, as a mixed-Black woman from a working-class background, intersects with key themes in Grime and UK Rap. Considering the discography of artists such as Little Simz, Dave and Stormzy, I outline how themes from the genre have guided and comforted me as I navigate the elite and exclusionary space of academia. Key experiences such as disillusionment and disappointment, navigating a split habitus are explored alongside lyrical analysis. Furthermore, drawing from bell hooks' concept of 'Theory as Liberatory Practice', I find that the accessibility and relatability of Grime and UK Rap resonates with me far more than any traditional academic theory. It is this genre, with its working-class history and the experience of artists, that has provided me with the greatest comfort.

RN02 | T05_01: Sustainability in the Arts

Eco-Visions and Mental Landscapes: On the impact of Visual Pollution

Anna Lisa Tota

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In the last decades many scholars have focused on the idea of different kinds of mental landscapes (Appadurai 1990), or "mindscapes", underlying the interconnection between mind and external space (Lingiardi, 2017). As a matter of fact, landscape visions become psychic images and, as such, they end up influencing the very maps of our mind. Following the idea of "eco-words" and "eco-thoughts" (Tota, 2023) it is here proposed to consider the concept of "eco-visions" and the corresponding idea of "visual pollution", applied to our social imaginary and to the impacts of visual arts on the shared representations. Eco-visions can be defined as "actualised images", nourishing and defensive texts, which we decide to take with us to be better equipped in everyday life. Eco-vision is an act of subjective freedom, not an act of public censorship. However, in its completely subjective nature, this concept can evolve and become consciously intersubjective. We need new forms of social narration that are able to regenerate reality for us through our daily experiences. Eco-visions are therefore embodied images, because they can neither ignore nor do without the situated gaze that produces them. Eco-visions presuppose the eye of the subject who looks, but more than the eye they presuppose the gaze, that is, the act of viewing of the eye that takes place thanks to all the values thought by that subject and which support her ability and her specific way of seeing. Eco-visions are the opposite of polluting images, they require citizens to take responsibility and develop awareness. Referring to several examples this contribution aims at documenting the usefulness of this concept for empirical research.

Ecological Emergency And Cultural Policies In Portuguese Performing Arts: Tension And Opportunity.

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CEIS20 – Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of the University of Coimbra, Portugal

Climate emergency is an inescapable contemporary collective challenge of a colossal dimension. Following incessant calls from the international scientific community, governments and organisations of all sectors are progressively incorporating environmental issues into their strategies and decisions – the arts and culture being no exception. Admittedly, in this quest towards the 'green transition', the arts have so far mostly been challenged to raise awareness around the severity of the ecological crisis, given their ability to offer narratives which "make complex relationships (…) understandable" (Skolczylas, 2021:6). But the time for raising awareness seems to be running out, and there's a clear push towards decision-making: environment and sustainability-related issues are already affecting artistic and curatorial decisions, as well as challenging production, touring and management models. What role is reserved for cultural policy in this rapidly changing context? This paper explores the results of a pioneering nation-wide survey, in which 140 Portuguese performing arts practitioners claim that the connection between the ecological emergency and cultural policymaking is both urgent and legitimate (Rodrigues, Oliveira and Ventura, 2023). The survey covers a broad range of respondents, from theatre to contemporary circus, from venue-based arts organisations to project-based/ independent collectives spread across the country.

Insofar the arts are generative of and impacted by societal transformations, and vice versa, and given the topicality of the issue, the dataset at the basis of this paper carries public policy interest at European level. At the same time, it constitutes a relevant starting point to discuss the conjunction of cultural policies and the ecological emergency, a juncture, we argue, appears as a site of tension, ambiguity, contradiction, and opportunity.

Reimagining Social Media Platforms through Art: The Case of MyceliumMinds Performance

Antonietta De Feo

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Recently, many artists have focused their works on the opaque and controlling nature of the machine learning mechanisms that govern social media platforms. In particular, they have introduced a critical thinking about the assemblage of human and non-human, imagining a more sustainable ecology of platforms (Tota et al. 2023). In this regard, the paper analyses Matteo Domenichetti's artistic project, called MyceliumMinds, curated by Milovan Farronato and presented in January 2022 at the "Casa degli artisti" in Milan. Inspired by the studies on the Wood Wide Web, and in particular by the work of Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing – The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins – Domenichetti created a long-term artistic performance, which translates the connective tissue of the "mycelium" within Instagram to make it a collaborative space sheltered from the algorithmic logic.

Within a research agenda focused on the structuring – rather than structured – properties of art (Acord, DeNora 2008; Tota, De Feo 2022), the paper presents the first results of an ongoing ethnographic research focused on the enactment of MyceliumMinds. The aim is to document the transformative action of Art with respect to the dominant usage practices of social media platforms.

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Unleashing Playback Theatre's Transformative Power on Climate Change

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While efforts to engage citizens in climate change have predominantly emphasized technological and economic perspectives, the outcomes of these conventional approaches remain a subject of debate. Considering this, we propose a shift towards emphasizing the role of art, particularly through Playback Theatre, an interactive form of improvisational theatre in which audience members tell stories from their lives and watch them enacted on the spot. It is used in a wide variety of contexts to foster social dialogue, conflict resolution, team building and much more, and emerges as a promising tool for raising awareness about climate change by directly engaging its audiences, evoking deep emotional responses, inspiring action and encouraging reflection on established practices. However, it is essential to acknowledge that addressing climate change is a complex endeavour, and integrating Playback Theatre into this context presents its own set of challenges which need to be addressed to foster its potential.

To fill this gap, we adopt a qualitative approach by leading qualitative interviews with playback theatre companies working on climate issues in different countries (N=15). Our research aims to provide insights into the evolving role of Playback Theatre in addressing climate change, explore how this process differs from experiences with other social themes especially examining audiences interactions. Our results show that climate change poses specific challenges, while innovative approaches to communicating with the public have very high potential. Ultimately, our study identifies and shares best practices that can serve as valuable models for organisations wishing to address similar issues to replicate.

RN02 | T05_02: Arts educations and arts in education

Spatial Divisions of Labor. The Case of Education in European Art Institutions

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Peripherality and marginality are persistent characteristics of the physical spaces dedicated to education in art museums and galleries. Bearing in mind that the built environment is a facilitative milieu in which relations are formed, and that the museum field is an embodiment of a particular social world with complex underlying organizing principles, what does the physical relegation of the spaces assigned to educational work tell us about the specificities of art museums' internal organization, but also about the kind of relationships with the public this organization implies? Drawing on the critical knowledge produced by museum and gallery educators across Europe, who, observing empirically that they were overwhelmingly women, historicized and analyzed their field of practice by introducing a perspective drawn from feminist epistemologies, this paper takes a feminist critical spatial approach to analyze the organization of labor in the art museum and its hierarchy structured in a patriarchal way. Considering the social relations of gender as a significant axis in the formation of spatial structures of production/reproduction, it is argued that the physical peripheralization of education work in the museum can be seen as a spatial enunciation of a gender division of labor that can be recontextualized within broader processes of labor division, which reflects the structural inequalities of race, class and gender that persist among European cultural institutions.

The article develops via institutional ethnographic practice a nuanced approach to explaining the interplay of gender, race, class, and space that shape social inequality in art institutions. Through in-depth interviews with art museum workers and participant observations, with a particular focus on people's everyday working lives, this empirical analysis is therefore devoted to exploring and explicating the social and spatial relations that organize experiences in art institutional settings. Since embodied knowledge – or ways of knowing, doing, and being – are internalized through processes of socialization, particular attention is given to embodied experience in practice as a primary source to study the naturalization of constructed patterns of professional behavior in the art museum environment, often presented as a neutral space in which power relations are normalized and pacified.

From Art to Art with a Shine of Science; Transformations in Visual Art Educations in Light of Becker

Målfrid Irene Hagen

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In this paper I look at the transformations in higher art educations during the last 2-3 decades, when many art educations in the West were included in the university sector, and consequences of this. In their epilogue to the German artist Hans Haackes book; Framing and being framed from 1975; Becker and his colleague John Walton concludes that although several artists may work in a similar way as researchers, it is a big difference between art and science. Art belongs to another sphere, that give meaning to art. One of the consequences of the transformations, is the so-called Research based art. In her essay, Information overload from 2023, the art historian Claire Bishop says that the presence of Research based art is almost mandatory in any serious exhibition: Postcards, faxes and e-mail printouts in a vitrine, rows of leaflets, graphs and charts, tables filled with documents and texts. She claims this development is inseparable from the rise of doctoral programs for artists in the West, specifically in Europe, from the 1990s. Although many artworks may resemble research, they often appear as one single step in a research process, without any conclusion on the problem they claim to research. Instead, they may appear only with a shine of science. Considering Becker, I analyze some recent curricula for higher art educations in Norway, to reveal how other disciplines than art seems prioritized on the cost of art subjects, which also may contribute to give art educations only a shine of science.

Participatory Culture: Case of Youth Engagement in Museum Activities

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The concept of cultural participation is no longer limited to individuals attending events and consuming cultural products. Researcher Henry Jenkins has highlighted the concept of participatory culture, emphasizing community involvement as a means of creation (Jenkins, 2009). The participation of individuals in the production of artistic and cultural work enhances the social capital of individuals (Bourdieu, 1986) and improves the subjective well-being, quality of life, physical, mental health, social inclusion and integration of communities in general (Martinez, 2022; Jenkins, 2009). The authors aim to identify the benefits and challenges of youth cultural participation. To achieve this, authors will focus on the example of Eduards Veidenbaums Memorial Museum 'Kalāči' (Latvia), which has actively engaged young people in the creation of its exhibitions and events throughout the period of the last two years. The authors will analyze data collected during July and August 2023. The fieldwork involved conducting three in-depth interviews with museum representatives and using timeline mapping as one of the participatory research data collection methods – twelve young people (aged 14-19) visualized their journey starting from their first involvement in museum activities, discussed it in more detail during the peer to peer interviews. The interviews were analyzed using qualitative content analysis, with a focus on both positive and negative aspects of the youth's experiences. As it is witnessed by young people, the involvement in museum activities has a positive impact on their quality of life, mental health, well-being, contributing to their exploration of identity and self-discovery.

Perception of Art Production Process by Performers with Disabilities in an Inclusive Museum

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According to the recently adopted by International Council of Museums (ICOM) definition of the museum, its traditional role has transformed together with societal transformations and relies on such values as "accessible and inclusive," "museums foster diversity," and "sustainability" that help to build trust between different actors. It is a new trend in cultural policy worldwide.

Participatory Culture is becoming one of the main approaches to the museum practices, which creates conditions for activism and futher possibilities for people with disabilities in the museum – from visitors to cultural mediators and guides. This is suggested by experience of Moscow performance art institutions where disabled people participate as direct art producers, blind and deaf guides, etc. (the State Tretyakov Gallery, the Garage Museum of Modern Art and others).

Though the concept of an inclusive museum creates conditions for participatory practices implementation, its social and psychological consequences create additional risks for the disabled people. The conducted research was to establish how people with sensory disabilities perceive their position as art producers in museums based on 30 interviews with inclusion experts, blind and deaf employees of Moscow museums. Their professional roles were classified into a museum accessibility expert, a professional museum employee, a representative of the community of their disability.

It was also observed that inclusive activities do not always overcome the difficulties, moreover, lead to voluntary precarious employment as project work is widespread in museums, which deprives social guarantees, though they are perceived by people with disabilities as a blessing. Finally, their employment contributes to new sociological understanding of inclusion in museums, promoting new professional areas and standards for both employees of cultural institutions and arts managers.

RN02 | T06_01: Art Fields

Building Reputations Through The Founding Of Private Art Museums

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Since the year 2000, there has been a worldwide boom in private museums for contemporary art. These institutions are typically founded by economic elite members, who expand their visibility, becoming key players in the art field and potentially increasing their power as taste-makers and gatekeepers. This phenomenon of private museums has, however, been under-investigated, and the focus on how founders navigate the art field has received little attention. Considering the importance of investigating the power dynamics in the art field, this paper examines how museum founders' reputations are constructed through the narratives of art actors. Drawing from participant observation and interviews conducted with curators, gallerists, dealers, critics, collectors, scholars, artists, and museum directors and owners composing the Brazilian art world, I explore how these actors recognise the founders. Although private museums can be framed as cultural philanthropic projects aiming to make art more accessible, critics argue that such generosity also favours its founders. Many art actors express their gratitude and admiration for the outcomes of what the founders created. However, they also critically state that founders aim to increase their prestige in the art field and as economic elite members. Brazilian museum owners are criticised in many ways: as unknowledgeable art collectors, as nouveaux-riches social climbers, as self-interest capitalists with hidden business agendas, and as ego-centred super-rich. Contrasting with other studies, in the Brazilian art field, the visibility enhancement of museum founders does not always increase their prestige but can end up damaging their reputations. These entangled narratives signal the complexity and nuances involved in analysing the benefits private museums can confer on their owners, stressing that prestige enhancement should not be taken for granted.

Advertising On Modern And Contemporary Art: On The Privatization Of Culture And Art Museums

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During the past decades, the art world has been experiencing a growing private initiative interference (Alexander 2018; Brown 2019; Durand 2000; Hagood 2016; Quemin 2020; Wu 1998). Connected with the withdrawal of public funding that followed the rise of neoliberal governments, private support for the arts became a global trend (Martorella 1996; Wu 2003), and researchers have been pointing out the marketization and/or privatization of culture as the most striking outcome (Victoria D. Alexander 1996; Victoria D Alexander 1996; Schwaiger, Sarstedt, and Taylor 2010; Sepúlveda Dos Santos 2001; Wu 1998, 1998). Although there is consensus on the impact of these changes in art museums, studies investigating how private influence affects aesthetics and curatorial choices in art museums are still sparse. Offering a perspective on the micro-sociological level, this paper aims to understand the extension of private actors' interference in art museum decisions through in-depth interviews with curators, directors, and managers of seven major Brazilian modern and contemporary art institutions. The results showed that censorship restrictions on curatorial choices do exist but are frowned upon and not common. However, the planning of exhibitions and other activities by art institutions is strongly influenced by private sponsors, and curators are often required to consider private interests when elaborating on upcoming exhibitions. From the data collected, the study concludes that art museums' decisions are not only impacted by sponsors, as well as acting as an advertising agency for sponsoring companies.

Artists in Exile in the European Cultural Scene: Transformation of Positionality, Betrayal of Institutional Trust, and Rising Tensions

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"The Long Summer of Migration" of 2015 and the mid-2010s more broadly enriched the European cultural scene with artists from various countries of the Global South that experienced wars and repressions. Despite the rapid decrease of European institutions' interests in a particular group of "artists in exile" (usually, following the 3-year project funding cycle), the following political developments across the globe have led to the constant increase of forced and political migration among the artists and to various degrees pushed the European state and independent cultural institutions to incorporate "artists in exile" category in their agendas and infrastructures. More than 8 years have passed, which is the period long enough to apply for citizenship. These artists have gone through different stages in their relations with/within the European art field and cultural-political sphere more generally, their practical understanding of their own positionality and, in some cases, legal status have changed. I will trace how the artists' positionality has transformed and how their presence has transformed the European/national art fields. I will specifically focus on the initial trust in the European cultural system they had, and how sometimes (yet systematically) it was betrayed not only by the migration bureaucracy but by the "leftish" and "progressive" representatives of European culture. I will also cover the rising tensions surrounding the "antisemitism" controversies and censorship that lead to further transformations.

The paper is based on the ongoing comparative qualitative PhD research about visual artists with exile experience who

relocated from countries in the Middle East to Germany or Finland and the network of supporting actors and institutions emerging around them.

Literary Field as a Three-Dimensional Social Setting: Insights from the Serbian Literary Field

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The paper explores the dynamics of constructing and deconstructing literary prestige, specifically examining how actors in the Serbian literary field evaluate modes of consecration. Through a detailed examination of discourses surrounding the NIN Award, the most prestigious Serbian literary award, this study investigates the criteria upon which literary field actors evaluate this award and its jury, as well as the strategies by which they seek to confirm or challenge the award's legitimacy. This study relies on qualitative data collected from semi-structured interviews with Serbian writers, and publishers, and media articles. Evaluation practices are analyzed and operationalized from the perspective of Bourdieu's theory of the field (Bourdieu, 1992), supplemented by insights from the sociology of valuation and evaluation (Beljean, Chong, Lamont, 2015). This research enriches discussions within Bourdieusian sociology regarding variations in field properties (Krasue, 2017). It highlights differences in the structure of symbolic oppositions compared to the original theoretical model. Besides the well-known dividing lines between restricted production and mass production, and new arrivals and established avant-garde in the subfield of restricted production, in this case, the literary field structuring is strongly influenced by the great dividing line in Serbian society between the "nationalist/patriotic" block on one hand and the "antinationalist" block on the other hand. Consequently, it shows that the relative autonomy of the literary field in Serbia is disturbed because of the weakness of its capacities to organize specific activities according to its own specific categories of judgment.

RN02 | T06_02: Embodied, distributed and extended artistic practices

The Digital Turn In the Arts: Ethnographies of Artistic Practice

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The digital turn in the arts has resulted in the progressive substitution in academia and within the professional market of analog tools with digital ones. And the ways of working creatively have been transformed. How do professional artists project, build and imagine all along this changing pathway? The general objective of the project is to identify the changes caused by the digital turn in the artistic practice of established professionals. Our theoretical position integrates interdisciplinary contributions and defines artistic practice as a socially constructed habitus, a socio-cognitive process of a distributed, multimodal and embodied nature. Methodologically, we compare the discourse and practices of photographers, architects, film editors, designers, choreographers and musical composers, recognized in their field and linked to artistic schools, from two different generations, one educated analogically, the other digitally. Our hypothesis is that digitalization shapes the communicative modalities and epistemic objects of the artistic process, thus modifying the conceptualization, execution and evaluation phases. While the ethnographic filming and observation with field notes of their creative process focus on the reconstruction of the workflow, the interviews and focus groups go beyond the technical-functional changes to understand what new meanings emerge. Initial results show how the digital turn constitutes a process of institutionalization of new social practices. Artistic practice is an observable process of symbiotic gestures with the environment, bodily movements that make sense in relation to the spatial structure of the world, shared vocabularies and metaphors in conversation.

Being Perfectly Imperfect: Parallels Between the Contemporary Circus Artist's Embodiment and the Westernized Wabi Sabi Concept

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Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

This presentation will be a sociological outlook of interconnections among existing beliefs in the contemporary circus field and the new trend of Westernized Wabi Sabi ideas.

Wabi Sabi is a Japanese concept that, despite lacking a universal definition, comprises three principles: nothing is perfect, nothing is finished and nothing lasts forever (Suzuki, 2021:16). In 2018 an adapted version of Wabi Sabi started to become trendier in the Western world (Łaziuk, 2020:100-102) and this Westernized concept accidentally starts to have parallels with how contemporary circus artists experience their embodiment.

The research showed that contemporary circus artists are constantly trying to focus more on what a body can do and how it can do it instead of body appearance, they accept that bodies are not perfect and share an understanding of the importance of embracing this imperfection. Moreover, contemporary circus artists have in mind constant bodily changes and reflect them correspondingly by developing positive relationships with their bodies.

The State of Fine Art within the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Experimental Study of Attributed Agency and Aesthetic Evaluation Shaping Factors

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The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in art creation has sparked concerns within the art world regarding its impact on traditional artistic processes and appreciation. This study examines how AI's role as a creator affects the notions of artistic agency and art appreciation. It investigates the explicit and implicit factors that shape aesthetic evaluation and attributed agency in fine art, focusing on artworks created by human and AI artists. The study utilizes a mixed experimental design with 902 Russian-speaking participants, employing vignettes that include visual and textual components. The results reveal that human-created and presented as human-created artworks receive higher aesthetic evaluations compared to AI-created ones and those which are presented as AI-created. Additionally, participants attribute lower agency to AI-created and named as AI-created artworks, while the highest rates of agency attribution were assigned to artworks presented as created by male artists. Participants tend to assign higher aesthetic appreciation to landscape paintings than to portraits and abstractions, while the highest rates of agency attribution related to portraits. The study also identifies covariates such as trust in AI technology, awareness of AI, anthropomorphism, engagement in the art scene, subjective income, and mother's/caretaker's employment position positively correlated with aesthetic evaluation and attributed agency. The study emphasizes the importance of both implicit and explicit factors in shaping aesthetic evaluation and agency attribution, highlights the impact of textual component on participants' judgments, and contributes to the sociological implications of AI's involvement in the art domain.

Beyond Human Limits: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Contemporary Art Practice

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In the current era of rapid technological development, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a disruptive force in all aspects of human life. This paper examines the impact of AI on contemporary art practice, discussing in depth how, in the age of AI, the virtual and symbolic mimicry of human social relations is slowly coming to the fore, individual and collective memories will be blurred, and a new conflict between artistic creation and the current social context will arise. The study analyses the impact of increasingly pervasive artificial intelligence on the evolution of the role of the human artist. It also examines the impact of AI in liberating artistic productivity and the moral and ethical issues of AI in artistic creation. By synthesizing existing cases and studies, the thesis aims to delve deeper into how artistic expression and creation will be reconfigured under the widespread adoption of AI. The study explores the impact of AI creativity on the boundaries of human artistic expression while proposing reflections on the nature of art itself and the conflicting issues facing contemporary artistic practice.

RN02 | T07_01: Arts in the city

Emerging Cultural Spaces and Theatre on the New Stages in Ankara

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In recent years, middle-class neighborhoods of Ankara have become home to a variety of new small businesses, including third wave coffee shops, art houses, artisan workshop studios, and "stages" for theatre plays and other performances. These emerging spaces redefine residential neighborhoods and the artistic and cultural spaces at the same time.

Similar to the way third wave coffee houses challenged earlier versions of coffee shops, these new artistic and cultural spaces establish themselves with a cozy and participative ambiance in contrast to the high-ceilinged, flamboyant art galleries. Theatre performances are integral to these newly flourishing, mostly multi-functional spaces. In Ankara, a city known for its theatre culture, the traditional theatre scene consists primarily of state-funded national theatre and a few private theatres owned mainly by renowned actors/actresses.

Theatre, being both an artistic and architectural form, is closely tied to physical space. Following H. S. Becker's well-regarded approach "art as a collective activity," both the creation process and performances are profoundly influenced. Consequently, a new theatre practice is likely to emerge as a result of the urban transformation described above. This paper aims to examine the theatre entities, performances, and spaces that are emerging on these new "stages" and explore the potential for novel theatrical experiences.

The research methodology involves in-depth interviews with the owners/directors of theatre entities and on-site observations of relevant activities and spaces. By doing so, this study seeks to contribute to our understanding of the evolving landscape of theatre in urban environments and the possibilities it presents for unique and transformative theatrical experiences.

Producing Affect: Theorising Collective Emotion Across Physical and Virtual Music Spaces

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In popular music studies, space has historically been linked to a geographical place and is all too often conceptualised exclusively in its physical form, underestimating the role of space in creating collective emotion. We contend that applying a more nuanced sense of what constitutes space, based on Henri Lefevbre's theorising about the urban, will help to restore space to its constituent role in generating collectively-experienced affect. In particular, we propose approaching an understanding of the relationship between music, space, technology, shared experience and affect through the lens of Lefebvre's tripartite vision of space as perceived, conceived and lived (l'espace perçu, conçu, vécu). Understanding space as socially produced, rather than just physically constituted, will also help us in speaking about virtual and concrete spaces in, as it were, the same breath.

Considering the online/offline nexus allows us to link an individual's irrepressible desire for affect to the facilitation of social experiences through, and within, particular spaces, whilst also assessing to what extent the generation of affect has been restored by the recuperation of physical music spaces.

Using a specific cultural venue as a case study, the authors discuss how and why shared affective experiences work in certain spaces (but not in others). Moreover, they argue that these affective spaces provide a counter-experience to increasing societal alienation, to what Lefebvre himself described as "the disaffection of fundamental desires".

Sicily Land-Lab: Future Architectures In The Place Of History

Pier Paolo Zampieri

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Stripped of all embellishments, architecture is the "function plus sign," the "settlement plus landscape"; a distinctly anthropological faculty that hierarchizes the world by projecting values into space through the medium of art. It is a field of sensitivity to the desires and conflicts of an era, capable of generating complex social feedback. In this perspective, Sicily appears as a profoundly oxymoronic region caught between the rich reservoir of classical architectures and the cement universalism of the second half of the 20th century.

The paper will attempt to interpret Sicily as an enormous land-laboratory that, in the second half of the 20th century, tried to escape the dichotomy of nostalgia versus novelty, producing, in terms of quantity and scale, a large number of sites where art and architecture were invested with salvific characteristics. The famous and gigantic interventions in Gibellina Nuova and Gibellina Vecchia (Burri's Grande Cretto), or the more recent cases of Fiumara d'Arte and Farm Cultural Park, will be juxtaposed with the phenomenon of architectural and numerical excess of Sicilian outsider and Babel-like works—fantastic artifacts where it is difficult not to read, alongside the creators' distinctly personal mythologies, a dialogue both archetypal and avant-garde with the powerful landscape contexts in which they are immersed. All the mentioned episodes will be conceptually grouped in a hypothetical Petit Tour, where the theme is no longer the nostalgia for the classical but a significant archaeology of imagined futures following the collapse of modernist optimism.

Cultural Production and Technologies of Evaluation. A Comparative Analysis of Architectural and Design Production in Barcelona

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The paper presents preliminary results from the UNCHARTED project, "Understanding, Capturing, and Fostering the Societal Value of Culture," funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The primary objectives of UNCHARTED are to develop a comprehensive vision of the societal value of culture in Europe and to create a roadmap for cultural policy actions that supports the diversity of cultural values. We understand that the plurality of the values of culture in Europe is only possible if we consider the multiplicity of agents who participate in valuation processes and the diversity of evaluative practices in which they engage. This presentation examines how evaluation technologies are utilized in specific cultural production cases in Barcelona, adopting a pragmatic sociological perspective. The cases analysed correspond to architectural and design productions in the framework of public competitions (a project for the reconversion of a former industrial site into a factory for artistic creation and a Christmas luminaire for the city) and for conventional clients (production of lamps). The architectural and design productions selected represent functional cultural productions developed by low-complexity professional firms, where a craft production model prevails. Drawing on semi-structured interviews and document analysis, this presentation explores the evaluation technologies applied in the pre-production, production, and post-production phases of design and architecture projects. Additionally, this presentation observes how specific evaluations are enacted, encoded and stabilised through a complex interplay of actors, evaluative practices, evaluative reframing, objectivations and tensions.

RN02 | T07_02: Evaluation, valuation and hierarchies

Regimes of Evaluation in the Cultural Sphere

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Within the framework of the H2020 research project UNCHARTED, which studies the societal value of culture in Europe from a pragmatic perspective (Lamont, 2012; Heinich, 2020), we explore the plurality of values emerging in cultural practices, examining actors, evaluative practices, and values across different cultural domains (in the cultural participation field, in cultural production and heritage management, in cultural administration, and in cultural information). In this paper, we analyse the organized ways of making (e)valuations by actors in these different sectors of the cultural sphere. Based on empirical evidence gathered from interviews, document analysis, and observations of 18 case studies from different European countries (Portugal, Spain, Italy, Norway, France, and the United Kingdom), the paper examines the evaluative tools used by social actors in these domains, the emerging tensions, and their resolution forms. On that base, we define their characteristic regimes of (e)valuation: Grammars (in the case of the cultural participation field), Technologies (in cultural production and heritage management), Methodologies (in cultural administration), and Systems (in cultural information institutions). Furthermore, the paper explores the connections between these different regimes of (e)valuation and discusses their tendency to hybridisation.

Inverted Dependency: How Organisational Sense-making Enables Procedural Reinforcement of Hierarchies in Ireland's Visual Art Infrastructures

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Visual art infrastructures in Ireland are primarily built around a state funding procedural hierarchy. Within this structure arts organisations are mostly funded by state funding, or are civic institutions with costs salaries, etc., coming from directly from the exchequer. The artist has very little hand in the management, planning or implementation of programme, in either scenario. While the artist's work is central to an organisation's public presentation of its purpose and the means through which the organisation makes sense of that purpose, the infrastructures are built on perceived dependency by artists procedurally, and a power dynamic that enables that hierarchy to perpetuate.

This anomaly became most evident during Covid19 restrictions as the assemblage of procedural supports didn't exist.

In this article paper, I will compare two post-Covid19 restriction examples of this hierarchy as manifest through the procedural actions of two arts infrastructures in Ireland. I will use an ethnomethodological approach to examining both situations and their implication. The first procedural action involves the cancellation of a group exhibition, Beyond the Studio in March 2023 at dlrLexicon gallery, in Dublin. The second involves the pay to speak "speed curating" events organised by Visual Artists Ireland. As an artist working in Ireland for over 25 years, I have the unique adequacy (Garfinkel, 2002) to be able to identify the sociological facts within two vastly different situations. As such, I focus on organisation sense-making in relation to these actions, and how they aim to create orderliness within a visual art infrastructure.

Teacher's And Leaders' Views Of Arts And Knowledge Within Schools Of Music And Performing Arts.

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This qualitative study delves into how teachers across various artistic disciplines and leaders at public Schools of Music and Performing Arts (SMPA) in Norway express their views of arts and knowledge. Fourteen municipal SMPA schools are involved in the research.

Theorists such as Boltanski & Thèvenot emphasize actors' capacity for independent reflection, irrespective of structures and power dynamics. Boltanski & Thèvenot have developed a set of orders of worth, categorized through principles of valuation, regimes of justification, and evaluation tests, encompassing categories like artistic, projective, market, domestic, civic, etc. The analysis aims to understand the actors' views of arts and knowledge according to various orders of worth. Some of these orders of worth can be perceived as conflicting, such as artistic versus domestic, projective versus civic, artistic versus civic, and market versus artistic. Sometimes, more than two orders of worth are competing and negotiating. Some findings also demonstrate different arguments due to different orders of worth between teachers and leaders. This can lead to conflicts and debates and illustrate an unclear status of how the SMPA can be understood by other actors such as pupils, parents, guardians, society, public policy, etc.

The central research question driving this study is how the teacher's and leaders' views of arts and knowledge influence the SMPA.

This paper is a part of the Ph.D. project titled "The School of Music and Performing Arts: an arts-based and knowledge-based institution?". This project aims to identify and analyze the unique characteristics of SMPA as an institution, considering the perspectives of three crucial stakeholders: public policy, teachers, and leadership within SMPA.

Negotiating Between Intrinsic And InstrumentaL EvaluationS Of Socially Engaged Art

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When we speak of 'evaluating' socially engaged art it often elicits a strong reaction from artists and art workers. Indeed, it is frequently conflated with bureaucratic requirements, tighter top-down control, and encouraging a homogeneity of art practice. Such feelings of suspicion often derive from an underlying fear arts instrumentalisation by funders, government, or institutions, in which socially engaged art is considered a tool to address a plethora of social issues, such as poverty, social cohesion, and lack of investment. That said advocates of socially engaged art also often underscore its transformative potential and positive contribution to society. For example. following art critic Francois Mattaraso to disregard instrumentality entirely is disingenuous and may amount to no more than an attempt by "artworld" insiders to maintain a power of validation to defend their own tastes against critique. Moreover, while art organisations turn towards impact-based evaluation methodologies, empirical research conducted with a set of Irish socially engaged artists revealed intuition, and ad hoc approaches as artists main approach to evaluation. To resist these binary positions often engendered by instrumental and intrinsic Norbert Elias's theories of involvement and detachment provide a unique way to assess and navigate the interplay between instrumental and intrinsic values as a relational rather than oppositional. This paper argues thinking about evaluation through this lens shifts evaluation's purpose away from predetermined, and often idealized notions of success based on outcome to a tool for learning about the processes that characterize the practice from which better systems of support, development and solidarity may be built.

RN02 | T08_01: Art and Democracy I

Promoting 'The Nordic' through Soft Power: Strategic Narratives in the Nordic Council Prizes Award Ceremonies (1962-2012)

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In the context of recent global geopolitical shifts marked by populism and democratic setbacks, the Nordic Council has emerged as a noteworthy player, leveraging soft power through cultural diplomacy to foster collaboration among Nordic states. While lagging behind the EU and NATO in hard power, the Nordic Council has gained acclaim for its cultural awards in literature, music, film, and environmental achievements. This presentation delves into the strategic use of narration in the Nordic Council's award ceremonies to promote unity and establish the Nordic region as an identity community. The study examines digitized archival material spanning 50 years, from 1962 to 2012, analyzing speeches at award ceremonies to reveal how Nordic identity is constructed through aestheticization. The region is portrayed ambivalently—both as an imaginative haven of wonder and as one addressing historical failures. These awards not only acknowledge individual artistic excellence but also articulate historical frames of Nordic political cooperation. The study contends that this strategic narrative serves as a soft power tool, enrolling new actors in the Nordic political project and framing "Norden" as a cohesive community with shared values. By shedding light on the significance of awards in shaping Nordic collective identity, this study highlights their role in navigating challenges posed by the evolving global geopolitical landscape. The Nordic Council's ability to craft compelling narratives emerges as crucial to its power and legitimacy, offering insights into the dynamics of cultural diplomacy amidst geopolitical changes.

Chinese Response to Top Gun – New Geopolitical Visions and Cultural Reflections in High Profile Feature Film

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Released in 2023 "Born to Fly", the Chinese blockbuster featuring air force pilots and their missions, has been produced by the Chinese major film studios and directed by military affiliated director Liu Xiaoshi in a bid to present alternative vision of geopolitical relations in the South China Sea basin. For years the place of the rising political and military tensions in the region, the South China Sea is perceived as a potential point of conflict between China and Taiwan and the Philippines supported by the US. Decision of the Chinese government to promote its goals through the means of feature film, copying and modifying the US born successful narrative of the "Top Gun" and "Top Gun: Maverick" might be a sign of foregoing transformation of thinking about means of rivalry, engaging artistic tools of shaping the soft power.

In addition to delineating geopolitical official goals and points of view, the "Born to Fly" takes the "Top Gun"-inspired narrative and transforms it in accordance with the Chinese storytelling characteristics: the relation of the hero to the world and people around him, editing sequences, and dramaturgy are molded into a model resembling Chinese popular fictions of recent years.

The comparative content analysis of the "Born to Fly" and "Top Gun" and "Top Gun: Maverick" presents the discursive differences and points of reference between the analyzed cases that set a stage for a new area of international communication between governments and cultures.

The Power of Arts in Transnational Dialogues: Exploring Cinematic Perspectives on Turkish-German Relations

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This paper is based on first findings of our ongoing DAAD-TÜBITAK-funded bilateral project 'Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations' that aims at challenging the dominant narrative among contemporary prevailing scholarly debates on Turkish-German relations that mainly focus on political elites and decision-making processes on the diplomatic level of high politics (e.g. Arısan-Eralp et al. 2022; Aydın-Düzgit and Tocci 2015; Turhan 2019). From such a point of view, for example in the research fields of European Union studies and foreign policy analysis (e.g. Reiners and Turhan 2021; Tekin and Schönlau 2022) scholars often diagnose a growing distant and pragmatic relationship between Germany and Turkey due to an alienation in the European integration process and the strategic game between both countries around geopolitical concerns, the EU-Turkey deal on refugees and currently the Israel-Gaza war. Following this focus of analysis, the relationship is characterized as a transformation from a befriended to a rather pragmatic mode of cooperation.

By broadening the empirical scope from political elites to the art scene and cultural actors (filmmakers, novelists, musicians, artists etc.) from both countries in their European and transnational context, we argue that these actors, have developed and established practices and creative techniques in transnational cooperation and thereby overcome the nationalist-driven narratives of a distant relationship. Given both countries' growing ties in light of the 1960s labor migration from Turkey to Germany, today's postmigrant

and culturally diverse societies gave birth to a vivid transnational cultural scene. This paper investigates the influence of cinema in shaping present-day Turkish-German relations.

Video Games as a Tool for Creating "Good Citizens": Content Analysis of Media Representations

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This paper looks at videogames as a field of electronic arts within the theoretical framework of Michel Foucault's biopolitics, juxtaposing the roles of video games in constructing subjectivity in different political contexts. The theme stems from the fact that while European and American video game projects increasingly feature elements of DEI, some non-Western regimes have also recently turned to the video game industry to advance their own narratives. Although the paper briefly examines the practices of different non-democratic regimes, the main focus is on the Russian context. A number of video game titles were announced there, suggesting the promotion of the values of patriotism, traditional family and a healthy lifestyle – which implies the possibility of using this art form for biopolitical framing.

The paper turns to an analysis of how video games are represented in the media – it is based on Stuart Hall's theory of representation and includes content analysis of popular Russian newspapers for 2022-2023. This analysis demonstrates that generally video games are presented in a negative way (they lead to dissociation, provoke violence, etc.), but in parallel there is a narrative of "import substitution" – the creation of "other games" that promote the values of the government. These findings are analyzed through the prism of the Foucault's concept of governmentality.

Therefore, this study gives explorative insight into how video games can be used to influence subjectivity and promote certain contextual narratives (thus creating "good citizens") – not only for DEI, but also for an authoritarian agenda.

RN02 | T08_02: Art Labour and Wellbeing

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Performing Practices of Professional Artists in Austria

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One of the changes the COVID-19 pandemic brought to the cultural sector was the shift to the digital and in the case of music, online concerts and initiatives that allowed artists to have more digital presence during lockdowns. As this "onlineification" took place in a short amount of time, however, there was not enough time for policy considerations or for estimations on the mid – and long-term impact of those initiatives for artistic production.

Our proposal focuses on Austria; it identifies the music landscape during the pandemic and discusses trends and developments to artistic practices and working cultures as a result of the pandemic. Our data collection method consists of semi-structured interviews with professional, self-entrepreneur musicians from different genres such as classical, jazz and pop, active in organising and/or participating in online events that were instigated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We research the impact of the digital presence of musicians and in what way it affects artistic practices. We identify professional musicians' new artistic forms and co-creative processes, new working practices and new ways of income generation in a digital environment, and highlight restrictions and limitations to artistic work in a digital ecosystem. We also look into the new reality and discuss the vulnerability of labour conditions and the direct and indirect consequences on creative performers, and the impact of the new developments on the precarious working conditions of musicians in Austria.

Zooming into the literary trajectories: Three Ideal-Typical European Cases

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Sociologists of translation and scholars of cultural globalisation have unveiled structural and symbolic mechanisms at play in the processes of literary translation: geopolitical factors, cultural policies, accumulated symbolic capital, pop culture and even news cycles have been said to influence translation flows. In this vein, researchers agree that translation flows are uneven and tend to follow a core – periphery structure that places English as the sole hyper-central language from which most translations are made, a few other languages in the distant semi-centre and the rest

of languages in the periphery. Based on the analysis of 60 semi-structured interviews with literary actors in Europe (authors, publishers, agents, translators, representatives of cultural centres, experts, etc.) this paper explores the nuance behind these structures by zooming into three ideal-typical translation trajectories; from the hyper-centre to the peripheries, from the peripheries to the hyper-centre, and from the periphery to the periphery. By doing so, this analysis exposes the particularities of such translation trajectories like the kinds of actors, discourses, institutions, instances of consecration and expectations involved in each one of them. Additionally, this work seeks to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of these structural positions; how are cultural policies, cultural proximity and media cycles affecting these flows? How are these structural inequalities shaping the perception and strategies of literary actors?

This paper is based on the research done as part of the EuroLit Project between 2022 and 2023.

RN02 | T09_02: Art and Democracy II

"We Persist, Therefore We Have Hope": Collective Social Trauma And Communal Resilience Of Hongkongers Through Their Art Since 2019

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We are a group of Trinity academics coming together across the humanities and health sciences who organised an exhibition showcasing art by members of the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement, to explore themes of collective social trauma and communal resilience. Art has become one of the few avenues still open to the Hongkonger community to express dissent, and it is also a key medium by which members of a community, beset by mental health challenges following political repression, may find solace and support from one another. Communally shared art is crucial to maintaining community resilience in the face of acute regime pressures. Viewing protest art as a "repertoire of contention", we explore questions of trauma, resilience, solidarity, and resistance, and how these inform Hongkongers' emerging identity as a distinct ethnic community. Designed in consultation with members of the Hong Kong community, and bringing together transdisciplinary perspectives across narrative medicine, resistance studies and creative arts practice, our exhibition and discussion panel event was followed by in-depth interviews with the Hongkonger artists that explored their views and experiences regarding their art and activism, especially given their positionality as members of a diasporic Hongkonger community based in Europe and elsewhere where they made use of their freedom of expression to "voice out" for Hong Kong. We performed thematic analysis on these artists' interviews with the aim of generating a "transcultural understanding of resilience" (Meili et al, 2020: 332) and also to explore how art could represent a form of cultural resistance against transnational repression.

Music And Trauma On The Relationship Between Music And Cultural Remembrance

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This paper address the role of music in relation to what here is defined as cultural trauma.

The text takes its starting point in Jeremy Eichler's (2023) project on the music of remembrance, in which he shows how music bears witness to history and carries the memory

of the past, using the cases of composers that lived through the 2nd WW and the Holocaust, the paper establishes a case of how music may work as a cultural memory carrying forward the meaning of a more or less distant past. As cultural trauma may persist over generations (e.g., the Holocaust or slavery) the living memory of these events fades, which leads to questions regarding how these memories still may persists and be addressed through cultural means of various kinds. The role of different forms of memorialization here becomes central. These events are not only memorialized in various institutional forms such as museums and/or monuments, but also by other means such as literature and the arts. The paper elaborate Eicher's sample of classic music by looking at cases of more recent forms of musical expressions that also relates to a troublesome and traumatic collective past. Using the theory of cultural trauma (e.g., Alexander 2004, Eyerman et.al 2011 2023) and a range of exemplary musical expressions as cases, the paper shows how various generations may find their own forms and expressions in respect to how to deal with the cultural memory of a common traumatic past.

Reception of Unofficial Russian Art (1957-1991) in France, Germany and the United States: A Comparative Analysis

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EHESS, France

This research explores how post-war Soviet underground art from Moscow has come to be recognized and legitimated in France, Germany and the United States since 1957 until 1991. The process of valorization is analyzed by examining the role of networks of different actors (collectors, gallerists, critics, etc.) involved in the transfer and promotion of such art. Using the notion of the "cultural intermediaries", I show how the contribution of various actors are crucial to how artists' careers develop and to how they are placed in the art market. As part of the analysis, I investigate the reception of unofficial Soviet-era art in the western press and critical space by drawing on Bourdieu's theory of artistic meaning [Bourdieu, 1992]. Artistic meaning is created by the narratives produced about works of art by critics through the use of particular language and categories, as well as the position taking in the field, and studying such language allows us to trace the transformation of aesthetic judgment since the 1960s in the West, as well as the parallel formation of art-criticism as a distinct autonomous field in Russia itself. Exploring the work of critics therefore helps us to understand the transformation of aesthetic judgment about and aesthetic value attributed to unofficial art. Drawing on the intersection of qualitative and quantitative methods of sociology, I propose to answer the question of how the label of "dissident" Soviet art was shaped through its reception in Germany, France, and the United States.

How Narratives Construct Symbolic Capital In Cultural Fields

Tommie Soro

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Bourdieusian field analysis has provided a wealth of insight into the reproduction and transformation of hierarchies in cultural and occupational fields. Largely overlooked in this literature, however, is the role discourse plays in such reproduction and transformation. Indeed, the need for Bourdieusian sociology to better account for the roles discourse plays in cultural fields has been widely noted. Equally, discourse analysis has long called for the integration of field theory to better account for the context of discourse production. Recent research is addressing these needs by developing transdisciplinary approaches that bring Bourdieusian field analysis into conversation with discourse analysis. This paper makes two contributions to this research agenda. Firstly, it illustrates a novel theoretical and methodological approach to analysing relationships between nomos and field position on the one hand, and online genres, narratives, and performative statements on the other. Secondly, it empirically demonstrates how the symbolic capital of avant garde musicians is constructed through storytelling, genre-mixing, rhetorical devices, and performative utterances, and how this construction is bound to the nomos of the music field and the different positions of musicians within it. The empirical findings of this paper thereby shed new light on the online reputational economies of cultural fields, which appear increasingly important but remain largely understudied, while its novel approach contributes to a research agenda that aims to enhance both cultural sociology and discourse analysis.

RN03 | Biographical Perspectives on European Societies

RN03 | T01: Advances in Biographical Research

Biographical Dimensions of the New Social Architectures: Theoretical Reflections on Biographical Research for Post Pandemic Times

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What are the challenges for theorising, experiencing and doing biographical research in post-Pandemic time, a time which was characterised by social, physical/material distancing, isolation and for some, and ruptures to the biographical trajectory? Physical distancing altered and narrowed the nature of space/time of social interactions; it brought billions of people to interact via screens while some people re-connected, with nature and the natural world. What specific biographical research methods can inform a sense of our past, present and possible futures, their inter implications and their interconnections; the social conditions, social relations, social landscapes and their relevance; and the participatory and policy-oriented possibilities of biographical research, especially in these challenging times? (Nurse, O'Neill and Moran editors, 2024)

In this presentation we focus on theorising, experiencing and imagining the relationships between biographical research, space and time in Pandemic times by revisiting biographical theories in relation to the reconfiguring of temporalities/ time and the meanings of 'future' (Nurse, O'Neill et al 2020, O'Neill and Nurse, 2024). We provide examples from the development of Walking Interview Biographical Method (WIBM) (O'Neill and Roberts, 2019) which demonstrate the benefits of the WIBM as the creative combination of sensory experiences of storytelling with sensory immediacy of the visual/performative experience of walking, that opens up a discursive space, where embodied knowledge and experience are shared (O'Neill and Nurse, 2024).

Founding ruptures. Reading life stories in the perspective of Michel de Certeau

Davide Lampugnani, Monica Martinelli

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In the last decades, biographical research has gained increasing relevance and visibility in social sciences. Starting from different themes, many scholars have proposed and explored new perspectives, concepts, and research methods (Breckner & Massari, 2019). In particular, wide focus has been given to the relationship between individual biography and social change. Within this field, the contribution aims to analyze the concept of "founding rupture" ("rupture instauratrice") as proposed by Michel de Certeau in his works (de Certeau, 1987; de Certeau, 1994). By identifying four key dimensions (rupture of history; opening of possibilities; plural authorities; risk practice), biography could be read as an individual and social trajectory caught in the middle of a tension between continuity and change. The paper concludes by adopting the concept to analyze two life stories (Berteaux, 1981) marked by biographical crisis and radical changes enabled by the unexpected encounter with African street children: the first life story is that of the founder of Koinonia Community in Nairobi, Kenya; the second life story is that of the human rights activists and founder of Gandhi Charity NGO.

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Exploring the Identity Transformation of Central European Cities over the Last Hundred Years. Poznań in the Memoirs of its Inhabitants

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The paper presents the results of the quasi-panel biographical research conducted four times among the inhabitants of Poznań. The memoir competitions in the series "What was and is the city of Poznań for you?" were organised in 1928 (by Florian Znaniecki, creator of the inspired memoirs method), 1964, 1994 and 2021.

This series of competitions is an essential element of the Polish tradition of biographical research as it allows us to study the many transformations experienced by Central European societies and the inhabitants of cities such as Poznań. These included processes such as border shifts, mass migrations, demographic changes, tensions between ethnic and national minorities, industrialisation, modification in the urban structure, systemic political changes, and (especially nowadays) accelerated globalisation, environmental and urban movements, political polarisation, effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The competitions were organised comparably, similar methodological assumptions were adopted, and the core of detailed questions was preserved in the competition announcements.

The biographical material collected at different stages of the development of Polish society provides insight, as if through a lens, into the evolution of the city's social system and the nature of the residents' relationship to the city in the context of the many identifications and processes taking place over almost a century. Based on the analysis of a sample of memoirs from these four competitions, the paper provides information about the internal diversity and transformation of the Central European urban identity. It also contains a methodological proposal for researching urban identity transformation from both synchronic and diachronic perspectives. The paper is the result of research activity Reg. No: 2022/06/X/HS6/00538 financed by the National Science Centre, Poland.

Between Forgetting and Remembering, What Are the Dialectics of Constructing One's Biography?

Catherine Négroni

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This paper will look at how Covid has changed our lives and our relationship with ourselves. A form of preoccupation with the self (Foucault, 2001), a preoccupation with care that was already present a little before Covid, has become more evident. Our aim here is to explore the relationship with the self and the way in which we tell and explore our biography through reminiscence and oblivion.

The life course is inscribed in precise socio-historical contexts, which typifies a singular journey (Elder, 1974) in the sense that it then becomes the witness to this intersection between global movements, local contexts and individual trajectories (Négroni, 2022). The prism through which we will view it here is that of the bifurcation, of the event, through the inaugural event (Kaufman, 2004) (Leclerc-Olive, 1997) that creates irreversibility (Grossetti, 2006). Based on the narratives of authors who are involved in a form of biographization of their careers, my aim is to look at and think about how "forgetting and remembering" are summoned up, and how this interferes with biography and in biographies. We draw on a number of authors who have worked and written about their own biographies (Edouard Louis, Annie Ernaux, Christine Detrez), in order to question the telling of the event, between reminiscence and oblivion in life courses, why forget, why remember ? What work is involved in this dialectic ?.

RN03 | T02: Biographical research in Portugal

Multi-perspective Biographical Research: Truth, Agency and Ethics

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This paper presents a reflection on transversal issues related to biographical research, namely concerning the idea of truth in studying lives, the agency of the participants in the research process and the research confidentiality related ethics. The discussion is anchored in the deconstruction of three critiques that were made to a biographical research project that used a multi-perspective approach, i.e., that analysed the biography of a person using first-person accounts, but also third-party testimonies. The first critique focused on the fact that the methodological design implied a quest for the truth of what a life is. The second expressed concerns over forcing others to talk about close people's lives. And the third was an accusation of not protecting the participants' right to privacy. The response given to these critiques is, in fact, a great opportunity to reflect on what a (multi-perspective) biographical research is, its potentialities and challenges, namely (i) the flexibilization of the notion of truth and the existence of multiple truths in biographical accounts, (ii) the capacity that participants (should) have to manage their involvement in the research, accepting challenges and establishing boundaries to protect themselves and others, and (iii) the concern to do no harm, by ensuring the participants' privacy, regardless of the research design. It is argued that, ultimately, the scientific scope and value of the research about people's lives will be defined not merely by the challenges and risks involved, but mainly by the actual research practices and strategies developed and put into practice to act upon them.

Understanding Social Inequalities And Territories Through Life Stories: Reflections On The Biographical Approach And Its Contributions To Sociological Knowledge In The Portuguese Context

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University of Porto, Portugal

The Nucleus of the 'Museu da Pessoa' (People's Museum) of the Institute of Sociology, based in Porto, Portugal, was created in 2023 with the aim of building a digital archive of qualitative data to collect and disseminate life stories, in the form of oral testimonies, from a diversity of social actors, spread across the national territory and facing

different inequalities or vulnerabilities. With the interest of deepening the structuring processes of social inequalities and their territorial inscriptions and simultaneously valuing qualitative methodologies, particularly, life stories, the Nucleus intends to promote scientific research and future community and social intervention.

Considering the experiences from the previous and current initiatives developed within this Nucleus, this presentation aims to reflect on their contributions to further sociological knowledge, as well as on the potentialities and challenges associated with the biographical approach involved. Located in different social-territorial contexts in the northern region of Portugal, these initiatives focus on different social issues and promote analyses on the different forms of contemporary inequality, within the portuguese context. They also bring up the discussion about the relationship between academia and society, since life stories have the ability to mediate the communication between these two spheres, promoting closer ties between them and a broader awareness on the links between our daily lives and the social inequalities and challenges that structure contemporary societies.

Emotional Dimensions of Migration: A Biographical Approach

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Drawing on two sociological studies on migration that use biographical interviews, I reflect on the emotional costs and effects of (return) migration for both (elderly) parents and their (adult) children, at the present time and throughout their lives. Between 2018 and 2022, I carried out ethnographic research with Portuguese migrants who returned when they reached retirement. Since 2023, I have been carrying out an exploratory research with the descendants who stayed in Switzerland. The comparison of empirical biographical data from both studies reveals the individual and intergenerational expectations and tensions that can arise around return, transnational care, and transnational family life. Emotions are constantly present in migrants and their descendants' life course and life stories, in their words, in their tone of voice, in their non-verbal language: worry, anxiety, sadness, frustration, patience, longing, relief, joy, hope, trust, obligation, among other emotions. (Return) migration is an emotional journey for both those who leave and those who stay. However, despite emotion is an important topic for migration research, it has attracted little attention from migration scholars, and it is still an emergent field (Boccagni & Baldassar, 2015). I argue that biographical research is a useful and appropriate methodological approach for exploring the intersection of these two fields of sociology: emotions and migration.

The Intersection Between Biographies: The Case Of Mother-Sibling-Biographical Disruption' When A Child In The Family Suffers From A Life-limiting Illness

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Drawing from a qualitative study of the experience of mothers and siblings of children with a life-limiting illness in Portugal, this communication intends to present novel and important insights on how the biographies of relatives intersect during the child end-of-life trajectory. This interconnectedness has not been explored in detail regarding the experience of life-limiting illness in childhood. In-depth interviews were carried out with 5 mothers and 2 siblings. Five siblings were also interviewed using the draw, write and tell technique. The findings show that mothers and siblings had to redefine themselves: they both had to change their personal plans and rethink their biographies. We argue that the concept of 'mother-sibling-biographical disruption' should be applied to describe this experience. Building on the presented results, this communication seeks to enrich the field of biographical research.

RN03 | T03: Forgetting and Remembering

Forgotten Inequality: autobiographical remembrance by professors from east Germany

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Being from East Germany continues to lead to social disadvantages in German society as a whole. Many East Germans still face devaluation, discrimination and marginalization and are disadvantaged in their access to valuable goods and positions due to their origin. The fact that the origin "East" is a determinant of social inequality in contemporary society is often forgotten in academic and public debate. Inequality research tends to focus on "West German" challenges, such as gender equality, ethnic origin and, in recent years, more often on questions of class. We analyze logics of displacement based on the autobiographical narratives of successful scientists–professors–from various disciplines and three generations born around 1940, 1960, and 1980.

This presentation aims to make social disadvantage visible through the group of professors and to discuss this in a social comparison, in the system transformation and between the generations. For this purpose, a theoretical and historical framework will be set and those with experience will speak for themselves, who have autobiographically written about their individual experiences on the way to a prestigious professorship with high status. Different birth cohorts (from 1941-1982) and their experiences in the respective educational and social system, as well as different disciplinary affiliations, will be presented. We would like to deepen this specific interplay of personal experience and social space of experience by first opening our eyes to the social space of experience. At the same time, the "invention of the West" will be deconstructed with the help of the autobiographies of East German professors. Subsequently, East German professors will have their say, which will be analyzed and discussed again from different perspectives at the end.

Remembering Mass Rapes Through Biographical Material of Victims During WWII.

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At the end of WWII 1.9 million women and girls were raped in Berlin and Eastern Territories by soldiers of the Red Army, excluding victims in the territories of today's Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria. Yet, German, Polish, Yugoslavian, Hungarian, Austrian and even Soviet and Jewish women had become victims. During Soviet occupation women and men spoke openly about the problem of rape and mechanisms to address some of the consequences (pregnancy and venereal diseases). Especially testimonies of victims evidence the collective humiliation perpetrated, but also strategies to protect each other from harm. As soon as a certain normality was established and the GDR was founded, women had to pretend they had been spared to avoid social exclusion. The lack of acknowledgement and the inexistent access to justice reinforces the silence and stigma related to rape. Even in 2010, Hedgepeth and Saidel were criticised for bringing shame to the survivors of the Holocaust by transmitting the notion that Jewish women had suffered rape. Yet, considering the will of victims through their testimonies to make their experiences heard and the recurrence of this problem from other war zones, I analyze the biographical testimonies from these victims using the perspective of the bystander intervention prevention strategy. This analysis provides examples of how to successfully tackle VAW in the most adverse circumstances. Showcasing that men and women had certain agency to act to prevent or support women contributes to the understanding of what can be done today in cases of largescale rape.

Organizing Plurality. A Question on Remembering/Forgetting of Selves, Gender and in Narrative Interviewing

Folke Brodersen

CAU Kiel, Germany

'Organizing Plurality' focusses the depathological self-organisation of 'Plural Systems' – this self-designation describes the experience of having more than one identity. What used to be dealt with in terms of 'multiple identity disorder' has been reinterpreted in the last five years. Systems distance themselves from a genesis, which has usually been attributed to traumatic events, and emphasise the functionality of multiple identities.

The ability to manage multiplicity and dissent from the norm of singularity poses questions on 'remembering' and 'forgetting' in three ways:

(1) The form and structure of identity. The talk traces, how identities are differentiated from one another and placed in relation to others by remembering them. For example, the concepts of 'fronting' and 'host' provide information about the organisational effort required to ensure that a – more or less – distinguishable identity is present.

(2) Dimensions of socio-structural inequality and how these are made relevant. Systems negotiate gendered and sexualised positions, attribute them differently to identities and remember and shape a body as (un)fitting. The talk then poses the question how 'race' and 'class' are not marked as significant.

(3) Method of interviewing and interview research. Narrative analysis assumes, i.a., that a statement at the beginning of an interview can be connected with subsequent

content. These connections are called into question if the positioning of independent identities, forgetting memories and experiences is taken seriously. The talk therefor asks, how change in biographies must be considered.

The talk is based on a double empiricism of empirical subjectivation connecting therapeutic and self-help literature with self-positionings based on interviews. Thereby the talk criticises existing concepts of identity, rooted in singularity and continuity.

RN03 | T04: Compassion and Suffering

Embodied Representations of Suffering. Stories of Care to Family Members with Mental Distress Unveiled With Body Mapping

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Università di Bergamo, Italy

In light of the crucially important and yet understudied dynamics of family grief, my research aims to explore the lived experiences of people whose close family members going through mental disorder treatments.

I approach the study of this complex issue through body mapping, a visual, narrative, and participatory method in which participants are considered knowledgeable, reflexive individuals who can better articulate their complex life journeys when painting and drawing their bodies and social circumstances.

Participants which experiences of care that spanned lengths of time from 20 to 50 years engaged in multimodal and sensory workshop-based storytelling: they were asked to trace a life-size body outline and decorate it with images, fabrics, and drawings for recounting their lived experiences of care.

The body mapping storytelling disclosed evocative images of intertwined anguishes. A thematic analysis cross-referencing visual and narrative data reveals that caring relations are underpinned by complex moralities, forms of obligation, contrasting feelings as well as the social judgement and isolation that circulate around suffering and care.

The research process opens thus a rare window into nuanced and multiple aspects of participants' lived experiences, the meanings thereof, and how these meanings are impacted by affective and social contexts.

My work contributes to scholarship that approaches suffering as an affective assemblage of bodies, discourses, practices, and performances whose complex relationality seeks to challenge the split between the mind and the body.

In (Biographical) Limbo: Ways and Limits of Articulating Past Individual but Ongoing Collective Experiences of Violence

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While there is already extensive literature on approaches to transitional justice for dealing with violent pasts, even in this established academic field, contributions from diasporas are generally underrepresented. Moreover, all these approaches require – by definition – an end to violence.

Yet, for the increasing group of internationally displaced persons of protracted conflicts, this end is often unforeseeable, which requires new strategies to articulate and acknowledge their suffering than already discussed in discourses on remembering and forgetting.

Based on ethnographic research as well as narrative interviews with Syrian refugees in Germany, the doctoral project asks how refugees articulate past individual, but ongoing collective experiences of violence in the context of massive state violence in Syria. It focuses on people who fled the direct threat of violence since 2011, but who remain displaced from their homes for (at least) as long as the violence continues. They find themselves in a complex position between the individual challenges of finding their way in a new country, dealing with past violence they suffered themselves, and the ongoing concern for those remaining exposed to violence in Syria. This, as an ongoing phenomenon, is hard to integrate into biographical narrations.

The data shows that – when narrating their experiences in this limbo-state between past individual and current collective experiences of violence – exiled Syrians position themselves dynamically in a temporal (past – present – future) and geographical dimension (Syria – flight – Germany), as well as between individual and collective interpretations of their experiences (myself – family/friends – population). Therewith, my paper sheds light on the (narrative) tools people employ to make sense of their experiences in these limbo states, which currently shape their biographies as well as (future) collective narrations.

Based on my research, I argue that it is one of the crucial aspects of our time to make academic efforts to build bridges to these communities in limbo. This includes listening to people's attempts to articulate their (ongoing) experiences, meeting mistrust with honest compassion and interest, as well as representing the narrated tensions, frustrations and inconsistencies that accompany being caught up in limbo.

Social Suffering, 'Lifeworlds' And Agency Of Social Assistance Beneficiaries In Luxembourg

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The fight against the growing at-risk-of-poverty and socially excluded populations in the EU Member States is being led by social investment policies aimed at fostering social inclusion through active labour market policies. Within this framework, this ongoing PhD project explores the impact of recent reforms to Luxembourg's guaranteed minimum income scheme, emphasizing activation towards the labor market. This research contributes to a better understanding of social suffering that 'activated' welfare recipients experience in their daily lives and how it affects their social inclusion process. Based on observations made in previous research, we assume that social suffering is a significant underlying component of the social exclusion process and presents a substantial challenge for populations receiving social assistance in order to reintegrate into the labour market and be socially included.

The aim of the study is twofold: First, we provide a comprehensive analysis of the origins of social suffering throughout participants' 'life' course, examining turning points whether linked to structural or individual causes, and their effects on life phase transitions.

Second, we investigate how social suffering affects the agency of the target population regarding the challenges they face in their "Lebenswelt" and the strategies they develop to articulate structural constraints and individual action.

The methodology uses qualitative research methodologies, which focus on the individuals' subjective points of view for explaining social phenomena. Data is collected through narrative interviews based on life course research as well as document research to contextualize information.

"My Life on the German-Polish Border" – Narratives of Everyday Life in Divided Towns in the Diaries of Their Inhabitants

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The paper presents the results of research using the biographical method – an analysis of 14 diaries submitted to a memoir competition for residents of Polish border towns (Zgorzelec, Gubin and Słubice), organised as part of a research project. The analysis will focus on the following questions: How did the narrators experience and practice the border? How do they remember and narrate changes in their everyday functioning in different areas (work, leisure, contacts with people from the German side of the river) in view of the changing permeability of the border in relation to its transformation in different periods?

Zgorzelec, Gubin and Słubice were created after the Second World War as a result of the demarcation of the German-Polish border on the Oder and Neisse rivers and the separation of the previously existing German towns. The state border, whose permeability has changed over time, provides an important context for the functioning of communities in its immediate vicinity. In recent decades, the EU's border regions have moved towards social and institutional integration, creating spaces with multiple functional links. An important break in this process was brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and decisions by central authorities to restrict or close down cross-border movement. These events have been described as a turn towards re-bordering (Wille 2020, Klatt 2020, Jańczak 2020). Restrictions on cross-border mobility have had a strong impact on the lives of border residents in the EU and have been interpreted locally as a failure of the centre to take into account the needs and interests of the periphery. Analysis of personal documents will provide an insight into the world of experiences of border residents.

RN03 | T05: Migration and Forced Migration in Europe

Two Young Immigrants Determined to Succeed Academically and Professionally: Ali in Germany and Aya in France.

Catherine Delcroix

Université de Strasbourg, France

Here we compare two migration journeys, the ones of Ali and Aya. Ali is a young Syrian from Alep whose middle-class parents helped at age 14 to flee with his brothers their country in the midst of civil war. They reached Turkey in 2011 and tried to resettle there, living from menial jobs. But Ali wanted to get higher education. He left Turkey and he ended up in a village in Germany. He decided to learn German through Internet, and moved to a large city where he succeeded in finishing secondary schooling ; and working at nights, finally got accepted at age 22 in a technical University.

Aya is a girl who lived in Tunisia. Her father is a fisherman with irregular income. Aya was concentrating on studying but she was forced to work in a fish cannery for very little pay. In 2021, she convinced her father to accept a smuggler proposition to take him, Aya and her brother aged 10. They reached Lampedusa then Paris. Her father went back to Tunisia. Her brother was entrusted to a French public institution but not her, at 18. But a French family offered to take care of her. She continud with her school career and could two years later enroll on a technical University. We will show how case studies open the door to obtaining knowledge of lived experience and provide what can be referred to as validation from within the case itself.

Transcending Faith: Value Transmission And Transformation In Evangelical Russian-German Families

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The restructuring of relationships and embedded concepts of a good life and self during adolescence necessitates biographical work, explored in this study within the domains of family, migration, and religion. Adopting a generational perspective (Halbwachs 1985), the study investigates the relevance of remembering and forgetting, as well as suffering and compassion, in the adolescent transmission and transformation of values within evangelical Russian-German families.

Historically, self-perceptions and external perceptions as ethnic Germans have often motivated and facilitated the migration of Russian-German families from countries of the former Soviet Union to Germany. However, within evangelical Russian-German communities, educational paths, family structures, and gender roles often diverge from mainstream cultural ideals (Panagiotidis 2021). Now, how does the younger, German-born generation reconcile their concepts of life and self with the cultural heritage of their families while also navigating the options and expectations of a predominantly secular society?

Biographical interviews conducted with young women from evangelical Russian-German families (Demmer/Hahn 2020) reveal modern ideals of autonomy and authenticity (Taylor 1989) as a reference point for both the transmission and the transformation of communal values.

Biographical tension surrounding belonging and identity emerges in two distinct scenarios: Firstly, when interviewees sense alignment between parental and communal attitudes perceived as outdated or restrictive (Hahn/Demmer 2022). Secondly, when interviewees sense alignment between parental and societal attitudes, where continuous self-improvement becomes a promise and prerequisite for belonging and recognition. In both scenarios, the interviews prompt a focused analysis of how suffering and compassion (or their absence) relate to the interviewees' personal faith. This aspect is explored in the proposed contribution.

Shared Spaces, Shared Stories: Autobiographical Narratives of Dublin and Munich-Based Hosts of Ukrainian Refugees

Daniel Guigui

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In 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that a staggering 117.2 million people were forcefully displaced. Of these, around six million are estimated to have fled the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war into the European Union. Although there has been a growing body of research on migration and the socio-political impacts of large-scale displacements, there is a notable gap in understanding why people in metropolitan cities with highly competitive housing markets choose to share their accommodations with refugees. The existing literature mainly focuses on government policies and macrolevel social impacts, overlooking the personal motivations and material conditions that drive such decisions. Therefore, this research project aims to fill this gap by answering the question, "What conditions reflected in the autobiographies of Dublin and Munich-based hosts of Ukrainians explain the practice of sharing accommodation?" seeking to explore how individual life courses contribute to the practice of home-sharing with displaced individuals. The study's theoretical framework is based on empirical forms of everyday cosmopolitanism, emphasising the importance of a cosmopolitan ethics of sharing. The Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method, developed by Tome Wengraf, was chosen because it empowers participants to share their stories while providing a robust methodological framework for case-by-case and cross-country comparisons. The findings of this research are expected to provide valuable information

on the determinants of biographical narratives that lead to the manifestation of cosmopolitan outlooks, practices, identities, and ethics of sharing. By providing a nuanced understanding of how personal narratives can inform and enhance strategies to manage housing challenges in the wake of large-scale migrations, this research will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the practice of home sharing. Therefore, the results of this study are potentially interesting for academic researchers in empirical cosmopolitanism and policymakers seeking to foster and harness the positive effects of the cosmopolitan ethics of sharing to alleviate the bottlenecks in housing provision caused by unexpected migrations. Ultimately, this will ensure that our rapidly growing cities are welcoming to all.

I have not joined an ESA Summer School before.

Tensions and Paradoxes of Compassion and Trust at the European Borders. The Case of Activists Providing Help on Polish-Belarusian Border

Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas, Katarzyna Waniek

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The paper will grasp the paradoxes of providing assistance in the situation of the ongoing humanitarian crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border since the second half of 2021. It is about huge numbers of people from the Middle East and Africa seeking a safe shelter in Europe, but nomadic for weeks in the forests and swamps between Poland and Belarus. Drawing on personal documents (quasi-biographical interviews published in the press and books, but also autobiographical accounts in the social media), we will discuss the tension between the moral imperative to give aid vis-a-vis big European politics and a callous state. Preliminary analyses of the empirical material show a huge biographical costs borne by those who provide help including family life, work commitment, social life, but also an enormous psychological burden. The latter is associated not only with the sharing in the immense physical and mental suffering of people fleeing wars, persecution or poverty while caught in a trap of a cynical political game between Putin and the "fortress Europe", but also with the extreme indifference of Polish and European society as well as burdening public discourse presenting refugees as not-quite human, as criminals threatening state security or arrogant swindlers intending to abuse social system. This image radiates to the helpers, who are seen as gullible people seduced by "sad stories", or as traitors collaborating with enemies to destroy the "we"-community.

RN03 | T06: Biographical Research of Pandemic and Post-COVID Societies

The Role of Biographical Resources in Shaping Coping Strategies of Polish Doctors in the Pandemic Crisis

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The proposed paper aims to analyze the role of biographical resources in shaping the coping strategies employed by Polish doctors during the institutional crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the study focuses on doctors in Poland who can be classified as frontline healthcare workers – those who worked in designated COVID-19 wards established in Polish hospitals following the pandemic outbreak. This particular segment of the healthcare system experienced significant challenges including changes in the labor process. The healthcare workers faced increased work intensity, organizational restructuring, revised schedules, altered tasks and responsibilities, heightened health risks, changes in compensation, disrupted work-life balance, and more.

The emerging research question is what ways of dealing with the mentioned problems were established by medical doctors on the collective and individual levels?

The proposed hypothesis is that individuals facing the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in the workplace utilize opportunity structures (Roberts, 2009) and draw upon "biographical resources" (Liebermann, 2012) which concern the totality of biographical experiences that can foster resilience, support life strategies, and provide additional assets to protect against consequences of crises one would experience during life.

The paper is based on the projects: „COV-WORK: Socio-economic consciousness, work experiences and coping strategies of Poles in the context of the post-pandemic crisis" which focuses on the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic to the world of work, and "Residents in Crises. Biographical Dimension of Becoming Physician in the Polish Healthcare System" which covers the biographical experience of young Polish doctors.

The empirical material consists of the data extracted from 40 biographical narrative interviews conducted with medical doctors, nurses, paramedics, and non-medical personnel according to Fritz Schütze's methodology principles.

Return to Work

Veronika Sofia Schmid

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Why do people return to work? From this question as a starting point, the contribution turns to the empirical phenomena

of returning to work and, as part of the results of the underlying research, the role agency plays in the process and beyond.

The centrepiece of the qualitative PhD study is interviews with former drug addicts, who have or have had to deal with returning to work as a possible option. They all have successfully completed a therapeutical programme to address their addiction. This critical biographical event is occasionally termed a `rebirth` or `reinvention of the self` and marks the radical experience of completely losing one´s own ability to act.

How do potential re-entrants to the labour market attain agency? Returning to work is an issue the interviewees have to deal with as part of their struggle to regain agency. Does the process of returning to work itself foster or impede opportunities for action?

In order to answer these questions, the paper analyses the empirical material, guided interviews with narrative elements, using Grounded Theory according to Strauss and Corbin. The findings might be structured along the conference themes, tension, trust and transformation.

Tension evolves between the capacity to act and the desire to act. It also arises out of the experience of the total incapacity to act and the handling of the new possibilities. A crisis of trust can be stated for some of the material. It correlates with different feelings and conditions of being in the world with others. Remarkably, anger is only expressed by interviewees who are socially embedded in some way.

Transformation takes place in form of a transformation of the self through narration. Agency and the self as an acting subject are constructed by narration, far beyond its actual capacity. In the course of this, the anticipated ideal working subject provided an important point of reference for positioning oneself.

Narratives of Imprisonment: Suffering and Adaptation from the Pandemic Onwards

Alessandro Maculan

University of Padua, Italy

This contribution will focus on narratives of imprisonment drawing on qualitative data collected through semi-structured interviews with a sample of 26 male detained individuals in a Northern Italy's prison. Since the earliest qualitative studies conducted in the prison context in the last century, imprisonment has been described as an experience characterized by several sufferings, what have been called by Gresham M. Sykes (1958) "the pains of imprisonment". Over the decades, these sufferings have partly changed form (just as the penal and penitentiary institution has changed), maintaining, however, their intensity intact. With the recent pandemic crisis, however, the pain of imprisonment has been further exacerbated. With this presentation I intend to shed light on the stories of people deprived of freedom, exploring their experiences which are characterized by profound suffering and – especially during the pandemic and its subsequent management – a strong and deep sense of societal and institutional abandonment. These biographical stories of detention reveal a widespread request for recognition of one's prison experiences (characterized not only by deprivation but also uncertainty, precariousness, and unsafety in overcrowded, unhealthy, and violent places), as well as an assumption of responsibility towards the penitentiary world which increasingly ends up being forgotten by society. From the interviewees' narratives, the strategies they have implemented to cope with the complex daily challenges inherent in detention will also be highlighted. Not only individual but also group strategies, where various forms of peer support and solidarity take on new contours from time to time.

Lights and Shadows of Educational Trajectories of Young Migrants in Pandemic Times: Navigating Educational Inequities through Biographical Perspectives

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This proposal presents partial results of an international research project funded by the Spencer Foundation which explores educational inequities affecting racialised and minoritised migrants worldwide in the context of COVID-19. Based on a transnational case study developed in five countries (Brazil, Malta, Spain, the United States of America, and Uruguay) the research aims to analyze systemic and emergent post-pandemic inequities that impact the education of migrants within and across countries, building a complex vision of how these inequities intersect with race, gender, ethnicity, social class, and legal status. The research follows a biographical and narrative approach, based on deep interviews and focus groups, aiming to capture the nuances and textures of the pandemic as a 'lived experience'. The paper focuses on the Spanish case, which takes place in a vocational training school on the outskirts of Barcelona, which welcomes students who have dropped out of compulsory education. School dropout is a complex social phenomenon which impacts the lives of thousands of young people in Europe and particularly Spain, as one of the European countries with the highest rate of youth leaving school before completing compulsory education. Emerging results are now allowing us to analyze, from a biographical perspective, how young migrants make sense of truncated school careers in the regular educational system, unraveling the lights and shadows of their educational trajectories, that are often nonlinear, full of twists and turns, fueled by a context of exclusion, stigmatization, demotivation and disaffection towards educational institutions.

RN03 | T07: Biographies and Identities

Auto\Biographcial Stories of Social Class: Seaside Holidays, Education and Work

John Goodwin

University of Leicester, United Kingdom

As a sociologist inspired by C Wright Mills and his concern for the intersections of history and biography, core to my practice is working with respondents' biographical accounts. These are usually offered through stories and anecdotes curated, crafted, and honed throughout the person's life. These stories have been amended, embellished, edited and refined, but all point to private troubles, public issues, and the narrative arc of history. By exploring these stories, we gain insights into the problems of our time alongside biographical continuities and changes. My own autobiographical stories offer the same insights and have been a valuable tool for orienting my sociology approach. Born in a working-class mining town in the North of England, growing up during the 1970s and trying to enter work at the height of Thatcherism, deindustrialisation entirely shaped my early life. Stories from this time have helped me understand my troubles, the value of family and community, and what it was like to be on the receiving end of ill-considered education practices. In this paper, I explore these issues and the accompanying intersections of history and biography via three autoethnographic stories of social class: Visiting the Seaside, Learning to Read and Socks on the Sofa. These are mundane stories of the 'everyday' and the 'ordinary' but also point to the complex biography of working-class lives.

Biographical Approach In Studying Industrial Heritage

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In Latvia, various forms of testimony from the second half of the 20th century started to disappear, whether they were personal stories or tangible artifacts. However, in recent years, the industrial legacy of Latvia's Soviet era has drawn more attention, involving documenting recollections of the past of various industries.

The report aims to demonstrate the potential of the biographical approach in the study of industrial heritage by conducting walk-and-talk interviews with former workers of Riga Porcelain Factory in its old buildings and territories to investigate.

In Latvia, porcelain production commenced in the mid-1800s and gained cultural significance in the 20th century, contributing to the development of a distinct national style. However, mass production of porcelain in Latvia has ceased since the closure of industrial firms caused both by the collapse of the USSR, followed by changes in raw material and outlet markets, and by wider processes of deindustrialization worldwide.

As the context of interviews significantly influences their content, the research approach emphasizes the connection between interviewees' statements and the interview locations. The study collects diverse information about individuals' ties to specific places, the impact of social and political changes, and relationships within the local community. This technique has proven effective in activating memory processes and documenting remaining details related to the industrial legacy. The interviews primarily focus on life and work stories, including relationships among coworkers, as well as features of the manufacturing facility and its surroundings.

Afro-poles. Culture in the making

Piotr Szenajch

University of Łódź, Poland

For more than a decade now, a generation of Poles born into families of African immigrants from the communist and early transformation era has been entering adulthood. They grew up in Poland and were educated in Polish schools, Polish is their first language and they are saturated with Polish culture. Despite this, their countrymen on the street regularly address them in English, compliment them on their use of Polish, and at times vulgarly send them back 'to where they came from'. In a seemingly mono-ethnic and mono-cultural country until recently, the appearance of Afro-Poles remains a stigma of otherness and foreignness, carried with them constantly.

However, contemporary Poles of African descent – as reported in the press and as my first interviews show – not only consider themselves Polish but want to change Polish

culture and society, based on their and their families' difficult experiences. They have started NGO's, organized large-scale media actions, intercultural workshops and street protests, as well as addressed petitions. They have written memoirs, novels and essays about their condition. In recent years, at least five theatre plays, several books, a major contemporary art exhibition and a research group at an important art institution were devoted to the Black experience.

Within the scope of the study, I am trying to address issues of race and racism in the Polish context through a multi-layered description of the experience of being a Pole of African descent, including aspects such as social and cultural mobility, activism and cultural production. The study is based on auto-biographical narrative interviews, complemented by a photographic interview. The paper will be a mid-fieldwork work-in-progress presentation on the most recent findings.

RN03 | T08: Creative Applications of Biographical Methods

Biographical Perspectives on Public Anti-racist Mobilities

Outi Eline Kähäri

University of Oulu, Finland

Podcasts have recently drawn attention among researchers who study anti-racist media activism. An increasing number of podcasts connecting to the issues of racism have become a part of the digital activism formed in both national and transnational antiracist networks. These networks have accelerated intersectional discussions on gender, race, citizenship and migration often poorly represented in the mainstream media.

Youth and young adults experience everyday racism often in the form of mundane othering during their life course at schools, universities, and other educational institutions as well as in their transition to working life. In podcasts, discussants talk openly about their experiences, thoughts and feelings related to racism with persons who are 'like them' or are known to be their 'allies' in their anti-racist work. However, podcasting seems to mediate also through diverse socio-cultural boundaries because of its 'hyper-intimacy' and the feeling of closeness between the discussants and the audience.

By using the methods of podcast ethnography, I explore how young adults make everyday racism visible in podcasts produced in Finland. The study shows that many podcast producers and their guests employed biographical perspectives in making everyday racism understandable. In the analysed podcast episodes (N=18), discussants shared intimate individual, collective and vicarious stories on racism and they used affective autobiographical and collective memories to activate the listener's empathy on anti-racist practice. By comprehending the biographical meaning of racism, the empathic listener began to both cognitively and affectively conceive racism as a long-term personal life experience and collective social phenomenon.

The Formalization Of Informal Mechanisms To Support Survivors In Academia: The Case Of The CARE Centers

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Scientific literature has already shown – to address GBV – the importance of solidarity networks and of protecting both direct victims and those who protect victims of

gender-based violence; whom, if this protection also lacks for them, may become victims of Isolating Gender Violence (IGV). Within this context and aligned with the EU-funded Marie Sklodowska-Curie research project "UniswithHeart", which examines the different support mechanisms universities employ to assist survivors of sexual harassment and GBV, this paper's scope covers formal and informal mechanisms, including support networks, analysing how the latter deal with possible resistance in the academic context. The methodology included the analysis of 9 US universities and organizations, conducting 67 in-depth interviews and focus groups; and attending 6 support group sessions. Drawing on this, the paper shows the model of the CARE Centers, present within the University of California System, with more emphasis on the University of California, Berkeley. Our findings suggest that these advocacy Centers, named PATH to CARE at UC Berkeley, are confidential resources and highlighted as a mechanism that started as informal and became formalized by the university, recognizing their need and importance. The CARE Centers remained student-informed, offering survivors the protection and support they need. All the analysed biographical narratives, and people participating in the support groups, have improved their stories thanks to these Centers. Their efforts are addressed to transform the campus environment by caring for their most vulnerable community while being a model for other universities regarding survivors' support. Also, to successfully protect survivors in academia, tackling the connection between solidarity networks and IGV becomes crucial for survivors to break their silence and keep forward, continuing their personal and professional paths.

Transformative Trajectories: Navigating Multi-Crisis Challenges in Post-Pandemic Developing Societies

Marta Eichsteller

Univeristy College Dublin, Ireland

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in Africa, developing societies grapple with unprecedented challenges, necessitating profound transformations for inclusive, sustainable, and economic development. This presentation leverages extensive data from the SIDA-funded NEXUS project, focusing on joint policy-making in low and middle-income countries. Guided by the theory of change, our theoretical framework highlights the complexities of navigating post-pandemic transformations.

This paper explores developing countries' challenges, especially amid demands for low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. The analysis encompasses multiple crises, including unstable governance, conflict, post-pandemic poverty surges, and the escalating impact of climate change. Based on qualitative comparative analyses of life history interviews conducted in seven African countries between 2019-2024, the study aims to unravel the intricate interplay of individual values, choices, and institutional arrangements.

Key findings emphasise the inseparable link between environmental sustainability, economic transformation, and social inclusion for developing societies to thrive. The study underscores the pivotal role of social institutions, such as communities and local networks, acting as both hindrances and catalysts for economic transformation and effective coping strategies in the face of climate shocks.

Crucially, the research identifies social inclusion, particularly in education for both genders, as a promising avenue for concurrently fostering economic transformation and environmental sustainability. The analysis suggests that investing in education, breaking gender barriers, and empowering communities are integral to sustainable poverty escapes. As we navigate post-pandemic transformations in developing societies, this research provides valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars, allowing us to forge pathways towards a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Transforming the Life Story: the New Empirical Model of Biographical Learning

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The concept of biographical learning postulates learning from individuals' own life stories, which is particularly important to evidence in turbulent times. From the start, biographical learning was closely related to biographical research methods but is also connected to a particular educational practice of autobiographical storytelling. The research gap in biographical learning knowledge is no clear understanding of the internal processes that occur when an individual engages in biographical learning.

The study presupposes the process of making sense of biographical experiences can be evidenced through storytelling during the research interview. Data was collected through 29 biographical narrative interviews with adult learners in Czech higher education and analysed through different means of narrative analysis. The abductive synthesis of the results enabled the creation of the graphic model of the process of biographical learning.

The analysis showed that through storytelling, connections between experiences are created in three possible ways: learning by analogy, learning by audit, and learning by authority. Through the empirical model, it was discovered that identity is the guiding element for the selection, transformation, and integration of experiences. Identity is thus a condition and outcome of biographical learning.

Biographical learning is evidenced by creating meaningful connections between biographical experiences stored in the memory. The consequence of the process of biographical learning is the constant construction and reconstruction of one's biography and identity. Understanding these processes more fully can help to shed light on the mechanisms behind biographical learning and how it can be effectively facilitated in various settings.

RN04 | T01_01: Ethical Challenges and Artificial Intelligence

Ethical Reflexivity in Participatory Research with Children

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Doing participatory research with children entails various ethical challenges regarding power relations between adults and children in the field. The location where the research takes place, the consent and presence of parents and gatekeepers, the dynamics of the interviews, and the methods used can promote or limit children's participation. In this presentation, we discuss these ethical aspects using the example of our research experience in the project "WoKidS – Children's Well-Being in German-Speaking Switzerland (2021-2024)", in which children aged eight to 14 are participating. The presentation is based on an ethical reflexivity approach, in which different researchers involved in the field reflect on their research practice with children. First, we highlight the importance of informing children and gatekeepers about the research prior to data collection. To ensure that they are broadly informed, we developed a booklet for children and consent forms for parents and legal guardians. The consent forms are written in twelve different languages to include families from various migration backgrounds. Secondly, on the example of our project, we discuss different opportunities and levels of children's participation in the research. Lastly, we draw attention to the issues of privacy, sensitivity, and autonomy after the data collection. Here we address how we handled privacy and sensitive topics during and after the interviews and the children's right not to answer questions.

Navigating the Challenges of Implementing Children's Participation Rights in Policymaking: The Case Study of Chile

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Loughborough University, United Kingdom

The UNCRC participation rights application has encountered significant challenges. Its elements of emancipation, contradicting a paternalistic and adult-centric system, and the power families have over children, have been an important contest. Implementing participation rights confronts theoretical objections and practical challenges.

A significative case study is Chile, which has been facing a process of socio-political, economic, and cultural transformation, and has embarked towards a constitutional change in which childhood is identified as an area of social demands. There is a debate over the position that children and adolescents should have in Chilean society, especially around the idea of being social subjects and protagonists of the processes in which they are subjects of intervention.

This qualitative research examines whether it is necessary to incorporate childhood participation in public policymaking in Chile and the consequences of this aim for childhood, policymaking, and social programs. The Mosaic Approach, coupled with semi-structured interviews, played a pivotal role in unveiling and juxtaposing the perspectives of children, adolescents, Chilean practitioners, experts, and policymakers.

The nature of childhood participation in public policies should consider intergenerational practices as the public sphere arena is a territory of all the social actors who are involved in the participative experience of children and young people. Also, the redistribution of power is essential for this, being necessary to consider the political factor, and understanding that political participation is the exercise of Human Rights. The exercise of children's participation rights evokes the necessity of participating in the development of their own country.

The Role of Digital Tools in Increasing Trust and Enhancing Dialogue in Research Work with Young People with Migrant Backgrounds

Sara Amadasi

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Although children and adolescents are often experienced and at ease regarding the use of digital technology, there seems to be a lack of works that explore the potential of digital tools in promoting the participation of children and how these tools can be included in the context of field research to increase trust and, consequently, dialogue. This lack is even more evident when it concerns research experiences that involve children and teenagers with migrant backgrounds.

This paper presents some data collected within a research project with unaccompanied minors and a group of teenagers with migrant origins.

The study aimed to investigate how young people construct their sense of belonging through the selection, within their mobile phones, of pictures of places that are important to them. Participants were then asked to choose a story linked to those pictures and to record it, with a personal selection of music tracks, to create a podcast to be shared with the group of young people involved in the research. The research was conducted in Italy and digital tools were adopted to facilitate dialogue and increase trust during the research process.

Data show that the use of digital tools can enhance the epistemic authority of children and teenagers, with relevant

effects on dialogic dynamics which are based on trust, with the consequence of fostering young people's possibilities to tell stories about themselves and places that are important in their lives.

"Childhood and Digital Storytelling From Television to the Internet"

Angelo Romeo

Guglielmo Marconi University of Rome, Italy

Childhood with digital changes has undergone notable transformations, which have redefined times and places of coexistence between parents and children and has also led to a significant change in media storytelling, that is of the way in which children are narrated within the media and how they themselves become consumers of the media themselves. Through an analysis of cartoons, especially Italian ones, but also known in other European countries, with a reading that passes from traditional to digital media, (from the 80s to today) it is possible to understand the change in childhood from a media point of view , taking up the concept of "Cultural Reproduction" to which W. Corsaro's sociology of childhood and contemporary theorists refers, it is possible to underline the way in which children become protagonists of the media scene and of consumption choices, not only of cartoons but also of recreational products, meeting places, which directly influence the social practices of the family. This analysis highlights new forms of storytelling, which undermine the communication models of television, which does not die, but becomes less and less attractive for children, who are more digitally expert than their family members.

RN04 | T01_02: Research Processes and Artistic Doing

Children's Participation in the Transformation of Common Spaces: a Participatory Process in a Deprived Community from Children's Perspectives

Gabriela Trevisan, Mariana Carvalho

ProChild CoLAB, Portugal

Children's participation in public spaces has been widely discusses in the Sociology of Childhood, particularly by its valuable contributions to communtity well-being and benefitial aspects of intergenerational experiences. Moreover, children's perspectives are also seen as valuable for designing action in community and local projects as a condition for social change (Johnson, 2020). As several authors have also suggested (Percy-Smith, 2010; Trevisan, 2023; Sarmento, 2023, amongst others) local and proximal settings present themselves as more effective for children's effective particiption rather than formal structures are capable of, most of the times. The experience we bring is a result of a participatory process of children and young people's participation (aged 6-16 years old) in a deprived neighbourhood of the North of Portugal where, for 3 years, mapping exercises, community meetings, exibitions, public discussions and presentations and actions of spatial recognition were built also with the larger community members. Dyagnosing the public space of the neighbourhood, identifying needs and wishes, projecting children's imagination as a transformative and revealving force, it was possible to create a "script" that comprises the idea of community well-being from children's unique perspectives. The results show a multi generational view that children are capable of producing on public space. A particular graphic and visual language was created with children in order to recognise children's actions and project products, namely, pamphlets and 3 dimensions of visual registration of public space: photo, drawing and writting. The main of the process will be discussed.

Can Childhood Studies Be More Awesome? Some Notes On The Practicalities Of Awe As A Conceptual Tool In Studying Children's Agency And Engagement With The World

Aleksandra Zalewska-Królak[1], Maja Brzozowska-Brywczyńska[2]

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Looking at the agentic child of childhood studies (and given its conceptual ambivalence), especially in the context of their lived citizenship and social/political participation in the world constantly reshaped by transformations, flooded with tensions, and lacking trust, including trust in the future, it is hard not to notice that to fully grasp the specificity of children's engagement, its potential, and its limitations, one must take into account—probably more explicitly than ever before—what we call its affective landscape.

To somehow chart this landscape, we used the concept of awe that, alongside wonder, imminently conjures childhood experiences, but is rarely featured in sociological analyses of children's emotions, especially in the context of their agency. As awe implies both self-diminishment and increased connectedness with other people; we see it as a useful lens to study children's formative relationships with the world and a useful conceptual bridge between affect and action. To better understand the complexities of awe and its interpretations, we conducted a literature review of childhood studies research from the last two decades, exploring the concepts of awe, wonder, and amazement, but also mindfulness, empathy, connectedness with nature, and biophilia. We created a practical definition of awe that focuses on its prosocial aspect and investigates its analytical potential in understanding young people's actions and engagements in a world filled with uncertainty, loss, and grief.

Our conceptual endeavours are both an invitation to further exploring these possibilities in various social contexts and a disclosure of the idea of constructive hope that stems from love grounded in wonder and awe as the foundation for children's agentic involvement with the world.

Children's Political and Aesthetic Enactment: Learning from Frequencies, a Global Archive of School Student Canvases

Deborah Jane Crook

University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom

Frequencies is a long-term international project led by Turner-prize-winning artist Oscar Murillo that has enabled children to make their marks on canvases fixed to desks in classrooms across the world. Since 2013, students in 350 schools in 30 countries have participated, producing over 40,000 canvases. Undirected mark-making can provide a new lens for reflection that disrupts dominant patterns of knowledge construction. How children expressed their being whilst at school was explored through a research study that examined a sample of the canvases from 12 varying geographical and cultural contexts. The stages of analysis challenged developmentalist conceptualisation of children's art as the expression of evolving self-awareness and ignorant of subject matter, with little value in itself. Instead, I contend that children's representations of their surroundings, and the universality of scribbled symbols, demonstrate a sophisticated sense of human symbiosis with the world. Images of celebration, of war, and belief, enabled children to express communicative competences and emotional capabilities that they are not supposed to have at school, revealing their self-awareness and understanding of their selves in relation to the perceived world around them. There is further tension between the natural and manufactured, through representation of the colonisation of minority world ideas, with brands and media appropriations littered throughout the canvases. And yet there is hope as children resist the heteronomy evoked by school, by changing the rules of child art towards political and aesthetic enactment that suggests the 'product' of their endeavours is just as important as the mark making process itself.

"I Had my Older Brother…": Constructions of Childhood and Youth in University Students' Life Stories

Anne-Sofie Nyström

Uppsala University, Sweden

The presentation aligns with existing scholarship on constructions of age, childhoods, 'becoming', and children's agency in life stories. Positioned within the broader landscape of life story research, this analysis seeks bring forward constructions of age within university students' narratives. In the paper, findings from a larger project about under-represented students' trajectories into university physics programs are presented, focusing the life stories of 21 university physicists through a narrative analysis. The data was developed through loosely structured timeline interviews, during the dialogue and construction of a timeline different aspects of the interviewees' lives were made meaningful, intelligible, and used to position them.

The paper places a significant emphasis on the portrayal of childhoods and the agency of children within their trajectories. Previous research has often explored scientists' life histories, emphasizing pivotal moments and influences that shape their academic identities. However, this study extends beyond these frameworks by drawing attention to the construction of age (and its intersections) and the agency of children, particularly within the context of science narratives. By highlighting the role of peers, including siblings and friends, the research explores understandings of

the influences of childhood relationships for facilitating and hindering science interest and science identities. The paper contributes by offering insights into how the agency of children, as portrayed in physics students' narratives, shapes their 'becoming' as adults and scientists. In such, it seeks to advance our understanding of the multifaceted dynamics involved in the construction of age, childhood and youth.

RN04 | The Sociology of Children and Childhood

RN04 | T02_01: Intersectionality and Difference

Looking Beyond Policy: A Critical Analysis Of Children's Work At The Agbogbloshie Scrapyard In Ghana

Joyce Serwaa Oppong

University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The debates about children's paid and unpaid labour services in both the public and domestic domain are well-documented. In this paper, I draw on empirical research to explore the lived experiences of children working as electronic waste recyclers at the Agbogbloshie scrapyard in Ghana. My research questions address agency and children's work, the social construction of childhood and children's work and stakeholders' perception of children's work in the setting.

Undertaking ethnographic research, I observed and interviewed child workers who were street children and children living with their families or carers in the urban slums of Sodom and Gomorrah in Ghana. In addition, I interviewed adult workers at the scrapyard and government and non-governmental organisation officials.

The findings revealed the tension between policy and culture as children's work in the e-waste industry is considered child labour but the children were allowed to work due to constructs about childhood and work in the setting. I identified the transformative impact of children's work on their lives and their families. Children who lived independently took care of their basic needs and education without adult support. In a setting where social intervention policies are bedevilled with challenges, children's paid and unpaid work supports family income and ensures social cohesion. Through work, children are socialised to express reciprocity and obligation, acquire strong work ethics and become responsible members of the community. However, while children's work was beneficial, the children experienced abuse, economic exploitation and state-produced harm owing to policies that do not acknowledge children's work and hence do not offer protection which deepened their plight.

In summary, ignoring the cultural, contextual and situational differences when implementing policies could impact children's well-being.

Who Is Afraid of the Queer Child? Constructions of Childhood and Gender in the Public Discourse on Drag Queen Readings for Children.

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The study of public debates on gender and trans issues focuses primarily on anti-gender movements. Despite the central focus on children in the discourse – for example through "early sexualisation" or "indoctrination" – a thorough analysis from a childhood studies perspective has so far been lacking.

Based on the public controversies about drag queen readings for children in Vienna in the spring of 2023, I focus on the entanglement of childhood and gender as contested concepts and ask about the discursive constructions of childhood and their relation to gender.

The data basis for the study are press statements and social media postings of central discourse producers (actors from civil society and political actors from the Vienna City Council) as well as the reporting in Austrian newspapers around the drag queen readings for children in the spring of 2023.

Using the methodological approach of situation analysis, all the discursive positions on the child and childhood and gender were reconstructed. In doing so, I show, first, the heterogeneity and complexity of the constructions, second, marginalised and not taken positions and, third, positions for and against drag queen reading for children.

Based on this analysis, heterogeneous constructions of the child and childhood in relation to gender become visible, which, alongside protection and innocence, also produce notions of autonomy and danger, thus echoing established and historically rooted images of the child (Smith 2012; Walton 2021). Further, the study highlights clear differences in the construction by supporters and critics of drag queen readings for children, but also shows overlaps in some positions.

Tracing Transformative Trajectories: The Diverse Impacts of COVID-19 on Child and Adolescent Well-Being in Germany

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The COVID-19 pandemic has notably impacted children and adolescents' mental health, significantly increasing stress, anxiety, and depression (Miao et al. 2023; Ravens-Sieberer et al. 2023). Studies highlight that children from families with lower socio-economic status or single-parent households are disproportionately affected (Ng & Ng, 2022; Ravens-Sieberer et al. 2023). This underscores the need for

detailed, longitudinal studies to track changes in well-being and identify long-term trends.

Our study aims to examine longitudinal well-being trajectories among children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic and identify key factors influencing these trajectories, particularly among vulnerable groups.

We use Latent Growth Mixture Modeling on data from the representative large-scale panel "Growing up in Germany", starting in 2019. This approach analyzes the evolving patterns in the well-being of children and adolescents throughout the pandemic. We measure well-being using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) scores, reported by primary caregivers of children aged 4 to 17 years. The SDQ, a brief behavioral screening tool, effectively captures the multifaceted aspects of psychological health. Our sample includes 1,846 participants, spanning critical developmental stages and offering insights into the pandemic's varied effects across different age groups.

Preliminary analyses reveal significant variations in SDQ scores, highlighting the pandemic's uneven impact. Factors such as material deprivation and family climate emerge as significant influencers of children's well-being. With the latest 2023 data, we continue to analyze distinct trajectories between different age groups, enhancing our understanding of these complex dynamics even after the pandemic.

This study charts diverse mental health trajectories and contributes to understanding how global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic can drive transformative changes in societal structures and individual experiences.

Young People's Attitudes To Wearing Masks During The COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring Rights And Responsibilities

Colin Leonard

Queens University Belfast, United Kingdom

Colin Leonard – Queen's University Belfast

This paper explores the extent to which young people (age 14-18) considered the COVID-19 pandemic in moral terms and how they viewed compliance around regulations and requirements to wear face coverings in varying settings. The research uses the work of Goffman as a theoretical framework for exploring the extent to which young people position themselves in relation to morality. Morality is intimately connected to rights and responsibilities and the balance between the two is fraught with ambiguities and contradictions. The research is based on responses to a written exercise whereby young people were asked to reflect on whether they had a responsibility to wear a mask or a right not to wear a mask. 270 young people from 7 schools in Northern Ireland took part in the research. Analysis of the data indicates that young people divided responsibilities into three types: personal responsibility, social responsibility and collective responsibility. The paper will illuminate attitudes to these constructions of responsibility and how they equate with opinions related to the right not to wear a mask.

RN04 | T03: International Justice: Processes in Research

Ethical Tensions When Undertaking Co-produced Research With Children: Questions Of Intergenerational, Epistemic Justice?

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Children are increasingly involved in social research, not only as research participants, but in co-producing the research from research design to knowledge exchange. These developments have challenged our current academic ethical policies and systems, which have too often blocked, hampered or delayed such research rather than enhanced it. These tensions raise questions about intergenerational, epistemic justice: to what extent are children recognised and supported as knowledge producers? The presentation draws on a range of collaborative research projects involving children in co-produced research, to discuss three testing issues. First, if children are involved in data generation and analysis, how should their moral rights to authorship be recognised? The defaults of many ethical policies are that children should be anonymised as a protective measure when involved in social research. Second, there are legal concerns, ethical constraints and sometimes prohibitions about children's images being used publicly, and even more so online and in social media. This perpetuates the invisibility of children in social research but (again) is often argued as a protective measure, especially recognising the replicability, longevity and power of visual images online. Third, if adult researchers are economically or otherwise supported to contribute to social research, how should children's contributions be similarly recognised? Ethical policies differ substantially on whether and how children should be compensated or acknowledged for their research contributions. The presentation seeks to explore various perspectives, values, and principles that can address such issues and contribute to achieving epistemic justice in co-produced research with children.

Children's Participation Inside Shelters Between Multiple Tensions: An Analysis Through Modes Of Action

Daniel Pascal Stoecklin, André Cardozo Sarli

University of Geneva, Switzerland

This paper stems from a nationwide research with children in streets situations in Brazil, who are placed in institutional care (colloquially known as shelters). In our field, we visited 10 institutions in 5 major cities in all regions of the country and spoke with over 50 teenagers and 20 staff. We shed light on their participatory capability, defined as "the capacity of the child to effectively participate in the definition and fulfilment of choices that affect his/her own life" (Stoecklin & Bonvin, 2014, p. 66). Their participatory capacity lies in opportunities that they are more or less able to build by relying on institutional structures.

We focus on their participation from a frame of children's rights, which we argue are mediated by transactional horizons – "symbolic landscapes channeling social interactions" (activities, relations, values, motivations and images of self) (Stoecklin, 2021) – which allow actors to negotiate the institutional order that constitutes their daily environment. We observed three distinct types of participation: adaptative, cooperative and innovative (conflict-free or confrontational). By focusing on the underlying modes of action that mediate the effectivity of children's rights, we identified tensions between, on one side, the dominating entrepreneurial mode of action, triggered by neoliberal discourse focused on achievements and metrics and often reflected in the requirements of donors and public power, and, on the other side, the needs reflected in the in-betweenness of shelters from the modes of actions prevalent in the teenagers' discourse, especially relationships (need for trust) and images of self (need for transformations).

The Case for Intergenerational Alliances For Social Change

Jo Moran-Ellis

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The Sociology of Childhood has much to offer by way of challenges to existing social orders which support structural inequalities. In recent years there has been a growing recognition that generational relationships are significant in social orderings. Recent climate activism has positioned the generational order as (potentially at least) problematic when it comes to bringing about social change. In this paper I argue that whilst this can be the case, effective positive social change needs to embrace the possibilities that intergenerational alliances could open up. However, such alliances require methodological support and a clear theoretical foundation to support their capacities. I examine the theoretical starting points for generational structures, and then develop an alternative way of thinking about the constellation of agency, structure, and relationality around axes of age and generation. Following on from this, the aim will be to show how a methodology (empirical and practical) of building mutual understanding and shared insights can foster powerful alliances which holistically address key areas of social change and social justice. The role of trust will be core to this argument, as will questions of mutual and competing interests.

Learning From Intergenerational Research Embedded In Mountain Epistemes

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Mountain epistemes require interdisciplinary and structural exploration of community intergenerational agency across different geographies. Mountain spaces demonstrate precarity and are perceived as liminal and marginal. This paper will explain how mountainscapes are being understood through partnership research focusing on traditional and contemporary cultural-ecological and intergenerational community knowledges and experiences in changing environmental and political contexts, and in the recovery from the covid pandemic. Using an intergenerational research approach rooted in changescape analysis, the multidisciplinary research teams in Scotland, and international partners, will develop spaces and mechanisms to surface voices that are marginalised in mainstream political processes. Child and youth agency will be supported to ensure that there are creative and participatory spaces and processes to ensure their meaningful engagement throughout the research. Intergenerational exploration of lived experience will not only inform insights into survival strategies across generations in communities but will also underpin a comparative analysis of community knowledges across geographies. The multimethod social research is embedded in historicity, ethnographic interviewing and observation, and creative and participatory strategies, sensitive to insectionalities, including age and gender. The partnerships across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and internationally, including in the United States and South Africa, will develop insights on how to implement community-informed, place-based, and intergenerationally sensitive governance systems in mountainscapes. Learnings can in turn serve as exemplars for embedding intergenerational justice in development processes in rural and remote communities.

RN04 | T04_01: Intergenerational Justice in Care and Education

Social Consequences of Early Learning in Danish Early Childhood Education and Care Institutions

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This paper explores transformations of children's everyday lives in Danish early childhood education and care (ECEC) institutions due to an increased focus on early learning. Since the 1990s, promoting early learning has been a key objective in Danish ECEC sector, reshaping the Danish social pedagogy tradition characterised by a child-centred approach with a strong focus on children's play and social relations (Gulløv 2012, Karila 2012, Kjørholt 2013). Various policy initiatives and legislative frameworks have promoted a greater focus on educational content within Danish ECEC (Bach et al. 2020, Dannesboe & Kjær 2021, Dannesboe et al. 2021). Today, ECEC institutions are required to support learning environments and create learning opportunities for all children (Juhl 2018). The aim of this paper is to investigate the consequences of the increased learning agenda for dominant ideals of early childhood and children's everyday lives and social relationships ECEC. How are social dynamics and divisions among young children conditioned by the institutional (learning)environment and everyday rhythms ECEC? The paper present preliminary findings from an ethnographic study of 3-5 year old children's social engagements in Danish ECEC institutions. To address, how children's complex social lives unfold in dynamic exchange with local learning contexts and the pedagogical, social and material landscape of ECEC, I draw on childhood studies emphasising the entanglements of children's practices and social-material environments (e.g. Spyrou 2018, Alasuutari et al. 2021, Rautio & Stenvall 2019). The paper will provide knowledge on changing conditions for young children's lives in institutionalised contexts and early childhood.

Trusting Young Children's Knowledges and Agency: Early Childhood Education, COVID-19 and the Challenge to Developmentalist and Neoliberal Childhood Discourses

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Early childhood education has exemplified competing discourses about childhood: the continuing emphasis on developmental ideas; a site of economic investment within neoliberal politics; and as a potential space for respecting, supporting and fulfilling children's human rights. The tensions between these discourses came to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic, its accompanying policy responses and subsequent retrenchments.

We draw on a comprehensive review of the literature – carried out for the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry – on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the policy responses to it, on the education of children under five in Scotland. It details how these impacts have been experienced differently by young children who face disadvantages based on socio-economic exclusion, disability, race/ethnicity, and other intersecting inequalities, and adds to wider evidence on how COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated such structural inequalities.

This presentation discusses how the COVID-19 pandemic, and policy responses to it, have shaped meta-narratives around early childhood in favour of a return to reinforcing developmentalist, neoliberal discourses. This is exemplified, for example, in increased standardised testing and milestone-tracking and the sidelining of play in favour of more structured, adult-led pedagogies. There is a tendency to shift towards individualist lenses (e.g., exemplified in constructions of some children as 'vulnerable') and neglecting complex and nuanced systemic issues. We highlight early childhood education as a politicised space, illustrative of other arenas of childhood, with the potential to transform children's lives by trusting their knowledges and agency.

An Exploratory Study on Young Carers in China: Conceptualising Childhood for Children Who Care

Kefan Xue

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Many children provide care to parents and/or other family members who have illnesses or disabilities. These young carers are present in every country. Studies worldwide show that caring responsibilities hugely impact young carers' livelihoods and future opportunities. In contrast, young carers in China have yet to be recognised, with scant statistics or academic research on this topic. It means that this group of children currently goes unnoticed by society and thus receives little support. This exploratory study aims to understand the lives and needs of children who care through the lens of intersectionality. It also intends to conceptualise childhood and caregiving in the Chinese sociocultural context. The fieldwork has been carried out in rural and urban research sites of a southeast coastal city in mainland China. 30 young carer families have participated in this study, including 30 young carers aged 12 to 17 years old, and 30 care recipients or other family members. Other participants include 12 professionals and eight school staff members. In total, 80 semi-structured interviews have been conducted. I also carried out participant observations with the young carer families and questionnaires with the children, to explore the nature and extent of their caring and how caring impacts different aspects of their lives. Findings show a series of 'push and pull' factors that put children

into a caregiving situation; however, being a young carer is not a choice. When their experiences conflict with an idealised normal childhood, these children try to negotiate with themselves, their families and societies.

Preschool Tactics for Claiming Space for Daily Outdoor Activities in Dense Urban Environments

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In the Nordic countries, childhoods are intimately related to nature and being outdoors. However, urban densification has resulted in shrinking outdoor spaces for play and recreation, including fewer and smaller preschool yards, with consequences of tension and competition between different interests and urban users. Based on mobile ethnography (Cresswell 2012), this presentation focuses on how inner-city preschools in Stockholm without their own preschool yards or with just a small enclosure, organise and perform everyday outdoor activities in a dense urban environment.

Together with theories of children's collective agency (Corsaro 2018), space as co-produced and negotiated (Massey 2005), mobility as interdependent and more-than-human (Cortéz Morales 2021; Ekman Ladru & Gustafson 2020), we draw on De Certeau's theorization of the practices of everyday life (1984) in order to understand the preschool groups' spatial and mobility practices. The analyzes shows how young children and preschool groups engage in tactical manoeuvres of i) using local knowledge and protecting secret places ii) making space for play and learning on the move and iii) creating 'institutional privacy' in public parks. Hereby, signalling ownership of the space through the 'doing of preschool' and temporarily turning the space into a preschool space. This brings to the fore questions of parks as public goods and who has access to these and who not. When authorities do not take responsibility for the provision of preschool yards and spacious enough urban parks and other green and open spaces, preschool groups are left to compete with each other about the space on an everyday basis.

RN04 | T04_02: Places and Spaces: Marginalisation, Diversity and

How to Guarantee Change in Child Poverty in Europe: Redressing Silent Marginalisation with Children, Communities and Bourdieu

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There is a diversity of experience within Roma communities and for children who experience alternative care, but consistently care experienced children and a proportion of young Roma are living in the some of the most marginalised conditions in Europe. This manifests, for example, in poor housing, education, health and environments. The EU has targeted policy to redress some of these inequalities, through the European Child Guarantee. However, many of the contributing conditions are entrenched. This paper reflects on short-term cocreated community projects that aimed to promote children's rights to participation, forms of action for change, on these issues. Through these cocreated community interventions, in five countries, children and adult revealed barriers and facilitators to trust and transformation. They also provided guidance to the European Union on effective strategies for redressing inequalities. Through participatory and rapid evaluation, we researched the perspectives, silences and actions of some of the adults and children involved. Participants cocreated a set of indicators related to the education, leisure, healthcare and housing aspects of the Child Guarantee. These highlight barriers related to social networks, social provision, cultural capital, self-perception and professional understanding. The absence of social provision and the restricted nature of established mechanisms for children's involvement in public-decision making, resulted in a lack of trusting relationships being established through which transformational change can be pursued. We suggest a Bourdieusian lens as a starting point for exploring these dynamics, because it enables resistance to the ways in which, in some dominant discourse, Roma and care experienced children are held responsible for their own marginalisation.

Leisure Worlds of Children and Young People in a Diverse Society: Opportunities for Participation Between Different Origins and Socio-spatial Segregation

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How children and young people spend their time beyond adult supervision in familial and formal educational contexts plays a pivotal role in social integration and development of social relationships. “Leisure Worlds” aims to scrutinize the varying leisure experiences of young people (9-17 years) against the backdrop of social disparities and socio-spatial segregation.

Individual free time schedules depend not only on personal inclinations and interests but are largely determined by socioeconomic background and socio-spatial factors such as place of residence and location of the attended school. Young people from disadvantaged households often have fewer opportunities to actively participate simply due to lack of accessibility and potentially lower quality of private (home, own room) and public spaces (malls, recreational spaces) available to them.

This might pose additional challenges for young immigrants, who often struggle with poverty and lack of participation already. Hence, there is a research gap with regard to leisure time in the diverse society. The share of migrants and refugees is larger among youths than in older generations and currently growing, while regions of origin of immigrants have become much more pluralistic. Which activities or spaces are relevant for processes of social integration and the development of social relationships? How do they differ between young people with refugee experience, with and without a history of migration? These questions are addressed using multivariate analyses based on standardised survey studies conducted between 2019 to 2023 in Germany. Results show different patterns in leisure time activities and available spaces between these three groups.

A Critical Approach to Adultism Exercised by Volunteers Working with Children in Istanbul

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This research delves into the changing dynamics of generational encounters within the context of a civil society organization’s two-decade project. In our research, we contributed to this longstanding project that organizes cultural visits to historical, artistic and touristic places in Istanbul by aiming to build a space where volunteer adults can interact with children. Engaging 35 children aged 10-14, we utilized participatory and arts-based research techniques in six meetings and visits across Istanbul. After these visits, both adults and children gather for “enhancement activities” in schools to solidify acquired knowledge. Our role was not only researching with children but also to ethnographically explore generational relationships in order to enhance this adult-centered project.

Responding to coordinators’ requests, we utilized participatory methods more, prioritizing child engagement and fostering reciprocal relationships between adults and children. A critical examination of the research reveals instances where adults inadvertently exercise adultism despite the participatory focus. Limitations in the genuine influence of children’s perspectives, especially within the facilitator role of adults, underscore the need to scrutinize adult involvement for a more balanced power dynamic. This study, centered on generational relations, contributes to understanding the interplay between children and adults in participatory settings. Advocating for a reevaluation of power dynamics to foster equitable interactions, the research addresses the challenges of adultism and provides valuable insights for refining methodologies in collaborative endeavors between children and adults.

RN04 | T05: Places and Spaces: Trust, Tensions and Truth

When Children Get Things Wrong and Why This Really Matters: Fallibility, Voice and Childhood Studies

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Gathering children's testimonies is rightly a sine qua none of childhood studies and among its greatest achievements. Children's accounts reshape narratives about childhood and challenge orthodox discourses of developmental and cognitive incompetence. Yet, recently questions have been asked about what these testimonies can tell us, specifically through the interpretative focus on children's voices as mediated sources of knowledge. Examining the constructedness of children's voices is of course essential, but in this paper I pursue this critical engagement further by centring the fallibility of children's understandings. I do this by drawing upon my experience of long-term research with street and working children in Accra, Ghana, conducted with my collaborator and friend, Yaw Ofosu-Kusi, and our collection of testimonies that include questionable statements and understandings. Here, I consider these in terms of children self-consciously misrepresenting their lives and the possession of sincerely held beliefs that cannot be true. Rather than reproducing alienated accounts of children's incompetence, my focus on fallibility facilitates closer participation in and understanding of children's lives and cultures. More fundamentally still, I assert that fallibility as a core realist proposition raises profound questions about voice and childhood studies more generally. Specifically, to accept children's missteps and misunderstandings is to provide good reason for accepting that children's worlds are not simply social constructions: worlds that exist only in terms of how they have been constructed by children and researchers. To get things wrong suggests the existence of childhoods beyond how both children and we as researchers define them.

Trusting Children? One Case Analysis About Migrant Children's Participation in Policy Lab Meetings

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Multistakeholder Policy Labs are initiatives promoted by the European Parliament to improve citizens' participation in the elaboration of policies on specific themes, through the collaboration of citizens, specialized stakeholders and decision-makers. During Policy Lab meetings, coordinated by at least two facilitators, plenaries and small group workshops alternate to elaborate proposals about possible policies on the chosen theme. This presentation concerns a European project in which Policy Labs were implemented in six cities with the aim of supporting migrants' participation in local policies. The Belgian city of Mechelen decided to support migrant children's integration in the local school system. Thus, a few migrant children, adult migrants, several stakeholders working in education services and some policy officers and policymakers participated in the Policy Lab meetings. One specific facilitator supported children's active participation. This presentation is based on video-recordings of these meetings and aims to show if and how children's agency was supported and trust in children's agency was visible. The presentation shows several problems in constructing a trusting relation between adults and children, and in supporting children's contribution to new policies. In particular, the presentation shows three problems in facilitating children's agency: (1) differentiation between small group workshops in which children actively participated and other small group workshops in which children were only theme of adults' narratives; (2) reproduction of separation between adults' participation and children's participation during the plenaries, in which children's participation was marginal; (3) the adult-centred way in which children's agency was facilitated in small group workshops.

Building Trust In The New School: Rural-Urban Migrant Children's Experiences Of Friendship And Inclusion

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In the last decades, the deep-rooted economic rural/urban dichotomy in China has driven large-scale rural residents to migrate to urban areas in seek of better jobs and life opportunities, therefore most of their children have to migrate to the cities with their parents. In recent years, with the increasingly disproportionately distributed educational resources between rural and urban schools, compared with being the 'by-products', children are becoming the main driven force for millions of migrant families. However, the education-driven migration are only more common for the 'rural middle class'. Based on a 5-month ethnography in a primary school containing both migrant and non-migrant children in China, this qualitative research employed observation, interviews with parents, teachers, and children, and art-based method (children's drawing) to explore children's voices and experiences of migration. The study has found that, the 'change of class' that brought by migration contributed as key source for migrant children's feelings about migration. However, categories influencing children's experiences of inclusion, trust and tensions with peers intersected and reinforced each other thus spurring transformative social justice and migration-related difference and discrimination is more politically constructed rather than a natural given and reifies, for example, patriarchy and capitalism.

Moreover, the feelings of exclusion can also be influenced by the curriculum shift in recent years from characterized of 'urban value' to the emphasizes of agricultural knowledge. The study has also found that migrant children's experiences of inclusion and exclusion can also be shaped by 'whose knowledge is important' in education system.

The Silent Rights Of Children. What Type Of Reception And Protection Of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors?

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Child migration is likely to increase in both scale and salience as the mobility of young people grows for different reasons: a result of more affordable travel, climate change, growing technology mediated connectivity, increasing global inequality in the distribution of opportunity, security and access to employment, and the diffusion of a global cultural commons. In recent years, the reception and protection of unaccompanied foreign minors have represented one of the most critical issues for the European Union.

The approach to the phenomenon of unaccompanied foreign minors has always been characterized by interventions which oscillate between protection (of their rights) and control (of migratory flows), between inclusion and exclusion processes in states in which they arrive, etc.

The literature is quite in agreement in arguing that migration policy tends towards closure, and migration laws hurt migrants and refugees. On the other hand, what little insists on are the consequences of our legal system on the life of the host populations in terms of the "development" of their capacity to welcome. The rhetoric about children's rights is stuffed with "high" notions and principles referring to their well-being (widely understood) as a primary concern. Yet, we witness violations of their rights. The issue should be studied by looking at these violations as the result of the combination of the regulatory reception system and the lack of recognition and exercise of a "common responsibility" that the functioning of this system has produced over the long term.

RN04 | T06: Intra and International Relations I

Transformative Sense of Home by Children: From Family House to One's Home

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By focusing on children's experience and expertise, this paper sheds light on how lone parenthood provides children with opportunities to exercise their agency over the place(s) in which they live.

The article draws in data from a longitudinal study, which followed 23 families in the swiss French-speaking area (5 waves). 23 children and youngsters aged 9 to 23 years old were interviewed twice, about their experience in lone parenthood families, using a Mosaich approach (Clark, 2004).

Studying the experiences of children in lone parent families constitutes a paradigmatic example of children's practices for transforming space or their relationship to space. Their living environment may in fact be subject to common or unexpected transformations, due to custody agreements or organizational contingencies, as well as their relation to different spaces of their own. This family configuration enables them to participate in the transformation of their "sense of home" (Boccagni, & Duyvendak, 2020).

Results demonstrate that their sense of home is not confined to the residential space of the custodial parent, but extends into various places. While sometimes managing some tensions at home, they cope with constraints and create their own sense of home – sometimes in their bedroom or by transforming public spaces into intimate places. A whole continuum is then created, differentiating home from house. This paper also includes the investigation of how they define and delimit it, how they act in and on space, using a variety of ingenious tactics.

This line allows us to examine children's ability to exercise their agency, to transform and appropriate space, allowing them to create new spaces for trust and safety (Hilppö, Lipponen, Kumpulainen, Virlander, 2015).

Divorcescapes: Family Conflicts and Children's Lived Spaces

Hanne Warming, Sarah Alminde

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In this paper, we present an analysis from a project focusing on the entanglements of the practice in the family law system and children's everyday life in conflictual family law cases. We base our analysis in third wave childhood sociology, and zoom in on the social-spatial dimensions of children's everyday life, exploring children's lived spaces. We take departure in, what emerges as important for the children,

exploring how this is (not) reflected in the child conversation, the notes and the decisions. Inspired by the concepts of carescapes (Bowlby 2012) and foodscapes (Brembeck et al. 2013), we suggest (and further develop) a new concept of "divorcescapes" to address the mundane spatial contexts of children's life with divorced parents. Moreover, we draw on Barad's agential realism and Ahmed's theorization of emotions as socio-spatial phenomena, especially her concepts of sticky and circulating emotions.

The empirical basis of our analysis consist of 100 anonymous case notes, and 25 Family Law cases, where vi have observed the child conversation, and interviewed the children and the parents.

Based on the analysis, we argue that the spaces and relations that are essential to the child, only to a limited degree is acknowledged by the professionals as well as the parents. Further, we point to, that the image of what it means to be competent for a child in a conversation, as well as discourses around divorce, results in othering of the child and sticky emotions of shame and powerlessness.

Children's Ideas and Interpretations of Family Normality in the Context of Transnational Families

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Transnational families face inner-family and social tensions. On the one hand, they navigate the challenges of (re)organizing themselves across borders and adapting to new situations. This can lead to questions about the negotiation processes within families regarding gender and generational orders. On the other hand, these families challenge societal norms of what constitutes a 'good' family, which often prioritizes parental, and especially maternal, presence.

The children are caught between two opposing sides. However, their perspective on the transnational arrangement remains largely unknown.

In my presentation I will illustrate the experiences of children whose parents migrate temporarily and of children who do not have such experiences. I will analyze how they position themselves in/within transnational family arrangements and to what extent they advocate for their own interests. In addition, I will examine the extent to which the transnational arrangement is an issue among peers. And finally, I will explore how they interpret the transnational arrangement: As a deviation or as a legitimate form of family life in times of change. The data is based on group discussions with 12 – to 14-year-olds in Poland. They were collected as part of the German-Polish research project 'Growing up in transnational families: children's perspectives on a good childhood'.

The Transformation and Trust of Argentinian Youngers in Healthy Relationships and Intergenerational Dialogues and Their Life Projects

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This ongoing research, which aims to study the transformation and trust of Argentinian youngers, especially in healthy relationships and intergenerational dialogues among friends, adults, parents.

It is focused on changes in behaviours and family life, that youth experienced during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Life Attitude is the construct in which life projects develop (Barni, 2021), based on the existential certainty that life has a purpose, that people find meaning in a variety of sources, such as interpersonal relationships, personal accomplishments, recreational matters and purposes (Reker, 2007).

This qualitative study shows biographical life stories (Perelló, 2009); interviews were administered to 20 young people living in the Global South (Twum-Danso et al. 2019), focus groups were conducted with games specifically designed for the age of the emerging adults –18 to 21– (Barrera-Herrera y Vinet, 2017), in order to find if young people living in rural areas –belonging to other ethnicities– have greater inequalities than the ones living in urban areas (Malinoski in Zaragoza, 2010).

Both instruments were recorded, digitalized and analysed in order to listen to their voices, and to detect if they had been listened to (Spyrou, 2015); if there had been behaviour changes due to compulsory confinement, if their capacity for personal decisions had been changed (Pérez-del-Aguila, et al. 2023); if their autonomy had increased (Stoecklin et al. 2023); if adult dialogue and containment were important (Wyness, 2013); if family life had been affected (Pinto Santos & Diaz Carreño, 2015); if learning skills helped to deploy their life projects.

RN04 | T07_01: Intra and Intergenerational Relations II

Child Protection Social Work in an Open Environment in France

Akiko Awa

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AEMO (Aide Educative en Milieu Ouvert), a judicially mandated educative support in an open environment, is a measure for children at risk in France. It covers 1% of the minor population to prevent them from danger. It aims to promote development and well-being by addressing specific educational needs. AEMO is often carried out by specialized educator, which is one of national qualification of social worker.

In sociology, there was work of Donzelot or Foucault about social control, forced norm from upper class population, and later, study about care (Gilligan) or social isolation and social bond (Hirschi). My study was about to know what AEMO social work is. In this study I tried to know the reasons for the risk, the child's family and environmental background, the practices of professionals, and the risk potential towards the child in a period of 2 years. The study was conducted through participant observation for one month in one of Paris's AEMO structures, every 6 months for 2 years. The subject of analysis included 37 families. Most of the families received this measure when school professionals observed concerning issues regarding the child and were unable to resolve the situation.

I observed that AEMO social work aimed to help the family concretely to improve child surrounding situation and to decrease the risk. Even though it has a nature of social control, in practice, value of « Interests of the child » was found in socialwork, and it is possible that this is a strategy that has emerged from social workers' practical knowledge to build better relationships with parents and to work for better development of a child.

The Loss Of Trust In Institutional Support For Children With Down Syndrome: Parental Experiences In Germany

Hannah Kroell

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This work challenges social psychological and (special) education research which has long attributed parental stress in families with disabled children solely to the child's disability. Rather than placing the child as the cause of difficulties in family life and parent-child relationships, this work draws on insights from neo-institutionalism and normalism theory to lie the focus on the social context. Thereby, the importance of a supportive institutional system for families with disabled children is emphasized. Employing Grounded Theory methodology, this research explores the interactions between parents of children with Down syndrome and the institutions to which they turn for support. Using narrative in-depth interviews, German parents of individuals with Down syndrome were asked about their experiences with society's treatment of themselves and their disabled child. The parents' narrations focused on the influence of institutions during childhood, especially the medical field, disability services, and the (special) education system. The findings reveal a paradox: organizations and institutional actors, perceived as supportive, disappoint this expectation of support and are closely associated with strains on parents and a loss of trust in society's support system. Both parental distress and a loss of trust stem from institutional strategies that denormalize and pathologize individuals with Down syndrome, marginalizing them in German society. These findings highlight the importance of supportive social institutions in the lives of parents and their disabled children and underline the importance of needs-based and respectful assistance to (re-)enable trust in social support systems.

Exploring Children's Roles in Religious Transformation: insights from First Communion preparation courses

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Traditionally, sociological attention to the religious lives of children – especially in Italy – has been scarce. However, a better knowledge of children's religiosity can have important consequences to understand religious transformation in the transition to pre-adolescence and adolescence itself. Moreover, it is crucial to give voice to children in order to describe the processes of re-interpretation and individualization of religious practice, which usually occur in the context of religious socialization such as families and peer cultures. This can help to comprehend what lies behind the increasing loss of centrality of religion in daily life and the changing perception of the Catholic Church, especially among young people.

The research aims to explore this topic and intend to enable children as actors in the studies of religious practices as well. The results of actively listening to children will also be presented as a driver to understand the participation of families in the Christian community, offering new opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding. The research presents the results from a participant observation conducted in two parishes in Venice during children's First Communion preparation courses. Not only the process of individualization of belief became evident already in children, but also it was important to recognise that children have reinterpreted the traditions of Christian rituals, the way of considering the sacraments, in the way they pray, their commitment to Christian values and beliefs. Lastly questioning and doubting some mysteries of the Gospel

they heard, children influenced a lot the way adults reflect on their religious experience and on their values.

Systematic Review of Extracurricular Activities of Children Living in Foster Families

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Students in foster care face school challenges for which school personnel are not always adequately prepared. Children living with foster parents have social, emotional, behavioral, and learning needs that differ from their peers in the primary family. As a result, these students are more likely to miss school, and there is a greater likelihood that they will require special educational methods. It is crucial for schools to adapt to the unique needs of students in foster families, as this influences the success of the school (Scherr, 2014; Zetlin et al., 2004; Fredricks & Eccles, 2006).

Extracurricular activities can provide an opportunity for foster children as compensatory factors. However, if children frequently change their place of residence or if their relationships deteriorate, extracurricular activities may not always be effective in compensating for disadvantages. Structured leisure activities and regularity are important in the lives of children facing changes and can contribute to their resilience.

In our study, we conducted a systematic literature review, applying the PRISMA guidelines and criteria. We present the unique situation of foster families and the positive effects of extracurricular activities on children's development. Following our literature analysis, we conducted a qualitative semi-structured questionnaire survey to explore agreements or differences with what was found in the literature. Our results confirmed that the specified compensatory factors are indeed present in the lives of children living in foster families who participate in extracurricular activities.

RN04 | T07_02: Social Justice and Social Policy

Collaborative Research Methods and Best Practice with Children and Young People: A Systematic Review of Reviews

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Children and young people are key collaborators in research. They can guide the focus and conduct every part of the process, and their contribution improves research quality and insights. To cocreate resources that could guide ongoing research by UK and international networks of children and young people, we conducted a systematic review of peer research with and by children and young people aged 5-25 years, published in English since 2000. A review steering group, involving experienced young researchers, study partners and advisors (including academics, and policy actors) took part in a week-long civic hackathon, to generate a definition of 'peer research' and inform the search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria and framework for synthesis. This paper reports the findings of one element of this study – the review of reviews.

We conducted a two-fold analysis of all systematic and scoping reviews of peer research. A narrative synthesis drew together theoretical principles and approaches to peer research (including power, inclusivity, ethics, safeguarding, learning, methods, and impact). A thematic analysis, using the co-produced framework, identified: 1) cushions (strategies for support that promote confidence to do/not do peer research); 2) collaborations (relationships and powers through which research is conducted); 3) credibility (approaches to enhancing the capacity of peer research to convince relevant audiences); and 4) change (mechanisms through which peer research is mobilised for social change). Our findings synthesise guidance from children, young people and academics and can be used to reveal the tensions and help strengthen the transformative potential of peer research.

Class Analysis, Social Inequality, Child Poverty-Social Analysis And Transformative Socio-Political Strategies In Late Capitalism

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Based on a materialist class analysis (mediating the work of Sennett/Cobb on „hidden injuries of class" from the 1970s with the contemporary studies of Vester and Savage centred around „class based milieus") the paper analyses different dimensions of social inequality in late capitalism with a special emphasis on child poverty. Child poverty with its disadvantaging and disempowering elements is discussed in the context of the new sociology of childhood and its emphasis on social competences and agency of children.

Against these manifold backgrounds, the paper develops two transformative socio-political strategies. Firstly, in the context of a welfare state approach, aiming at ameliorating the effects of poverty in the lives of children with the help of tax policies (following Picketty). Secondly, a revolutionary strategy to counter the structural conditions that produce poverty and social inequality based on overcoming the capitalist mode of societalisation in the interest of all children (following ideas from Marx, Engels, Adorno and Wright).

Children's Participation in Child Labour Policies: Unpacking Definitions and Exploring Conflicting Discourses

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Theoretical advancements in Childhood studies have played a significant role in shaping our understanding childhood and children's rights over that past thirty years. There has been an increased focus on children's voice, participation, and agency in the academic literature and policy and practice initiatives. This paper aims to provide a nuanced understanding of these complex concepts in the context of child labour policies.

Despite the implementation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, there has been limited evidence of children's active involvement in decision making processes. The issue of children's work and labour is particularly contentious when it comes to exploring the nature of working children's participation in the development and implementation of policies that affect them. This paper examines the tensions between the policy discourse of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the discourse of working children's movement discourse from the Global South, using examples from published research.

The definitions of 'child labour' and 'child work' are unpacked highlighting the interconnection with children's agency. Conflicting discourses arise due to different conceptions of childhood. The article argues that the child labour policy arena has yet to fully recognise childhood as a socio-cultural-historical phenomenon and children's agency as relational, intergenerational, and interdependent.

To address these issues, it is crucial to develop an awareness of childhood diversity across societies as a key principle underlying international norms. This article aims to contribute to the ongoing debate surrounding children's agency in child labour policies and advocate for a more inclusive and holistic approach.

Listening to Children Related to Early Childhood Education Policy

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Following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children's participation is a statutory requirement of Finnish early childhood education and care (ECEC). Consequently, children's views are studied in the monitoring and evaluation of the national two-year pre-primary education experiment in 2021–2024 that concerns about 35,000 five-year-old children in Finland. As part of the monitoring and evaluation, 105 children participated in a data collection informed by the Mosaic approach. The children took photographs of/in ECEC to respond to four questions: 1) what do they like most in ECEC, 2) what do they like least in ECEC, 3) what would they like to change in ECEC, and 4) what have they learned in ECEC. Then they discussed the photographs in small groups led by early childhood education teachers. The study considers the challenges and possibilities of studying young children's viewpoints on policy-related issues. More precisely, it first examines the interaction between teachers and children in small groups to illuminate how the teachers invite children to describe their views and ideas and how the interaction is constructed when children's expressions become restricted. The analysis of the interactions is based on discursive psychology. Second, the study considers the overall process of addressing children's views in the monitoring and evaluation of the two-year pre-primary education experiment by applying the Lundy model. The research is funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

RN04 | T08: Intra and Intergenerational Relations III

Using Visual Methods to Explore the Lived Experiences of Long-term Care leavers in Latvia

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Over the past twenty years research on children in long-term social care perpetuated negative stereotypes and marginalization of children who have experienced long-term social care. This contributes to negative outcomes of care graduates. They experience more difficulties gaining employment, housing, further education, and youth clubs. Those youth are seen as replicating the social cycles of their parents and grandparents (Trapenciere, 2015, Zumente-Steela, 2019).

The visual methods are employed after studying care leavers with focus group discussions (FGD) and life history interviews. Throughout interviews and FGD multiple stories were told by participants on their status as a care leaver. Constructing a study by using the visual methods (mapping and photo voice) offered the young people an opportunity to be empowered to express their lived experiences and show who they truly are through a strengths-based modality (Wang & Burris, 1997) and is the motivating force behind this research.

Since some researchers have often used methods of research that make marginalized groups passive participants as opposed to active participants this research has sought to use mapping and photo voice method, which creates an environment where participants are co-researchers because they draw maps, take photos, and interpret their meaning for the researchers. This differs fundamentally from traditional research where the power lies with the researcher.

The knowledge from this research project will contribute to a new understanding of care leavers in Latvia and Eastern Europe.

Giving silence a voice: children sexual abuse in the Portuguese Catholic Church, 1950-2022

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Over the last two decades, several studies have examined the extent and expression of child sexual abuse (CSA) in religious institutions. In 2021, following new Vatican guidelines and intense public pressure, the Portuguese Episcopal Conference commissioned a study on CSA in Portugal by members of the Portuguese Catholic Church (PCC) and others associated with it (from 1950 to 2022). Our study draws on a web-based survey and a respondent driven sample. The questionnaire included categorical questions about victims, abusers, types of abuse, and open-ended questions. We characterized victims and abusers and developed a social cartography of abuse using Correspondence Analysis. Victims' narratives are also part of the model of analysis. We validated 512 of CSA by members of the PCC. Boys were more frequently abused (57.2% vs. 42.2%); male abusers predominate (96.7%); most victims were abused more than once (57%); the average age of victims when the first abuse occurred was 11.2 years. More invasive forms of abuse predominate (80% manipulation of sexual organs or penetration; only 20% had no body touching). There are patterns of abuse, and space plays a pivotal role in understanding the forms that CSA takes within Catholic environments. The richness of individual narratives was an unexpected outcome that enables us to better understand the organizational and symbolical power structures in which abuse takes place. Given the characteristics of our sample, these cases are the tip of the iceberg, with CSA within the PCC likely involved thousands of children. Further research should strive to consider victims' narratives.

Surv Child: Children Living with Gender-based Violence. Community Action to Foster Resilience

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In accordance with a 2019 survey conducted in Spain, 1,678,959 minors reside in households where women are subjected to gender violence. Of these minors, 89.6% have witnessed such violence, while 51.7% have directly experienced it. These encounters significantly impact individuals' development, both mentally and physically (Fraga, Amorim & Soares, 2022). Notably, we have identified a dearth of literature capturing narratives from adults who have navigated paths divergent from the violence they observed or experienced during their childhoods (Beetham, 2022). Furthermore, there is a lack of indicators assessing recovery from gender violence within the familial context.

In response to these gaps, we present 'Surv_Child: Children living with gender-based violence – Community action to foster resilience,' funded by the Spanish National Research Plan. This project employs mixed methods and posits the hypothesis that informal support networks can aid these minors in cultivating positive coping mechanisms, subsequently enhancing their overall well-being, a finding consistent with our prior research (author, 2019-2022; author et al., 2021). Our aim is to identify elements that have enabled individuals to break the cycle of gender violence in their relationships, promoting constructive confrontation instead. This, in turn, contributes to interrupting the intergenerational transmission of gender violence.

Anticipated outcomes will inform community stakeholders, as well as professionals in education, health, and social services, facilitating the development of effective

interventions. These interventions will empower minors to cope positively with violence, thereby enhancing their quality of life and potentially reducing gender violence in the future.

'A Slap is Not a Beating'. Normalizing Corporal Punishment on Children in Poland.

Emilia Sieczka, Antonina Dębska

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'A slap is not a beating' is a pertinent phrase from a conservative discourse that shows how civilizing and de-civilizing processes are dialectically intertwined. On the one hand, the sensitivity standards toward children were risen to the point that brutality against them is denounced as both shameful and unlawful. On the other hand, the innocent 'slap' is still considered as a last resort to impose parental authority through physical domination, supposedly the only form of persuading intelligible to those less competent socially and linguistically.

The reactive character of normalizing domestic violence by the Right will be illustrated by a Polish case. We will analyse the discourse defending the slaps as non-violence, during the process of outlawing corporal punishments on children between 2005-10, including parliamentary works on the reform of the family code, public consultations and mobilization in media. We will present dynamic and rationales behind nationalist (de)civilizing offensive normalizing violence against children as being a part of traditional upbringing that needs to be reinstituted. In order to explain such a sentimental come back to the 'glorious past', we will integrate two processual theories of Pierre Bourdieu and Norbert Elias. The political mobilization in restituting older norms informally, non-publicly will be discussed as a Don Quixote effect, a discrepancy between the changes in law and national habitus.

Being Black in a White Vessel: Exploring Trusts and Tensions of Un/belonging in Lived Experiences of Children and Young Persons with Albinism

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Background: Sense of belonging is based on social connections, safety, and participation. However, for children and young persons with albinism (CYPWA), belonging is complicated by stigmatization and discrimination because of skin colourism. Albinism, often categorised as a disability, is a biological condition which produces paucity of pigment causing Persons with Albinism (PWA) to have pale white hair, skin and eyes (Inena et al., 2020). This significantly marginalised minority group makes up only 1 in 20,000 people. The absent voices of CYPWA in sociological research is a major gap. This study amplifies CYPWA's voices to explore tensions and trusts to belonging. Although situated in Southern Africa, this study connects to Europe through colonial legacies which shape trusts and tensions. Therefore, the study pursues a decolonial agenda to unpacking and understanding belonging.

Main research question: what are lived experiences of children and young persons with albinism in Malawi and what factors enable and/or hinder belonging?

The theoretical framework embeds intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1989; 1991; 2013) into the socioecological model (Bronfenbrenner, 1979) and centres disability as key concept intersecting with various factors within CYPWA's multi-layered systems.

Original contribution: unlike some feminist intersectionality scholars who have underscored gender at the expense of disability, this study's contribution is a theoretical framework that centres disability within intersectionality.

Methodology: Qualitative study applying participatory approaches was informed by an advisory group of PWA (n=3) from March – June 2023 in Malawi. Participants included 44 CYPWA aged 3-23 years old. Methods involved drawing, poetic inquiry, focus group discussions (n=9) and interviews (n=39). Transcripts, drawings and poetry were analysed thematically (Clarke & Beale, 2018).

Findings & conclusions: CYPWA experienced belonging with family at the microsystem. Intersections of disability with location, age and gender complicated tensions and trusts of belonging in school settings where disabilities associated with albinism were less accommodated in rural schools. Bullying and lack of inclusive teaching practices for CYPWA's visual impairments, derogatory labelling, exclusionary social attitudes and harmful beliefs were experienced at meso-systems. CYPWA negotiated belonging in these spaces by demonstrating resilience when rejecting negative social labels and showed agency by accessing social capital through peer support groups.

RN05 | Sociology of Consumption

RN05 | T01_01: Economics of consumption 1

Embodiment and Consumption. Habitus, subjectivity, and commercialization

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In this paper I discuss the intersection between the sociology of the body and embodiment and the sociology of consumption and consumer practices. The body has been branded by Baudrillard as the "fined object of consumption". The paper therefore considers first the historical development of consumer culture in Western societies and how it revolved around a particular form of materialism, combining asceticism and hedonism, and heightening not only the pleasures of imagination but also, especially with the XX Century, the role of the refinement of the senses and the body. It therefore explores how an emphasis on the positive, expansive control of the body married with commercialization and gave way to a cornucopia of market-mediated practices and objects for the care, maintenance, and transformation of the body. The body becomes a plastic object in consumer culture, and as such is fundamental for the growth of the market, married as it is to the possibilities of expanding desire and attaching it to both individualized practices and commercially mediated forms of sociability. However, embodiment remains a largely unreflexive process, and bodily habitus works intersectionally as a fundamental point of departure for the realization of commercially induced body projects. The paper therefore explores how we can conceptualize the encounter between the pressure to reflexively manage one's own body, the workings of habitus and the influence of commercial culture and commercial institution. Embodied subjectivity, commercial institutions, and intersectional habitus are three heterogeneous but intertwined levels through which we can systematize our understanding of the workings of the body in contemporary consumer culture.

Shaping a Not-to-Buy Consumption Enjoyment: The Formation of Wandering Masses in State-owned Department Stores in Socialist China

HE SUN

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Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the scarcity of commodities worsened inevitably due to the embargo during the Cold War and the dissolution of production ties with the Soviet Union. In this context, consumption in socialist era was inhibited under a revolutionary and production-focused discourse aimed at accumulating state capital. Most researchers point out that a deferred enjoyment was expected with a promise of an ideal Communist vision by the party-state, while it overlooked the "residue" of consumption beyond mere ownership of commodities.

Notably, activities like shopping remain significant for leisure both in urban and rural regions. Among commercial organizations, department stores held a particular fascination in socialist China. Driven by ambitious goals, new state-owned department stores in the mid 1950s proliferated across China, aiming to involve all citizens in the advancing blueprint of New China.

Separate from the general populace (qun zhong), "the wandering mass" (guang zhong) positioned on a spectrum between detached flâneur and the alienated shoppers enchanted by the capitalist urban world, lingered in the spaces of the new state-owned department stores, and interacted among and with other groups and commodities.

Through a comprehensive analysis of various visual and textual sources, I argue that the wandering masses are strategically portrayed as the main subject rather than a component of various objects. This approach allowed the socialist country's new masters to derive multiple enjoyments in contrast to their capitalist counterparts, intentionally downplaying consumption as only a small fraction of this activity. While predicting the arrival of the great abundance of commodities remains challenging, the envisioned enjoyment of the wandering masses suggests a socialist version of present goodness devoid of consumerism.

Reconstructing Made in Italy: by Chinese or with Chinese

Yintan Fan

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Chinese entrepreneurship and investment outside China's mainland are a growing global phenomenon, the migrant entrepreneurs have converted Prato into a fast fashion manufacturing centre and one of the largest wholesale networks in Europe. Yet comparatively little is known about the subjectivities, business habits, transnational affinities and identities of Chinese merchants and traders who work either for short or long periods in Europe. Made in Italy by

Chinese gradually becomes an unsustainable strategy for fashion industry development due to industrial transformation and social tension. The national brand "Made in Italy" can be regarded as social capital which needs collaboration from both locals and migrants. Social capital behind the slogan should be restructured and reconsidered more broadly. Through semi-structured interviews and grey literature in Prato, the article aims to find sustainable approaches to the fashion industry development from different actors and concludes four possible development paths. Therefore, Social capital should be shared not only inside the migrant community but also needs to expand to the local society to formulate a wider and stabler social cohesion against crisis and challenges. Made in Italy with Chinese seems a better solution to maintain sustainable entrepreneurship.

RN05 | T01_02: Food consumption 1: Meat 1

"Never Without Meat" – Perspectives On Sustainable Food Consumption Based On The Results Of A Consumer Survey

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In our research, we mapped the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the Hungarian population regarding sustainable food consumption based on the data of a nationally representative survey conducted in spring 2023. Research on sustainable food consumption is of growing importance in the context of the ecological crisis. A key question of our research is how consumers' willingness to consume sustainably is influenced by their social status, their attitudes toward environmental values and climate change, their knowledge on sustainable consumption and the cultural and political discourse around sustainable consumption.

Sustainable food consumption can be motivated by both social and functional values. A particularly interesting social factor in the motivation for sustainable consumption is the 'conspicuous conservation' effect. Through this effect, consumers can signal both their ethicality and their social status.

In our presentation, we aim to present a path analysis and a typology of attitudes and practices related to sustainable food consumption, grouping consumers according to the importance they attach to different sustainability-related attributes of food and the sustainable food consumption practices they have implemented or plan to implement. The resulting groups are then analysed not only in terms of their socio-demographic characteristics and social status, but also in terms of their motivations for sustainable consumption: climate change perception, environmental attitudes, and knowledge about sustainability practices are included as variables explaining group membership, as well as the propensity to engage in conspicuous consumption. Our aim is to gain a more nuanced understanding of how to motivate Hungarian consumers to more sustainable food consumption.

(M)eating Out? Understanding Tensions Between The Established Practice Of Eating Out And Changing Discourses On Meat And Plant-Based Consumption

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Due to the environmental impacts of meat, one of the major challenges of current times is a societal transition towards more plant-based consumption (i.e., a protein transition). Chefs are seen as promising change agents in such a transition because they can create innovative and delicious plant-based meals. However, chefs' agency is limited due to the nature of the established practice of eating out and its diverse carriers, such as restaurant diners. This paper aims to understand the tensions between the established practice of eating out and changing discourses on meat and plant-based consumption. Using Elizabeth Shove's concept of 'infusing', the paper examines how such discourses infuse this meat-heavy practice and more specifically, how the intertwinement between discursive and routinized elements in the practice of eating out either supports or hinders meat reduction. Drawing from 23 semi-structured interviews with executive head chefs of French/Western restaurants in the Netherlands, preliminary findings reveal how discourse on plant-based consumption infuses the practice of eating out in several ways, such as through an increasing number of clients requesting vegetarian and vegan dishes, internationally renowned chefs in the culinary field going plant-based, and coordination between head chefs and more plant-based oriented apprentices in an increasingly horizontal kitchen hierarchy. Next to such seeds of change, we also identified forms of resistance. Serving and eating animal products in restaurants is normatively acceptable and expectable, as exemplified by the high percentage of meat dishes sold, the fear of bankruptcy after cutting meat off the menu, and the persistent intertwined symbolic statutes of animal products and eating out. Taken together, the embedment of ideas about meat and plant-based consumption into the practice of eating out both facilitates and complicates meat reduction in restaurants. This paper contributes to the literature on social practices in transition and specifically builds on scholarship on the scarcely studied link between discursive and routinized elements in practice. Moreover, it delves deeper into the underexplored territory of the practice of eating out in the context of the protein transition from the perspective of chefs. Hereby I confirm I have never joined an ESA Summer School before.

Chicken and Care: Socio-Material Arrangements of Carelessness in Food Systems

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Since the 1950s, there has been a tenfold increase in the production of chicken as food for human and pet populations, making it one of the most normalised and widely consumed of protein-rich foodstuffs around the globe. The past sixty years have seen dramatic changes in the growth rate and body shape of broiler chicken, and the animal in question and the consumption of its flesh have become thoroughly reliant on human-designed technological interventions and infrastructures. The normalisation of chicken as food raises profound ethical considerations as to the quality of its short life span, the hidden environmental costs of industrial-scale poultry production and chicken consumption, and the highly volatile nature of the 'chicken-flesh-microbiome' that carries health risks and consequences for human consumers. These ethical considerations map onto different registers of care:

1. Care for human health and justice
2. Care for animal welfare
3. Care for the environment

We draw on theoretical insights from work by Susan Leigh Star, Maria Puig de la Bellacasa, and Annemarie Mol, to explore how the socio-material arrangements of the chicken food system organises registers of care by rendering some more significant and visible than others. The presentation offers a contribution to the well-known problematic of the disconnection of consumers from specific food ethics and debate about how to make food systems more environmentally and animal friendly.

Towards Sustainable Levels of Meat Consumption: Factors and Support Strategies Across Social Groups and Classes

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Global meat consumption has risen significantly in recent decades and is projected to continue growing, causing substantial environmental, climate, and justice challenges. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations, a minimum 50% reduction in global red meat consumption will be necessary to establish a sustainable, healthy and equitable global food system. A reduction in average meat consumption is particularly required in the Global North and, thus, in high-income countries. Inhabitants of these countries consume two-and-a-half times more than inhabitants of low-income countries in the Global South. However, societies are not uniform and

consist of several socio-economic groups and social classes with different capacities to transform their diets towards healthy and sustainable nutrition. To effectively and specifically support different social groups and classes in reducing unsustainable amounts of meat consumption, science practice and policy actors need to understand the influencing factors for their specific diet decisions.

The research I aim to present identifies these factors influencing meat consumption among various socio-economic groups and social classes in high-income countries and develops support strategies. I will present the results of a critical literature review on the influencing factors and the hypotheses containing support actions to reduce meat consumption. Moreover, I will give the first insights into a factorial survey testing influencing factors among social groups and classes by an experimental design. The results will provide urgently needed knowledge into consumer behaviour for the scientific community and practice and policy actors outside academia to support consumers by informing actions for sustainable and just food transformation.

RN05 | T01_03: Energy consumption 1: Justice

Exploring Energy Justice In Mumbai's Electricity Provision Systems

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In this paper, I aim to examine electricity provision and governance in the urban Global South, using the case of the megacity of Mumbai, India. Based on exploratory fieldwork, including document analysis of reports and policy documents, and semi-structured interviews with 'energy experts' (NGOs, policy advisors and electricity distribution company representatives) (n=10), I present a regime level analysis of energy governance in the city. Patterns of energy consumption are highly variegated across urban residents, depending on class, gender, location, and even electricity service providers, among other factors. The politics of energy provision thus becomes important to uncover to understand its effect on consumption by different urban residents. Through semi-structured interviews, I examine how 'energy experts' tackle questions of such differentiated provisioning and the issues of justice, gender, class and subsequent wellbeing. Analysis of policy documents and official reports further supplement this, along with providing context and historical development of electricity provisioning in Mumbai. Moreover, framing energy provisioning around questions of sustainable consumption, wellbeing, and justice is not common in formal policy documentation. Thus, engaging with insights from such key experts may provide novel perspectives for all parties.

Consuming Water: Motivations, Obstacles, and Promotion of Sustainable Consumption Practices Among the Youth Population in the Marche Region

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The intervention presents the progress of a research whose objective is to address the motivations, resistances, and obstacles in the adoption of sustainable water consumption practices, especially among young generations.

This research centers on safety and trust as pivotal variables in everyday water consumption practices.

From a cultural perspective within the study of alimentary consumption, the variables of safety and trust, along with the crisis of the latter in the risk society (Beck 1992; Douglas 1966, 1973; Fischler 1988; Giddens 1990; Luhmann 1979; Salvatore and Sassatelli 2004), constitute a focal point. Within water

consumption, these variables emerge as primary impediments to the transition towards more sustainable practices and habits.

This topic holds particular significance in the Italian context, given our country's leading position in Europe (second globally) for bottled water consumption. The lack of trust in public institutions and the perception of tap water insecurity are considered fundamental factors contributing to this phenomenon. The theme of safety, specifically in relation to water as the quintessential natural resource, brings individuals into direct contact with a nature whose hazards must be managed, even culturally (Bartoletti and Cecchelin, Wilk 2002; 2006).

This research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, with a specific focus on the youth population as potential catalysts for cultural changes associated with an emerging environmental consciousness and post-materialistic values.

The study aims to inform the development and assessment of social communication initiatives and policies by public institutions, specifically tailored to promote sustainable behaviors. This involves strategic interventions designed to establish supportive contexts for the widespread adoption of these behaviors, encompassing technological advancements, institutional frameworks, services, and incentivizing measures.

Power to the People: The Incentives and Obstacles of Consumer Participation in the Energy Transition

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The energy transition from fossil-based to renewable energy sources is a critical concern from both European and global perspectives. This transition is deeply intertwined with major crises confronting the world today, including climate change, environmental degradation, and geopolitical conflicts.

In the face of these significant shifts, ordinary individuals are not just adapting; they are driving change, influencing policy through civic action, and affecting markets with their purchasing decisions. However, it's important to recognize that not everyone has equal opportunities to participate, often due to disparities in resources. This research aims to explore the incentives and obstacles consumers encounter in the energy transition and to contextualize these within the broader, sometimes polarized discussions by examining the interactions between consumers, energy sector stakeholders, and policymakers.

I will employ several methodological approaches, integrating quantitative data from stakeholder surveys with qualitative insights from social media discussions. I will use both traditional statistical analysis and innovative AI-based methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the collected data. This research will contribute to academic discourse on how consumers engage in the energy debate and the methods available for studying it, and offer insights for policymakers and energy sector stakeholders seeking to facilitate the energy transition effectively and equitably. Moreover, the importance of this subject extends to its direct impact on every consumer, reflected in energy costs and accessibility, as well as environmental and geopolitical repercussions. A key objective of this research is to amplify the perspective of the average consumer, ensuring their voice is heard in a dialogue historically dominated by political and industrial powers.

Building a "diverse economy" through the Renewable Energy Communities. Framing a new movement and reframing a public policy in Italy.

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The paper describes the connection that is developing in Italy between the solidarity economy networks and the emerging experiences of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). RECs are a model of distributed production of energy that allows different subjects to come together to produce and share renewables. The solidarity economy networks are a social movement born as a phenomenon of consumer activism from the GAS experience ("Gruppi d'Acquisto Solidale", solidarity purchasing groups), founded on the shared purchase of essential goods in the early 1990s and slowly evolved towards the construction of "alternative economic systems."

Through changes in purchasing practices, political consumerism advocates for processes of social transformation (Boström, Micheletti 2019). Thus, a change in lifestyle becomes the initial step in fostering "diverse economies" (Gibson-Graham 1996; Gibson-Graham, Dombroski 2020). Often, food offers itself as a first step: as a daily necessity, it offers the aspect of individual consumption to be modified to build everyday activism eventually evolving into alternative food networks, true Sustainable Community Movement Organizations (SCMOs) (Forno, Graziano 2019). Rarely do these experiences focus on utilities, such as energy consumption.

The interest in this experience lies in two tensions, two conceptual redefinitions: a) the intention to operate a different framing of the experience of food activism and b) the attempt to reframe a European energy public policy to radicalize an energy transition that might reproduce the top-down logic of traditional energy systems and promote an individualized consumer-activism, detached from a systemic vision.

RN05 | T02_01: Economics of consumption 2: Inequalities

Transitions in Tension: Understanding Sustainability Engagements across Socio-economic Backgrounds in Norway

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How to change unsustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns in affluent societies is at the heart of global climate and environmental challenges. While many consumption domains are increasingly contested and debated, little progress is made in tackling overconsumption. Furthermore, while there is a pressing need for rapid sustainability transformations, it is also increasingly acknowledged that transformative change needs to be fair and inclusive. In this paper, we seek to understand the complex relations and dynamics between sustainability transitions, social organization and inequalities by examining how households across socio-economic backgrounds in Norway perform 'sustainability' in everyday life. We employ a practice theoretical lens to address the factors that co-shape different households' agency, ability, and forms of engagement in transition processes, and thus how inequality becomes expressed in sustainability transitions at the household level. In the analysis, we demonstrate how particular forms of (visible) sustainability engagements (electrification, technological upgrading, circularity) which are often associated with higher-income households are considered more socially desirable, publicly valued and politically supported, while others are made invisible in the popular public and political discourse (e.g. austerity measures associated with low-income households). We argue that in order to avoid reinforcing social inequalities and tensions, there is a need to develop policy measures that also meet the needs of invisible sustainability performers and pursue ways of valuing a broader diversity of sustainability engagements. The analysis is based on extensive qualitative interview data (n120) from four different research projects studying consumption and sustainability within low-, middle – and high-income groups in Norway.

To Spend and to Afford: Theorising the Economic Practices of Discount Consumption

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As consumption often takes place on markets, money has an integral role in making it happen. Recent hikes in costs of living have also demonstrated the relevance of prices for shopping and other consumption practices. In addition, retail outlets actively use pricing as marketing to guide or control customers towards the purchase of certain offers—performatively organising, rather than adjusting to, supply and demand. Nevertheless, the sociology of consumption has largely omitted how consumers use and consider money and economic value, spare the recent interest in credit consumption. Economic sociology has, in turn, studied the forces of economic institutions and knowledge at length yet engaged sparsely with the practices of (private) consumption. The paper engages with the topic of discount consumption – the marketing, purchase, and use of offers with reduced prices – to investigate the potential of economic-sociological theory for the sociology of consumption. Using discount consumption as an entry-point, it engages with the questions: how do consumers and retailers use discount prices and thereby organise discount consumption?

To address this question, we focus on spending, the use of money in practices of consumption, and affording, the contextual cognitive, social, and practical configurations involved in allocating money to different forms of spending. Our analysis traces these concepts presence (and absence) in extant sociology of consumption and economic sociology. By combining these strands of research, we theorise how spending and affording works, how these practices shape and get shaped by the organisation of discount consumption (both in retail and in the lives of people who practices it), and trace further avenues for engaging with economy as culture and practice in the sociology of consumption.

Shades of Poverty: Tensions Between Objective and Lived Poverty

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Prevailing notions of poverty line arise from theoretical viewpoints in the various forms of „minimum income standards" and „reference budgets" (Deeming 2020). In practice, they often do not match the actual lived experience of the people, which is necesarily also defined by the subjective definition of the „decent household budget", and more importantly, by tthe regional characteristics of their site of residence. In this paper, we set out to map poverty's diverse landscapes from the point of view of those navigating its complex terrain in unequal spatial conditions.

Our study is part of a larger research project, which seeks to integrate the theoretical definitions of poverty with quantitative measures and qualitative understanding of what such definitions mean in the lived experience of people in varying regions. In particular, we present the findings of the qualitative part of the research. Within this part of the research, we have selected regions in the Czech Republic, which we identified as at risk of deprivation by the selected quantitative measures. In these regions, we carry out participant observations, a series of in-depth interviews with key gatekeepers and stakeholders (e.g. pediatricians, school directors) and in selected households identified as vulnerable.

By analyzing accounts of people facing varying challenges regarding their subjective perception and preferences and objective (sociodemographic) status in regions with specific limits of social infrastructure, we compare consumption strategies and resources relied upon across a spectrum of deprivation levels, revealing poverty to be a spatially diverse, nuanced continuum rather than a monolithic state.

"The Freedom to Extend Purchasing Power: Who Uses Unsecured Credit and Loans in Norway, and for Whom Does This Develop into Problematic Debt?"

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In this paper I examine who uses unsecured credit and loans in Norway, and for whom it turns into problematic levels of debt by analyzing data from the Norwegian debt-registry. Since the 1990's social inequality has increased, while consumers also have gained a newfound freedom to quickly extend their purchasing power through the use of unsecured loan and credit products. Consumers are incentivized to make use of loans and credit products in order to access market welfare and bankroll consumption, and behave like market actors when dealing with their own finances. For some, access to unsecured credit is a good that allows for more economic flexibility while it for others turns into problematic debt – that may cascade into severe payment problems. As problematic levels of unsecured debt are frequently seen as individual outcomes from market processes that come about due to frivolous consumption, it is important to examine how the risk of overextending one's borrowing capacity is distributed in Norwegian society. As unsecured loan and credit don't come with a requirement of the borrowing party providing security, it's an accessible form of financing that is readily available to both the well-to-do and for the disadvantaged. Through examining trajectories leading to consumers racking up problematic debt-levels, I hope to further our understanding of the potential role unsecured credit and loans play for the production and reproduction of social inequality in contemporary Norwegian society.

RN05 | T02_02: Food consumption 2: Meat 2

The Social Conditions Of Macro-Algae Consumption In France: A Review »

Calixte Engelberg

EHESS, Institut Lyfe

The sustainability of food diets has become a topical question with the growing emphasis of diets' role in carbon footprint (Chai et al., 2019; Wolfson et al., 2022). Food practices have been evolving for decades, from the rise of alternative diets in the West, to the growing organic food offer. Recently, foods such as insects, legumes or our research object, macro-algae (such as kombu or nori) are being introduced in diets as a source of non-animal protein (Embling et al., 2022; Shanti et al., 2023). Algae can be an answer to a concern for sustainable consumption as it has many nutrients and grows in salted water. It is scarcely consumed as a sea vegetable in France (Lesueur & Comparini, 2015) but may be the object of a growing interest as a novel food. Our primary hypothesis is that after a change in food practices, we will be now observing a change in the households' food repertoires, linked to a probable sustainable engagement (Alagarsamy, et al., 2021; Boström & Klintman, 2009). This review aims to examinate this hypothesis but also to highlight which theoretical approaches are used by authors in social sciences to report those changes in consumption. As the survey is still in progress, the results are limited for the moment, but we can already note that practice theories are much used to analyse sustainable consumption and changing individual behaviour (House, 2018). Anthropological concepts like "invisible foodscapes" (O'Connor, 2013) will also be explored as they suit particularly this research.

Who Do We Talk About When We Talk About flexitarians

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Many studies have investigated vegetarians and vegans in different ways, e.g. focusing on their values, motivations, identities, challenges, and everyday food practices. A recent trend is to study so-called flexitarians, which usually is used to group together consumers who don't completely avoid meat, but who reduce their meat consumption to some degree. However, the term flexitarianism tends to be ill-defined and is used in widely different ways. In consequence there is no apparent scientific consensus on who counts as flexitarians and for the same reason nor on how widespread the phenomenon is. This also means that consumers who don't self-identify as flexitarians and/or have

high levels of meat consumption are still sometimes viewed as flexitarians in empirical studies, which means studies risk overestimating how widespread meat-reduction is among consumers. In the current article we aim to contribute to scientific understandings of meat reduction among consumers by challenging the utility of the term flexitarian itself, and by questioning the existence of "flexitarians" as a coherent consumer group. By drawing on empirical examples from both a Danish and a Norwegian research project on consumers who have reduced, or are in the process of reducing, their meat consumption, we illustrate how meat reduction in everyday life is approached and organized in fundamentally different ways meat reducing by consumers. We discuss the implications of the results for food studies as well as policies aiming to normalize less meat intense diets.

"The Sustainable Food of Future: Cultured Meat Coverage in the Italian Newspaper, 2004-2023"

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Food production and consumption have been identified as some of the most significant contributors to the current environmental crisis. Meat consumption was associated with higher risks for environmental sustainability. The actual level of meat consumption is associated with several problems linked to production and consumption systems that may increase in public health domains. This is an important topic, which urges the media to pay attention and public opinion. Thus, it becomes particularly relevant to understand how the theme of food innovation is configured in medial arenas. This article reports on a content analysis of the emerging issue of "cultured meat" coverage by the leading Italian newspaper, Il Corriere della Sera, over a period of twenty years. Hence, it becomes crucial to comprehend how the concept of "cultured meat" is framed within media spaces, also in connection with the consumption of food. Results show an expansion of coverage over time, although it was increasingly "controversed". The typical "cultured meat" news can be described as dealing with two main frames: on one side, the lab-grow meat presented as an expression of the food innovation process, the food future, and its compatibility with new consumption trends. On the other side, "cultured meat" is associated with potential risks for farmers and national culinary heritage. In order to extend the scope of the research, a comparison with similar studies in other countries is also presented. Our contribution can provide important insights to shed light on a relevant subject in the contemporary media landscape, with potential implications for future consumer choices. It will be important to develop and articulate these findings in terms of future national surveys and international comparisons.

Consuming Seaweeds: In The Laboratory And Beyond

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Based on fieldwork in a sensory science laboratory in Sweden, this paper brings the social aspects of conducting an analytical sensory panel together with consumers' understandings of the everyday consumption context and existing practices. As part of an interdisciplinary project investigating seaweed as a new food in a Swedish context, this paper explores how seaweed as a new resource is made edible and how its taste is negotiated. The aim is to understand how expert consumers' everyday life practices and ideas about seaweed consumption resonate with sensory perceptions and experiences they have produced in a laboratory.

What kind of sensory perceptions and experiences are produced and how are they negotiated?

How do the professional tasters understand and relate to eating seaweed in their everyday life?

How do the sensory perceptions and experiences resonate with the experts' everyday habits?

Theoretically the study draws on diverse perspectives from the sociology of consumption, social science studies on sensory science, as well as literature from social and cultural geography. Through the concepts edibility and taste, I explore how a new resource becomes edible, tasty food.

Observations and open expert conversations during two training sessions and one testing day of an analytical sensory panel have been conducted. After the sensory testing of different seaweed species, in-depth interviews with the professional panelists took place. The semi-structured interviews evolved around different parts of the food consumption cycle, such as acquisition of ingredients, cooking and eating. Qualitative aspects of conducting the analytical sensory panel are analyzed, and everyday life practices and ideas of panelists about seaweed consumption are investigated.

The study is currently ongoing. Drawing on concepts, such as edibility and taste, conceptualizations of resources "becoming", as well as an interdisciplinary research approach, it is expected to contribute to sociological studies through exploring new ways of directly connecting laboratory evaluations and everyday life through the research participants and consumed food. Moreover, by understanding the social processes that are involved in a new food becoming edible, the findings might support establishing seaweed in a new market and aid a transition towards a more sustainable, plant-based diet.

RN05 | T02_03: Energy consumption 2: Crisis

"Finally Someone Talks About Energy" – Various Forms of Sufficiency in Everyday Life During the Energy Crisis

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While the energy crisis in Europe in 2022 was in many was an unwanted event causing inequality and deprivation among households, it also caused an unprecedented acceleration in the energy transition towards renewable energy production and a significant reduction in energy demand. This study focuses on the latter and asks how the energy consumption in everyday life changed during the crisis, what forms of sufficiency could be identified in household practices, and whether and how the households linked their practices and their role as consumers to the broader dynamics in the energy system and energy transition.

The data consists of in-depth interviews with 39 households across Finland, conducted in early 2023. The interviews focused on changes in routines due to energy crisis and reflections of 'enoughness' in mundane energy use. The households represented various situations in life and housing arrangements.

The preliminary findings of the study show how people changed their everyday practices in various ways to keep heating and other energy use at minimum. However, the reasons varied from being forced to save energy due to high energy costs, to general interest of trying new things and technologies, and to solidarity towards others and "being a good citizen". Many respondents also felt as having had a role in mitigating the energy crisis due to changes in consumption patterns in homes. In the presentation, we discuss these various forms of, and reasons for, energy saving in homes and the ways they relate to energy sufficiency and energy transition.

The 'Capacity To Act' Gap : Why Are Certain Motivated Households Unable to Implement Household Sufficiency Measures in an Energy Crisis?

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In winter 2022-2023, countries across Europe were bracing for an 'energy crisis'. For the first time since the 1970s, certain governments took action by inciting energy users, including citizens, to reduce their energy consumption. A building performance gap exists between the expected energy efficiency of a building, and the actual energy that is consumed by users (Gram-Hanssen and Georg 2017). When it comes to users, it has long been established that there can be a gap between people's values and actions (Blake 1999). In a study across five countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Poland and Switzerland), we draw on qualitative data to assess how households – representative of diverse socio-economic groups – coped with the alleged 'energy crisis'. Although many people were able to reduce their energy usage, we uncovered a 'capacity to act' gap among a select group: even when people wanted to reduce their energy usage in the home, their capacity to engage in sufficiency practices was to varying degrees hindered by several factors including a) material and technical barriers, making it all but impossible to act upon certain energy systems and technologies; b) power dynamics, mostly owner-tenant relations, whereby owners lack incentives to render buildings more efficient, c) the significant role of intermediaries, such as heat experts or building managers, who add complexity to the coordination of any energy reduction measures, and d) the correlation between socio-economic background, care responsibilities, and access to time and energy efficiency/sufficiency measures. The analysis compares differences between the countries and contests the idea that information or better attitudes are lacking when it comes to bringing about change, which must be understood in relation to practices and power dynamics.

Sufficiency and New Meanings: Changes in Energy Practices During Times of Crisis

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Aalborg University, Denmark

The recent energy crisis in Europe during 2022/2023 led to changes in energy practices. In this paper, we raise the question to what extent these changes included aspects of sufficiency.

In Denmark, media discourse along with rising energy prices and political debate spurred awareness of energy consumption among Danish households with a focus on reducing household consumption out of public spirit, sustainability or economic necessity. We explore how households' energy practices were affected by the energy crisis and how meanings connected to practices possibly changed. The paper builds primarily on 30 in-depth qualitative household interviews conducted during the Winter of 2022/23, supplemented by a survey with Danish households conducted in the same period. This gives a broader view on Danish households' responses to the energy crisis, showing that many Danes made changes to several types of household practices including both heat and electricity consumption.

The paper delves into the changing meanings of energy practices during times of crisis and disruption of everyday routines, dealing with the research questions: how do meanings connected to practices reshape due to the energy crisis, for example how do feelings of shame, distress, restraint, or content and perceptions of citizenship and sustainability affect energy practices in households? And how might these changed meanings in practices signify a focus on sufficiency in energy practices? Thus, the paper investigates different insights into sufficiency paths directed from a so-called crisis intervening in everyday life from a household perspective.

What Energy Crisis Revealed from Households' Demand Flexibility

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Europe faced an energy crisis in 2022 as a consequence of the Russian war in Ukraine. Households were expected to show solidarity and reduce and shift their energy use throughout Europe. Some were struck by quickly rising energy prices that threatened the economic survival of many households. Relying on a social practice theoretical approach, our research empirically examines the experiences of households across Finland during the energy-crisis-winter of 2022-2023. Based on focus group and individual interview data with altogether 83 participants we examine in particular how households engaged in time-shifting their energy use. What motivated households to shift energy use? How did households manage to do this? What did they do differently and did they need to install new technologies or develop new capabilities? We find three motivations to engage in activities to time-shift energy use: own economic benefit to avoid large energy bills, influencing the overall energy price (societal benefit), ensuring the availability of energy to all (saving and shifting for the benefit of the society as well) and avoiding power cuts. Households engaged in a variety of practices to reduce and time-shift energy use such as reducing indoor temperature, taking less hot baths, using electric sauna less, engaging more with wood-heating with electric radiators out of use altogether, washing dishes and laundry during the night-time, etc. We discuss the potential in households for increasing flexibility in overall energy use and whether some new practices are likely to stay (such as following apps and accepting stock-priced electricity contracts).

RN05 | T03_01: Digital consumption 1: Platforms and youth

Digital Agency and Vulnerability: A Study on Young Adult Consumers in Personalised Advertising Ecosystems

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Personalised, behaviour data-driven, programmatic advertising is global market practice and a complex privacy issue that impacts consumers in their everyday lives. This chapter examines young adult consumers' experiences of digital agency and vulnerability in relation to the personalised advertising they encounter in digital spaces, particularly in social media. In a two-part qualitative study, we analysed these understandings and experiences from the point of view of 1) actors from the Norwegian media and advertising industry, as well as interest organisations and market regulators, and 2) Norwegian consumers with special categories of personal data, such as health, sexual orientation, ethnic background and political activity. We conclude that for both advertising market actors and the consumers they (try to) reach, it is difficult to identify alternatives to profiling based on personal data and behaviour, but that the vulnerabilities that this creates, impacts all consumers more universally.

Cultural Spaces, Places And The Digitalisation Of Consumption

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For a long time consumption of the city has been at the centre of attention in sociological and urban studies. The focus on urban experience has increased significantly in recent years due to the emergence of new smart technologies and social media from a range of different disciplines such as urban planning, sustainability and urban policy making. Despite recent research on the social and spatial impact of digital technologies, little attention has been paid to young people's engagement with cultural spaces as an experiential realm. As Miles (2021: 117) suggests "the experience society has created spaces and places for consumption in which the potential for control, magnified by the access to our information that the world of consumption has, is magnified". This paper investigates how the increasing impact of social media affects the process of producing and consuming cultural spaces in relation to youth identity development. More specifically, it focuses on the ways consumption of cultural spaces relates to the everyday challenges and tensions that young people have to deal with. Drawing on data collected during the multi-method research project LOCUS: sociaL media, yOuth and Consumption of cUltural Spaces that is funded by the H.F.R.I. (Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation), this paper explores the effects of the digitalisation of consumption in the ways new forms of digitally mediated experiences of physical and social location are produced. Based on this, the research engages critically with the ideological implications of the digitalisation of consumption and the transformation of consumer culture.

Citizen-Prosumers' Participation Within the Digital Transition. Hybrid Reality and Public Services

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The migration of public services to the digital platform has the potential to improve citizens' lives by offering faster, more efficient, transparent and participatory services according to those principles and power dynamics governing the digital environment in which individuals, citizens and consumers all fit into the definition of prosumers. The processes of bureaucratic rationalisation, standardization, the implementation of intelligent systems, and the effect of a hybrid space on the vital worlds, represent the assumptions on which the theoretical framework of the present research is built. The study intends to explore how the implementation of a bureaucratic model dictated by the criteria of the digital platform can ensure accessibility, inclusion and equity for citizens in the sphere of public administration (PA). To this extent, Ritzer's Integrated Sociological Paradigm will be implemented, supported by the theoretical framework of the Actor Network Theory, and Digital Humanities.

The context of the investigation is the Italian PA in the city of Rimini. Data on the digitalization projects active in the area are gathered and analysed combining quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The work intends to propose, in parallel with a critical sociological approach on digital participation in the public sphere, a perspective able to account for concrete horizons in the definition of a fair digitalization of PA with the main objective to provide services for all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic conditions or digital literacy, thus in view of mitigating the digital divide and reduce digital exclusion.

How Social Media Mechanisms Influence on Young People's (Un) Sustainable Consumption Practices

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The digital environment is an important part of young people's everyday lives and exerts influence to their consumption practices. Over the past decades, social media platforms have become multi-sided marketplaces; platforms use a variety of mechanisms to target users with data-based algorithmic profiling that leads to behaviour-based advertising, influencer and native advertising.

These mechanisms can encourage young people to engage in more or less (un)sustainable consumption practices. Considering the calls for more sustainable lifestyles and the mounting pressures to address the enabling and barrier-creating mechanisms to sustainable consumption, there is a need for a comprehensive overview of this topic. Our paper addresses the question of how social media mechanisms influence young people's (un)sustainable consumption practices.

The article develops a systematic literature review on the existing research on the impact of social media on (un)sustainable consumption with the aim of providing an overview and consolidation of existing knowledge and identify research trajectories for a future agenda. We focus on young consumers given their prevalent use of social media and the fit of these tools to their everyday practices and consumer identities and adopted lifestyles. The findings not only highlight the dynamics of the amassing discussion in the juncture of digital technology and the sociology of consumption but engenders relevance for policymakers working on questions regarding young people, digitalization, consumption, and sustainability.

RN05 | T03_02: Food consumption 3: Meat 3

Different Practices in Meat Reduction: The Significance of Meaningful Understandings and Social Environment

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Despite the rising awareness of the unsustainability of meat consumption, people seeking to reduce their meat intake still lead a niche existence in prevailing meat-centric societies. In order to better understand this minority, I examined the nuances of meat reduction within a Social Practice Theories (SPT) framework. By exploring the elements of routine, meaningful understandings, competence, social environment, communication and effects of media reports, I looked for differences between self-identified vegetarians and flexitarians as well as for subgroups beyond diet-labelling. Relying on data from a cross-sectional survey carried out in 2018 in Hamburg, Germany, bivariate analyses (N=323) show that self-identified vegetarians exhibit a stronger commitment to animal welfare and sustainability and are more integrated into like-minded social circles than flexitarians. Results from a Latent Class Analysis suggest two distinct groups among all meat reducers, characterized even stronger by their level of commitment and engagement. Vegetarians were more likely to fall within the highly involved group. The findings suggest that meat reduction is not merely a linear decrease in meat consumption but also especially involves the adoption of meaningful understandings and social connections, and show that these come combined. This contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of meat reduction, adds to SPT, and implies the importance of fostering supportive environments for sustainable dietary transitions.

Consumers Are Conservative, Meat-loving And Hard To Change – The Imagined Consumers As Presented By Plant-based Food Companies

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Based an assumption that the socio-technical imaginaries presented by companies will influence real life through chosen technologies and chosen product ranges available on the market, this presentation will discuss the potential for plant-based transitions seen through lens of companies' expectation to the market and their presentation of 'the consumers'. Based on a qualitative study from 2023 with

participation from plant-based food processing companies, the findings raises questions on the wider consequences of the imagined consumer presented by companies.

When looking into the imagined consumer presented by the companies a pattern emerges. Consumers are by companies mainly presented as traditional, price-oriented, meat loving and non-ideological. Only a small niche group of consumers is seen as more value-driven and they are not in focus for many companies. Companies working from this consumer imaginary, expecting most people to be unwilling to change their habits, risk to be stuck in certain production rationalities where meat imitations, lacking product innovation, modest market expectations and a low sense of responsibility for pushing the existing market structures are dominant. Consequently, the plant-based transition of food practices may be slowed down, not only because changing habits and routines are difficult but also because companies themselves limit the availability of plant-based quality products due to their low expectations to 'the consumers'. This imagined consumer is challenged by consumer research showing e.g. a much more dynamic and negotiated approach towards meat reduction, which will be discussed as well.

Tracing a 'Plant-Based' Backlash? Practices, Political Economy, and the Contestation of Dietary Transitions

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Amidst growing calls for the urgent need to transition away from 'Western' diets – characterised by high levels of meat and dairy consumption – on both environmental sustainability and public health grounds, consumption scholars have contributed to a groundswell of interest in potential dietary shifts. Drawing principally on theories of social practice to articulate these transitions, particular attention has been paid to the reconfiguration of everyday purchasing, cooking and eating practices towards 'plant-based' diets, denoting a significant (if not necessarily total) divestment away from animal-derived foods. However, these transitions are not unidirectional or delivered via consensus. Building on and developing existing contributions, this paper traces the contours of an emergent backlash against plant-based diets. Noting a palpable and growing problematisation of plant-based – variously on the grounds of nutritional (particularly micronutrient) deficiencies, concerns around the health effects of 'ultra-processed' foods, as well as the unintended consequences of a shift away from pastoral agriculture – we argue that greater emphasis within consumption scholarship ought to be paid to broader 'landscape' processes and practices of contestation. Connecting to and highlighting the resonance with debates in the political economy of agri-food and innovation studies, this paper argues that contestations around dietary transitions are exemplary in illuminating the need to better account for questions around power, normativity and the politics of knowledge in consumption scholarship. To conclude, we suggest some productive directions for further research, outlining some theoretical resources to better understand and make sense of increasingly contested terrains of consumption in and beyond diets alone.

"I Aim to Choose the Plant-based Option, if it is Not Too Bean Heavy" – Identifying Normalities of Eating in Written Accounts

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Sustainability transformation requires changes in all spheres of production and consumption, and food is one of the most important areas in this enormous effort. More sustainable, plant-based products need to be developed to replace foods that are most problematic from the point of view of ecological and nutritional sustainability. However, consumer practices change slowly, and the new products do not easily become part of everyday routines, unless the practices are perceived expectable and acceptable, and thus 'normal'. Nevertheless, history shows that what is seen as 'normal' changes over time, not the least in context of food. This study looks at understandings of 'normal' eating in written accounts depicting eating during one April Friday. The data was collected in April 2023 in collaboration with the Finnish Literature Society SKS, the University of Helsinki, the Rural Culture Foundation, and the Forum for Culture and Religion. The data set includes 428 written accounts by Finnish participants describing a single 'Food Day' including nuanced descriptions of the foods that were favored and avoided, and reflections on food and eating in general. The aim of the study is to identify how expectable and acceptable foods and practices of eating are conceptualized in these written accounts and the meanings ascribed to plant-based foods in these practices. In other words, the goal is to examine how plant-based foods fit into the understandings of 'normal' eating, and how 'normal' is maintained and challenged in everyday life.

RN05 | T03_03: Cultural consumption 1: Digital cultures

Gendered Video Game Consumption: The Role of Consumption in Shaping Gender Identities among Young Norwegian Players

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Playing online games is a highly gendered consumption activity, which is especially pronounced among Norwegian children and youth. Young male gamers in Norway spend both more time and money on video games compared to their female counterparts. In the literature, female gamers are understudied, objectified, and harassed, while male gamers tend to be stigmatized through unfavorable stereotypes. Moreover, consumption patterns in games are relatively under-researched, despite the established role of consumption in peer belonging and gender identity construction. Through 41 play-along interviews with children and youth aged 10-24 years, this article seeks to understand how the role of a gamer is enacted through gendered consumption. By drawing on identities and roles as theoretical tools, the findings suggest that players simultaneously accept and reject the socialized and gendered gamer role. Gendered consumption preferences allow for different ways of enacting gender, and game design contributes to shaping such preferences. Girls face challenges to belong as gamers and tend to conceal their gender identity due to harassment and exclusion, and actively seek out safe spaces. The findings are discussed in terms of how gendered consumption influences membership in the gaming culture and encourages the promotion of inclusion in game design and gaming platforms.

Digital Distinction: Strategies of Legitimizing Instagram Use in São Paulo Restaurants

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This study delved into the digital transformation of restaurants in São Paulo, Brazil, employing Pierre Bourdieu's field theory. The analysis encompassed eight restaurants, with four distinguished in national reviews and four boasting a significant Instagram following. Data collection involved mystery visits to each establishment and a digital ethnography analysis of their Instagram profiles. The research explored the social distinction strategies employed by each restaurant to legitimate their Instagram presence without compromising their position in the gastronomic field and to seamlessly convey elements traditionally experienced in person onto the platform.

Within the gastronomic subfield governed by cultural production norms, restaurants accrue prestige through peer recognition, demonstrating minimal interest in public acclaim. Consequently, Instagram, as a vast social media, is perceived by gastronomic agents as potentially "vulgarizing." To counteract these negative effects, acclaimed restaurants typically adopt digital distinction strategies rooted in aesthetic and moral considerations, such as the mobilization of ecological and social repertoires. In contrast, restaurants famous on the platform tend to more flexibly align with trends dictated by Instagram.

In conclusion, this research observed that critically acclaimed restaurants often replicate and deepen haute cuisine repertoires on Instagram, thereby extending the intellectual experience beyond their physical space. For these establishments, Instagram serves a complementary role. Restaurants with substantial followings strike a balance between platform trends and essential gastronomic themes in their posts, tempering their message to resonate with their consumer base. In essence, Instagram plays a pivotal role for these restaurants, becoming an integral part of the product they offer.

Gaming Trajectories, Life Trajectories: How Video Gaming of People of Different Social Class Change or Not in Transition to Young Adulthood

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There is established research on gender and race-based differences in video gaming, but social class is rarely discussed. Based on qualitative interviews with UK gamers (aged 18-35) of different social classes (n=39), we suggest that gaming trajectories and life trajectories of working-class and middle-class gamers diverge in the transition from adolescence to young adulthood. Both working-class and middle-class participants reminisced that they spent considerable time gaming daily with real-life and/or online friends as adolescents. As the middle-class and upwardly mobile gamers moved onto university, the games they played, time spent gaming and the friends they played with changed, contributing to a more self-controlled and discerning habitus. The life situation of working-class young adults did not change, and they continued playing more, similar games with the same friends. Differences in gaming frequency in the transition were corroborated by quantitative analysis of secondary data. Drawing on Bourdieusian conceptual framework, we offer original insights on how subtle changes affecting video gaming, such as the adoption of personalised tastes, time pressures and new social circles, transform young people's habitus with repercussions to their social mobility.

Exploring the Contradictions and Tensions of Feminist Consumption: Subscription Memberships, Alternative Funding Models, and Patreon

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Subscription-based platforms like Patreon and Substack, where audiences can be charged a monthly subscription fee in exchange for paywalled content and services, are quickly growing in popularity among content creators and others working in the digital sphere. While the motivations behind this shift vary, they often relate to a critique of and frustration with dominant digital income streams, including the challenges of navigating visibility, precarity and labour. However, subscriptions also develop audiences into paying consumers, and this gives rise to several tensions. In this paper, I reflect on findings from interviews and workshops with feminist individuals providing subscriptions as a way of building community and sustaining feminist work, and those paying for them. What emerges is that subscriptions ostensibly provide a form of care and support among otherwise uncaring funding models, but at the same time generate powerful tensions between building forms of voluntary, participatory communities, and the kinds of relationships that emerge. Namely, participants felt they were owed a service, 'buying' their way out of mainstream social media but also opting out, through paying for a service, of the labour that is required to build a community resource and space – consumer demands and expectations which ultimately reproduce the forms of precarity, scrutiny, and uncertainty subscription providers seek to escape. Building on scholarship which explores the relationship between entrepreneurialism, consumption, community and care more broadly, participants' experiences offer a compelling example of the effects of monetisation and consumption within feminist spaces and the inherent contradictions and tensions that emerge.

RN05 | T03_04: Energy consumption 3: Class

Unpacking The Eco-habitus In a Norwegian Context: Nuancing Cultural Distinctions in Energy Practice

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Studies have found the cultural upper class in contemporary societies distinguish themselves through strategies of environmental and sustainability awareness – described as having an 'eco-habitus' (Carfagna et al., 2014). This indicates 'eco-habitus' is classed, with lower classes often feeling a sensation of powerlessness as to influencing their surrounding environment (Kennedy and Givens, 2019). Through an analysis of 37 interviews with informants from different classes in Oslo, Norway, this paper studies their orientation towards environmental values with regards to their performance of energy practices. Norway is a key case, as egalitarian sentiments in conjunction with unique energy characteristics, such as a fully electrified household sector and a renewable energy mix, provides a context of low social stratification and an energy transition that is well underway. Due to these contextual factors, previous research has found a lack of environmental awareness with regards to energy consumption in Scandinavian countries (Winther and Bell, 2018). In this research, I suggest that the general energy system context is key for understanding the social stratification of energy practices, as are local material conditions (e.g. types of home people live in) for influencing expressions of 'eco-habitus'. I question the power of distinction that cultural capital holds in this, and other, energy systems. Nuancing previous research on eco-habitus, the findings contribute to a deeper conceptual understanding of habitus and its outcomes on sustainable practices, as well new insight into class distinctions regarding environmental consciousness.

Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus at Home: a Case Study from a Municipality in Portugal

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The transition toward sustainable urban water, energy, and food systems (WEF) requires a comprehensive approach combining both technological solutions and socio-cultural dimensions of home resource consumption. Drawing on

results from the CitySelfy project, this paper aims to understand consumer attitudes and reported practices related to WEF systems in a Portuguese municipality. Additionally, it examines consumers' willingness to adopt alternative products and technologies with a WEF focus.

In 2022, a questionnaire was administered to 605 residents of Cascais municipality, near Lisbon, to understand socio-economic profiles and preferences regarding local water, energy, and food systems.

To gauge pro-environmental behaviour, we adapted the Pro-Environmental Behaviour Scale (Brick, Sherman, and Kim 2017) exclusively to WEF-related questions, enabling us to capture frequencies of environmental practices linked to energy, water, and food. Using a Principal Component Analysis (PCA), our results revealed that respondents were simultaneously concerned about conserving water and energy in their daily household practices, while issues related to food showed less integration with water and energy. The PCA on willingness-to-adopt questions for WEF resources indicated that respondents expressing the highest willingness for each set (water, energy, or food) were less likely to adopt measures in the other two sets. This suggests that consumers' declared practices and expectations do not display an integrated perspective on WEF systems, and it is uncommon for them to combine pro-environmental practices across all three systems in daily life. This highlights the need to grasp the dynamics of practice in everyday life where demand for resource use is configured (Foden et. al, 2018). This understanding is essential for developing interventions that promote an integrative approach to sustainable urban resource management.

Cutting the Air with a Knife: Energy Consumption, Class Boundaries and Suburban Atmospheres

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In the context of climate change, studies on ordinary consumption and the procurement of energy have shown how differential access to energy fosters climate-resilience inequalities. Research into energy precarity shows that marginalized communities are often forced to use polluting energy, unlike middle-class populations, who may choose otherwise. Although wood-smoke pollution has been linked to various public-health risks, it remains a popular form of domestic heating, worldwide. In Israel/Palestine, a region known for its limited natural sources and uneven energy distribution, a substantial share of both lower and middle-class households uses wood-burning for domestic heating, albeit for different reasons and in different settings. Taking energy consumption as a contested social terrain whereby conflicting political-economic pressures, national-environmental imaginaries and class boundaries articulates, this paper asks, first, how energy consumption delineates symbolic class boundaries in suburban areas, and secondly, how it produces mistrust and contentious relationships between residents. Based on interviews with residents and digital ethnography of suburban social media sites, we describe how the consumption of specialty wood and well-made fireplaces placed in well-designed homes, is not only formulated in terms of environmental consumer rights, but it also produces middle-class domesticity and gender propriety. At the same time, the involuntary consumption of middle-class waste, in the form of smoke and pollution by the neighbors of these stove users, create suburban atmospheres of mistrust, potentially also risking not only the middle-class branding of these locales but also notions of the good life itself.

Energy Saving In Low-income Households: Charity Or Political Environmentalism?

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Energy consumption and its carbon footprint are known to increase with household income. Nevertheless, it is low-income households that are being encouraged to save energy by a German energy-saving-program as part of the National Climate Initiative. This approach is not only ecologically ineffective but also morally problematic from a climate justice perspective. Then again, low-income households benefit most financially from energy savings, as they spend a disproportionately large share of their income on household energy. Thus, such programs are confronted with normative dilemmas since saving energy may serve multiple purposes – charity and sustainability.

The paper studies the implementation of the so called "Energy-saving-check" in Germany. To reduce CO2 emissions, it advises low-income households on sustainable energy consumption through peer-to-peer counselling. Funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and operated jointly by energy agencies and the welfare organization Caritas, the program trains long-term unemployed people to coach social welfare recipients on energy saving in their homes. Since 2009, the 150 sites of the program have coached 412,000 households nationwide. It claims to have saved 720.000 tons CO2.

Using qualitative evidence from semi-structured interviews with politicians, local coordinators, and participants (N = 43) and ethnographic observations of household coaching and the training of the peers, we provide systematic sociological insights into the changing normative ascriptions attached to energy saving among vulnerable groups. Especially, we will show how environmental goals at the political level got decoupled from the local practice of the household coaching, which is strongly embedded in a value framework of charity and social counselling. Thus, we contribute to the ongoing debate on sustainable energy consumption and climate justice.

RN05 | T04_01: Digital consumption 2: Food platforms

Food And Sustainability: How Digital Platforms Are Trying To Reduce Food Waste

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Food waste plays an important role in the discourse on food sustainability with implications for the environment, the economy and social well-being.

Today, the scale of food waste is staggering, with billions of tonnes discarded each year worldwide. In Italy, according to a recent study, the cost of food waste will reach €9 billion in 2023 (Waste Watcher 2023), confirming that the country is still far from the goal of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030, as set out in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to many researchers, consumers are one of the biggest sources of food waste in developed countries.

Government policies and regulations play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices and minimizing food waste. In addition, addressing this issue includes raising awareness among individuals, households and businesses about the importance of reducing waste, adopting sustainable practices throughout the food supply chain, and implementing effective food recovery systems. These systems can include initiatives such as food rescue programmes and anti-food waste platforms such as Too Good To Go, Olio, NoFood Waste, FreshSurety, Nowaste, Nosh, Kitchen.

The paper discusses the different ways in which some of these platforms, operating in different contexts (business-to-business, business-to-consumer or peer-to-peer), can raise awareness, facilitate food redistribution and encourage responsible consumption, all with the aim of building a more sustainable and efficient food system.

Waste Watcher 2023, Osservatorio internazionale su cibo e sostenibilità – ITALIA, https://www.confcommercio.it/documents/20126/3920989/Waste+Watcher+Italia+2023.pdf/3ed10f67-6623-2802-9d4e-2c8df-0fa7110?t=1675261641974

The Social Meaning of Pulses in Media Recipe Presentations: A Qualitative Analysis based on Cookbooks and Instagram posts

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A transformation of food-systems for the health of people and the planet requires a significant reduction in the consumption of animal-based food. Pulses could play an important role here as climate-friendly, resource-saving protein alternatives. However, the consumption of pulses in Europe falls far short of the recommendations for a sustainable diet. Possible barriers to consume pulses are related to digestive problems, a lack of knowledge about how to prepare them and their culinary image as „poor people´s food". Nevertheless, public awareness for sustainable nutrition increases. This leads to following questions: to what extent (and how) the social perception and meaning of pulses and the associated practices are changing and which milieu – and target group-specific differences can be identified.

To address these questions, we conduct a qualitative analysis of two media formats that are assumed to represent contemporary food-related values and practices and be discursively involved in their constitution and confirmation. Selected media are current best-selling German cookbooks (n=46) and social media posts, more precisely, recipes published on Instagram by popular German food influencers (n=19).

The results indicate that pulses play a marginal role in media aimed at more traditional milieus and (meat-oriented) eating styles, especially as a mere additional ingredient in simple everyday dishes. In contrast, pulses are associated with explicit meaning and value in media aimed at health and sustainability-oriented audiences. However, in this context, pulses are not primarily valued for their culinary properties, but above all for their nutritional and health-promoting benefits. In this way, pulses appear as a symbol of sustainable, health-conscious and enlightened consumption. This reveals a change in social meaning that appears to be the opposite of that of meat.

Digital Entrepreneurship on Social Eating Platforms

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In recent years, social media and digital platforms have given rise to new forms of entrepreneurship, aiming to turn an amateur activity into a profession. An interesting case study is that of social eating platforms.

Social eating platforms are created to intermediate traditional forms of consumption (such as sharing a meal among friends) through digital. The technological infrastructure

has enabled to create new social bonds between strangers who meet to share a meal made by an amateur chef. It is built on relationships that develop within a peer community based on a strong experiential dimension.

After the pandemic, there has been a transformation of the model proposed by the owner companies (whether intentional or not), which outlines the transition towards work platforms dedicated to professionals.

The different business model of these platforms signifies a shift from a reciprocity-based regulation model to a market exchange model. Host profiles (chefs) are characterized by the presence of professionals who invest time and financial resources in establishing their activity on the platform. Based on these observations, the research aims to investigate how platforms give rise to new forms of "bottom-up" entrepreneurship. The questions to be addressed include: How do social eating platforms enable people's entrepreneurs in the digital economy? What is the quality of the work they create? What are the characteristics of this form of entrepreneurship? Additionally, the territorial dimension of the phenomenon will be explored: How does the phenomenon embedded in different regions?

The study is based on mapping social eating platforms in Italy, the analysis of chef profiles, and semi-structured interviews with platform managers and chefs.

The FoodMAPP Project: Exploring Possibilities of Promoting Local Food Distribution and Provision Through Digital Tools.

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FoodMapp is a European funded applied research project aiming at promoting short food supply chains through the development of a digital platform. The results presented here come from the qualitative part of this study, based on an investigation with consumers and stakeholders across five countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Spain, England). Five focus groups were led with consumers in each country and 50 interviews conducted with stakeholders across the different countries. The data was analysed according to a thematical analysis approach. Key drivers and barriers toward the adoption of digital solutions for improving short food supply chain and provisioning were identified. The results also provided insight into the multidimensional and heterogeneous definition of what "short supply chain" or "local food" mean for the different stakeholders. This definition helps understand, in particular, why both stakeholders and consumers perceive many barriers to the use of digital tools in the consumption of sustainable food, especially because digital tools are perceived as being somewhat an antithesis to local food provisioning and waste reduction practices. This research also has theoretical implications in studies of consumption as it allows to investigate the balance between cultural and social differences in European consumers and stakeholders' habits.

RN05 | T04_02: Imaginaries of consumption

The Utopia of Frugality. Imaginaries of Sustainable Consumption

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Imagine that you are transported thirty years into the future. What does it look like? How do people live? What do you fear and hope for in the future? 137 Norwegian citizens answered these questions in an online qualitative questionnaire. Their responses take the shape of stories, imaginaries, of the future, that also consider aspects of consumption. More precisely, aspects of sustainable consumption because almost all the stories we collected revolved around man-made climate change, even though the respondents were not asked directly about it. When the respondents write about their own lives in the future, they do so in terms of virtues and vices as responses to the consequences of climate change. By means of narrative analysis, we examine how one virtue – frugality – is offered as an ideal for consumption both in micro-narratives of individual lives and in the macro-narrative level of the rules, ideals, and organisation of future society. The stories depict the frugal society of the future as going forward by going backwards to the consumption practices of previous generations. This frugality can be seen as an operationalisation of sustainability that translate into concrete actions the individual can take in their daily life. First and foremost, a frugal lifestyle entails engaging less with mass consumption and achieve a sense of freedom through self-production of food and clothing as a new mode of modernity.

Consumption, Mediatization and the "Long Tail" of Memory and Imaginaries

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The paper aims to reflect on the capability of media fruition to activate specific forms of sharing and participation in a scenario characterized by deep mediatization and full hybridization. In the current media environment transmedia narratives tend to expand horizontally through the process of spreadability, thus fueling the sedimentation of contents and symbols, that become a starting point for users to negotiate shared meanings, activating co-creative practices traceable to prosumption logics (Ritzer, Degli Esposti 2020). Nonetheless, this same process appears to lack in the capability to create a common shared intra-generational and inter-generational memory and imaginary, as was once the

case, generating a grey zone where social tensions could expand (Leonzi, Ugolini 2023).

To deeper analyse this scenario, the paper aims to investigate the ways in which specific transmedia narratives manage to create relations of meaning with users even when the latter have not directly accessed the texts. A survey and several in-depth interviews were conducted to identify whether and how media consumption still represents a possibility of dialogue within social groups, or on the contrary a new field of division, tension and mistrust.

The first results of the research show that a model of approaching cultural objects, products and consumption seems to be taking shape that is increasingly disconnected from the roots of narratives and, as a paradoxical consequence, increasingly linked to their representations, deprived of meaning. A mass imaginary that evolves in a mass of imaginaries, linked together in a "long tail" of volatile consumption (Anderson 2006; Tosca 2023), which contrasts the reaffirmation of a shared memory and a shared imagination capable of generating dialogue.

Sociology Consumption And Social Change

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This paper addresses some central theoretical and methodological issues in the explanation of changes in consumption patterns. It takes the case of eating practices as illustration to examine conceptual apparatuses for dealing with processes of reproduction and transformation of habits. It focuses on ways to relate socio-cultural processes like informalisation, commodification and aestheticization to change and stability in aggregate behaviour. It explores how data, methods, analytic procedures and interpretive framings can best be combined to give defensible and distinctive sociological explanations of collective action. It asks, inter alia, whether it is plausible to offer characterisations of national culinary cultures and evaluates methodological procedures suitable for depicting their trajectories. It reflects on dilemmas arising from my recent attempts to explain patterns of domestic eating and dining out.

Futures Literacy: Norwegian Imaginaries Of Food And Clothing Consumption

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UNESCO has championed futures literacy since 2012, highlighting its importance in the context of imagining alternative futures and directing change towards desirable futures. It follows that futures literacy allows people to actively engage with the plurality of images of the future and relate them to their own choices and ideas of (un)desirable futures. While this includes understanding the role of the future also in people's everyday consumption practices, which inevitably play a major role in the green transition, efforts are largely focused on policy planning, business innovation and higher education. We, therefore, ask what level of futures literacy Norwegian stakeholders exhibit related to food and clothing consumption. Based on stories collected from 137 Norwegian consumers, advertisements, and business strategy and policy documents, we highlight the different stakeholders' narratives of food and clothing consumption to compare their engagement with present imaginaries of future consumption. We find that businesses and policymakers display a higher level of future literacy than consumers. In general, the narratives of food consumption are richer and more well-developed than those of clothing consumption: business and policy documents' narratives of sustainable clothing futures are limited to the repeating narrative of 'repair, reuse, recycle', whereas food consumption narratives range from self-sufficiency to alternative protein sources. The latter suggests a higher level of future literacy, which may reflect a more mature discussion of food futures: adversely, the lack of attention to alternative forms of clothing consumption decreases the likelihood of a larger transformation of clothing consumption patterns.

RN05 | T04_03: Panel on Food, inequalities, and social stratification

"Analysing Social Inequality Within a Social Practice Theoretical Perspective. Reflections From a Study of Food Practices Among Underprivileged Danish Households"

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In the project 'Proper' food under economic constraints' we conducted an interview based qualitative exploration of food practices in underprivileged Danish households. Links between food practices and lower dietary health, and relations between social norms and societal food discourses were in focus. The project was theoretically inspired by Social Practice Theories (SPT) as introduced by Warde to the field of consumption (2005) and to food and eating (2016). SPT is generally strong in analyzing social dynamics involved in mundane practices. However, social inequality and social hierarchy has largely been an absent theme which is only beginning to be addressed in SPT food research. In this paper, we highlight main empirical results and present conceptual reflections.

Our results report how specific bundles of practices in daily lives link to less healthy diets in underprivileged households, and how performance of food practice in constraining conditions are gendered. Further, we take up Walker's (2013) suggestion to address social inequality by relating Amarta Sen's capability approach to SPT. We focus on capacities and accomplishments and explore whether a social interactionist approach to accounting may deepen our understanding of normativity in underprivileged households.

The empirical study is based on 30 qualitative interviews with Danish men and women with low income and short education.

A Middle-brow Taste? Ultraprocessed Food Consumption, Eating Practices and Class in France

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Ultraprocessed foods (containing ingredients not used in domestic cooking) are widely used but subject to negative moral judgements. The main explanation for their widespread use has been that they are convenient. This paper shows that UPF consumption expresses distinct tastes, that are most often found in the middle classes. We base our work here on the sociology of taste, on a practice-based approach to food consumption, and on the latest (2017) French Household Budget Survey. Regressions show how the share of UPF in food purchases varies according to class, food practices, and the various segments of the food market (types of restaurants, types of shops) for eating at home or away from home. UPF constituted 34% of the food budget for at home consumption. We found that UPF budget share is highest in households with intermediate levels of income and education, and convenience in food practices only partly accounts for variations in UPF consumption. The persistent association of UPF consumption with income and education, and the analysis of market segments for eating out and grocery shopping indicate that purchasing more UPF is associated with positive engagements with the conventional food market. The literature on the social stratification of taste has laid much emphasis on what differentiates the tastes of the lower and upper classes. Our research investigates tastes specific to the middle classes, and expands the category of middlebrow taste, both empirically and theoretically.

Between surplus and support: A comparison of Greater Manchester and Kyoto charitable food provision fields

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Literature to date has increased our understanding of charitable systems of food provision and its complex dynamics with food waste and surplus, although there is still a lack of attention to food charities' relationships of conflict and interdependence, their shared understanding, boundaries, social positioning, and power relationships. Strategic action field (SAF) theory has been successfully used to analyze several nonprofit organization NPO arenas and proved to be a particularly useful approach to improve our understanding of the charitable food provision (CFP) field, and more generally of transitions towards more sustainable and just food consumption and provision systems. Additionally, the structured approach of Strategic Action Field (SAF) theory makes possible to compare CFP fields in different countries. Building on the case studies of Greater Manchester and Kyoto, this paper uses SAF theory to investigate the Japanese CFP field and to identify the main differences and similarities with the UK CFP field. The data is based on several semi-structured interviews with food charities directors, spokespersons and stakeholders based in Kyoto (15) and Greater Manchester (42). In both cases, data were enriched with visits during food distribution events, information and documents collected on the organizations' websites, and Factiva references trends. Similar interviews guidelines were used in both countries, and the interview transcripts were coded and analysed in Nvivo to identify differences and similarities following SAF's theory building blocks: field emergence, shared understandings and practices, the broader field environment, and the effect of Covid-19 as an exogenous shock.

Going Forward Or Going Backward: Using Securitization Theory To Understand Policy Implications For Food Access And The New Concept Of Nutrition Security.

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Food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO 1996)." It is the predominant concept that frames policies that address systems of food provisioning by governments and charitable organizations at multiple levels and across contexts. Recent work in the US seeks to reframe these policy solutions with an updated concept, nutrition security that explicitly addresses structural inequities. Securitization theory (Wæver 1995) examines the securitization of policy solutions as a speech act which constrains solutions. Prior applications examined how issues of national security and environmental crises primarily focus on defense of the state. The historical context for US framing food access in nationalistic terms has been shown to have roots in militarization (Levenstein 2003) and food security policy is currently tied to the promotion of American agriculture. Our case study uses securitization theory and a discursive analysis of the historical framing of policy solutions to explore three research questions: 1) How has the concept of food security developed in the US as a solution that links challenges to household food acquisition to questions of national security through policies implemented by the US Department of Agriculture? 2) How have competing conceptual frameworks (food sovereignty and food justice) been expunged from the security frame? and 3) What are the implications of transitioning to an official policy frame of nutrition security for equity and justice?

RN05 | T05_01: Digital consumption 3: Data entanglements

The Human-algorithmic Entanglement in the News Realm

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News evolution is increasingly driven by technology, favoring fast, automated, and accessible content. This shift raises concerns about the de-professionalization and societal value of journalists, as AI influences news production. Our study examines AI's impact on Italian journalism, using Ritzer's Integrated Sociological Paradigm to analyze the balance between rapid, AI-driven news and a slower, more humanized approach.

Prosumers, who both produce and consume news, are reshaping media. Their active role challenges traditional journalism, accelerating information flow. Within that frame the slow news vs fast news approach is reshaping the way information is produced and consumed, leading our attention to the cultural lag, where societal norms struggle to keep pace with technological changes in news dissemination.

Furthermore, prosumers are central to the concept of creative destruction in media, driving innovation but also raising concerns about the quality and trustworthiness of news. Our study aims to unravel these complex dynamics, spotlighting how the news landscape is evolving in an era marked by AI and proactive consumers, a battlefield between human-centered journalism and machine efficiency.

Creepy or Curios? Affective Responses to Digital Voice Assistants 'Acting Out'

Helene Fiane Teigen

Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Digital voice assistants such as Google Home, Apple's Siri, and Amazon's Alexa are popular features of connected homes. They are used for various tasks such as relaying news, weather forecasts, and controlling other smart home devices (i.e. lights and heaters). They consist of a material "body" and a human-like voice that people interact with activated by a code phrase. However, it is commonly known that these devices may activate accidentally without the code word. How do people react to this malfunction and what does it mean for their sense of home to have a human-mimicking presence that sometimes acts outside of their control?

In this paper, I will explore how people talk about – and with – their digital voice assistants and how this is affected by

the assistants 'acting out', by which I refer to the assistants operating outside of people's expectations and control.

The paper draws on qualitative interviews with ten people living with digital voice assistants, including images of how their assistants are physically placed within their homes, as well as researcher notes from the interviews. Combining a socio-material framework with the notion of affect, this paper discusses the tensions between the seamless ideal of smart home technology and the messiness of reality, and as such contributes to illuminating the transformation of the home from a closed and private space to a connected node in a larger digital ecosystem.

Consumed by Data: Reconnecting Consumers With Their Personal Data Through Data Domestication

Dag Slettemeås, Helene Teigen, Henry Mainsah

OsloMet, Norway

This paper addresses the escalating tracking, monitoring and commodification of consumer data. Both individual and 'behavioural surplus' data (Zuboff 2019) are in high demand for marketing purposes, leaving consumers vulnerable to privacy erosion, manipulation and discrimination, challenging their agency, autonomy and life quality (Puntoni et al. 2021). The paper combines insights from two recent research projects (employing group interviews); one focusing on consumer perceptions of digital market surveillance (dataveillance), and one on sensitive data used for targeting consumers with 'intimate' SoMe-ads. Preliminary analysis suggests that the 'weak' relation between consumers and their data is a major obstacle for constructing and maintaining privacy-protective strategies. Personal data are considered abstract, immaterial and intangible by consumers, who struggle to conceptualize what data can be considered personal, intimate or sensitive. Weak data relations seem to be exacerbated by a sense of 'loss of control' over personal data flows, leading to privacy apathy or digital resignation (Draper & Turow 2019). At the same time, tracking and exchange of data for services appears to be the accepted state of affairs, and consumers enjoy relevant targeted marketing. This ambivalence generates apparently paradoxical positions and emotions among consumers. The paper concludes that a central challenge will be to reconnect consumers with their own data. Here we suggest the concept of 'data domestication' (cf. Flintham et al. 2019), making data visible and tangible through visualization techniques, and through experiencing data in practice. In this way personal data can be 'tamed', demystified and tangible, potentially strengthening consumer privacy protection strategies. We will combine technology paradox concepts (Mick & Fournier 1998) with theories of domestication (Silverstone et al. 1992, Helle-Valle & Slettemeås 2008) for this purpose

Consuming Convenience: The Case of Voice Assistants in the Smart Home

Niklas Strüver

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This presentation examines the field of smart home technology, focusing on the role of voice assistants, exemplified by Amazon's Alexa, in facilitating the consumption of artificial intelligence (AI) and smart devices. The integration of voice assistants into everyday life not only simplifies the use of smart home technology but also alters the consumption of digital convenience technologies. Central to this investigation is the concept of 'convenience' (Shove 2003; West 2022) as a driving force behind the adoption of AI and smart devices in domestic settings, as the imaginaries around it justify these technologies.

I view these devices not merely as tools, but active agents as an extension of a big tech company in shaping consumption patterns. The study argues that Alexa, by making the smart home more accessible, facilitates the consumption of technologies such as artificial intelligence and smart devices, in the users' pursuit of convenience. This analysis is achieved by looking at various qualitative empirical materials (such as interviews, or media – and standard-analysis) gathered during my PhD project that works on Alexa.

Finally, the future trajectory of smart home technologies and voice assistants in the light of the rise of ChatGPT and similar services should be considered. The field of digital consumer technologies has been disrupted multiple times in the last few years and seeks to re-align itself. This process has an impact on imaginaries and consumers and their devices that (in some cases) have become essential for daily lives.

Shove, E. (2003). Comfort, cleanliness and convenience: The social organization of normality.

West, E. (2022). Buy now: How Amazon branded convenience and normalized monopoly.

RN05 | T05_02: Food consumption 4: Food systems

Italians' Food Consumption and Environmental Sustainability Beyond the Pandemic Covid-19

Roberta Bartoletti, Paola Parmiggiani

University of Bologna, Italy

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the normality of everyday life throughout the world and affected consumption practices, radically during the first Italian lockdown (March-May 2020) and in a softer way in the following months. Consumers have been forced to abandon, modify or replace some of their previous practices, and some of them have also learned and adapted to new practices, such as home cooking, which became even more common and popular among Italian families during the two months of the first lockdown. We wonder whether there are some permanent changes in the consumption practices of Italian families, what are the reasons for these changes and whether these changes are oriented towards a more sustainable society.

We intend to present some results of a qualitative research based on 30 in-depth interviews with Italian households carried out between May and July 2021 – at least one year after the end of the first lockdown – in the macro-territorial areas of the North (Emilia Romagna), Centre (Marche), South and Islands (Sardinia) of Italy.

In our presentation, we focus on the social and environmental sustainability of domestic food consumption practices. Our research questions are How do consumers engage with environmental issues in their everyday lives? What changes, if any, have occurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic? The research shows that daily waste management and attitudes towards food waste are the areas where Italian consumers are most concerned about environmental sustainability, albeit mainly indirectly and not always consciously.

The Evolving Significance of Food Origin Label, between Sustainable Eating and Security Claims. A Study on Italian Consumer Trust amid Crisis.

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The intervention presents the outcomes of an interdisciplinary study engaging five Italian universities, focusing on the escalating importance of food origin label for contemporary Italian consumers and its implications in terms of eroding consumer trust amid the prolonged crisis. Despite economic challenges, the origin of food remains a paramount concern for Italian consumers, wielding a substantial influence on their purchasing decisions. Notably, the food origin label has transformed into a symbolic construct, encapsulating omnivore dilemmas intensified by persistent uncertainty, reflecting an escalating distrust toward the global landscape and supranational systems. Through a blend of qualitative and quantitative research conducted on a representative sample of the Italian population, this study delves into the cultural narratives underpinning geographical indications of food products, their impact on consumer values and meanings – often resulting in a polarization between security and 'green', or the overlapping of 'authentic' and 'sustainable' – and their integration into daily consumption practices. It will ultimately offer insights into the emerging contradictory axiology and tense social dynamics shaping food-related practices during times of crisis.

Between Production and Consumption: The Transformative Potential of Food Engagement and Foodie Culture in Contemporary Poland

Agata Bachórz

University of Gdańsk, Poland

A tradition of examining the multifaceted role of food in late modern societies positions it, among others, not only as pragmatic sustenance but also as a form of leisure and cultural engagement. Scholars have conceptualized this engagement as craft consumption (Campbell 2005) or productive leisure (de Solier 2013), thereby blurring boundaries between consumption and production, as well as between the material and the intangible. They view engagement with food as making consumption more meaningful by, for example, including productive and creative dimension or accumulating cultural capital.

In this presentation, I aim to explore the transformative potential of engagement with food, focusing on: 1) individual biographies (advocating for shaping them around empowerment and self-realization); 2) new work ethics (mitigating alienation); 3) interpersonal relations (that should be based on energetic exchange and resonance, as articulated by Hartmut Rosa). To discuss these dimensions, I will draw upon material from various qualitative, individual or team research projects in which I participated. They were devoted to the following topics: 1) everyday food practices, 2) career shifts from white-collar professions to passion-oriented manual work in food industry, 3) reinterpretation of Polish cuisine and the gastronomic field to align with the cosmopolitan foodie scene, and 4) cultural participation and cultural institutions. All the research that I aim to summarize was situated in Poland, primarily within urban environments, spanning the last decade. Through a re-analysis of different projects, my goal is to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the potentials and challenges of foodie culture, particularly in its Polish manifestation.

Switching to Dairy Alternatives or Executing a More Profound Shift: Finnish Consumers Navigating between Different Pathways to Ecological Sustainability

Sami Koponen, Taru Lindblom, Mari Niva

University of Helsinki, Finland

Many sociological studies on food consumption have underscored the important role of meat and dairy product alternatives (i.e., products that have been developed to imitate meat and dairy products in appearance, taste, or structure) in the mitigation of current environmental problems. It has been suggested that such products successfully support the transition towards plant-based diets since they allow consumers to mostly maintain their deeply rooted ways of cooking and enjoying food. However, recent research has raised more critical viewpoints on the role of meat and dairy alternatives in sustainable food transitions. They have been criticised, for example, in the context of 'Big Veganism'. It has also been argued that by imitating meat and dairy products, the alternatives may reinforce the normality of animal-based eating and delegitimise the consumption of other non-animal foods. There is a clear need for more empirical studies exploring the promise and challenge of meat and dairy alternatives. This paper aims to critically explore and discuss the options of 1) switching to meat/dairy alternatives and 2) executing a more profound shift in food consumption practices. More precisely, drawing on 30 thematic interviews with Finnish consumers representing various social backgrounds, we examine the ways in which consumers navigate between the options of replacing dairy products with plant-based alternatives and developing ways of eating that are less focused on both dairy and 'dairy-like' products. We are interested in their current food performances as well as how they envision the future of Finnish food culture in terms of these options.

RN05 | T05_03: Sustainable consumption 1

Navigating Towards a Sustainable Future: Investigating Festivals' Impact on Sustainable Consumption and Local Identity

Katalin Formadi

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Festivals are an excellent example of how boundaries can be crossed, bringing people from different regions and cultures to celebrate, and fostering cross-cultural interactions and diverse consumption experiences. Festivals offer a platform to promote and embrace sustainable practices, benefiting both local communities and broader societies. This abstract explores the role of festivals in promoting sustainability, assessing their efforts in this. It explores the sustainable consumption patterns and attitudes of festival visitors, presenting a typology of festival attendees based on their sustainability engagement.

A comprehensive three-year-long questionnaire survey, conducted at festivals in the Veszprem-Balaton region, yielding more than 1100 responses, shedding light on the geographical and socio-cultural dynamics of festival attendance. The findings indicate an increasing environmental consciousness among festival participants, who willingly adopt sustainable practices like recycling, reducing waste, and energy conservation. However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in the areas of food waste reduction and carbon footprint reduction.

This research highlights the role of stakeholders in promoting sustainable consumption and tailor their sustainability efforts to better meet the needs of festivalgoers. In conclusion, festivals have the potential to bring together diverse backgrounds and create a sense of community around shared values and interests. In conclusion, festivals have the potential to be catalyst for sustainability, with festival visitors, including locals acting as essential allies in advancing positive changes towards a more sustainable future.

What Kind Of Resources For The Engagement Of Consumers In The Circular Economy?

Laurence Godin

Université Laval, Canada

This presentation looks at the integration of the circular economy's principles into everyday life. More specifically, it looks at how everyday objects – clothing, furniture, toys, small appliances, etc. – fall into disuse, circulate and are reappropriated by households; in other words, how they gain a second life. It is based on a series of semi-directed

interviews conducted in Quebec City, Canada with participants engaged in this process as consumers, retailers or as members of community groups such as Repair Cafés or the zero waste movement.

Two main conclusions emerge from these interviews. First, engaging in the buying, selling, finding or donating of used objects, as well as repairing or transforming them, requires the investment of significant resources including time, skills and transportation. For this reason, today, engaging as a consumer in the circular economy remains more of a hobby or a passion than a set of practices that could easily be upscaled.

Another important observation is the importance of social networks – Facebook in particular – for every player involved, notably through classified ads or communications more generally. Indeed, the algorithm that determines the visibility of ads and publications plays a fundamental role determining if and how objects circulate between households, and the way this set of practices plays out. Taken together, these elements point to the necessity of designing infrastructures that would make engaging in the circular economy accessible to every consumer, without relying on the investment of significant resources by each and everyone of them.

On Embodiment and the Ecological Habitus. An Empirical Exploration of Social Class Dynamics in Sustainable Consumption Practices

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Following the practical turn, research on sustainable consumption has emphasized ordinary, inconspicuous consumption and the role of materiality. Studies, for instance, highlight the role of freezers, washing machines, and central heating in explaining escalating consumer demands. However, this has been at the expense of addressing social variation and inequality. Utilizing qualitative in-depth interviews, this contribution explores social class dynamics in sustainable consumption practices. In particular, we employ a Bourdieusian perspective, which has often been overlooked. Through the notion of ecological habitus, we underscore that sustainable consumption is not solely externalized in material artifacts, but also embodied through one's social history and class conditions. Two key findings emerge from our study. First, despite the emphasis on everyday life within practice theory, it has gone underacknowledged that people from different social classes inhibit vastly different everyday life-worlds. For example, (operational) central heating is not self-evident among people in poverty. Second, such differences can translate into diverging environmentally relevant systems of dispositions. Findings, for instance, reveal an ecological habitus that focusses on scarcity among people in poverty, or show contradictions between elite and middle-class tastes (e.g., traveling, second homes, swimming pools, old-timers) and sustainability objectives. In conclusion, the focus of practice theory on shared and normalized practices contains the risk of flattening social and cultural differences. Moreover, the notion of ecological habitus directs attention to the cultural dimensions of sustainable consumption. We underscore the need to enrich practice theoretical approaches with perspectives that highlight the relational and embodied nature of sustainable consumption practices to better understand social variations and inequalities.

RN05 | T05_04: Cultural consumption 2

Sensory Sensibilities: Rituals of Purification and Risks of Ethical Pollution in Speciality Coffee

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In this study, we explore how sensory skills are constructed, practiced, and reflected upon in the speciality coffee industry. Based upon a case study analysis of a speciality coffee roaster in Copenhagen, Denmark, we focus on taste languages and tasting rituals and analyse the narratives and practices of how connoisseurs like baristas, owners, and roasters interpret and negotiate meanings around 'good coffee' through the refinement and reverence of sensory skills. Our ethnographic data – including interviews, observations, and follow-alongs – reveals a foundational narrative regarding the desire to purify the sensory coffee experience. This purification involves refining ritual sensing practices around tasting and describing the coffee, but also involves narrating contradictions and tensions that originate outside the material entanglements of a cup of coffee. Connoisseur consumption is a practice where taste is 'learned' through consumption and reflection. While tasting coffee, connoisseurs engage with sensory 'science' and 'protocols' in order to connect embodied sensations with abstract ideas about flavour. However, our informants also encounter significant contradictions whilst learning to taste which spill outside strict containers of physical taste. Through finding sensations and tastes in coffee, they also give voice to the political and ethical tensions of promoting a form of connoisseurship that valorizes aesthetic purity, whilst simultaneously claiming to lobby for 'poor' farmers in coffee-producing nations. We explore these sensory tensions that arise from informants' reflexivities. Our analysis has implications for sensory approaches, omnivore orientations, and sociological studies of taste as skill.

Authenticity as the Aesthetic Regime of Late Modern Capitalism: Insights from the Hipster Economy

Alessandro Gerosa

University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Artisanal products have regained their popularity in the 21st-century post-industrial society. This phenomenon is being led by the urban 'hipster economy', particularly in the food and beverage sector, as highlighted by Ocejo (2017). Chris Land (2018) coined the term 'neo-craft' to describe this movement, which combines traditional craft with innovative and skilful production of high-quality products. Despite the symbolic and material allure of neo-craft work for middle-class individuals (Gandini and Gerosa, 2023), this revival cannot be comprehended without considering long-term taste transformations. In turn, these transformations allow the development of a framework capable of theorizing the role of taste in capitalist transformations.

This presentation builds upon the theoretical contributions included in 'The Hipster Economy' (Gerosa, 2024), based on a corpus of 40 semi-structured interviews with neo-craft entrepreneurs in Milan. The presentation will illustrate how the 'Hipster Economy' ubiquitous in the cities of the West – and beyond – epitomizes a 'hip aesthetic regime of consumption' founded on authenticity and a 'neo-craft' economic imaginary of consumption, typical of post-Fordist Late Modern Capitalism. Through this illustration, it will discuss the complex relationship between aesthetic regimes of consumption operating at the structural level of the economy and economic imaginaries of consumption operating at the meso-level. The main argument is to illuminate how taste is a pivotal dimension contributing to the structuration and development of capitalist configurations, despite its historical overlook in favour of regimes of accumulation and modes of regulation.

Accumulation of Cultural Capital: Longitudinal Study of Cultural Space of 2015-16 Cohort of University Students

Ondřej Špaček

Charles University, Czech Republic

The study of cultural stratification assumes that some differences in consumption patterns and cultural tastes are not merely outcomes of social inequalities but their integral parts. This argument rests on the assumption that these differences have qualities of (cultural) capital. Therefore, we could identify the processes of its accumulation and convertibility (Savage et al., 2005). However, existing research often relies on cross-sectional data collection, limiting its capacity to address these questions. The accumulation and convertibility facets of cultural capital require a longitudinal perspective on cultural consumption, taste differences and social class. This paper will aim to bridge this gap by utilizing data from a longitudinal study of the 2015-16 cohort of Charles University students, initially surveyed in 2017 and subsequently followed up in 2024. The focus will be on tracing the accumulation of cultural capital by mapping changes in positions in the space of cultural consumption and taste. It will explore different trajectories in various study fields in tertiary education, as well as examine capital accumulation in the context of the family of origin. The paper will also explore methodological issues of longitudinal analysis of cultural space, considering shifting relations of meaning, positions and understandings of cultural goods and practices by employing statistical instruments of MCA (see, e.g. Plessz et al. 2022).

Body Modification: An Ethnographic Approach to Tattoo Practices

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The body can be perceived as a cultural fact, since the relationship with the body reflects the way in which social relations are organised. The convergence of capitalist consumption dynamics and the new era of communication has significantly influenced bodily practices. Thus, within the Western collective imagination, bodily expression is revealed as a flexible strategy for the materialisation of identity and connection to systems of common meanings. The present work explores this conception of the body as a place of cultural transmission, ideological manifestation and symbolic representation. The central object of investigation, body modification, is analysed as a total social fact that groups different practices and disciplines extended in time and space. According to the fundamental categories of sociological research, body modification practices will be approached through a qualitative methodology based on ethnographic fieldwork, in-depth interviews and focus groups with tattooists and tattooed people. Autoethnography and photographic recording are contemplated as ways to thoroughly investigate the intersubjective and situated construction of knowledge. The observation of the spaces where tattoo practices are professionally developed enables to understand the communicative action and the sensory load that accompany the consumption of body modification. Therefore, the frameworks of meaning that delimit and characterise the object of study are evaluated, examining the forms of consumption of body modification and the transculturation processes that affect its rituality. Consequently, this study aspires to delve into the Western (re)interpretation of body marking as a mechanism in the fetish machinery of today's consumer society.

RN05 | T06_01: Sustainable consumption 2: Waste

Consuming the waste

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A colorful patchwork of nylon fabrics, oversized, "unisex" and "unique". And a price tag of 265,00 €. The rain-jacket's label explains that the garment is made out of 100 percent up-cycled waste material from broken tents that the manufacturer has "harvested" on festival grounds and therefore "saved" it "from destruction" in the incinerator.

Since the early 2000s, the term "upcycling" has become established for these and similar products. While the recycling of waste historically originated from an "economy of makeshifts" (Hufton) born out of poverty and associated with dirt and shame, it has undergone a fundamental shift in meaning over the last 20 years and is today being appropriated by a startup economy of change makers. Upcycling has become one of the emblems of a Green Economy of consumer products. In 2019, the Cambridge Dictionary named upcycling the word of the year.

From a sociological point of view, however, upcycling is a culturally and historicallly highly complex process of a material, symbolic and economic transformation of values that I empirically reconstruct in my follow-the-waste-approach. In my ethnographic field research I accompanied upcycling startups as they tracked down, collected, sorted and cleaned waste materials. I visited urban mines, places of value transformation and spoke to the actors who turn waste into wants, i.e. specific commodities with culturally and economically distinctive values.

In my contribution, I develop a sociological typology for this transformation of values and show in what way upcycling products can be understood as a material representation of typical late-modern regimes of value and their respective cultural patterns of valuation and devaluation, as well as for new categories of social classification and ecological distinction.

From Acquisition to Decay: Thinking the Dimensions of Consumption Through a More-than-human Lens

Taru Lehtokunnas

Tampere University, Finland

Alan Warde has famously defined three different dimensions of consumption: acquisition, appropriation and appreciation. Later, David Evans suggested three counterparts to these dimensions, that are devaluation, divestment and disposal. In this paper, I suggest the dimension of decay as one more additional aspect of the process of consumption. With decay, I refer to the process in which materials break down and in which both human and non-human actors

participate. The paper draws from ethnographic fieldwork at two Finnish biogas plants, home visits in households that compost biowaste, and expert interviews with people who work with black soldier fly maggots that eat organic waste. I focus especially on the different transformations and circulations that the process of decay creates. In some cases, these transformations produce new products, such as compost soil or fertilisers, that can be, again, acquired. However, some unwanted circles, such as microplastics in compost soil, are also part of these circulations. When discussing the dimension of decay as part of the process of consumption, this paper pays special attention to three different issues: the afterlife of waste after the practices of disposal, multispecies relations in consumption practices, and matter as an active participant in the organisation of everyday practices. By doing so, it offers a critique of the anthropocentric notion of sustainable consumption in the context of current sustainability visions, such as the circular economy.

Waste and Care – Socio-material Relationships with Food Packaging in Private Homes

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In a common understanding waste is regarded as superfluous, invisible or annoying threatening the social order. From a new materialistic perspective, however, waste is entangled in relationships of care and trust in manifold ways. The example of takeaway food packaging is used to explore and exemplify human and non-human relations with waste in Western societies. To this end, we conducted go-along and object interviews in the homes of people in Neukölln, a diverse district of Berlin, Germany. In addition, the participants were given a daily task for five weeks on the subject of reusable takeaway packaging, which they documented in an app with videos, photos and short texts. Finally, they participated in a shared group discussion. To counteract a bias of participants towards high education and income levels and to reflect the diversity of the district, we worked together with a local association that gave us access to people with a Turkish and Arabic migration background and provided translation work and assistance throughout the survey. Results show that waste is integrated into three partly competing socio-material assemblages and actively co-constitutes the specific relationships therein: first, (gendered) consumption work in the household under the conditions of time squeeze, second, subjectivation and identity formation in the context of green consumption and third, group affiliations and demarcations through the handling of waste. With this, the paper pleas for a more integrative politics of care that unveils the consumption work related to waste as well as its role for identity constructions.

All this Junk: Object Relations in Pursuits for Self-provisioning

Jenny Rinkinen, Johanna Hohenthal, Hannele Toivonen, Pasi Heikkurinen

LUT University, Finland

Self-provisioning of food and energy has been proposed as a path towards a socially and ecologically sustainable life. It has been seen to reduce the environmental load and emissions, as well as reduce dependence on the import of raw materials and products, for example from ecologically vulnerable and conflict areas. In this paper, we examine self-provisioning in terms of the materiality, particularly junk, that is often associated with it. We draw on a case study of Finnish self-provisioning community and reflect the prevalence of junk in self-provisioning pursuits against the ideal of minimalism in sustainable consumption discourse. When viewed in this way, multifaceted object-world and regimes of value and potential appear and give nuance to the understanding of social practices and object relations. Treating self-provisioning as a form of sufficiency, we also add to the discussion on sustainable commodity relations in a sufficient economy.

RN05 | T06_02: Food consumption 5: Alternative models

Locally Grown Consumers: Understanding the Socio-material Cultivation of Alternative Food Consumers

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One of the central issues discussed in relation to alternative food networks (AFN) is the recruitment of new consumers. Not only does the recruitment of new members influence the scaling possibilities of alternative food networks (AFN), AFN generally also struggle to broaden their consumer base beyond the urban middle-class. Addressing these issues, this paper aims to empirically explore and conceptualize the processes by which AFN consumers are recruited and constructed as actors. Combining theories of practice and economic sociology, we investigate how AFN consumers are configured into a specific type of actor – alternative food consumers – and what consequences this process of actor-making has for AFNs viability. Our paper draws on an ethnographically inspired study of REKO rings in Sweden – a network of local food markets enabled via Facebook groups and intended to interconnect local food producers and consumers. The analysis shows how these consumers are cultivated to become actors with specific agentic capacities through process of moralization (learning why to engage in AFN consumer practices), skilling (developing the competences to perform AFN consumer practices) and equipping (acquiring the tools and accessing the necessary infrastructure to perform AFN practices). Moreover, while these processes are generalizable to multiple AFN settings, the specific composition of actors and their agentic capacities vary across sites (REKO-ring market sites) and across categories of consumers (e.g. age, class, financial situation). The AFN consumers, it seems, are always locally grown. We end the paper by discussing what our findings imply for the scaling of AFNs and efforts to make these food networks more inclusive.

Impacting conventional foodways: diverse scaling strategies in Alternative Food Networks

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Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) have been analyzed for their capacity of fostering sustainability and generating social change. The latter derives from their ability of sustaining collective action and of altering practices enacted in the everyday life. Being value-oriented collectives, AFNs develop practical and critical response to weaknesses of unsustainable food system.

Based on five living labs with AFNs in different European countries, this study aims at unfolding the main scaling strategies adopted to impact on the sustainability of the local food systems. We analyze how the context shapes (it is shaped) the activities of AFNs, how they exploit opportunities and deal with hurdles deriving from their embeddedness in different social and economic fabrics. We claim that despite usually operating at the margins of the mainstream food system, AFNs develop unique and diverse scaling strategies to make an impact on conventional foodways. Analyzing these strategies, it is possible to understand the dynamics of sustainable transitions of food systems on different levels. With the analysis of social embeddedness and power positions of AFNs as political actors, we also highlight how different conceptions of food democracy emerge.

Give me a Living Lab and I Will Raise the Food System: How Participatory Transformation Models Implement Food Democracy

Ewa Kopczyńska

Jagiellonian University, Poland

The paper discusses the challenges of transforming food systems by applying Living Lab (LL) approach. Participatory models of designing food policies are today recommended and widely practiced as effective and sustainable tools to face challenges of food system: health-related, environmental, social etc.

I apply actor network theory perspective to understand the dynamics of LLs impact on consumption cultures. I build on Latourian concept of laboratory and his analysis of Louis Pasteur inventing cure for anthrax disease. Then I argue that LLs transform food systems by providing the model of social order, decision making and cultural patterns rather than just developing innovative product or solution to specific problem.

In Pasteur's case the transformation of animal production has been possible due to a few steps: capturing interest, transferring farm to laboratory, controlling the disease by changing the relations between humans and microbes, and

again, transferring the lab to external worlds of animal production. In case of LL these translations are based on identifying public health and environmental interests related to food consumption, indicating the factors and stakeholders being part of the situation, developing food-related interventions, and then transferring the process to external social worlds.

Applying Latourian model helps to understand the role of sociological perspective in food systems' transformation and to identify the paths of potential LL's impact on consumption. What is transformed in LL are social and beyond-social relations, power positions, communication practices, know-hows, food practice arrangements. From this perspective LLs scaling problem can be framed here as "living-labisation" of social worlds. The question arises of what kind of food democracy is promoted by LLs and other participatory models.

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Pleasure Or Virtue? Conceptions Of Wellbeing And Ethical Consumption

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Ethical consumption is regarded as a step towards a more sustainable, just, and mindful society. It means that individuals express moral, political or environmental values with their purchase decisions. Research has identified various factors, such as convenience or social norms, as determinants of ethical consumption. A few studies have shown the role of subjective wellbeing as a motivating goal. However, these studies did not differentiate between various conceptions of happiness. To address this gap, we investigate hedonic and eudaimonic wellbeing as motivations for ethical consumption. While hedonic orientations see pleasure as the source of wellbeing, eudaimonia represents an orientation towards the pursuit of a virtuous life.

H1: The stronger the hedonic orientation, the more frequent ethical consumption.

H2: The stronger the eudaimonic orientation, the more frequent ethical consumption.

We measured various types of ethical consumption behaviors (fair trade, local, vegetarian, etc.) and orientations towards hedonic/eudaimonic wellbeing, using a validated two-factor scale (all Cronbach's alpha > 0.7) based on an online survey of representative samples in Switzerland and Japan (n=2012). We used multivariate regression for the analysis.

Preliminary results confirm the hypotheses: Hedonic and eudaimonic orientations are positively correlated with various types of ethical consumption. This is more pronounced among Japanese than Swiss respondents.

The study shows that ethical consumption is motivated by hedonic and eudaimonic conceptions of subjective wellbeing in different cultural contexts. Ethical consumption contributes to a more sustainable, just and mindful society while also providing a means for consumers to pursue a virtuous and happy life.

Exploring Norwegian Men's Understanding And Use Of Disposable Gloves

Atle Wehn Hegnes

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The pandemic contributed to heightened use of disposable products, notably face masks and disposable gloves (DGs). While serving as a protective barrier against health hazards,

these products also pose significant environmental risks due to their resource-intensive production and waste generation. This exploratory study delves into the adoption of DGs beyond healthcare, probing their use and significance in the daily lives of urban Norwegian men, particularly in hygiene, leisure, and childcare. Employing social practice theory (SPT), the research examines how the integration of DGs into everyday practices transforms these activities. I focus on the journey of DGs from professional health settings to the realm of consumer life, investigating the underlying reasons and ways Norwegian men incorporate DGs into various practices. The study draws on the concepts of Shove et al. (2012) and Warde (2016) to understand the dynamics of evolving practices and the role of new materials like DGs in these transformations. The methodology encompasses interviews with Norwegian men (N=10), complemented by historical sources. The findings highlight that DGs are increasingly becoming integral to diverse practices. However, the reasons for using DGs vary across contexts. The integration of DGs in specific practices depends on their interrelations with other activities and the orchestration of various practice elements. Conclusively, the study sheds light on the complexities of changing material-practice entanglements and offers insights for developing sustainable hand hygiene practices. The results also contribute to advancing practice theory by illustrating the multifaceted nature of social change in the context of everyday material usage.

Everyday (un)sustainability and environmental concerns in Rotterdam South

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In this presentation we are interrogating the concepts 'sustainability' and Huddart's (2022) concept 'Eco-types' or 'eco–social relationships' to explore their applicability within the context of a superdiverse neighbourhood with high levels of socio-economic inequality in Rotterdam. Our citizen-science research is grounded in the daily lives and consumption of inhabitants in Rotterdam South and explores what meaning climate change and (un)sustainability take in this context and within a social – strata traditionally underrepresented in both research and policymaking. Thereby it enables us to reflect on the implications for our New European Bauhaus project Cultuur&Campus Putselaan, a hub of arts, research, learning and community. The New European Bauhaus initiative is supposed to connect 'the European Green Deal to our daily lives and living spaces. It calls on all Europeans to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, minds, and souls' (European Union, 2024). Drawing on our participatory research, we then reflect on the implications that our findings have for a successful translation of the European Green Deal into the daily lives of Rotterdamers.

How Individuals Make Sense of their Climate Impacts in the Aapitalocene: Mixed Methods Insights from Calculating Carbon Footprints

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Many people want to play their part to tackle climate change, but often do not know where to start. Carbon Footprint (CF) Calculators pose potential for helping individuals situate themselves in climate impacting systems of which they are a part. However, little is currently known about whether and how individuals who complete CF calculators understand their CF in the context of climate change. This article explores how people make sense of their CFs and locate themselves in the capitalocene. It draws on theories of social practices, environmental ethics, valuation, and knowledge-use to analyse data from 500+ Danes who completed a CF calculator (https://carbonfootprint.hi.is) and interviews with 30 Danes who were asked to complete the CF calculator. In this article, we describe how Danes' CFs are impacted, looking at how survey respondents rate importance of mitigating climate change, importance of personal actions, and importance of public steering, as well as disposable income, living space, and family type. We also show how interviewees reflect over their consumption activities and possibilities. Those with high income nearly always had high CF but felt like they had little agency to change the system and rather justified their high-emitting practices such as flying, while those with low CF felt they had more agency in the system. The results show that high-CF individuals resist voluntary reduction of their emissions despite the presence of environmental ethics. Thus, we conclude that systemic solutions have the foremost capacity to reduce carbon emissions.

RN05 | T06_04: Cultural consumption 3

Studying Cultural Status Through Materialist Methods. Practical Considerations About Methodological Balance in Consumption Research.

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How can consumption research account for the symbolic aspects of consumption while not losing methodological inventions represented by the material turn? Proponents of the material turn have highlighted culturalist blind spots in ignoring practical consciousness and embodied relations to commodities, and the mobility of consumers and consumption. Combinations of different methods and the use of non-static methods have been suggested to overcome these limitations. The contention is that methodological plurality and flexibility can achieve an empirical balance between the tacit and discursive dimensions of consumption (Halkier, 2017). Yet few studies in consumption research have shared how they have attempted to achieve this balance. In this paper, I share practical considerations about attending to the tacit and discursive dimensions of consumption through the application of mobile methods and the use of counting in qualitative methods. The considerations stem from an ongoing empirical research project about the cultural status ascribed to meat in the West. The paper contributes with methodological judgements of the potentials and pitfalls when using mobile methods to examine symbolic aspects of consumption.

Cultural Consumption, Social Capital, and Network Closure: A Cross-sectional Study

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Tastes can be used as both a bridge to other groups and to construct a fence around one's own group. Following this line of reasoning, the aim of the presentation is to answer two research questions: 1) To what extent are individuals' styles of cultural participation associated with access to social capital measures (volume, range and average status of social contacts – derived from the position generator tool)?; 2) To what extent are these styles associated with network closure, that is, the predominance of social contacts with one social class? The possibilities of survey data conducted on a representative sample of a single urban population aged 18-75 (N = 1010) in Poland are exploited. The results show that participation in highbrow culture (the "highbrow style") is a more relevant predictor of access to higher prestige contacts than participation in popular culture (the "popular style"). Both styles are related with the general volume of contacts and the heterogeneity of social resources. Moreover, the analysis indicates that the structure of social capital (i.e., the proportion of contacts with upper-, middle-, and lower-class members) is connected with pursuing different cultural profiles. The effect of network closure is stronger for highbrow style than for any other style. The results are interpreted in terms of social closure and the role that culture plays in monopolising access to social resources and maintaining social boundaries.

Cultural Participation and Cultural Preferences: Decomposing Genetic and Environmental Contributions Using German Twin Data

Dave Benjamin Balzer, Marie Schlosser

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Besides current endowments with individual resources, socialization influences during childhood and adolescence, are key in explaining inequalities in cultural participation, with the parental home playing the most prominent role. In sociological studies on cultural participation, genetic factors are rarely discussed. Rather, it is assumed that family influences are predominantly a result of socialization. However, from a causal analytical perspective, it can be argued that genetic factors introduce a potential confounding as they influence both the parental characteristics (e.g., education, cultural participation) as well as their offspring's cultural outcomes. Neglecting genetics may therefore lead to "omitted variable bias", overestimating of the effect of parental socialization.

By utilizing a genetically informed design, it is possible to separate the environmental (primarily the parental home) from genetic contributions to determine their relative importance. The German TwinLife study provides a comprehensive database containing extensive information on the cultural behavior of monozygotic ("identical") and same-sex dizygotic ("fraternal") twin pairs and their family members. We perform decomposition analyses for cultural preferences and activities in various domains. The starting point is the ACE model, which are widely used in genetic epidemiology and behavioral genetics. It utilizes the information that monozygotic twins share 100% of their genetic composition, while dizygotic twins share on average 50% of their genes. By comparing twins with different zygosity, it is possible to identify different variance components and thus distinguish between heritability (A), shared environments (C) and unshared environments (E). The models' assumptions are tested in extended models. For example, we correct for "assortative mating" and investigate "unequal environments". Finally, we discuss how the results of decompositional analyses relate to causal analytic questions interested in estimating effects of treatments.

RN05 | T07_01: Clothing consumption 1: Fashion

Gender Dynamics in Clothing Consumption: Examining the Inflow and Outflow of Clothing from a Practice Oriented Perspective

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The present-day consumption of clothing is marked by excessive production and consumption, leading to issues of water scarcity, microplastic pollution, chemical contamination, CO2 emissions, and textile waste. In order to mitigate the environmental impact of clothing, there is an urgent need to examine the factors influencing the high volume of garments in wardrobes.

This study explores the influence of gender and age on clothing consumption based on a qualitative and quantitative wardrobe study of 15 households in Norway from a practice oriented perspective. Each household had a man and a woman living together as partners to enable a gendered comparison between couples that take part in many of the same practices and share the everyday life. In the wardrobe study, the participants conducted a counting exercise of all the garments they owned, including underwear, socks and accessories. Following this, each participant was asked to register all inflow and outflow of clothing for 6 months.

The analysis focus on the turnover rate of clothing and employs Evan's (2019) six moments of consumption that focus on processes of acquiring and disposing in relation to practices. Preliminary findings show that female participants acquired a higher quantity of clothing compared to male participants. However, age also play a significant role in determining the turnover rate of clothing. The study highlights the social mechanisms and gender dynamics that shape clothing consumption patterns and challenges the prevailing studies on clothing and fashion that often overlook the nuanced practices and actions that influence clothing volumes.

Why should we Care? The Political and Transformative Dimensions of Italian Fashion

Ludovica Carini

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, Italy

Western societies have long been going through a transformation in political participation, which is expressed through consumer choices. The citizen-consumer enacts what Michele Micheletti calls political consumerism, visible in cultural and creative industries, where the symbolic value of objects transcends functional aspects to encompass individual expression.

Fashion consumption, specifically, represents a dynamic and influential medium through which individuals and societies express values, beliefs, and aspirations, and the fashion industry emerges as a domain where the cultivation of potentially divergent imaginaries and social structures occurs. It mirrors the sensitivities and encapsulates the composition of the target population.

The Italian scenario, where fashion narrates Italian identity and the allure of the Made in Italy, becomes a particularly intriguing field of exploration when examining populations marked by social fragility, marginalization, or under-representation, which are increasingly vocal in their demands for recognition and inclusion.

Employing a qualitative methodology, this contribution aims to unveil micro-experiences whose products and business model challenge the uneven distribution of influence, control, and authority within the fashion industry, addressing issues of exploitation in the supply chain, lack of diversity in representation, and the environmental impact of mass production. It highlights virtuous experiences – including sartorial social cooperatives, Afro-descendant brands, and adaptive fashion projects – which disseminate ethical practices, sustainability, and inclusivity. The shift towards more responsible, ethical, and sustainable practices highlights an emerging dimension of care within fashion. Brands and consumers alike are recognizing the importance of caring for the environment, workers, communities, and the overall well-being of the fashion industry.

Based on Practice Theory: Exploring Valuation Construction within the Charity Shop

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With the second-hand market's rapid development, second-hand clothing has gained particular attention. In second-hand consumption studies, consumer motivations are regarded as a major component. However, few studies mentioned how these motivations are constructed or justified. In response to the current situation, this study has analysed how valuation is constructed in the consumption of second-hand clothes, based on social practice theory (SPT). In SPT, practicing valuation is "in itself what creates value, both by making sense of the objects and by investing time and energy in them". Thus, SPT is a relevant framework for study and enables people to gain insight into how consumers and sellers work together to create a meaning system for second-hand fashion, thereby promoting sustainable consumption behaviour. The study employs semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis as research methods. Semi-structured interviews allow for a detailed exploration of their corresponding practical awareness, daily life needs, individual fashion, etc. Additionally, analysis of market and government documents aims to reach the prospect of exploring historical developments and generalities, which are difficult to obtain from consumers. Research

shows that the valuation of second-hand clothes is no longer simply an economic process, in which the construction of second-hand consumer value is influenced not only by individual choices or motivations, but also by the norms surrounding consumption and by the influence of society. This study extends the examination of valuation creation from the production-consumption to daily practices. Drawing on the sociology perspective, the operational logic of value creation is conceptualised in a practice: it defines the elements of practice, their role in the valuation creation process and their interdependence. Valuation creation is socially constructed and influenced by consumers and the social environment, which guides consumers to engage in practices (including the use of products).

Overall, second-hand consumption is full of experiences of a social nature, in which consumers with their own interests, motivations and goals. By interpreting consumers, charity shops and governments as co-creators of value, this study aims to explore how interpretations of what is deemed "value" drive the social practice of second-hand consumption.

I have not previously participated in ESA Summer School.

Fashionably Caring for the Planet: How US Vogue Responds to the Tensions from an Ethics of Care for the Environment and (Re) constructs Gendered Notions of 'The Consumer'.

Chloe Dawson

Keele University, United Kingdom

This paper explores how the women's fashion magazine, US Vogue, responds to the tensions raised by wider environmental activism and politics in the 21st century. The work offers current data on gendered constructions of 'the consumer' and how ethical/sustainable consumer practices are imagined in the magazine. Empirically, this work investigates how an ethics of care operates alongside postfeminist sensibilities that promote women's 'empowerment' through consumer capitalism and emphasise values of individualism, entrepreneurialism, and neoliberalism (Gill, 2019). The paper investigates how the magazine propels the projects of fashionable consumer capitalism (that encourages obsoletion) alongside environmental critiques. Vogue responds by constructing feminine subjecthoods that combine fashionable consumer capitalist values with a 'sustainable' ethics of care. This includes the 'eco-chic celebrity', a figure that provides 'authenticity' for brands (Welch, 2020) and boosts their reputation as a 'caring' individual. Vogue also includes youth indigenous climate activist women to construct a figure who cares for the environment with narratives of hope through consumerism. Despite the women's environmental activism, the magazine emphasises their commitment to consumer capitalist 'solutions'. The findings show how Vogue responds to these tensions by 'distancing' and 'othering' the impacts of Western consumerism, viewing ecological issues as something bound by nation, class, and ethnicity rather than interdependent. The source of 'sustainable' fashion shifts from political issues towards capitalist and scientific innovation for 'the consumer'. The celebrity figures do not challenge consumer capitalist values or anthropocentric thinking, despite the inclusion of indigenous voices. Rather than decolonising the magazine, the indigenous women are used as opportunities for the cultural omnivore. Overall, this work explores the recent gendered constructions of 'the consumer' under tensions from wider environmental ethics of care.

RN05 | T07_02: Food consumption 6: Critical perspectives

Mapping Class Belongings in Food, Eating and Moral Boundaries

Kia Ditlevsen

University, Denmark

Eating is a shared human practice and, at the same time, a highly distinctive practice by which class belongings are revealed and reaffirmed (Bourdieu 2004; Prieur et al., 2008). What one eats, the way one eats, one's taste and habits are embodied expressions of class belongings. Food consumption as well as the symbolic and cultural value of foods are dynamic and changes over time (Bourdieu 1998; Flemmen et al. 2018). New trends may be incorporated in the lifestyles of some classes, but not necessarily in all.

In this presentation, I will share results from a qualitative investigation of current cultural expressions of class in food and eating in Denmark. Results will address: What is good taste? What is bad taste? Which moralities are present – and among whom? Are differences class based, or based on other factors in the current Danish welfare state?

The research project has mapped distinctive features of food and eating among people from different social classes in Denmark and is based on 60 individual interviews with participants from four different social classes (the underprivileged class; the less privileged class; the cultural fraction of the privileged class; the economic fraction of the privileged class).

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"Alternative" Food Consumption, Sustainability and the Body: Investigating Different Narratives of Care, Political Tensions, Spaces of Transformation

Alice Dal Gobbo

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Health is intimately tied to eating across cultures and history but has acquired special prominence in Western countries' public and expert discourses, and everyday understandings of nutrition. The body has become a nodal point of food concerns: enhanced or protected via nutrients, endangered by contaminants, fat or lean. Health concerns are beginning to overlap with ecological ones: healthy diets are increasingly identified with sustainable diets. Yet, this convergence should be critically assessed rather than taken for granted. Especially feminist and intersectional food studies are evidencing the gendered, classed, and raced power relations that subtend the adoption of healthy and sustainable diets, which might perpetuate, rather than challenge, inequalities and injustices in access to food. My proposal is that "embodied materialism" might be useful for bringing to this debate a focus on the way capitalist arrangements of production and reproduction inform daily food practices, in relation to the ecosystems in which they are embedded. Drawing on 45 interviews carried out in Milan (Italy) in the context of a study on the platformisation of alternative food consumption, my presentation considers three ways in which the health–sustainability nexus is articulated in daily life: 1) an individualistic and socially-functional preoccupation of choice and self care; 2) a logic of care for proximate others, which nevertheless often reproduces unequal gender and class positions; 3) collective engagement in alternative food networks and the politicization of the body, where health becomes a field of more-than-human struggle. I propose that the latter case is most able to promote socio-ecological transformation, as it pushes subjects to collectively support existence through transformative practices, within the recognition of both human and ecological limits, fragility, interdependence.

Vegan Parenting, Negotiating Forms of Knowledge and Objects of Care

Hilje van der Horst

Wageningen University, Netherlands, The

Vegan parenting is a controversial practice and is currently not recommended by official dietary guidelines in the Netherland. However, due to concerns about animal welfare and the sustainability impacts of animal products, an increasing number of parents are choosing to raise their children on a vegan diet. Although there is a significant amount of research on veganism, there is little research on vegan parenting. This study examines vegan parenting in the Netherlands in light of concerns about nutritional deficiencies

raised by healthcare professionals and the growing consensus on the need to reduce animal product consumption due to environmental concerns. Using a critical care ethics perspective, which acknowledges that care can have multiple and conflicting objects, this paper explores how different objects of care and sources of knowledge are integrated into the practice of vegan parenting. Interviews with 17 vegan parents revealed diverse strategies for integrating multiple objects of care, including animals, the environment, vegan identity, children's health, and children's social welfare. The analysis consisted of reflexive thematic analysis. Three levels of parental strictness emerged, influenced by parental care priorities and children's ages. The analysis underscores the active role parents play in seeking, evaluating, and integrating knowledge from various sources. The text outlines a typical trajectory of knowledge formation in vegan parenting, highlighting the interplay between care and knowledge acquisition. This research contributes to understanding vegan parenting dynamics, ethics of care, and the relationship between care and knowledge.

Guilt And Beyond: A Class Cultural Analysis Of Evolving Emotional Responses To Maternal Foodwork.

Irmak Karademir

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Based on a longitudinal and ethnographic study, this research examines how women

experience the emotional aspects of their maternal foodwork in England across social classes. Maternal foodwork is frequently linked to guilt and anxiety due to intense gendered and class-related ideals of proper feeding within the context of responsibilising discourses. This paper contributes to the literature by introducing a temporal perspective, exploring how emotions beyond anxiety transform as caregiving arrangements evolve over time. The findings suggest that middle-class mothers, benefiting from the ability to circumvent stigma and navigate surveillance, adopt a downscaling strategy to counter maternal guilt. Working – class mothers, however, develop practical resilience as their foodwork matures, helping them manage ongoing exposure to institutional surveillance and feelings of inadequacy. The study thus underscores women's capacity to cultivate agentic responses, albeit within the boundaries of their class habitus, crafting pockets of resistance against intensive feeding ideals.

RN05 | T07_03: Sustainable consumption: 4

Life-course Transitions as Moments for Fostering Sustainable Consumption: Exploring activity connections and their coordination within and between everyday practices

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Life-course transitions (major life-events, such as becoming a parent and moving home) have been identified as moments of opportunity to redirect human activities in more sustainable directions. Habit discontinuity, the theory that automated human actions can be re-set at moments of individual change, are prominent within such claims, and numerous intervention studies seeking to nudge automaticity into reflexivity have been trialled with mixed empirical results. Theories of practice, by contrast, consider habits (and routines) as observations of the stable organisation, and continuously reproduced performances, of social practices. Studies framed within this perspective reveal that life-course transitions are often multiple and intersecting (e.g. people often move home, change jobs, or have children simultaneously), that experiences vary across social groups, and that the material settings in which practices are performed are critical components of change. Focusing on mobility and food practices, interviews conducted with Danish households before and after moving home analysed changes in the connections between everyday practices. Schatzki's (2019) concepts of activity events and chains are applied to examine the different ways in which activities of food and mobility are connected, coordinated, and performed. Our findings demonstrate that re-configured material arrangements (of infrastructures, local services, and homes) created diverse challenges for activity event coordination. General patterns of mobility and food practices were not radically changed during home transitions, but dynamic forms of coordination within activity chains were necessary to hold those practices stable. We argue that it is in context of activity event coordination that moments of life-course transition may offer scope for systemic shifts toward less resource-intensive consumption.

Exploring the Nexus of Consumer Policy and Environmental Sustainability: A Scoping Review

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Sustainable consumption has gained global attention, particularly in the context of environmental agendas like the European Green Deal. While consumer policy plays a pivotal role in the envisioned green transition, concerns have been raised about its efficacy and alignment with sustainability goals. Some argue that there is a need for a comprehensive reevaluation of consumer policy. However, the research on the nexus of consumer policy and environmental sustainability is fragmented. This is also the case for sustainable consumption as a policy area as a plethora of policy instruments relate to consumption in different ways, and they can be adopted at different levels.

This research provides a scoping review of the global literature on the role of consumer policy, and the consumer policy toolbox, in the green transition. The key aim of the review is to map the available evidence by factors such as (but not limited to) the consumer policy tools examined, how consumer policy is defined, policy recommendations, theoretical perspectives, geographic location, and scientific disciplines. This mapping aims to identify the volume, nature and characteristics of the extant research as well as unexplored gaps, offering crucial insights for policymakers and facilitating informed decision-making in future policy development.

We extract relevant articles from Scopus, Web of Science, EconLit and PsycINFO databases published from January 1990 to December 2023 and conduct a scoping review following the PRISMA-ScR guidelines. We anticipate presenting further results at the conference.

On The Relationship Between Sociology And Intervention Research – Strange Bedfellows Or Possible Cooperation?

Thomas Bøker Lund, Morten Wendler Jørgensen, Mette Weinreich Hansen

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Much of the current research on the sustainable transformation of society investigates the impact on consumption practices following diverse kinds of interventions (information provision, nudges, etc.). In the social sciences, this kind of research is predominantly carried out by economists and psychologists and is for the most part quantitative in nature. To many sociologists, especially those that are inspired by the practice turn, the philosophical assumptions underlying such research will appear incompatible with their assumptions and preferred research methodology.

However, in this presentation, (i) it is argued that practice-oriented sociology potentially can play an important role in intervention research if sociological practitioners are ready to take a more pragmatic approach. It is also shown (ii) that intervention research currently is undergoing self-critique where a "heterogeneity revolution" is called for. It is argued that this self-critique presents an opportunity where the discipline's methodological conventions can be partially challenged and influenced by sociological theory and methodology. It will then (iii) be discussed what actions (in terms of, e.g., methodology and data sharing/transparency) that sociologists on their part will need to take (or at least consider) if they want to push intervention research in a more sociologically relevant direction. Finally, (iv) to illustrate the points, we present an ongoing research project aimed at promoting a plant-based transition. The research features an intervention, and we show how we plan to include practice-oriented method/theory in the research.

Consumption and Disruption at the Nexus of Practices: A Longitudinal Experiential Analysis

Arve Hansen[1], Mary Greene[2], Sigrid Wertheim-Heck[2], Ulrikke Wethal[1]

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Understanding how and why everyday practices with significant resource implications change is a question of critical relevance for sustainability transformations. Over the past decades, social practice theories have emerged as a dominant heuristic framework in sociological research on consumption and sustainability. Practice focused research has significantly advanced our understanding of the contextual dynamics and socially embedded dynamics of consumption in everyday life. However, as of yet longitudinal experiential insights into dynamics of practice transformation have been limited. Longer term analysis of practices have largely remained at the scale of the history of practices themselves, with a consequence that the situated everyday dynamics of practices over longer time periods have been overlooked. Furthermore, despite a recent shift towards understanding transformation through interconnected practices, critical gaps persist in understanding how dynamics at the nexus of practices shape everyday life over time.

In response to these challenges, our paper pioneers a 'nexus of practice' approach to examining longitudinal dynamics in everyday consumption. Focusing on major societal disruption as a prism through which to scrutinise these extended dynamics we draw upon unique longitudinal qualitative data co-created with householders in Oslo, Dublin and Hanoi. This data collected a two critical moments – during the first Covid-19 lockdowns (2020) and in the aftermath (2022) – offers a rare insight into the evolving landscape of everyday food and mobility practices at the nexus of practices. Our analysis is threefold: we explore the evolution of these practice domains, examine dynamics of continuity and change at the nexus of practices, and investigate the intersections of agency and structure, including the influence of reflexivity, broader political economy and systems of provision.

RN05 | T08_01: Clothing consumption 2: Identity

Social Practices and Identity-Work: Life Course Changes as Drivers for Textile Disposal

Anna Schytte Sigaard

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In this contribution, the complex interconnections between social practices and textile consumption are explored. Based on wardrobe interviews in 28 Norwegian households, investigation is carried out of the influence of two major life course changes, cohabitation, and parenthood, on disposal of clothing and other textile items. In the transition from living alone to cohabitation, it is found that the disposal of clothing and textiles emerges not only as a functional act but as a symbolic act of divestment. Spatially and temporally separated practices, such as pre-move closet purges and post-move decoration, underscore the profound identity-work involved in this transition where discarded items come to symbolize remnants of single life. Parenthood introduces a challenging balance between environmentally conscious practices and time constraints, unveiling compromises made in sustainable practices amidst the demands of parenting. The disposal of impractical gifts and inherited baby clothes reflects the negotiation of a new parental identity. In this contribution, the importance of individual reflexivity in the negotiation of identities during major life transitions is emphasized. Thereby, it contributes to expanding the understanding of clothing and textile consumption as both routinized and mundane practices at the same time as involving intentional and reflexive discursive activities.

Ryousangata Revolution: Challenging Western Grammars of Fashion through Non-Western Modernities

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How does the Ryousangata fashion phenomenon in Tokyo challenge the traditional Western grammars of fashion? Existing studies in this area have adopted Western-centric frameworks where authenticity is typically considered a defining element. Moreover, they have used ad hoc methodological techniques with minimum quantitative elements. Accordingly, this paper strives to improve the status quo. First, it draws on the concept of non-Western modernities to guide its analysis and demonstrate how Ryousangata does not align with Western expectation. Second, it implements a comprehensive original survey, informed by qualitative interviews, of young adults in Japan who engage with the Ryousangata fashion phenomenon. Subsequently, the results indicate that the absence of authenticity is a defining characteristic of Ryousangata. As a consequence, Ryousangata represents a shift towards a more fluid-and dynamic understanding of style, where reinterpretation, hybridization, and imitation are valued as legitimate forms of creative expression. These results, then, emphasize the relevance of non-Western modernity theory in understanding and interpreting fashion dynamics. Furthermore, they deepen our insight into the complexity of global modernity and contribute to broader conversations about the role of imitation in expressing cultural identity.

The Ambivalence Of Fashion And The "Competency" Of The Consumer: A Study Of The Consumer Repertoires Of The Greek Middle Class

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International Hellenic University, Greece

Drawing on the research findings of a qualitative sociological study on middle-class consumption and consumerism in Greece before, during and after the financial crisis (2009/2010-2018), we present the ambivalent and ambiguous attitudes of middle-class subjects towards fashion. Through the investigation of the repertoires of consumer action and discourse, we show that subjects' relationship with fashion is characterized both by individualized "conformity" to fashion trends and by "active" appropriation of consumer, new and fashionable objects. By understanding fashion and the relation of subjects to it in the context of late, fluid modernity, we highlight the "competency" of the (Greek middle-class) consumer as an organizing principle of consumer practices.

RN05 | T08_02: Food consumption 7: Stability and shifts

Food and Friendships Among Young People from Low-income and Affluent Households

Silje Elisabeth Skuland, Ola Røed Bilgrei

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Young people in low-income households are often associated with poor dietary habits by consuming more fast food, sweets, salty snacks and sugary beverages than their more affluent peers. Research has found that exposure to food environments, where foods high in fat, sugar or salt are marketized and suppled at a low cost. Prior research has found that young people in their early teenage years negotiate agency and family food values when purchasing and eating unhealthy foods. However, more research is needed to understand what young people do when they eat outside of home. This paper aims to explore eating practices outside home among young people from an affluent and a disadvantage area of Oslo, Norway. A total of 40 adolescents aged 10-13 years was interviewed at home about food, eating and food purchasing practices at school, at home and outside home. Most of the young interviewees ate out with their friends to some extent either they ate sweets, crisps or larger meals such as fast food. Interesting, sharing food was more common among the young people living in disadvantage area, than in the affluent area. While the supply of unhealthy foods varied little in the two areas, hanging out mostly at home meant eating under parental influence in the affluent area. In the disadvantage area, spending time in youth club, the library or at the mall meant sharing foods 'suitable' for friends. While eating out in early teenage life may be at odds with dietary discourse, food sharing forged closer bonds to friends, trust, reciprocity and feelings of belonging.

Ecological Risk And Trust-Building: Green Food Consumption In China

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Chinese consumers have little faith in the food available in Chinese markets. Frequent food safety scandals have hardened their suspicions. Among consumers' top concerns are pollution-related food safety issues, such as pesticide and fertiliser contamination. In the midst of what has been labelled a 'crisis of trust,' they are seeking their own strategies to reduce the risks in their food bowls.

My paper addresses trust-building strategies in the face of ecological risks by analysing discourses about ecological forms of food consumption. Specifically, in my paper, I look at consumer guidebooks, lifestyle magazine articles and advertisements of food producers, in order to show how they depict ecological risks in the food system, the emerging food safety concerns and their implications for people's everyday eating. I juxtapose the discourses present in these texts with the official government narrative on eco-civilization and food safety to draw out their diverging ideas about food and trust.

What emerges from this analysis, is, on the one hand, a government that seeks to build trust through farmgate-to-plate transparency, social co-governance and harshly punishing wrongdoers, while deflecting attention from its own failures. On the other hand, the authoritarian context shrinks the space for the articulation of alternative models of trust-building and fosters consumer behaviours that attest to an intense lack of trust and that may even be corrosive to trust-building. In conclusion, this paper shows how China's authoritarianism profoundly shapes the possibility for trust-building in China.

Challenging the Place of Meat within the Christmas Meal: Lessons Learned from Ritual Intervention

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Despite it being associated with grave issues concerning the environment, public health and animal welfare, the overconsumption of meat continues unabated in high-income countries. The tension that follows from an unyielding appetite for meat on the one hand and expanding knowledge about its negative impact on the other has been called the "meat paradox". Explanations, as well as interventions to resolve this paradox, so far have been based mainly on behavioristic accounts that fail to address the social and ritual practices that meat-eating is bound up with. Sociocultural intervention strategies remain largely unexplored, despite multiple authors mentioning their potentiality. The aim of this article is to examine different strategies to intervene in festive meals, making use of social practice theory and ritual studies, and explore how such ritual interventions can help to reduce meat consumption. We specifically look at the Dutch Christmas meal, working together with different cohorts of participants. In a 'Field Lab', we asked participants to imagine intervention into their Christmas meal aimed at bringing down meat consumption. In a parallel 'Living Lab', we asked students to keep a logbook on their individual Christmas meals while instigating particular tweaks. We conclude by discussing challenges related to ritual intervention, the obstinacy of the festive meal, as well its susceptibility to change.

Emergence Of Social Commerce And Change Of Agri-food System In Vietnam

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A widely observed phenomenon in developing countries, particularly in Asia, includes the expansion of food sales via "social commerce," in which various foods are sold through social media platforms such as Facebook. Social commerce has gained widespread acceptance, especially among young and affluent urban consumers.

This study takes social commerce of "safe" and "clean" food in Vietnam as a case study. Social commerce has emerged in the process of Vietnam's "compressed modernization," in which food systems have not transformed in sequences from traditional, modern to late modern. The expansion of social commerce has coincided with the expansion of supermarkets and multinational e-commerce platforms since the mid-2010s. The social commerce of "safe" and "clean" food has emerged as a new form of "alternative" food system, but in different forms than that in Western societies, as consumers are willing to pay to avoid health risks, but are not necessarily averse to the modern food system per se.

Based on qualitative research with social commerce retailers, the study explores how trust on food can be built. Despite the fact that social media platforms can technically disseminate information to a wide range of consumers, social commerce retailers tend to target a smaller number of loyal customers who purchase socially-endorsed products. Rather than subjective information on foods conveyed through mobile phones, trust in products seems to be tied to trust in information sources. The increased social connectivity between producers, retailers, and consumers brought about by mobile phones seems to be the basis of trust.

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Sufficiency-Oriented Lifestyle in Urban China? Understanding Satisfiers, Needs and Wellbeing

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Changes in carbon-intensive consumption patterns and consumerist lifestyles are indispensable components of climate actions globally. It is estimated that the top 10% consuming households worldwide have contributed almost half of global emissions, with a third of such households live in emerging economies such as China and India (Chancel and Piketty, 2015). In China, rising consumption has been critical for meeting fundamental human needs and improving quality of life for the people. Nevertheless, current per capita trade-adjusted CO2 emissions in China have reached a level comparable to those of many advanced economies, with the rich contributing a significant share (IEA, 2023). As China continues to grow into an upper-middle-income country, it is critical to reflect upon ways to reduce excessive consumption among its affluent urban populations, towards delivering well-being for all within planetary boundaries. Through partnership with local environmental groups in Chinese cities, this research engages with ordinary Chinese citizen-consumers in a series of participatory workshops to examine the relations between consumption and need fulfilment. Building on recent theoretical advancement on consumption corridors (Sahakian et al., 2021) and need-based theories of wellbeing (Di Giulio and Defila, 2021), this project seeks to understand whether and how wellbeing can be achieved through sustainable, and especially voluntary reduction in carbon-intensive consumption practices. This presentation introduces preliminary findings from the workshops and ethnography work conducted in spring 2024, shedding light on how sufficiency-oriented lifestyles can be better supported in China.

Challenging assumptions about sustainability practices of migrants from the Global South to the Global North

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This paper looks at household sustainability practices and the way these are shaped by social difference, in particular migration background. We draw on research on environmental practices and attitudes and household sustainability from a South-North migration lens. We examine demographic and cultural factors that shape individuals' sustainability practices in the private sphere with specific

attention to a sample of people who have moved from the Global South (GS) to Manchester, UK. We question assumptions that immigrants from GS countries are difficult to engage when it comes to environmental issues and need to be educated about household sustainability.

We study the household as a meso-level unit of analysis, linking it with a focus on the intersections of race/ethnicity, migration, and culture. Data collection involved a survey conducted in 2022 in Manchester. We recruited, via snowball sampling, 530 survey respondents. The survey included questions on frequency of performing a set of household practices regarded as sustainable or pro-environmental in the literature, as well as questions on participants' socio-economic status, housing tenure, size/composition of household, length of time in the UK, and migration trajectory.

Findings form multivariate models predicting a series of sustainability practices indicate that: First, there is no significant difference between UK born and non-UK born respondents in frequency of engagement in sustainable practices; second, time living in Manchester or being born outside the UK does not correlate with sustainable practices. Third, sociodemographic variables do a much better job explaining sustainability engagement of non-UK born respondents.

Empirical Traces of Sustainable Consumption Among Secondary School Students

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The finiteness of resources, environmental preservation, and the notion that it's possible to live better by consuming less lie at the core of the concept of sustainable consumption. These issues have been increasingly capturing the interest of young individuals and appear to resonate within their system of dispositions and preferences (Lahire, 2004).

The data collected by this study (N=280) suggests that individuals who adopt one sustainable consumption value often tend to encompass a range of examined values. This categorization separates students into two groups: those who internalize sustainable consumption values and those who do not. Moreover, the findings propose the identification of three distinct clusters of consumption values that delineate different chronologies: recycling, "Bio" products and energy issues; and repair, reuse, and sharing, characteristic of the circular economy (zero waste) and contemporary collaborative consumption ("using" prevails over "owning").

Despite its weaker correlations with other sustainable consumption values and most practices, "waste recycling" remains pivotal. It notably lacks significant associations except for "purchasing 'Bio' products" and "using alternative energies". Nevertheless, waste recycling has established itself as a well-embraced and universally recognized value in sustainable consumption practices.

The data also underscores disparities between sustainable consumption values and practices, emphasizing the predominance of values over actions. Specifically, "reuse" correlates with all values except "waste recycling." Additionally, a moderate correlation (rho=0.441) exists between the sustainable consumption value of "sharing" and its practice, indicating a reciprocal relationship: individuals advocating "sharing" are more likely to actively engage in it, suggesting mutual influence.

In essence, data seems to align with practice theory, prioritizing context over individual choices, offering a theoretical framework that better explains behavior change towards sustainability.

Ethical Consumption and Consumer Virtue: Insights from Iran

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This study, by delving into ethical consumption in Iran, aspires to broaden our understanding of how ethical consumption is actualized differently within different societal structures. Ethical consumption involves adopting practices that seek to safeguard both society and the environment. Various forms of this phenomenon, most notably in the form of consumption refinement, have gained popularity in Western Europe and North America. However, our understanding of how ethical consumption is defined and practiced in non-Western cultures and social structures still requires further development. To address this gap, the study will focus on the following questions: what are the societal capacities within the studied context to promote ethically-oriented consumption practices? and what are the obstacles to their development?; Is there a unique form or definition of 'ethical consumption' that emerges specifically from the collective life experiences, traditions, rituals, and culture of the studied context? Data was generated from 19 semi-structured interviews with consumers in Iran. Data analysis indicates that Iranian individuals have particular attitudes regarding ethical consumption that originate from their given societal framework. These attitudes are manifested in different consumption stages. In the pre-consumption stage, Fairtrade and boycotting practices will be discussed. In the consumption stage, ethical considerations will be explored through the lens of 'heif,' a deep-rooted tradition in that culture that considers taking good care of things a virtue. In the post-consumption stage, ethical considerations will be explored through the common practice of 'ehsan kardan,' a practice that did not originate from environmental concerns, but its effects may be viewed as environmentally friendly.

RN05 | T08_04: Sustainable consumption 6: Mobility

Shared Mobility As a Way to Sustainable Mobility? Results from a Digital Ethnography.

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Many Western consumption patterns are highly unsustainable, posing a significant challenge to global efforts to respect planetary boundaries. This is particularly evident in the field of mobility, where emissions from this sector continue to rise instead of decreasing. Digitally mediated shared mobility is presented as an alternative to the escalating emissions from private car use, with practitioners and scholars attributing it high transformative potential. However, a closer examination reveals significant environmental variations among diverse shared mobility practices.

Problematically, the most widespread form of shared mobility, namely business-to-consumer free-floating carsharing, hardly replaces any private cars. This study empirically examines why certain shared mobility forms gain traction while others falter. Employing an ethnographic approach, I conducted 22 digital mobility diaries in Austria. Twenty-two respondents documented their mobility practices over three weeks, highlighting their experiences with various shared mobility options and private car ownership by uploading pictures, videos, and text notes on a dedicated smartphone application.

Preliminary findings suggest that shared mobility can fulfil users' needs without car ownership, but it comes with challenges, especially for families. Respondents frequently navigate a range of mobility options and adjust their routines to accommodate low-carbon practices. This contrasts with private car users who encounter fewer obstacles due to infrastructure tailored to their convenience. This leads to the conclusion that, in addition to improving shared mobility practices, deprivileging private car travel is necessary for the proliferation of shared mobility.

Interventions to Promote Sustainable Private Transport – Document Analysis of Norwegian Policy Strategies

Live Bøyum

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There is an urgent call for a transformative shift in consumption patterns, particularly regarding daily mobility. The pervasive reliance on private cars for personal mobility presents a significant challenge due to its deeply ingrained nature in people's lives (Camilleri et al., 2022). Despite numerous attempts, successfully reducing emissions from private transport remains a significant challenge, underscoring the limitations of current policy measures in catalyzing a transition towards more sustainable mobility. As a result, new theoretical perspectives such as social practice theory are emerging to enhance our understanding of high carbon mobile lives and explore pathways towards sustainable mobility.

From a social practice perspective, transport practices are seen as interconnected with other social practices, seamlessly incorporated into daily routines (Spurling et al., 2013). In this context, transport practices are seen as a product of other practices (Cass & Faulconbridge, 2016). Consequently, understanding transport practices and the associated consumption is paramount for crafting effective climate policies to foster sustainable mobility patterns.

This paper scrutinizes the extent to which policy measures for sustainable private transport incorporate a social practice perspective. We conduct a comparative analysis of policy documents from three Norwegian cities, investigating their car usage trends and policy measures. We then discuss the effectiveness of these policy measures in promoting sustainable private transport. Based on the analysis, we suggest improvements to current policy measures, highlighting how a social practice perspective can be more comprehensively integrated to foster sustainable mobility patterns.

Normalization as Dynamic of Change Towards Less Resource-heavy Consumption? Examples from Across Food, Mobility and Housing

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Normalization is typically used as an example of a societal dynamic, which silently legitimizes material over-consumption. We argue that normalization can also be seen as a dynamic that can work in favour of changes towards less resource-heavy consumption. Here, normalization consists in increased practical frequency and social expectation of experiencing and carrying out less resource-intensive consumption across different social contexts. In order for such normalization processes to happen, usually support from public interventions and collaborations between organized public and private actors are necessary. In Denmark, such interventions are already initiated in the food consumption area, where a number of public kitchens are being changed towards serving more plant-rich diets. In this paper, we are comparing differences and similarities between three consumption areas – food, mobility and housing – with regards to potentials for using normalization as dynamic of change towards less resource-heavy consumption. We draw upon the Danish research project "Food, mobility and housing in the sustainable transition of everyday life", take a starting-point in a practice theoretical perspective, and use data-examples from focus groups with representative from

institutional and organisational actors across the three areas of consumption.

Transforming Consumption-Production Relationships? Unsustainable Lock-ins and Possible Pathways across Food, Mobility and Housing

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Within the last century, global carbon emissions have exploded in tandem with rising consumption levels. Current lifestyles and consumption patterns are at odds with planetary boundaries, especially in affluent countries. Food, mobility, and housing comprise the majority of consumption emissions, requiring rapid reductions. While much research exists on these areas separately, less has been done to explore their interconnectedness. This paper looks at such interconnections through the case of Denmark, a country showcasing exceeding consumption emissions. While businesses, politicians and citizens broadly agree on the need for emission reductions, conflicting views exist on where the responsibility lies. Should individuals consume less and greener? Or are systems of provision responsible for change? Instead of taking an either-or perspective, the paper explores production-consumption relationships, attending to the institutional material arrangements that frame and potentially lock these relationships into unsustainable patterns. Exploring differences, similarities, and connections between food, mobility and housing, the paper draws on seven focus groups with professional stakeholders across the three fields. With a total of 50 participants from key organizations, including major companies, public authorities, civil society organizations and sustainability frontrunners, the paper presents unique insights on interactions between systems of provision, production, and regulation that currently poses sustainability challenges. Three analytical themes are highlighted: Economy and ownership; Regulation and responsibility; and Spatial and temporal dimensions. Finally, possibilities and pathways are identified that can push towards more sustainable production-consumption relationships in the future, and implications for the Danish context are discussed.

RN05 | T09_01: Clothing consumption 3: Sustainability

Material memories

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In the last 15 years, clothing consumption has risen by 60% while clothes remain for a shorter time – approximately 2,5 years – in people's wardrobes. During the same period, the monetary value of garments has generally decreased. In short, clothes have never been produced in such vast quantities as now, and they have never been as inexpensive. An effect of this over-production is that the financial, symbolic, and emotional value of fashion has been lost. It is a consequence of the divide between consumer markets and areas of production, initiated in the mid-20th century due to innovations in international shipping and logistics. In other areas, such as food and wine, a resistance to mass production and standardisation has steadily been growing. Interest in natural and low-intervention wine is one the rise, as is a commitment to locally sourced food that respect the traditions and customs of a certain area.

This paper builds on the two year-long ethnographic study, conducted together with Hanna Wittrock, that resulted in the monography "Modeminne" (English: Memories of Fashion, published 2023). In this project, we interviewed a wide selection of different types of informants to explore and unpack emotional connections to material, textile objects. By highlighting the important role that garments play in the story a person constructs about their life, we explore new ways of emphasizing the importance of long-lasting materiality over fast-moving trends.

Wardrobe Revelations: Rethinking Repair Practices and Clothing Consumption

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Global clothing production and consumption pose significant challenges to environmental, social, and economic sustainability, particularly driven by the fast-fashion business model linking the global North and South. This study, based on a Norwegian consumer survey (N=1200), investigates factors influencing volumes of clothing consumption. Analyzing acquisition, ownership (wardrobe size), and disposal volumes, principal component analysis (PCA) factor extraction was used to identify key constructs related to respondents' preferences and perceptions of clothing acquisition, use and repair practices.

Gender and age emerge as pivotal determinants, with women reporting higher acquisition, ownership, and disposal levels than men. Those in their 50s possess the largest wardrobes, while younger individuals exhibited a higher

frequency of clothing acquisition and disposal, and thus higher turnover rates of their wardrobe contents.

Surprisingly, the study reveals that higher repair intentions or focus on quality do not correspond to reduced consumption. These counterintuitive results challenge conventional assumptions about the relationship between these practices and overall consumption. Similarly, factors such as the allure of sales, impulse buying, and the desire to appear well-dressed contributed to increased consumption levels, emphasizing the influence of psychological and social factors.

The lack of correlation between reduced consumption and the intention to focus on buying fewer quality items and repairing more implies a need for alternative strategies that consumers can apply to address their consumption levels and related sustainability challenges in the fashion industry. This research emphasizes the urgency of reevaluating current practices and fostering a more sustainable and conscientious approach to clothing consumption.

Caring Circularities: Enacting Circular Consumption by Caring for and with Clothes

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What role does care have in circular consumption? In a circular system consumers need to acquire, use, look after and part with products in ways that recirculate or reuse materials and minimise waste. Thus, although seldom made explicit, consumer care is built into the circular economy project. In this paper we aim to contribute to the emerging body of sociological work on circular consumption by bringing fore the role of care.

Theoretically combining Tronto's (1993) influential work on care and theories of practice (Reckwitz, 2002; Schatzki, 2001) we develop an approach that focuses on care practices – i.e., sets of interconnected doings and saying and their associated competences, materialities and meanings, which care is a part of. Using this framework, we empirically explore and conceptualise how care practices are performed as part of circular consumption and how the involved care practices shape, enable, and/or hinder caring circularities.

The analysis builds on a study conducted with 24 households and their circular consumption of clothing. Our findings suggest that accomplishing circularity in everyday clothing consumption involves developing care awareness and taking on responsibility for the care of and with clothes. We also point out that accomplishment of care practices in this context is complicated by multiple care struggles and care dilemmas. We contribute to sociological circular consumption research by showing that being and acting as a caring circular consumer is often challenging and fraught with problems, as the caring circular consumer is attempting to carry out care practices.

Fashion Supply Chains Revisited – and Transformed?

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The revision of fashion supply chains focuses on empirical studies of consumer practices when it comes to shop clothes. It aims to learning more about how to best implement more sustainable alternatives as compared to the current supply chains of the global fashion industry. The empirical studies include handling and sense-making of the commodified clothes within fashion stores; assembling, storing, and curating of wardrobes at home; and the expertise of professional sellers of donated clothes. Interestingly, the results of this research are not aligned with conventional fashion theory which highlight consumers' demands for e.g. novelty, brands or plenty of choice. The results rather suggest how consumers necessarily need to engage with clothes by shaping their individual spatial, temporal, and material orders what proves to be less appealing to consumers as generally assumed.

RN05 | T09_02: Home and consumption

Assembling a New Home: Infrastructure, Market and Everyday Practices

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The commodification of housing has been a key aspect in the formation of consumer society, and home became a base of consumption. This paper advances our understanding of how a house is turned into a home by examining home selling and furnishing in an urban area in Taiwan. The paper uses the concept of market device to explores how real estate developers, domestic designers, and ikea construct ideal homes through community design, sample homes, and decoration inspirations. It then adopts a social practice theory perspective to explore how different types of home owners use furnishing to imagine and enact everyday practices and family relations. The analysis shows that home ideals reflect socioeconomic transformations in Taiwan and the home is materially and discursively assembled on three connected levels. The home is situated in specific landscape and infrastructures, designed and structured by market actors, and arranged by consumers with things. These material and discursive assemblages shape the meaning of home as well as everyday practices and commodities and things consumed in the home. The paper argues that the dynamics between infrastructure, market and social relations provide a new way to understand home and everyday practices and also a new approach to think about sustainable consumption.

Keeping Up a Rental Home? Tenants' Home Maintenance Practices

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The energy efficiency of existing houses and their usage should be improved to reduce emissions resulting from housing. Maintenance of an apartment keeps it in good condition and habitable for a longer period but can also influence the environmental impact of housing. Consumption studies have examined home-related maintenance from perspectives such as energy renovations (e.g., Bartiaux et al., 2014) goods repair (e.g., Gregson et al., 2009), or cleaning (e.g., Berner, 1998). Homeowners have agency in how they renovate, repair, and maintain their homes, but the agency of renters is often weaker. To develop their agency, it is important to investigate their maintenance practices and habits on home upkeep. Currently, there are only few studies on maintenance in the context of social housing (e.g., Costarelli et al., 2020; Moore et al., 2017; van Mossel & Jansen, 2010). This study aims to understand maintenance practices in households from a practice-theoretical perspective. The purpose of this study is to investigate how rental tenants perceive home maintenance practices and what barriers or incentives exist for home upkeep. These questions will be addressed by analyzing interviews that will be conducted to tenants living in municipal rental housing in a Finnish suburb. The aim is to gather more information on how socioeconomically disadvantaged tenants maintain their homes and identify ways to encourage them to take better care of their apartments. If residents can be encouraged to maintain their homes, it may also be possible to reduce energy waste.

How Much Money Does Making It Yourself Save? An Evaluation of DIY Through Ethno-Accounting

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Using a case study of a Black man doing DIY, and especially mechanics as a side hustle, we aim at presenting the ethno-accounting method (developed in France by Alain Cottereau) and how it can be useful for the study of consumption and particularly prosumption. By doing rigorous and contextualized accounting, the method we present can shed a new light on the study of consumption. By going back to the material bases of consumption and their meaning for social actors, ethno-accounting allows us to take into consideration their articulation in the way people count. Notably using data on a house renovation and especially consumption of DIY materials and products, we show that one can save as much as half of the price making it oneself, as well as give a special meaning to the work accomplished. Furthermore, the evaluation of the side hustle especially shows the importance of trust in the informal economy. Trust is indeed central when the rules of the marketplace cannot be guaranteed, as in the informal economy. But it also leads to stronger bonds, as illustrated by mutual service exchanges in our case study.

Homes Where We Sometimes Live. The Sociological Lens Of Culture And Consumption On (Italian) Houses.

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Many sociologists and anthropologists have focused on the study of material culture in the domestic sphere. The houses represent an interesting challenge for sociology that adopts the perspective of consumer culture, even if today the theoretical reflections and empirical data refer mainly to urban sociologists. The paper is divided into three parts: the first reflects on how social and cultural change has affected houses in Italy from the economic boom until today; the second identifies the key concepts that can be used to analyse the social meanings of houses (such as

private/public; clean/dirty, etc.); while the third discusses the cultural and social process that is likely to affect the houses of the future (the buildings and the design of the interior spaces). Houses can be seen as "living" spaces, full of practices and routines, the direct representation of the structure of society (levels of equality and inequality) and the material expression of cultural change: technological change, smart working, smart ageing, environmental sustainability. Through a combination of theoretical reflections and statistical data, as well as socio-historical empirical findings, the paper aims to provide new insights into how houses can be categorised in different ways: a place to stay, a place to live, a place of the future.

RN05 | T09_03: Sustainable consumption 7: Sustainable lifestyles

Lifestyles and New Urban Economies: Fresh Empirical Evidence from the 14 Metropolitan Areas in Italy

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Relying on literature on both consumption and practices, lifestyles and platforms (Zukin 1998; Brenner 2019; Graham 2020), we define NUEs as place-based relational ecosystems emerging at the intersection of urban-bound lifestyles and platforms in the light of the ongoing digital transformation, where citizens, organizations and municipalities interact, triggering economic innovation and sustainable consumption practices (Shove 2010).

Our research question relates to the multiple ways by which New Urban Economies are associated with novel urban lifestyles, transformative social practices and platformization in three dynamic and innovative fields: 1. Food, 2. Mobility, 3. Care.

We will present the results of a novel and high-quality survey based on a representative sample of the residents of the 14 Italian Metropolitan Areas. The goal is to deliver and discuss empirical evidence about how social practice theory addresses the major issue of the so-called value-action gap (Keller et al. 2016), offering an "in-between" approach to understanding the promotion of practices of consumption by simultaneously considering a) consumers' changing meanings and materialities and b) the shaping forces surrounding consumption decisions.

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Prosumption Culture and Urban-Rural Solidarity Networks in Gudul-Ankara

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The research question of this study aims to reveal how the rural-urban solidarity networks between the Cittaslow Güdül and Ankara have developed through the production system. This study will examine the impact of the UNDP supported Tahtacıörencik Natural Life Collective (TADYA) and solidarity economics in Güdül on rural-urban relationship networks. Cittaslow Güdül, which comes to the forefront with its agroecological activities rather than tourism, presents the importance of Slow Food principles (good, clean and fair food) for social and environmental sustainability. In this context, community-supported agriculture (CSA) collective TADYA acts as a mediator between rural-urban actors and transfers these agroecological products to the city. Theoretically, relationships between rural-urban areas are evolving due to transportation, technology, and ideological collaboration, resulting in a closer connection between the countryside and the city, creating a hybrid model rather than a dichotomic separation (Actor Network Theory – Latour). One example of this relationship is CSA, a prosumption model that resocializes and respatializes food due to ethical consumption, catalyzing a shift towards food democracy. The qualitative study will involve online interviews (netnography) of TADYA producers (16), as well as in depth interviews with consumers (10), and leaders of active organizations in the region (5) in order to understand the motives of the producers, life-style of the consumers and the contributions of the leaders. Collected data will be analyzed through discourse analysis. The expected findings of the research is that CSA in Güdül represents a form of social innovation built upon reciprocity, hybridity, and solidarity economics between producers and consumers, fostering rural-urban proximity, as articulated by Polanyi. Understanding the place of the CSA model in the Cittaslow Güdül for the sustainable food systems and determining how it shapes the rural-urban solidarity economics will contribute to the sociology of consumption and urban-rural literature in a developing countries. I haven't joined an ESA Summer School before and I believe that it will benefit my ongoing PhD thesis research as well as my future academic studies through academic collaborations and networking.

Fair Trade in Portugal: A Comparative Analysis of Operational Strategies and Resilience Amidst the Pandemic

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Fair Trade is a social movement that arrived late in Portugal. The first Portuguese Fair Trade shop opened only in 1999, in Amarante. Twenty-five years later, we investigated the current situation of Fair Trade in Portugal. We conducted semi-directive interviews with leaders of the three organizations managing the three remaining worldshops: Porto, Lisbon, and Amarante. The results show that the COVID-19 pandemic had different effects on these shops: in Porto and Lisbon, leaders report difficulties in keeping the shops open, facing an increasing shortage of volunteers and a less expressive sales volume. On the other hand, in Amarante, sales continue to increase, and volunteer manpower is abundant. These results stem from different operational methods in the three organizations: while Porto and Lisbon maintain the traditional worldshop format, Amarante adopted a different strategy by opening a restaurant where meals are cooked with Fair Trade products and work with projects funded by European funds dedicated to youth, ensuring a constant supply of volunteers to work in the shop. Simultaneously, these young individuals are accommodated in the Youth House of Amarante, where the restaurant and Fair Trade shop operate. This implies that, by having their meals in that bar and restaurant, they consistently consume Fair Trade products. We conclude that in Portugal, Fair Trade seems to be on the verge of extinction in Porto and Lisbon, while in Amarante, due to a strategic shift in how products are handled, the future appears promising.

Mapping the Digitalization Of (sustainable) Consumption: a Cross-country Survey

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How does the digitalization of consumption practices vary across political-economic and socio-material contexts, and what does this mean for the shift to more sustainable forms of consumption? The past two decades have seen a proliferation of digital interventions into consumers' everyday lives. Digital platforms provisioning food and mobility goods and services explicitly claim sustainability propositions and offer promising ways to reduce the environmental impact of daily consumption activities. Yet, the extent, type, market orientation, and architecture of platformization pathways are not uniform, affecting their sustainability potential. Drawing on a database of digital platforms provisioning food and mobility in five countries (USA, Sweden, Norway, Turkey, and Japan) with varying levels of economic and infrastructural digitalization, as well as distinct political-economic systems and consumption cultures, we explore how these factors shape platformization trajectories. We focus on four types of sustainability-oriented platforms: for food, platforms that connect local food providers and consumers, and those that promise to innovate technologically mediated ways of redistributing surplus food and, through that, reduce food waste. For mobility, we focus on platforms that facilitate access to shared transport through cars, bicycles, and e-scooters. Our findings confirm that while the degree and types of digitalization for each

platform type vary based on legal, political-economic, and cultural environments, business models transcend national and regional specificities. While our work presents a mapping of digital provisioning platforms across five countries, identifying the similarities and differences, It is essential to understand how end users use (or stop using) these provisioning platforms better to align them to the particularities of the local context.

RN06 | Critical Political Economy

RN06 | T01_01: Disaster Capitalism and Critical Political Economy: Catastrophe or Emancipation?

Russo-Ukrainian War, Russia's Neocolonial Multipolarity and Inadequacy of Scholarship: Failing Towards Fascism in Plain Sight

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Taking the Russo-Ukrainian relations and war as a starting point, we deploy Gramscian political economy to show the deficiencies of extant scholarship on both and the region. We argue that Russia's perceived "apparent irrationalities", Putinversteher-ing, proliferation of neorealism and historical materialism overtly lacking current material are consistently rooted in a deep ahistoric, decontextualised, and categorically problematic representation in scholarship of what Russia is and was, regionally and domestically. While western imperialisms and military interventions enjoyed much-deserved scrutiny, Russian geopolitics of self-victimisation thrived in western academia's Russia fetishism, glorifying and vilifying alike, thus clouding critical scrutiny and adequate positioning of its object in global (geo)politics. Post-1991 regional hegemonic contestations (Worth 2005) and the current era of crises created an environment where certain actors have moved to shape future forms of world order (Worth 2019) of the (dis)integrating empire of capital (Yurchenko 2022). Conditions being imperfect, Putin tried to force a 19th century style of multipolarity where (neo) colonial invasions are rooted in the legacies of internal colonisation of Eurasia. Russia's failure to modernise or keep regional geopolitical superiority after productive relations in the post-Soviet space started to break down has led to this move and ultimately to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia and multipolarity is thus only counter-hegemonic in a sense that it disrupts the liberal institutional order on which a global hegemony can be built. Through the prism of the Russo-Ukrainian war, we discuss Russia's authoritarian entrenchment, the manufacturing of the narrative of civilisational exceptionalism, 'self-othering' and self-victimisation, neocolonial domestic and foreign policies, and the inevitability of the recent turn to schizofascism (Snyder 2022) against the failure to build a functioning capitalist state.

Surviving Disaster Capitalism: The Crisis In Social Reproduction And The Gender-Energy Nexus

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In the current conjuncture of an energy crisis that swept much of Europe, the paper centres on the gender-energy nexus, outlining its articulations in and through this crisis. Crucially, it approaches this crisis from the lens of social reproduction and unpacks its gendered nature. To do so, the paper conceptualises energy as deeply imbricated in social reproduction, arguing that its commodified and commercialised provision is an instance of the privatisation of social reproduction. It explores the gender-energy nexus its complexity, dynamism and uneven articulations across the global economy though existing work on energy poverty and gender in the UK in as well as existing research on energy debt in Greece and its linkages to the gendered nature of using and not being able to afford energy in households. In doing so, the paper highlights how energy is political in the gendered nature of its provision and usage, elucidating the embodied ways in which women are forced to get by and act as 'fixes' of this crisis.

Palestinian Struggle as a Proxy War: Saudi ambition and its effects on Saudi soft power in the Islamic World

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The recent increase in violence in the conflict between Israel and Palestine has gone beyond its historical precedence. The violence occurs within the geopolitical struggles of each party's allies and rivals as part of the regional geopolitical game. Saudi Arabia has been a supporter of the Palestinian struggle and resisted recognising the statehood of Israel since 1948. Contrary to this, Saudi Arabia and Israel have been working towards the 'normalisation' of diplomatic relations mediated by the United States of America. A large part of Saudi normalisation with Israel is the country's ambition of diversification away from oil production and the expansion of nuclear energy. Nuclear proliferation even in the civil sphere is almost impossible without American support in the current global political order.

This paper explores how Saudi Arabia's nuclear energy ambitions have affected its policy stances in the Palestine-Israel conflict. Saudi Arabia holds economic and political power in the region and normative power in the Islamic world. It is doubtful that Saudi Arabia will be able to realise its nuclear energy ambition immediately. Saudi Arabia will continue leveraging these in favour of the normalisation of ties with Israel. In such a case, despite paying lip service to the ideological support to Palestine, Saudi Arabia will no longer be an ally in the struggle. Withdrawing support for Palestine in

favour of improved ties with Israel may prove to be a rational geopolitical move but may come at the cost of valuable soft power, the Saudi state's normative strength within the ideological Islamic geopolitical space.

A Question Of Collaboration: (How) Can Commons Networks Scale Alternatives To Capitalism?

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Commons-based initiatives have gained increasing attention in recent years in response to intensifying climate emergencies and global supply chain disruptions. This is especially evident in the food and energy sectors, where community-supported agricultures (CSAs) and local energy communities (LECs) have been praised for their potential for fostering decommodification, democratization, and degrowth within essential systems of reproduction. However, such initiatives remain limited in scope and accessibility due to their small size and inability to benefit from economies of scale. Many are thus building larger networks to diffuse commoning practices, involve new actors, and advocate for policy change. Put differently, they are pursuing alternative ways to 'grow' outside the capitalist market paradigm by engaging in different forms of 'scaling' the commons.

This paper seeks to investigate the role of these commons networks in organizing, diffusing and promoting commons-based economies. It draws on scholarly concepts of diverse economies, polycentric governance, and social movement networks to understand how such networks are governed, what roles different actors play, what strategies they develop to scale beyond the local level, and what achievements and challenges they encounter.

Data is drawn from qualitative case studies of networks among both CSAs and LECs in the UK, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Belgium, using interviews, observation, and document analyses. By investigating cases in both the food and energy sector, and at different scales, the paper not only describes individual commons networks but also explains their sector – and scale-specific differences and discusses strategic implications for their ability to transform the economy.

RN06 | T02_01: From Climate Crisis to Climate Justice?

What has the disruptive protest of Just Stop Oil achieved?

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The scholarship on the policy impact and effectiveness of protest is fast-growing across the social science. One important claim in this literature is that disruptive protest, or civil disobedience, is more likely to influence politics, society and policy than less disruptive kinds of protest. The way that protestors conceive of their own agency can in policy terms be conceptualised as trying to achieve a focusing event. That is, the aim of protestors is often to influence agenda setting and problem definitions in a way that makes some policy outcomes more likely than others. The protests that achieve this can be considered focusing events in their own right. Examples in recent decades include the anti-World Trade Organisation protests in Seattle in 1999, the Occupy protests in 2011, the various climate protests in 2019 and the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020.

This paper studies contemporary climate change protest in the UK, specifically the activities of the group Just Stop Oil (JSO). JSO has specialised in attention-grabbing civil disobedience involving relatively small numbers of protest. Whilst JSO have achieved much media attention, this attention has arguably not achieved the status of a focusing event. The paper is a case study of JSO's civil disobedience campaign. It uses a variety of methods, including opinion polls and interviews with the general public, media content analysis, interviews with elected politicians, and focus groups with JSO activists and other climate campaigners.

Exploitation is Exploitation: The Imperative of Veganism to a Progressive Political Economy

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This paper explores the potential of veganism as praxis to fundamentally disrupt capitalist political economy.

In general, the Left have found it difficult to find an adequate register to theorise (and seek the amelioration of) the oppression of other-than-human animals. Testament to this is the troubled relationship which many on the Left have with veganism. Rather than recognising veganism as a strategy to challenge capitalism, it is often regarded as a distraction from the principal imperative of overcoming the capitalist exploitation that occurs between humans. Moreover, veganism has been problematised as a lifestyle

choice, presented as the 'right thing to do' but restricted to only relatively wealthy individuals. As such, vegans are often criticised for passing negative judgment on non-vegans, while obscuring that this option is inaccessible for many.

Recently, some Leftist scholars have begun to argue that veganism presents a meaningful challenge to capitalism (Dickstein et al, 2022; Sexton et al, 2022). Here veganism is considered as a boycott of markets rooted in the exploitation/oppression/death of other-than human animals, on which capitalism heavily relies. In this paper, we go further than recognising veganism as a tool, to contend that even these arguments underplay the intimate inter-relationship between the exploitation of other-than-human animals and human-animals. From a queer-trans-ecology perspective, we argue that the exploitation of other-than-humans cannot be decoupled from the exploitation of humans in a cis-heteropatriarchal capitalist system. Therefore, it follows, that it is imperative for the Left to fight against the exploitation/oppression of other-than-human species if they are to pursue their commitments towards social and environmental justice.

Authoritarian Legitimation: Accumulation, Climate Crisis and the Search for Consent in Late Neoliberalism

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In a context of generalised stagnation, neoliberal governments throughout the globe have elevated home affairs policy and advanced a 'mutated' politics of legitimation characterised by explicit forms of 'othering' and hostility towards the wider political system. While scholars of authoritarian neoliberalism have mapped these recent shifts in governing strategies in some good detail, the literature has failed to offer a fuller theorisation of legitimation in authoritarian neoliberalism. We contribute to the literature through a mixed Gramscian-Foucauldian framework, arguing that in late neoliberalism, legitimation increasingly depends on, and cultivates, a "reactionary" form of common sense that aims to restore the normalcy of inward-looking national projects and regressive accumulation regimes. Indeed, governments increasingly seek to maintain electoral support for the collapsing neoliberal project among limited segments of the population who may be aligned with authoritarian values. We conceptualise this "authoritarian legitimation" and its contradictions for governing capacity and popular support, in particular as it is both faced by, and feeds off, resistance from below. Looking at both the neoliberal "heartlands" and Global Southern neoliberal states, we examine the legitimation of the emerging neoliberal climate regime, characterised by the rolling out of undemocratic green transitions paired with the repression of climate protest.

Towards The Hegemony Of Post-growth: Exploring Social Change Through The Case Of The Circular Economy

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The question of power and politics in explaining and shaping sustainability transitions is increasingly being addressed in the literature. Nevertheless, neo-Gramscian theories and concepts remain underutilised in the literature on sustainability transitions, creating a gap in the understanding of such transitions from a critical political economy perspective. To go one step further, in this article we focus on social change in the context of sustainability transitions from a neo-Gramscian perspective, drawing in particular on the work of Bob Jessop and his strategic-relational approach. More specifically, we focus on the question of growth and seek to deepen our understanding of how post-growth societies might emerge. The question of post-growth is highly topical, as there is ample evidence that growth and ecological impacts are inextricably linked. We creatively examine the case of the circular economy, which currently plays an important role at the centre of the sustainability debate, and assess the role of the circular economy in enabling or preventing post-growth societies. The liminal nature of the circular economy is an excellent example of how a struggle to maintain or conquer hegemony takes place, particularly at the level of discourses and social imaginaries. The article therefore offers alternative, adapted accounts of various Gramscian concepts that could be crucial for understanding sustainability transitions, i.e. ideology, historical bloc, hegemonic crisis, organic change, passive revolution and war of position. The article concludes with suggestions for future research on circular economy, post-growth, sustainability transitions and social change from the perspective of critical political economy.

RN06 | T02_02: Critical digital capitalism

Silicon Valley's New World Order: Artificial Intelligence, Universal Basic Income, and the Equity-Growth Playbook

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In 2011, venture capitalist Marc Andreesen proclaimed software was eating the world. By 2017, OpenAI scientists had argued artificial intelligence (AI) was eating software. In this paper, I explore the actualization of these claims through a historical materialist lens. Drawing on Althusser, Gramsci, Land, and Zuboff, I explore the progressive commercialization and monopolization of OpenAI, along with its relation to Worldcoin, a biometrics-based cryptocurrency offering global universal basic income (UBI).

There are four parts.

First, I sketch the implications of generative AI through the lens of historical materialism. I then outline the progressive commercialization of OpenAI, a de facto AI monopoly that, driven by venture capital, is set to dominate the future of AI.

Second, I explore the value proposition of WorldCoin—its aim to be a global monopoly in digital identification and UBI; its investor relations to OpenAI and the AI revolution; and its pursuit of neocolonial practices as a means of obtaining hegemony over global currency.

Third, I show how the aims of OpenAI and WorldCoin merge in a field of social necessity serving capitalist hierarchies. Not only does WorldCoin exploit a future world of AI-induced "postemployment," but with the provision of its "World ID" facilitates unprecedented access to data, the raw material upon which AI depends.

Finally, both firms frame public actors as the true AI/UBI threat, legitimizing their own role as the owners and providers of these soon-to-be socially necessary goods. I argue that OpenAI and Worldcoin are legitimizing a drift away from public benefits and provisions towards private ownership and consumption, towards a new hierarchy of power, wealth, and influence in which every human being has "skin in the [capitalist] game."

Digital Capitalism as Disaster Capitalism: The Power of AI to Undermine Democracy

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Artificial intelligence is a key technology of the 21st century that has and will continue to have a far-reaching impact on all areas of society and people's everyday lives. Technological revolutions always have had the potential to substantially transform power relations and power structures in a society and to lead to unrest and social upheaval.

When the economic and social effects of AI are considered, the focus is usually on the transformation of the economic and working world or on ethical and normative aspects. However, the power issues associated with the development and application of AI usually remain strangely underexposed and undertheorised.

The presentation looks at the influence of AI on social power structures and asks how power relations in economy, politics and society are being transformed by the use of artificial intelligence and what consequences this has for economy, society and democracy.

It is shown that AI does not have an emancipating, equalising, levelling and democratising effect per se. Rather, AI and the digital capitalism lead firstly to an automated alienation, secondly to a promotion of financialisation, which enormously accelerates and potentiates the crisis-prone nature of capitalism, and thirdly to a potentiation, centralisation, monopolisation and stabilisation of the infrastructural, informational and market-dominating power of already powerful players. This is accompanied by an intensification of inequalities and an increase of tensions and conflicts. In this respect, digital capitalism is mutating into disaster capitalism, which has the power and potential to undermine democracy as a form of government and as a way of life.

Mobilizing AI to hack the life course and counterplay precarious Ageing – A Critical Political Economy Approach

Gustavo Sugahara

DINÂMIA'CET – Iscte, Portugal

Research on the effects of ageism towards older people, which spans various aspects of life including health, work, and participation, has been substantial. There is also an emerging field of study investigating 'digital ageism,' but no existing research attempts to link discussions around both the technological revolutions (as suggested by Perez) and the demographic revolution (proposed by Butler and others). This theoretical exploration delves into the potential relevance of a Critical Political Economy Approach to ageing. It introduces the concept of 'precarious ageing', which expands the idea of precariat to include household

circumstances and the welfare state, and the increased threat posed by AI. This article discusses the segmentation of the life course as a significant characteristic of technological paradigms, particularly in relation to the influence of digital technologies and the rise of AI as a dominant force in mediating ageism. The proposition is that the segmentation of the life course is a key feature of technological paradigms and the additional years of life gained since the dawn of the industrial revolution represent a disruptive force with widespread repercussions. This paper also aims to raise both public and scientific awareness of the potential impact of new, open-ended forms of governance, which could harness this longevity dividend.

Workers' Right to the Subject: The Social Relations Of Data Production

Phoebe Moore

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, United Kingdom

The use of data to profile and make decisions about data subjects for citizenship, targeted advertising, job recruitment and other reasons, has been eminently normalised, which is an emerging threat to protected spaces for personal subjectivation and identity formation. The 'right to the subject'; or to agency via personal subject formation outside bilateral profiling; is at stake. This is especially true for workers. Algorithmic management infused with worker control mechanisms occurs in structurally and objectively unequal conditions within subjective, and unequal, social relations. Data harms protections in European privacy and data protection law, despite being heralded as the strongest in the world, are insufficient to protect workers' right to the subject. Indeed, structural features of inequality within the capitalist data political economy mean that workers experience different power relations to consumers and citizens. Analysing the social relations surrounding policy features of 'consent', and 'risk', with focus on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the negotiations for the AI Act, it is not difficult to see that these policies do not protect all data subjects' rights to the subject identically. Indeed, workers never have the capacity to truly consent at work; and the risks workers face are different from that of other data subjects such as consumers. Data subjects do not, across categories, have equal access to equality, within, and because of, the social relations of data production. From a cross-disciplinary perspective and with contributions to sociology, critical theory, media and policy studies, this article argues that workers' right to the subject is at stake, in datafied social relations.

RN06 | T03_01: Work and its contradictions in contemporary capitalism

Consciousness And Structure: A Marxist Analysis Of Subjectivity In Women Workers' Mobilisation Processes

Loreto Rojas Viver

UAM, Spain

The question I am asking in my research is about the effects of the capitalist crisis in shaping the political subjectivity (or revolutionary consciousness) of different sectors of working women in the current conjuncture of the crisis of the welfare state, the hegemonisation and institutionalisation of feminism and the decline of the labour movement.

In order to do so, I want to update the approach to the question of consciousness in Marxism, in connection with the structural analysis of the economic and political conjuncture, from the Marxist analysis of capitalism. This is a way of putting on the table the concrete development of the contradictory unity between subject and object, trying to analyse the emergence of forms of consciousness that seek social transformation, that are subjectively aware of their objective position in the social structure.

For this, the methodology I am using is mainly qualitative, with in-depth interviews with the different actors involved in trade unions and other political organisations active today, as well as participant observation in assemblies, actions and other situations of interest.

At the moment, I am realising that there is no mechanical, deterministic extrapolation of the potential of the crisis situation for social mobilisation, there is no mechanical or identity relationship between the subjective and objective conditions for mobilisation, and we could better speak of a contradictory, dialectical unity, in which although the objetive conditiones are given, this does not necessarily imply a maturation of the subjective conditions, of the state of the contesting subject, but this is also understood as an objective question.

The elaboration on this is interesting, because it puts the focus on the limitations of trade unions and social movements, in a situation of international division of labour under imperialism, as opposed to the overemphasis on the emancipatory potential of struggles in many studies on social mobilisation. A focus on limits is necessary in order to overcome the problems that organisations encounter in advancing their emancipatory goals.

On The Economy-Immanent Genesis Of Material Poverty

Alexander Heublein

University of Bamberg, Germany

In my talk i want to contribute to a theoretical understanding of why and how phenomena of material poverty form an integral part of contemporary capitalist economy. Starting from a marxist point of view i mostly draw on Moishe Postones critical reconstruction of Marx's theory.

Postone locates the most important factor for an economy-immanent impoverishment in the contradictory structure of work in capitalism. Work functions as the primary source of production of material wealth and at the same time as the central instance of societal mediation between people (Marx' so called ,,abstract labor'').

The latter function entails the following: People can only access material goods by means of laboring. Now the structure of capital and wage working transforms this function: Access to material wealth is conditioned by the profitability of work for capital.

This in turn leads to the paradoxical consequence that the development of productivity of work negatively impacts its function of enabling people to access material wealth: As work becomes more efficient (produces more goods per time unit), it also becomes more dispensable for the profits of capital. This is the root of the simultaneity of wealth and impoverishment in capitalist society: As work becomes more productive, material wealth grows, yet people loose the opportunity to access it.

In my talk i plan firstly on elaborating this contradiction on a theoretical level and secondly illustrate it pointing towards empirical developments. I'd like to show that a primary example of this lies in the growing expansion of the minimum wages sector in contemporary Germany: Here we have a striking example of an impoverishment-tendency amidst one of the wealthiest western countries.

Superfluity In Times Of Crises

Iñigo de Loyola Rodriguez

UNED, Spain

This paper aims to analyze the inherent tendency of capital to create a relative surplus population as a mechanism of disciplining and subjectivation the global labor force exacerbated by the economic estagnation. This tendency inherent to the process of capital accumulation whereby living labor is expelled from the productive processes due to the need to revolutionize production by increasing the technical composition of capital, is compensated by a series of counter tendencies, such as the expansion of production to other sectors or productive fields, causing part of the eventually surplus labor force to be reabsorbed as part of the global social labor. However, the crisis in the logic of social reproduction that we have been experiencing for more than two decades added to a combination of phenomena (deindustrialization, population growth, etc.) has given rise to the creation of a consolidated surplus population. This part of the active population has become incapable of being reabsorbed by the productive process and, therefore, deprived of the only way to access its means of subsistence: the wage relationship. In this sense, this tendency of capital emerges as a source of increasingly coercive power of capital over the lives of those who, deprived of direct access to their means of subsistence, have no choice but to sell their labor power and, therefore, have to adapt both objectively and subjectively to the imperatives of the expanded reproduction of capital on pain of being branded as socially unnecessary and condemned to chronic unemployment or underemployment. This tendency ultimately results in increased competitiveness among workers, total adaptation to social imperatives and the pacification of any kind of resistance to the capitalist social configuration.

Circuits of Digitized Capitalism: A Neo-Marxian Analysis

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This paper reconceptualizes the dynamics of digitized capitalism in light of recent appropriations of Marxian theory. Conceiving of capitalism as a complex totality constituted by multiple intersecting circuits in line with Harvey (2018, 1982) and Postone (1993), the paper dissects the ways in which digital technology is deployed at multiple points in the capitalist accumulation process. Within the primary circuit of capital accumulation, digital technologies are deployed as commodities within the valorization circuit, but also as mechanisms for the capture of value at the point of capital realization. This second mode of deployment happens in the so-called platform economy and gives rise to a specialized form of rent-seeking based on the monopolization of transactional environments. At the same time, wherever digital technologies are deployed as fixed capital within the commodity production process itself, they appear within the secondary circuit of capital accumulation. Here they constitute what can be conceptualized as a specialized form of fixed capital which combines material and immaterial elements with sometimes divergent lifecycles and periods of economic devaluation. Finally, as artifical intelligence accelerates, it has become conceivable that digital technologies will soon reach the point where autonomous artificial intelligences or "digital minds" can replicate the behaviors of human capitalist actors, namely workers, consumers, capitalist enterprise owners, and investors. In this way, digital technologies will be positioned to transform capitalism from the "inside," paving the way for a fundamental evolution of capitalism.

RN06 | T03_02: Polycrisis or Disaster Capitalism?

World Bank, Covid-19 and Finance for Better Recovery: Capitalism for Disaster or Disaster for Capitalism?

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Disaster capitalism – which understands crises as instrumentally central to capitalist accumulation (Klein 2007; Harvey 2007) – is a concept useful today. Covid-19 highlighted the emergence of crises as tools for sustained capitalist accumulation through financialised methods of disaster recovery, in line with literature on disaster financialization (Grove 2012; Paudel et al 2020). This paper, questioning the relevance and refining the Disaster Capitalism concept, explores its applicability to the World Bank's pandemic response. Via the analysis of the WDR 2022 "Finance for Better Recovery" it shows how Covid-19 facilitated the Bank's promotion of financialised, market-driven modes of capital accumulation through 3 legitimising narratives – interrelatedness of risks; uncertainty; inequality – juxtaposed against the Covid crisis as a fresh opportunity for "Building Back Better". As a natural disaster, the pandemic (more than 2008 crisis) emerged in these Bank's narratives as an exogenous threat, a scapegoat of an origin external to capitalism, thus enabling the portrayal of capitalist financialization as a solution. This externalisation of disaster, however, creating an "outside", established a parallel narrative in the Bank's discourse – one questioning and threatening the legitimacy of capitalism in the face of external shocks. Therefore, this paper proposes a reconceptualization of Disaster Capitalism as simultaneously coexisting Capitalism for Disaster and Disaster for Capitalism. Such analytical distinction allows for a greater acknowledgement of emancipatory potential contained within disasters and critical resistance based in the recognition of the inherent dysfunctionality of capitalism as a system, susceptible not to just self-generated but exogenous crises, that require praxis beyond internal financial "fixes".

In The Homeland Of Polycrisis: A Critical Political Economy Perspective On The Berlusconi Era And Its Legacy

Daniela Caterina[1], Adriano Cozzolino[2], Gemma Gasseau[3], Davide Monaco[4]

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Within the horizon of disaster capitalism, Italy is a case in point for understanding political projects of neoliberalization and the related rise of far-right forces. The present contribution builds on the argument that, in order to understand the current conjuncture, we need a historical grounding. Therefore, it proposes a critical political economy (CPE) analysis of Silvio Berlusconi's hegemonic project and of how its legacy shapes the management of the current Polycrisis by right-wing forces in a country already showcasing early signs of disaster capitalism through decades-long crisis and economic stagnation.

In fact, Berlusconi's recent death has sparked a lively debate in domestic and international circles about his political legacy. Nevertheless, critical perspectives on this are still missing: the tone of the debate easily falls into culturalism and moralist concerns that remain blind to key political-economic factors. We are, therefore, in dire need of a theoretically informed empirical study of Berlusconi's political-economic project within CPE.

We aim at filling this gap by looking at several analytical dimensions such as ideology-discourse, policy-making, social bloc formation (including coercion and consent), and, finally, the State project – that is, how Berlusconi tried to portray and change State apparatuses, powers and interventions. In our view, this constitutes a crucial perspective to look at how right-wing hegemonic projects are changing, and thus draw the implications of Berlusconi's legacy for the present constellation – especially in relation to the current right-wing government, and to recent developments in the literature on competing hegemonic projects and transnational social forces.

The Politics of Natural Disaster: A Case Study of post-Earthquake Hatay, Turkey

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On February 6, 2023, two earthquakes with magnitudes 7.8 and 7.7 hit Southeastern Turkey, with epicenters in Kahramanmaraş, officially causing over 50 000 deaths. The deadliest disaster in the history of modern Turkey impacted 11 provinces, with Hatay province experiencing the highest death toll and extensive destruction. This presentation examines the politics of natural disaster in Turkey focusing on the post-earthquake situation in Hatay. As the home of ancient Antioch, Hatay is distinguished by its unique blend of ethnic, religious and sectarian diversity reflecting a multi-cultural social fabric. The Hatay province also holds the third highest number of Syrian refugees relative to its local population in Turkey. Given its specific vulnerabilities, the massive displacement and destruction caused by the earthquake pose a severe threat to its urban, environmental and human heritage. Against this local backdrop, the politics of recovery and rebuilding in Hatay are shaped by the over-centralization, neoliberalization and marketization of the statecraft in Turkey's authoritarian neoliberal regime. This political framework poses risks of accumulation by dispossession both in material and symbolic forms. Informed by the perspectives of environmental and disaster justice, the presentation explores how the politics of natural disaster and recovery are formulated and executed. It analyzes

their impact on the life opportunities, identities and rights of Hatay residents, as well as how these dynamics mobilize locals around particular social and environmental problems that they face.The presentation relies on fieldwork conducted in Hatay and an analysis of national media over the one-year period following the earthquake.

Small Boats and the Global Libidinal Economy of Disaster Capitalism

Ben Whitham

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This paper draws upon the theoretical framework of global libidinal economy (GLE) to critically evaluate UK migration discourse on 'small boats', locating it within the field of Disaster Capitalism. GLE analysis, I argue, is essential to understanding the tendency toward Disaster Capitalism. Both traditional, neo-classical international political economy (IPE) and critical, Marxian approaches rest upon rationalist paradigms – the key difference being that the former legitimise capitalist social relations while the latter look for 'a way out' (Kapoor et al., 2023: 5). GLE, on the other hand, demands that we pay attention to the 'unconscious circuits of excess and antagonism' that accompany international political-economic structures and practices (Kapoor et al., 2023: 1). Through GLE, I suggest, we can understand the meteoric rise of the UK's 'small boats' discourse – and the material policies and practices it has enabled – as dependent upon non-rational psychosocial investments and desires. Specifically, confrontation with the causes of the 'polycrisis' (Tooze, 2022) that Disaster Capitalism has engendered is avoided or transmuted through this discourse. The success of the small boats discourse in capturing attention does not reflect a widespread belief that people arriving by small boat are somehow the real cause of the UK's 'great variety of morbid symptoms' (Gramsci, 1971: 276). Instead, the rise of this discourse reflects a tendency within the GLE of Disaster Capitalism to 'never learn from one's mistakes', which often specifically entails 'acting against one's own self-interest' to the point of 'dooming the prospect of progress' (Kapoor et al., 2023: 8). The paper concludes by considering the prospects for transcending the self-harm of the small boats discourse and challenging the repetition of Disaster Capitalism.

RN06 | T04_01: Climate change and class struggle?

Class Consciousness and the Climate Crisis: A Lukács – Veblen Approach

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The climate crisis is an offspring of the capitalist way of economic development which colonizes and commercializes ever-extended spaces of both social and physical environments. In this respect, climate issues directly become class issues to the degree that the working class is formed as a revolutionary class. Following Lukács in this respect, class consciousness is a constitutive continuous process of class formation and, at the same time, a continuous challenge against reification and fragmentation. Reversing this process entails a new integrating relationship with nature which denies capitalist commercialization both at the social and climate level. However, building class consciousness is not possible without a class struggle which entails two things: action at the group level on the one hand, and perception at the individual level, on the other hand. In Veblen's terms, collective action should go hand in hand with the revision of beliefs and change in the related habits of thought. Changing habits of thought entails a much deeper process rather than a revision of beliefs to the degree that it challenges an individual's fundamental way of thinking. Approaching from a critical political economy point of view the problem of class consciousness in its relationship to the climate crisis has the advantage of being able to grasp at the same time two dimensions: a) the problem of continuous and profound change that proletariat consciousness requires both in capitalist conditions and in conditions of socialist transformation and b) the ability of class consciousness to represent a fundamentally different approach to nature which transcends its bourgeois reification and seeks for a new integration within history.

Disaster Colonialism, Tourism, And Mobilities: Injustice In The Context Of Climate Change

Francesca Colla

University of Trento, Italy

Tourism is one of the leading industries to take advantage of post-disaster contexts in processes that can be framed as disaster capitalism. In postcolonial geographies, it is crucial to understand disaster capitalism as rooted in long histories of colonial capitalism. The tourist industry exemplifies this connection. Tourism epistemically and materially relies upon neocolonial imaginaries and practices that essentialize places and people and enable their exploitation and dispossession.

This calls for an analysis of the multiple lines that connect tourism, (neo)colonialism, and disaster capitalism: climate change mobilities increasingly stand at the crossroads of these multiple lines. In the context of climate change, relocation and eviction can be proposed and/or implemented in post-disaster contexts when portions of land are labeled as vulnerable/risky/uninhabitable—a non-exhaustive list—displacing local communities. It is in this space that capital interests, often in concert with state power, engage in land grabbing for the purpose of tourism development.

The paper presents research conducted on the island of Barbuda following the destructive passage of Hurricane Irma in September 2017. After having been displaced, Barbudans are resisting tourism development carried out by foreign investors with support from the national government, framing it as disaster capitalism.

An analysis of this case through a perspective informed by climate justice and mobility justice, understood as two sides of the same coin, will reveal the increasing normative role of climate change discourse to justify mobilities and advance private interests in disaster contexts.

The Global Social and Ecological Disasters: Green Finance and Human Rights as Entry Points for Progressive Struggles?

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Given the highly unequal over-use of global natural resources and the ecological and social disasters going along with this, the paper analyses the potential for progressive strategies. Thereby, the paper critically analysis two processes at the EU-level aiming at addressing environmental (and social) problems. Firstly, it focusses on the initiatives in green finance that are fostered by capitalist groups in finance and industry. Secondly, it analyses the attempts at the EU-level to force European companies to comply with human rights standards and ecological standards in the global periphery, referred to as the European Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (EU-CSDDD). Both, the debate around green finance as well as the remerging discussion on global social and environmental standards in the context of the EU-CSDDD provide entry points to for a critical questioning of capitalist structures. However, until know, capitalism has not been put into question within these debates. The following questions arise: How could radical reformist progressive strategies be fostered? Who could be the proponents of radical reforms? Will this suffice and lead to structural changes that push back capitalism? This links to the classical question of reform or revolution which is reappearing in the context of the deepening multiple crises of disaster capitalism.

Investigating Class Dynamics in Transition to Sustainable Energy

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While the transition to sustainable/renewable energy holds promise for the climate crisis, its labour implications are not straightforward. This paper theoretically explores the intricate facets of the energy transition, offering both quantitative and qualitative insights to uncover its likely impact on labour and class dynamics. Historically, transitions in labour, such as the transition from coal to gas, as exemplified by Timothy Mitchell's concept of "carbon democracy" or transformations in the capitalist mode of production in the 1960s and 1970s, marked by the emergence of the "mass-worker" and the increase in the automated processes have fundamentally reshaped the class dynamics. Yet, the transition from fossil fuels to renewables is no ordinary shift; it entails a complex narrative that has frequently been oversimplified by assuming that change should occur primarily from the bottom up, through grassroots movements, or be brought by government policy while overlooking the intricate power plays, authority structures, and divergent interests of various stakeholders. This paper endeavors to shed light upon the class dynamics in the context of energy transition, combining Antonio Gramci's framework on "historical bloc" with Erik Olin Wright's class analysis. Thereby, it contributes to the broader theoretical discussions around the question of how to enable a just and sustainable energy transition. Incorporating class dynamics into the energy transition enhances our understanding of power structures, the potential impacts on different classes, and the distribution of benefits and burdens.

RN06 | T04_02: Post-Capitalist Knowledge for a Post-Capitalist Future?

Capitalism and the Fragmenting Pillars of Society and Education

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In this paper I examine the effects of three modes of capitalist accumulation on four of the key pillars of society and education. Education crystallizes the tensions that capitalism presents, so for this paper I will focus on it; attention will be drawn to the wider societal and political implications. They are:

Time – The socialization of students into capitalist time when due to the climate crisis we are fast running out of time.

Knowledge and Truth – the polarization of wealth and income have led to culture wars, a questioning of science and the notion of fake truth. This is having a fundamental impact on what counts as knowledge and what should be included in the curriculum

Democratic Citizenship – the primary aim of education under neo-Liberalism has been getting a good job. This instrumental aim has meant that many other important aims are such as citizenship are seen as irrelevant at a time when authoritarianism is a threat.

Contribution – this is typically understood in terms of employment. But a broken labour market and the advent of new technologies, e.g., AI means we need to rethink the political economy of citizens making a contribution.

While these fragmenting pillars raise fundamental tensions, they also create a space in which a progressive education is possible.

Constructing a Radical Scientific Advisory Group

Sam Colclough

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The COVID-19 pandemic cemented the status of scientific advisory groups as key actors in contemporary governance frameworks. This paper seeks to develop an account of what a scientific advisory group underpinned by a commitment to radical political economy might look like in order to elucidate how science can be mobilised towards transformative ends. It is imagined that such science advice could orient the activities of radical political organisations during an emergency. The paper argues that an inextricable relationship exists between political economies and ways of knowing in the advisory context. This builds on prior research at the intersection of sociology and philosophy which focused on two such institutions in the UK during the pandemic: SAGE, the formal advisory group informing government decision-making, and Independent SAGE, an advisory group formed by public health scientists concerned about a lack of transparency in SAGE. If the bodies of knowledge produced by these groups unavoidably embodied particular political economies – paternalistic neoliberalism and third way social democracy, respectively – then it follows that alternative political economic preferences can underpin the knowledge production of other scientific advisory groups. Having established the defensibility of such an endeavour, the paper then considers the construction of scientific advisory groups seeking to address the underlying causes of crises, in contrast to the more limited focus on epidemiological firefighting that characterised advisory groups during the pandemic. A critical science then becomes available to activists, facilitating the avoidance of anti-scientism on the one hand and an uncritical veneration of science on the other.

Out of Time: Exploring the Temporal Dimensions of Catastrophe Capitalism

Alistair Bernal Holmes

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After decades in which the political imaginary was confined to the narrow horizon of the present, far-away-sounding dates – 2035, 2050, 2100 – have returned to everyday conversation. Indeed, the widespread adoption of the notion of an 'anthropocene' situates our current era within the vast expanse of geological time. To what extent do these changes signal a break with the 'presentist' regimes of temporality and historicity characteristic of the neoliberal epoch, epitomised by the Thatcherite slogan 'there is no alternative'?

This paper seeks to explore the temporal dimensions of the current crisis of capitalism in order to better understand the challenges facing those who wish to avoid the catastrophe intrinsic to the unchecked progress of the present economic system. Despite renewed talk of the future, it remains a future locked-in to the economic rhythms of the present – of turnover cycles, returns on investments and the ever increasing expansion of growth. As we contend with the environmental consequences of industry past, the spiraling tendrils of accumulation reach out decades into the future, ensnaring it in the logic of capital. Meanwhile, in an increasingly financialised world, impossible demands are placed on future labour in an attempt to forestall present crises. These echo the temporal fixes to delay the climate crisis championed by the proponents of geoengineering. The effect of this indebtedness to the near-future (itself an extension of the present) is an inescapable urgency – heightened immeasurably by the need to avert climate disaster. However, this urgency curtails transformative action, instead feeding back into accelerative circuits of technological development and accumulation.

Future is always for someone and for some purposes: Futures Studies meet Critical political Economy

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Future Studies represent a branch of the social sciences explicitly devoted to the study and exploration of possible futures through foresight techniques and methods. In relation to the birth of the discipline, it can be located after the Second World War within the US military and consulting/think tank complex (the fundamental actor in the early development of foresight analysis and FS is RAND corporation). In light of this genesis, in the first phase, FS were characterised by a positivist – and therefore reductionist – approach to the future (behaviourism was dominant at the time), which in turn was conceived in a very deterministic manner. Prediction and control were the purposes of foresight. Things started to change after the consolidation of post-positivist approaches in the broader realm of social sciences. FS underwent fundamental changes starting from its foundational questions: What is the future? How is it linked to the present? How can we study it? In recent years, FS have had an initial but important opening towards critical, feminist and decolonial positions. While these positions are gaining strength today, critical political economy still remains marginal to the political and espistemological horizon of FS. The purpose of this presentation is to begin a more structured dialogue between CPE and FS. In particular: breaking with a technocratic approach to the future as a matter for experts only and in which only experts must hava a say; deconstructing the idea of the future as a single one for all classes and marginalised communities, thus discussing the plurality of its ontology; encouraging and making explicit a more bottom-up approach to the construction of desired futures.

RN06 | T05_01: The Politics and Ideology of the Right

The Road to God-Knows Where? Ideological Inconsistency,The Polycrisis and the European Far-Right

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The European Far Right has continued to grow and develop into different mutations as a continued symptom of the Polycrisis. Whilst Brexit was seen to a degree as a process that would stem the desire to leave the EU, it has not halted the growth and success of the radical right across Europe. As a result, a consortium of discourses has emerged since the Brexit vote that provide a contrasting set of position on the EU and in turn a contrasting set of wider ideilogical objectives. From a European-wide ethnic nationalism on the one hand to a re-affirmation of an EU exit on the other, alongside a whole range of different approaches between the two, the far-right has sought to re-define its traditional Euro-sceptic stance of national withdrawal. This paper will outline these competing positions and argue that they add to the contradictions and inconsistencies that have long characterised far-right discourses. It will suggest that these contrasting and confusing narratives only serves to highlight the insecurities and unpredictability of the Polycrisis.

The Republican Right, Performative Crisis, and the Rules of Reproduction

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The United States, by many accounts, is experiencing a breakdown in its party system, with an accompanying threat to its democratic institutions. Beyond the obvious lack of bipartisan cooperation, actors across the Republican Party seem willing to flout political convention, engage in flagrant hypocrisy or contradictory behaviour, and even publicly denigrate long-held political values. Donald Trump's political ascendance remains a factor, but even his bombastic political antics have required an accommodating political milieu, one infiltrated with the perception of imminent crisis in American society. The proposed paper seeks to explain the ever-increasing restrictive politics of the right through a change in the 'rules of reproduction' for Republican actors, a process underway since the advent of the Tea Party. The rules of reproduction—a concept utilized within political Marxism—explains social agents' historical actions, based on the degree to which those actions conform to prevailing societal rules for social reproduction or survival. Starting with the 2008 financial crisis and the emerging political struggle around the Affordable Care Act, Republican rules of reproduction were 'innovatively' altered, and have come to be oriented around a depiction

of American society in crisis or collapse. Corresponding to this, the accepted political reaction to perceived crisis has become draconian policy prescriptions oriented around swift 'action'. Across a range of issue areas—immigration, abortion, voting rights, etc—Republican behaviour adheres to rules that require a harsh performative depiction of societal decay and collapse, while aspiring (often begrudgingly) to policies that will, ostensibly, put America right again.

Economic neoliberalism and international relations during the Cold War: from Pinochet's Chile to the epoch of Thatcher and Reagan.

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Ionian Univeristy, Greece

This paper explores the origins and evolution of neoliberal theory, examining its impact on diverse geographical areas. Neoliberalism, as an economic, ideological, and political movement, advocated the principles of market fundamentalism, while simultaneously promising to address the challenges associated with the accumulation of international capital during the 1970s and 1980s. However, the neoliberal policies enacted by Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990), Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990), and Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) were shaped by historical developments within the capitalist 'cosmosystem'. In the context of the proliferation of the "Geography of Uneven Development," it can be argued that the narratives surrounding neoliberalism have emerged as a result of the imposition of a standardised economic model by a dominant regime, rather than promoting diversification. In other words, the aforementioned policies were not determined by innovation and competition among national, regional, or metropolitan governance and economic development models. On the contrary, occasionally resulted in monopolistic outcomes. To conduct a thorough analysis of this project, we employ an interdisciplinary methodology that integrates archival research and theories from subfields of international relations. The incorporation of materials pertaining to foreign policy, intelligence, and public opinion will facilitate the examination of this insufficiently researched topic. This approach will yield timely scholarly outputs that will enrich various subdisciplines within the realms of social sciences and humanities.

Neoliberal Recomposition Of 'Non-market' Spaces: An Examination Of The Big Society's Success in England

Ian Bruff

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The 'Big Society' agenda, promoted by the British Conservative Party in the years after global financial meltdown in 2008, is widely understood to have been a failure. Yet this view is reliant upon an unnecessarily narrow understanding of policy success (or lack of). At most, it is seen as a rhetorical cover for the often-brutal austerity programme introduced by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition from 2010 onwards. In contrast, this presentation argues that the agenda was instrumental in shaping how austerity politics played out after 2010 in England. Of particular importance was the growing role in public service delivery of private, profit-making companies on the one hand, and voluntary, charitable work on the other. Therefore, the Big Society's impact can be understood as a neoliberal recomposition of 'non-market' spaces, which was always at the heart of the neoliberal worldview. There are implications in and beyond England. Firstly, a reappraisal of the Big Society in the 2020s is overdue if we are to acknowledge fully what happened in England regarding the multiple austerian legacies generated across the 2010s. Secondly, the how of austerity needs to be examined as much as the what, opening up the scope for research enquiries into austerity's (after)lives in and across multiple local, regional and national contexts. Finally, social reproduction – in conceptual, methodological and analytical terms – must be central to how contemporary capitalism is understood, explained and transformed, especially regarding struggles over 'non-market' (re)compositions.

RN06 | T06_01: Understanding finance, money, and debt in contemporary capitalism

Financialisation as a Process

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We propose a novel context for financialisation and argue, that financialisation can be understood as a process within the totality of capital, exhibiting specific structural forms. To address this, we propose a systematic approach that employs Marx's 'moments of capital' – production, realisation, consumption, and distribution – and define financialisation as a general tendency of capital. Marx's moments of capital stress the notion that capital is a process that expands perpetually through continuous accumulation, but keeps its constituent elements in the form of a metabolic totality. We show with our approach that each individual moment of capital exhibits financialisation, defined as growing importance of financial deals over material expansion.

The contemporary structural form of financialisation is fuelled by the production of an increasing mass of surplus, manages overaccumulated capital that lacks profitable investment opportunities to be realised, supports consumption that lacks adequate current income, and successfully intervenes in the distribution of incomes through shareholder-value orientation practices.

With this framework, we can demonstrate that the contemporary structural form of financialisation is governed by its function to absorb social surplus, which continuously rises due to laws of monopoly capital. Because of this, the management of incomes takes on central significance in explaining economic stability. In other words, the perpetuation of the specific structural form of the process of financialisation, rests on the successful management of surplus. In this paper we show how financialisation arises from each moment of capital individually, integrated in a metabolic whole. This framework substantially changes the interpretation of "what financialisation actually is" and thereby of much of the empirical literature on financialisation.

Financialization in Football: Unveiling Complexities, Resisting Transitions, and Nurturing Academic Discourse

Pau Lopez Gaitan

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There has been growing interest in the impact of financialization on employment relations (Thompson and Cushen, 2020; Batt and Appelbaum, 2014), industrial action (Gouzoulis, 2021), and new investors (Clark, 2023). This presentation aims to further enrich the literature of financialization by examining its manifestations and the emerging resistance within the football industry. Utilizing Sydney Rothstein's 2022 framework, the study investigates the complex impacts of financialization on these football clubs, while also placing significant emphasis on the growing resistance movements.

The preliminary results from our fieldwork at FC Barcelona and RCD Espanyol provide insightful examples of financialization's impact, particularly in terms of layoffs and organizational restructuring. Despite their contrasting ownership models – FC Barcelona being fan-owned and RCD Espanyol as a classic capitalist firm – both clubs serve as exemplars of financialization's permeability. This comparative analysis seeks to understand the tension between financial priorities, characterized by a focus on short-term gains and stringent performance metrics, and the traditional values intrinsic to football. This tension has instigated varied forms of resistance from a range of stakeholders, including fans, players, and club employees, thus offering a fertile ground for academic exploration and discussion.

Rothstein's framework critically guides our analysis of these resistance movements. It is employed not just to interpret responses to immediate financial strategies, but also to provide a broader perspective on the cultural shift towards a financialized model within football. By highlighting the case of football, this presentation contributes significantly to the literature on financialization, aiming to provide a nuanced understanding of how financialization unfolds in specific industries and the ways in which resistance movements can inform and challenge prevailing economic theories and practices.

In the Engine Room of Societal Transformations. Money and the Reconfiguration of Infrastructural Regimes

Oliver Bierhoff

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Societies rely on infrastructures for functionality and reproduction. This is particularly evident during crises, which expose the precarious state of both infrastructures and social orders. It can therefore be concluded that infrastructures are also crucial for societal transformations and deserve increased attention in efforts to achieve a more sustainable development. However, a significant challenge arises when considering the current state of infrastructure. Substantial investments are required not only for their maintenance but, more critically, for their socio-ecological reorganization. However, the lack of concrete ideas on how to design sustainable infrastructures is not the only significant challenge. The main obstacle is the lack of money.

Based on this, the thesis is discussed that money itself represents a – specifically shaped – societal infrastructure that needs to be transformed before opportunities for further infrastruc-tural transformations can open up, because money occupies a focal position in modern moneta-ry societies and their intricate infrastructural network, serving as

the "infrastructure of infra-structures". Therefore, a transformation of the present political architecture of this monetary "superstructure", which implies a transformation of orthodox notions of money, monetary economy and monetary policy, appears to be a crucial prerequisite for a reconfiguration of infrastructural regimes as a whole.

In this way emancipatory spaces of possibility could emerge whose perspective – continuing the "socialisation of the monetary machine" (A. Sahr) – could consist in a "socialisation", i.e. public re-appropriation of further material and social infrastructures and a de-commodification of their services. This could enable a socio-ecological 're-embedding,' thereby interrupting the dynamics of disaster capitalism and making sustainability as an infrastructurally enabled public good more attainable.

Public Debt and the Top One Percent Through the Interest Channel: The Italian Case, 1974-2021

Aggela Papadopoulou

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This paper offers the first time series analysis on the drivers of the top percentile's income share in Italy from 1974 to 2019, focusing primarily on the effects of public debt. First, the paper presents the mechanisms through which domestically held public debt can increase the top one percent income share, either via interest payments or capital gains from bond trading. Subsequently, it scrutinizes the evolution of public debt and the income share of the top one percent in Italy, in parallel with the historical development of political and economic institutions. This part highlights that, due to high-risk premia, Italy has historically faced high borrowing costs, and its sovereign bonds were never considered safe assets. Building on the historical analysis, this paper demonstrates econometrically that domestic public debt, and in particular interest payments on domestic public debt increase the income share of the top one percent in Italy for the period 1974 to 2019. In addition, union density and welfare spending have equalizing effects as they reduce the income share of the top centile, whereas exports and total returns on equity further induce inequality.

RN06 | T06_02: Alternatives in and beyond disaster capitalism

Economic Alternatives to Capitalism: Anthropology of Resistance through Zapatista Coffee Exchange

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"The destructive advance of Capital, always through war, devastated nations and upon their ruins erected a new global order: the market. The entire world became a big warehouse for commodities. Everything can be bought and sold: water, wind, land, plants and animals, governments, knowledge, fun, desire, love, hate, people. But that wasn't enough either. It is not possible to dominate the world if one does not dominate ideas. […] In the current world war, the dispute is between the system and humanity. That is why the anticapitalist struggle is a struggle for humanity." (EZLN 2017)

Since long before their public uprising 30 years ago, the EZLN has been progressively building an alternative social, political and economic organization through the reappropriation of the land directly by rural communities, claiming gradual independence from Mexican state. Their fight for autonomy sets an example for multiple social movements around the globe resisting predatory and destructive capitalism.

This study aims to investigate – from an engaged anthropological perspective – the ethics behind activist coffee exchange in solidarity with Zapatista rebellion, observing strategies implemented to rationally justify commercial exchanges while demonizing "market economy" and its dehumanizing powers. Through the lenses of informal economic practices as forms of resistance, the attempt is to underline possible tensions between claims for territorial and political autonomy and relations with international solidarity networks holding purchasing powers and to observe how activities are narrated and performed to build trade alternatives and opportunities for action within a highly politicized economic sphere.

From A Radical Disruptor To A Mainstream Alternative: Exploring The Plausible Futures Of The Political Left In Europe, The Case Of EHBildu

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It is widely argued that the political left in Europe is currently in crisis with growing support for right-wing movements

and parties, and a tendency for the traditional left to move towards the centre. This tendency is also visible in the Spanish case, with the political stabilisation of PSOE under the leadership of Pedro Sanchez, and the support of Sumar.

Nationalist movement in Ireland and Basque Country have been traditionally associated with the left and have in more recent years transition towards a non-violent political context. They have also become key players in the political systems in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Spain.

In this paper I will focus on the evolution and developments within EHBildu coalition party, widely associated with the Basque independent movement, in Spain. I will argue EH-Bildu offers an example of political development that has maintained association with grassroots organisations, and ideas of the progressive left including anti-austerity, feminism, income equalities, strong welfare state, environmentalism and social responsibility of economic players.

Specifically, within the context of Spain I will explore whether EH Bildu can constitute an alternative political option as demonstrated in recent electoral results (e.g. May and July 2023), as well as constitute itself as a building block for a stronger alternative left by challenging the ongoing organic crisis of the traditional conservative party, PNV in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and continued support for neoliberal solutions. The paper will try to draw preliminary conclusions about the Left in Basque Country, and how its experience can inform and/or hinder the development of a progressive Left in Spain and wider European context.

The Digital Princess*+: a Normative Theory of Transformative Subjectivities in Platform Capitalism

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The paper develops a normative theory of the Digital Princess*+ (DP*+) as the collective and connective subject for Platform Socialist advances. Critical digital studies have made fundamental advances in knowledge about how digital platforms play essential roles in splitting and demobilising the movements of platform labour (Fuchs 2014; Moore & Woodcock 2021). However, the issue of what kind of political organisation can disrupt platform capitalism is under-theorised: for instance, proponents of Social Democracy 4.0 (Fuchs 2019) or left-wing populist alliances (Gilbert & Williams 2022), do not specify the attributes of these formations. We propose an update of Gramscian theorisation of the Modern Prince as the necessary collective organisation to disrupt hegemony: the Digital Princess is fluid (*) and pluralistic (+) as any Socialist organisation is a platform for feminist, anti-racist, ecologist liberation. We elaborate on three propositions by drawing on our previous work on the organisational attributes of the Progressive Network-Systems (Guglielmo & Ward, in press). First, the DP*+ connects struggles to reclaim the re-appropriation of the digital means of production – data centres and digital infrastructures – as an ideological cement. Second, the DP*+ is multi-level and multi-layered to secure both the empowerment of grassroots activism and the scale of effective disruption: for this purpose, we sketch out examples indicating why municipal, nationwide and international forms of organisation are complementary and necessary pieces of Platform Socialist advances. Finally, the DP*+ combines strategic positioning and manoeuvring: rather than being antinomic, both strategies are necessary to disrupt platform capitalism. Ultimately, we aim to provide an analytical toolkit for critical scholars and progressive activists to debate the forms of organisation of disruptive politics in the digital age.

RN06 | T07_01: Understanding the Global in Global Capitalism

Corridor Wars: The Fight To Restructure Global Trade Routes

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The war in Gaza has put into on a new light on a trend in the structure of the global economy that had been launched by the Chinese One Belt One Road programme. ndeed, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor had been in negociation as a competing plan sponsored by the US, and to be estblished by India, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. In the current paper, we discuss what the recent emergence of such plans mean for global political economy. In fact, they paint a completely new picture of International political economy at this start of 21st century. Contrary to the start of the 20th century, where colonialism enabled the construction of infrastructures for the exploitation of the colonized, the current turn of the century sees the abandonment of significant parts of state sovreignty around infrastructural networks for the global trade system. This is called to be transforming of both national politics, the global economy and global governance.

Foreign Policy as Domestic Political Economy: A Critical Analysis

Rong Wei

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Foreign policy is somewhat of a neglected area within the field of critical political economy. This paper analyses how foreign policy is presented in traditional international relations and suggests a more critical alternative which not only links foreign policy to domestic political economy but sees foreign policy as an aspect of domestic political economy. The paper is in two parts. Part one analyses the theoretical literature and suggests that a critical political economy alternative is to be found in the `primacy of domestic politics' approach originally developed by Eckart Kehr. The fundamental issue for Kehr was not simply whether domestic political considerations sometimes cause foreign policy to deviate from its predetermined course in minor details, but rather the extent to which foreign policy was `determined all along the line by the social structure'. In short, Kehr argues that it is `technically impossible to isolate foreign policy from all other aspects of life' and erroneous to consider it purely a matter of the Foreign Office and interstate diplomacy. Ruling parties proceed from the objectives of their domestic political economy and foreign policy is `a means to their domestic ends'. Part two of the paper provides an empirical illustration, drawing on newly released archives, of the use of Kehr's framework looking at the UK Conservative government's strategy in negotiations with China over the return of Hong Kong to China with effect from 1 July 1997.

Regional pathologies of late-stage neoliberalization: A Regulation Theory account

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This paper considers the way that states promote a neoliberal regime of accumulation through regional expansion. In doing so, the paper argues that we can grasp a better understanding of the tensions, or 'pathologies', that mark both regional integration, and the development of the neoliberal mode of regulation. In depicting a number of 'pathologies', we seek to describe systemically-produced problems, social ills, or sources of dysfunctionality, that afflict neoliberalism as a social system. The central insights of Regulation Theory – that multiple and inter-connected institutional efforts are required in any attempt to address the intrinsic crisis-tendencies of any particular regime of capital accumulation, but that these institutional forms will in turn generate new crisis-tendencies – is presented as a framework through which to produce a more coherent account of the pathologies that are afflicting both Japan and the wider East Asian region. Whilst these pathologies are addressed here through an exploration of the case of Japan in East Asia, nevertheless, this same process of accumulation through expansionary neoliberalization has generated similar problems across the contemporary global political economy, and as such offers insights into the broader problems afflicting late-stage neoliberalism.

RN06 | T07_02: Capitalist forms and their contestation

Understanding Contemporary Disaster Capitalism Through The Value Form

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Coercion and consent in disaster capitalism has reached a new perceived high in our lifetimes. The violent imposition of capitalism lies in the fundamental supposition of the class struggle (Burnham, 1994). The question of the origins of capitalism necessarily calls for an integral conceptualisation of the conditions for its perpetual quest for profit maximisation. Capitalism as social process encapsulates the whole of global relations organised under the exchange of commodities. The capitalist mode of production necessitates the violent imposition of order and the rule of money. The predisposition of social organisation around the incentives of money mediating the production of commodities is based on the predomination of waged labour and the imposition of labour discipline (de Angelis, 2001). The separation of the means of production from their immediate producers is necessary to create the double freedom of the wage labourer. Governance finds itself in a state of primitive accumulation manifest in permanent crisis management. Pressures on the domestic sphere in terms of industrial and commercial capital mirror, determine and interact in an international race to stay competitive in the foreign markets. Value in this appears in the general social form not as the satisfaction of basic needs but for sustained profitability in economic performance of individual nation states to stay on top. The creation of value as social form (Lange, 2019) and necessary element in the process of valorisation is directly counterposed of the need of capitalism for competitiveness vis-à-vis the need of its nation to secure means for subsistence. This presents nothing “but an unfortune” (Marx, 1887:509). The historical specificity of capitalism is this mute compulsion (Mau, 2019).

Understanding State Expenditure Through a Critical Political Economy Lens

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To confront Disaster Capitalism resources are needed. Beyond solidarity, financial means have been proven useful to facilitate social infrastructures of care, health, and research in capitalism. However, there are only limited means for social forces outside the dominant capital fractions to access finance and the quantitatively spoken biggest path to generate large scale funding runs via the credit-extension capacities of the nation-state. Insofar, it becomes a pivotal question, how levels of expenditure differ and how these are being determined.

There are various strands of scholarship – from neoclassical economics to monetary sovereignty – trying to explain diverging levels of expenditure either through state revenue, access to liquidity or re-financing conditions on international and national financial markets as well as with multilateral institutions. However, these structure-focused approaches tend to sideline the political agency of social forces pushing for the provision of social infrastructures as well as the regressive forces seeking the opposite. I argue that, within a certain spectrum being structurally determined, the power dynamics of the social forces within that particular administrative area and partially beyond are indeed decisive. Insofar, the level of state expenditure is ultimately decided in a political process. Understanding these processes is key for a Critical Political Economy, particularly in an era of plummeting state expenditures in the Global South. Through a large n-study I identify cases of dependent economies in the Global South whose expenditure cannot solely be explained through structural factors and demonstrate that social forces are the only way to explain diverging expenditures.

Renting Out The City: Property Rights As A Locus Of Class Struggle In Post-Austerity Lisbon

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Just over a decade ago, the city of Lisbon served as a symbol of the devastation of the Eurozone crisis. After accepting emergency loans in 2011, the Portuguese government adopted a series of reforms to attract foreign investment that included abandoning tenancy protections, a “golden visa” program offering residency permits in exchange for real estate investments in excess of €500,000, and a variety of tax incentives. In the wake of such policies, a rent gap, as theorized by Neil Smith, developed, the closing of which was accelerated by the emergence of short-term rental platforms, such as Airbnb. As foreign capital flooded the Portuguese housing market, residential buildings were converted into short-term rentals (STRs) for tourists and expatriates, with rent increases, displacement, and social opposition following. In response, Portuguese officials have proposed a series of policies that, rather than meaningfully address the affordability issue, arguably further redistribute public resources to private investors. Contributing a neo-Gramscian voice to critical urban studies and geography perspectives focusing on the links between the financialization of housing markets, the use of STR platforms, and displacement, this article directs attention to the issue of property rights at stake in the affordable housing crisis in Lisbon. In doing so, it asserts that the state’s mediation of the boundaries between the public and private through the codification of property rights represents the front lines of a vigorous class struggle, the outcome of which has significant concrete distributional impacts.

Regulating Transnational Supply Chains Within Increased Geopolitical Competition. The Eu Directive For Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

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The proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDDD) is a notable example of the current transformations of the global economic order. Building upon the models of national legislations (French, German, and Dutch), the proposal purportedly aims to force large companies to realize due diligence in their value chains to prevent violations of human, environment and labor rights. Furthermore, the directive should apply not only to EU companies, but also to large transnational companies operating in the EU.

Combining political economy, legal and sociological analysis, this paper aims to analyze this phenomenon from a world-system and neo-Gramscian perspective, assessing how the directive might affect unequal exchange between core and peripheral countries and why fractions of capital of the core may be favorable to such purported transformations. Indeed, as the proposed directive – at least discursively – aims to enhance the respect of human rights, labor rights and to fight climate change, it will jeopardize two of the pillars of unequal exchange, that are «cheap labor» and «cheap nature». A combined analysis of the potential impact of the CSDDD and the fractions of capital that support such normative project casts light on how strategies to cope with the climate crisis, and human rights and labor rights violations may contribute to shaping the new economic order. In doing so, the paper would contribute to the debate on global governance and the emergence of a post-neoliberal order.

RN06 | T08_01: Resistance, struggle, and survival in contemporary capitalism

From State to Market Feminism: Impacts on Feminist Organizations and Organizing

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This article explores the shift from State to market feminism, and its effects on feminist organizations and organizing. I draw on the case of the gender equality field in a French region, from the first regional public policies in 1981 to 2020.

The methodology combines an historical perspective of the actors in the field and their relationships (archival work) and a field-level ethnography of the on-going relational dynamics between (feminist and non feminist) associative actors, with governments, and with the 'newcomers' market actors (consultancy firms, corporate foundations). I have studied this fieldwork during 3 years as a researcher and a feminist associative actor.

The findings consist in an ethnographic case study mobilizing vignettes. They highlight the nuanced effects of the transition from State to market feminism on feminist organizations and their workers. While some organizations adapt to market pressures, adopting business-like approaches and depoliticizing their agendas ('NGOisation'), others resist and maintain a focus on advocacy and community-based initiatives, but are marginalized. Mutual organizational stigma nurtures a polarization: the 'co-opted' feminist organizations who manage to navigate the market, and the 'amateur activist' organizations who do not.

I discuss the risks of a two-tiered feminism, while collaboration between diverse feminist organizations has been crucial to deliver gender equality public services to vulnerable populations (e.g. to combat gender-based violence).

The study contributes to existing literature on commodification of social cause, and feminist organizing. Understanding the effects of market feminism is essential to build possibilities to resist it.

Women's Production and Reproduction Work that Powers the Artificial Intelligence Industry

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The proliferation of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry fundamentally relies upon human labour of data annotation. Although most data annotation platform companies

operate from the US and Europe, the labour force for this low-wage, piece work is primarily home-based workers in Global South countries, and India has emerged as a significant location for this work. As a feminist scholar, I center my attention on the lives and experiences of women in India working on these platforms. The paper draws on Marxist feminist and international division of labour frameworks as I interrogate two key institutions: the family and the State. Presenting a range of ethnographic data of women in different parts of India working as home-based workers, I argue that the family and the State play a key role in reproducing feminized platform work and ways they normalizing intensive working conditions for women. These social relations with the family and the State, in turn, shape women's ideas of themselves as workers, their political subjectivity on the platforms, and their imaginaries of resistance against families, paid work and international labour regimes. Finally, I also draw upon interviews with union organizers to conceptualize and critique the existing state and concerns around platform organizing from a feminist perspective. In doing so, I highlight dimensions of informal organizing that women data annotators in India do and the possibilities of expanding the organizing agenda for platform work towards a more collective working-class struggle against capitalist political economy.

Survival Work Under Austerity – Self-Organising Welfare For Migrant Women Within A Hostile State.

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This project looks at the various ways in which South Asian migrant women in Greater Manchester, UK, engage in 'survival work' under the UK government's hostile environment policies. It frames the legacy of austerity and privatisation of the local voluntary sector, as part of an attempt to make life in the UK difficult for migrant women through a gradual neoliberalisation of welfare services that they rely on. This slow encroachment on access to welfare due to reduced funding available to provide basic needs such as shelter, healthcare and food, will be explored to show that the most long lasting impact on migrants' access to the welfare state, has been from the state itself and a consistent effort to produce a hostile environment for migrants across the UK.

Migrant communities within the UK are made up of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in contemporary Britain. However, despite this, migrant communities flourish across Britain, developing internal hidden modes of survival which enable their care in lieu of a welfare state that protects and empowers them. Using photovoice as its central methodology, this project unearths the Shadow Care Infrastructures (SCI's) (Power et al, 2022) crucial to emancipating themselves, from the ongoing neoliberalisation of the welfare state, whilst simultaneously offering us a radical conceptual roadmap to resistance against such structures.

Resistance in the post-2008 World: how to Subvert Neo-liberal Practices and Ideas in the Case of UK Higher Education

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This paper engages with the issue of resistance and engendering change to our current neo-liberal status quo. It starts by arguing that the 2008 financial crash exposed some fundamental problems with this system, while the ways in which it was tackled led to wide-spread discontent, expressed in phenomena like Brexit or the rise of populism across the Western world. Arguably, these could be conducive to challenging the prevailing institutions and practices. Next, the paper discusses what and how we should resist, putting forward the proposition that post-structuralism provides important insights into challenging the currently dominant neo-liberal worldview. The last substantive section builds on these points to advance a particular suggestion for utilising these ideas in practice, focusing on ways of resisting neo-liberal practices in the field of Higher Education in the United Kingdom. The idea is to try to subvert the use of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) or League Tables through educating prospective students about alternative elements that can be considered in the formulation of their outcomes (i.e. the contractual status of the academic staff that will be providing the prospective students' teaching or the number of hours they teach per week). The goal is for such inquiries during the admission process to put pressure on Universities to take action on improving the 'input' side of teaching. This will not only help academic staff in its on-going struggle over employment terms and conditions but would also open up space for understanding education as a good in its own right rather than follow the neo-liberal instrumental approach to knowledge.

RN06 | T09_01: Extractivism, Climate Coloniality, and the Green Transition

Spatial Responses to Climate Coloniality: Reworking Hierarchies of Energy and Harm in Hydropower Infrastructures

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In the production of energy increasingly turning towards renewables, spaces of harm and privilege are related through energy flows and infrastructures such as transmission lines or hydropower dams. Linking recent analysis on global political economy's co-constitutive relation with the local and recent work on the coloniality of infrastructures, I argue that the spaces and relations that such energy infrastructures have produced are hierarchical, and energy sacrifice and privilege have to be understood in relation to each other. Yet the relations built can also produce alliances of contestation that themselves shape space. Based on interviews and participant observation in Costa Rica, I explore what the conversion of a planned sacrifice zone into areas where people can live and care for nature tells us about how people forge spatial relations in the process of contesting such large-scale infrastructure projects, reworking socio-spatial hierarchies in the process. In the case of the now archived Diquís hydropower project, presented by successive governments as securing 'climate-friendly' energy, alliances of environmental and indigenous activists decried it would have transformed indigenous territories into a (flooded) sacrifice zone.

The Extractivist Logic Of Ecological Law And The Speculative Subject Of Sustainability

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This study uses the theory of legal form developed by Evgeny Pashukanis to explore how capital presents itself as the subject of the "green development" of the Swedish north, overlapping with indigenous Sami land. Analyzing the drive to establish a windmill park in the inland municipality of Ånge, we focus on the legal codification of ecosocial relationships through a process of value attribution or speculation, where capital emerges as subject by sustaining and valorizing local forms of natural life and culture in conformity with the Environmental code. This case allows us to explore the process of commodification entailed by the subsumption of ecosocial relationships into capital as subject of sustainability, as well as the interconnected context of "green" capitalism. Ånge has increasingly been described as a hub in the production of hydrogen gas, which is needed to power the green steel industries along the northern coastline, and Ånge itself is set to become a "new, innovative industrial ecosystem". The windmill park we focus on is part of this larger context of capital accumulation, which is ideologically and politically premised on the presentation of capital as a subject of sustainability that preserves and develops preexisting ecosocial values. Using Pashukanis' theory in an analysis of the licensing procedure in the prospecting phase of windmill establishment, we explore how areas are figured as "sustainable" extractivist zones through the process of value attribution.

International Financial Subordination & the Climate Crisis – How Are the Positions of Kenya and Bolivia in the International Monetary System Shaping the Green Transition –

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The green transition is being shaped by the macro-financial architectures of global capitalism. Articulating the structural power of finance, these architectures are shaped by market-based finance, reflecting the dollars' hegemonic position in the international monetary system. Green transition policymaking and the economic governance frameworks that surround it are refracted through these market-financial logics; structuring institutional forms, constructing opportunities for intervention, and distorting development pathways.

Although hegemonic, the ways that macro-financial architectures manifest are deeply uneven, contradictory and unequal. This study will explore how these processes, manifest in the form of international financial subordination (IFS) – limiting policy space, increasing costs and instability – operate in the Global South to shape the green transition. Telling the story of how the financial structures of capitalism shape its productive processes, this study focuses on the cases of critical mineral mining in Bolivia and renewable energy development in Kenya. Situated in critical political economy, this study will utilise novel analyses of (secondary) empirical data combined with primary data (elite interviews) gathered through fieldwork in Bolivia and Kenya.

On these foundations, this study will serve the broader purpose of improving understanding on the finance-green transition nexus, exploring themes that include: the different roles countries/sectors in the Global South are playing in the global green transition, the financial structures, mechanisms and governance frameworks shaping them, and the tensions, contradictions and risks that emerge between these dynamics of IFS, efforts towards sustainable development, and the global response to the climate crisis.

Who Owns Space? The Role of Tech Giants in Outer Space Commercialization

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Outer space is evolving into a trillion-dollar industry, fueled by massive investments from tech companies and entrepreneurs. Traditionally a political battleground, the space race now involves economic players competing for space activities such as communication and surveillance, space mining, and travel. This commercialization of space enhances tech companies' influence in global politics and raises environmental concerns, impacting humanity's future. This research delves into the political, economic, and regulatory challenges accompanying the commercialization of space. It maps the influence of private actors on space commercialization, highlighting societal reactions to billionaire-led space races, and scrutinizing the ideological shifts accompanying these enterprises. The study also addresses the regulatory, environmental, and political challenges posed by privatizing what was previously considered a global commons.

RN06 | T09_02: Liberalism and Neoliberalism in and before disaster capitalism

Overcoming 'The Problem Of Consent': The US Taxpayer Revolt, Thatcher's Industrial Relations Reform And Neoliberal Direct Democracy

Joseph William Ward

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Scholarship has long documented neoliberalism's 'profoundly anti-democratic' tendencies. However, a stream of work from Stuart Hall through to Quinn Slobodian's recent intellectual-historical accounts suggests a more complex relationship between neoliberalism and democracy. Speaking to these debates, this article highlights the role of direct democratic mechanisms – namely the referendum and citizen's initiative – in the emergence of neoliberal economic policy in the USA and the UK. It draws on recently released archival records to reveal the connections between the Proposition 13 movement in California and the wider 'taxpayer revolt' which preceded Ronald Reagan's election as President, and proposals for a referendum on industrial relations reform within the UK Conservative Party prior to, and in the immediate aftermath of, Margaret Thatcher's election as Prime Minister. In so doing, the article argues that neoliberal intellectuals and politicians combined elements of the British jurist A.V. Dicey's case for utilising the referendum as a 'people's veto' with key tenets of neoliberal economic policy – such as monetarism and tax reform – in their search for democratic institutions to build and maintain popular legitimacy for neoliberalism.

The Effect Of The Deindustrialization Policies Of Turkey And Argentina After The 2000s On The Democratization Process

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The concept of deindustrialization, which developed from the experiences of Latin American countries in the neoliberal period, has also been used for the Turkish economy since the early 2000s. In the study, the great stagnation process in the global economy is followed with respect of globalization and post-globalization discussions. It is examined in terms of the deterioration of income distribution, social exclusion and democracy gap from the point of the subject. Then, the relative loss of importance of the industry in the national

economy and the problem of democracy deficit in Turkey and Argentina in terms of political economy are discussed. This study accepts that the capitalist logic is also globalized and that globalizing capitalism affects the economic, social and political life as a whole. Democracy problems emerging today, increasing pressure on workers, unions and labour organizations, and the regression felt in social policies are considered the results of this logic. In this study, democracy will be discussed regarding labour and control/supervision mechanisms. It should be kept in mind that there are important links between organized labour, industrialization and democracy. The constitutions of Turkey and Argentina during the import substitution development period of Turkey and Argentina significantly reflected this correlation. However, the deindustrialization process in developed countries (which differs in countries) is not the same as in developing countries. In this process, institutional qualities and the tradition of democracy have been significantly influential. In the deindustrialization process, the need for excessive accumulation of international capital has impacted political regimes. This study will mainly focus on the phenomenon of deindustrialization, which can be considered as another result of globalizing capitalism, and its effect on democracy.

The Future Has an Ancient Heart: Property Rights and Republican Freedom in 19th Century Spain

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Recently, several scholars have highlighted the impediment of legally recognised property rights in addressing some of the consequences of disaster capitalism. What are the historical origins of this absolute, exclusive and excluding conception of property? What has been the sociopolitical tradition that has provided an alternative to it? This paper will attempt to offer a historically grounded interpretation that helps to answer both questions. It will be based on the case study of the construction of the Spanish capitalist state during the long liberal revolution of the 19th century. It is known that the liberal reforms of the twenties and thirties came to positivise and accelerate a process of land privatisation whereby large social majorities were deprived of access to their means of subsistence —access which they exercised either through former communal property or through land tenure. Faced with the consolidation of capitalist property relations, the nineteenth-century Spanish republican tradition opposed a fiduciary conception in which the property of any resource (significantly, land) is public, and society can therefore impose on the individual owner the conditions it deems convenient to guarantee the universalisation of freedom. In some of its variants, such as that represented by the so-called 'socialism' of the federal leader and former president of the First Spanish Republic Francisco Pi y Margall, it is a precedent of what would later be known as the 'social function of property', the basis of the social constitutionalism of the 20th century. Thus, the study of these republican institutional designs will allow us to understand that property not only recognises rights, but also imposes duties; duties that can help to overcome disaster capitalism.

RN07 | Sociology of Culture

RN07 | T01_01: Precarity, liminality and culture on the margins

Loneliness In The City: Imaginary Expressions Of States Of Liminality

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The objective of this communication is to present how loneliness is constructed in contemporary South American films based on the representation of destabilized affections in the urban spaces of the cities of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) and Caracas (Venezuela). It is observable in recent films produced in South America – and expanding to Latin America – urban characters who occupy spaces of solitude in places with an intense network of sociability, such as squares, streets and avenues that lead towards the Center. Lonely characters float in the city as they encounter other characters, being able to relate for a few moments, leaving no emotional remains that provide affective structures for lasting relationships, constituting emotional states of liminality. The phenomenon of loneliness is identifiable in different narratives about the urban, such as in the film works O Homem das Muldões (Marcelo Gomes and Cao Guimarães, 2013) and Pelo Malo (Mariana Rondón, 2013). Thus, the methodology is anchored in the interpretation of filmic discourses and the filmic analysis of images, deconstructing allegorical signs, symbols of intimacy and codes, comparing filmic realities to define an interpretative panel of urban imaginaries. The theoretical foundation is anchored in a philosophical socio-anthropology, inventing a dialogue with the Sociology of Culture and Urban Sociology, based on authors such as Gaston Bachelard (1993), Michel de Certeau (2014), Gilles Deleuze (2005), Armando Silva (2014) and Gilbert Durand (1993, 1997).

Making Plans and Envisaging Alternative Futures: the Life Stories of Migrants Experiencing Homelessness

Simon Stewart

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This paper is based on the analysis of life story interviews that were conducted with migrants experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK. Life stories have the benefit of providing insight into experiences of homelessness and, more generally, structures of domination from the perspective of those most impacted. This research method has been widely deployed in research on dominated groups, e.g. in feminist, Black and postcolonial feminist, and indigenous studies (Nadar, 2014; Ranco and Haverkamp, 2022; Srigley et al., 2018). In this paper, particular attention is paid to how the research participants retrospectively review plans they made in the past, and the extent to which they are able to make plans in the present with view to transforming their lives. The paper utilises a cultural sociological framework to highlight the ways in which the respondents anticipate a meaningful future, articulating what Bourdieu (2000: 223) terms 'the practical relation to the forth-coming', while struggling to control the present and without access to resources or secure accommodation. One thing becomes particularly clear in the life story narratives: prolonged waiting, whether for the outcome of a Home Office decision or for longer term accommodation, is linked to powerlessness and hinders the ability to make plans and envisage alternative futures.

Rap in a Postmigrational Society: On the Articulation of Tensions and Transformations in Germany's Digital Hip-Hop Culture

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Based on our book on „Rap & Racism" (Dietrich/Süß 2023) we like to interprete sociology of culture as a qualitative analysis of popular symbolic representations within a society in transformation: Like other postmodern western societies, also the German society is not only structured by a steady growth on the level of ethnic-cultural diversity but also by a diversification of understandings in gender and sexuality. With regards to a new structural change in the public sphere (Habermas 2021), it is particularly the digital arena in the field of pop culture, where powerful negotiations on cultural identity, racism and gender can be reconstructed. Findings from our research project "Music Videos, Scene Media and Social Media – on the Negotiation of Racism in German hip-hop" (2018-2022, funded by the German Research Foundation) clearly show that polarizing discourses of a „postmigrational society" (Foroutan 2021) articulate in German rap: All relevant actors (artists, YouTube-recipients, journalists) negotiate racism as a topic that raises bigger social questions about race/ethnicity, gender, power – but also hierarchies in change: Who are the oppressed and which are the hegemonic social groups in the current society?

In our presentation, we like to examine three points:

(1) How an innovative qualitative analysis of digital culture functions as a way to analyze social transformations and tensions

(2) How postmigrational conflicts on representation, participation and resources are politically articulated in the field of German rap

(3) How the negotiations of racism and images of gender/sexuality create new alliances that provoke traditional views on power and ethnicity

Navigating Temporality: Postdocs Experiences of Planning and Living in Academia

Anna Khanukaeva

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Postdocs hold a highly competitive yet vulnerable position; they have secured a position in stark competition but cannot count on secure future jobs. This position highlights one of the main challenges in current academia: pressure to outperform others in the present while working to secure a future career path. While previous research has shown that this is a precarious position, and touches upon how postdocs deal with uncertainty related to formal employment, I focus on how postdocs themselves make sense of their situation and explore the complexity of their position. This paper therefore examines how postdocs make sense of their experiences of pressures and temporal conditions in academic work. Based on a thematic analysis of 29 in-depth interviews with postdocs in social sciences in Sweden, I focus on how postdocs navigate the temporal conditions of academic work. Examining postdocs' use of metaphors, I show the various ways in which they understand time, schedules, pace and rhythms, related to the career timeline, planning of the future, and day-to-day time pressures of academic work. I explore the distinction between the governing time of academia, which structures the time of an academic career, and the experienced time, which is the postdocs' lived experiences of this timeline. In showing this, I contribute to research on how postdocs actively deal with the flexibility of academic time, embracing, resisting or finding ways to make sense of and incorporate other temporal orders of life. This research provides insights into the temporal orders at play in academics' lives and how people, through social practices such as scheduling, navigate academic temporality and its involved power dynamics on the ground.

RN07 | T01_02: Critical responses to climate change

Climate Boundaries: Tracing the Social Bases Behind Climate "Culture Wars"

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The concept of "climate boundaries" leverages sociological insights from symbolic boundary research (Michèle Lamont, Sighard Neckel, Andreas Wimmer) to trace how people make sense of the climate crisis in everyday contexts. Symbolic boundaries involve constructions of "us" and "them", defining who belongs to the "in-group" and who is excluded. The approach recognizes that people live in contexts of social and economic inequality and posits that people interpret these inequalities in dynamic ways that shape social and political trust. In our project, we apply it to everyday social demarcations in the climate crisis, recognizing that it is not just an environmental issue but also an unfolding process of transformation – a process of social inequality and resource redistribution.

Climate boundaries are useful for understanding the ways in which the climate transformation is negotiated as a question of redistributing resources, recognition, and attention, without necessarily viewing this as a process of polarization in attitudes. Unlike polarization, the approach also foregrounds in-depth reasoning, such as through emotions and narratives, and regards individuals as embedded in networks of social relations.

This presentation will explore how these boundaries can be conceptualized by taking into consideration the varying class backgrounds of people who differently relate lifestyle issues – such as bike-riding, eating meat, flying, or driving large cars – to the climate transformation, including also climate policies such as carbon taxes and changing labor markets. It is part of our Horizon project CIDAPE (WP4, starting 03/24), which will conduct a pan-European comparison using interviews and group discussions in Norway, Slovakia, Austria, and Spain. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in late summer 2024; therefore, this presentation will focus on conceptualizing climate boundaries.

Social and Cultural Consequences of Climate Change: Case of Puerto Rico and Rhodes, Greece

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Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the United States, has been devastated by many tragedies and hardships, ranging from natural disasters to near-financial collapses. Similarly,

the Greek Island of Rhodes, the largest Dodecanese, was ravaged by wildfires and national economic hardship that jeopardized the social fabric. A changing climate has become a topic of concern for leaders worldwide. The changing environment exasperates financial woes and tensions between groups. 2017 proved a critical year for Puerto Rico. In the wake of Hurricane Maria, which left parts of the island without power for over a year, a mass exodus occurred, with families and livelihoods broken as young adults pursued more abundant opportunities stateside. The cost of this exodus extended far beyond economic productivity, with significant consequences for families, community groups, and daily social life in Puerto Rico. More recently, in the Summer months of 2023, over 80 wildfires devastated Greece. It is estimated that 19,000 residents of Rhodes were evacuated by land and sea. Considering these socio-political and economic factors, this research analyzes and compares the overall impact of Hurricane Maria and the 2023 Rhodes wildfires, with careful attention given to family displacement, labor concerns, and economic productivity. Using census data and mass media, I will discuss the exodus of Puerto Ricans following the hurricane. In Greece, attention will be given to recovery and the economic cost of these disasters during the height of the island's tourist season. Further, I use comparative-historical methods to examine differences in responses over time.

Irony of the Planetary: The Sustainability Development Goals and the Hardships of Global Transformation

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In 2015 the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to instruct processes for a global transformation in the fields of social equity, education, and environment until 2030. Following the UN, these goals have been largely failed yet. Nevertheless, the rhetoric of transformation has been successfully established in the public, political, and economic discourse. This makes it necessary to reflect on two aspects. The first is the meaning of sustainability, a concept developed in the 1987 Brundtland Report and since then not much reflected. What does sustainability mean as a concept and global practice? Does it proliferate a global increase of safety, equity, and well-being? Or does it, according to approaches in post-development, foster existing hegemonies? Why is it, of all things, the economy that especially leans on this concept? Secondly, we need to reflect on the meaning of transformation. Especially in the social sciences and humanities, a coherent understanding of transformation is lacking. Does transformation aim at a fundamental revision of the social (global) order? Or does it remain a mere adjustment, and therefore a consolidation, of the existing institutions and modes of sociation? Don't especially modern, basically dynamic societies develop either way constant modes of social transformation as they are fundamentally built on the self-understanding of permanent change? What does it than mean when they explicitly, and immanently, articulate agendas for transformation? Can this be seen as a response to an emerging situation of social crisis? As both categories decisively foster the recent understanding of the planetary as an agenda for ethics and equity beyond mere globalism: Is this category thus suitable for an understanding of the contemporary situation?

Performing the Sacred: A Dramaturgical Account of Eco-Catastrophist Action

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As the climate crisis marches on, the eco-catastrophist work of Extinction Rebellion (XR) attracts much attention. Every XR action fuels the climate culture wars anew through its well-known trope of impending disaster. Given the many responses that XR actions attract, it remains however undertheorized how exactly XR's trope gains such reactive potency. This paper answers this question through a cultural sociological lens, rooted in neo-Durkheimian theories on ritual performance. The paper's main claim is that XR actions essentially constitute localized performances of 'the sacred' in the broadest sense: the life situation of the collective self. The paper then goes on to disentangle three dramaturgical tools used by XR to signify the sacred. 1) 'Mise-en-scène': through claiming a temporary place in public space, XR disrupts the profane rhythm of life (the 'to-and-fro' movement of cars, the 'up-and-down' pounding of pumpjacks). 2) 'Collective representations of temporal movement': Once a scene is occupied, XR dyadically contrasts two possible movements through time, namely the demonic course (the collective self which moves towards Judgement Day) and the positive course (the collective self which salves its sins and renews life on earth). 3) 'Symbolic materiality': to symbolize these temporal movements, XR focuses particularly on the ritualistic expulsion of material dirt – 'fossil filth'. The paper concludes that these three elements allow us to explain the debates and responses proffered by the movement. As moments of transgressive effervescence, XR actions fuse 'inwards' with the participants on the scene but fail to fuse outwards with the observing community-as-audience.

RN07 | T02_01: Cultural consumption: food, drink and cinema

Sparkling Waters Run Deep: Developing the Cultural Sociology of Fashionable 'Mineral Water'

David Inglis

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What could be more innocuous than sipping from a glass of something marketed as 'mineral water'? Yet sociological analysis of water raises complex and sometimes vexed moral and ethical issues, including matters of pollution and purity. Water politics is a defining feature of the 21st century world. Examining water-related phenomena as these are playing out in the contemporary sartorial fashion industry and associated culture-producing domains is crucial for understanding environmentally destructive practices. Water pollution and the waste of water resources in the making of clothes must be understood in relation to the consumption of apparently unrelated issues to do with the consumption of fashionable 'mineral water' by fashion professionals and fashionable people more generally. Taking a long-term historical approach, which encompasses changes in perceptions and practices of water worldwide over the last five centuries or so, the paper considers how different 'water ontologies' are constructed and variously relate to, create, and occlude each other. The fashionable and apparently virtuous nature of modern 'mineral water' is analysed against a global backdrop of a series of social struggles over the nature of water and who has the right to define and use it.

Confessions of a Champagne Sociologist

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Since the time of the court of Louis XIV, which established champagne's reputation as an aphrodisiac, the sparkling wine produced in the region of Champagne, France, has been at the heart of heterosexual seduction, high life, and celebrations. Champagne is both ultra-masculine – associated with its supposed inventor, the monk Dom Pérignon, Napoleon's officers with their sabres, Formula 1 races, and hip-hop – and hyper-feminine: made by famous Champagne widows in the 19th century, marketed with female names, images, and associations, and the favourite drink of both respectable and disreputable women.

The other side of champagne is more sinister, involving battles over legislative rights, streams of nationalism and xenophobia, exploitation of migrant labour, and environmental damage. The tension between glamour and gruesomeness is obvious, yet it remains carefully hidden behind elaborate marketing imagery of carefree, beautiful people and idyllic sun-glossed vineyards. Champagne is a well-established icon, which is nevertheless constantly and elaborately worked upon in order to maintain its prestige.

As a cool climate is essential for producing high quality sparkling wine, climate change was felt in Champagne early on, which made the region focus on carbon footprints and sustainability earlier than many other wine-making areas. Yet champagne can hardly be considered sustainable either in environmental or in social senses. This places the champagne-curious cultural sociologist in a difficult place epistemologically: Is the sociologist only an observer, recorder, and analyst of questionable practices, inequalities, and harms – or is she herself somehow culpable, when she reaches her hand out for yet another delicious glass, tasted in the interests of research?

The Italian Debate on Cultured Meat: Cultural Categories and Animal Question

Ludovica Malknecht

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Italy has been the first country to preventively ban the production, trade, and import of cultured meat. This topic has become the subject of extensive discussion in the public discourse, marked by a strong polarization between positions opposing cultured meat in reference to the economic interests of meat industry, public health, and national traditions, and positions supporting the potential benefits of cultured meat commercialization for the environment, health, and livestocked animals.

The use of mainstream notions such as nature, tradition, national culture, environmental sustainability in this debate will be examined through the analysis of frames (Goffman 1974, Entman 1993, 2007) that emerge in broadcast information media. Analysing these debates helps to highlight the connections between power structures, 'meat culture' (Potts 2016), the exploitation of non-human animals, and discourses aimed at normalizing it (Joy 2010, Freeman 2016).

On one hand, the processes of legitimation and consensus production (Weber 1922; Luhmann 1970, Hall 1982, Herman and Chomsky 1988, Fuchs 2011) regarding animal exploitation in livestock industry will be considered. On the other hand, the reference to environmental sustainability, often mentioned in such debates, will also be problematized in light of the ethical and political concerns raised by the "animal question" (Kalof 2017, Malknecht 2021) and from an ecological perspective (Tota 2023) aimed at introducing alternative cultural categories for considering living beings that are oppressed and exploited in daily human practices and production systems.

Predicting Cinema Attendance For Romantic, Sci-Fi, Documentary And Horror Films: A Factorial Survey Approach

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The movie market gives rise to unique and incommensurable products, prompting consumers to rely on various judgment devices to acquire knowledge and make choices. At the same time, the market encompasses movies spanning diverse genres. Drawing upon Karpik's (2010) theory of the economics of singularities and a recent empirical study by Schmidt (2020), this study employs a factorial survey to investigate the role of movie ratings and recommendations in predicting the likelihood of going to the cinema to watch a movie across four genres: romance, sci-fi, documentary and horror — genres distinguished by their varying levels of social stratification and popularity.

The vignettes in this study portray movie offers as images depicting either low, middle or high ratings by movie experts, broad users and peers as well as personal recommendations from close friends, parents or neither. The data were collected among students at a university in Germany from December 2023 to January 2024.

First, the results reveal that personal recommendation by close friends, rather than parents, holds the highest significance regardless of the genre. Second, the ratings by experts, users and peers also emerge as positive predictors, the gain from each rating's increase from the middle level to the highest level is greater than the loss from a decrease from the middle level to the lowest level. Third, the orientation on specific judgment devices can depend on individual characteristics of respondents, such as trust in family and importance of friends, genre preferences and the level of cultural omnivorousness.

This study illustrates the peculiarities of movie consumption, underlining the multifaceted interplay between judgment devices, individual characteristics, and genre-specific characteristics.

RN07 | T02_02: Resistance, activism and identity

Visual Fights for Change: Climate Activism on Social Media

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This paper focuses on Extinction Rebellion's (XR's) visual identity on Instagram, exploring how environmental activism and the cultural industry are structurally intertwined in its visual online self-presentation. XR, a global movement advocating urgent action against climate change, employs a distinctive visual way of expression and addressing hierarchies and inequalities to convey its message. The iconic hourglass within a circle serves as a visual anchor, symbolizing the urgency of time running out. The study engages in a visual analysis to decipher how XR's visuals contribute to the movement's overall image and mobilization strategy. XR activists orchestrate protests, where vibrant colors, imaginative banners, and theatrical performances become integral components in capturing public attention and fostering a shared collective identity. A notable aspect of XR's protest are the reference to and interaction with cultural icons and symbols. The movement makes use of (and attacks, as is the case with monuments such as the Brandenburger Tor in Berlin and artwork as the Mona Lisa in Paris) cultural symbols of power. Through a combination with visual idioms of liminality, civil disobedience, and hedonistic party culture, the activist movement creates a subversive image that resonates visually and garners widespread coverage from diverse media outlets. By employing comparative visual analysis and drawing on sociological frameworks, this research paper contributes to our understanding of the polarized debate around climate change. It highlights the relationship between visual communication, activism, cultural tensions and the mobilization of public sentiment.

Approaching the End of Lazuri: The Transformation of Laz's Ethnic Boundaries in the Age of Social Media

Özlem Şendeniz

Iğdır University, Turkiye

Living as an autochthonous ethnic minority in Turkey and Georgia, the crucial aspect of the identity of the Lazes is their mother tongue, Lazuri (Laz Language). Lazuri is included in the list of endangered languages by UNESCO. Today, the new generations do not learn Lazuri as their mother tongue, and the generations whose mother tongue is Lazuri are aging. Despite this threat of language and cultural extinction, the ethnic boundaries of Lazness are being stretched, and symbolic capital and identity performances are transformed into a new performance space through

social media. Social media, utilized as a new performance space by Lazness, which is caught between language and culture, also affects citizenship performances in terms of opening a space where production can be made in Lazuri without conflicting with Turkishness. This study aims to explore the gap between fluid identities and identities, which will be based on "The Reproduction of Lazuri on Social Media." The research examines the symbolic capital that reproduces itself on social media and its counterpart in everyday life.

Rituals of Resistance, Diasporic Encounters, and the Limits of Free-(Idi)oms: The Cultural Politics of Barcelona's Free Improvisation Scene

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Based on ongoing cross-disciplinary research employing (auto)ethnography and qualitative interview techniques, this talk aims to explore the tensions between free improvisation and social activism, with a particular emphasis on the experiences of diaspora musicians living in Catalonia. Following the outline of the theoretical framework informed by postcolonial scholarship, Miklós Hadas' concept of "plural habitus," and the legacy of Stuart Hall, I draw on the results of my ethnographic fieldwork and over twenty in-depth interviews with musicians from diverse multi-ethnic backgrounds. Profoundly embedded in Barcelona's loosely connected network of cultural centers promoting a range of grassroots social initiatives, the aesthetic radicalism of performance rituals (as conceptualized by some musicians in the context of free improvisation events) manifests controversial aspects of social resistance stemming from the tensions between anti-commercialism, non-idiomatic jazz aesthetics, and egalitarian ideological visions connected to the tangible impact of global capitalism on local communities. The talk provides an interpretation of the social meanings of these ephemeral acts of resistance and aims to establish (free) "improvisation" as a relevant sociological category that captures alternative cultural models to neoliberalism due to its emphasis on resilience, trust, collaboration, and creativity. Therefore, my objective is to pose relevant questions concerning the cultural motifs of radical musical experimentation in a specific multi-ethnic context of the West Mediterranean that seeks to transcend genre-, class-, "race-", and place-based boundaries, creating a utopian realm of transnational artistic encounters.

Humorous Accounts of Stigmatized Living Situations – Identity Negotiation and Resistance Through Humor

Sandra Barbro Martina Wiksten

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Multiethnic residential areas, located in the outskirts of bigger cities of Sweden, (the suburbs, sw förorten), has become the center of attention in Swedish public debates – with a focus on poverty, social stigma, cramped housing accommodation, and escalating gang violence, . Simultaneously with increasing media attention follows political suggestions, drawing on alarming narratives and aiming to restrict citizens' rights to privacy (e.g. by giving police powers to search people who are not yet suspected of a crime). This paper approaches these stories through an interest in humor practices. By focusing on teenage girls, living in some of these Suburbs, the paper examines examples of humor content that the participants themselves enjoy and relate to. Drawing on a critical perspective of humor, inspired by Billig (2005), and a performative view on identity (Butler, 1990), humorous practices can both make fun of the Suburbs , and provide counter-narratives, such as from the perspective of a young, feminist, Kurdish-Swedish girl or a female Somali-Swedish rapper doing humor about everyday life in the suburb. The paper aims to explore how identity, place and politics is expressed and made fun of/in to humorous narratives, and further how humorous framings of politics and urban segregation, may work as means to both reproduce and subvert discourses surrounding youth in Swedish suburbs.

Billig, M. (2005). Laughter and ridicule: Towards a social critique of humour. SAGE.

Butler, J. (1990). Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity. Routledge.

RN07 | T03_01: Symbolic boundaries, taste and status

"This is a Place for People Like Me": Unraveling Symbolic Boundaries in Diverse Urban Neighborhoods in Brussels

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In an era marked by increasing urbanization and cultural diversity, cities like Brussels have become vibrant hubs of multicultural experiences. However, this diversity often manifests as a patchwork rather than a melting pot. Different people in the same urban environment have their own lifestyle and (sub)culture, and often prefer places that fit their preferences. Hence, they form scenes – unique combinations of a place, the people who are present, the amenities and shared norms and values. In this article, I will explore how symbolic boundaries are drawn between different scenes through identifying "people like us"/"amenities for us"/"places for us" and "others" in the context of diverse neighborhoods. In short, based on walking interviews through the neighborhoods of Molenbeek and Matonge and participant observations in two different organizations in Molenbeek, I examine the process in which scenes form and continue to exist through boundary work.

The findings not only shed light on how symbolic boundaries are drawn in a neighborhood context, but also offer insights into the broader discourse on urban diversity and social sorting in cities. By understanding how scenes form and evolve within diverse urban contexts, this research contributes valuable knowledge essential for policymakers, urban planners, and sociologists striving to create inclusive and harmonious cities.

The Contemporary Composition of French Music Tastes: Refining the Concept of Social and Cultural Differentiation

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Music is often described as having a ubiquitous presence within contemporary society. Such ubiquity is characterised by a diversification of music styles/genres, and an increasing differentiation and omnivorousness of music tastes. The stylistic diversification of music genres has further entrenched oppositions in the field of cultural sociology, between theorists that argue that the contemporary composition of music tastes continues to align with, and even confirms, the homological theory of Pierre Bourdieu (1984) on the one hand, and those that argue in favour of a questioning of Bourdieu's conceptual precepts in light of an increasing omnivorousness/eclecticism of music tastes.

This paper will contribute to those conversations by asking what the contemporary composition of French music tastes is and how it can be understood and theorised in the age of digital media. It will draw on quantitative data collected by the French Ministry of Culture in 2018 with over 9,000 individuals. After discussing the contemporary distribution of taste on the basis of demographic variables, we will show the central oppositions in contemporary music taste, structured around levels of education and age.

Our aim with this is to show that the principle of distinction does not prevail in contemporary music tastes, but rather that there is a broad competency in music that is translated by strategies of differentiation between different tastes. We will therefore question the premise of stratification of repertoires of music preferences and argue in favour of an exploration of their distribution, which includes interrogating how liking a music genre involves a range of meanings.

It Bothers me to Hear it. Analysis of Distastes in Serbia and Croatia

Predrag Cveticanin[1], Inga Tomic Koludrovic[2], Mirko Petric[3], Zeljka Zdravkovic[4], Adrian Leguina[5]

1University of Nis; 2Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences; 3Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences; 4University of Zadar; 5Loughborough University

In this paper, we analyse how musical (dis)tastes are used to establish class boundaries in Serbia and Croatia. In this, we follow the tradition established by Veblen (1889), Weber (1978 [1922]), Bourdieu (1984 [1979]), Douglas and Isherwood (1979), Di Maggio (1987); Lamont and Lareau (1988), and Bryson (1996).

Bourdieu insists that tastes, as "manifested preferences", are asserted purely negatively, which finds expression in the refusal of other tastes. In his words, "In matters of taste, more than anywhere else, all determination is negation; and tastes are perhaps first and foremost distastes, disgust provoked by horror or visceral intolerance ('sick-making') of the tastes of others" (Bourdieu, 1984: 56). What is more, according to Bourdieu, "Aversion to different life-styles is perhaps one of the strongest barriers between the classes." (ibid). Similarly, Bryson states that instead of studying cultural preferences, researchers should focus on „how people use cultural taste to reinforce symbolic boundaries between themselves and categories of people they dislike" (1996: 885).

In this presentation, we use primary data from two large scale projects to analyse musical distates in Serbia and Croatia. In both of the mentioned surveys, besides options ranging from „like very much" to „dislike very much" we included the option „it bothers me to hear it", in order to capture „visceral intolerance ('sick-making') of the tastes of others". Our results indicate that major symbolic divisions separating two social classes in Serbia and Croatia run between those who prefer local musical forms (in particular, newly composed folk music and turbo-folk), and those who prefer global musical forms (rock, jazz and classical music).

Gender, Generation and Class: Inequalities and Cultural Consumption in Post-transitional Croatia

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1Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia; 2Center For Empirical Cultural Studies Of South-East Europe, Serbia; 3Loughborough University, UK

As argued in the classical Huyssens's (1986) article, the gendering of mass culture as feminine and inferior lasted from the late 19th to the late 20th century. Due to the changes in women's educational attainment and participation in the labour market, one of the most consistent findings in the late 20th and early 21st century empirical study of cultural consumption has been that women are more likely than men to participate in highbrow cultural consumption. However, recent contributions have shown that gendered cultural consumption is highly context-dependent and related to the level of gender equality in the organisation of work and care for the family in different countries, as well as to different measures comprised in the human development index.

While previous empirical studies (Lagaert and Rose, 2018; Petrić et al., 2021) place Croatia among the post-socialist countries with statistically significant higher female to male highbrow participation rates, there are also indications (Zdravković et al., 2018) that there are notable class and generational differences in gendered consumption patterns. This paper attempts to research these differences using data from a 2024 nationally proportional survey (knowledge panel), and applying a post-Bourdieusian model (Cvetičanin et al., 2021) for analysing class structure in hybrid post-socialist societies. The goal is to provide a detailed account of how inequalities generated by exploitative market mechanisms and different types of intertwined social closure mechanisms affect gendered cultural consumption in the social space of post-transitional Croatia.

RN07 | T03_02: Beauty and fashion

Beauty and Boundary-drawing in Hong Kong: a Q-sort Study of Beauty Repertoires, Social Class and Ethnic Distinctions in Times of Rapid Social Change

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This study analyzes beauty standards and symbolic boundaries in Hong Kong. As physical appearance has increasingly become important in social life, beauty has become a canvas for expressing identities as well as social concerns. This is especially true for Hong Kong, a city marked by a strong consumer and beauty culture: appearance is very central to Hong Kong life, and in the current socio-political transformation, is becoming one field in which class, ethnicity and politics can be expressed in ways that are more difficult to express directly. This paper presents the results of an ongoing study of beauty tastes and symbolic boundaries: how do people of different backgrounds assess the beauty of men and women, and what social categories do they distinguish? Taking a "Lamontian" approach to the study of East-Asia, we focus on evaluations as symbolic boundary drawing. We use Q-methodology – -a combination of Q-sort and in-depth interviews – – to study the beauty standards and tastes of 40 Hong Kong residents. We map our informants' repertoires of beauty, and the relevance to people's age, gender, race, education, and social status. We zoom in on how beauty standards mark symbolic boundaries related to class and ethnicity, as we assume these are the central divides in contemporary Hong Kong.

Beauty As A Political Tool For Emancipation Or Repression? Introducing The Concept Of Beautyvism

Sanne Pieters, Luuc Brans

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Beauty has been the subject and object of political struggle throughout recent history. This is not surprising: we know that beauty plays an increasingly important role in social inequalities (Havlin and Báez, 2018; Widdows, 2018). In addition, beauty as a regime (Kuipers, 2022) ties moral values to physical appearances. This makes beauty of interest to social movements, which deal with beauty with various tactics and political aims in mind. For example, the Black is Beautiful campaign instrumentalizes beauty to address broader social justice struggles, while the Fat Acceptance movement treats changing beauty ideals as a goal in itself

and the importance of beauty for conservative movements like Tradwives may serve reactionary political agendas.

How to sociologize these political struggles over beauty? This chapter takes a closer look at social movements with beauty at their heart, a type of beauty politics which we call beautyvism. After reviewing state-of-the-art literature on the political purchase of beauty (Craig, 2002, 2021; Jha, 2016; Elias, Gill and Scharff, 2017; Lakoff and Scherr, 2022), we propose to use the tools of social movement theory to gain a stronger understanding of beautyvism as a form of beauty politics. We thus introduce a typology of beautyvism, based on characteristics of social movements drawn from the social movement literature: goals, ideological frames, political opportunity structure and resources (Baumann, 2007; Snow, Soule and Kriesi, 2018; Della Porta and Diani, 2020). Based on a literature review of empirical studies, we then compare the Black is Beautiful campaign, the Fat Acceptance movement and online Incel and Tradwive movements to show how beauty is politicized differently between these movements.

Conceptualizing the Force of Fashion Fhrough Luhmann's Systems Theory

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Sociologists have recognized the prevalence of relational temporal logics in fashion, extending across seemingly unrelated societal domains. This paper employs Niklas Luhmann's systems theory to present a comprehensive conceptualization, delving into the understanding, often intuitively acknowledged in sociology, that fashion influences even those societal realms lacking typical aesthetic dimensions, such as science. The interdependent logic of advancement and backwardness, characteristic of fashion semantics, manifests across various functional systems, varying in intensity within operational functional subsystems. Through an explorative analysis, we examine fashion's role in three functional subsystems: science, the arts (particularly contemporary art), and the economic system of the fashion industry.

In science, we posit that fashion operates as a 'performative semantic,' discernible at the system's program and method levels. In contemporary art, a loose coupling is observed between the primary (unchangeable) system code of fitting/non-fitting and the secondary code of fashion, representing In/Out. Lastly, the fashion industry reveals a structural coupling or entanglement between the primary economic subsystem code of payment/non-payment and the fashion code of In/Out. This paper contributes to theory construction within the sociology of fashion, providing a conceptual framework to comprehend the impact of fashion. We conclude by highlighting the implications of our findings for the empirical development of fashion sociology.

RN07 | T03_03: Cultural production, evaluation and transformation

Literary Works as Agents of Social Change: Cultural Sociology of Literature and the Case of Dystopian Novels

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The contemporary sociology of literature is predominantly shaped by research on literary production that subordinates literary works to social interactions and institutions—the work of Pierre Bourdieu and his followers being a prime example. The "social" is often treated as a ubiquitous essence and literary works as effects of social causes. To counterbalance this a priori epistemological asymmetry, I propose a cultural sociology of literature that focuses on the process of meaning-making as it occurs within the reading experience between the reader and the text in a given socio-historical setting. Following the Yale School of Cultural Sociology, I approach literary works as analytically autonomous agents that actively shape their social surroundings. The analytical autonomy is conceptualized through the aesthetic experience of reading where the text exerts its agency over the reader by immersion into the text's aesthetic structure. The specificity of literary agency, I argue, lies in 1/ the intimate, highly subjective confluence between the text and the reader within the reading experience, which is, nevertheless, 2/ traceable on the level of more persistent collective patterns, which Raymond Williams dubbed "structures of feeling." I demonstrate the model by following how selected novels perform their agency over readers through their inner aesthetic structure, and how the aesthetic effect of these novels is then mobilized in the extra-literary discourse to call for social action. Empirically, I access the aesthetic experience via the triangulation between the text and the social contexts of production and reception. This sort of aesthetic mobilization is analyzed in four dystopian novels: Parable of the Sower (Butler, 1993), Oryx and Crake (Atwood, 2003), Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro, 2005), and The Road (McCarthy, 2006).

Transformation of Cultural Fields and Cultural Mechanisms of Inequality Reproduction

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The results of the project "Recognition, distinction and emotional drivers of action: a cultural and symbolic dimension of social mobility" are presented. The project involved

50 biographical interviews with young people aged 26-28 from different regions of Russia. The sample was based on the panel sample of the Trajectories in Education and Careers project, which has been conducted since 2011.

The story of Russian youth who were born in the 90s is the story of the confrontation of various cultural fields. People from the small regions were born and grew up in difficult conditions: economical poverty, bullying at school, low education of parents. Adulthood has allowed many of them to overcome these conditions. The people who stayed in these regions remember these 90s well, but they have seen how much has changed since then. They don't treat the past too negatively. But people who have left their region for the capital or another large city already perceive their past cultural experience based on the new one. These people are more negative about their past and don't want to go back. People from Moscow and other large cities have had better conditions and show much less cultural shift. The results of the project show how different cultural experiences and cultural mechanisms of reproduction of inequality generate opportunities for social mobility. The outlook for the future is conditioned both by these cultural processes and by the new political situation, about which it is difficult to talk and difficult to make long-term plans.

Using ChatGPT To Research Culture: A Case Study Among Rock-climbers

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AI will not only transform many of the social worlds studied by cultural sociologists, but it may also transform how we do research by introducing new tools of research. This research explores the potential of combining the Imitation Game (IG) with artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots for sociological research. AI chatbots are computer programs that generate human-like responses to a given message. The IG is a sociological experiment, in which members of a culture try, through anonymous conversation, to identify their group members from outsiders pretending to be members of their group. I present a modified IG, in which members of a culture try to identify their peers from an AI chatbot pretending to be a member of their group. In this particular experiment, rock climbers engage in an anonymous conversation with human rock climbers and an AI chatbot known as ChatGPT, and try to identify which is which. IGs between subcultures and AI chatbots can open up a novel way of researching a range of phenomena, such as the very nature of culture, the limits of AI and peoples understanding thereof; and how different groups construct and convey their identities. I shall describe how the experiment was done, present initial results and assess the methods potential for research in the sociology of culture.

The Impact of Local Administration Evaluation Methods on Cultural Production and Heritage Management Policies

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This study delves into the impact of public administration evaluation methodologies on local cultural production and heritage management, focusing on two specific cases in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia NUTS ES111, Spain). The first case revolves around the "Matadoiro Compostela," an urban cultural regeneration project, while the second pertains to grants allocated for cultural activities between 2018 and 2021 in the same city.

By employing a combination of secondary source analysis and in-depth interviews, this research aims to uncover how specific values significantly influence the evaluation processes, thereby molding the direction of public cultural initiatives. Both cases illuminate inherent value conflicts and the intricate web of interactions among stakeholders, each driven by their unique value-laden agendas.

The findings underscore a prevailing trend wherein instrumental economic value predominantly occupies the top tier within the hierarchy of local cultural policies. This configuration fosters a tendency to prioritize aesthetic elements and meritocratic criteria associated with excellence, often at the expense of social outcomes and values. Consequently, the dominant principles of Participation and Economic value frequently give rise to noticeable tensions and clashes in the cultural policy landscape.

In essence, this study highlights the substantial influence wielded by evaluation methodologies in shaping the contours of cultural policies at the local level. It emphasizes the overarching presence of economic values and their profound implications in directing and configuring the landscape of cultural endeavors within the community.

The research findings hold critical implications for policymakers, cultural administrators, and stakeholders, urging a reevaluation of the prevailing evaluative frameworks to strike a more harmonious balance between economic imperatives and social-cultural values in the realm of public cultural management.

RN07 | T04_01: Artworlds, social organisation and struggles

The Art World and Meanings of Struggle Songs

Anna Schwenck

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In her article for the Oxford Handbook of Cultural Sociology, Lisa McCormick makes the compelling argument to make music and its meanings the focus of a cultural sociology of music (2017). She argues that sociologists need to go beyond what she calls the "production-consumption paradigm" that also influenced Howard Becker's concept of art worlds. In this paper, I seek to bring together McCormick's justified call for an analysis of music as meaningful artistic performance, with Becker's important sociological displacement of the individual genius and elitist definitions of art through the notion of art worlds (1982).

As I show for the phenomenon of struggle songs in today's South Africa, their composition and performance—a differentiation Becker collapses in the concept of production—is as much a cooperative act as the debates and conflicts over these songs' meanings. Combining an analysis of musical affordances of a song (DeNora 2000) with in-depth interviews with musicians and activists in South Africa, I seek to bridge the production-consumption divide in sociological analyses of music and engage with struggle songs' shared and contested meanings as well as with their performative effects for musicking and politics.

Becker, Howard S. 1982. Art Worlds. Berkeley: University of California Press.

DeNora, Tia. 2000. Music in Everyday Life. Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge University Press.

McCormick, Lisa. 2017. "Music Sociology in a New Key." In The Oxford Handbook of Cultural Sociology, edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander, Ronald N. Jacobs, and Philip Smith. Oxford, UK, and New York: Oxford University Press.

The Paradox of Public Funding for the Arts: Tensions Between Support and Constraint

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Public funding is often seen as a vital source of support for the arts sector, enabling artistic practice and cultural expression. However, public funding also entails administrative processes that impose constraints and challenges on the arts sector. This paper examines this paradox of public funding through empirical research on the experiences of professional theatre practitioners in Nova Scotia, Canada. I used institutional ethnography and an equity lens, taking up the artists' standpoint to conduct interviews with theatre professionals and provincial public servants, observe theatre production and administrative activities, and review the grey literature related to the provincial arts funding system. I found that the administrative processes of public funding create tensions on the communication, trust, work value, and well-being of arts practitioners, attributed to an insufficiency of language, prevalence of invisible work, misalignment of the funding cycle, attribution of work value, looming burnout, and limitations in sector capacity. Moreover, I found that this paradox creates and reflects tensions and inequities in the relationship between the funders and the funded, and among the arts sector activities. My paper contributes to the sociology of culture by identifying and addressing the policy externalities that create challenges and barriers for arts practitioners affecting their working conditions and sustainability in the arts sector. I also provide policy recommendations to address such externalities and to improve and transform the public funding models and practices for the arts sector, such as enhancing accessible language and communication, recognizing and valuing the invisible work, aligning the funding cycle with the artistic cycle, diversifying the criteria and indicators of value, preventing and reducing sector burnout, and strengthening the sector's administrative capacity.

Artists and the Cultural sector: an Ethnography of Anxieties

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The cultural sector, vital for the development of Europe, has been characterized by a chronic devaluation and disinvestment. Worsened by the Covid-19 crisis, which has devastated the world and the cultural sector in particular, tensions and anxieties usually present in the sector were intensified. Due to this, job insecurity and uncertainty became the norm for cultural sector workers. Financial and cultural markets as we used to know were damaged and the public policy response was insufficient. In response, the cultural workers stood up, reaffirming culture as work, reorganizing and transforming the sector with the emergence of bottom-up policies.

This research aims to explore the anxieties surrounding the sector, proposing an ethnographic approach. This approach contributes to a qualitative analysis of the sector, helping to build appropriate proposals and public policies. Using ethnographic methods, this article focuses on five main issues: employment status and career paths, financing and job insecurity, the intersection between economic pressures and creative demand, recognition strategies and artistic visibility, impacts of globalization and digitalization. Artists and authors are the studied population, through an analysis of cultural practices, narratives, identities and career paths in artistic production.

Talking About Art: Howard Becker and the Metaphor of Social Organization

Andrea Lombardinilo

Gabriele d'Annunzio University, Chieti-Pescara, Italy

The final chapter of Art Worlds can be read as an insightful analysis of both creative and productive processes featuring the circulation of works of art and their socio-cultural impact. What roles do conventions and clichés play in the construction of reputation? How do artists cope with the risks of standardization and the search for originality? In this sense, Becker dwells on the power that metaphors have in sociological research applied also to artistic processes: "Ways of talking about art, generalized, are ways of talking about society and social processes generally".

Thus, the talk about art turns into an epistemological reflection on the rhetorical paradigms ruling social life. This is why – Becker points out – "we can use such terms as social organization or social structure as a metaphorical way of referring to those recurring networks and their activities". Such metaphors imply that the action occurs regularly or often, in compliance with the incessant becoming of artistic forms.

This is what happened, for instance, when novels became common in Britain in the nineteenth centuries: William Makepeace Thackeray, Anthony Trollope and Charles Dickens, for instance, showed how the relationship between art and society can be influenced by technical innovations, especially when the reproducibility of texts and contents had become an economic and commercial enterprise thanks to the rapid diffusion of newspapers.

Becker's enlightening reflections on the development of novels demonstrate the role played by language in the construction of popular narrative worlds, as in the case of poetry and plays during the first industrial revolution.

RN07 | T04_02: Culture in national contexts

European Capitals Of Culture: Assessing Qualitative Impacts And Persistent Inequalities

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As 12 Portuguese cities prepared their candidacy for European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 2027, a team of researchers from PolObs at the University of Minho set out to take a deeper look at the ECoC initiative. As part of this study, we analyzed the European decisions that define the ECoC, seeking to establish a contrast between the 2007-2019 directive and the current one, 2020-2033. This was followed by a thorough reading of European Commission (EC) documents containing recommendations for ECoC candidate cities and a critical analysis of the indicators proposed by the EC. This process found that most of the indicative indicators and data collection sources suggested in the guidelines lend themselves exclusively or primarily to quantitative analysis. While this is adequate for gauging general trends and understanding the volumes and numbers involved, it is not sufficient for an in-depth evaluation of the initiative's impact. There is limited relevance in assessing the "increased support for multicultural projects e.g. by cultural minorities" if these projects remain relegated to a place of low culture and/or exoticization. Nevertheless, some winning (e.g. Plovdiv, Chemnitz) or candidate cities (e.g. Tampere, Trenčín) have put forward proposals for tailored indicators that should be taken into account for the future of the initiative, and may become part of the ECoC indicator framework after 2033. Drawing on a collection of over 500 indicators, this article analyzes the ways cities have found or proposed to evaluate the impacts and results of their ECoC that reconcile standardized indicators with qualitative indicators relating to the local context, particularly in terms of the involvement of marginalized communities.

Cultural Scenes and Political Behavior: An Approach to the Left-Right Cleavage in the Spanish Context.

Cristina González Benítez, Cristina Mateos Mora, Clemente Jesús Navarro Yáñez

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The analysis of the context goes beyond examining its physical or socio-economic dimensions; it also emphasizes the investigation of symbolic-cultural processes linked to the

residential zone. The neighborhood serves as a relevant context for elucidating individuals' life opportunities by establishing diverse structures for social interactions and the development of various lifestyles (Gieryn, 2000; Giddens, 1993). Commencing from the contextual effect, a theoretical space is opened to address how the effects of cultural scenes—considering the distinction between innovative and communitarian characterizations—within these environments may condition individuals' relationships and attitudes toward the political-institutional system.

Urban sociology is not indifferent to the sociopolitical phenomena, and there is an intention to respond contextually to sociopolitical trends within the territory through the lens of the "neighborhood effect" (Silver, 2014; Cox, 1969; Leib and Quinton, 2011; Brown et al., 2005; Johnston, 2005).

The objective of this communication is to explore, within the framework of the "neighborhood effect," whether the cultural scene influences individuals' political attitudes, with attention to ideology based on voting for left or right-wing parties in Spain. To achieve this, multivariable analyses will be conducted using cultural scene indicators (Mateos, 2022) to understand the relationship between communitarian and innovative scenes and voting for left and right-wing parties in Spain. This analysis will utilize secondary data from the National Classification of Economic Activities (CNAE) and primary data obtained from the survey conducted in the HEALTHY-SCENES Project, funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation.

Cultural Practices In Portugal: Comparing Braga Audiences' Dataset With Portuguese National Survey Results

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Portugal cultural practices and consumption are generally low, with a participation below European average. Similarly, at the scientific level, there are gaps and scarce consistent studies that longitudinally follow audiences and their practices. In this regard, we highlight the Portuguese reading practices study, in 2007, the public's study in national museums, in 2019, and the first survey of Portuguese cultural practices, in 2020.

Within the scope of Portuguese European Capital of Culture 2027 (EcoC'27) and although indicators aim to widen access and participation on culture (SO2), there were limitations in the development of audience studies. The majority of the 12 Portuguese candidate cities did not conduct a pre-candidacy audience study, making it difficult to analyse the impacts of ECoC'27 in case of victory. Hence, we focus on Braga, an ECoC'27 finalist and one city that developed study, and a future Portuguese Capital of Culture (PCoC) 2025.

We intend to understand data alignment between Braga ECoC'27 audiences' study and Portuguese cultural practices survey. Regarding data collection, Braga's dataset was comprised of 3 discussion groups, 9 interviews, and 2 online questionnaires, thus creating a sample of 1011 individuals, contrasting with Portuguese cultural survey sample of 2000 questionnaires applied via Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI).

This presentation reveals the conclusions, differences, and similarities of both studies, to understand the needs and levels of action, both at local and national level, and new frameworks for assessing an ECoC and PCoC '25 impacts, hence contributing to a more robust cultural system.

British Cultural Influence In Southern Spain: A Social Network Analysis

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In the 18th and 19th centuries, the southern region of Spain witnessed a substantial influx of British individuals, specifically in the provinces of Huelva, Seville, and Cadiz. The Cromwellian wars and the Protestant Reformation prompted many Catholic families, predominantly traders, to emigrate from their home countries in search of a better life and opportunities for prosperity. This, coupled with the longstanding commercial traditions between nations, facilitated migration to Andalusia, which boasted significant commercial ports serving as links to the Americas. In this study, we integrate genealogical research on British families settled in southern Spain with social network analysis techniques geared toward community identification. This approach enables us to examine the dynamics of cultural influence that led to the current formation of the contexts in which these groups established themselves. Our findings highlight the dissemination of British lifestyles and cultural forms in these regions of Spain through anglophile Spaniards who acted as promoters and disseminators of cultural influences, significantly impacting the current configuration of cities such as Jerez, Seville, and Cadiz, as well as the attitudes and behaviors of the local population in these geographical areas. This study reveals that British citizens established matrimonial ties in an endogamous manner, either with their compatriots or individuals of similar social and economic status, to ensure the continuity of their businesses.

RN07 | T04_03: Trust, conspiracy and law

Echoes of Doubt: Unraveling the Sociological Relevance of the Impostor Phenomenon

Max P. Jansen

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In recent years, more and more people seem to be rejecting conventional information sources, placing exaggerated trust in personal perceptions over objective data, dismissing evidence contrary to their view, and believing they possess special insight into what's 'really' going on. Such thoughts are often linked to conspiracy narratives and subject of sociological debates since they can pose significant challenges to social cohesion, exemplified during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the erosion of trust in public institutions. However, interestingly, traits like this are also associated with a phenomenon that receives very little attention from sociologists: the Impostor Phenomenon (IP). Thus, this paper addresses the question: "How prevalent is impostor thinking across different social groups, and what specific social consequences emerge from its prevalence?"

Applying Pierre Bourdieu's habitus concept, this study defines the Impostor Phenomenon (IP) as a manifestation of 'internalized oppression.' It draws on data from a recent register-based survey covering adolescents and adults across Germany to examine societal dynamics connected to IP. Descriptive methods are used to assess the prevalence of IP across diverse social groups (i.e., social class, gender, ethnicity, and education). Inferential statistics are utilized to delve into IP's societal consequences, particularly its associations with topics that (re-)shape social transformations, including discriminatory experiences, social tensions, (lack of) social cohesion and solidarity, social and institutional trust, as well as polarizing attitudes.

The findings underscore the widespread prevalence of the Impostor Phenomenon across diverse social groups, emphasizing its societal impact and reinforcing the concept of internalized oppression. Crucially, the analysis identifies correlations between IP and social and institutional trust (varying across sectors such as public broadcasting, education, judiciary, and law enforcement) as well as its influence on polarization and social cohesion. Against the backdrop of evolving social structures and pressing contemporary challenges, the paper contributes pioneering large-scale evidence on IP and its social consequences. Moreover, by bridging micro-level distress sentiments with macro-level institutional challenges, it offers a profound sociological perspective on IP. This fertile perspective can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of this ubiquitous phenomenon and its implications for broader societal dynamics.

Building Trust in Prison Culture

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Prisons are places strongly shaped by distrust. Neither the structural framework of the institution nor everyday prison life promote trust as part of everyday culture. Punishment and rehabilitation are linked to control, security and the deprivation of freedom. Control measures such as detention, body searches, urine sampling or cell searches are often performed and perceived as displays of hierarchy and power. Circulating private information poses a danger to prisoners in the subculture of prison life and in the detainees' hierarchy. This constitutes an unfavourable starting point for building trust.

In this situation, something is supposed to take place that strongly requires trust: social work at prison. It aims at supporting detainees to develop a positive life plan and to reprocess the criminal past. This only works in a professional relationship built on trust.

This paper will address the problem of trust in distrustful prison culture drawing on extensive field material (and in-depth qualitative analysis) on social work by external projects, working at German prisons with the mandate of preventing political and religious extremism. How is it possible to build trust in prison, given the contradiction between a required trustful work relationship and the distrustful prison culture? What individual meaning do prisoners, officers and social workers associate with trust? The findings suggest that – although the topic of radicalisation further aggravates the situation – , external projects are able to advance in building trust, e.g. by accentuating their role of being outsiders to the system, but also by a person-centered pedagogical approach.

Legal Conspirators: Legal Language in the Conspiratorial Milieu

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The theme of conspiracy theories has, over the past decade, become central to the culture wars rocking American and European societies and politics. Conspiracy theories, and the lay theorists who espouse them, have on the one hand been seen as a socially pathological tendency with the potential to eat away the trust in our societies. On the other, researchers have highlighted the fact that it is an already existing deficit of trust in politics and political institutions that expands the tendency to believe in conspiracy theories.

This research focuses on specific phenomenon in conspiracy theory milieu: the role played by legal practicioners and legal language in conspiracy milieu. While conspiracy theories are often seen as irrational, their practicioners routinely engage in analysis of complex legal arguments and lawyers often play a prominent role in the movement. Some conspiracy theory milieus, such as the Sovereign Citizen Movement, are themselves based on a peculiar interpretation of legal rules of modern societies. Yet, the role of

lawyers and 'legal talk' in conspiracy theories has not yet been adequately understood.

This project takes a cultural sociological perspective and focuses on two 'conspiracy lawyers' from Czechia and Slovakia (Norbert Naxera and Judita Lassakova), providing an comparative perspective on legal talk in conspiracy theories milieu and better insight into the role of legal language in the culture of conspiracy theories.

Spreading The Imagined Nation From Legislature To Collective Memory: The Correlation Between The Hungarian Fundamental Law And Kossuth Square

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In 2011, the government led by Viktor Orbán approved the new Hungarian Fundamental Law (HFL). The code was criticized for creating a constitutional identity based on ethnicity and history, for distancing itself from European Union values, for appealing to an idealized past and present, for exchanging constitutional rights by values and morals, and many other controversial aspects.

In the same year, 2011, the resolution 61/2011.(VII. 13.) approved the transformation of Kossuth Square (KS), around the Parliament building, into Hungary's "main constitutional square". The law did not specify how the renovation should be done but demanded to restore the image of the square as it was in 1944. Thenceforth, a material and symbolic image of the nation envisioned by the majority government was (re)created in KS.

More than a decade later, is it possible to find a correlation between the KS reconfiguration and the constitutional reform in 2011?

To answer this research question, my study compares the recurring criticisms found in the literature about the HFL (Bánkuti, Halmai, Scheppele; Pap; Zoltán et al.; Szente et al.; Fekete) with a dedicated analysis of the square, based on the literature about monuments and symbolic politics in Budapest (Ares and Grinspum; Sarkisova and Apor; Kovács; Erőss) and the review of official documents, images, interviews, and my continuous visits to the square over the last 13 years.

Like observed in the constitution, I expect to prove that the renovation of KS:

i) is a political process grounded on framed versions of the past (Traverso, Koselleck) to justify autocratic acts in the present,

ii) envisioned and linked the Hungarian nation to standards outlined by a political community that claims to be legitimized by ethnicity, religion, and ballots to do so,

iii) is used to dissociate the communist period from the domestic history and responsibility,

iv) replaced republican references with monarchical ones, and

v) take the whole (totality) for the parts (majority) in the name of the nation to silence dissent views.

My work contributes to problematizing the transcendency of an imagined nation (Anderson) from norms and institutions to public spaces and collective memory (Hallbwacks).

RN07 | T05_01: Fashion

The Transformation is in the Wear: Mapping the Impact of Learning about Sustainable Fashion Practices at School

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Fashion holds a unique significance in the lives of teenagers, with schools functioning as a daily runway where appearances carry social status, and a single fashion misstep can lead to ostracization. Teenagers, as a consumer group, often face blame for unsustainable fashion practices, including overconsumption of poorly made garments produced under inhumane working conditions. Simultaneously, they are recognized as key agents engaging in more sustainable alternative status signals, such as opting for secondhand clothing. Despite this, the existing body of research exploring the intersection of sustainable fashion and education has predominantly centered on design students in higher fashion education. Addressing this gap, this study examines the experiences of teenagers in Flanders (Belgium) with a curriculum, spanning January to June 2022, that delved into how the fashion industry exceeds planetary and human boundaries. Employing praxis education, students applied theoretical knowledge by organizing a school-wide clothes swap event. Utilizing four qualitative data sets—researcher field notes, transcripts of class discussions, student clothing diaries during the teaching period, and wardrobe interviews with 11 students post-curriculum—this study explores the impact of this sustainable fashion approach on students' clothing consumption practices. Rather than transforming clothing purchases, the post-curriculum sustainability shift occurred in how clothes from the students' wardrobes were used and worn. This discovery contributes to the emerging trend in sustainable fashion literature, urging scholars to emphasize 'use' in the practice of sustainability. It adds to this literature by highlighting that a focus on how individuals organize the everyday materiality of clothing in their wardrobes embodies the fears, dreams, and hopes associated with the practice of dressing (sustainably).

Real, Touch & Feel: The multi-layered authenticity, originality and creativity of fashion in Kenya

Tommy Tse

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To what extent is the Western-centric theory of authenticity and creativity relevant to Kenyan fashion consumers' habitual consumption practices? Numerous existing studies have already concluded that a product's authenticity is not among its inherent characteristics, but is ascribed to it through a complex creative process of negotiations and (re)appropriations. Based on my 10-week (auto)ethnography in Nairobi's fashion markets (22), focus group (43) and wardrobe interviews (12) with Kenyan consumers, I realised the materiality of fashion and consumer's continual interactions with different social actors also play a vital role in reshaping meanings of authenticity. As a global North, middle-class, male consumer who is well-versed with the Western fashion system, my understanding of authenticity started to evolve shortly after living in Nairobi and interacting with the Kenyan fashion designers, seamstresses, wholesalers, retailers and consumers. My resistance to consuming "fake" (often Chinese-made) products changed after trying on a pair of "original" Adidas sneakers – insisted by a team of retailers who spent half an hour scouting around the Toi Market for the "treasure". Three days later, I finally realised they are not "original-original" when several male custom-made fashion designers in another market spotted my new trophies, came by and touched them. Denise cheerfully commented, "They are not real, but it [7,5000 KES] is a good deal…even better than the original!" Rather than feeling cheated, the incident led me further to question the multi-layered values, meanings and materialities of fashion, also remap the oft-muddled relationships among authenticity, originality and creativity through a context-specific analytical lens.

Sure It Works in Practice, but Does It Work in Theory? The Geography of Skill and the Problem of Unique Capabilities in the Global Fashion Industry

Alexander D Hoppe

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

Unlike the textile industry, which has been globalized for hundreds of years, the apparel industry fragmented across global value chains only after WWII. In the U.S. and Europe there were immediate academic and strategic responses to the threat of offshoring. Although initially effective, failures were nearly complete by the early 2000s. The strongest remaining arguments today focus on the unlikelihood or impossibility of offshoring fashion design. Because it is culturally expressive, temporally exigent, and high-value work, almost all scholars argue that design remains decidedly unsusceptible to offshoring. In a review of the literature since the beginning of the knowledge economy in the 1950s, I find nearly 100 specific claims about the unlikelihood of Western fashion capitals losing their monopoly on design services. Claims across the social sciences are based on either (a) data collected exclusively from within fashion capitals, (b) limited amounts of data from small suppliers, or (c) theoretical expectations. There is little room to explain recent empirical findings that design is indeed being offshored to semi-peripheral suppliers in India, China, and Turkey. I define unique capabilities as a presumption of geographically and jurisdictionally restricted functional expertise. Either design is no longer a high-value cultural service—in which case we must ask why we have spent the last 70 years classifying it exclusively in this way, and what

this means for other "post-industrial" work—or we need to reckon with the ideological relevance of unique capabilities.

Fashioning A Sustainable Future: How The Climate Crisis Transforms Cultural Fields

Luuc Brans

KU Leuven University, Belgium

Fashion is predicated on constant change against a backdrop of order (Aspers & Godart, 2013). But like other cultural fields, fashion needs to transform not only superficially but fundamentally as lawmakers and consumers demand sustainability in fashion. Cultural sociologists previously studied sustainability through consumption as 'politicized distinction' (Baumann et al. 2022; Huddart Kennedy, 2021; Prieur et al, 2023). Yet we know little of the way the climate crisis transforms cultural production. I thus ask: How do people in fashion's cultural production navigate sustainability and how does this reshape the field?

This paper, based on years-long dissertation research, turns to cultural intermediaries (Smith Maguire & Matthews, 2014) in European fashion to study how they develop new ideologies of cultural legitimacy, rooted in sustainability (Bourdieu, 1993; Lizé 2016). I therefore observed at fashion weeks, interviewed European fashion journalists, analyzed fashion media (Brans & Kuipers, 2023), and looked at fashion apps (Brans, 2023). Finally, I studied how the EU and the UN intervene in the field through their sustainability policies. Taken together, this paints a picture of key players' strategies and ideologies (Swidler, 1993) in a field under transition.

I conclude that the climate crisis subverts hierarchies in fashion, ultimately leading to the field's fracture. The result is the birth of a new field: a political aesthetic economy (cf. Entwistle, 2022) that extends recognition to people in its supply chain and Gaia (Lamont, 2023; Latour, 2020). These results are important beyond fashion for any cultural field struggling with sustainability, from food to design.

RN07 | T05_02: Culture, technology and transformation

"From the Culture of Risk to the Culture of Emergency: Changes in Cultural Systems and Communication in the Digital Society"

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The social system and its organisation are often modified by events of risk, crisis, and/or emergency. Three aspects that are also culturally constructed based on an understanding of the conditions of uncertainty and that promote actions, practices and processes typical of the society in which they occur. Risk, crisis and emergency, are three terms often defined in everyday life by a single term, "emergency", but in reality they refer to very specific events, which are communicated in different ways and have distinct cultural characteristics. In the contemporary time dimension, not only risk is observed, but also the social and cultural impacts generated by crises or emergencies that may follow.

Communication – differentiated according to the different degree of digitisation – allows to cope with these events by safeguarding the population, reducing social exposure and building tools that lead to the emergence and maintenance of a culture of risk, crisis and emergency. These safeguards provide also social security, generating social trust in the political and management systems.

Based on these differentiations, after a social and cultural brief definition of the three terms, the way to communicate risk events and emergency situations in the digital society will be analysed, with the support of some case studies.

Cultural Resources Of Imagination: Analysing Metaphors Of Self-Transformation

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Within the self-help narrative, the idea of changing oneself to improve the individual in order to create a prosperous life has become widespread. The focus of this presentation will be on a specific type of self change – transformation, which involves radically changing yourself and your own life. The mainstream in the study of self-help culture and self-transformations is the concept of reflexivity developed mainly in the works of A. Giddens. This approach, however, does not fully demonstrate the heuristic power of transformation as

a centering element of personal growth narratives since it limits transformation to a controlled and conscious process. A number of studies note that fiction and fantasy, i.e., processes involving imagination, play an important role in the process of transformation and transformational decision making. The self-help discourse has even introduced new 'repertoires of imagination'. This emotionally charged power of imagination seems important in exploring what constitutes the sense-making structure of transformation as a process of imagining an alternative self.

The purpose of this paper is to explore the internal cultural logic of imagination that underlies transformation as a process of imagining oneself as other. Drawing on the resources of structural hermeneutics, the symbolic structure of such imagination is examined by highlighting key metaphors that support the narrative of transformation. Metaphors represent experiences framed by certain cultural repertoires that condition what linguistic resources are used to create a metaphor, where it is used, and how it is interpreted (i.e., to which semantic domains it refers). The empirical base of the study is social media posts published by personal development experts (period of data gathering – from November 2021 to November 2022).

Social Representations of Technology: Intersectional Imaginaries

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Social imaginary codifies visions that are stabilized and publicly replicated as shared representations of the forms of (dis)order in social life. My proposal is to study technological representations as products of the social imaginary in two Brazilian fiction series: 3%, (Netflix, 2016 – 2020), which stages dystopian and utopian imaginaries, in its relationship with the political and social transformations of the last thirty years in Brazil. The 3% series provides important symbolic materials for the elaboration of patterns, beliefs, themes, and behaviors. The narrative is based on a pre-existing set of symbolic materials, which are represented by stimulating levels of emotional involvement in the context of Brazilian social, political and economic changes, but not only. Key elements of the social representation of technology in the series are technological dependence and inclusion/exclusion. I also selected the series Omniscient (Netflix 2020), which proposes the theme of social control, dear to dystopian science fiction since Orwell, staging it in a social imaginary very close to the technology already present (Zuboff, 2019).

In both series, female protagonists are evidents and I have tried to understand the intertwining of women and technology (Haraway, 1995 and 2019; De Lauretis, 1987). The representation of technology thus identifies ideological webs between imaginaries and reality.

Changing for Everything To Remain the Same: The Technical Extensions of the Human in Art and Culture

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Culture and art have always embodied technology and produced representations of non-human extensions of the human world, namely through the imagination of hybrid creatures. Such technical extensions of the human projected the ex-human, the human beyond the human, transformed and expanded. Today the main issue is no longer the technical reproduction of art or the artistic creation of a post-human fantasy, but with the technological and hybrid production of art and culture. Specifically, artistic expressions and cultural practices are growing and diversifying as a result of scientific and technological advances that are beyond the comprehension of ordinary citizens, suggesting that the field of human culture is rapidly unfolding in post-human forms. The aim is to explore how a post-human culture is being projected (especially through the effects of artificial intelligence) that goes beyond artistic fiction and incorporates non-human creation. In addition to the ethics and ontology of these forms of cultural and artistic creation, it is necessary to consider the sociological implications of the non-human extension of the human world. I propose to do this along three lines: a) the reinforcement of cultural and social inequalities resulting from technical transformations, as they strengthen artistic and cultural territories for the holders of cultural capital, now in its scientific and technological variant; b) the normalisation of ethnic, racial, gender and class biases in the cultural and artistic representations that machine intelligence generates; c) the mechanisms of symbolic power that underpin the effectiveness of the processes of naturalisation of post-human visions of the world.

RN07 | T05_03: Cultural practices and well-being

Towards a Cultural Sociology of Yoga: The Malleability of Cultural Industries at the Intersection of Hybrid Fields

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Due to its social significance, transnational appeal and the variety of meanings associated with its practice, yoga is capturing the attention of scholars, activists and practitioners across the globe. According to contemporary research, yoga is simultaneously lived and experienced as part of a religious path (most notably Hinduism but not only), a spiritual practice focused on practitioners' self, a leisure activity and a health regime for middle-aged, affluent, white women. Importantly, yoga is all of these things, but to different people, at different times and in different places. While most of the available literature to date concerns itself with the genealogical reconstruction or philological study of yoga, this presentation proposes a cultural sociology of yoga capable to account for yoga's malleable character at the intersection of different social fields. More specifically, this contribution postulates that yoga is a shape-shifting socio-cultural object that ought to be understood in relation to its position at the intersections of the fitness and wellness industry, therapeutic culture and the landscape of contemporary spiritualities. In so doing, a cultural sociology of yoga contributes to unveil the ambivalences, changes and institutional structures inherent in the yoga industry (understood as a hybrid cultural industry) that has particular impact in relationship to issues of time and space management, body care, power and authority and social action and interaction.

Soothing Tension: Dimensions of Practice in the Well-Being Social Complex

Carol J. Petty

George Mason University

With the grand political project having left the building, and the technocratic one serving its final debut, a well-being social complex clamors for center stage. Crisis after bitter crisis, no turn in sight, our social nerves are shot. The scientist and the shaman offer to soothe us, but what will happen if we take their cures? This paper confronts the openings and closures of well-being frontiers via an analysis of two consolidating, yet differently legitimized terrains: the science podcast and the shamanic institute. Data include audio (20 hours) and visual (450 images) content produced in 2022 and 2023. Interviews (N=4) with content producers and service providers further situate the logic of these human 'recalibration' fields. Research data were selectively coded for expressions of desirable human optimization, modalities of change, and the ends of psychological transformation. This analysis yielded a typology of ambivalent well-being projects: sober adaptation and hypnotic awakening. The conclusion dissects each of these projects' capacity to transcend the 'therapeutic program' diagnosed in the writings of Herbert Marcuse and Philip Rieff.

The Peaceful Mind and Violence-Free Sociality: Russian Psychotherapists' Vision of Psychotherapy's Mission

Arsenii Khitrov

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Recent studies indicate a growing popularity of private psychotherapy in various countries, including Russia. Psychotherapy is often seen as a technology of the self, shaping individuals' values, discourse, and behaviour. It is commonly perceived as individualistic, focusing solely on personal experiences and grounded in the mistrust towards social institutions. In this talk, I explore an overlooked aspect of psychotherapy: how psychotherapists envision the social world and possible collective transformation. I approach psychotherapy as a cultural, i.e., meaning-making industry. My ethnographic and interview-based research, conducted at a therapeutic training centre in Russia from 2021 to 2022, reveals a prevalent ideal of a socially transformative 'therapised' subject and violence-free sociality. These ideals imply breaking the cycle of violence imposed by the state and family across generations and passing on new attitudes resulting from therapy to future generations as a sort of heritage, ultimately making Russia a 'normal', i.e., 'European' country. I investigate ethnographically the implications and tensions of pursuing these ideals amidst the major disruptions caused by the pandemic and Russia's war against Ukraine.

The health and cultural value of House of Memories Cymru

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House of Memories is a museum-led dementia awareness training for dementia carers. Since 2012, House of Memories evaluations have consistently shown positive outcomes, including i) increased awareness; ii) carers improved wellbeing; iii) improved capacity for critical and creative care; and iv) increased cultural engagement (Ganga & Wilson, 2020). Nonetheless, peer-reviewed evidence to inform policy is limited, and further research is required to advance the field.

This paper aims to provide evidence of the effectiveness of House of Memories Cymru in i) connecting Welsh museums with the health and social care sector; ii) improving the wellbeing of older people and those living with dementia (PLWD); and ii) placing Wales as a dementia-friendly destination.

This mixed-methods pre-post study comprises two surveys, pre and post-House of Memories Cymru Training, for health and social care professionals and family carers in Wales. It includes quantitative profiling, Dementia Core Skills Training, and measures of subjective well-being. Two post-training focus groups assess the impact on dementia care skills.

The paper provides empirical evidence of the effectiveness of the House of Memories Cymru in informing the implementation of the Welsh Governments Programme for the 6th Senedd, demonstrating how House of Memories Cymru development skills to facilitate PLWD and their carers (partners/family) to visit Wales; and those living in Wales: i) better quality of life; ii) retention of Welsh language skills, through the implementation of digital innovation (House of Memories app – co-designed by PLWD, use museum collections for reminiscence with carers) supporting carers and PLWD to live better.

RN07 | T06_01: Culture, politics and polarisation

Culture Wars as a Libidinal Economy of Impotence

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Opportunistic and often cynical practices of imitating White-Nationalist authoritarianism in the USA, amplified an unholy alliance between Trump and the Republican Party, have started to have a serious impact upon European public culture. Fermented by a radically eroding lack of trust in the existing national and international institutions that have consolidated a neo liberal order over the last five decades, a new national-identitarian ethos has emerged that openly rejects the very idea of a common humanity, let alone a shared planetary existence. Being good social liberals, many sociologists have continued to mix sociological analyses with normative standpoints rejecting this ethos and subsequently found themselves entangled in so called "culture wars" that have placed them under the suspicion of indoctrinating their students with "woke ideology". Instead of understanding culture wars as either an autonomous event or derivative of neoliberal political economy, this paper offers a theoretical exploration of the libidinal economy of impotence (Berardi, 2017). By focusing on the production and circulation of desire, this analysis aims to sidestep the stalemate between moralism and cynicism and provide a radical alternative to the unholy alliance between sociology and liberal pluralism. Simultaneously, by foregrounding the concept of desire as pivotal to analyses of cultural processes, I hope to contribute to the ongoing development of this particular domain of the discipline of Sociology.

Exploring Incels: A Sociological Inquiry into Ethical Approaches and Methodologies for Interviewing Self-Identified Incel Men

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Incels, short for involuntarily celibate, are men who struggle to form romantic and sexual relationships. Incels operate within the manosphere and share a male supremacist ideology characterised by the glorification of violence against women, entitlement to sexual fulfilment, and masculine dominance hierarchies. As incel networks mostly function in the digital realm, research on incel culture has largely centered on examining online discussions. Methodologically, the emphasis has been on employing both qualitative and quantitative approaches, with some studies incorporating email interviews. While face-to-face interviews offer numerous scientific advantages, they also present ethical

and practical challenges. However, live interviews provide in-depth information on a still-under-researched topic, enabling researchers to ensure that the respondent is not an online troll, ask complex questions, and better understand men identifying as incels. With a focus on methodological challenges, this research aims to address the ethical and practical aspects of interviewing a marginal, possibly hostile, group in a live setting providing examples of in-depth interviews conducted on Finnish incels during 2022 and 2023. Special attention will be given to concerns regarding the participant's privacy, establishing a trusting environment with participants who may be initially untrusting, and ensuring both the physical and emotional safety of the researcher.

Media Use, Cultural Orientations and Support for Right-wing Populist Political Parties: Comparing Nine European Countries

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In the past decades, right-wing populist political parties have become increasingly prominent in European politics. These parties often have political agendas which promote xenophobia, intolerance toward minority groups, anti-elitism, and even anti-democratic sentiments. This paper studies how media use and cultural orientations predict right-wing populist voting from a cross-national perspective. By examining the populist party support in nine European countries we increase our insight in how contextual elements shape the impact of culture. We advance on existing studies through a more fine-grained analysis of digital media by distinguishing between online news websites, social media and video platforms. Furthermore, taking a cue from political science work on cultural grievances, we compare various dimensions of culture that potentially predict right-wing populist voting (e.g. conservative values, domestic cultural orientation). We employ survey data collected in 2021 as part of a large European research project in Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. These European countries differ, among other things, in terms of their media systems and dominant socio-cultural value orientations, yet in all countries populist parties are active. We conducted a multilevel analysis with right-wing populist party support as dependent variable. The (preliminary) results show differences between using public television broadcasters and press (less populist voting) and commercial television and online video platforms (more populist voting). We find also clear effects of cultural variables, both cultural values and cultural consumption. However, there are also cross-national differences in how right-wing populist voting can be explained by these factors.

Illiberal Cultural Policies in Contemporary Spain: A Case Study of VOX's Parliamentary and Executive Actions

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This paper delves into the realm of illiberal cultural policies within the context of contemporary Spanish politics, with a particular focus on the VOX party. While existing literature has started to explore cultural policies implemented by illiberal governments in countries like Hungary and Poland (Bonet & Zamorano, 2021), the unique features of such policies in Spain remain largely unexamined. Moreover, the cultural dimension of populism and the radical right has been partially addressed in current research, often overshadowed by topics such as immigration and economic policies (Bozóki, 2017; Mudde (2016).

Focusing on VOX's rise to power in Andalusia after the 2018 elections and its subsequent impact on public discourse, this presentation employs a content analysis methodology supplemented by policy analysis. It uses documentary analysis and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders (5). The study scrutinizes parliamentary speeches and projects from 2019 to 2022, shedding light on the cultural policies advocated by VOX in the Spanish Congress of Deputies and their execution at the regional level in the Government of Castilla y León since 2022.

The research posits two hypotheses: first, a revival of the fascist notion of the traditional family and its core heritage flags, such as bullfighting, as a foundational cultural marker of cultural action in Spain, and second, a potential continuity with liberal cultural policies historically upheld by the traditional right, notably the Popular Party, albeit framed within libertarian rhetoric. By identifying exclusionary mechanisms and agents supporting this political project, the study aims to unveil the constitutive dimension of local cultural policies in the Spanish State and its singularity concerning the growing landscape of neo-authoritarian cultural policies worldwide.

RN07 | T06_02: Cultural responses to social tensions and divisions

Stand-up Comedy as a Site for Tension and Transformation

Carolina Silveira

Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom

Taking British Stand-up comedy as the object of analysis, this paper explores the political possibilities and limitations of comedy. Stand-up comedy is recognised by many academics as a form of social commentary that can affirm or subvert cultural norms, or at the very least, can act as a 'social thermometer' that tells us what is going on in society (Davies, 1990; Silveira, 2021). As such, stand-up comedy is highly relevant for cultural sociologists, despite being an under-investigated area of study. This paper takes a critical look at the transformation of British stand-up over the years, from 'alternative comedy' to mass market commodification (Sutton, 2021; Quirk and Wilson, 2022). It also investigates stand-up comedy's potential to be 'political' (Quirk, 2016; Holm, 2017) and affect social change in an era of cynicism and post-truth. This study uses a discourse analysis approach and draws its data from live stand-up comedy performances at the Brighton Fringe Festival 2023/24. It also examines past comedy studies literature and publicly-available data such as Fringe Festival Annual Reviews to analyse the political economy of UK comedy.

Social Divisions In The New Forms Of Digital Cultural Consumption. The Case of Musical Streaming In Portuguese Society.

Telma Talina Mendes

ISCTE-IUL, Portugal

The disruption of the traditional models of the music industry and its gradual transition to the technological model has led to countless changes in the way music is consumed, produced and shared. With the increasing use of online platforms to consume music, the fluidity between the individual and technology has brought new dynamics to the specific practices of this consumption. This research aims to understand how the use of the Internet and its practical applications have been incorporated into cultural consumption, with a specific focus on music consumption. It also aims to present the different polarisations that can be found in these new online practices – especially in terms of age group, education and class – and to explore the implications that these different segmentations can have and how they manifest themselves, while trying to understand the reasons for their existence. To do this, we will present data from the 2020 Portuguese Cultural Practices Survey (conducted by the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon – ICS-UL), which has a representative sample of the Portuguese population aged 15 and over. The latest operationalisation of the ACM model, according to Costa and Mauritti (2018), will be used to divide the socio-professional classes that exist in Portugal. In summary, this presentation aims to discuss new forms of cultural consumption, especially those related to online music practices, and the divisions that have been and are being created thanks to these recent social phenomena.

Moral Responsibility and Music Festival Curation

Jo Haynes[1], Ian Woodward[2]

1University of Bristol, United Kingdom; 2University of Southern Denmark

Music festivals have become a ubiquitous aspect of music economies and wider cultural processes of participation and regeneration. On the one hand they are framed as authentic spaces for community, connection and celebration. On the other, they are now at the centre of various tensions about the environment, social inclusion, migration, commodification, and digitisation. In this context, we seek to reframe understandings of the possibilities, strategies and tasks of the contemporary music festival via ideas about moral and civic action. Drawing on the cases of three festivals in Britain and Denmark and data from interviews with organisers, we explore how and why the music festival is now compelled to adopt an emblematic role in addressing a wide range of social, environmental, political and cultural issues. Whereas classical literatures on festivals emphasised liminality, boundary-crossing and freedom, contemporary literature has yet to coherently address festivals as a working surface for negotiating sociocultural and political issues and imagining alternative futures. Our analysis highlight elements of festival organisers' practical management of bodies, objects and spaces, before pointing to the major analytical contribution this paper makes centred around moral discourses associated with curation, and the alignment of business with ideological and cultural components of festival making. We emphasise the moral dimensions underpinning conceptual and practical aspects of music festival production and demonstrate that festivals are a moral frontier for sharpening values and habits of responsibility and civic action.

RN07 | T06_03: National and ethnic identities

Feeling the Nation and Politics: Taiwanese Popular Music in China

Chun-ming Huang

National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Taiwan's pop music is enormously popular in China. This has been neglected in the literature. This paper aims to examine the reasons why this success has taken place, while hostile political relations remain. Based on interviews conducted in Beijing, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, a total of 74 Chinese people born after the Opening-Up and those experienced the Cultural Revolution, this study illustrates how there exists a multi-mediated structure of feeling about disputed national identities towards Taiwan's pop: On the one hand, some fans idealise Taiwanese pop as a "better version" of "Chinese pop" and produce reflexive resources to feed into their understanding when thinking about Taiwan and China; on the other hand, when Taiwanese pop contradicts their patriotism, they may propose a variety of consumerist sentiments, negotiation and conflicts, highlighting the importance of nationalism. This study positions Chinese fans' perceptions of Taiwanese pop as a paradox of foreign and national cultures. How music audiences listen to Taiwanese pop is related to their imaginative strategies of Taiwan, requiring a "meaning-centred" sociological understanding of culture. Since the ambiguous and still unresolved relations between China and Taiwan today have made some Chinese audiences ambivalent towards Taiwan and its cultural product. This study suggests that the development of Taiwanese pop in China may have benefited from that dilemma, and identifies the powerful of connection and contradiction of national identity and identity vis-à-vis music so that the music experience can be rendered into a political experience. This shows that Taiwan's popular music in China is a co-production, intertwined with both sides' political practices.

Far-right Movements in European Capitals of Culture: New Challenges to Democracy

Pedro Menezes

University of Porto, Portugal

This work intends to discuss the emergency of far-right movements in European Capitals of Culture (ECOC). Attributed since 1985, ECOC is an accreditation that the European Union annually gives to cities of the continent that use culture as a tool of social, urban and economic development. Simultaneously, the title celebrates the diversity and the unity of the continent: in the one hand, plurality is stimulated, since the specificities of each ECOC are stressed; in the other hand, singularity is promoted, given that all these different cities are integrated in one single network of ECOCs. Parallel to that, Europe has been watching the rise of far-right movements. This new conservative wave supports antidemocratic agendas, that threat ECOC's values: if ECOC stands for tolerance, balance between diversity and integration, and looks for a pan-European horizon, these movements resort to racism and xenophobia. In face of this conflicting landscape, this work aims to analyse this overlapping of these two opposite tendencies: the rising of far-right movements in ECOCs. Contrary to what one might suppose, instead of rejecting the ECOC title, these conservative groups are trying to appropriate it, rebrand it and use it according to their own interests. This suggests that the idea of culture is not being denied, but disputed. Comparing three ECOCs that are dealing with this issue (Chemnitz, Trencin and Timisoara), I ask: how do these far-right movements and the ECOC's commission deal with each other? In times of Brexit, a war in the continent, and crises of the original European project, how does the EU face this challenge to democracy and to its founding values?

The Process of Constructing Polishness and National Identity Using Engaged Clothing. Visual Content Analysis

Jowita Baran

Jagiellonian Uniwersity, Poland

The proposed presentation will focus on the analysis of different, often full of tensions and contradictions, visions of national identity. I have observed a recent trend in Poland of "engaged clothes", i.e., clothing whose content (colours and prints) pertains to current social issues that are significant to specific groups of people. I examine these every day, banal items with the aim of addressing a question: what visions of national identity do they reproduce? What symbols and combinations of symbols are used in clothes?

I look at these specific clothes – patriotic, rainbow, feminist, and leftist – and point out that all these popular clothing "styles" take part in the active reproduction of national identity – although each of them does it using their own unique combinations of symbols. The presentation will be based on content analysis of photos of products sold by the engaged stores (over 2,500 products).

The focus of the presentation is how national identity is reproduced through banal elements of everyday life, and how different visions of it and different ways of these processes can be observed. Referring to the ethnic-civic continuum of constructing national identity I will draw attention to the „mess of the nation", which is expressed in the coexistence of different visions of national identity within one nation, and to the ambiguity of symbols, including: national symbols that can mean not only different, but even contradictory ideas.

When Does Ethnicity Become Important? Symbolic Boundary Making Between the 'established' and the 'outsiders' of Radical Right Voters in Small Flemish Towns.

Ona Eliza Schyvens, Stijn Oosterlynck, Gert Verschraegen

University of Antwerp, Belgium

The starting point of this article is that processes of so-called 'superdiversification' are no longer confined to large 'gateway' cities, but have recently spread to peripheral areas and small and medium-sized towns (SMSTs). While individuals increasingly belong to multiple, sometimes overlapping symbolic categories, these rapid demographic transitions can also create strong symbolic boundaries between minority and majority ethnic groups. This is particularly the case for SMSTs in the Dender region, which are experiencing a more recent and faster process of superdiversification that is linked to spatial, demographic and housing market developments in Brussels and giving rise to local radical right parties. Despite the growing scholarly attention to symbolic boundaries between the 'established' and 'outsiders', the boundary-making processes of radical right voters have received little attention and have only been studied in large cities. Therefore, this article uses the conceptual framework from cultural sociology (symbolic boundary work) to explore how radical right voters draw symbolic boundaries between groups, taking into account the interplay of multiple and emerging dimensions of difference, including migration status, length of residence, ethno-national, ethno-racial and cultural markers. The study is based on multi-sited ethnographic observations, which are complemented with 20 semi-structured interviews.

RN07 | T07_01: Public spaces, monuments and memory

The Curious Case of Atrium Urbanism

Paul Jones

University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

All produced spaces are curious since they could, by definition, be different. Atriums – double height or greater vertical voids typically to be found in skyscrapers' lobbies – are an interesting illustration of this general contention. An internal feature of super-tall architecture the world over, the atrium flourishes in parts of cities where land value is high; given that atria could be occupied with directly rentable space, the voided volumes of this architectural feature are ostensibly puzzling.

Drawing primarily on the ideas of Henri Lefebvre and Walter Benjamin, this paper suggests that the presence of atria in major commercial – and increasingly public – buildings in cities the world over grows from oblique attempts to generate surplus value. Paradoxically, it is the ostensibly empty space of the atrium that is key to explaining this strategy. The tension between 'empty' (more properly voided) space and surplus value is a crucial here; the argument is that voids of open space can actually increase the value of objects, bodies, and practices that are assembled in and around them. The intriguing possibility that air itself can be monetised in a context of rentier capitalism suggests a tension between the formal architectural openness and flexibility of the atrium and the the hard, bounded and exclusionary nature of the space in practice. Defamiliarising the atrium – a distinctive and singular architectural feature of this moment – suggests a wider research agenda for those interested in critical analysis of the seemingly contradictory spaces that are produced when capital builds.

The Death of the Monument or the Never-Ending Battle over the Post-WWII Memories

Svetlana Hristova

South-West University, Bulgaria

The subject of the current paper is the symbolic battle of interpretations around the Soviet War Memorials commemorating the end of the WWII, which could be found until recently in different European countries where the Red Army has passed during its march to Berlin in 1945. After the fall of the Iron Wall, these monuments have been growingly contested and some of them – removed, a process which received a new vigour after the Russian invasion into Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The story will be narrated through the recent demolition of the Monument of

the Red Army, raised in 1954 in the heart of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, spectacularly cut into parts with a flex and removed from the Sofia public space just before Christmas 2023. The event unleashed new waves of symbolic confrontations and public protests: monument had to be guarded by military forces days and nights in order to be disassembled and removed from its pedestal. By comparing the public city policies towards different WWII monuments such as the Soviet War Memorials in Viena (1945) and in Berlin (started in 1945 and completed in 1949), and the Liberty Statue on the Gellert Hill in Budapest (1947), the analysis will differentiate three main approaches to the Soviet War memorials which reflect not only three different regimes of cultural commemoration of the WWII, but also three different intepretative canons of the presence.

Women's Role in Preserving Identity and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Arbëresh Communities of Calabria.

Rudina Hoxha (Duraj)

National Centre for Studies on Arbëresh [Albanian] Communities (QSPA)

The purpose of this paper is to consider, from a sociological perspective, the existing relationship between identity and culture refers to the specific situation of women belonging to the Arbëresh communities in Italy, who were settled in different regions of Italy after the Ottoman invasion of Albania, during the 1400s until 1700s. A major part of the society's collective memory is women's intangible cultural heritages. Women's cultural heritages are collections of oral histories, songs, narrations, dances, and culinary and traditional knowledge that are preserved and passed from one generation to another, to document and honor the contributions of their communities. Over hundreds of years of historical and cultural social transformation, women in Arbëresh communities managed to synthesize their role in preserving their identity and cultural heritage. The purpose of this article is to highlight the role of women in the preservation of the cultural heritage of Arbëresh communities, using interviews as a research method to gather qualitative data.

RN07 | T07_02: Lifestyle and inequalities in the field of education

A New University, New Students, New Cultural Lifestyles? The Transformation of Norwegian University Students 1998-2020.

Jan Fredrik Hovden

University of Bergen, Norway

For Bourdieu and Passeron in their early work on social and cultural reproduction (Inheritors 1964, Reproduction 1970), the university offered a privileged site for studying the relations between social advantages and the use of culture. Traditionally, European universities have been crucial sites for well-to-do young peoples' experimentation with and socialisation for traditional highbrow, avant-garde, and popular culture, and with various forms of political engagement. In the last twenty years, the universities have been the site of several reforms and transformations, both of the institution itself (the Bologna process, the mass university) and the more overarching changes following the digitalisation of culture and new media, which have provided mass access to cultural products. Analysing three surveys on cultural practices of Norwegian students from 1998, 2008 and 2020, this paper explores the changing historical relationship between the students' social class, their use of and relation to the university system, and their cultural lifestyles, using multiple correspondence analysis. Some important results are the surprisingly robust nature of class structuration of their lifestyles, the falling importance (but not disappearance) of the use and knowledge of art as an important cultural distinction, and the increasing disenchantment and detachment to both the traditional (legitime) national cultural sphere and the university itself. While access to the university per se has been somewhat democratised, this social expansion has also led to increasing social differences in students' careers, living conditions and cultural lifestyles.

Creative Work and Class Inequalities: Are Universities the Problem?

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The class crisis in creative work in the UK is well-established: people working in creative roles are disproportionately likely to have grown up in middle-class households; this is a longstanding issue, and that interacts in important ways with other dimensions of social inequality, such as gender and ethnic group.

Education is often posed as a means of countering these inequalities. If advantages are embedded through the family, the education system can do its part to level the playing field: this is particularly acute at higher education, given the clear majority of creative workers who hold degrees. However, higher education is also a means through which social inequalities can widen, through the application process, through courses themselves, and through differences between institutions.

We therefore ask: are universities mitigating or exacerbating the class crisis in UK creative work?

We use administrative data from the UK. First, we show the class imbalance in applications to creative courses in the first place, comparing them with the actual student body of these courses, distinguishing between creative courses and comparing them with higher education more generally. We then compare across three major groups of institutions: the Russell Group, a lobby group comprising 24 research-intensive universities; other universities established prior to 1992; and institutions that received university status in 1992 or later. Throughout, we show that class inequalities are not isolated, but also contribute to ethnic inequalities.

Through this combination of approaches, we show that the education system is not simply a channel through which inequalities persist, but an accelerator of inequalities.

Institutional Culture and Effectiveness in Higher Education in the Light of Faculty Members's Perceptions

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1University of Debrecen, Hungary; 2Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education, Ucraine

Higher education in Central and Eastern Europe is undergoing another major transformation, with an important element being the increase in the proportion of endowed institutions and the introduction of competitive performance assessment for higher education staff, with the promise of differentiated pay, which is being introduced in institutions across the region. There has been a lot of research on the impact of the private business-sector model and the changes in higher education work, but it rarely takes into account the institutional community to which the faculty members belong and the organisational culture of that community. We hypothesise that this in turn will significantly determine the response to the challenges. In order to test our hypothesis, we link the meso – and micro-levels, so institutional and individual views, and examine whether institutional culture and the perception of faculty members effectiveness are related. Our research questions relate to their homogeneity and context, and in order to answer them we conducted qualitative research, analysing the text of focus group interviews with 41 higher education teachers. The main findings of the research show that, despite the same social, policy and territorial challenges, there is a very diverse institutional culture in the institutions, and a great diversity in the views of faculty members on effectiveness. Views on institutional culture and effectiveness are related but not exclusive. Our findings may be important for higher education policy makers to monitor and manage the impact of change.

Educational Goals of Young Palestinian Women in East Jerusalem: A Study of Patriarchal Landscapes

Al-Khansaa Diab

The David Yellin Academic College of Education, Israel

This research examines the complex social dynamics encountered by young Palestinian women in East Jerusalem as they pursue higher education in Israeli institutions. Against cultural and political intricacies, their narratives reveal interplay among gender, education, and societal norms. Central to this study is their negotiation with patriarchal authority, particularly fathers and extended family, to gain trust and support for their educational aspirations. The research articulates these women's experiences, emphasizing their resilience and agency in challenging traditional gender roles and expectations.

The study unravels these women's multifaceted negotiation processes by employing in-depth interviews and thematic analysis. It illuminates their academic obstacles and the complex persuasion tactics employed, where respect for familial and cultural values is deftly balanced with educational ambitions. This negotiation gradually shifts family and societal perceptions, especially regarding women's roles and capabilities in higher education and broader society.

The study contributes to the discourse on women's education in conflict zones, highlighting the tension in the role of family and social networks in educational pursuits. It demonstrates how conventional patriarchal structures can be navigated and sometimes reshaped to align with new aspirations for female empowerment and education. Additionally, the research provides insights into women's negotiation tactics in traditional societies, framing these negotiations as part of their agency and strategic action.

Beyond its local context, this research offers a perspective for examining similar phenomena in regions experiencing cultural and sociopolitical conflict. It underscores the importance of addressing gender-specific educational barriers and suggests global strategies to support young women in similar contexts.

RN07 | T08_01: Reading cultures

Not Sharing. Reading And Interiority in the UK

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Much of the scholarship about reading practices of the past decades focuses on sharing. The interactions taking place in book groups and book clubs, between customer-reviewers on social media, at literary festivals, book talks and mass reading events are examined in order to counter what sociologist Elizabeth Long (2003) called 'the ideology of the solitary reader'. Aligning itself with developments in literary criticism and book history, the sociology of reading discovered that readers are social beings. In its enthusiasm for new sites where to investigate the observable expressions of reading, including the paratextual devices that sustain book markets, the sociology of reading has in important ways neglected the transformations taking place within the reading self, an unquestionably social entity. Focusing on the accounts by readers in the UK from different backgrounds and age-groups (using interviews and the archive of the Mass Observation Project), I explore the stance of readers who withhold their response to books in two ways: avoiding or abandoning book clubs and keeping for themselves the aesthetic-ethical impact of their favourite or most significant books. When these two stances overlap we observe the drive to protect sacralised, "personal" or "intimate" experiences, possible interactions with texts which emerged with the notion of the modern self and its literary correlate, the novel (Taylor 1989). The paper will dwell on the interplay between the desire to protect the reading experience from pollution by sharing and the ever-strong cultural imperative of self-expression.

Independent Reading Mediators: Differences, Definitions, and Motivations

Mariana Martins[1,2], José Soares Neves[1,2]

1Iscte – CIES – Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia; 2OPAC – Observatório Português das Atividades Culturais, Portugal

For the research "Reading Promotion Practices: Survey of Reading Mediators in Portugal", exploratory interviews were conducted with a plurality of individuals whose activities are linked to reading. The identification of a multitude of reading mediators underscores the need to explore and detail their differences, paying closer empirical attention to the stratification and differentiation within this category, considering their dispositions, professional contexts, and the impacts of their practices. Regarding the definitions of reading promotion and mediation, there is a diversity of interpretations, with some authors choosing to use both terms interchangeably. Given the multiplicity of professions represented by the interviewees, there is a question of whether all can be categorized as reading mediators or if some predominantly play a role more aligned with reading promotion than mediation per se. In this regard, more specific definitions of the terms are necessary. Once this differentiation is made, how can we categorize those who are promoters and those who are mediators of reading? These are aspects that we aim to address in this article. We will deepen our analysis of the figure of the independent mediator, seeking to understand, through their practices, trajectories, and discourses, their motivations, dispositions, and positions in the field of mediation. The goal is to understand the choices of these professionals, unveiling the reasons that drive them to pursue this profession, based on the intersection between the notion of vocation (Dubois, 2013) and cultural capital (Bourdieu and Passeron, 1992; Bourdieu, 2016), as well as to comprehend more deeply the nature and significance of this unique profession within the system of professions (Abott, 1988).

Reading Mediation: Policies, Agents, and Professional Practices

José Soares Neves, João Trocado da Mata, Mariana Oliveira Martins, Miguel Lopes

CIES_Iscte, Portugal

This communication discusses the practices and role of reading mediators as a professional category situated at the intersection of culture and education. From a broader context of cultural intermediation to a more specific one of reading mediation, the aim is to explore the functions of these agents within the chain of creation-manipulation-transmission of symbolic goods (Bovone, 1997, 105). This includes their role as key agents in the process of cultural legitimation and the formation of tastes (Bourdieu, 1984, 1996) to promote reading for pleasure. Ultimately, a categorization of reading mediators is proposed, considering the multiplicity of functions, institutional contexts, and professional backgrounds of these agents.

The main theoretical references for this study are the sociology of reading and reading practices, considered as a cultural leisure practice (Lopes, Neves & Ávila, 2021, p. 649). The analysis focuses on reading mediators (Griswold & Wohl, 2015; Petit, 1999), their professional and institutional contexts, and reading promotion practices (Alçada, 2021; Martinho, 2013; Neves, Lima & Borges, 2008; Neves & Lima, 2009).

This communication is part of the ongoing research "Reading Promotion Practices: Survey of Reading Mediators in Portugal," promoted by the National Reading Plan 2027 (PNL2027). The research is conducted within the framework of the Portuguese Observatory of Cultural Activities (OPAC) in 2022 and 2023.

Evolution of Reading Practices Among School Students in Portugal (2019-2023)

João Trocado Mata, José Soares Neves, Patrícia Ávila, Miguel Ângelo Lopes

Iscte-iul, Portugal

Sudies on the reading practices of school students have been revealing a decrease in the indices of leisure reading in recent decades (OECD, 2010, 2019, 2021; Clark and Picton, 2020), with this decrease being more pronounced among boys (Clark and Rumbold, 2006; OECD, 2010, 2019, 2021; Clark and Teravainen-Goff, 2020; Cole et al., 2022), with age and throughout the levels of education (Baudelot and Cartier, 1998; Lopes, 2003; Mullis et al., 2012; Baudelot, 2014; Kurcirkova and Cremin, 2020).

The main objective of this presentation is to analyze the evolution of reading practices for pleasure (Clark and Rumbold, 2006; Cremin, 2007; Clark and Teravainen, 2017; Monge and Quesada, 2019; Melo, 2020; Kurcirkova and Cremin, 2020; Merga, 2021) among students enrolled in primary, lower and upper secondary education in mainland Portugal between 2019 and 2023, namely, before and after the establishment of exceptional and temporary measures in the field of education, within the scope of the Covid-19 pandemic. This presentation also aims to deepen the available knowledge on reading among young school-age individuals in Portugal (Lages et al., 2007; Mata, et al., 2020; Mata, et al., 2021) and to contribute to the mapping of new frameworks for the development of this practice, within the context of the growing importance of information and communication technologies (Cardoso, 2013; Martins and Garcia, 2016; Octobre, 2019; Merga, 2021).

The research privileges a quantitative methodology, resorting to the analysis of data from two large survey operations. Each survey was administered to a national representative sample of primary, lower and upper secondary students in mainland Portugal of more than 20 thousand respondents.

RN07 | T09_01: Beauty standards

Beauty Standards As Cultural Capital: A Contextual-Comparative Study Of Beauty And Symbolic Boundaries In Accra, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong and Tehran

Giselinde Kuipers, Emmanuel Narh, Sanne Pieters, Narges Pirhayati, Carolina Rabasa Rucki, Wanying Zhou

KU Leuven, Belgium

A growing body of research shows that physical appearance or 'aesthetic capital' is an important resource in today's media-saturated, service-oriented, consumer societies. However, most of this research assumes a wide consensus on beauty standards, arguing that 'objective' beauty brings economic and social rewards. In this presentation, we investigate if and how beauty standards function as cultural capital: variable cultural standards that mark symbolic boundaries and social status. Moreover, we investigate how this varies across contexts, hypothesizing that beauty standards are more likely to function as status-related boundary markers in more diverse contexts.

In this presentation, we first explain the construction and design of a context-specific

instrument for studying beauty standards in five global cities on four continents: Accra, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong and Tehran. In close collaboration and using a strictly defined set of criteria, we have designed five sets of visual Q-sort decks that allow us to trace variations (and similarities) in beauty standards for bodies and faces of women and men in each city. These Q-decks form the basis of interviews that simultaneously provide a quantitative mapping of standards across social categories, and qualitative analysis of repertoires of evaluating beauty.

Second, we will present the first results of these studies, which will be carried out between January and July 2024. We will do 40 Q-interviews among a stratified sample of the population of each city. For every city we will present the result of a factor analysis showing the main taste patterns and their relation to main social divides; the degree of consensus or variation in beauty standards; and the main repertoires of evaluation of beauty.

The Beauty Of Being Elite: Physical Appearance, Beauty Taste And Status (Re)production Of The Political Elite In Buenos Aires

Carolina Belen Rabasa Rucki

KU Leuven, Belgium

We all know not to judge a book by its cover. Yet, it appears society can't escape beauty, defined as an ever-present set of aesthetic evaluations over physical appearance deeply rooted in cultural repertoires (Kuipers, 2015; Lamont 2000). In this presentation, we introduce our ongoing line of research on beauty and inequality through the political elite of Buenos Aires (Argentina), as an elite group that transpires within a field that is highly influential over Argentinian culture.

Firstly, we introduce the importance of studying beauty through elites in a peripheral setting, as it presents new perspectives on its link with social inequalities, hierarchies and classifications. Secondly, we focus on the role of the elite's beauty taste when it comes to looking good and looking right. Here, beauty taste is presented as dispositions on embodied cultural capital and strongly related to status (re)production processes. Thirdly, we focus on a micro-interactional level to investigate the role of evaluations over appearance. Particularly, around boundary-drawing micro-mechanisms such as code-switching and gatekeeping, wherein aesthetic appearances become an essential element for the elite group members' status reproduction.

We present an ongoing research design that uses qualitative methods to understand the dynamics around the politician's public image. For this, we combine observational shadowing techniques and interviews with the politicians themselves, their press teams and aesthetic assistants. By doing so, we aim to understand how looking good and looking right works, accounting for class and gender variables, regarding the (re)production of their status as political elites.

Evaluations of Beauty: Analyzing the Association of Gender and Social Class in Perceptions and Evaluations of Physical Appearance

Anna Grahn, Outi Sarpila

University of Turku, Finland

Physical appearance has gained increasing interest in the field of sociology in recent decades. In cultural sociological research on appearance, there has been a particular focus on the embodiment of social class. This focus extends to the evaluation of appearance, which is, in essence, considered 'double embodied' meaning that people both assess others but also undertake body and beauty work in alignment with their own aesthetic dispositions. Based on previous research, we know how differences between social classes become apparent, especially along the thin-fat axis, and for men, also along the muscular-non-muscular axis. In contrast to earlier sociological research, this study also examines the latter aspect concerning women. We analyze to what extent the fit body ideal has emerged alongside the thin body ideal for female bodies, and the significance of muscularity from the perspective of double embodiment. We use unique survey data collected in 2023 (N=349). In the survey, respondents were presented a female figural scale portraying 11 images of female bodies varying in body fat and muscularity. Respondents were asked to choose the most and the least beautiful body and the body that they thought would correspond to their idea of a middle-aged Finnish woman on average. Also, female respondents were asked what body type reflected best their current body. Our preliminary results suggest that the respondent's social class and gender are associated with the evaluation of physical appearance. In particular, the differences are larger between social categories when assessing the least beautiful body.

RN07 | T09_02: Cultural consumption and commercial tensions

Cultural Resurgence: Romanian Brands as Custodians of Tradition

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The following article comprehensively explores the pivotal role of Romanian brands in preserving and revitalizing cultural traditions, situating the investigation within the existing literature on the symbiotic relationship between brands and cultural heritage. Drawing on contemporary sociological theories that underscore the transformative power of brands as cultural intermediaries (Goh et al., 2016)—shaping collective memory and identity, and functioning as both preservers and innovators in the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity—the research utilizes the qualitative case study method to scrutinize the strategies employed by three Romanian brands (IIANA, IONA, and Vinarte). The discourse acknowledges the challenges posed by globalization to cultural heritage preservation, highlighting the potential of brands as agents of cultural continuity.

To delve into the intricate dynamics at play, the research adopts the case study method, a qualitative approach facilitating an in-depth examination of specific instances within their real-life context. According to Yin (2014), a case study is an empirical inquiry investigating a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context, particularly when the boundaries between the phenomenon and context are unclear. This method offers a nuanced understanding of the strategies employed by three Romanian brands (IIANA, IONA, and Vinarte) in preserving and revitalizing cultural traditions.

The overarching research question guiding this study is: How do Romanian brands strategically contribute to the preservation and revitalization of cultural traditions, and what are the implications of their efforts in the face of globalization? Subsequently, the investigation addresses specific inquiries related to branding strategies, cultural symbolism incorporation, and consumer perceptions (Cova & Dalli, 2009) through these case studies, highlighting the strategies employed by these brands to revive and celebrate Romanian traditions.

Simplification and/or Stereotypization? Examining the "Toon Gaze" in Children Animated Series as a Cultural, Media and Commercial Tension

Silvia Leonzi, Giovanni Ciofalo, Michele Balducci

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The aim of the paper is to examine the complex interaction between production and representation in the children's animated series available on streaming platforms. In particular, the study focuses on the impact of this phenomenon on contemporary cultural and creative industries, with a specific focus on Italy.

The research, of which some first results were presented at the previous ESA 2021 Conference, is based on a four-year study that investigates a potential media disorder that arises from the creation, diffusion, and consolidation of media representations in children's animated series. The study explores the ethical-behavioral, aesthetic, and narrative aspects of animated series and examines the potential for cross-stereotyping and oversimplification. The study defines this type of cultural and media disorder as a possible "Toon Gaze," which also refers to the transmedia impact of the series available on the major SVOD platforms in Italy.

The research employs a dual approach, analyzing the content of over 300 episodes from 12 series targeting both preschool and older audiences (ages 6 to 12). This detailed investigation is followed by the construction of transmedia maps for each series, examining spreadability and extractability and exploring ancillary products such as toys, merchandise, and co-branding.

According to the study, simplification is often employed in children's content to make it more easily understandable and recognizable under commercial logics. However, this practice also perpetuates harmful stereotypes, and vice versa. This double tension, presented also from a transmedia perspective, defines "Toon Gaze" as a disorder that affects cultural, media, and social levels.

Compared to What? Repertoires of Comparison in the Cultural Construction of Reality

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Comparison is ubiquitous in social life, yet some comparisons are far more common, institutionalized and influential than others. Inspired by work in cultural sociology, we call these repertoires of comparison (RoCs). RoCs are employed at different levels of society (local, national, global) and

across myriad social contexts (sports clubs, city offices, the media). For example, horrific events are frequently compared to the paradigmatic case of 9/11 to assess their gravity and Greenwich Village long served as a model neighborhood for city policy makers. Our aim in this article is to put RoCs on the sociological map. We argue that RoCs matter because they: a) encode and express moral judgements; b) shape our frames of reference; c) guide aspirations and aversions; and d) inform symbolic boundary drawing. We then discuss how RoCs emerge, become contested, and which social factors contribute to their transformation or replacement.

Inclusive Regulation of Cultural Supply: Strategies for the Implementation of the Cultural Consumption Basket

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Researchers in various contexts have theoretically and empirically uncovered the potential of cultural participation to foster more inclusive and socially cohesive communities (Warren and Jones 2018). To address the challenge of enhancing cultural access, a proposed solution is the introduction of a 'cultural consumption basket' which defines the groups of cultural services provided to inhabitants. Analysis of 2022 Latvian Culture Barometer data reveals noteworthy disparities in cultural consumption and participation, particularly among individuals with differing incomes, ethnic backgrounds, and across regions. The lowest participation is evident in sparsely populated border regions adjacent to Russia. The aim of the study is to identify cultural resource enhancement strategies for less privileged groups. Key research questions revolve around identifying cultural policy strategies that mitigate barriers to cultural access for at-risk groups and exploring the conditions under which the cultural consumption basket effectively addresses this issue. The theoretical framework is rooted in the challenges of decision-making regarding basket elements identified in cultural policy practice. The empirical research is based on an action research design. To test the feasibility of implementing a cultural consumption basket, an exploratory scenario planning approach was used in practice, with five case studies simulating iterative decision-making practices to develop stakeholder flexibility and adaptability in decision-making, allowing for adjustments based on feedback and changing circumstances. In line with Warren and Jones (2018), this methodology aligns with the assumption that selecting basket elements requires participatory, inclusive forms of cultural governance, involving distributed and discursive public decision-making strategies.

RN09 | Economic Sociology

RN09 | T01_01: Changing concepts and perspectives in economic sociology?

This session covers new concepts that have emerged in economic sociology over the last decades. We will discuss how they might contribute to the perspectives and field of economic sociology in the future

"The Commons: A Fresh Thought for Economic Sociology"

Andrea Maurer

Trier University, Germany

While some economic sociologists have started to introduce approaches from different backgrounds I'm going to ask how we can develop the core program in a way that allows us to deal with new questions/issues such as sustainability.

Economic sociologists have developed a successful research programme focusing on the social embeddedness of market exchange. However, economy sociology has not been able to deal appropriately with challenging topics such as climate change and sustainability in the use of resources.

How can we develop our core program in a way that allows us to deal with these new issues? After a review of new economic sociology's core ideas, I will suggest the Commons approach, which as a social science concept can be combined with our ideas and tools to allow us to deal more appropriately with the topics our global community faces.

We will see that the Commons approach broadens the perspective of market exchange by focusing on the common goal of restricting the overuse of scarce natural resources. In this session, we will explore and discuss the tension between societal and economic principles and discover when markets may not be an effective tool for organizing the economy.

Redefining the Public Dimension of Property

Jordi Mundó

Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

In contemporary sociology, the issue of property has lost the centrality it had in classical sociology. Also in mainstream economics, the concern with property has too often neglected a sound social and normative analysis, being more interested in the mechanisms of safeguarding private property rights than in their justification and in gaining an understanding of the historical processes that have given rise to them, including their hegemonies and resistances. This has led to a pattern of analysis and discussion in the social sciences that tends to approach property as a solved political problem. This paper [1] will show how the persistence of a privatist conception of property, deeply rooted in economic, social and political interests, is also explained by an application of law that conceives public law as residual with respect to private law and that has developed an expansive notion of property through the principle of freedom of contract. [2] It will reflect on how legal realism and other social science developments have channelled a pluralistic, relational and integrated understanding of property in historical and social contexts, and promoted a recovery of the public dimension of property. [3] Finally, it will assess how this conception of rights enables a reconceptualization of the contemporary commons.

The political economy of the old industrial triangle: Genoa, Turin and Milan

Emanuele Nebbia Colomba

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The social sciences have developed various theoretical approaches to analyze the relationship between the state and the market. One of the most developed strands is "comparative political economy" CPE, which can be seen as an attempt to theorize different responses to the crisis of Fordist-Keynesian compromise: from industrial districts to varieties of capitalism till the "growth models". CPE has been criticized for "methodological nationalism" and is now opening up to the study of national sub-units (Fraccaroli, Regan, Blyth 2023).

This paper, part of my doctoral dissertation, seeks to make both a theoretical and empirical contribution to the literature.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the cities of the so-called "industrial triangle", Genoa, Turin, and Milan, pulled Italy towards a phase of steady economic growth known as the "economic miracle". However, with the crisis of the Fordist-Keynesian compromise, the three cities entered a crisis and made different development choices: Turin tried to focus on tourism and the organization of major international events, hosting the 2006 Winter Olympics. Milan is the city among the three that has become more financialized and can be categorized as a "global city". Genoa has tried with little success to revive its industrial apparatus. The paper is based on the triangulation of several key stakeholder interviews lasting an average of one hour each and analysis of policy documents and newspapers aimed at investigating the perceptions of local elites – mayors, parliamentarians, trade unionists, and industrialists – on the strategic choices made at three "critical junctures" from 1990 to the present.

Towards a Sociology of Innovation Ecosystems: Decision-Making Under Uncertainty Between Social Construction and Bounded Rationality

Simone D'Alessandro

University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

Starting from the Schumpeterian approach and arriving at the most recent anti-mainstream theories on Innovation Ecosystems, the research examines, through

theories, models, and business cases, the problematic relationships between Innovation, Invention, and Creative Processes in an attempt to understand, from a sociological perspective, the decision-making processes induced by expectations and uncertainties. Different schools of thought in economics, agree that innovation is the main driver of growth. Disagreement arises when economists attempt to explain how innovation occurs, as there is a lack of shared understanding about the expectations of its decision-makers and implementers. There is also a lack of understanding about the social and cultural constructions of decision-makers, which are influenced by conditions of uncertainty, mistrust, error, and "non-knowledge" (Gross, McGoey, 2015). The imagined innovation may be considered feasible in the start-up phase but fail during its development. The innovator, in an ex-ante phase, cannot predict how a new hypothesis will evolve. In many cases, as we shall see, he will remove the observation of obstacles, because he is influenced by beliefs and convictions that disregard rational choices, even bounded ones.

RN09 | T02_01: Imaginaries and concepts of economic transition

In this session we will have a closer look on how to theorize and view current transitions in the economy.

Beyond Utopian Visions: Unveiling the Complex Realities of Alternative Spaces in a World of Challenges

Ewa Zielińska

University of Warsaw, Warsaw

In the midst of contemporary challenges, this study explores the transformative potential of alternative spaces, positioned as catalysts for change amid the climate crisis, urban gentrification, and the commodification of both visible and invisible cultural values. Despite their perceived revolutionary potential, the intricate interplay between alternative places and socio-economic conditions remains inadequately explored, leading to a romanticized view of countercultural initiatives. This decade-long research, encompassing 206 alternative places in Polish cities, seeks to demystify this phenomenon. Through a wide array of sociological tools, it addresses pressing questions: What institutional mechanisms contribute to the ghettoization of these spaces, despite their professed openness? Why do engaged social actors often find themselves on the brink of self-exploitation? How do efforts to sustain spontaneous actions inadvertently create hidden circuits of norms and power? Furthermore, this investigation aims to unravel the feasibility of eliciting societal change through alternative spaces. Can these initiatives provoke meaningful shifts in public policies, or are they constrained by systemic forces? The comprehensive analysis draws from long-term participatory research, encompassing a leading initiative and 15 case studies from diverse regions of Poland. Qualitative text analysis of nearly 200 mission statements enriches our understanding. The results, interpreted within the frameworks of commodification (Harvey), institutional isomorphism (DiMaggio & Powell), and the capitalist spirit (Boltanski & Chiapello), provide nuanced insights into the dynamics shaping alternative spaces. As we navigate the complex landscape of contemporary challenges, this research contributes a vital perspective, examining the potential for grassroots endeavors to effect transformative change in diverse societal spheres.

Imaginaries and Conventions in Commensuration Work: The Financial Valuation of Social Values in Socially Sustainable Investing

Rami Kaplan[1], Zeev Rosenhek[2]

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This paper studies the commensuration work that serves as foundation for the operation of socially sustainable investing (SSI), a global field of financial activity that entails the inclusion of extra-financial factors related to particular social values into investment practices and products. We consider SSI as a field that is constituted by the interweaving between two orders of worth understood in society as separate and even hostile: the civic order of worth and a financialized version of the market order of worth. We postulate that the operation of SSI is dependent upon the commensuration work conducted by institutional actors who formulate imaginaries and conventions that inform the production and operation of market devices and products. We probe the imaginaries and conventions that constitute SSI, focusing on the ways in which they define rules of valuation through which extra-financial factors are financially valued.

At the empirical level, we examine the imaginaries and conventions formulated by Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), an international multilateral organization composed by institutions in the financial industry in partnership with the UN that has played a central role in the development of the SSI market, especially by promoting principles, general standards, practical blueprints and tools. We analyze the repertoires of notions, categories, and causal and prescriptive models inscribed in documents produced by PRI that represent imaginaries and conventions addressing issues of commensurability between the two different orders of worth that constitute the field. The paper contributes to the study of processes of valuation from a pragmatic perspective, shedding light on the ways in which institutional actors conduct commensuration work between different orders of worth through the formulation and communication of imaginaries and conventions.

From Burdens of Ownership to Pleasures of (Co-)Use? Post-ownership as a Mediatised Discourse of a Socio-Economic Transformation

Juhana Venäläinen

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Why are we repeatedly presented with the idea that owning tangible things is outdated and old-fashioned? In the 2010s and early 2020s, the concept of moving beyond the individual ownership of material possessions has emerged as a recognisable cultural trope, promising a socially and environmentally sustainable shift in consumption practices. Instead of hoarding personal collections – and thereby contributing to overconsumption – the discourse promotes non-possessive practices such as leasing cars, borrowing tools from libraries, accessing culture and clothing through subscription services, and using shared vehicles to get around in urban spaces. Even household items and personal belongings have come to be seen as material surpluses that, because of their low rate of use, should be 'decluttered', minimised or recycled for new uses through sharing platforms.

This presentation explores how the discourse of post-ownership emerges as a cultural ideal that works to challenge and redefine the social and cultural meanings of ownership. It specifically approaches post-ownership through its mediatised representations, which articulate the practices of relinquishing ownership through multiple themes. The methodology is based on thematic and critical discourse analysis of a large dataset of articles published in Finnish magazines between 2010 and 2023.

In terms of cultural ideals, increased material ownership has traditionally been a marker of upward social mobility and implied the freedom of use one's belongings without external constraints. Conversely, the recent discourse of post-ownership frames material ownership as a burdensome obligation that limits personal freedom and hinders the achievement of life goals.

The Refeudalisation of Digital Capitalism

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Scandals in recent years highlight how platform companies have exerted influence over the digital public sphere to advance their own (profit-driven) interests. Following Habermas, sociology has, thus, delved into the realm of digital capitalism, exploring the possibility of a new structural transformation of the public sphere. Building on Habermas' concept of refeudalisation, Sighard Neckel has pointed out that the rise of financial capitalism has led to a concentration of power, wealth, and recognition that bears similarities to what platform companies represent in digital capitalism in terms of economic and political influence.

Drawing from his conclusions, this presentation aims to investigate the emergence of neofeudal forms of power, recognition, and wealth distribution in digital capitalism. The findings reveal (1) a refeudalisation of the economic organization and (2) a refeudalisation of the social structure:

(1) Major internet corporations owe their ascent and the accompanying concentration of power, wealth, and recognition to the subversion of bourgeois market principles such as competition and performance. Their success relies on exploiting power and the potential for rent extraction.

(2) A polarization of social structure emerges, characterized by the formation of a wealth oligarchy drawn from company shareholders on one side, and the precarisation and extreme marketisation of self-employed workers in the Gig Economy on the other.

I want to contribute to the ongoing discourse on the societal implications of digital capitalism, highlighting potential neofeudal trends in the digital-driven social change and the tensions between society and digitalisation.

RN09 | T02_02: Tensions between economy and society

These papers provide a comprehensive overview of the intersections between economic policies, social outcomes, and political attitudes.

One Size Fits All? The Link Between Firm Size, Job Outcomes, and Political Attitudes

Sinisa Hadziabdic[1], Sebastian Kohl[2]

1Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Germany; 2Free University of Berlin, Germany

Given the recent re-concentration of the economy in many private industries, the impact of working in firms of different sizes on occupational and political outcomes is of renewed interest. Using micro-level data for the US and Germany, two most dissimilar cases in terms of labor market and political institutions, we show that large firms provide substantially more material and welfare benefits to their workers, while small firms are characterized by the highest job satisfaction and more harmonious relational dynamics. Workers in medium-sized firms appear to be "betwixt and between," being worst off in many dimensions, thus contradicting utopias of medium-sized-firm capitalism. Within firms of similar size, we also document a significant polarization between employers' and their employees' job experiences and political views. With the number of waking hours spent at the workplace, the firm has been a neglected locus of social sorting and socialization through which the economy shapes society.

Pension Saving In A Gendered Lifecourse

Hayley James

Aston University, United Kingdom

With changes to welfare state provision, saving for a pension throughout one's working life is essential to provide an income during later life. In the UK, automatic enrolment has increased participation in pension saving, but many people are still saving at minimum rates that are unlikely to deliver adequate incomes in later life. This is especially a concern for women, who earn (and therefore save) less but also live longer, exposing them to a great risk of poverty in later life.

However, our understanding of pension saving, predominantly as a consumption smoothing vehicle, is based on a one-size-fits-all perspective of the savings lifecycle, where accumulation peaks in midlife. Drawing on qualitative research on pension saving decisions amongst men and

women aged 25-45 years old working for large employers in the UK, I demonstrate that pension saving is shaped by experiences of the gendered lifecourse, with different norms, narratives and sanctions operating in relation to pension saving at different stages. I identify three gendered lifecourse moments which affect pension saving, ultimately modifying the savings lifecycle, with implications for workplace pension policy in the UK and more broadly.

Economic Progress: Reconstructing collective self-understanding in Chile and Spain.

Rommy Morales-Olivares

University of Barcelona, Spain

The paper aims to empirically study the controversies surrounding the notion of economic progress by organised actors in the public sphere since 2011, from a comparative perspective in Chile and Spain, and how their ways of understanding economic progress have temporarily changed. In sociological terms, economic progress is characterised by a constant uncertainty about the future; trust in the economic system and the experience of contingency (Bourdieu, 1979; Habermas, 1999; Koselleck 2004; Luhmann 2007; Wagner 2016; Beckert, 2016). This indeterminate future offers the possibility for actors to shape it, is sustained by promissory legitimacy and expresses a proximate imaginary (Beckert, 2016). Beckert defined promissory legitimacy as "the support that political authority can derive from the credibility of the promises that political leaders make regarding future states of the world to justify decisions and persuade others to follow them in the proposed course of action" (Beckert, 2020: 318). If social actors lose hope, legitimacy fails and a legitimation crisis arises as the hopes that actors had regarding the future are destroyed (Habermas, 1973; Beckert, 2019).

In Chile and Spain, collective actors have acquired an oppositional consciousness to the institutionality of Economic Progress unprecedented in recent history, which has been radicalised since 2011 with favourable cultural and institutional conditions for its deployment; they no longer sustain a legitimised version of economic progress; new claims for the future are thus expressed. The reason for this crisis of legitimacy is not entirely clear, but several authors argue that it is due to the fact that the promises of economic progress have not been fulfilled.

Open Secrets: Impact of Promises in Nacala Special Economic Zone as Facilitators for Land Acquisition Amélia Machava

Amélia David Machava

Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique

The mechanisms of the land acquisition for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) projects have had economic, social and environmental impacts. The Government of Mozambique created the SEZ of Nacala. The SEZ of Nacala is public property and is located in the middle of urban residential and most families have agriculture as their main source of subsistence, food security, income and work. In exchange, the investors make promises, but these are not fulfilled. The lack of compliance has impacted the social and economic conditions of families. The study aims to analyze the impact of land acquisition promises on the implementation of the SEZ for the communities of Nacala. The mixed approach was the methodology used. The empirical basis of this study is made up of testimonies from Nacala residents about the communities' survival strategies and the impacts of land acquisition promises on the implementation of the Nacala of SEZ. The study reveals that 79.8% of interviewees believe that there have been changes in the source of income and a reduction in cultivated land with the implementation of the SEZ. Fishing, commerce and salaried work became the main sources of income for the population in the urban area. Agriculture continues to be the main source of survival and food, income and work in rural areas. The results suggest that 91.2% of those interviewed admit that there were promises and that 63.0% say they were not kept. The interviewed admit that the investors together with local leaders made these promises. The research also revealed that monetary compensation encouraged corruption among investors and local leaders, due to the presence of intermediaries and commissions mainly in Nacala-Porto.

RN09 | T03_01: Tensions between identities, norms and reality

This session explores the complex interplay between societal norms, individual identities, and economic realities. Presentations will delve into diverse contexts and issues, offering empirical insights and theoretical reflections on how these tensions manifest in different societies.

When Middle Class Fantasies Hit the Wall: The Case of Turkish Economic Crisis

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1SELCUK UNIVERSITY, Turkiye; 2KTO KARATAY UNIVERSITY, Turkiye

In this study, we are attempting to define the ways in which the middle-class subjectively interprets its' class position in the context of recent economic crisis in Turkey. Turkish society is experiencing hyperinflation for the last three years. With the sudden decline of real wages and purchasing power, majority of the population is facing economic difficulties. The middle classes – mostly salaried workers – might be the segment of the society which experiences not only financial hardships but also a crisis of values and identity. Emergency economy policies are aiming at suppressing consumption by interest rate hikes, limiting consumer loans and installments in credit card purchases. In the face of such measures, the middle classes not only feel impoverished, but also feel disillusionment since their upwards-oriented consumption patterns are significantly disturbed. Based on fifty in-depth interviews, information with regard to perceptions of downward social mobility, changes in consumption patterns, values regarding upwards mobility especially through education and hard-work, and anxiety about the future are qualitatively analyzed. All interviewees are higher-education graduates, working and married professionals living in Konya, Türkiye. Our analysis demonstrates that the belief towards education and hard-work, a central value of middle-classes is preserved although it is severely shaken. A recurrent theme in such deduction is the ever-increasing difficulty of buying a home and a car, which are seen as basic indicators of success. Unsurprisingly, their subjective definitions of their class position still as middle class, but with a deep sense of injustice as a source of resentment.

Fair Reward by the Table: How Unequal are Salary Tables?

Miloslav Bahna

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While the public call for a reduction of wage inequality is the prevalent sentiment in equal and unequal societies alike, so is the acknowledgment of the necessity of rewarding skills and training with higher wages. An almost universal solution to "just differences" in salaries are pay scales. These typically account for the complexity of training for the carried out tasks (pay grades) and provide seniority or performance-based bonuses (steps). While the presence of pay scales in a country has been observed to reduce wage inequality growth, a comparative analysis of inequality levels designed by these tables plotting wages across the full scale of professions has not been attempted so far. In my paper I analyze pay scales in the public sector in several dozen countries from all regions of the world. I compare the ratio between the least and the most valued positions of the pay scales with public preferences for pay differences as measured in the ISSP Social Inequality survey. The general observation is that pay scales generate almost universally higher levels of inequality than those preferred by the general public. While the ratio between a job demanding the most skills and an unskilled position is between 2 and 35 in the analyzed salary tables, the seniority or performance premium ratios are smaller, typically between 1.1 and 1.62. Comparing origins of salary tables in the analyzed countries, I discuss factors which increase and decrease the level of inequality these tables allow. I also look at the relationship between objective income inequality, its perceptions and pay scales in a country.

Unemployment and the Social Norm to Work – An Empirical Assessment Using Computational and Panel Methods

Sebastian Prechsl[2], Christoph Müller[1]

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While the negative unemployment effect on subjective wellbeing (SWB) is well-documented (Brand, 2015), the contextual factors leading to heterogeneous effects are less clear. One strand of literature argues that increasing contextual unemployment mitigates the unemployment effect on SWB, as stigma is less prevalent if unemployed are surrounded by unemployed (Frey & Stutzer, 2002). In contrast to contextual habituation, studies argue that a higher unemployment rate worsens the labor market prospects of unemployed, thus amplifying the SWB losses (Oesch & Lipps, 2013). Given these contradictory findings, the question remains whether the unemployment rate is a suitable moderator to identify the role of the social norm to work for the unemployment effect on SWB.

We conducted a sentiment analysis with text data from the second largest German newspaper, constructing a measure reflecting the negativity in the discourse on unemployment, which we merged with 22 waves of the German SOEP. This enables us to purge the effect of stigmatization among the unemployed from regional unemployment. Using time distributed fixed effects (Ludwig & Brüderl, 2021), we find strong negative effects of unemployment on SWB and a stronger effect of becoming and staying unemployed in regions with higher unemployment rates, contradicting the hypothesis of contextual habituation. We also find that negativity in the discourse on unemployment amplifies the effect of becoming unemployed on SWB controlling for regional unemployment. Moreover, the negative effect of media discourse remains in regions with high unemployment. Thus, regional unemployment seems to be only a crude measure for the prevalence of the social norm to work.

Divided Economies? Language, Ethnicity, and Market Challenges in Multicultural Environments – A Case Study from Transylvania, Romania

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This study engages in an exploration of ethnic parallelism in a multicultural economy, focusing specifically on its manifestation in the private sector. Drawing on insights from institutional economics, microeconomics, and new economic sociology, the analysis explores the effects of marketization on interethnic relations in Transylvania, Romania. Against the backdrop of mainstream neoliberal economic tenet, which emphasizes lower state regulation in the private economy, we argue that marketization, rather than fostering equitable accommodation of diversity, often inadvertently encourage ethnic segregation in multicultural societies.

To illustrate our arguments, we present two compelling examples. The first example, set in the realm of market exchange, sheds light on the challenges faced by Hungarians in Transylvania who engage less in trading on Romanian online platforms. This phenomenon leads to information asymmetries and suboptimal resource allocation, hindering optimal economic outcomes. The second example, rooted in the business realm, underscores the impact of coethnicity on labor management, showing how the lack of symmetric treatment of multilingualism results in coordination failures and welfare disadvantages.

The conclusion drawn from our study is straightforward: there is a critical need for public institutions that actively facilitate the crossing of linguistic and ethnic boundaries. These institutions are essential for fostering equitable accommodation and harmonious integration in multicultural societies, acting as a linchpin for addressing the challenges posed by ethnic parallelism.

RN09 | T03_02: Trust and solidarity in contemporary economies

This session examines the evolving notions of trust and cooperation within capitalist frameworks, highlighting the interplay between digital and analogue realms, financial promises, and cooperative structures.

Trust in the Magic of Financial Capitalism: How Investment Podcasters Promise to Transform Lives

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Today's world is increasingly characterised by uncertainty, as we are constantly confronted with various crises. Yet, faith in the continuing long-term upward trajectory of the stock market remains unaffected by recurring financial crises or any general anxieties about the future. In this paper, we use the notion of "magical capitalism" (Moeran, 2017; Lee, 2022) to show how some people are able to maintain or regain trust in their individual future by leveraging a prevalent unwavering faith in the future success of financial capitalism. In a re-enchanted world, modern magicians, magical rites and magical representations work together to overcome unpredictability and related anxieties (Moeran, 2017). "Financial influencers" in various social media can be seen as such magicians and gurus who reveal their magical rites to their followers.

We conduct discourse analysis on three Finnish investment podcasts where the magical properties of investing constitute a prevailing discourse. In these podcasts, the economic system is seen as the strongest force that nothing can ultimately undermine. It is suggested that gaining the power to utilise this force – through investing – will allow people to magically transform their own future for the better. This individual solution obfuscates the tension between trust in financial capitalism and lack of trust in the collective future more widely. This study thus sheds light on magical capitalism and the hyper-individualised discursive processes it uses and maintains.

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Analogue Trust In A Digital World: A Qualitative Research On Blablacar

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Online sharing applications (Uber, Lyft, Blablacar, Airbnb, Couchsurfing, Eatwith, and so an), or those called sharing economy platforms are becoming widespread. With the increasing use of these online platforms, the concept of "digital trust" has started to be used and taken its place in the literature. Blablacar, a ride sharing application is one of the most famous applications in the platform economy. In the Blablacar application, people who usually travel between cities come together and share their journeys with other users. Blablacar was not very popular in Türkiye before pandemic. Thus, Blablacar had to close its office in Türkiye in 2016 but kept letting users access to the platform online via Google Play and Apple Store. After the to pandemic and economic turmoil now more people use Blablacar for their journeys in Türkiye. Here, the main issue besides economic factors in using Blablacar is trust. Blablacar emphasizes that the platform enables users to assess each other's trustworthiness via certain online evaluation facilities. It enables people to trust the application rather than the very person they will share the ride. Hence emerges digital trust. Digital trust resembles the Luhmannian "systemic trust" as opposed to personal trust. Yet In this study, semi-structured interviews and participatory ride sharing journeys in Türkiye as well as a discourse analysis of the posts on Blablacar's websites revealed that there are also "self-made trust" while experiencing the application, the "manageable distrust" provided by the previous experience of someone they trusted, and the "analogue trust" are all accompanying the "digital trust".

Worker Cooperatives in Capitalist Contexts

Kristin Wiksell

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Worker cooperatives are economic associations equally owned and democratically governed by workers with the potential to contribute to economic democracy and social change. This study explores how small worker co-ops in Sweden are constructed and organized by co-operators in ways that can resist capitalism, while at the same time having to relate to capitalism as the context in which they operate. The qualitative study shows that worker co-ops challenge capitalism, associated with economic ideals and hierarchical control, by instead enacting social ideals such as equal work relations through friendships, uncommodified work time and freedom to self-govern. The worker co-ops value work that may not generate monetary profit but can contribute to a socially and ecologically sustainable society. However, worker co-ops risk the reproduction of power and compromise of ideals in order to survive within capitalist market economic contexts. In order to get customers in competition with other businesses, worker co-ops sometimes sell their services to lower cost than they would like according to their ideals and present themselves as conventional rather than cooperative businesses. The organizational form of cooperatives is not always seen as positive from a marketing perspective which may limit the worker co-ops potential to spread knowledge on the organizational form. This research highlights possibilities and pitfalls of organizing for social change.

The Role of Generalized and Institutional Trust in the Support of EU Policies

György Lengyel, Gabriella Ilonszki

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Drawing on the results of a recent Hungarian empirical study, we investigate whether trust has a significant effect on the perception of EU policies. The question is to what extent people accept EU policy competence in the short and long term. We interpret types of trust as expectations that people in general and institutions in particular will act in a predictable and cooperative way in the near and distant future. It seems reasonable to assume that trust types are positively related to supranational policies for collective well-being. But is this the case in all circumstances? What if trust in institutions falls below a critical level? What if collective identity overrides pragmatic considerations? What is the impact if the governing elite and the pro-government media project a negative image of the EU institutions? The study seeks answers to these questions.

RN09 | T04_01: Platform economy

From different perspectives new economic forms caused by digitalization are analyzed.

The Role of Digital Platforms in Generational Justice: Stock Apps and Youth Financial Civic Movements in Taiwan and Japan

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Senshu University, Japan

Taiwan and Japan similarly achieved rapid economic growth from the 1960s to the 1980s, during the era in developmental states and authoritarian regimes. However, in recent years, with the expansion of the global economy, wealth inequality between elders and youths has become a serious social problem in these countries. Nonetheless, it is argued that the youth in these East Asian countries are making efforts to reduce the wealth gap between generations by empowering themselves and enhancing financial literacy. Based on interviews with young generations in Taiwan and Japan, it is found that digital platforms like stock apps and SNS serve as a functional system to transform intergenerational wealth disparity, as they develop youth financial civic movements and provide young generation with services such as a platform for stock trading that doesn't require in-person interaction and instruction and sharing of fundamental financial literacy knowledge by SNS influencers. Furthermore, unlike the speculative investment attitude of seasoned investors, younger generations tend to choose less risky investment methods primarily to mitigate economic uncertainties in the future. They tend to avoid high-risk entrepreneurship and speculative investments, preferring to enhance their financial literacy through social media and engage in stock investments with as little risk as possible. This research contributes to understanding the development of science and technology, along with new business models like the platform economy, aimed at promoting solidarity and generational justice and addressing intergenerational wealth inequality.

Socio-Demographic And Values-Related Factors Of Retail Investment Apps Usage

Ivan Iudin

HSE University, Russian Federation

Over the past decade more than 20 million Russians began engaging in a novel for them financial practice – stock market investing. The way most Russian retail investors engage with and within the stock market is via digital technologies. According to Bank of Russia (2023), nearly 90% of clients open brokerage accounts online, while over 70% of clients with non-zero accounts interact with their stock broker via mobile investing apps. This study outlines the factors that drive use of key technology in retail investing – mobile investment apps. Current research utilizes survey data of Monitoring Study of Society's Digital Transformation (2022) by ISSEK HSE. The final sample includes only adult respondents (n = 9452). Retail investors are identified as people, who used mobile investment apps during past three months. Data suggests the actual number of investors to be smaller compared to the number of opened brokerage accounts – only around 4% of the general population. To outline the factors driving mobile investment apps usage binary logistic regression is estimated. Four groups of factors are tested. These are socio-demographic characteristics, human capital, technological readiness, and basic human values. Findings suggest that (1) young men, who come from wealthier households, (2) who are educated and willing to learn, those (3) who express strong innovativeness and low levels of technological discomfort levels, as well as those, (4) who have pronounced value orientations of autonomy, power, and universalism and low levels of conformism and tradition have higher likelihood of being mobile investment apps users.

Selling the Gig: How Content Creators Shape Workers Understandings of Their Lives on Food Delivery Platforms

Mehmet Cansoy[1], Serdar Arslan[2], Tayfun Mertan[3], Duygun Ruben[4]

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At the end of 2023, there were at least 15 gig economy platforms facilitating food delivery in Turkey. Estimates for the number of delivery drivers that keep these platforms working from the low six figures to much higher. An understudied aspect of how such a large workforce is mobilized is the content creators focused on the delivery work. In this paper, we study 20 content creators who produce videos, maintain a social media presence, and engage with current or prospective delivery drivers in many venues. Using content analysis of 100 hours of video and audio and interviews with the creators, we study how these creators understand (and contextualize for their audience) delivery work, focusing on their approach to entreprenurialism, platform vs. worker power, safety and social status. Our findings show that the creators occupy a range of complex, and not necessarily internally consistent, positions on all these issues. A critical set of creators operate on an underlying belief in the individual's ability to work, earn, and avoid negative outcomes. These creators mostly interact with prospective drivers or less successful beginners. Another set of creators focus more on systemic problems either with specific platforms or the occupation as a whole. Their audience is much smaller, comprising primarily of longer term drivers that are relatively more educated and more politically engaged.

Work Digitalization, Robots, Threat of Job Loss, Growth of Mistrust and Impact on Voting

Sokratis Koniordos

University of the Peloponnese, Greece

It is well established that the introduction of digitalization in workplaces polarizes jobs with the gradual elimination of middle-skilled jobs. The hallowing out of the middle observed throughout Europe affects jobs and work-tasks that are repetitive, patterned, or ordinary (non-creative), designated as “routine” (Auter et al., 2003). It is industrial workers and clerks who think of themselves in terms of revenue as middle class that have seen jobs such as theirs trimmed down that fear that they will be replaced by AI automated systems and robots too. Accordingly, there might be political aftereffects. Indeed, findings in the literature indicate that those left out due to the introduction of new technologies in the workplaces, tend to turn against the status quo and vote for populist political parties. The necessary intermediate step for such a development is the loss of political trust. The implicit contract between principal and agent in political trust relations is thought to have been adversely affected, as the former is perceived to have not provided the necessary protection by the latter, i.e. they did not fulfill their responsibility, therefore the judgment would be that they are not trustworthy. Hence the agents’ decisions or policies (with respect to the digitalization of work) are not trusted by principals, or that this would be a case of skeptical mistrust on their part (Norris, 2019).

Thus, the causal chain seems to lead from digitalized automation/robotization, to fear for ones’ job, to self-perceptions of social/status decline, to loss of political trust, to reacting by voting for populist agents. The purpose of the proposed presentation is to discuss this line of reasoning relying on a relevant literature review.

RN09 | T04_02: New forms of stratification in economy and society

We see new and different forms of social stratification and a change in social bevaviour in the economy nowadays. The session covers the distribution of social capital, life satisfaction, as well as women and quer entreprenurship.

How Important is Life Satisfaction in Today’s Society? Case Study: Middle Class

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The middle classes in the Central Eastern European states, which have undergone systemic transformation, are still in the process of being created and are not as well recognized as in the more developed countries of Western Europe with longer capitalist traditions. The current situation brings new challenges, especially for the middle class. If at the level of the countries of Western Europe, studies have demonstrated the accentuation of occupational polarization, growing income inequalities, and social insecurity among the middle class as a result of technological and political transformations, as far as Eastern Europe is concerned, only necessity is mentioned analysis of these aspects.

The middle class has always mattered economically, socio-politically, and culturally in all societies. Treating the middle class as a marginal social group is not a solution for countries that want a consolidated democracy and a functioning capitalist economy. All the transformations that have occurred in recent years are likely to change the level of satisfaction with the life of the middle class, especially in the East, with an impact on other life dimensions.

The objective we propose is to contribute to the debates regarding the middle class in the CEE, especially in Poland and Romania, aiming to identify the factors, and conditions that contribute to the increase or decrease in the level of satisfaction with life. The analysis will be carried out based on a database of the World Values Study covering the period between Wave 5 (2005-2009) and Wave 7 (2017-2022). Moreover, he comparison of two criteria of middle-class affiliation, namely sociological (occupational) and economic (income), will be conducted in terms of the impact on life satisfaction.

Culture of Rugged Individualism and the Unequal Development of Social Capital in the US

Harris Hyun-soo Kim

Ewha Womans University, Korea, Republic of (South Korea)

One of the central tenets of economic sociology is that economic outcomes are socially embedded. A recent study by Chetty et al. (2022) epitomizes this proposition, according to which intergenerational mobility in the US is powerfully shaped by the extent to which people are networked across socioeconomic strata. More specifically, geographic regions with higher interpersonal connectivity bridging class lines exhibit higher rates of upward mobility. The present study's aim is to investigate a critical issue that is largely taken for granted not only in Chetty et al. (2022) but in the bulk of sociological scholarship: the differential distribution, or inequality, of social capital. Why are some places endowed with more stocks of social capital? This research proposes and demonstrates that the above query can be partly answered by the Frontier Thesis proposed by the historian Frederick Jackson Turner (1893), i.e., the culture of individualism associated with the Westward Expansion (1803 – 1890). By merging archival data with the contemporary administrative (Facebook) data on dyadic friendship ties within and across counties, I argue that the American Exceptionalism of rugged individualism has profoundly impacted the trajectories of social capital formation across the country. Adjusting for a host of historical covariates and based on alternative modeling strategies (OLS regression with state fixed effects, multilevel analysis, and sequential g-estimation), evidence indicates that geographic areas characterized by more exposure to the frontier experience, that is, with a greater legacy of individualism, are today less 'socially embedded.'

Queer Entrepreneurialism? How Start-up Culture And Activism Merge In A "Queer And Feminist Incubator"

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University of Neuchatel, Switzerland

Over the past decades, an increased blurring of boundaries between activism and entrepreneurship has taken place, where social change objectives are pursued through the means of the corporation. While this development arguably has its roots in neoliberal ideology valuing the corporation and markets as the most efficient way to address social problems, it has more recently been emulating start-up culture in physical and virtual spaces like impact hubs where activist and entrepreneurial discourses and practices meet through training programs, networking events or funding competitions. In this paper, we analyze one such space that is dedicated to feminist and queer activism. At this point of convergence between activist and capitalist discourses, there's a longstanding queer and radical feminist critique of "homocapitalism" (Rao, 2015), i.e. the commercialization of queer and feminist issues that creates forms of homonormativity marginalizing non-conforming queer bodies. However, recent work has questioned the continued transformative and critical potential of anti-categorical and non-normative queer perspectives by showing that they can become the basis of capitalist initiatives, creating something like an "extra-ordinary homonormativity" (Burchiellaro, 2022). Drawing on this literature on homonormativity and gay capitalism, as well as on the literature on moral markets, this paper proposes an empirical analysis of the self-proclaimed "first queer and feminist incubator", a (physical and virtual) space that aims at supporting start-up businesses in Switzerland. We ask how gender and queer issues get translated into entrepreneurial discourses and organizational models through such spaces, and what repercussions this has on representations of gendered and queer bodies and politics. The study will use qualitative data from interviews, (online) observations, and text and visual data from websites, to document these processes.

Top Italian Leaders: A Comparative Gender Analysis

Rossella Di Federico

Università di Teramo, Italy

The essay investigates the socio-demographic, educational and, above all, professional characteristics of the world-famous Italian power elite (top leader) in the cultural, political and economic fields. To this purpose, a qualitative and quantitative research was conducted based on the analysis of a database created by coding approximately 9,000 profiles of European personalities with international fame. The top Italian leaders (378) were extrapolated from the database. A descriptive analysis is provided which highlights that the Italian top leaders are mainly older men. We observe a sort of 'longue durée' of male dominance and gerontocracy due to which, for the members of the Italian elite, systematic gender and generational turnover seems to be very difficult to achieve. The horizontal segmentation of the sectors of power in Italy is highlighted, which is associated with an accentuated vertical segregation. The result is the presence of a pyramidal management structure at the top decision-making levels, at the base of which there is the prevalence of women in the less powerful positions.

RN09 | T05_01: Crises, migration, refugees

The economy is often influenced by social crises that force people to migrate. The sessions deals with how crises and migration shape economic action and structure and how economic performance shapes migration.

The session covers various topics dealing with migration and refugees, including the transfer of money.

Economy of Fleeing and Settling: Ukrainian Refugees in Poland and Australia.

Maria Nawojczyk[1], Lukasz Krzyzowski[2], Oleksandra Missa[1], Anastasija Plakhotnyk[3], Janusz Mucha[4]

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Russia's military aggression against Ukraine which started in 2022 has resulted in a significant wave of people fleeing their homes and seeking safety and stability not only internally but also in European countries, including Poland, and outside of Europe as well. Refugees often encounter barriers when accessing services due to a lack of knowledge about available resources, bureaucratic complexities, language barriers, and cultural differences. These challenges can lead to limited access to vital services, such as healthcare, education, employment, and child care. Institutional support plays a critical role in addressing the challenges faced by refugees in accessing services. Effective institutional support involves the provision of information, guidance, and assistance to help refugees understand and navigate the legal, administrative, and social systems of the host country. Different types of capital and resources that refugees have, as well as the skills in using them, may contribute to different levels of economic security. How this feeling was shaped and its dynamics over time will be the subject of our presentation.

Our findings are based on comparative analysis of humanitarian infrastructure and refugee systems in Poland and Australia for supporting Ukrainian refugees. These systems are assessed by refugees based on their own experiences. In Poland, we conducted longitudinal research in three waves of in-depth interviews covering a period of almost two years. In Australia, we conducted one series of in-depth interviews. We supplement all the material with expert knowledge. We hope this research aims to provide valuable insights into best practices that could be applied to support Ukrainian refugees.

Climate-related Wealth Threats: Understanding a Key Source of 21st Century Instability

Philipp Golka

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Germany

As famously argued by Thomas Piketty, decades of low growth and capital-friendly legislation have led to unprecedented income and wealth inequalities. With visions of wage-led growth exhausted, private wealth is increasingly becoming a key source of economic and social security across Western societies. However, the climate crisis creates distinct forms of threat to private wealth as carbon-emitting assets (such as fossil fuel extraction rights) need to face devaluation to meet the 1.5 degrees goal, and various other assets face significant climate-related vulnerabilities. Attempting to understand how societies – and governments – respond to these threats, scholars of international relations and political economy have shed light on actors' structural power as well as the material incentives inherent to asset ownership. But despite their importance, these perspectives seem insufficient from a sociological perspective as actors such as farmers often act against their material interests of climate preservation. Needed – and provided here – is thus a genuinely sociological perspective that unpacks how climate-related wealth threats are produced, disseminated and entangled with social and political identities. Social media platforms are a key site for the production and circulation of these threats, making social media discourse key to understand whether actors perceive the climate crisis or rather climate mitigation as a threat to their wealth. This paper provides a conceptual perspective on climate-related wealth threats as well as first empirical insights on their production, framing and resonance in social media.

Money on the Move: Financial Infrastructure for Remittances

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Due to the concentration of power in the hands of a small number of actors, access to payment infrastructures is unevenly distributed across people and regions. Migrants who send money to family and friends in their countries of origin are affected by this concentration of power in financial infrastructures and the lack of a global payment infrastructure.

Digital technologies promise to make international payments – including remittances – more convenient, cheaper and faster via borderless communication channels. Although fees for digital transaction services are now cheaper than those for cash, the extent to which digital services actually lead to greater inclusion and reduce social inequalities in remittances is questionable. The vulnerability of migrant workers and the fragmentation of the infrastructure continue to benefit traditional money transfer providers:

the so-called "money transfer operators" (MTOs) such as Western Union or MoneyGram. These providers have a dense global network of money transfer offices and have entered the digital remittance business, competing with original digital services.

Given this important role of MTOs in the digitization of remittances, two aims are pursued based on the initial results of the analysis of MTOS annual reports and interviews with MTO staff and remittance senders and receivers. First, to provide an overview of the technical and (geo)political difficulties and barriers that can arise in the digital transfer of remittances. Second, how MTOs deal with these barriers and what strategies they use to embrace the digitalization of remittances and benefit from the difficulties. The empirical focus is on remittances sent between Germany and Southeastern Europe, specifically Romania and Moldova.

Italian Women Entrepreneurs During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Striving for a Collective Response Through Female Employer and Business Membership Organizations

Elisa Errico, Luisa De Vita

Sapienza University of Rome

The unprecedented crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic has affected women's businesses and their employer and business membership organizations (EBMOs). These associations in Italy are significant for the representational power for female entrepreneurs and their political relevance in industrial relations. This chapter explores Italian EBMOs' characteristics and their capacity to support female entrepreneurs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, we examine what types of supportive actions these EBMOs put in place for their members before and during this turbulent time. We employed a qualitative methodology using semi-structured interviews with the Heads of the most relevant female Italian EBMOs. Thematic analysis of the findings revealed that women's EBMOs are based on a mix of professional and informal ties between members; these organizations are both locally anchored and open to international partnerships. Thanks to these characteristics, Italian EBMOs helped female entrepreneurs to collectively and effectively respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic. Regarding types of supportive actions, these EBMOs offered both technical-instrumental and emotional-psychological support to members during the Coronavirus pandemic. The findings also show both reinforcement and adaptation of these supporting actions of Italian female EBMOs to the new requests of women entrepreneurs with appreciable results.

RN09 | T05_02: Digitization

The session covers various aspects of the overall process of digitalization.

Technoinvestor's Hegemony and the Crisis of Patrimonialism

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The way we live today is being rapidly transformed by digitalization. Digital applications have helped to make friends, or share our research findings. However, there are some fears about of the hegemony of a few corporations in the digital era, even more with the appraisal of Artificial Intelligence in the orbit of these corporations. In this sense, it is necessary to analyze these corporations and their leaders through a social class lens. These leaders are unified by a common view and a material and legal form of property that binds them together as a class. They are the world's largest investors and heads of technological corporations. But also, they are shaping new social relationships and a new way of living. This hegemony has eroded national boundaries, and what is important, it has undermined the national-state hegemony, and the classes that headed the old national-patrimonialism bloc. Family, state, and property were the bases of an old power bloc that brought together old corporations, rich families, political and economic leaders, and workers. It is what Weber used to called as patrimonialism, or the appropriation of the administration and wealth by a small group, also referred as power elite by Wright Mills after II World War. This work uses social network analysis methodology and data from digital and technological corporations to explain technoinvestor's hegemony and class alliances.

Unveiling the Political Economy of Cryptomarkets

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This paper addresses a notable gap in the expanding field of cryptomarket research, which has predominantly focused on the internal social organisational dynamics of these platforms, neglecting essential socio-political factors influencing their emergence. Our study introduces a political-economic perspective to illuminate the intricate interplay shaping the ecosystem of cryptomarkets, particularly those utilising encryption technologies to circumvent drug control policies. While cryptomarkets are not globally ubiquitous, their prevalence in Global North countries raises questions about the socio-political underpinnings that contribute to their formation.

Drawing on the political economy of illicit markets, our research delves into macro-conditions facilitating the proliferation of cryptomarkets. The analysis underscores the complex nexus involving government policies, drug markets, digital technologies, socio-economic factors, geographical location, and power dynamics. By exploring unintended consequences of government interventions, reliable postal services, fintech payment systems, technological literacy, trust, and social relationships, our study reveals how these elements contribute to the social order within cryptomarkets. Notably, the paper sheds light on why cryptomarkets are less prevalent in traditional drug cultivation and production countries in Asia or Latin America.

By adopting a political-economic lens, this paper connects the dots between cryptomarket actors, infrastructures, and broader societal structures. The examination of darknet-based drug markets as a global phenomenon concentrated in the Global North underscores the significance of profit opportunities and existing infrastructural capabilities in shaping these markets. Understanding the political economy of cryptomarkets is imperative for formulating effective policies that address both the root causes and manifestations of illicit online activities within a broader societal context.

Emerging Regulatory Tensions: A Multidimensional Embeddedness Frame for Analyzing Digital Transformation

Ilan Talmud

University of Haifa, Israel

This paper suggests research strategy aimed at examining the ways in which various institutional dimensions teniously intersect, as demonstrated in the current attempts to mold the nascent regulation of cryptocurrency. The market is depicted as an arena which is (a) structurally built around networks, (b) institutionally enabled, controlled, and reproduced by social and political institutions, (c) derived from the basic rules of capitalist political economy, (d) perceived and enacted by cognitive scripts, myths, and rhetoric devices, aiming at market performativity; and (e) made by techno-structures, providing its mechanism, devices, social affordances, and material utterance. I demonstrate this frame by examining significant tenions manifested in the relations between five embedded aspects of cryptocurrency instrutable market.

The findings are drawn from a four years' multi-sited ethnographic study of the Israeli Bitcoin / Blockchain communities, and from a netnographic inquiry into the global cryptocurrencies' online communities and related eco-systems.

I argue that this synthetic analytic strategy is especially efficacious for the examination of the transformation of market boundaries, and the interactive tenuous impacts of various societal factors on institutional transformation. It is especially useful for examine the tenious junctures between moral valuation of goods and flows, institutional barriers, and political power. This frame contributes to our comprehension of the relations between various dimensions of market embeddedness, as well as the dynamic associations between organizations, markets and politics.

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The Future Behind. Manufacturing Companies and Regional Systems of Digitization: the Italian Case

Alberto Gherardini, Francesco Ramella

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In recent years, there has been a strong reassessment of the role of manufacturing in development, while the growth in employment in service industries is no longer read in a "rival" key, and there is increasing talk of the "servitization" of manufacturing. Even in the richest countries, the thesis of the decoupling between industrialization and development is not fully supported by the data since, in reality, the advanced economies that have experienced more sustained growth in recent years had a very strong industrial base in the late last century.

Our presentation aims to analyze the transformation of Italian manufacturing in a territorial key following the process of digitization of the economy. In particular, we will deal with the impact of digitization a) on the Italian path to manufacturing innovation and b) on regional governance and territorial disparities. We will move from a perspective of political economy, using an integrated frame that holds together the analysis of the micro (agency factors), meso (relational factors) and macro (contextual factors) dimensions of digitization processes.

RN09 | T06_01: New modes of consumptions and production

Currently, we all observed new modes of consumption and production. This sessions deals with different forms of this change such as vegetarianism etc.

How Is Creditworthiness Gauged? The Interactions Between Actors In Microfinance Lending In Rural Gujarat, India

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Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Existing Sociology of finance studies demonstrate that creditworthiness is gauged through individual's caste, gender, family history, employment and credit score. Some studies stemming from microfinance's joint liability loans have observed that borrowers' creditworthiness can also be established by considering the group, specifically trust and social relations amongst group members. However, the literature hasn't explored: How does the process of assessment of an individual's creditworthiness interact with the process of assessing the creditworthiness of their households, borrowing group and community? And how do the different actors involved in these processes interact with each other to establish the borrower's creditworthiness?

This paper addresses these gaps through ethnographic fieldwork among microfinance institutions (MFIs) that were engaged in joint liability loans to lower socio-economic status women in the Kheda and Mahisagar districts of Gujarat (India) in two phases in the year 2022 and 2023. Our first finding is that rather than the credit score of an individual, MFI officers focus on their credit report. Further, they interpret the report by interacting with different actors engaged in the process. Our second finding is that, not just borrowing groups and lenders, there are multiple actors who are engaged in establishing the borrowers' creditworthiness. These actors constantly interact with each other and gather various formal and informal information to establish borrowers' creditworthiness. Here, findings showed that assessing the group's creditworthiness in joint liability loans is interconnected with the creditworthiness of individual, their households, and their hamlets (caste/sub-caste-based community). Further, creditworthy members arrange proxy borrowers which the group members collectively support and make it invisible to MFIs. Lastly, all these findings show that establishing a borrower's creditworthiness is a multi-layered and complex process.

"Fresh Vegetable and Fruits Procurement System for Supermarkets in Vietnam"

Fumie Takanashi[1], Shozo Sakata[2,3]

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Multinational supermarket chains have changed downstream food consumption and upstream production and distribution systems globally. While there are numerous studies on global value chains in supermarkets, few address domestic agricultural production in the supermarket-led value chain in emerging countries. In Vietnam, although modern distribution still accounts for a low percentage of total food distribution, supermarkets are expanding due to policies aimed at modernizing food distribution. This study investigates the procurement system for fresh vegetables and fruits from domestic suppliers by supermarkets in Vietnam.

The results show that the latter conclude contracts with suppliers to ensure the quality of their products. Two main suppliers observed are 1) large-scale commercial farms and 2) cooperatives of small farming households. However, some farms/cooperatives that supply fresh vegetables directly to supermarkets procure from other farms/cooperatives in remote areas and resell under their brand to meet the quantitative demand of supermarkets. It has been suggested that supermarkets outsource the procurement of fresh fruits and vegetables to producers, possibly creating a power gap between producers within social and geographic proximity and those in remote areas. This phenomenon is at odds with the trend in developed countries, where supermarkets eliminate middlemen and contract only with producers who meet quality and quantity requirements. It will be necessary in the future to examine the social or economic validity of maintaining the multi-level distribution structure in supermarket-led value chains in Vietnam.

From Romance To Finances: Examining Social Media Influencers' Household Economies

Tinca Lukan, Jožica Čehovin Zajc

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Social media influencers as platform workers are widely recognized for their skill in fostering a sense of intimacy with their audience. Yet, there remains a lack of understanding regarding how social media influencing (re)shapes the actual intimate relationships and household economies. Drawing on relational economic sociology, this study leverages insights from more than 50 in-depth interviews with influencers in Slovenia and investigates the strategies female influencers employ to manage intimate relationships. The findings reveal that the oft-mocked "Instagram boyfriend" often plays a crucial role in the success of an influencers'

business. Intimate partners offer entrepreneurial support, act as investors and provide diverse forms of assistance. In return, influencers engage in relational work, a practice of matching economic transactions with social ties. They create distinct kinds of monies to compensate their partners. They gift, pay and bribe them with products from brand collaborations. Influencers frequently earn more than their male partners, requiring them to navigate potential "ego issues". Hence they earmark influencer income as "pin money" which historically refers to supplementary household income earned by women. The money made through influencing is merged into the family's housekeeping money spent on home, clothing and food. By earmarking influencer income as more frivolous and less serious than that of their male partners, influencers reproduce a form of financial submissiveness. This study is unique in its focus on the household relations of influencers, revealing how global social media platforms make a landfall into intimate relations.

New Forms of Value Storage and Its Effects on Consumer Behaviour and Financial Subjectivities.

Matilde Masso, Loreto Vazquez

University of A Coruña, Spain

This communication analyzes the main transformations of payment methods and their effects on spending, saving and indebtedness patterns.The digitization of payment methods and systems and the reconceptualization of monetary functions as a consequence of the expansion of monetary instruments based on platforms linked to technological giants entails numerous transformations related to the structure of monetary transactions, which in turn leads to new behavioral patterns and financial subjectivities. To this end, this communication analyzes the most relevant contributions and limitations in the theory of mental accounting (Thaler, 1999) and the social marking of money (Zelizer, 2011), in order to identify how the digitalization of payment methods affects to the categorization processes developed by different social groups. The communication focuses specifically on two closely related aspects: first, on how new patterns of electronic consumption affect the temporal categorization processes of individual budgets and expenses. Second, how digitalization increases unnecessary consumption, making it difficult to achieve mid-term goals. The theorical analysis carried out is accompanied by the discussion of the operationalization model of the monetary categorization processes, and the design of a telephone survey of individuals over 18 years of age in Spain.

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RN09 | T06_02: Consumption, consumer behaviour and life conduct

We will see and discus different forms of consumer behaviour and especially how digitalization influences consumer behaviour

Exploring Consumer Dispositions: Investigating the Homology between Consumer and Work/ Study Dispositions among Business Students and Professionals

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This qualitative study investigates the potential parallels between consumer dispositions and professional or educational practices among business students and professional, focusing on national and international students primarily across Germany. It investigates the parallels between consumer dispositions and professional or educational practices among these students and professionals. Employing the 'Dokumentarische Methode' for qualitative analysis, the research delves into how individuals' engagement with the consumer world intersects with their work and study behaviors.

The research unpacks how consumption practices, shaped by societal contexts, might not just reflect but also actively influence broader life practices. These practices are not merely individual actions; they are integral to how people craft their professional and academic journeys.

Drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical constructs of habitus and social, cultural and economic capital, the study examines how consumer dispositions evolve over time, influenced by individuals' life experiences and shifting societal dynamics. It examines to what extent these consumption practices are indicative of broader behavioral patterns within professional and educational spheres and explores their potential repercussions on social mobility.

The exploration of these potential homologies sheds new light on consumer practices, suggesting they are more substantive than simple economic decisions or acts of communication. This insight could lead to a more comprehensive understanding of consumption and its wider implications in society, especially in terms of how consumer dispositions and practices may be interrelated with social mobility trajectories. By positing that these practices are deeply embedded in one's Habitus, the research provides a different perspective on consumer culture.

This work aims to contribute to the body of knowledge on consumer culture and social stratification by examining the intersection of consumer dispositions with educational and

professional practices. It underscores the importance of considering the experiences (and the formed dispositions) as a consumer as a potential factor in understanding and analyzing social mobility.

Digital Political Consumerism. A Comparative Analysis of how Consumers use their Power in Online Markets

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A large field of research has explored how consumers use markets as an arena for politics and ethical purchasing. Yet, most studies on political consumerism focus on everyday shopping in offline markets, neglecting the immense rise of online markets, platforms and apps, on which an ever growing share of private economic exchange takes place. In Europe, for instance about 70% of all internet users have bought products online in 2022. Have these online markets also become an arena for ethical and political purchasing? If so, what are the drivers of such consumption behaviour? Here we develop the concept of "digital political consumerism" to capture the distinct way in which citizens use their economic power in the digital realm. Based on a novel survey among more than 13,000 respondents in six advanced democracies (Germany, Sweden, Spain, Poland, USA and Japan) we measure the extent to which people have bought or boycotted online for ethical, political or environmental reasons. We find that more than half of all respondents engage online in positive buying and more than 25 % in boycotting. Contrary to research on offline political consumerism, we find that women report equal or lower levels of political consumption compared to men. Moreover, people that perceive big tech companies as a risk to liberal democratic society are more likely to engage in online boycotting, while people perceiving these companies as beneficial are more likely to buy positively.

Consumers on the Internet: the Unequal Diffusion of eCommerce

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The diffusion of innovation is a distribution of benefits derived from a new product/service in a scalar and sequential way (Rogers, 1983): greater resources gain immediate advantage, generating cumulative effects of disadvantage. Despite the rhetoric of the democratization effect within Californian ideology, it was immediately evident how the benefits of the ICT would not be socially equally distributed.

To deepen the relationship between e-commerce and inequalities it addresses two main questions: what resources allow an early access to eCommerce and a greater exploitation of its advantages? Does the endowment of cultural and social capital (Bourdieu, 1980) influence the ability to convert into economic capital through eCommerce?

The aim of the analysis is to examine the development of e-commerce in Europe, highlighting variations between countries. The paper wants to detect whether the growth of e-commerce and its benefits are inclusive in all social groups, assessing whether market digitalization acts as a "democratizer" or contributes to rising inequalities. Using Eurostat survey on "ICT usage in households and by individuals", it focuses on two groups of countries, one with a level of digitalization close to the European average (Italy, Germany, France), and a group of countries with the highest level of digitalization (Finland, Denmark, Netherlands) (EC, 2022).

Preliminary analyses show that the use of e-commerce follows a trend of constant growth and the cumulative advantage for early adopters. In addition, the data confirm the cumulative disadvantages of countries with a low level of digitalization compared to those with a high level of digitalization.

Prosumer Economy: Careers, Professionalization and Social Recognition of Consumer-producers in the Platform Economy

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UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA, Italy

Digitalization has created an apparent paradox: on the one hand, a public debate strongly oriented toward the prospect of technological unemployment; on the other hand, a reality in which human labor is increasingly fundamental to value creation but is increasingly undervalued and devalued. However, when we talk about the "devaluation" or "removal" of labor we are not talking about something new, but a process rooted since the paradigm of standard labor relations began to crumble. In this scenario, the productive role of consumers and their ability to mimesis and transform into professional producers represents a key factor in understanding the digital transition and its impact on the labor market.

Before that time, Capitalist organizations sought to remove or conceal the "productive role of consumers. The sociology of new media and organizational analysis were the first disciplines to recognize the blurring lines between consumption and production (Ritzer 1993; Terranova 2000; Bruns 2008; Arvidsson 2013), and the increasing co-productive role of consumers (Barnard 1938; Dujarier 2008; Glucksmann 2009; Stark and Witkins 2018)

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the process of transition to work and professionalization of prosumers in the platform economy through the use of so-called "career anchors" (Schein & Van Maanen 2019) and how these actually contribute to explaining a different approach in the "battle for recognition" (Honneth and Rancière 2016) of their productive contribution.

From a methodological point of view, preference was given to a multi-sited ethnographic investigation through observation and interviews (60), both in online platforms or in the various digital communities of prosumers (Fitness Influencers; Second-hand Re-sellers and Meme Creators)

RN09 | T07_01: Labor relations and markets in times of crises

Labour relations and markets are a core element of modern economies. How they are influenced by crises is the topic of the session.

Job Stress Among Young Remote Workers

Juan Vicente Castellanos-Quintana, Alberto Veira Ramos

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Teleworking transforms relationship between workers in the absence of physical contact. The implementation of teleworking brings with greater effort to adapt (Felstead & Henseke, 2017).

Teleworking brings with also a growing digitalization (Rodríguez Rodríguez, 2020). This has contributed to the discrimination of segments in more precarious conditions (temporary or part-time jobs) (María & Romero, 2020).

Emanuel, Harrington, & Pallais, 2022, found that the loss of proximity reduces perceived support, especially for young people. Nearly two-thirds of workers' on-the-job learning comes from feedback and guidance from co-workers, much of which is now online (Herkenhoff et al., 2018). According to Morgan Stanley's CEO: "The office is where we develop people" (Kelly, 2021).

Some tech companies embrace remote work because they see the office as outdated. However, the office may be more valuable to some workers than others. For example, younger workers may need more in-office interactions for on-the-job training.

Our research question is whether young people who telework communicate less with their colleagues and bosses, and whether this has any impact on their satisfaction with their main job and their level of stress at work.

To this end, the opinion of young people aged 16 to 30 is studied based on data from the European Social Survey (wave 10) using the module on digital communication. We analysed data of 4,523 young respondents of the 30 countries participating in the ESS which main activity in the last week was paid work.

Avoiding Organising and Attributing Failure in Organisations: Are Subjective Factors the Explanation?

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In this paper I will address the issue of neutralising or marginalising failure in organisations. The phrases 'failure is not an option', 'too big to fail' or 'fail fast, fail often' are well known, but are understood as performative expressions aimed at preventing or accepting failure, rather than identifying situations in which failure is organisationally avoided. Drawing on empirical research in four fields – start-ups, platforms, development NGOs and environmental education – I will explain different practices of avoiding failure declaration: (a) the use of algorithmic evaluation infrastructures, as in platforms; (b) hiring external evaluators, as in startups; or (c) self-evaluation, as in many non-profit projects. Alongside these structural measures, we can observe the reinforcement of the non-failure ideology, i.e. the resignation to maintain organised failure practices and the preference for the idea that all supported projects or actors should preferably succeed. It can be argued that the common ground of both practices and ideology is that failure in an organisation is never entirely routine, as it requires the subjective involvement of its personnel. Declaring a project or organisation a failure after it has been supported or implemented is a personally sensitive and usually uncomfortable matter. To avoid the subjective burden of judging the failure of others, decision-makers try to externalise the identification and judgement of failure, or to achieve organisational goals without declaring anyone a failure.

Understanding Misperceptions of Occupational Incomes – An Empirical Analysis of Occupational and Individual Factors Based on Representative Survey Data

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The aim of the present study is to describe and explain how people assess occupational incomes and how these assessments differ from the real world.

We argue that misperceptions of occupational earnings are first, a function of specific occupational characteristics. For instance, the monetary value of an occupation may be overestimated or underestimated based on the actual income position of the occupation, its associated tasks, its actual and perceived qualification level, or its social composition (share of women, migrants, unemployed, etc.). Second, misperceptions can be based on individual characteristics and the social position of the raters. For example, it can be

hypothesized that income misperceptions are weaker with increasing levels of education and cognitive capabilities. Based on the reference group theory, raters may not only systematically misperceive their own income position (Cruces 2013; Karadja et al. 2017; Hvidberg et al. 2021), but also the income position of socially close occupations.

The analyses are based on novel representative survey data for Germany (year 2018). Around 9,000 People were each asked to estimate the income deciles for 5 randomly selected occupations (out of 402 in total). Estimated income values were compared to reported income data in a representative survey of employees (BIBB/BAuA Employment Surveys 2012, 2018 with 20,000 respondents each).

First findings suggest that misperceptions are strongest at the edges of the actual income distribution. Further, we find high variability for occupational characteristics such as actual and perceived qualification level and occupational fields. At the individual level, we find strong support for the reference group theory where individuals misperceive occupations from their own social strata the strongest.

Return on Education: What Demand do Employers Create in the Labor Market?

Torgyn Kaidarova[2], Aliya Sarsekeyeva[1], Adil Rodionov[2], Aslanbek Amrin[1], Arsen Avsatkarinov[2], Gulnaz Kassimova[2], Amirlan Nurgazin[2]

1quot;El Umiti" Corparate foundation, Kazakhstan; 2Kazakhstan Sociology Lab

Investigating return from schooling, scholars have traditionally focused on the supply side, collecting data from employees. This research focuses on the demand side and describes how employers create a system of signals, talking about which requirements are essential for potential candidates. These signals are primarily in the form of salary amounts. Using open data about vacancies of a popular government platform – enbek.kz – that covering low and medium-paid jobs in the public and quasi-public sectors, small and medium-sized businesses, we analyze 75 thousand vacancies. There are two groups of vacancies posted on Enbek.kz: state-subsidized and unsubsidized. Unsubsidized vacancies are offers from small and medium-sized businesses that seek to maximize profits. State-subsidized vacancies serve different purposes and are often related to the desire of officials to report about the maximum number of jobs. Centering our attention on these differences this research becomes more comprehensive and better demonstrates the effects for potential applicants. We conduct a comparative analysis of the two types, regressing the potential level of wages on the level of education, language proficiency, skills, and other factors. In addition, we separately use quantile regression to estimate how different the effect of an additional year of work is for the lowest – and highest-paying jobs. Thus, this study contributes to the human capital research program by shedding light on how signals from employers influence returns to education.

RN09 | T07_02: Net-zero economy

This session explores the various dimensions of sustainable transitions and entrepreneurial innovations in diverse contexts.

The Transition Toward Low-carbon Behaviors: Insights From The Italian Context

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Università degli studi di Firenze, Italy

The shift to a climate-neutral society necessitates moving beyond supply-side mitigation policies, emphasizing altering household consumption. This presentation unveils preliminary findings from research scrutinizing factors influencing the shift to low-carbon consumption in the Italian context, grounded in a theoretical framework highlighting economic dimensions of climate solidarity.

The prevailing literature on low-carbon behaviors in social science and humanities often leans towards an environmental paradigm, framing such behavior solely as pro-environmental. However, we assert an alternative perspective, characterizing low-carbon behavior as a manifestation of prosocial conduct, notably reflecting a form of solidarity with other people, especially in developing countries and future generations.

Our presentation integrates well-established sociological theories explaining the development of prosocial behavior with recent research on low-carbon behaviors, shedding light on mechanisms underpinning the emergence of economic solidarity. Employing the PISMA protocol, a systematic literature review identifies social, cultural, and crucially, economic factors fostering the transition to low-emission lifestyles. This review not only illuminates policy implications but significantly enhances the social sciences and humanities' capacity to comprehend the economic processes facilitating climate neutrality.

Moreover, we present the first insights from a national survey conducted in Italy, offering a distinctive perspective on the population's economic considerations in embracing low-carbon living and potential policy interventions. This contribution not only advances our understanding of societal aspects crucial for sustainable climate goals but also provides actionable economic insights for policymakers striving towards a low-carbon future.

Chemical Life: Conceptualising and Overcoming Net Zero and Green Growth

Johannes Hollenhorst

London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Now dominant political and economic responses to climate change remain largely unchallenged by the Anthropocene event in the social sciences and instead continue to reduce climate change to technological problems. On important aspect are chemical technologies which aim to replace hydrocarbons like coal, oil, and gas with substances like ammonia, hydrogen, or e-fuels. These Chemical De-Carbonisation Substances (CDCS) are largely designed to perform the same functions as hydrocarbons to repeat the social practices of the carbon past by other means. As chemical technologies, CDCS are underpinning the political imaginary of net zero which assumes that decarbonisation can unlock rather than inhibit future economic growth. While the materiality underpinning "the economy" (Mitchell, 1998) is changing through the new paradigm of net zero, the misrepresentation of the socio-ecological consequences of the political and economic action of the hydrocarbon age (Mitchell, 2009) is effectively reproduced through such chemical alternatives. In response, this article introduces the concept of chemical life to enable social science research on and beyond CDCS by creating a problem space (Lury, 2020) in which the use and alternatives to CDCS can be explored. To achieve this, chemical life integrates the Anthropocene event in the social sciences with an event in chemistry which also challenged the boundaries between human and natural history, namely the theorisation of non-linear thermodynamics (e.g. Stengers and Prigogine, 1984). From this integrated perspective, life becomes intelligible as a non-linear thermodynamic phenomenon and highlights the politics involved in seeking to manage it through political and economic concept rooted in linear thermodynamics alone (e.g. Mirowski, 1989). The article finally analyses how the use of non-linear rather than linear concepts contribute to more socio-ecological futures.

Social and Institutional Foundations of Solar Energy Entrepreneurs in Developing Countries – The Case of Turkiye

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In developing countries, energy supply with domestic and renewable sources generated by in-house developed technologies and power plants built by local investors and entrepreneurs are of great importance mainly for sustainable and secure energy supply. Emerging technologies, including those harnessing solar energy for energy needs, are currently underutilized compared to other energy sources. Consequently, it becomes imperative to pinpoint and evaluate the obstacles that influence renewable energy entrepreneurs specifically in developing countries. For this purpose, we examine the Turkish Solar Energy Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. In the Turkish case, there are various research outputs on potentials and obstacles for renewable energy sources, however specific studies on renewable energy entrepreneurs cannot be found. Moreover, challenges identified for Turkiye's renewable energy technologies diffusion about project finances, infrastructure, governance and regulation, labour market, and market dynamics of new technologies are perfectly aligned with findings on challenges for renewable energy entrepreneurs in developing countries such as availability of financial resources, cost of renewable energy technologies, availability of skilled workforce, problems on physical infrastructure and logistics, Insufficient governmental or policy backing. Based on this conceptual context, the research question is "What are the challenges for renewable energy entrepreneurs in the Turkish Solar Energy Sector?". We answer through qualitative analysis and propose policy implications. To this aim, we conducted 11 semi-structured interviews with the key stakeholders from renewable energy entrepreneurs, regulatory institutions experts, funding agency, academics in universities and research institutions. Through the analysis of the data, we propose policy proposals to solve these challenges and to develop the Turkish Renewable Energy Entrepreneurial Ecosystem with the lessons learnt from the solar energy sector.

Sustainability Management in Peripheral SME's: The case of Salento

Marco Marrone, Angelo Salento

University of Salento, Italy

Sustainability is now becoming the only viable option for corporations. Environmental and political challenges, new consumption sensibilities, stricter national and international regulations and the rise of ESG finance are just some of the factors that are affecting business organization. This is the case of sustainability management, a new managerial approach that is rising at global level and that is not only introducing new managerial figures – sustainability manager – but that is deeply transforming their overall strategy. However, this does not come without risks, especially for what concern those SME's operating in peripheral territories. They must face not only the lack of resources and infrastructures, but also the difficulty to see their practices recognized by mainstream principles of sustainability management.

By taking the case of Salento – a peninsula in the peninsula, located in the south eastern part of Italy – the aim of the presentation will be exploring both challenges and opportunities for SME's in peripheral territories. These will be analyzed employing a wide range of empirical data. Firstly, 15 background interviews conducted among experts and stakeholders (employers' association, trade union representative and local policymaker). Secondly, a questionnaire

composed by 42 demands distributed among 50 SME's located in Salento from April 2023 to October 2023. Thirdly, 3 focus groups, each participated by 8 SME's representatives, in 3 sectors: manufacturing, craftmanship and "advanced" services. The conclusion will elaborate the proposal of "sustainability district" as a possible solution to address challenges and opportunities emerging from the research.

RN09 | T08_01: Finance and money 1

This session explores the intricate relationship between trust, money, and payment systems across different cultural and economic contexts.

Fast Payment Systems and Central Banks: Israel and Sweden Compared

Daniel Mamam, Keren Borenstein-Nativ

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Following the global financial crisis, central banks, in contrast to their traditional course of action, increased their involvement in advancing technological innovations. Yet, economic sociology scholars have not devoted enough attention to this development. We focus on a fast retail payment system that allows the payees to receive funds within seconds. This system has been adopted in over 60 countries and is crucial to reducing the use of cash and enhancing cross-border payments. In some countries, such as Sweden, the central bank establishes and operates this system, while in others, such as Israel, its involvement is less intensive and confined to facilitating the establishment of this system and determining the operation rules. The Riksbank established and operated the RIX-Instant payment, despite the widespread use of the mobile application Swish to make and receive instant payments. The Riksbank was discontent that payments in the Swish system were settled in a privately owned system, which increased risks and costs, prevented diverse types of payments, and discouraged cross-border payments, especially with Nordic countries and the Euro area. In Israel, in contrast, the Bank of Israel encouraged the private company owned by the largest commercial banks that manage the Bank Automated Settlement System to establish and operate this system. This decision originated from the high costs and the Israeli central bank's involvement in other financial infrastructural projects. The comparative analysis enables us to address the diverse roles of central banks in advancing technological innovations alongside other "unconventional" policies adopted since the global financial crisis.

Is Money a Matter of Trust? A Popular Thesis Put to the Empirical Test

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In (economic) sociology, trust is seen as a fundamental concept for addressing the problem of uncertainty. In the case of money, the extent to which trust is involved becomes

questionable since choices are absent. Classical sociology implies a relation between trust and knowledge, as money usage relies on a form of mimetic "weak inductive knowledge". This discussion addresses the question of the relation between trust in political, private, and monetary institutions and knowledge of the monetary order through the application of logistic regression models to an original dataset representative of the Austrian population (n=2000). Additionally, we consider the influence of sociodemographic variables and investment behavior. The main result shows that higher levels of knowledge are associated with lower levels of trust. As a result, we argue that assumptions about the role of trust in economic sociology, particularly in the sociology of money, should be reconsidered and that a more nuanced approach should be taken to how trust and knowledge—and their relationships with each other—are conceptualized even under conditions of crisis or non-crises in economic and monetary order.

Inside the Payer's Mind. A Mixed-Methods Investigation in the Sociology of Money.

Constanze M. Rammer, Nico Tackner

University of Graz, Austria

While there has been a trend towards digital payment methods across countries, Austria shows an astonishing persistence of cash payments despite sufficient digital infrastructure. In order to study when, why, and how people pay as they do, we are conducting a mixed-methods research project. A prior qualitative investigation (consisting of focused interviews, group interviews as well as expert interviews) aimed at aiding the construction of our standardized questionnaire as well as generating causal hypotheses by tracing processes. The survey was then carried out, representative of the Austrian residential population. Which allowed us in turn to test the causal mechanisms identified via the qualitative investigation using structural equation models. We find, among other things, that a stronger affinity towards cash even persists within those who primarily pay cashless. A major causal mechanism for either using cash as well as carrying a sufficient amount of cash as a backup are prior experiences of failure with digital payments (e.g. card malfunction). These experiences shape what we call "Subjective Expectations of Liquidity": Am I more insecure or more certain that a payment with a specific payment instrument will work? The more insecure one is with digital payment methods, the more likely he/she is to use cash more frequently for payments, or at least to carry a sufficient amount of cash as a backup.

"As Long As It Is Halal, Every Payment is a Prayer": Re-sacralizing the Card Payments with Tayyab Card

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The dominant narrative of economics takes economic phenomena as ahistorical, apolitical, acultural, asocial, and amoral. According to this narrative, fully rational individuals make choices based on a self-interest that maximizes their utility. Yet, such an amoral, asocial and apolitical understanding of an abstract individual is nothing but an illusion. Since the late 1970s, there have been many sociologists who deal with moral aspects of economic behaviours and actions from a sociological point of view. Moreover, within the field of finance there is a growing scholarly and practical subfield, i.e. Islamic Finance as well. Although there are three Islamic Banks, which are called Participation Banks in Türkiye, card payment has been a controversial issue due to its being interwoven with financial interest. To overcome this controversy, a card payment company established in 2018 has launched a so-called Islamic Card, i.e. Tayyab Card. Tayyab Card presents itself as Türkiye's first so-called Islamic Card that complies with the religious principles while enabling its holders to handle electronic payment features. In addition to the usual charge card and interest-free savings account features, Tayyab Card provides its users to check if an investment is halal or not. Besides these financial long standing services, Tayyab Card also enables its users to follow up prayer times, to direct debit charities, and to get the chance of participating a lottery for a religious visit to holy lands in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This study aims at conducting a phenomenological analysis of how new digital payment applications enable their users' re-sacralization of the finance in general, and card payments in particular.

RN09 | T09_01: AIs and digitalized labor

In recent years digitalization has shaped and changed the work sphere tremendously. In this session we will deal with different developments and effects of this process.

Automation in Shared Service Centres: Implications for Skills and Autonomy in a Global Organisation

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1University of Warsaw, Poland; 2Institute for Structural Research; 3Jagiellonian University; 4Kraków Unviersity of Economics

The Central and Eastern European business services sector has experienced significant growth, propelled by globalisation, outsourcing, and the increasing demand for tech-related expertise. This growth has given rise to the establishment of shared service centres (SSCs), which heavily rely on a sizeable workforce to manage routine and transactional tasks, such as data entry and invoice processing. These tasks, while essential, do not demand a high level of specialised knowledge.

However, the landscape of SSC employment is undergoing a transformation with the introduction of technologies like Intelligent Process Automation (IPA), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), and Artificial Intelligence (AI). This shift is leading to the automation and streamlining of routine tasks, necessitating employees to adapt by acquiring new skills.

The study is grounded in 31 individual in-depth interviews conducted in Warsaw and Kraków across four companies. Informed by Braverman's thesis on deskilling, the study challenges this narrative, revealing that automation in SSCs can prompt upskilling and enhance workers' autonomy. We emphasise the negotiated nature of automation processes shaped by interactions among headquarters, SSCs, and their workers. Workers actively participated in automating processes, ultimately eliminating the most mundane tasks. This resulted in upskilling, heightened job satisfaction, and empowerment. However, the extent of this phenomenon is contingent upon automation being driven by labour shortages, which, in turn, restrict the expansion of SSCs in Poland. This situation encourages companies to leverage the specific expertise ingrained in their existing workforce. The study underscores the importance of fostering employee-driven automation and upskilling initiatives for overall job satisfaction and quality.

Not a Unique, Transformative Change – Expectations of Hungarian Journalists and Copywriters About Generative AI

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Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Last year, media coverage in many countries, including Hungary, featured high expectations regarding generative AI. A significant portion of these discussions focused on the profound implications AI might have on labor markets and a wide range of professions, including copywriters and journalists. In 2023, we conducted interview research with 15 copywriters and 15 journalists in Hungary to examine various factors that shape their expectations about the potential impact of generative AI on the future of their occupations and their own career prospects. Preliminary results indicate that they do not perceive this as a unique or radical change, and feel they will be well-positioned to navigate their future. Their skeptical attitude towards significant change is based, among other things, on the belief that changes in Hungary will be slower, as well as a perspective in which they project the current limitations of AI (such as hallucinations) into the future. They also express resistance to media representations, claiming that these exaggerate potential effects and developments. On a personal level, they exhibit optimism bias: believing that while others may be negatively affected, they will be able to use the technology to their advantage. The research situates the discourse around AI's impact on expectations within the broader context of media hype and techno-optimism, contributing to the understanding of the complex interplay between anticipatory practices and media hypes. By anchoring our analysis in the sociology of expectations, the study aims to explore how the anticipated futures of AI are constructed, understood, and navigated by those who are directly impacted.

AIs as Trustworthy Decision-Makers: Evidence from a Factorial Survey Experiment

Patrick Schenk, Gabriel Abend, Vanessa Müller

University of Lucerne, Switzerland

You're starving. So, you insert a 5€ bill in a vending machine and get a bag of chips. Did the vending machine decide to give you the chips? Of course not. Meanwhile, your company needs to hire a new employee. An AI analyzed hundreds of applications and outputs the best candidate. Did the AI decide who's the right person for the job? It's not so clear. AIs are said to be autonomous and objective, implying they're capable of making trustworthy decisions. But would you trust their decisions if so much is at stake?

Our project empirically investigates people's views about such questions. Using a moral decisionism framework

(Abend 2018), we claim that the attribution of decision-making capacity and trustworthiness are social facts that vary across groups. To explain these variations, we administered a factorial survey experiment to a random sample of the Swiss population (n ≈ 1900). Participants were asked to attribute decision-making capacity and trustworthiness to AIs and human agents in three socio-economic contexts: job recruitment, journalism, and healthcare. Additionally, we manipulated several aspects of these situations, e.g., transparency or discriminatory bias.

Unlike previous research (e.g., Langer et al. 2023; Kieslich et al. 2022), the combination of a factorial survey and a large sample of the general population allows us to compare different economic situations and social groups (class, gender, region), providing new insights on trust and moral decision-making in the age of AI. Our findings also speak to timely social quandaries, including algorithmic discrimination and explainable AI.

RN09 | T09_02: Finance and money 2

This session delves into various aspects of trust and financial practices, from children's savings to the politicization of inflation and the role of social banking.

Saving The Children's Savings: How Turkish Commercial Banks Promote Piggy Banks to Children as A Financial Product

Zehra Zeynep Sadıkoğlu, Muhammed Fatih Karakaya

Istanbul University

The sociological studies on childhood and on finance have grown separately since late 1980s. Yet the intersection of the two has not been a distinct field of study. Two major figures around the subject, Viviana Zelizer and Nina Bandelj have studied the intersection of economic and/or non-economic value of children and financial parenting practices while barely mentioning the financialization of childhood. However, the promotion of financial products and services to children has always been one of the main marketing strategies of commercial banks since the early 20th century. This study aims to analyze the children's piggy banks advertorials of three major commercial banks (Türkiye İş Bankası, Vakıfbank, Halkbank) in Türkiye. A semiological analysis of those advertorials, based on the coding of their texts, visual (symbols, objects, subjects) and auditory products, reveal that financial behavior of investing/saving in children's piggy banks is encouraged to develop the child's future socio-economic security. Although the advertorials promoting saving in children's piggy banks are embedded in the cultural/social/moral/political context of intensive parenthood and the ongoing digitalization of the daily life, there is an ambiguity in those advertorials as to whether they address children or parents, and whether those interlocutors are financial investors or consumers. In any case these advertorials all insist on educating children and their socialisation into responsible individuals equipped with the idea of saving. All in all, advertorials promoting financial products to children appear as an actant in the process of assembling children as economic agents, or at least as future clients.

Inflation Rates and the Myth of Neutral Money – Towards a Sociological Critique of the De-politicization of Inflation

Florian Penz

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To economic sociologists, it has become received knowledge that the economic discipline not only describes but actively 'performs' the modern market economy. Thus, certain economic technologies, metaphors, and concepts enter our ordinary lifeworld and shape how we think about the economy at large. A case in point is inflation. Over the past century, inflation has evolved into one of the most central concepts of economic policy, and the inflation-rate has emerged as a 'quasi-positive' and 'de-politicized' standard. Unlike markets, prices, and competition, inflation has received little attention from economic sociology. Further, if sociology has engaged with inflation, it often implicitly adopted the orthodox understanding of inflation as a uniform and neutral rise in prices. This paper traces the emergence of 'single-metric' inflation rates as a powerful indicator informing and justifying economic policies during the second half of the 20th century. With the rise of central-banks as the institutional cornerstone of the contemporary monetary order, inflation-targeting has emerged as guiding-principle for monetary policies, and inflation rates (as measured by the CPI) have been legally enshrined in the monetary constitution of modern market economies. By depicting inflation as a neutral, collective burden, the rise of the 'quasi-positive' inflation rate has been key to a process of de-politicizing periods of rising prices. Reducing inflation to a single metric dovetails with an 'ideology of unpolitical money' and plays an important role in disguising distributional effects. It is argued that the political history of inflation measurement, the empirical reality of changes in relative prices, and the disciplining effect of monetary policies such as rising interest rates on organized labour suggest that inflation needs to be regarded as a complex, context-dependent phenomenon pervaded by power relations. Consequently, this paper adds to an incipient sociological perspective on inflation by laying bare the performative role of inflation rates in re-defining periods of rising prices as a politically neutral, uniform and natural phenomenon. In that, its mission is located in the burgeoning field of a 'sociology of money' – that views money as a set of social relations – and adds to a power-sensitive perspective on central-bank-led capitalism.

Unveiling Social Banking: A definition through the configuration of its dimensions.

Yolanda Cotelo-Ourens, Carles Maixé-Altés, Matilde Massó-Lago

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This work analyzes social banking, specifically, its definition through the different configurations of its key characteristics. The relevance of this conceptualization has been growing since the legitimacy crisis suffered by banking entities in 2008. As a result of which, ethical and sustainable behaviour began to conform a central aspect, no longer exclusive of this banking typology, instead, of the whole banking system. Consequently, increasing the difficulty of forging the social banking characterization and definition. With the aim of contributing to overcoming these difficulties, a dynamic multi-theoretical framework is proposed built over the linkages among legitimacy, stakeholder and institutional theories. This set the theorical anchors of the definition, base of the empirical analysis of the conceptualization develop trough the fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis of the non-financial reports of the main Spanish banking entities in 2022. The principal conclusion is that social banks are necessary defined by a triple social, environmental, and economic objective, and a participatory governance structure. While the dimensions that sufficiently determine this typology are a banking practice with criteria and a contribution to either the financial inclusion or the solidary economy, representing alternative combinations of dimensions that lead a bank to be social. The analysis yields important findings regarding its inclusiveness and its social contribution. Furthermore, in the analysed empirical context of Spain, new insights are brought contributing to explain the evolution of its traditional banking characterization. Thus, it contributes to the theoretical and empirical basis of social banking, at the same time that allows deepening on the characterization of each particular banking system, advancing the knowledge required to foster banking sustainability and sustainable development.

Money Constraints and Creativity. The Case of Italian Minimum Income.

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When considering minimum income (MI) schemes, the monetary transfer is subject to constraints. In Italy, it is disbursed through a prepaid card with purchase limits. Therefore, beneficiaries develop creative strategies to overcome the imposed restrictions and use the money in the way that best suits their needs. However, the meanings attached to these constraints and strategies are poorly examined. In analyzing low-income groups, money is presented as functional in a market-driven way and essential to help households meet their basic needs (Daly, 2017).

This contribution aims to study the constraints and strategies related to the money disbursed in MI, focusing on the Italian experience of the Citizenship Income. The study addresses two main research questions:

1. What meanings do beneficiaries attribute to the constraints of the money received?

2. How do these constraints relate to the actions of beneficiaries in using this money?

I draw on relational work theory, which views economic transactions as fundamentally social interactions and apply it at the institutional level (Bandelj, 2020). Constraints and strategies can be framed as a part of the attempt to find viable matches across interpersonal ties, economic transactions, media of exchange and negotiated meanings (Zelizer, 2012).

This contribution builds on the results of the PRIN 2017 research project CoPInG, which studied the implementation of Citizenship Income in four regions of Northern Italy. It is based on a qualitative thematic analysis of unstructured interviews with a biographical approach with 128 beneficiaries of the measure.

This case is relevant because it provides meaningful insights into the existing tension between the dimensions of social inclusion and the disciplining of the poor. Furthermore, relational work theory helps to reveal the structural relationship between society and its poor, as it is through relational work that people negotiate their relationship of equality and inequality (Bandelj, 2020). In this negotiation, constraints and strategies can be framed as different types of money earmarking (Zelizer, 1994). Constraints as state earmarking, and strategies as a creative way to challenge the dominant system. This paper is significant also because it helps to imagine new ways of designing and implementing anti-poverty policies.

RN10 | Sociology of Education

RN10 | T01_01: Educational Context and Environment (I)

The Academic Climate As A Mediator Between Reading Achievement And The Composition Of Elementary Schools

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The increasing segregation and declining reading achievement in German primary schools raises the question of how schools can be designed to promote learning and reduce composition effects. International studies highlight the pivotal role of an academic climate emphasizing academic success. Unlike other student – and school-related factors such as socioeconomic background and school composition, school academic climate could be modified to reduce achievement gaps between students and schools.

The present study addresses a research gap in Germany on learning conditions in segregated elementary schools and examines whether various aspects of the academic climate mediate the relationship between school composition and students' reading performance. The academic climate was assessed by 145 school principals in 2021 and its operationalization is based on school performance studies (e.g. SEAS: school emphasis on academic success in PIRLS). This measurement was combined with VERA 3 data from 2019. It includes the reading performance of 5.507 students (M=495.91; SD=131.69) at the 145 schools and the socio-cultural school composition (cultural capital was operationalized via number of books at home: M=3.16; SD=1.17, 1-5; non-German everyday language: 24%; SD=0.43).

Multilevel analyses suggest an effect of the cultural composition on reading achievement, which is mediated by SEAS (β=0.38***) as one of the academic climate indicators. Among the sub-aspects of SEAS, parental trust (β=0.29*) and academic emphasis (β=0.25*) appear to be particularly associated with reading achievement. In contrast, school achievement orientation, equity beliefs and collective school efficacy do not appear to be associated with reading achievement, controlling for school composition.

Initial takeaways from the study include the importance of parental trust and academic emphasis as potential learning-enhancing features of disadvantaged elementary schools.

Institutional Habitus in Upper Secondary Schools in Disadvantaged Areas: a Comparison of Educational Reproduction in Helsinki and Barcelona

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This presentation draws on a bourdieusian research tradition to analyze the reproduction of social class differences by means of daily educational policies and practices. We focus on comparing the role of institutional habitus in the (re)production of social positions in education in upper secondary schools in two disadvantaged areas, one in the metropolitan area of Helsinki and the other in the city of Barcelona. The data comprises an ethnographic field-work and ethnographic interviews with students (n=17 in Helsinki, n=18 in Barcelona) in upper secondary schools that are positioned in disadvantaged areas in the urban landscape. We explore qualitatively, how the students regard the role of different forms of capital and their transformations in the process of navigating through their educational paths in secondary education, how are their future educational aspirations in higher education and furthermore in the labour-market constructed, and what is the role of the institutional habitus of the upper secondary school in the construction of these aspirations. We compare two socio-historically different settings, but expect to find relevant differences in how the institutions in disadvantaged areas are reinforcing, compensating or reducing the existing differences between social groups. Our contribution, therefore, helps to provide further evidence on 1) the persistent impacts and tensions that social class generates in the reproduction of young people's educational trajectories independently of systemic and institutional factors and, simultaneously, on 2) the transformative potential that specific systemic and institutional arrangements can generate in young people's opportunities and lives.

Teacher effectiveness: insights from Italy

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This paper explores the concept of teacher effectiveness, that is the impact of teachers on students' cognitive growth as measured through standardized tests. Sociologists have been traditionally hesitant to use this concept due to its alignment with an efficiency-driven educational model. Nevertheless, the increasing recognition of teachers' role in influencing students' achievement and educational paths requires a deeper examination and integration into existing empirical and theoretical frameworks in Sociology.

In this paper we provide teacher effectiveness estimates for Italy, a country characterized by marked educational inequalities despite its highly centralized system, particularly in the lower and upper secondary school cycles.

We analyze data from representative samples of 8th and 10th graders collected during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. The data include language and mathematics competence scores and socio-demographic information, combined with surveys from their language and mathematics teachers. These school years are chosen because the questionnaire administered to teachers includes an item that allows the identification of those who have followed sample students from the beginning of their educational cycle (the target of the analyses).

In line with the literature, teacher effectiveness is estimated by regressing students' scores against a teacher dummy variable, previous competences, and individual-level factors. The distribution of effectiveness estimates will be explored across schools, families, and regions, and it will be assessed its predictive power in shaping students' future educational trajectories. This study will contribute to a deeper understanding of teacher effectiveness and its implications for addressing educational inequalities.

Educational Practices and Effects of the School Climate at the "Lycée d'adulte (High School for adults)" in France, for Early School Leavers

Emi Kawabata

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This study clarifies the characteristics of pedagogical practices and the school climate at the high school for adults, how they impact the school and its students.

The percentage of early school leavers in France currently stands at 8.2 percent, a significant decrease from the previous 2010 survey (DEPP, 2020). This is due to the impact of France's active early school-leaving support measures aimed at returning early school leavers to school and job training. However, most of these institutions have an age limit of 25 as an admission policy. There is also a little research done on early school-leaving support for adults.

The study is based on data collected in the only high school in France to offer a baccalaureate preparatory course for early school leavers, open to students at any age. This study interviewed a principal and two teachers.

The study found that the school was able to construct a special school climate by understanding the students' backgrounds as [the school's educational practices], confirming compatibility with the school environment, hiring teachers with experience in teaching adults, a positive understanding of the students as [the teachers' educational practices], and [students] who have a variety of experiences and backgrounds and are supportive of others. It was also clear that this had resulted not only in obtaining of a baccalaureate degree, but also in a recovery of self-esteem through the building of social relationships between teachers and students, gaining school experiences, and the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

RN10 | T01_02: Migration, Ethnicity, and Racism in Education (I)

Rethinking inclusive education through decolonization: Azerbaijan's Access to Inclusive Education

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The paper examines the obstacles that Azerbaijan's inclusive education policies face in their attempt to be implemented successfully. According to Thomas and Loxley (2022), the study supports the theory of "helicopter inclusion," which holds that ideas from high-income countries frequently flow more freely to low-income countries in the form of aid, frequently with insufficient consideration for local customs. Many post-soviet countries face significant challenges in implementing inclusive education policies today as a result of their long-standing reliance on several pilot programmes and training provided by NGOs.

In light of historical, cultural, and social factors, the study investigates the barriers that prevent inclusive education policies from being implemented successfully in Azerbaijan's educational system. The primary focus of the study is the identification of these limitations in the educational system of Azerbaijan.

This work tried to found an answer to the dominant narratives and power dynamics hidden in postcolonial educational systems like Azerbaijan's by examining inclusive education through the prism of decolonial disability studies. In addition, this research recognises the richness and heterogeneity of the post-Soviet space, cognizant of the fact that every nation and environment possesses unique historical, cultural, and social contexts. The results show that inclusive education policy is based more on enforcing a one-size-fits-all inclusive education paradigm than it is on promoting coordination, communication, and mutual learning among individuals and locations. The implementation of inclusive education should draw on global experience while considering the particular characteristics and circumstances of every educational system.

Polish Language Courses. Addressing the Needs of Forced Migrants from Ukraine

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As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a large number of forced migrants arrived in Poland in a short time. This posed many challenges to Polish institutions. In

addition to the necessity to meet basic needs, the opportunity to learn Polish has become particularly important, as it significantly increases the chance of integration. Our analysis is based on the IDI with representatives of institutions providing Polish language courses, as well as teachers and learners from these entities.

In Warsaw, which received the largest number of forced migrants of all Polish cities, even before the escalation of the war there were many entities offering Polish language lessons primarily from the private and non-governmental sectors. However, due to the unexpected demand, various new initiatives emerged by universities and cultural institutions.

The purpose of the paper is to present the scope of support in the area of Polish language teaching for migrants from Ukraine, taking into account the characteristics of institutions providing Polish language courses, the specifics of the offer aimed at migrants, methods and techniques of education and ways of learning in the context of migrants' needs. We also aim to point out the barriers and institutional difficulties arising from the learning specificity of forced migrant adults. In addition, we intend to present the strengths of the offer and the solutions devised.

Principals' Responses to Racism in Irish Post-Primary Schools

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In recent years, Ireland has seen significant social change. Communities that were once largely homogenous have become increasingly racially diverse, challenging the way in which post-primary schools in Ireland operate. It is widely acknowledged that School Leaders can have a decisive effect on racist and anti-racist practices (Gillborn, 1995; Ryan, 2003).

This study seeks to understand how School Leaders have experienced increasing racial diversity and incidents of Racism within their own school contexts. It will consider the extent to which School Leaders feel equipped to manage Race-related issues and examine the continual professional development available. This study contributes to the limited literature on race in Irish schools as it is the first study which explores specifically Post-Primary School Leaders' experiences of Racism. This is of particular importance in gaining insight into how Racism is understood and managed in Irish Post-Primary schools.

The qualitative, constructionist approach was employed in this research study as a critical

lens through which the lived experience of School Leaders could be considered. The

researcher conducted eight semi-structured interviews with Post-Primary Principals which included presenting participants with a series of vignettes in order to provide a more realistic context for subsequent questions asked (Steiner et al., 2016). The data set was then analysed using the Braun and Clarke six phase guide to thematic analysis.

The findings of this study indicate that limited understandings of racial identity and of

Whiteness function in Irish schools to support the existing hegemonic structures of systemic and institutional Racism. The findings also indicate that there is little to no support available for school Leaders grappling with these issues. There is evidence to suggest that when leaders understand what Racism is, they are in a better position to tackle it in their school and lead action towards Anti-Racism (Miller,2021).

There are significant implications for policy and practice resulting from this study, perhaps most importantly, the demand from school leaders' for appropriate professional support and leadership. While this study was carried out in Ireland, it is also of relevance to other jurisdictions where schools are facing increasing diversity among their student population.

Teachers and White Privilege Attitudes: Correlates and Consequences for In-service Secondary Education Teachers

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Racial – ethnic educational inequality remains a key issue in the field of education with far-reaching consequences for large numbers of adolescents, and broader society. The white privilege perspective reframes the issue of racial-ethnic educational inequality by highlighting how the educational system favours white students, while subjecting racial-ethnic minoritized students to disadvantages. This study examines the white privilege attitudes of in-service teachers, as teachers are essential in the realization of educational equity. However, at the same time, in Western countries the teacher profession is predominantly occupied by white individuals, hence, those in a key position belong predominantly to this invisible and dominant social category. The goal of the current study is to address the gaps in the literature by employing quantitative research methods to be able to explain variability in the level of white privilege awareness and the level of white privilege remorse (being an affective reaction) among in-service teachers. We will analyse the data of 631 Flemish secondary school teachers and consider various correlates, including socio-demographic characteristics and the ethnic composition of the teaching context, and examine how white privilege awareness/remorse relates with multicultural teaching. Multicultural teaching is chosen as a focal point in this explorative study due to its significance in discussions surrounding educational equity for all students. Hence, by using a quantitative approach and by focusing on in-service teachers, this study aims to realize highly innovative insights that could help teachers and teacher-educators to understand and address white privilege better.

RN10 | T01_03: Higher Education (I)

Norm Critical Pedagogy In Online Higher Education: Teachers' Experiences From A Behaviour Science Programme

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Norm-critical pedagogy in higher education, stemming from intersectional gender, feminist, queer, and critical pedagogy, is gaining popularity in Sweden. It challenges norms related to power dimensions like 'whiteness,' 'Swedishness,' and 'middle-class norms,' as well as heteronormativity and body functionality. Rather than viewing students as a homogenous group, this approach emphasizes differences and encourages teachers to critically assess their methods, materials, and course literature. Additionally, the classical sociological literature, often referred to as the sociological canon, has faced challenges from feminist, post-colonial, and queer theorists. These developments prompt further exploration of their implications for sociological and behavioural science education, as well as pedagogical practices. This study examines the implementation of norm-critical pedagogy in an online behavioural science program (including sociology and criminology) at Kristianstad University in Sweden. Interviews with teachers highlight the benefits, but also the tension and pitfalls of adopting this perspective, as well as its impact on inclusive online education.

Inside the University Teaching Book of Russian Ideology

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The study of ideological textbooks is an important element of the scientific analysis of Russia and higher education under Putin since they contain "officially approved dissemination" of the ideology of the political regime. Using the method of sociological discourse analysis, I studied three textbooks on the university subject "Fundamentals of Russian Statehood".

The information presented in textbooks contains all the signs of ideology. The discourse contains a picture of the modern world, an interpretation of the past, and the legitimation of foreign and domestic policies of Russia. Contradictory statements, meaningless terms, and alternative history play a special role in a strategy of suppressing and confusing the reader.

As a result of the study, I was able to answer the following research question.

Q1. What is the ideological image of Russia in ideological teaching book? Russia appears in an exceptionally good light. Allegedly, Russia protects its unique culture, people, and freedom, and seeks to protect and defend its sovereignty and the cultural uniqueness of other nations. There is a try to show cultural and moral superiority over the West. So-called "Russian traditional values" are based in fact on chauvinism, nationalism, and antiwesternism.

Q2. What is the image of democracy and freedom? In textbooks, democracy, liberalism, and Western values are presented in a demonized form. Western values can lead to the disintegration of personality, and liberalism, referred to as liberal fascism or dictatorship of minorities, is dangerous for national culture. The most unenviable fate of the term "democracy" is that it is postulated that there is no democracy in Europe at all, and the term is used for political pressure on non-European nations and states.

What Do Sociologists Do And How Do We Become One? Norwegian, English And Hungarian University Students' Experiences

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Drawing on Burawoy's assertion (2014) that sociology is infused with moral purpose, this paper explores how sociology undergraduate and postgraduate students understand and discuss their disciplinary choice, as well as possible sociological futures in the three national contexts of Norway, England and Hungary.

Based on an international comparative design, the study uses first, administrative secondary data to explore the patterns of student enrolment onto sociology courses over time. The sociology enrolment figures are contextualised with data university expansion in general. Second, it uses interviews with current students to explore their perceptions on subject choice and possible futures. A total of 38 face-to-face or online semi-structured interviews with sociology Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD students, the similarities and differences in Hungarian (HU = 17), English (EN = 9) and Norwegian (NO = 12) students' views are outlined.

The paper provides a typology along the axes of sociology focusing on oneself or others, and it being a generic or specific discipline. This typology for motivation ranges from an explanation for personal experience; to gaining tools to understand society, politics, broader inequalities; to sociological studies being a general basis for a career and hope for changing others' inequalities. Further, using Markus and Nurius (1986) concept of possible selves, the paper provides a brief window into possible sociological futures. Students' perceptions of the roles and activities, goals and outputs, as well as organisational settings one needs to work in to be considered a sociologist are outlined and related to their future sociological selves.

Doing The Heavy Lifting: The Experiences of Working-class Professional Services and Administrative Staff in Russell Group Universities

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At present, research which seeks to understand social class based experiences of universities in the UK has focused predominantly on the experiences of working-class academics and working class students. There is currently a large gap in research which has not yet addressed the experiences of working-class professional services and administrative staff. In fact, professional services voices in themselves rarely feature in academic literature regardless of social class background. This paper outlines findings of an EdD thesis. Using semi-structured interviews and narrative inquiry, the experiences of 13 working-class professional services employees at Russell Group universities were collected. This paper looks at the experiences of those working in professional services in UK universities. All participants reported generally good relationships with others in professional services teams and working-class students who they sought to help. Where participants mentioned relationships with students from other social class backgrounds and academics, these relationships were reported with a distinctly negative framing. Working-class professional services staff are subjected to poor behaviour, distain, a lack of respect, with derogatory and demeaning action on the part of academics and students from other social class backgrounds. It hopes to contribute to knowledge by investigating the complexities of organizational culture through the experiences that professional services staff have working day to day in Russell Group universities.

RN10 | T02_01: Educational Context and Environment (II)

Educational Disparities Among Native And Immigrant Students In Italy: Analysis From Pre-pandemic To Post-pandemic Periods

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The study focuses on analysing the differences in educational performance between native and immigrant students before the pandemic and assessing COVID-19's impact on their learning outcomes. It also explores recovery patterns in the 2022-2023 academic year, providing a comprehensive analysis of the educational landscape in Italy in the face of the pandemic's challenges. In other words, it delves into the ethnic achievement gap throughout pre-pandemic, pandemic, and post-pandemic periods, examining also variables such as socioeconomic status, gender, and language spoken at home. By examining these critical periods, the paper aims to enhance the dialogue on the educational challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. It seeks to provide insights into mitigating educational losses and understanding the nature of disparities during the recovery process. Emphasizing the need for inclusive educational policies, the study underscores the importance of ensuring equitable opportunities and support for all students in Italy's post-pandemic educational landscape.

This paper employs data from the Italian National Evaluation System for Student Performance (INVALSI) on the whole population of students enrolled at all educational levels (i.e., grades 2, 5, 8,10, and 13) from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023. The analytical strategy is based on comparing the ethnic achievement gap between different cohorts of students. Preliminary analyses, performed through OLS regression, show that immigrant students consistently lag behind their native peers before the pandemic. The crisis widened these gaps, particularly in early education. The 2022-2023 data reveal diverging trends: higher grades exhibit recovery signs, while lower grades persistently underperform, highlighting an incomplete levelling of educational disparities.

Organizational Cheating and Underlying Education Policies: An Example From Turkey

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Since the 1970s, increased individual and inter-school competition in education, and competition based on measurable outcomes and market logic, has de-emphasized education as a process. Consequently, cheating in schools has changed its nature. Cheating, traditionally considered an individual act undertaken by students, has also become one of the tools to get ahead in inter-school competitions and is organized by schools. Research on this type of organizational cheating treats it as a sporadic and isolated phenomenon decoupled from the core educational practices; it is considered to arise only when the school organization members face external pressure to meet certain criteria, but without being habitually involved in the process. This study, in contrast, reveals how organizational cheating is habitually performed by teachers and administrators who have assimilated the logic of the neoliberal education market. The research was conducted in eight Turkish public high schools in 2022. It involved group interviews with students and teachers and expert interviews with school principals, and the data was analyzed using the Documentary Method. In two of the eight schools, we observed a type of cheating regulated and controlled by the school organization. The educational characteristics of these two schools, and where they stand in the educational competition, provide insight into the conditions that promote the emergence of organizational cheating. These include recent changes in how the university entrance competition is regulated and the introduction of a new type of privileged school in Turkey.

This study was supported by the Boğaziçi University Research Fund grant number 19163.

School Responses to Desegregation Policies in Barcelona: A Realist Evaluation Approach

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School segregation is amongst the most important challenges that educational systems face today, with public administrations adopting pro-equity public policies aiming to tackle it since the 2000s. With its Shock Plan Against School Segregation (SPASS), launched in 2019, Barcelona aims to distribute pupils more equitably by means of a set of instruments, namely targeted funding, preassigned school seats, and quotas for vulnerable students. Nonetheless, due to its short track, little is known about how desegregation policies work, how their instruments are being enacted by schools and families, which mechanisms are being triggered with what outcomes, and particularly how schools' context and actors mediate them. With this research, we aim to contribute to the international debate about these educational reforms beyond the specific case of Barcelona.

In this study, we analyse the enactment of these policies at the school level. Analytically and methodologically, we draw on a realist evaluation approach (Pawson & Tilley, 2004). We follow a mixed-methods approach based on three data sources: first, semi-structured interviews with school principals [n=32] and mid-level implementers from the local educational authority [n=8]; second, survey data from school principals [n=80]; and third, administrative records. Findings show that the immediate school context, the actors' knowledge and beliefs about the policy, and their position is the local education market determine the implementation process and produce diverse school-level practices, often diverging from expected policy outcomes. Despite a single-case study, this paper informs reforms of this kind adopted elsewhere and offers relevant insights into the design, implementation, and evaluation of desegregation policies.

Resonance vs. Alienation: Predicting School Thriving in Diverse Contexts

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The recent interpretation of critical theory, as introduced by Rosa, introduces the concept of 'resonance' as a new paradigm for understanding the conditions conducive to a good life. This concept contrasts with alienation, a central theme in traditional critical theory. Resonance entails an interaction between individuals and their world, fostering a sense of deep connection and meaningful engagement, extending not only between humans but also with objects. This contrasts with alienation, characterized by a state of disconnection from oneself, others, and the environment.

Rosa's approach shifts critical theory towards fostering relationships marked by reciprocity, aiming to nurture a sense of fulfillment, efficacy, and competence. However, empirical explorations of resonance in educational contexts are notably sparse. To address this gap, we analyze quantitative data from 59 Belgian primary schools involving 3,000 students, complemented by qualitative focus group data from 33 students.

Our examination focuses on academic achievement, efficacy, belonging, feelings of futility, student-teacher relationships, and curriculum meaningfulness. The results of our multilevel analyses indicate that mutual connections between students, and between students and teachers, as well as between students and the curriculum, are crucial for academic efficacy and are associated with reduced alienation. The qualitative evidence suggests that in diverse schools, an approach to diversity that resonates with children's cultural experiences promotes greater belonging and reduces alienation from school.

This research aligns with and significantly contributes to Rosa's theoretical framework regarding the concept of a good life within education. Additionally, it offers valuable insights for school professionals and policymakers.

RN10 | T02_02: Migration, Ethnicity, and Racism in Education (II)

Global Teachers, Local Challenges: Examining Migrant Educators' Professional Experiences

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Existing research indicates that teaching is becoming a more global labour market, with substantial teacher migration from the developing to more affluent countries, including into and within Europe (Krause et al. 2023, Reid et al. 2014, Bartlett 2014). The available literature synthesis shows that migrant teachers face substantial challenges during their professional transition, even when they are migrating between Anglophone systems (Bense 2016).

This paper examines how the themes identified in the literature synthesis are manifested in England – a rapidly growing destination country for global migrant teachers due to government's policy to address teacher shortages via recruiting overseas. This case study is based on a series of semi-structured interviews collected with 16 mathematics teachers from a variety of migration backgrounds during their teacher education programme at a London university. The interviews focused on their teaching experiences at the two teaching placements in secondary schools, normally required by the programme. The paper discusses issues of professional identities, multilingualism and racialised experiences, with a particular focus on intersectional discrimination.

The second part of the paper outlines the findings of our rapid evidence assessment on the state of knowledge, policies and interventions in the field of supporting migrant teachers in local education contexts worldwide. We assess how promising such approaches might be and what gaps are there in our understanding of their likely effectiveness. This review also identifies promising areas for future research.

Intercultural Education To Encounter Migrant-Driven Diversity: Assessing The Tension Between Policy And Bottom-Up Implementation Practices

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In the wake of the increase of pupils with migratory background in several schools across Europe, the Council of Europe (2008) has started promoting 'intercultural education' as the main educational strategy to accommodate growing cultural and linguistic diversity brought by migrants. Intercultural education is also meant to promote interactions among pupils with different cultural/linguistic affiliations.

The intercultural education research has pointed out the existence of a tension between the official discourse about intercultural education, and its actual implementation and operationalization in the classroom practice, in Europe (Rapanta and Trovao 2021). Existing studies explicitly call for further research in the field, to better disentangle the extent, specific dimensions and potential explanatory factors behind this policy-practice gap.

This article addresses this research gap by providing an in-depth analysis of intercultural implementation practices, taking the case of the city of Trento as case study. The analysis takes the perspectives of teachers and inductively explores their experiences in four different public primary and middle schools, characterized by different types of migrant population (in terms of languages, ethnic groups and total amount of migrant pupils). The analysis considers differences among teachers, based on their professional background and previous experiences with migration. To make sense of the findings, I rely on an analytical framework combining elements from the studies on intercultural education with some insights from the bottom-up studies on policy implementation (Lipsky, 1980).

This research aims at expanding the current understanding of the policy-practice gap in the field of intercultural education, intended as the main strategy to deal with migration-driven diversity in classrooms. Moreover, the article intends to advance a new argument about potential explanatory factors behind this policy-practice tension.

The School Achievement of Students with an Immigrant Background at the End of Primary School in Portugal

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The official annual data on pupils of immigrant origin published by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics primarily focuses on the citizenship of pupils citizenship, excluding those with Portuguese citizenship of immigrant origin or host country citizenship (descendants of immigrants).To address this limitation, this article employs microdata from DGEEG/MEC, incorporating information on the pupils' and parents' countries of birth to identify descendants of immigrants. In this paper, we focus on the situation of students with an immigrant background at the end of primary education regarding their academic achievement, measured by no. of retentions during the school path. The main objective is to go beyond the 'foreign student category' and deepen the scientific knowledge about the descendants of immigrants by tracing their socio-demographic profile, exploring intragroup variability, and relating it to their academic achievement. For this

purpose, we start by comparing the students' educational achievement according to the categories based on (national/foreign) and the categories determined by the country of birth of their parents (native/immigrant origin). Secondly, we explore intragroup variability by comparing educational achievement using subcategories related to generational status (first and second generations), the type of ancestry (single or mixed national origin) and national origins (the 18 with the highest share of students). Lastly, we use parents' educational attainment level to explore whether the gaps we identified in these comparisons persist when we control for parental educational attainment.

Education In Peril: Barriers And Challenges In Education Of Ukrainian Refugee Students In Europe – A Systematic Review

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Background: After the outbreak of the Russian-Ukraine war in February 2022, more than 6 million Ukrainians have fled to European countries. It is estimated that more than half of Ukrainian refugee minors were not enrolled in schools in host countries, implying various challenges in refugee education. Yet, due to heterogeneity of variables and nascent character of this phenomenon, there has been no systematic review of those barriers. The objective of this systematic review was to assess the challenges and barriers in education faced by Ukrainian refugee students in Europe.

Methods: Following PRISMA framework, a systematic review was conducted across multiple databases for English studies and international organizations' reports published after February 24th, 2022 using a set of keywords.

Results: From a total of 277 articles, 171 duplicates were removed, and after screening of the abstracts, 103 were excluded for not meeting inclusion criteria. Out of 68 full studies assessed for eligibility, a total of 17 articles were included in the review. Significant challenges were found at all individual, interpersonal, institutional and societal levels, affecting not only children but parents and teachers also. Analysis has recognized seven different barriers to education: language, low enrollment rate, school capacity and preparation, legal/financial/administrative barriers, mental health and trauma, technical issues, perceived discrimination and others.

Conclusion: Ukraine refugee children in Europe encounter various education barriers after relocation. Since the most challenges have been identified at the institutional level, policy makers and administrations are recommended to implement measures to facilitate successful education for these children.

Can "Educational Priority Schools" compensate society?

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Priority education policies that favor the allocation of additional resources to schools with populations of low socioeconomic status and low academic results are widespread internationally, with the aim of combating educational inequalities. In general, the results of these programs have been widely criticized for not reducing the various types of existing segregation (Owen, 2018; Felouzis, Fouquet-Chauprade and Charmillot, 2018), or for not including an integrated policy for economically and socially disadvantaged territories, marked by poverty and social exclusion (Anyon, 2005; Warren and Mapp, 2011).

In Portugal, this program is called Priority Intervention Educational Territories (TEIP) and some results have shown that (Ferraz, Neves & Nata, 2018, 2019), that TEIP schools have not come close to other schools in terms of school results. students. This study aims to measure the difference in academic results of students enrolled in the 9th grade in Portuguese public schools in Mainland Portugal, in the 2016/2017 school year.

To measure differences in academic performance considering the immigrant background of the student, and whether he/she is enrolled in a TEIP or non-TEIP school, we use linear regression models. The variables of interest are the following three indicators of student performance: (a) the score obtained in the 9th grade national Mathematics exam; (b) the score obtained in the 9th grade national Portuguese Language exam.

Our findings show that vis-à-vis non-TEIP Native students, all the remaining groups are associated with statistically significant worse results both on the 9th grade national exams, as well as in the probability of obtaining a successful academic record in the 3rd cycle .

RN10 | T02_03: Higher Education (II)

Breaking the Glass Ceiling: The Meaning and Difficulties of Being a First-Generation Arab-Palestinian Faculty Member in Israeli Academia

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This qualitative study, which employed semi-structured interviews, explored the paths of 15 Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, an indigenous minority, who are faculty members in Israeli institutions of higher education. The research analyzed the interviewees' experiences, in light of the contexts of these lecturers' lives: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the collective social-cultural context, and the fact that these academics belong to the first-generation of students in higher education. The study explored the interviewees' choice of academic career, the meaning of this choice for them and the difficulties they face, due to these contexts. Three central themes emerged: (a) the process of choosing and entering academia, as a first-generation student and faculty member, in order to gain power and social mobility; (b) the academic path as a symbol of pride for the family and for the Arab-Palestinian collective; and (c) difficulties lecturers face in their academic careers. In order to break the glass ceiling, Arab-Palestinian lecturers have to overcome socio-political structural obstacles. The knowledge gained from this study can encourage institutions of higher education in Israel to help advance the Arab-Palestinian minority, by understanding the structural and political context in which they live and work.

UK Universities (Re)Acting to Confucius Institutes – Dynamics of Institutional Autonomy, Political and Financial Vulnerability

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This research paper explores the institutional-level factors associated with the opening of Confucius Institutes in the UK. It brings a much-needed contribution to the ongoing debate surrounding the rise and fall of Confucius Institutes around the world. In the UK, many universities opened Confucius Institutes in the spirits of cultural exchange and entrepreneurship and then closed them, reflecting the contradictory messages from British Prime Ministers who pledged to ban Confucius Institutes (which they viewed as a political 'threats') before eventually U-turning on their proposals. The factors underpinning UK universities' decision to open (or close) Confucius Institutes are of key interest to the sociological institutionalist scholarship. They provide a case study for exploring whether (and if so, how) structural and cultural constraints elaborated in resource dependency and external legitimacy theories play a role in universities. Using a nationally representative dataset of approximatively 100 UK universities observed over a decade (from 2008 to 2018), we conducted a range of panel data regression analyses in order to rigorously assess the relationship between university characteristics (from university prestige to its share of income from tuition fees) and the presence of a Confucius Institute in its premises. We found that despite their purported institutional autonomy, universities' approach towards Confucius Institutes is underpinned by a complex dynamic between maintaining institutional prestige and navigating an increasingly competitive and politicized global higher education field.

The State School as a Development of Academic Capital – a Study of Access to Higher Education in Portugal and England

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Higher education is a domain in which access is still very restricted for people from the working class in many societies. As an aggravating factor, the most popular institutions and courses are the least accessible to these students. This study presents an analysis of 16 interviews carried out with working-class students who managed to access high-status medical degree programs at universities in England and Portugal, to see how these students had these accesses and what their experiences are like within the different institutions. With the analytical support of Pierre Bourdieu's concepts of habitus, field and capital, this study reveals that although elite institutions provide better conditions for graduates to be competitive in the job market, they also produce much more need to confront the habitus of the working class. It is argued that these accesses are related to three essential pillars: family, school and mainly academic capital. It should also be added that the experiences of these students can be very different between institutions in the two countries. In Portuguese institutions, academic capital appears as a credential of recognition among peers and a means of obtaining social capital, whereas in England, this movement is not apparent and may indicate an even more deeply rooted inequality in the educational system. This suggests that in Portugal the state school system still appears to provide its students with competitiveness and, therefore, a means of acquiring academic capital. On the other hand, for English students from state schools, this variable seems to be much more problematic, as they lose the ability to demonstrate academic capital in the area.

RN10 | T02_04: Inequality in Education (I)

Education as common good: Marginality and Social Justice

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In contemporary societies the consolidation of the neoliberal educational model has enhanced a standardized and instrumental educational practice, aimed at the accumulation of credentials to promote individualized trajectories. An orientation towards interpreting the educational marginalization of young people has prevailed, shifting the focus on individual responsibility of failure in education, rather than on structural barriers.

Although recent analyses highlight that the theme of educational injustice is generated by a specific neo-liberal idea of justice, nevertheless they also underline the need to interpret educational marginalization through a key of plural reading of social justice.

The aim of this contribution is to offer a theoretical reflection on the alternative value of the paradigm of education as 'common good' in interpreting the educational marginality connected to social injustices. The theoretical premise is based on the idea that the characteristics of this approach, centered on the collective management of learning processes and on the promotion of autonomy and self-confidence, are connected with the two-dimensional paradigm of social justice. More specifically, the contribution intends to develop the link between educational marginality and education as "common good" through the following lines of analysis: educational marginality understood as absence of participation due to the emergence of redistributive injustice and misrecognition; comparison between the sociological approaches from the North and the South of the world; education as common good capable of achieving a conceptual integration of the redistributive dimension with that of recognition in order to guarantee participatory parity in school and in non-formal education.

Privatization In Education And Its Effect On The Already Existing Private Schools – The Case Of Hungary

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This presentation discusses the effects of education privatization in Hungary.

The government which came to power in 2010, introduced a series of policies and budgetary measures that led to an increasing privatization of the sector. As a consequence, the share of state education at the primary level has decreased from 95% to 77% in a short period of time. The Church has emerged as the second largest provider of primary education. Additionally, among urban middle-class families there has been a growing distrust in the state and therefore, a new demand for private schools, resulting in a threefold increase in the number of students attending them between 2010 and 2023.

Our research involved interviewing private school principals and managers about recent changes in education policy and their impact on their schools and educational visions.

The majority of the private schools were established to provide an alternative educational programme to mainstream education and a more child-centred atmosphere. The leaders of these schools perceive the tightening of content regulation, the emergence of a new type of consumer, and the schools' increasing reliance on tuition fees as threats to their 'true' legacy.

However, other stakeholders view themselves as participants in the school market and their institutions as businesses that must adapt to the new situation and comply with the new rules. They are ready to alter the services provided by the school or removing parts of their curriculum that do not align with the new political expectations or are not viable under the new regulations.

The findings suggest that privatization triggered by the state do not have the same effect on the different actors in the private sector.

A Family Affair: Micro-Class Reproduction in Academia

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While the representation and diversity of academic professionals in terms of gender and internationalisation has been high on the agenda both in public debates and in research (e.g. Pietilä et al., 2021), the issue of socio-economic background is remarkably absent, partly because of a lack of good data sources. We use a combination of population-wide register data from Norwegian public registers and data not previously utilized for this purpose: the Research Personnel register provided by statistics Norway and investigate the association between social background factors and the likelihood of ending up in various academic positions. We have access to information about all academics in Norway born from 1955-1980 working in the years 2011-2020 and their parents. Our dependent variables are having professor title, a permanent job as faculty, or a more general research position, that involves working in universities or in private research institutions. Preliminary findings show a relative strong association between having parents in all upper-class positions, but especially a cultural class position. There are systematic associations between parents' level of education and the probability of ending up in such a position, and especially having parents with a PhD is important: those with one or two parents with a PhD are 30 times more likely to end up in a faculty or professor position than those from a working-class background. When we

include a control for own PhD, the results changes, but we still find significant differences, especially between those coming from a cultural upper-class background and those originating in the working class, and between those with parents with a PhD and those with parents with less than upper secondary school.

The National Reading Plan In Areas Of Social Vulnerability: Exploratory Data And Socio-Educational Tensions

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This paper presents data from the exploratory phase of the project "Between Discourses and Practices: the Role of the State in shaping Child Readers in Socially Vulnerable Areas in Porto" funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology. The research is a qualitative methodological case study that focuses on the analysis of the set of discourses and practices of the State regarding the implementation and promotion of the National Reading Plan, which seeks to solve structural educational problems and to promote reading skills. The objective is to understand how the State and the school operate in specific realities and contexts, particularly in areas of social vulnerability. This study investigates the development of the National Reading Plan in a school in the Priority Educational Intervention Territory in the municipality of Porto, Portugal, with a 3rd-grade class of the 1st Cycle of Basic Education. The exploratory phase has allowed, so far, to situate some tensions experienced by the targeted social agents: a significant number of students outside the regular school level, the attempt of institutions (State and school) to recover learning due to the pandemic through the creation of the 21/23 School + Plan, and the difficulties faced by children in the territorial context and educational assistance. It is pertinent to understand the obstacles to the formation of readers and to promote sociological visibility in stigmatized spaces, to know the experiences and problems faced by the school community — that is, education professionals, children, and their families.

RN10 | T02_05: Vocational Education and Training (I)

Learning to Labour under the Employability Agenda: School-to-Work Transitions of Indonesian Vocational Graduates

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Over the last decades, the way young people move from school to work has changed significantly. Education no longer guarantees a pathway to employment. In Indonesia, despite the fact that today the younger generation has a higher education level than their parents, the country's youth unemployment rate is extremely high. By engaging critically with Bourdieusian framework, my research attempts to understand how youth from low-income families navigate their post-school aspirations. This study focuses on vocational graduates in Indonesia. They are not only dominated by low-income youth, but they are also the largest unemployed group in Indonesia, making them an appropriate case to study how young people respond to disjuncture between schooling and employment. Not only is my project useful to unpack the struggle and strategies young people use to navigate the rapid change in their transitions, but also to give insights on how they make sense of their experiences within the context of a disconnect between education and employment. Furthermore, a case study of vocational graduates in a Global South will allow me to bring Southern perspectives to existing debates in youth sociology about navigating social reproduction in the face of social change.

Legitimizing Discourses of the Non-formal Guidance Teaching Function Among the Third and Fourth Years of ESO Teachers in Spain

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The objective of this paper is to analyze the legitimizing discourses of the non-formal guidance teaching function among the third and fourth years of ESO teachers in Spain. To this end, we analyze the content of several discussion groups composed of third and fourth years of ESO teachers in Spain. We conclude that there are four ideal-types of legitimizing discourses of the non-formal guidance teaching function among the third and fourth years of ESO teachers in Spain: a) The laboralist ideal-type, whose ultimate

objective is to provide students with relevant information and capacities so that they can develop, based on their own criteria and skills, their laboral path. b) The axiological ideal-type, whose ultimate objective is to provide students with certain values. c) The affective, especially emotional, ideal-type, whose ultimate objective is to provide students with certain skills regarding the affective-emotional management (management of one's own emotions, development of self-confidence, ability to take initiative, etc.). d) The traditional ideal-type, whose ultimate objective is to provide students with relevant information and capacities so that they can develop, based on their own criteria and skills, their academic career.

The Appeal of Carpentry: Two Contrasting Class-related Perceptions of Masculinity and Independence in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

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In Danish society, vocational education and training (VET) are widely viewed as inferior to more academic youth educations, leading to declining applications from youth. VET and craftsmanship in fields like carpentry, has been associated with a low academic level, hard routine labor, and tough masculinity. With a growing need for craftsmen in Danish society, recent political efforts have aimed to enhance the reputation of vocational schools and craftsmanship, to appeal to young people across social class backgrounds.

This paper, drawing on fieldwork and interviews at a Copenhagen vocational school, investigates why young people are drawn to carpentry. The research reveals two distinct class and age-related perspectives among the mainly male pupils. Young men from lower socioeconomic backgrounds tend to view carpentry as a pragmatic choice leading to highly desired economic independence, masculinity and adulthood, and providing an escape from academic demands. In contrast, the slightly older, middle-class pupils see carpentry as a personal endeavor, a skill for self-sufficiency, 'do it yourself'-masculinity, and a pathway to an alternative – sustainable or anti-consumerist – livelihood. For the lower-class group, giving their labor power to an employer "concerns an experiential separation of the inner self from the work" (Willis 1977:102), while for the middle-class group, work rather requires an expression of self.

The appeal of carpentry thus varies significantly with class. Both perspectives, however, highlight a pursuit of positive masculinity and independence, expected to be found outside academic education and work, but closely intertwined with tensions of relations between manual labor, masculinity, and class.

Multiprofessional Cooperation In Career And Study Guidance At Eye Level: A Multiperspective Approach To Co-Constructive Concept Development

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The transition from school to vocational training or higher education involves various uncertainty factors for students that arise due to social, technological and economic developments and the associated change processes on the labour market (Mittermüller 2020; Pool Maag 2008b; Bigos 2020). It is therefore increasingly important to prepare and support transition processes into vocational education and training with the involvement of different professions due to the heterogeneous needs of students (e.g. due to inclusion, migration, educational inequality).

In a sub-project of a nationwide federal and state initiative in Germany research-based design concepts were developed in a co-constructivly dialog between educational science and educational practice for a multi-professional career and study orientation as a cross-sectional task of organisational development at schools. The presentation firstly aims to introduce the central elements of the sub-project which is based on a design-based-research approach (Anderson/Schattuck 2012; Reinermann 2005), emphasizing co-constructive exchange between schools, cooperation partners, and science. This concept envisions a close connection between the research process and the design process through dialogue-oriented formats (Ratermann-Busse 2023).

Central results from the workshop phase will be presented, derived from surveys on the status quo of multiprofessional cooperation based on five thematic building blocks. The data foundation includes guideline-based interviews with school-related (n=11) and extracurricular actors (n=8), participant observations of vocational and educational orientation offerings (n=5), and supplementary student surveys (n=150). Additionally, insights from research-based development workshops for concept development with schools (n=2) will be presented.

Our contribution will demonstrate how insights into multiprofessional cooperation are used for the development of transferable reflection instruments, work materials, recommendations, and their implementation in school life and teacher training.

RN10 | T03_01: Educational Context and Environment (III)

Can Socioeconomic Diversity in Classrooms Reduce Socioeconomic Inequality? The Role of Inter-SES Support in Student Networks

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Following the transformation of European societies and their school tracking systems, the varying levels of Socioeconomic Status (SES) diversity and their effects on students require comprehensive understanding. One set of arguments emphasizes the benefits of more diverse classroom contexts on SES-based achievement equality, by enhancing the access to social capital, which can be accessed through inter-SES support with students' social network among peers. However, homophily—the tendency to interact with similar others—might foster segregation along SES, thereby reducing peers' inter-SES support. Consolidation, which highlight that homophily based on one trait may inadvertently lead to segregation based on another, is another argumentation considered detrimental to inter-SES support.

We explore whether higher-level SES diversity elevates inter-SES support in classroom networks, whether SES consolidation with gender and ethnic origin hinders inter-SES support, and whether enhanced inter-SES support reduces SES-based achievement inequality.

Utilizing multi-level regression models with data from a large-scale German assessment study with about 35,000 ninth-grade students, the results indicate that SES diversity increases inter-SES support. Moreover, inter-SES support is associated with reduced achievement inequality. Conversely, classrooms with stronger SES consolidation with gender and ethnic origin exhibit reduced inter-SES support. However, a direct link between SES diversity and achievement inequality is not evident, likely due to countervailing mechanisms within classrooms.

These findings contribute to insights in understanding educational inequality in times of transformation, suggesting mixed-SES classrooms facilitate inter-SES support among peers, which in turn promotes achievement equality. Nevertheless, increased SES consolidation challenges this advantage, calling for prudence in educational practices.

Desegregation Policies in Barcelona: Unequal Effects and Impacts

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School segregation has emerged as a core challenge in Barcelona (Spain) in the past few years. Driven by wide margins of school choice, a large share of private subsidized schools, and sustained inaction from local government bodies, the uneven distribution of students across schools became a persistent issue. In response, the city's educational authorities implemented the Shock Plan Against School Segregation (SP) in 2018. This policy aims to promote a more balanced distribution of socially disadvantaged students through targeted funding, preassigned school seats, and quotas for vulnerable students. In this paper we explore the impact of SP on the distribution of socially disadvantaged students across schools in Barcelona. We design a quasi-experimental study employing Interrupted Time Series regression analysis to estimate the impact of these policies on school segregation, concentration, and social stratification between public and private schools. This allows us to estimate the causality between the implementation of these policies and the evolution of school segregation in Barcelona for the past decade. Findings show that the impact of desegregation policies have significant variations among different groups of students—such as those with immigrant backgrounds or those considered vulnerable—and across different areas of the city. The paper concludes by exploring the various factors and mechanisms behind these differential impacts, shedding light on the complexities of policy effects in diverse urban contexts.

'To Mix or Not to Mix': Exploring Classroom Formation Processes, Teacher Discourses and Practices in the Last Stage of Primary Education in the Lisbon Area

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This paper intends to contribute to a better understanding of the rationales behind school agents' decisions about student sorting into classrooms. Specifically, we explore the challenges schools face when dealing with social and cultural diversity within the classroom. Portugal constitutes a valuable case study, since its primary education is split in two stages, at the cusp of which students usually change schools for the first time and schools face the option of maintaining or changing the previous classroom formations.

Since 2nd stage primary schools draw students from multiple 1st stage schools with diverse student populations, it

is important to assess whether (and why) schools perceive the possibility of mixing students as a challenge or an advantage. Literature shows that school composition shapes the ways teachers conduct their practice and the expectations they develop about their students' academic abilities. Studies also point towards a general preference for ability grouping, but there is little research concerning the criteria for such preference, specifically, how school composition and teachers' collective expectations inform it.

We draw from a multimethod research project focused on the Lisbon area (Portugal), which combines official student microdata statistical analysis with interview content analysis conducted in two comparative case studies, in schools with different social and ethnic compositions. We demonstrate how classroom segregation develops in primary education, and its impacts on social and ethnic inequalities in grade repetition rates and Mathematics' grades. We also find that in disadvantaged schools with low expectations, teachers might be less inclined to mix students due to (i) fears this will disturb the classroom order, and (ii) lack of confidence in instructional differentiation as a method for dealing with learner diversity.

School competition and bilingual education in Spain. The case of Andalusia

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Over the last two decades, studies have firmly characterised the Spanish system of school choice as a quasi-market education system. A space of competitive interdependencies in which the logics of school actions and the strategies of families are closely interconnected and mutually influence each other. In this context, we understand that the responses of schools to a certain education policy include complex processes of interpretation, reinterpretation and recontextualisation. In this sense, participation (or refusal to do so) in a curricular and pedagogical measure can be considered a "substantive response" on the part of schools to distinguish themselves within the local market in which they are competing.

Similarly, over the last two decades, Spanish-English bilingual education programmes have become one of the most widespread non-compulsory educational policies throughout Spain. Starting from this theoretical-analytical framework, we wonder to what extent the participation of schools in this programme responds to this competitive logic and to what extent may generate inequalities in access to this type of education.

We use data from PISA 2018 in the region of Andalusia (n=1,766). We take advantage of the fact that this edition of PISA contains a variable that measures the competence that schools have. Using logistic regression analysis, we measure the effect of this variable on the probability that schools offer the bilingual programme, after controlling for other school and contextual variables.

The most explanatory variables turn out to be type of school (public schools, more than private ones), the average socioeconomic level of the school (those with the highest socioeconomic level to those with the lowest level), and, thirdly, the existence of other schools with which they compete for students.

RN10 | T03_02: Migration, Ethnicity, and Racism in Education (III)

Refugee Adolescents' Aspirations Over Time: Cooling Down, Stabilization, or Warming Up?

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In 2022, approximately 246,000 refugees in Germany, who had arrived between 2015 and 2018, were aged between 14 and 18. This age range is pivotal for shaping career aspirations, future plans, and adapting educational trajectories. Despite facing challenging educational situations, studies indicate that refugee adolescents generally aim for academic pathways. However, their educational and career aspirations are susceptible to change based on various influences and contexts, leading to either a "cooling down" or "warming up" effect.

The study sought to address the following questions: Do career aspirations of refugee adolescents change over time? What are the reasons for changes in aspirations? To explore these questions, we conducted qualitative interviews with 16 refugees aged between 17 and 31 in East Germany. Qualitative content analysis, as per Kuckartz's methodology, was used to analyse the interview material.

The analysis identified three distinct groups. In the first group, career aspirations remained consistently high, with adjustments made to the path of achievement. Crucial factors contributing to stable aspirations included support from teachers, diverse opportunities in Germany compared to their home country, and a high motivation to learn.

The second group experienced a "cooling-out" dynamic, where career aspirations were downwardly adjusted over time. Factors influencing these adaptations included high academic requirements, age, the necessity of livelihood, and the influence of significant others.

In contrast, the third group exhibited a tendency towards a "warming-up" of aspirations. Initially focused on work and income, these refugees now aspire to attain school qualifications and undergo vocational training. This shift was driven by a desire to confront limited professional opportunities without qualifications and overcome experiences of discrimination.

What we Know (and Don't Know) About Roma Parents: Lessons from an International Systematic Literature Review

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Roma parents play an inescapable role in the success of reducing the educational disadvantage of Roma pupils. The presentation aims to provide a systematic overview of what is currently known in the international literature about the Roma parents' involvement in their children's education. The target group of "Roma, Romani, Gypsy, Traveller" is defined based on the Council of Europe's definition.

A systematic literature review was conducted following the PRISMA protocol, where the EBSCO Discovery Service as a search engine (which includes academic databases) was applied. The keywords were: 1) Gypsy or Gypsies or Roma or Romani or Traveller; and 2) Parents or Caregivers or Mother or Father or Parent. The search was confined to an abstract-level search, including only peer-reviewed English language studies within the field of education. The geographical location and the date of the studies were not limited. The 139 search results were subjected to title, abstract, and then full-text screening using multiple double-checks. The inclusion and exclusion criteria were focused on selecting studies that provided scientific information about Roma parents and were relevant to education. The final analysis included 62 selected studies.

One of the key findings is the collision of the perspectives among the different actors along with the review of good practices. The presentation also identifies patterns of differences between the 26 countries covered by the research, such as deficit – and solution-oriented discourses. Additionally, it highlights under-researched areas of the topic, including Roma parents' involvement at home, and language-related aspects of parenting.

Governing Refugee Higher Education: A comparative study of English and German Universities

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In the global context of unprecedented migratory flows, the education of refugees is gaining increased research and policy attention. However, refugee Higher Education (HE) remains under-studied, with UNHCR (2022) lamenting the lack of cross-national data. Our project fills this gap through comparatively examining refugee HE participation in two key settlement countries, Germany and England and their respective high participation (Marginson, 2016) University systems. In employing a qualitative case study design the project focuses on four universities in England and Germany, examining their institutional structures and cultures of refugee support, the prevailing discourses around the management of diversity and their rhetorical constructions of refugee students. The methodology includes in-depth interviews with refugee students and with key institutional actors, along with discourse analysis of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) documents. Further, the project explores the key institutional actors' perspectives seeking to unearth the implicit, cultural, systemic assumptions that may lead to unintended exclusionary practices for refugee students in HE (Stevenson and Baker, 2019). Centring on refugee voices, the presentation will document the lived experiences and the enabling and constraining factors affecting displaced students' HE access and participation. Through taking an intersectional, social justice approach and drawing upon theory and research in the sociology of education and migration, the paper makes a significant contribution to the field of intersecting inequalities in higher education and refugee studies.

Transformative Education and Cultural Change in Northern Ireland's New Momentum for Restorative Practice in Schools

Brian Payne

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Drawing from contemporary perspectives on the Sociology of Education, this paper considers the role of restorative practice in schools as a means for strengthening institutions of society and bringing about transformational change. The paper considers the case of Northern Ireland where the use of restorative practises in schools has increased over the past decade, with growing calls for practices to be included in all new teacher training and embedded throughout schools' behaviour management processes.

Whilst restorative practises are recognised as a proven structured approach for conflict resolution and the management of problematic behaviours in children and young people, the international literature highlights how its use remains intermittent in schools, with a limited evidence base on perceived positive outcomes or success stories and a preoccupation with issues of discipline and behaviour management. I argue that the post conflict conditions evident in Northern Ireland present an opportunity to realise the transformational potential of restorative approaches in education, particularly in bringing about cultural change that transcends the school gates.

The Transformative values and goals of restorative practices and the indicators of effectiveness espoused in Sociology of Education are used to propose a broader evaluative framework for fully considering the contribution of restorative approaches in education. The paper argues that current attempts to mainstream such practices in Northern Ireland can provide valuable support for the implementation of such approaches elsewhere.

RN10 | T03_03: Higher Education (III)

Observing The Colonial Episteme in Academy

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In the recent years, debates on diversity and decolonisation have attracted growing attention among academic discussions (Arday and Safia Mirza 2018). In this paper we draw from a long line of work that has engaged issues of racism and inequality in universities (e.g., Ahmed, 2012; Alexander & Arday, 2015; Bhopal & Pitkin, 2018). We examine the question: what happens when racialized bodies take up 'privileged' positions that have been predominantly reserved for white men. What is it like to represent diversity in white institutions? Research on experience on racialized minorities in the academic field often takes BA, MA students or full professors as subjects of interest (Bourabain, 2021). Since there is a lack of research done regarding the position of PhD students, it strikes our interest to examine their role within universities. Secondly, we want to have a deeper understanding of the experience they face with the "culture of silence" when the presence of racialized minorities decreases when moving up the academic ladder. Drawing on interviews with PhD researchers of colour, this paper provides a comprehensive view of the present position of PhD researchers of colour in a predominantly white institution.

Privatized Religion And Silent Othering: Religious Students' Social Navigation At Danish Further Education

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In Denmark, institutions of further education are highly secular. Consequently, religious practice in public educational settings is often considered inappropriate, non-Danish, or in opposition to knowledge and open-mindedness (Gilliam 2022).

At the same time, rising numbers of religious, primarily Muslim students are attending further/higher education. However private their religious practice may be (Khawaja 2014), these students often stand out as hyper-visible and different from the majority norm due to for instance darker skin and hair or visible markers of religious practice, such as wearing a head scarf or abstaining from consuming alcohol.

Drawing on ongoing fieldwork and narrative interviews with students at the three study programmes early childhood education, medicine and electricity, this presentation will address religious students' social navigation and privatized religion in relation to processes of othering and racialization.

The presentation suggests considering religious practice as an invisible social infrastructure of difference and silence, that opens and closes for certain paths and communities in ways that are rarely explicitly discussed. While religious practice thus from an emic perspective are described as something private that convey peace, security and meaning, expressions of religiosity in public educational contexts gain affective value and are identified as problematic or even threatening (Ahmed 2012). From this perspective, religious practice becomes what Diane Reay (2005) has termed an "unsettling subject" imbued with silence or even shame. The presentation examines the educational consequences of such othering for the students, including their navigation within the social environments at the study programmes.

Open Educational Resources as a Chance for Holistic Education

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As mentioned in the Call for Papers, European societies are facing several challenges. One promising development in educational systems to overcome these challenges is known as Open Educational Resources (OER). OER refers to teaching and learning materials published under an open license for reuse. UNESCO recognizes OER as a contribution to promoting education for all people worldwide and attributes to them the potential to enhance the quality of education and to foster the democratization and dissemination of knowledge. Therefore, OER seems to benefit holistic education, not only by preparing students with knowledge in areas such as environmental sustainability, citizenship, politics, finance, and more, but also by fostering a new kind of digital literacy through participation in the reuse of OER and the so-called OER lifecycle.

Despite these opportunities, various funding initiatives, and the fact that UNESCO coined this term 20 years ago, OER remains a niche phenomenon in (German-language) university teaching. The obstacles identified so far in research, concerning the motives and attitudes of stakeholders, do not necessarily align with the challenges found in social practice.

To understand the emergence and availability, the dissemination, and the didactical use of openly licensed, freely accessible teaching and learning materials, certain analytical questions must be posed regarding OER, as well as the interaction order of educational processes:

1. To which social problem does the OER model offer a solution?

2. How is the OER model made available?

3. Are the OER model and the inherent production restrictions capable of addressing the interaction order in making educational resources available, and thus meeting the needs of education system actors?

Full Time Student with a Job or Working Part-Time Student? The Relationship Between Work and Study Progression for Students in Higher Education

Elisabeth Elman, Elisabeth Hovdhaugen

NIFU, Norway

A majority of higher education (HE) students work while studying, and studies indicate that this is more common among student in the Nordic countries than in the rest of Europe. Recent analyses indicate that two thirds of Norwegian HE students work during term-term (Lervåg et al. 2021). Hence, working while studying is common. However, does the amount of work a student do while studying affect (1) likelihood of completing on time (without delay) and (2) chances of completion at all.

Some earlier studies indicate that there is a negative effect of working on study progression, while other studies only find an effect of working on completion rates for students who work quite a lot, and a few even find working to be positive for study progression. Hence, previous studies are not in agreement on the potential impact of work on completion rates. This paper will use Norwegian registry data covering the entire student population to analyse how work, both measured as weekly working hours and as salary, impact student's chances of completion, both in general and completion within estimated time-to-degree. The paper will primarily focus on students who are taking their first undergraduate degree and who gets governmental student support. Preliminary findings suggest that student have to work a lot before this has any measurable impact on completion rates. However, student who work less than 10 hours are week are more likely to complete their degree timely, compared to students who have a heavier weekly workload.

RN10 | T03_04: Inequality in Education (II)

Identifying Potential: Exploring Opportunities for Excellence in Rural Schools

Aliya Sarsekeyeva[1], Zhaniya Aubakirova[2], Sulushash Kaztayeva[2], Assylkhan Yerkebulanov[2], Kuralay Issayeva[2], Assem Dauletkeldyyeva[2]

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The study examines the global challenge of educational inequality among rural schoolchildren, with a focus on Kazakhstan's innovative approach to identifying and nurturing gifted students in rural areas through the annual "Myn bala" Olympiad. This nationwide event engages over 60,000 6th-grade students from rural schools, providing a unique dataset for analysis. Our research aims to identify which rural schools offer greater opportunities for students to demonstrate exceptional abilities, delving into the factors that contribute to educational inequality on both individual and institutional levels.

Employing statistical modeling methods, including regression analysis and spatial analysis, the study seeks to uncover the mechanisms perpetuating educational disparities. This research contributes significantly to the academic and practical discourse on rural education, offering insights into the complexities and potential strategies for fostering talent in rural school settings. The findings not only illuminate the situation in Kazakhstan but also have broader implications for similar educational environments globally.

Education, (Un)Success in School, and Social Inequalities: The Role of Schools in the Reproduction of Social Inequalities in Portugal

Inês Tavares

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The present communication explores the reproduction of inequalities through the school system, based on a set of data encompassing its different components: students and their social characteristics, school organization and specifics directly related to individual schools, academic performance, and the subsequent academic (un)success of students. The data covers all students enrolled in the education system in mainland Portugal during the academic year 2018/19, spanning the twelve compulsory years of schooling, allowing for a detailed and extensive analysis.

The results of this predominantly quantitative study provide both a detailed snapshot of the education system in its various aspects and an understanding of how schools reproduce inequalities and where these are most intensified.

This communication is developed based on work conducted in a doctoral thesis, which utilized quantitative empirical data to deepen our understanding of education and school-related inequalities.

Towards Interdisciplinarity In The Educational System: Individuals And Institutions Navigating Professional, Epistemological, Emotional, And Cultural Tensions

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In the "society of acceleration" (Rosa, 2013), educational systems have been called to provide new skills to deal with complexity and uncertainty. Interdisciplinarity has been seen as an approach to address challenges of contemporary society, yet little is known what challenges are faced by individuals and institutions when living it.

The paper sheds some empirical light on tensions perceived and/or experienced by actors of the educational system in the intersection of policy-driven programmes for and the lived interdisciplinarity. In our approach to tensions in interdisciplinarity we adopt the term boundary as a metaphor of a borderline adapted from Akkerman and Bakker (2011) to model interdisciplinarity and its paradoxical nature: boundary both separates and connects.

The empirical data come from two part-studies in the context of science education in four European countries: semi-structured interviews (n=30) and two interdisciplinary study groups with 16 unique persons in 2021-2022. Content and thematic analysis were the data analysis methods. As a result, four tensions of interdisciplinarity were distinguished:

(i) emotional and cultural tensions from following strategic programmes vs institutional practices,

(ii) cognitive, professional, emotional, and cultural tensions from belonging vs independence,

(iii) epistemological and emotional tensions from consolidated vs open procedures to problem solving,

(iv) epistemological and cognitive tensions from experiencing theory vs practice.

Approaches to overcoming the identified tensions suggest ways of developing identity of "disciplinary nomad" and language of professional exchanges and institutional conditions that facilitate interdisciplinarity (e.g. establishing a "third space", managing an equilibrium between sense-making skills (systems, critical, analytical thinking) and strange-making skills (creative, imaginative, anticipative thinking), zooming in-zooming out (from details to big pictures and v.v.)).

Educational quality and transformations in Learning Communities. A case study in Chile.

Ignacia Palma

Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

Educational quality is one of the Sustainable Development Goals established globally by the United Nations for 2030. This involves implementing actions in educational institutions that are grounded in scientific evidence and effective in enhancing student learning and social cohesion. An illustrative example is the Learning Communities project (Flecha, 2015), currently implemented across European and Latin American countries. Its impact is associated with improvements in learning outcomes, student self-esteem and motivation, conflict reduction, and the fostering of friendships among students (León-Jiménez et al., 2020; Morlà-Folch et al., 2022; Soler et al., 2019).

In this context, the transformative potential of Learning Communities holds particular relevance for the Chilean education system, which is currently undergoing debates and implementing structural educational reforms aimed at reducing segregation, enhancing educational quality, and fostering inclusion.

This contribution, based on ongoing qualitative research, focuses on the transformations observed in two Learning Communities in the Coquimbo region of Chile. Both are primary schools with enrollments primarily composed of vulnerable students. The presentation specifically, examines three types of relationships: among students (S-S), between students and teachers (S-T), and between students and families (S-F). Each relationship highlights how the principles of dialogic learning and some of the Successful Educational Actions contribute to building capacities that enhance coexistence within schools.

The research concludes by reaffirming the transferability of the Learning Communities project and its potential to contribute to educational improvements in the Chilean context through the promotion of participation and inclusion.

RN10 | T03_05: Vocational Education and Training (II)

Better Progress Yet Worse Outcomes: The Academic Performance of Students Admitted to the Business School of a 'Higher Tariff' UK University with a Vocational BTEC Qualification.

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Loughborough University, United Kingdom

Getting into an 'elite' university in the UK is theoretically possible for students who study for the UK's predominant vocational qualification – BTEC – rather than academic A-levels. However, publicly available data reveals that these 'higher tariff' universities (HTUs) are reluctant to accept 'BTEC students', even though UCAS, the national student admissions service, affords similar tariff points for excellent performance in BTEC and A-level study. This reluctance is founded upon a class-prejudiced rhetoric that considers vocational qualifications as inappropriate preparation for study at 'top' universities. Nonetheless, responding to 'widening participation' governmental pressures, HTUs accept small numbers of BTEC students onto some programmes.

This study compares the academic performance of BTEC-entry students who studied at an HTU's business school with that of their peers. By analysing data from three large cohort undergraduate programmes, across four start-dates (2016-2019), the somewhat paradoxical findings are statistically credible.

Firstly, BTEC-entry students consistently achieve lower marks in assessments than their peers, and graduate with a lower degree classification. This seemingly supports the rhetoric, prevalent in HTUs, that vocational BTEC qualifications do not prepare students well enough for academic study.

However, secondly, BTEC-entry students make better progress year-on-year throughout their programmes such that they significantly close the gap on their peers throughout the programme. This challenges the rhetoric that BTEC students will not benefit from studying at an HTU as much as others; their better progress suggests they benefit more.

Given the class dimension to BTEC qualifications in the UK, these findings have social justice/inclusivity policy implications.

Key Actors' Definitions of Learning Outcomes in Barcelona and Castelló VET.

Martí Manzano

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Learning outcomes are not neutral descriptors of skills. Rather, they result from the intersection of institutional arrangements, spatial and socio-economic determinants, discursive and socio-cultural influences, and individual factors. Also, the sociological production of learning outcomes in certain contexts influences the (re)production of inequalities in education, the differential production of learning identities and the articulation of education expectations.

Following the objectives of the Horizon Europe project CLEAR: Constructing Learning Outcomes in Europe, this communication asks how relevant actors as policy makers, principals of schools which offer vocational education and training, trade unions, public employment services and enterprises perceive and envisage learning outcomes of VET in Spain. A research based on documental policy analysis and the collection of data from twelve interviews with key policy actors and participants is conducted. Three educational and economic sectors are selected – Health, IT, and Cuisine – to understand and compare how learning outcomes are defined in different fields and the fieldwork is done in Barcelona and Castelló, allowing us to analyse how spatial inequalities between urban and rural sites affect the policy definition of learning outcomes.

One of the main results shows that the definition of learning outcomes is more because of path dependence, politics of non-decision-making and the autonomy of each school than to a coherent, coordinated, and well-implemented educational policy. Despite this non-strategic production of definitions and the specific logics of each selected sector, interviewed actors share a sense of naturalisation of the learning-outcomes as a neutral and individual key component of education.

Educational Upper-Secondary Spaces: The Spatial Dimension Of VET Provision And Its Implications For Students' Mobility

Mariona Farré

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This paper reflects upon the interweaving of spatial and social inequalities in the construction of upper-secondary educational choices. It particularly analyses the role of the geographical dimension of VET provision and planning in shaping students' horizons for action. Research has pointed out that educational transitions are key moments to explain the reproduction of social inequalities, occurring in a complex imbrication of systemic, institutional, and subjective levels (Tarabini & Ingram, 2018). On the other hand, previous investigations have also signalled the relevance

of spatiality – both in objective and subjective terms – in shaping students' opportunities and identitites. However, there is still room for more nuanced analysis about the role of space, its imbrication with other social inequalities and its effects on young people' self and lives (Farrugia, 2014). The objective of this paper is to contribute to the relational analysis of space by showing how VET provision and planning produce differential student's mobility patterns between different places. To do so, we developed a mixed-methods approach based on the analytical triangulation of interviews with policy makers and the analysis of secondary data on students' mobility. More specifically, through the analysis of mobility indicators, flow matrixes and interviews, we have developed a social network analysis of different educational spaces, in a relational, positional, and cross-sectional way. The data shows how different educational areas are constructed and how centre-periphery relationships between distinct places are settled on different educational spaces. Overall, spatiality contributes to enrich sociological understanding of student's transitions, occurring in structure and agency interaction.

Skills Or Credentials? How The Institutionalization Of Vocational Training Moderates The Wages Of Horizontal And Vertical Mismatches

Kevin Alan Franz Ruf

Institute for employment research, Germany

Occupational mismatches lead to negative effects on job satisfaction, lower productivity, increased psychological stress and wage penalties. Vocational education and training (VET) differ in terms of institutionalized standardisation and specificity of skills. This research explores the complex relationship between vocational training and occupational mismatches. I analyse the extent to which institutional factors, such as standardised training and skill specificity, moderate the wage penalties of horizontal (HMM), vertical mismatches (VMM), and full mismatches (FMM), uncovering stratification on the labour market. Drawing on human capital theory and signalling theory, I disentangle the effects of skills and formal credentials on the wage outcomes of mismatched workers.

The empirical analysis is based on German administrative data on employees from the Sample of Integrated Work Biographies (SIAB). I use field of training fixed-effects to explore how institutional factors moderate wages within different occupational segments. The results show that early career mismatches can have a significant impact on wages. Standardised training has a negative coefficient on wages for horizontal mismatches, but a positive coefficient when vertical mismatches occur within the same field. Conversely, increased skill specificity consistently leads to negative wage effects across all mismatch dimensions, demonstrating that specific skills are primarily advantageous in matched occupations.

RN10 | T04_01: Educational Context and Environment (IV)

Choosing School, Choosing Friends. Parents' Reflections on Upbringing and Choice of School

Eva Gulløv

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Schools are a cornerstone of the Danish welfare model. Not only are they central to ensuring that children learn the necessary skills, they are also considered essential for societal cohesion, as children have to co-operate with others coming from diverse ethnic and class backgrounds. To ensure this, all children are offered a place in the local public school. However, since 2005, parents have extended free school-choice leading to a steady increase in the number of parents choosing another either public or privately run school (Epinion 2017).

This development makes school-choice particularly well suited for exploring cultural values and social preferences and distinctions; what parents prioritise for their children socially and educationally – now and on long terms. Based on ethnographic observations and interviews with parents of young children in three ethnically and socially mixed places in Denmark (2016-24), this paper will explore parents' reflections on school-choice. Almost none of the parents comment on the academic level of the schools they are considering, but despite expressing a firm belief in the value of social mixing, they all reflect on the social composition of the schools and how it might affect their children's moral development. Drawing on the concept of social imaginaries (Gaonkar 2002, Vigh 2006), the study demonstrates the wide range of cultural and social issues that school-choice involves, which relate not only to educational ambitions, but also to norms and values concerning childhood, upbringing, moral development, as well as social and geographical affiliations, distinctions, and mobility.

In The Academic Margins: Social Ostracism As An Intersection Of Psychological And Sociological Causes.

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The majority of studies dealing with the feeling of ostracism focus on ostracism in the organizational workspace and mainly take a psychological perspective. We assume sociological aspects also play a role in ostracism or its elimination. Our study examined ostracism in academic settings

within neoliberal regimes, looking specifically at students in an Israeli institution of higher education.

Diversity in the academy has been far from becoming an institutional asset and has not challenged social inequalities. An additional reason for exploring ostracism in Israeli higher education is that the economic, political, and social Israeli power structure and the continuous intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict result in racial, ethnic, social, and institutional discrimination that has negative effects on Palestinian students' sense of belonging and wellbeing. Therefore, contrary to studies dealing with the effects of individual characteristics on feelings of ostracism, which seem to blame the victim, we focus on the social context, addressing the complexity of ethnic and national differentiation in the academic setting.

First, we tested the relations between a personality trait (conscientiousness), group cohesion, and students' feelings of ostracism, recreating the results predicted in the literature. Then, we challenged these results by comparing findings for Jewish and Arab students, in the context of the continuous, intractable conflict between majority (Jews) and minority (Arabs) groups. The sample included 352 students (81% Jews; 19% Arabs). Findings showed that psychological theories provided only a partial explanation of students' feelings of ostracism; critical sociological analysis of the members of the two groups is also required.

"Tell us What You do in Your Spare Time and we Will Predict Your Future"

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The study we present analyzes the results of the "2022 Survey on Youth in Catalonia"(Spain) related to the block of questions about extracurricular activities. This work has three main objectives. The first objective is to provide information on the type of extracurricular activity that young people between 15 and 34 years old practiced when they were between 6 and 14 years old. The second is to detect inequalities in participation for socio-demographic reasons and, finally, to point out which activities have had an effect on the health and educational and work situation of young people today.

With a sample of 3665 young people, the results indicate that, first of all, young Catalan people are very active in extracurricular activities. Only 12% never practice any. Secondly, we have corroborated that there are differences in participation due to gender and economic reasons, as the literature on the subject already indicated. Finally, and as a more innovative result, we have seen that, on the one hand, young people who had studied a foreign language as an extracurricular activity, were more likely to arrive at university (controlled by sociodemographic variables) than the rest. They were also more likely to get a job from a high professional category (directors, managers, intellectual professions...). On the other hand, we have seen that young people who had done sport were more likely than the rest to have very good health at the age of 35, and those who had never done so were more likely to have a regular or bad health state.

School Coexistence In The Post-Pandemic Context

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Universidad de O'Higgins, Chile

At an international level, there is evidence of the decline in school coexistence during the pandemic. Chile is a key case in this respect since it is the OECD country that kept schools closed for the longest since 2020 due to the pandemic, with a total of 259 school days with total school closures (OECD, 2022), preventing students from interacting in the same physical space for an unusually long period of time. Available data suggests a serious deterioration after the reopening of schools, mainly reflected in situations of school violence (Bellei et al., 2022). However, there is no systematic diagnosis of the dynamics of school coexistence challenges in the post-pandemic period, nor is there a characterisation of institutional responses to the coexistence challenges. This paper presents the progress of a research project that seeks to contribute to filling this gap by focusing on public schools. School coexistence refers to the process of learning to live together and has been identified as a key part of education (Delors, 1998) since schools are privileged spaces to promote sustained contact and exchange (Choi and Lee, 2021). However, internal segregation and reinforcing stereotypes and prejudices between groups may be generated (Allport, 1979). The study aims to identify the challenges and strategies for school coexistence in public schools after the pandemic. A mixed methodology design is used based on descriptive analysis and multilevel factor analysis of the school climate of coexistence, interviews, and focus groups with key school actors. At the time of the conference, the findings of the statistical analysis will be presented by discussing them from an international perspective.

RN10 | T04_02: Migration, Ethnicity, and Racism in Education (IV)

Tension, Trust And Transformation Among Refugee Syrian Children in Lebanese Temporary Settlements: The Right to Participation Paper II

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This paper constitutes the second paper around the theme of Schooling for Refugee Children – the name of our forthcoming book. This paper focuses on the experiences of refugee children in temporary settlements in Lebanon, drawing on their own words. We use Nancy Fraser's (2008) conceptualisation of social justice as parity-of-participation as explained in Paper I, which distinguishes among three distinct, interconnected aspects of social justice: Redistribution, Recognition and Representation. This paper explores these three aspects in interpreting the verbatim words of 45 Syrian refugee children aged 8-14 years. We explain how, over three days in 2019, the children conveyed to us the following points: their sense of participating in a global Syrian community where trust between members was implicit; their admiration and trust for teachers who recognised them as agentic individuals; the tensions they faced in obtaining fair access to a wider curriculum and more schooling; their longing to return to ordinary life in Syria where they were recognised as fully valued individuals; and their strong will to succeed and make their voices heard, and despite significant setbacks, lead transformations in their future lives.

Article 2 of the UNCRC lists representation as the right of every child 'without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's . . . national, ethnic or social origin'. Our findings illustrate that the children in our sample were, to some extent, learning how to articulate their own perspectives at school, engage in critical dialogue and present themselves in a confident and self-determined way. These attributes are likely to support their future struggles to be heard and have their perspectives acted-on.

Migrant Youths' Educational Trajectories in Post-Pandemic Times: Mapping the Experiences of Young Migrants in Urban Areas with High Density and Territorial Segregation

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The proposal presents the first results of a research project funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain that explores educational inequities that affect young non-European migrants in urban areas, paying special attention to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on their educational trajectories. The study follows three main objectives: (a) identify structural and emerging post-pandemic forms of educational inequity deepened by urban segregation, (b) analyze the impact of the pandemic on the growing politics of fear and criminalization of immigration, (c) provide tools and methods to engage and empower young migrants in co-creating innovative joint solutions to combat educational inequities and urban segregation in a post-pandemic era. The research integrates different methodological strategies: an ethnographic and narrative approach to analyze educational trajectories in detail; a critical discourse analysis perspective to explore public and policy narratives related to immigration and youth during the COVID-19 crisis; a community-engaged research approach to involve young migrants in seeking solutions to educational inequities and segregation. Emerging results during the first year of field work – that included interviews, discussion groups and visual cartographies co-constructed with migrants – are allowing us to analyse how segregation, exclusion and educational disaffection operate in the context of fear and social tension caused by the pandemic, where anti-immigration narratives have been transformed and spread, increasing the stigmatisation and disaffection towards migrants, particularly young migrants.

Tension, Trust and Transformation Among Refugee Syrian Children in the UK: Representations of Syrian Refugee Children in an Inner London School – Paper IV

Jumana Al-Waeli

Ulster University – United Kingdom

This paper constitutes the fourth contribution from our forthcoming book Quality Schooling for Refugee Children. This paper shares the testimonies of six Syrian adolescents aged 13-16, collected over eight months in 2019-21, while the children attended an inner London secondary school. It

provides insight into how this group of Syrian refugees – this time in a permanent post-resettlement context in the UK – perceived and conceptualised social justice while reflecting on their educational and social experiences at school and the tensions and transformations that are integral to them.

The participants highlighted the tensions associated with experiences of misrecognition, lack of adequate distribution, and the absence of meaningful representation that hindered their sense of belonging and impeded their learning. They expressed that their humanity, previous educational experiences, abilities, needs, and voices were not valued but rather disregarded, causing them to feel excluded from the educational and social environment at school. The children also called on their teachers to adopt transformative pedagogies that can help build trustful and just learning environments by being compassionate and caring, as the lack of feeling socially safe – specifically, being trusted, respected, heard and included – impacted on their ability to adapt and prosper in school.

The young Syrians' accounts echoed McIntyre and Abrams' (2020) argument, which substantiates the provision of conditions for social justice as parity-of-participation (Fraser, 2008) for regaining a sense of home and ordinariness, where they feel safe and surrounded by trust, grow webs of belonging and develop a will to learn and succeed (Kohli, 2011).

Tension, Trust and Transformation among refugee Syrian children: context for representations of Syrian refugee children living in camps in Eastern Lebanon – Paper I

Brian Lally

Kingston University, United Kingdom

This paper conveys the essence of our book Schooling for Refugee Children (forthcoming, UCL Press, May 2024), co-written by five researchers from UK, Syria, Lebanon and USA. It examines the potential for transformative social justice both of and through schooling for refugee Syrian children in Lebanon and UK. This film gives some context to our presentations [https://youtu.be/aL1OsmRUCiQ].

This first presentation, part of four inputs by the authors, offers an overview of the broader education landscape for Syrian refugees and introduces the particular learning and living environments including the inherent tensions and uncertainties of life for the children there.

The authors held that, to maintain human rights, schooling would allow all children, including refugee Syrians, to develop their capacities; respond to their needs; ensure their right to participate on a par with all other children; and support their right to make their voices heard. On that basis, we designed research in Lebanon and England which offered a platform for Syrian refugee children in these different contexts to share their stories and represent their educational experiences. We also explore how children managed to continue learning during the difficult era of the COVID-19 pandemic, which coincided in Lebanon with a severe economic and political crisis that was further intensified by the massive explosion in the Beirut port area in 2020.

We drew on two social justice frameworks: Fraser's (2008) concept of social justice as parity of participation; and Kohli's (2011) view of refugee children needing to establish feelings of safety, belonging and success.

RN10 | T04_03: Higher Education (IV)

Impact and Contribution of Andalusian Universities to Society. Andalusian Studies Center

Rubén Martín-Gimeno, Eladia Illescas-Estévez, Ana Rocío Andreu-Pérez, Tristán Pertínez-Blasco, Raúl Lucena-Martínez, Eva Cataño-García, Diego De Haro-Gázquez

Fundación Centro de Estudios Andaluces, Spain

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the universities in Andalusia, focusing on evaluating various aspects such as the quality of teaching, the perception of the university community and the citizenry in general, and the contribution of these institutions to society. Using a mixed methodology that combines quantitative and qualitative analysis, we have collected significant data from various sources, including surveys of students, academic staff, and Andalusian citizens. The study focuses on understanding the perception of the university system in Andalusia from two main perspectives: the internal, represented by the university community, and the external, reflected by the citizenry. This duality provides a holistic understanding of how Andalusian universities are valued by both their members and the society in which they are integrated. We delve into the needs and expectations of the university community, examining how they perceive the quality of teaching, the prestige of trained professionals, and the impact of the research conducted. In addition, we explore the Andalusian citizens' view of the contribution of universities to the community, assessing aspects such as the social utility of research and the prestige of the institutions at regional and national levels. Our findings suggest ways to improve educational quality and strengthen the link between universities and Andalusian society. This study not only provides a critical view of the current state of universities in Andalusia but also proposes data-based recommendations for their development and adaptation to the contemporary needs of society. With this, we seek to contribute to the debate on how universities can maximize their impact and relevance in the current social and cultural context.

The Global Space of International Students 2019

Mikael Börjesson

Uppsala University, Sweden

In order to understand the complex relations between sending and receiving countries, this paper draws on OECD data on international student flows between regions of origin and countries of destination. By means of a correspondence analysis (CA), the global space of international student flows, 2019, is depicted as having three main poles: one Pacific linking students from Asian regions to predominantly Anglo-Saxon countries of destination including the US, Australia, New Zeeland, and Canada, as well as Japan and South Korea, one European pole combining European countries of destination with European regions of origin, and one Franco-Iberian pole, where France, Portugal and Space are the countries of destination and Africa and Latin America are the main regions of origin. These three poles correspond to three different logics of student mobility: logics of marketisation, geographical proximity, and colonial heritage. They also are dominated by different languages: English, German and Slavic languages, and Latin languages. The Nordic countries primarily position themselves in the middle, in between the different poles. At a more detailed level, the space contains further differentiations. The European countries of destination are dispersed according to the axes, and, for instance, the eastern and western European countries are opposed in the third axis. Along the forth axis, Latin American as region of origin is polarised to the Arab region. Asian regions of origin are dispersed along the fifth axis. This implies the importance of analysing the national, regional and global levels in relation to each other.

Professional Noticing in Higher Education

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This paper explains how the concept of "professional noticing" can be applied to higher education by promoting innovative learning and teaching practices that enhance teachers' capacity to guide students through the professionalization process in their respective fields of study. Professional noticing can be defined as "learning to observe in specific ways as part of expertise development in a profession" (Jacobs et al., 2010, p. 170). Hence, supporting students in cultivating professional noticing skills is not only about intending to observe but also involves constructing practical professional knowledge. This knowledge is alternatively termed as "professional vision" (Goodwin, 1994) or a "professional frame" (Borich, 2016), which is used to make sense out of identified aspects in a practical situation. Beyond enhancing teachers' skills and contributing to curriculum development, professional noticing also readies students for a smoother transition into the labor market.

To achieve this objective, we employ the "Professional Noticing" method, applying its transdisciplinary component to professionalize various occupational groups in entrepreneurship education. We analyze evaluation procedures and learning outcomes from four European universities, presenting novel learning and teaching scenarios that utilize open educational resources to foster professional noticing skills, with the idea to gain new insights that are applicable across diverse educational fields.

RN10 | T04_04: Inequality in Education (III)

Educational Inequality and Inclusion From Intersectionality : The case of Special Education in Belgium's French-Speaking Region

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Special education in Belgium's French-speaking region, historically characterized by segregation and a predominance of boys from working-class and immigrant backgrounds, is undergoing a significant transformation towards inclusive schooling. This transition is being driven by a substantial educational reform, known as the Pacte pour un Enseignement d'Excellence (2015). We propose to focus on intersectionality, applying it to study the evolution of inequalities in special education in the context of new inclusive logics. The state of the art indicates that, although intersectionality offers a unique theoretical perspective that renews the study of educational inequalities (Gross et al. 2016), there are debates and unknowns regarding its methodological application (Choo and Ferree 2010, Davis 2008).

Our paper aims to address this gap in two steps. First, we thoroughly review and discuss the existing literature and academic debates around the conceptualization, analysis methods, and uses of intersectionality. Second, we introduce a unique methodological approach, notably inspired by the intra – and inter-category approaches of McCall (2005). In this phase, our discussion will be based on ongoing fieldwork, including interviews and observations with key actors involved in school guidance. The goal is to observe how inclusive logics are adopted by actors of the school guidance process towards inclusive education and their impact on school inequalities. The analysis of our data will be done with the prism of intersectionality to explore in depth the construction of the 'special educational needs' category and its interaction with other categorization processes, such as those related to race, gender, and socio-economic status.

Is CLIL Elitist? A Systematic And Critical Review Of The Literature On Equity And Bilingual Education In Europe.

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What is the impact of CLIL-based educational programmes on equity and equality of opportunities? Are these programmes unequal? Possible elitism is one of the main critiques of CLIL present in the socio-educational debate among families, education professionals and the media. But what empirical evidence can we currently rely on to evaluate the impacts of CLIL on equity and equality of opportunities?

We present a systematic review of the results of empirical studies conducted in European countries on the equality of opportunities of CLIL programs, both in terms of access and academic achievement.

The literature reviewed presents conflicting results and conclusions, which are far from providing definitive answers. While the research on education equity and CLIL is increasing, it still falls short of addressing the whole spectrum of emerging questions and variables that need to be considered, as well as covering the totality of European-wide national education systems. Additionally, a critical examination of the existing studies raises doubts about the real scope of the empirical knowledge accumulated thus far.

This study is a part of the research project "EQUIBIL – Equity and Bilingual Education in Quasi-Market School Contexts: A Study of the Andalusian Case", funded by the National Research Plan. The project examines the impact of bilingual programmes implemented in Spain on equity and equality of educational opportunities.

Risk Society, Pandemic, and Educational Solutions: the Portuguese Case

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, the closing of educational systems was one of the most significant impacts, worldwide. It is important to assess how educational policies dealt with the challenges brought by the pandemic – successes and constraints, solutions to and impacts on equal educational opportunities.

Focusing on the Portuguese case, we aimed to understand if measures taken in our country were effective to recover/maintain activities, offer quality and innovative education

and create solutions to, at least, not exacerbate social differences during lockdown and after.

We used a multimethod approach mobilising institutional reports and statistics from several sources and conducted semi-structured interviews to six School Directors (chosen to represent the diverse territorial differences of Portuguese public schools).

Results show the impacts of the pandemic crisis and the efficacy of the policy measures. Students, teachers, and families had to deal with learning equipment, tools, and methodologies unknown to most of them, and the importance of home space and reference adults in young peoples' lives. The difficulties in access to indispensable technological resources for each family, all sharing limited resources for education and telework. The increase of social differences between students (families) concerning resources and abilities. Finally, the determinant role of the local partners, particularly the city councils, in the entire process of dealing with the pandemic/lockdowns and impacts. To sum up, educational measures in Portugal were urgent and ambiguous, but not particularly helpful to mitigate the difficulties especially in disadvantaged territories and families.

Inclusive Vs. Achievement-Based Equity. Deconstructing Meritocratic Ideologies of Equity in School Systems

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While different theoretical perspectives emphasize that achievement is deeply interwoven with school processes, inclusion is an external political impulse, which became legally binding for most of the national school systems with the ratification of the UN-CRPD. Due to this externality, in most of the participating countries these legislative processes have not resulted in the realisation of inclusive education systems. The paper aims for a deeper understanding of the tense relationship of inclusion and achievement, as both stand for different functional logics. A main problem in this respect is the ideological construct of meritocratic equity that binds equity to ableist assumptions while shadowing the functional and subjectivating dimension of achievement in school systems. The paper draws on the reconstructive perspective of the BMBF-funded research project ReLInk using focused ethnography at four schools. In addition to participatory observations, we conducted episodic interviews with students (n=54), regular teachers (n=23), special education teachers (n=8), and other educational staff and therapists (n=4). Data analysis used coding and mapping strategies of GTM and situational analysis. Findings demonstrate the ubiquity and predominance of achievement as an implicit modality of processing teaching, whose functional importance relates to its subjectivating power. Because of its functional centrality, achievement also provides the frame within which dis/ability, special educational needs, and inclusion encounter in schools. One very important effect of this constellation is the consequence that inclusion can neither become a functional goal with the power to shape the systems processes nor obtain the status as a criterion of justice in school systems. This complex and highly problematic constellation is secured, stabilised and hidden by the meritocratic ideology in nearly all national school systems.

RN10 | T04_05: Digital Technology and Education (I)

AI, Labor Market Revolution, and Human Rights: Navigating Challenges and Hope for Teaching Professions in the Digital Era

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In this discussion, the author explores the impact of AI development on teaching professions in the context of the ongoing digital revolution. The rapid evolution of AI has led to significant changes in labour markets, primarily through the processes of automatization and augmentation. This transformative wave raises critical questions about the desirability of a world heavily reliant on AI, considering environmental concerns and the finite nature of resources. While AI holds the potential to enhance efficiency and offer innovative solutions for resource recovery and waste management, it also poses challenges. The automation of routine tasks may lead to job displacement in certain sectors, necessitating a shift in the desired skill set toward high-tech proficiency and ICT skills. This shift not only presents opportunities for re-education and re-training but also highlights the demand for instructors specializing in digital skills.

As AI continues to redefine work structures, the potential replacement of human workers raises the issue of how to occupy individuals' time, maintain a sense of belonging derived from professional life, and prevent the marginalization of the non-working population. The ethical considerations surrounding solidarity become increasingly crucial in this scenario. Teachers emerge as indispensable guides, preparing new generations for post-industrial landscapes and countering potential dystopian realities. Emphasizing empathy and global education for peace, educators play a vital role in instilling deep ethical considerations, with a focus on human rights as integral to sustainable development. In navigating the challenges posed by the ongoing digital revolution, teachers become pivotal figures in shaping a future that balances technological advancement with ethical and humane values. AI cannot teach empathy and emotional intelligence without human-to-human interaction. Teachers remain the needed profession.

The Italian Experience of Distance Learning. Some Lessons for a Policy Proposal on Ict in School Systems

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During the Covid-19 pandemic the majority of the states instituted measures to close schools and shift them to virtual platforms. This change happened in school systems that could rely on different infrastructures and levels of digitisation achieved so far. Starting from an analysis of the literature on distance learning, the paper will reconstruct the effects of this phenomenon on the Italian school system and will give indications useful for the development of digital educational policies. In particular, with regard to the first aspect, the focus will be on the consequences of distance learning on three important dimensions that characterise school systems and directly involve teachers and students: school inclusion, learning processes and digital skills. Distance learning has functioned as a great amplifier of both the criticalities and opportunities offered by the digitisation of the education system. Overcoming the former in order to strengthen the latter should be the starting point for the re-calibration of educational policies which, as we shall see, must be implemented starting from the centrality and relevance of the relational dimension in educational environments on which not only a successful learning process depends, but also the well-being of students and teachers. The need to take a bottom-up perspective in the construction of digital education policies that take into account the inequalities that permeate society, together with the adoption of a critical perspective in the choice of technological tools to be adopted could be the lesson learned from the Italian experience and useful for European school systems

Digital Transformation in HE: From The European Vision To The University Governance

Maria Chiara De Angelis, Stefania Capogna

Link Campus University, Italy

Digital transformation is at the heart of the epochal change we are going through, and it impacts the present and future learning contexts (formal, non-formal and informal) in which we are immersed. These changes require that Educational Institutions review teaching paradigms, organisation, management, evaluation processes, relations systems and competencies framework for teaching-learning processes (Johnson et al., 2016; EE.UU., 2013). In this challenging scenario, our work describes the main results of the Erasmus+ ECOLHE action research project. The main research goal was to observe how the shift towards digital processes and the adaptation of supranational indications took place, to capture differences, similarities and trajectories matured within this complex process of building a common space

for higher education and its growing emphasis on digital resources as a key to innovation and competitive development. The ECOLHE action research has analysed national public policies for e-learning in HE, adopting a mixed method to realise an exploratory and comparative analysis based on a collection of case studies (Zack, 2006) aimed at understanding the transformation of critical concepts from the supranational level to the national level while implementing inclusive and LLL processes based on digital technologies. The research contributed to examining the idea of an E-learning European HE Area (in the broader framework of the Bologna Process) to understand the translation process (Callon, 1986; Latour, 1987) into practice in a national context by Academic Bodies considering dominant rhetoric, orientations, legacies, obligations, risks and opportunities, expectations and educational paradigms in this reconstruction.

Shaping The Future...For Whom? Possibilities And Challenges Of The Rise Of AI In Latin American Education

Maria Cecilia Zsögön

The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland

The irruption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education is bringing about a significant transformation in the roles of educators worldwide. In this presentation we explore the potential and risks of AI powered tools for education in Latin America, a region known for its significant inequalities.

We propose that critical pedagogy can be an adequate approach to deal with AI based tools. This perspective aims to empower children with the tools to critically explore and interpret the world, fostering resilience against injustice, and promoting a commitment to transformative action.This approach is grounded on a critical examination of the purpose of education, and of the methods implemented in the classroom. Pedagogy, in this context, becomes a moral and political practice. Such a critical perspective can extend to AI-powered tools, aiding students in developing autonomy and responsibility for their own learning, while promoting innovative practices and bridging the digital gap prevalent in the region.

A crucial question emerges: are educators in Latin America prepared to confront this challenge? Could the introduction of this technology inadvertently exacerbate existing inequalities, exclusion, and perpetuate suffering for millions in the region?

The future is an open possibility, but now is the time for a meaningful debate on how we envision this future, with educators playing a central role in shaping it. This raises the question of whether their input will be acknowledged, or if the pervasive logic of capitalism ingrained in every institution, including education, will ultimately have the final say.

RN10 | T05_01: Curriculum Innovation and Development (I)

'Shelter From the Storm': Seeking Refuge in Effective Curriculum Enactment?

Aina Tarabini, Mauro Moschetti, Berta Llos

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Early School Leaving (ESL) and school disengagement are global phenomena that affect numerous young people. Among the multiple factors that explain educational exclusion there is the increasingly lack of meaning students attribute to learning (Tarabini, 2019). Research also highlights how different curricular approaches impact students' learning opportunities (Tedesco et al, 2014). Designing inclusive curricula that enable all students to learn presents both a striking challenge and opportunity for contemporary education systems. However, this issue is by no means easy or linear. Curriculum design is a socio-political construct (Young, 1971) that involves different conceptions about the nature of learning and the role of schooling in contemporary societies. Teachers play a key role in the enactment of curricular policies (Ball et al., 2012) and their influence extends to shaping the students' relationships with learning. The aim of this paper is to analyse the processes of curricular enactment and offer new evidence about how and under what circumstances it operates in favour of learning for all students. The findings draw on the case of Spain, one of the European countries with the highest levels of ESL and where a recent curriculum reform is being implemented, not without controversy. Data include curricular documents, interviews with principals, and focus groups with teachers in six secondary schools with different social compositions, pedagogic approaches, and organisational features. Overall, the paper contributes to identifying the tensions surrounding the enactment of the curriculum and its impact on the (re)production or transformation of social inequalities.

Exploring the Impact of Teacher-Student Similarity on Academic Outcomes: Evidence from Germany

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This paper addresses the important but understudied issue of teacher-student demographic congruence and its impact on educational outcomes in the German education system. Using data from the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS), we examine whether primary, lower secondary, and

upper secondary students who are taught by teachers of the same gender or migration background show differences in academic achievement and grading fairness. Our analysis uses two primary indicators: (1) achievement growth in mathematics and reading, and (2) grades in mathematics and German, adjusted for test score differences. This study covers three different cohorts of students at different stages of education in Germany, providing a comprehensive view of the educational landscape. Preliminary results suggest a correlation between demographic similarity between teachers and students and better educational outcomes. Specifically, we observe evidence that having a teacher of the same gender or immigrant background as the student may (slightly) improve equity in grading and contribute to higher learning gains. These findings could have profound implications for educational policy and practice, highlighting the potential benefits of fostering teacher-student demographic congruence as a means of promoting equity and inclusivity in educational settings. The study's findings contribute to the broader discourse on social justice in education, suggesting that teacher-student similarity might be an influential factor in enhancing academic success and ensuring fair treatment across diverse student populations.

Does University Education Prepare Teacher Students For Teaching In Middle – And High School?

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UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Teacher students in Norway who aim to become teachers in middle – and high school need to complete a five-year master's degree with a chosen curricular specialization. I aim to explore how we can create good sociology teachers, and I have conducted an analysis of the curriculums in the main sociological subjects of the teacher education at the University of Tromsø, and the national curriculums of middle school (pupils aged 13-16) and high school (pupils aged 16-19) in Norway. The main objective is to identify whether university courses prepare the teacher students for relevant subjects that they are going to teach to pupils at middle – and high school.

The study finds that the university curriculum provides the students with the necessary tools to teach in middle – and high school. An additional finding suggests that the sociological courses also cover interdisciplinary topics in middle – and high school; democracy and citizenship, sustainable development and health and life-mastery (my translations). I emphasize these topics because of their sociological relevance. All three interdisciplinary topics at the lower-level education are represented in the curriculum of the sociological courses, both theoretically and empirically. In addition to the analysis, I have conducted interviews with teacher students about their perspectives on the curriculum. An issue that might occur with the sociological courses at university is that the relevance of the curriculum to teaching is unclear to the students.

Conflict over Inclusive Education – the Case of Poland

Tomasz Płachecki

Educational Research Institute, Poland

Last year Poland witnessed intense debate on inclusive education. The catalyst for this dispute was the principle formulated by the European Union, according to which schools that maintain segregation of any disadvantaged group cannot be supported in UE funding programmes. In response, the integration of all students with disabilities into mainstream schools has been publicly questioned, including by some government officials. Some critics of inclusive education went so far as to present it as an imposed ideology with hidden agendas like reducing education quality and increasing costs.

Analyzing discourse and practices concerning inclusive education has a significance which goes beyond the context of national politics. Firstly, inclusiveness is becoming increasingly important for educational policy and social cohesion in times of crisis. Secondly, the idea of inclusive education has a critical potential towards capitalism (Boltanski, Chiapello 2007) and biopolitics (Foucault 2008), because it disrupts the perspective of "human capital" and redefines differences not as deficits but as identity aspects (e.g. the distinction between "deafness" and "deafhood" – Ladd 2003).

The research addresses two questions: What assumptions do inclusive education proponents and opponents hold about education and social inclusion? What conditions are necessary for the practical implementation of inclusive education in schools?

The study combines public discourse analysis, qualitative interviews with various administrative levels and quantitative data on secondary school graduates' careers.

Ladd, P. 2003 Understanding Deaf Culture

Boltanski l., Chiapello È., 2007, The New Spirit of Capitalism

Foucault M. 2008 Birth of Biopolitics.

Oliver M. 1990. The Politics of Disablement

RN10 | T05_02: Gender and Education (I)

School Start Scrambles: The Interplay of Sociotemporal Factors on Women's Labor Force Participation

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This study shows that K-12 school start times along with contextual school and area-level sociodemographic factors are significant predictors of women's labor force participation. We draw on nationally representative survey data from three publicly available 2019 datasets: the American Community Survey, the National Historical Geographical Information Systems, and the Unlocking Time Survey. Analyses involve two stages. First, ordinary least squares regressions evaluate statistically significant relationships. The second stage uses Monte Carlo cross-validation and parametric bootstrap analyses tests to assess the predictive accuracy of the full model. Our results show that later school start times have important ramifications, extending beyond the mental and physical well-being of children. Women's labor force participation is nearly 5 percentage points higher in areas where schools start at or after the legally recommended time of 8:30am. We find that contextual economic and demographic factors are also significant when it comes to the relationship between school start times and in women's ability to participate in the labor force. Our work represents an important contribution to the ongoing school start time policy debate sweeping the United States. Considering the temporal needs of women and children, this work has important policy implications for sociotemporal disparities in well-being.

Exploring Intersectional Identities of Academic Staff Via Process Mining

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The identity of educators, in terms of their gender, ethnicity and nationality, and the ways these axis intersect, is an issue not enough discussed – not only in the context of fair representation, but also in the context of its impact on students, as well as on the curriculum taught and on the knowledge produced. Thus, exploring the diverse identities of academic staff and the ways they intersect is of crucial importance to minimizing inequality in higher education – not only in terms of fair representation but also in terms of creating richer, deeper and more diverse academic perspectives. Not less importantly, these directly influence students' sense of belonging and self-esteem, which are especially relevant to first generation college students. These issues have a special relevance for a multicultural and divided society such as in the case of Israel.

Drawing on the concept of intersectionality, this paper demonstrates how application of process mining methodology enables to expose the inequalities prevalent among academic staff in Israel, both in terms of lack of fair representation, as well as biases in their promotion processes. By mapping the multiple axis of identities of 400 academic staff members, and their intersections, our study offers a comprehensive understanding of the power dynamics and obstacles hindering true and sustainable equality in academic institutions.

Our main findings expose the ethno-gendered and national-gendered nature of inequality in higher education

Is the Gender-gap Reversal a Feedback Loop? Social Factors Influencing Gender-gap Inequalities in Tertiary Education in European Countries

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The educational structures of the European populations have changed significantly over the last 20 years. The average proportion of young people (aged 25-34) in European countries who had attained tertiary education increased from 25% to 41% from 2000 to 2020 %. This educational expansion has been accompanied by a change of the gender ratio in favor of women and the growth of a gender-gap reversal (GGR). Women's chances to be enrolled in higher education have increased faster than men's, as has their tertiary education attainment. We analyze ESS (European social survey) data and answer the question why GGR has increased in European countries. We analyze the effects of parental educational hypogamy (marriage where the wife's educational level is higher than the husband's), parental educational homogamy (marriage where the husband's educational level is the same as the wife's), parental divorce, and single-parent family. We argue that these factors increase tertiary education attainment by gender and thus the GGR rises. The higher level of GGR then reinforces the prevalence of these factors on higher tertiary education for women, boosting gender inequality at the tertiary education level in favor of women. Based on this argument we test whether GGR is a positive feedback loop phenomenon. The results show that this interpretation could be plausible. GGR can be understood as a self-feeding system by which its increase is given.

Gender Differences in Class Engagement and Disruptive School Behaviour: Boys' Susceptibility to Peers' Motivation Culture.

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This study starts from the observation that boys show less educational effort than girls, due to lower intrinsic/autonomous motivation. Generally, students' motivation is considered to be a personal feature, however, from a sociological perspective, it is appropriate to consider the possibility of autonomous and controlled motivation as shared beliefs by peers, or motivation culture. Such a students' motivation culture might explain why adolescents are more or less engaged or disruptive irrespective of their own motivation. Boys in particular are susceptible to the peer culture in school. Therefore this study first examined whether autonomous and controlled motivation are shared by students of the same school and whether such a motivation culture is associated with the school's student composition. Second, the study examined whether students', and specifically boys', class engagement and disruptive behaviour are associated with the autonomous and controlled motivation culture at their school. The main findings of analyses of data of 5.162 8th grade students (average age 14) in 57 Flemish secondary schools are (1) that schools are characterized by an autonomous and controlled motivated culture that is related to respectively schools' sex and migrant composition and schools' socioeconomic composition, and (2) that boys' disruptive behaviour is related to the autonomous motivation culture, confirming that boys are more susceptible to their peers' motivation culture. This research contributes to the research on motivation and to the research into the gender gap in educational performance by showing that boys are more susceptible to their school's motivation culture, leading to more disruptive behaviour.

RN10 | T05_03: Pathways, Retention and Dropout (I)

Accelerated Learning in Mathematics: Improved Learning and Teacher Bias

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This study examines high-achieving students in Norwegian lower secondary schools who follow accelerated learning trajectories in mathematics, so-called fast-tracks. These fast-tracks allow advanced students to take classes and exams in single subjects at a higher grade level than their current. We examine the differences between regular and fast-track students' academic achievements in mathematics. We do so to address whether and how fast tracks improve these high-performing students' learning. These questions are essential because higher-performing students' accelerated learning provides a unique window into student learning more generally. The analyses rely on high-quality administrative register data from Norway with complete information for all students. Fast-track students are overrepresented with top school grades, so effects might be underestimated using standard methods. Therefore, we rely on Tobit regression models to account for the ceiling effects in school grades and also deploy a novel application of cross-random effects (Mundlak), integrating a fixed effects methods design in the nonlinear Tobit models(Wooldridge, Allison). The results show that fast-track students outperform regular students in mathematics. The results suggest that (1) the fast tracks improve the students' learning, and (2) the students are selected and self-selected – based on prior performance and background characteristics. When comparing teacher-set grades vs. exam grades set by anonymous random assigned examinators, the results suggest that (3) teachers give fast-track students even better grades than regular students. One plausible explanation is that teachers perceive or label fast-track students as more talented than other students. The findings especially suggest that Norwegian teachers compensate disadvantaged fast-track students.

Addressing the Persistent Struggle: Tackling Mathematics Difficulties Among Danish Students

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The PISA assessment reveals that 15% of 15-year-old Danes face significant challenges in mathematics, including conditions like dyscalculia, and this number has remained

relatively stable since 2000. This persistent issue holds potential far-reaching consequences, as students with mathematical difficulties often encounter substantial educational barriers, limiting their opportunities in the job market and daily life. Given the escalating importance of mathematical proficiency in an increasingly digitized society, addressing these challenges becomes paramount.

The literature underscores the multifaceted nature of the causes behind mathematical difficulties, involving students' inherent abilities, cognitive tools, motivation, and aspects of the learning environment, such as teaching approaches and resource availability. However, existing research primarily explores causes and solutions from the perspectives of adults, neglecting the crucial insights of students themselves. In our study, we fill this gap by examining the experiences and attitudes of students facing mathematics difficulties within a Danish school setting.

Employing a discourse-analytical framework, we analyze focus group data from pupils aged 8-12, constructing a typology outlining the causes of mathematical difficulties and suggesting optimal approaches for teachers to address these challenges. Our findings underscore the imperative need to incorporate students' experiences, insights, and assessments in developing effective interventions, as well as creating mapping and intervention materials for those struggling with mathematics. By integrating the perspectives of the students, we aim to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and pave the way for more student-centric solutions in the realm of mathematics education.

Under-prepared for Higher Education? To What Extent Are Students Who Access Higher Education Through Alternative Pathways as Well Prepared as Those Who Have Completed the Academic Track

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NIFU, Norway

In mass higher education (HE), larger parts of a cohort enter HE. In a HE-system where most students are provided a spot, some students may enter with very modest grades, rendering them under-prepared for academic challenges in HE. Hence, the transition from upper secondary education to HE may be tough.

This paper aims at analysing how students who have completed the HE entrance qualification (HEEQ) through taking the supplementary academic year following two years of a vocational upper secondary programme do in HE, compared to students who completed the regular academic track in upper secondary. To make sure we are comparing similar groups we will restrict the data to students who have comparative grades, thus restricting the data to students who have average or lower grades.

We are using Norwegian registry data for the cohorts starting their third year in upper secondary in 2002-2014, consisting of both students who have gained HEEQ by completing a regular academic programme or by gaining HEEQ through taking the supplementary academic year. These cohorts are observed these cohorts for six years, giving them ample time to start and complete an undergraduate degree. Preliminary analyses indicate that students who have gained HEEQ through the supplementary year are more likely to go into professional degrees, such as nursing, engineering and teaching. And when taking account of prior grades from lower secondary, we also find minor differences in completion rates. This indicates that students who have gained HEEQ through alternative routes are not less prepared for HE.

First-Generation Students' University Transition Experiences in Germany through Bourdieu's Lens

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First-year transition experiences play a key role in undergraduate life and are related to the construction of student identity, assimilation into academic settings, and inequalities in educational trajectories. Meanwhile, how structural and cultural characteristics of an individual's social background unevenly influence students' meaning-making practices during the transition process cannot be overlooked.

The purpose of this university-funded research project is to understand the struggles that first-generation college students face during their first-year transition experiences. These struggles arise from a cleavage between the individual's habitus, the field of university study, and the field of the individual's part-time job market. Along with the conceptual tools of capital, habitus, and field, this study emphasizes Bourdieu's theoretical perspectives on the experience of time and the affective dimension of habitus.

The ongoing study employs qualitative methods to investigate the experiences of first-year students during their transition to university life, as well as the reflections of second-year students on their first year at university. A content analysis has been conducted on 139 written reflexive narratives and 40 semi-structured interviews with students enrolled in 2021, 2022, and 2023 at a German university. The purpose of the analysis is to explore the academic and social aspects of the university transition experience for first-generation students, their perceptions of the meaning of higher education, and the process of identity construction.

The current project contributes to the understanding of educational inequalities experienced by first-generation students in the German higher education field. Additionally, it sheds light on how temporal experiences and the emotional dimension of habitus contribute to the knowledge of class reproduction in higher education institutions.

RN10 | T05_04: Inequality in Education (IV)

The Educational Space of Preschools in a Cultural Stronghold in Sweden

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In Sweden, the vast majority of families with children already choose preschool during their children's first or second year. This is a very tangible choice; if you do not actively choose preschool, you will not be offered a place. Thus, all families who need childcare must approach an educational related choice very early in the children's lives, long before the child has an opinion on the matter. The early choice required of families is based on the availability of a range of different types of preschools. With inspiration from Bourdieu's sociology of education the purpose of this paper is to explain the educational space of preschools in Uppsala where educated social groups dominate later in the educational system. The method used to construct the space of preschools in Uppsala is simple correspondence analysis (CA) and the data is based on data from Statistics Sweden (SCB). The data is on an individual level and contains information about children who attend preschool in 2017. The result of the correspondence analysis shows a three-part structure where the social groups with the most educational assets are drawn to a special form of preschools, so called parent cooperatives. The families that have a smaller volume of educational assets place their children in municipal preschools. In the part of the space where the commercialized and for-profit preschools are most widespread, the economic fractions of the lower middle class and of the middle class are over-represented.

Truancy, Social Support, and Mental Well-Being Among School-Children in Sweden

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This study aims to explore the role of social support in reducing the mental wellbeing consequences associated with levels of truancy, defined as unexcused school absence. This study is based on two samples from the public health survey of children and adolescents in the southern Swedish province of Skåne (1.4 million inhabitants). The survey is population-based and cross-sectional, conducted in 2016 (n=27,395) and 2021 (n=26,198). Data are collected from two cohorts of students in compulsory education, 6th grade (about 12 years old), and 9th grade and one cohort in upper secondary school (11th grade). Preliminary findings show a consistent increase in mental well-being problems as truancy develops into persistent behaviour, particularly among 11th-grade students. Accessing support from diverse actors appears to play a crucial role in reducing mental health risks by approximately 16-27%. The preliminary results suggest the importance of the social context surrounding high levels of truancy and its potential role in proposing targeted interventions for improved mental wellbeing outcomes among school-age populations.

"The Life I Want to Live". Imagined Futures, Educational Choices, and the Notion of a Good Life

Sara Gil

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Imagining futures is a crucial skill for constructing and reconstructing solid life projects, particularly among young people (Ball et al., 2002). Being able to imagine futures and to project oneself in those futures means, on the one hand, to identify the social position recognizable as suitable and desirable for oneself (Appadurai, 1988), and, on the other hand, to mediate and negotiate aspirations with wider institutional structures and social actors (Gale & Parker, 2015). However, this ability is constricted by young people's structures of capitals (Bourdieu, 2011) and the lives of those surrounding them, both in their life and in social media (Archer, 2007).

The aim of this paper is exploring the construction of imagined futures among academic upper secondary students in different programs and from different social classes and genders. In particular, it explores the role of students' notions of "good life" and desired future lifestyles in shaping educational and professional transitions and its unequal distribution among social origins and gender (Brooks et al., 2020; Ingram et al., 2023).

This contribution is based on a case study conducted in three academic upper secondary high schools in Catalonia (Spain). Data includes 24 in-depth interviews with biographical techniques and 279 letters written "from the future" (Sools, 2020), both with first years in different tracks of academic upper secondary studies (16yo). The analysis of young people's future narratives has provided relevant insights on the influence of views about family, territory, safety, fame, or success, among other, in constructing young peoples' imagined careers.

Enhancing Scientific Literacy through Dialogic Scientific Gatherings

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Introduction: This study explores the impact of Dialogic Scientific Gatherings (DSGs) on enhancing scientific literacy among adults and primary school children. DSGs are acknowledged as Successful Educational Actions supported by the global scientific community. Rooted in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing

the right to engage in scientific progress, scientific literacy extends beyond grasping scientific concepts. It encompasses their practical application in daily life and the critical discernment of evidence-based information from misinformation. Our research inquiries include: How do DSGs influence scientific literacy, and what are the effects of improved scientific literacy on decision-making and societal engagement?

Theoretical Framework: Previous research, exemplified by Soler (2015), underscores the successful implementation of DSGs in adult education schools, leading to heightened scientific understanding, as noted by García-Carrión (2015). Recent studies, such as those by Buslón et al. (2020) and the ScienceLit Project (2018), further substantiate the positive societal impact of DSGs, particularly in advancing scientific literacy among participants.

Methodology: We conducted two case studies, one involving primary school children and the other targeting adult learners in two schools in Spain. Data collection comprised semi-structured interviews and communicative observations.

Results: Our findings affirm that DSGs significantly enhance scientific literacy, yielding marked improvements in instrumental learning, analytical and critical thinking, and social skills. Furthermore, promoting scientific literacy correlates with improved decision-making and heightened societal engagement.

This study underscores the pivotal role of DSGs in nurturing scientific literacy and acknowledges their recognition as a successful educational strategy.

RN10 | T05_05: Digital Technology and Education (II)

Does Distance Learning Deepen or Compensate Skills Inequalities?

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As shown by studies such as the Human Capital Study 2017-2023, the ways of acquiring and improving skills are changing and informal education is beginning to play an increasingly important role in this field. This process has recently accelerated also because of distance learning, which was introduced on a large scale during the COVID-19 pandemic. The key in such learning is ICT skills, which become the basis for the acquisition of other skills.

The question we pose is whether the introduction of distance learning has contributed to reducing or increasing digital divide for the elderly in particular. Based on the results of two editions of the Human Capital Study from 2010-2014 and 2017-2023 (nearly 100,000 Poles surveyed), we identify cohorts of younger and older people and show how their levels of ICT skills changed before and after the pandemic, and how this affected their other skills and ways of learning in general.

In our analyses, we use the cumulative benefit/non-benefit theory, which indicates that there is a clear St. Matthew effect when it comes to differences in the ICT competencies of younger and older people, and there is a fairly strong impact of these differences on the level of other skills.

GenAI in Higher Education: Exploring Perspectives and Practices among University Students in Italy

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The current debate about the societal implications of generative AI (GenAI) raises fundamental questions for the future of education. While these AI-based tools hold promise in reshaping traditional educational practices and improving personalized learning experiences, they also introduce a range of risks (i.e. misinformation, lack of scientific rigor, security concerns) and prompt important ethical and organizational questions for higher education institutions.

To delve deeper into the role of GenAI in university, we conducted a nationwide survey as part of an interdepartmental research project on AI at the university of Udine, engaging over 1370 students across Italy. The findings reveal that around 40% of the respondents, mainly from technology-related programs, have integrated AI into their

learning routines. However, the actual percentage might be higher due to social desirability dynamics. Among prevalent practices, information retrieval and minimal utilization of AI in assignments stand out, with the latter sometimes perceived as potential fraudulent conduct. Overall, the gathered opinions exhibit a degree of incoherence, oscillating between positive and negative sentiments towards AI. This ambiguity suggests that, given the initial stages of AI diffusion, respondents have not yet formed precise opinions. An illustrative exemplification is evident in the awareness of ethical concerns, particularly regarding the risk of plagiarism. Despite such apprehensions, consensus prevails on the ethical integration of AI into education, as long as proper institutional frameworks are established. While personal risks are not widely recognized by respondents, concerns at the societal level are acknowledged. Moreover, questions have arisen about the conceivable repercussions of AI on creativity and critical thinking.

Digitalization of Academic Labor: Examples from Turkiye after Covid-19 Pandemic and 2023 Earthquakes

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In this study, the digitalization of academic labour in Turkiye is discussed in the context of the effects of disasters. Following the first case of the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkiye in March 2020, distance education was announced at all levels of national education including universities. A similar arrangement was declared because of the destruction caused by the earthquakes in February 2023. After Turkiye was shaken by two earthquakes with a magnitude of 7.7 and 7.4 in February 2023, the first regulation for higher education aimed to continue education remotely again. As seen, while managing international and national disasters, distance education emerges as a strategic route. However, the rapid and unexpected changes in the educational environment can be challenging for academics. There have been situations such as preparing suitable course materials for use on online platforms, using digital learning environments and tools, and switching from the classroom environment, which is a participatory learning area, to the computer-aided virtual classroom environment etc. Although this dramatic change has been perplexing for every scientific community, the scope of this study is limited to the fields of social sciences and humanities. Thus, this study focused on how these academics are affected by these pervasive changes, and how they have been continuing their teaching and research activities. A qualitative research approach has been followed and semi-structured in-depth interviews are being conducted with academics who are teaching in the fields of social sciences and humanities at state and foundation universities in Turkiye by following the maximum diversity sampling technique. With this research, the experiences of the academics will be revealed, and the issue of digitalization of academic labour will be examined in depth.

Examining Secondary Level Students' Racialized Experiences with a Computer Science Program

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Existing educational research (Yelamarthi & Mawasha, 2010; Lam

et al., 2004) suggests diverse students need exposure to high-quality, culturally-inclusive CS programs given students are better able to connect with the content. A better understanding of how racially and ethnically diverse students experience these programs would help increase recruitment and retention in computer science. This article examines how low-income, racially and ethnically diverse students experience a computer science (CS) program. I was particularly interested in how the home and school environment influence students' CS participation and takeaways. This project is a multiple case study (Cresswell & Poth, 2016) at three secondary level schools with students from different racial and ethnic identities but similar socio-economic status. I conducted interviews (with students at each school before and after the program) and observations (throughout program implementation). I analyzed transcripts and field notes inductively and deductively. This study demonstrates how low-income students' experiences with a computer science program vary by racial and ethnic group. Students' overall experiences and takeaways of the program and computer science are largely based on messaging from teachers and parents informed by race and ethnicity despite similar class position. The diverse experiences of students with computer science may also apply to other educational programs.

RN10 | T06_01: Curriculum Innovation and Development (II)

The Constitution of a Collective Political Subject in a Public School

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According to Laclau and Mouffe, the social is characterized by antagonistic relations. When the subjects reinterpret these relations as oppressive and generate political actions to overcome them, they constitute themselves as collective political subjects. This process is done with elements from other discursive horizons and underpins a counter-hegemony project to change the partial stabilization of a model of society.

Based on this theory and in the related democratic educational literature, this research aims to comprehend the process of constitution of a collective political agent around the project of an alternative education in a public school in Madrid.

Data was collected by an ethnographic study carried out in a school that overcame a severe situation of segregation and school dropout in a few years.

The results show the process of a few teachers making alliance while defining and articulating elements about what innovation, participation, and inclusion mean and how to do them in primary education. This alliance of teachers sought to dispute the dominant meanings in the school and create/occupy positions of power with an ever-present concern to institutionalize their power. The strength of the alliance and the articulation of the new meanings for education allured new teachers and families to the school and created barriers against perspectives that could challenge the new educational project. The process made it possible to change hegemonic balances within the school in the name of a more inclusive, participatory, and fair education.

This contribution is part of the State plan R&D (2022-2026) "Transformative resistance in schools. Counter-narratives in education for Social Justice" (Ref: PID2021-122310NB-I00) financed by the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness of the Spanish Government.

Evidence-Based Policies and Practices in Sociology of Education: a Bibliometric Analysis

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A paradigmatic example of a total social fact (Mauss, 2013), the field of educational research is particularly fruitful. In its attempt to understand the dynamics of learning, institutions, actors and resources – starting with schools – to fulfill the normative intentions that guide investments in education by states, communities, families, and students, it is a field constantly on the boil and under public scrutiny, also through the political action that interferes to improve it. Educational actors are not indifferent to scientific findings. Instead, they increasingly rely on these findings to justify their actions, materializing what has come to be called evidence-based policies and practices.

However, in science, the definition of research agendas, particularly in Sociology, is inseparable from the visibility of certain social phenomena/problems, paradigms, and established lines of research, but it also obeys to the priorities dictated by funding and political agencies, professional and organizational dynamics, etc. which contributes to shape what, when and where evidence is published. Using a bibliometric analysis strategy, i.e. prescribing thematic and methodological trends and correlations, the presence and absence of research objects, levels, and scales of analysis (Silva, Hayashi & Hayashi, 2011), we propose in this communication to draw up a detailed picture of scientific production in the sociology of education in indexed journals (SCOPUS, WoS, ERIC) over the last 10 years, concerning evidence-based educational practices and policies.

Perceptions On The Training Context In Vocational Education During Covid-19

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The majority of compulsory school leavers in Switzerland complete trainings in vocational education, with a diverse selection of 250 occupational programs. The Covid-19 pandemic confronted the vocational education and training (VET) system with unprecedented disruptions. The framework of training contexts was transformed profoundly, particularly because apprentices spend most of their time in training firms. Covid-19 and the introduced measures to contain the virus, forced (training) firms to close, work with stronger hygiene rules, cut personnel, work from home, implement short-timework, etc. This paper follows an in-depth, exploratory analysis and aims to answer the questions if and how the perceptions of VET stakeholders regarding the training context during the pandemic changed, by evaluating the impact on both individual and organizational levels. The training context is crucial in the training of apprentices,

it includes the recruitment, working climate or firm specific factors that form the setting of training. Training contexts are conditional to examine the quality of an occupational program. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating group interviews with apprentices who completed their vocational training amid the pandemic, interviews with vocational trainers, and a comprehensive survey of a random sample of training firms. This approach captures a comprehensive perspective of the training context across different phases of the pandemic, providing insights into the experiences and adaptations of apprentices, trainers and training firms. Findings using thematic analysis indicate a significant shift in the training context due to Covid-19, leaving lasting impacts on contemporary training practices. Notably, the results suggest a disparity in the perception of stress and uncertainty between apprentices and vocational trainers. Apprentices associate their training context with tension and unpredictability, such as irregularities in staff presence. These contrasts highlight the need for in-depth research into the pandemic's varied effects on VET stakeholders. Furthermore, this leads to learnings for vocational education during times of crises whilst also underlining the existing strengths of the Swiss VET system.

I have never been at an ESA PhD Summer School.

Negotiating Provision for School Choice for a Diverse and Inclusive Society

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In 2022, the Department of Education in the Republic of Ireland and the Catholic Bishops agreed a process that led to the pilot Schools Reconfiguration Process in eight towns and cities. This agreed process sought to support the transfer of patronage of a number of Catholic primary schools to multi-denominational school provision. Yet, by the end of the pilot process just two out of 63 participating schools transferred their patronage to date. While a rich literature exists relating to how families and young people negotiate school choice in the Irish context, much less understood is how provision for school choice is negotiated nationally.

While the availability of school choice is frequently identified as a market based educational reform that is neoliberal in nature (Apple 2006), in the Irish context more nuance is required. That is, the issue of school choice is not so clear cut in the Irish context as a result of the dominance of the Catholic church in the ownership and management of primary education. As it stands 88% of primary Catholic schools are under private patronage of the Catholic Church.

This paper reports on a research project that used this pilot reconfiguration scheme to better understand how school choice is negotiated in contemporary Irish society. This paper employs a mixed method approach using existing quantitative and textual data, as well as new qualitative data collection across a number of case study sites and with key stakeholders to better understand the network of forces that determine how school choice is negotiated in contemporary Irish society, and how these operate at national and local levels.

RN10 | T06_02: Gender and Education (II)

Barriers to Change in Canadian University Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

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The problem of sexual assault at Canadian universities has been well-documented. However, the barriers that campus community members experience in generating changes aimed at better responding to sexual assault has received minimal scholarly attention. This paper reports on a research study employing participatory theatre (PT) to examine sexual assault advocacy and activism on Canadian university campuses and the challenges that students and instructors face in building coalitions to combat campus sexual assault and implement more culturally sensitive, trauma-informed care for survivors. The novel methodology of participatory theatre, which involves the use of theatrical games with participants, was chosen specifically for its unique capacity to reveal the structural antecedents of social problems, such as sexual assault, and the barriers to collaborative action. Grounded in existing literature on the sociology of education, this study examines the corporatization of universities, the growing precarity of the academic workforce particularly for women-identified instructors, and the rise of neoliberal policy-led solutions as impacts on activism directed to sexual assault on university campuses. In so doing, this paper reveals the multitude of barriers to change that campus community members face in doing anti-violence work and considers broader questions about the enduring impacts of the corporatization of higher education on the potentials to truly address the problem of sexual assault on campuses.

Developing Aspirations and Motivations of Low-Achievers in Four School-Contexts: the Impact of SES, Gender, and Immigrant Background

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This paper investigates students' aspirations and attitudes towards education among young people with a focus on those who obtain an academic qualification in upper secondary education, but with comparably low grades. While numerous studies have focused on either early school

leavers or high achievers, less is known about the educational aspirations of the students in the lower half of the achievement distribution. By using a longitudinal, comparative dataset from Norway, Spain, Belgium, and Iceland (ISCY), we explore how different educational contexts influence the development of students' aspirations and attitudes towards education. We ask how low performing students in academic tracks are developing and expressing their visions of future careers? How are these visions for the future shaped by class, gender, and country of residence? We link our findings with relational and contextual theories that interprets the shaping of young peoples' trajectories in light of sociohistorical, institutional, and cultural structures. Our preliminary findings show that aspirations towards HE are more common in systems where VET are less developed, and these differences seems to widen throughout upper secondary school. Moreover, students in more comprehensive systems become more positive towards school and education while in school, and their grades are less important for this development here than in the other systems. The paper contributes to the wider theoretical and empirical understanding of the 'missing middle' in the literature on youth transitions, and sheds light on how system level features influence future aspirations of this understudied group of students, and how socioeconomic background, gender and grades play into the process.

Gender Gaps in Mathematics and Reading: A Comparison Across Socio-educational Contexts in Europe

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In this communication we address the problem of gender-related educational inequalities in Europe. We aim to show the existence of these gender gaps and their variation between Mediterranean, Central, Northern, Anglo-Saxon and Eastern European contexts, in order to suggest inclusive educational policies in favour of equal learning for boys and girls in reading and mathematics.

Using data from TIMSS-2019 and PIRLS-2021, we compare the performance distributions by gender in mathematics and reading across 30 European countries, with a total sample of 99,000 4th grade students and 3,500 schools. We use a two-stage multilevel model that allows us to identify the main predictors of gender effects in reading and mathematics outcomes by decomposing the variance at the within-school, between-school and between-country levels.

We find striking differences in the distributions of mathematics and reading achievement by gender across social and educational contexts in Europe. Across European countries as a whole, boys tend to perform better in mathematics and girls tend to perform better in reading. However, this hides substantial variability in the size of the gaps: in Mediterranean countries, boys perform better in both mathematics and reading, widening the gap in mathematics and closing the gap in reading, while in Northern European countries the opposite is true, since girls' performance improves, widening the gender gap in reading and closing the gap in mathematics. Multilevel regressions show that these patterns may be associated with countries' average achievement, socio-economic status and gender equality indices.

The results also show a high variability of gender gaps between schools, pointing to the potential for resilience and improvement in school contexts and education policy to reduce gender gaps in mathematics and reading.

Sex Education: a research from European context to Italian context

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A global sex education aims at assuring not only physical health but also emotional, mental and social. The method should be positive and based on mutal respect of sexuality. Sexual rights must be guaranteed, protected and satisfyed. The research question is to prove that the lack of presence of SE programs causes a series of negative consequences, not only for the individual growth but for the social impact on the entire community. The initial exploratory analysis of European Context, compared to the Italian one, carried out through a report analysis of prevention of STIs, gender violence and homotransphobia, has highlighted a nonhomogenous reality, which is not careful to the young's needs of accessing information about sexuality. The research is carried out through an online survey, that has collected information on their access, the level of knowledge and the taboos connected to sexuality. The results show that the Italian school is not a source of information. Hence, the interest is to explore the trainers (teachers, principals), in particular of Neapolitan schools, through qualitative interviews basing on SE programs and their personal opinions. The results show an heterogeneous situation in terms of geographic diffusion, providers and objectives. The majority of programs is focused on the prevention of STIs by ignoring how much an holistic SE could be an investment, able to determine a series of positive consequences to the social context, like gender equality, homotransphobic discrimination reduction. It will produce in the subjects a relational ability to respect oneself and others.

RN10 | T06_03: Pathways, Retention and Dropout (II)

Cultural Determinans of the Adult Learning Participation. Testing of the Theory of Cultural Reproduction

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International research reveals recurrent patterns in participation in adult education, mostly drawing on the level of education, occupation, age or attitude. There is a lack of theoretical framework explaining how cultural factors, especially socio-cultural background, influence participation in adult education (AE).

We investigate the inequality in participation in AE through the lenses of the theory of cultural reproduction. In their seminal work Bourdieu and Passeron concentrated on inequalities within the educational system and significance of the different forms of capital. We assume that analogous relations can be observed in AE.

The key questions are: does the family cultural capital have a lasting impact on educational success throughout life? Does it determine participation in AE?

We used the data from the nationwide, random sample, survey of the Polish population (n=2561), aged 25 – 64 (2020). As we anticipated multivariate associations between the phenomena, with both direct and indirect effects, structural equation modeling (SEM) was applied.

The main hypotheses were confirmed. Higher institutionalized capital of the family: 1. increases the chances to achieve higher level of education and 2. influence embodied capital; and thus, indirectly, influnence the probability of undertaking AE. The influence of the cultural capital of the family of origin is persistent through the life course, on the various stages of educational career. Cultural and educational disadvantages are consolidated and enhanced through the selectivity of AE.

The findings can add to the area of research on educational inequalities, especially to the explanation of the paradox of the unequal demand for lifelong learning, stating that people with a high need, participate less.

Is ADHD A Determinant of Grade Retention? A Case Study of the Flemish Secondary Education System.

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Students diagnosed with ADHD are at risk of academic underachievement and may face stigmatization due to learning difficulties. The disorder also affects personality attributes such as frustration management, emotion regulation and self-control, leading to school misconduct and a strained teacher-student relationship. As a result, students with ADHD are more likely to face school detention or other disciplinary measures. In Flanders, grade retention can be used as a disciplinary response to misconduct. Hence, it is hypothesized that students with ADHD have an increased likelihood of being retained. Grade retention leads to a three to seven times higher chance of dropping out early, illustrating the need to study its potential determinants. What remains unclear, however, is whether a potential overrepresentation of students with ADHD would be caused by lower academic achievement levels, school misconduct resulting from specific personality attributes, stigmatization related to the diagnosis, or a combination of these factors. Therefore, this study examines whether ADHD remains a determinant of grade retention when accounting for academic performance and school misconduct. Longitudinal logistic regression analyses will be carried out on the Flemish LiSO dataset, in which 6,265 students from 50 schools were followed throughout secondary education over a period of six years (2013-2019). Academic achievement was repeatedly tested in mathematics, Dutch, and French, while school misconduct was based on both self-reported and teacher-reported data. Overall, studying the underlying causes of ADHD as a determinant of grade retention may contribute to the development of more effective educational interventions tailored to students with learning disorders.

Early school leaving: Trends and Challenges Characterizing Academic Production over the Last Two Decades

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Early School Leaving (ESL) is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that, although not new, remains one of the most pressing political and social concerns in the European Union. The reduction of ESL is a priority assumed by Portugal, whose ESL rates have shown a very positive evolution, decreasing from 50% in 1992 to 6% in 2022.

This article, based on the analysis and discussion of 58 academic works, collected from Open Access Scientific Repositories in Portugal (RCAPP), seeks to answer the following

questions: What conceptions of ESL underlie academic work? What is the underlying theoretical and methodological conception? What new aspects are announced? What proposals for prevention and combat are presented?

The characterization of the selected corpus, the definition of ESL adopted, the research methodological design, and the results and conclusions are addressed. A critical approach is adopted in problematizing the ESL phenomenon, following the thinking of authors such as François Dubet (1994), Philippe Perrenoud (2001), and Pierre Bourdieu (2007), among others. Content analysis is adopted as the data processing technique.

The discussion of the data indicates the predominance of technicist and instrumental conceptions of the phenomenon and few contributions to promoting a broad and comprehensive dialogue in critical ESL research, placing it in a context of different power relations and inequality. Few present concrete proposals for prevention and combat ESL, suggesting the absence of easy or quick answers to this issue.

Second Opportunity School for Social Inclusion in South Italy: a Case Study

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The contribution will report the results of the evaluation of a project of second opportunity school for NEET in the age from 16 to 18 years, who left the school before the graduation in three cities of south Italy: Napoli, Reggio Calabria and Messina. The project aimed to give these teenagers a different educational path to help them to overcome their scholastic failures and social scripts, building useful skills for their working and relational growth.

The research, based on the Outcome Mapping approach, was oriented to evaluate the outcome of the project among the teenagers involved in terms of life and citizenship skills.

The evaluation used mixed methods including:

– evaluative rubrics computed from the educators and aimed to evaluate the evolution of participants' skills during the project;

– three focus group, one per city involved, with the teenagers and early adults who participated to the activities for two years;

– a survey to all the participants at the end of the project;

– Focus groups with educators.

Further analysis will involve individual interviews to the participants after one year from the conclusion of the project, to see the long-term impact of the intervention.

The main early finding of the research appears to be that forms of education alternative to vertical and theoretical teaching may succeed in the effort of make the teenagers feel supported instead of judged. The research shows in fact that many teenagers involved in the project had the opportunity to overcome their feeling of failure learnt at school and to appreciate the relevance of learning by doing and making mistakes, increasing their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities. However the evaluation shows also some limits in the extents of these results among the participants and further research need to be done to see the long term impact and analyse the scalability of the model.

The case study aims to offer a contribution in terms of possible suggestions to improve the formal education system in its attempt to prevent students' educational and social exclusion, especially in difficult social contexts.

RN10 | T06_04: Confronting Epistemologies

Digital Harm: Young Poles' Views on the Responsibilities of Big Tech, Governments and Individual Users

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There is a consensus among researchers that excessive use of digital devices negatively impacts young users cognitive performance and self-esteem, reduces their ability to focus, their satisfaction with own life and achievements, lowers empathy and increases susceptibility to depression and other mental illnesses and disorders. Interestingly, research also shows that young people are increasingly aware of these negative impacts of digital media and are taking various actions to overcome them. In this paper, we report the results of a large and ongoing empirical research project aiming to explore young people's attitudes towards possible institutional solutions. In a series of FGIs and IDIs we explored Polish young people's attitudes towards tech regulation at three different levels: family rules, school guidelines and national legislation. Drawing on the emerging concept of digital harm we ask who do young people hold responsible for their digital addictions: Big Tech? governments? parents? or themselves? And correspondingly, what technological, political and personal strategies do they embrace growing up in the midst of the digital revolution?

Refusing Knowledges, Reclaiming Agency: Examining Various Ways Of Refusing And Resisting Knowledges And Their Various Functions In A Forced Migrant Education Context

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Success at school requires students to acquire different kinds of knowledges, an especially challenging task for students belonging to cultural minorities and having heterogeneous schooling backgrounds. To students who are in the margins of Finnish society only the acquisition of the "right" kinds of knowledge leads to educational success. Knowledges and ways of knowing are constantly being negotiated in school contexts, by both teachers and students. Studying these issues is important because of the il/legitimization of knowledges through coloniality.

This paper will examine the epistemic refusals and resistance of adult forced migrant students in a community college setting. We will explore the different functions and ways students produce resistance and refusal to knowledges. Key frameworks here are raciolinguistics as championed by Flores and Rosa and other raciolinguists, especially with the focus of rejecting abyssal thinking, epistemic in/justice, and funds of knowledge.

The aims of the paper are two-fold: First to explore the ways students resist and refuse knowledges that are deemed il/legitimate or projected on them, and secondly to provide teachers a framework through which to better engage with students and to provide the students a better learning environment. The paper will use methods of critical ethnography, discourse and thematic analysis.

The data consists of student interviews, classroom recordings, and teacher workshops, collected through 2020–2023, originally for a study to examine legitimacy of knowledges but we found refusal and resistance in addition to the il/legitimization of knowledges.

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The Social Construction of Educational Statistics

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We currently live in a metric society (Mau, 2019), increasingly governed by numbers (Rose, 1991). This expanding measurement culture has had a deep impact on educational practices and processes (Biesta, 2009): from rankings (Sauder & Espeland, 2009) and the associated "terrors of performativity" (Ball, 2003) to the role played by International Large-Scale Assessments in educational policies, curriculum, and pedagogy (Addey et al., 2017). A "numerocratic power-knowledge regime" emerges (Angermüller, 2010) as we witness the growth of a "cult of quantification" (Mau, 2019). In this context, it is no surprise that a common reaction to educational statistics is to take figures at face-value, as relatively straightforward answers to given questions. To be sure, the emergence of such a scenario does not take place without resistance and critique. Opponents of this status quo claim that statistics are incapable of making sense of the richness and complexity of the educational world. In any case, there is an absence of analyses that pay attention to the nitty-gritty of how those statistics are produced. In this presentation, based on a mixed-methods approach to the Portuguese case, we explore the modes of production of crucial educational statistical rates: retention, dropout, and grade inflation. We consider both the formal, conceptual definitions of the three phenomena, and the ways in which data are created, collected and processed in order to ultimately produce the statistics. We show how, incentivised both by political and market rationales, educational actors tend to adhere to the system, even if that requires gaming the numbers.

RN10 | T06_05: Digital Technology and Education (III)

Perceptions and Attitudes of the Students of Babeș-Bolyai University Towards Online, Face-to-face, and Hybrid Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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This paper presents the findings of an exploratory sociological survey conducted at Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca focusing on student experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper aims to investigate student experiences and attitudes toward different modes of education. Our research goals were to evaluate students' perspectives on online, face-to-face, and hybrid teaching activities, to assess the challenges they faced, to group students into clusters based on their attitudes toward online learning and to identify those factors that shape student experiences and preferences. The study utilizes cluster analysis as a methodological approach to categorize students into three groups according to their preferences for teaching modes: (1) "Balancers" (43.5%) favored a blend of online and in-person classes, (2) "Onliners" or "screenagers" (28.9%) preferred online courses, as opposed to (3) the adepts of face-to-face learning (27.6%).

In spite of its challenges online teaching was preferred by nearly 30% of the students, among whom those pursing their masters' degrees, and young people coming from lower status families and thus already in employment, were overrepresented. Their experiences and attitudes show that these students have indeed developed effective strategies for online education. In opposition to those who preferred face-to-face classes "onliners" were more likely to show satisfaction with their teachers, more likely to be better equipped for online courses and also to have passed the exams. With these results the article contributes to the scholarly and expert debate concerning the possible effects of the flexibilization of higher education upon students' access to tertiary education.

Growing Digitalization In Schools And Its Impacts On Social Exclusion And Education Equality Issues: A Systematic Review

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In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the reliance on digital devices and digital interactions and learning started becoming a common practice in several schools across Europe. On the one hand, digitalization is found to bring several advantages (Helm et al., 2021). On the other hand, we also find indications that the advantages brought by digitalization are unequally distributed across pupils and families. However, we still miss a conceptual framework mapping the diversity and characteristics of existing digital initiatives as well as their different impacts on social exclusion and education equality issues.

This article addresses this research gap. The study brings together the body of academic work on digitalization and education in a systematic literature review and extracts an array of cases. We pursue two main objectives. First, we aim at distinguishing different types of digital initiatives in the education domain, notably within public schools. We pursue that by regarding the selected cases through a conceptual framework based on the initiatives' target groups (pupils, parents, families), needs pursued (e.g., learning, student-teacher interactions, family-school interactions, or others) and specific type of digital tool used (e.g., WhatsApp/Telegram chats or similar, emails, online meetings though online educational platforms, ext.). Secondly, we intend to outline the main impacts of digitalization on social exclusion and education equality issues, based on the main findings in the cases extracted from the literature. Building on the article's results, we will eventually identify avenues for further research in the domain of sociology of education interested in digitalization and education.

Incorporating Generative AI in Student Assessment: What Learning Practices and Outcomes are Worth Pursuing in the Age of AI?

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Generative AI has taken the world by storm, forcing us to rethink our practices in a variety of settings, including education. Because of AI's capabilities and its relatively sudden popularisation, the education system has disproportionately centred on how to preserve the curriculum while avoiding plagiarism. This approach, however, is unsustainable, first, because universities should prepare students for a labour market that will heavily rely on AI and, second, because of the technical difficulties in keeping this technology away from pedagogical practices (particularly, assessment).

This paper reports on the findings from an alternative assessment practice implemented in the module 'AI & society', taken by students in two MSc programmes at the intersection of social and data science. In their final assignment, students were asked to select a topic in which they felt they had expertise and assess the input-output connection during their interaction with a chatbot. The exercise offered insights on five main levels: (i) the role of personal expertise in judgements of adequacy and the identification of hallucinations, (ii) the significant quality variations in AI's output, (iii) the need for robust and dedicated training in prompt design, (iv) the uncertainty about users' cognitive positioning in their interaction with the technology, and (v) the challenge posed by bias to both users and future generations of AI. Beyond the context of this assessment, it will be argued, these insights can inspire alternative teaching and learning approaches that explicitly incorporate AI into the curriculum in a pedagogically fruitful manner.

Digitalization in Education: Unveiling New Forms of Inequality in the Spanish setting.

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This proposal, part of the HORIZON 2020 project "PIONEERED: Pioneering Policies and Practices Tackling Educational Inequalities in Europe," examines the emerging educational inequalities stemming from the digitization of education, with a focus on Spain. Utilizing a qualitative methodology, this study engages with key stakeholders in the Spanish educational sector to explore the multifaceted impacts of digitalization on educational equity.

The rapid digitalization of education presents both opportunities and challenges. While it offers innovative educational practices, it also introduces new forms of inequality, particularly in educational equity. This research, informed by the PIONEERED project, incorporates life course analysis and intersectionality to analyze these inequalities within the European context.

Through interviews, focus groups, and workshops with a diverse range of education stakeholders in Spain, the study delves into the specific challenges and inequalities of digital education. Critical Discourse Analysis, enriched by life course and intersectional perspectives, is employed to understand how digital education inequalities manifest across different life stages and intersect with various social categories such as gender, race, and socio-economic status.

The findings reveal that digitalization in Spanish education leads to evolving forms of inequality, impacting different social groups in varied ways. These disparities are dynamic, changing over an individual's life course and are influenced by multiple intersecting factors.

The study underscores the necessity for policies that acknowledge the dynamic and multifaceted nature of educational inequalities in the digital era. Policymakers are urged to develop comprehensive strategies that go beyond providing equitable access to digital resources and literacy, addressing the complex realities of all students, and ensuring a more inclusive digital educational environment.

RN10 | T07_01: Curriculum Innovation and Development (III)

Against Entrepreneurship: Education, Nations, and Inequalities

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In this paper I unpack a series of conceptual, historical, and spatial understandings of 'entrepreneurship', and its relationship to education. The paper traces the changing uses and meaning of entrepreneurship over time. It explores entrepreneurship as a conceptual term, a vocational practice, and an emplaced policy initiative in educational settings. Empirically, I explore the ways in which entrepreneurial discourse marbles its logic through educational institutions in material, symbolic, and practical ways. I trace these entrepreneurial logics throughout the history of mass public education in England, the current academised system, and extend this to other global contexts. I argue there is a 'new' spirit of entrepreneurship in education, and building on Sennett's intervention to see entrepreneurs as a form of 'ideal everymen' [sic], Entrepreneurship I suggest, has become the 'ideal everynarrative' in formal educational discourse. Thinking beyond education, I consider the connected entrepreneurial public discourse, as one that reveals contradictory understandings of the term, conceals precariousness, and reproduces inequalities. The paper concludes by calling for a move against the current discourse for entrepreneurial initiatives in education, and instead suggests the need for broad and critical public conversations about its repeated failures.

The Lasting Heritage of Improved Teacher-student Relations in Middle School

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Research on school effectiveness highlights the crucial role that teachers play in determining student achievement. However, prior studies failed in explaining the sources of this effect. The OpenTeQ project integrates economic, sociological, and pedagogical perspectives to test whether teachers' relational skills contribute to their effectiveness and whether these skills can be enhanced through large-scale interventions.

In the school year 2016/2017 we implemented a professional development intervention for lower secondary school teachers focused on the improvement of their relational skills. To evaluate the impact of the intervention we designed a cluster randomized controlled. Results showed a statistically significant improvement in teachers' self-efficacy and in students' interest and achievement in the main subjects (Italian and Mathematics).

Now, thanks to the availability of administrative data tracking students until the 2022/2023 school year (i.e. the end of the upper secondary cycle), we can evaluate the long-term effects of the intervention. Preliminary results show that the light-touch intervention developed during the lower secondary cycle still exerts its effect in the long run: treated students are found to more often enroll in the academic track (i.e. licei) and to better perform in the main subjects, as they register higher marks in Italian and Mathematics. These results not only confirm that teachers' relational skills are a relevant leverage for teachers' effectiveness, but also that light touch interventions can produce relevant long-lasting impacts.

Examining Dialogic Literary Gatherings (DLG): A Comprehensive Review of Evidence for Addressing Social and Educational Inequalities

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Introduction:

This systematic review examines the impact of Dialogic Literary Gatherings (DLGs) on social and educational inequalities (Ruiz-Eugenio et al., 2023). Analyzing 46 articles from 2010 to 2021, it highlights DLGs' role in fostering dialogue, overcoming barriers, enhancing self-improvement, and promoting social cohesion in different environments. The review highlights DLGs' potential for improving linguistic skills and values, offering valuable insights for educational research, practice, and policymaking. This communication responds in particular to the challenges addressed by RN10 1 (inclusivity), 5 (holistic education) and 6 (social justice).

Theoretical Framework:

Rooted in the dialogic learning principles of Ramon Flecha (2000) and drawing from the works of Bakhtin (2010), Bruner (1990), Freire (1970), Vygotsky (1978), among others, DLGs foster collective meaning construction through dialogue, cultivating critical thinking and interpersonal engagement.

Methodology:

The systematic review examines DLGs' impact on individuals of various ages and settings. It addresses seven key questions concerning dialogue, learning, and social cohesion. Following PRISMA standards, evidence from qualitative and quantitative inquiries offers a systematic assessment of DLGs' effectiveness in diverse contexts. Rigorous analysis is maintained through triangulation, ensuring comprehensive scrutiny.

Results:

Findings indicate DLGs foster egalitarian dialogue, break isolation, and promote mutual respect. Participants, including children, adolescents, adults, and prisoners, report enhanced communication skills, increased self-esteem, and improved attitudes towards learning and reading. DLGs also challenge stereotypes and foster non-violent coexistence. Moreover, they extend their impact beyond participants, influencing communities and shaping future aspirations. Examples include reduced recidivism rates in prisons and individuals pursuing higher education or community engagement post-participation.

How to Teach about Democracy? From a Curriculum Framework to Practice-based Approach to democracy in Poland

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Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland

In recent years, the phenomena such as the citizens dissatisfaction with democratic processes, political inefficacy, low levels of trust, accountability and trust in governments, the rise of the far right, Eurosceptic antiimmigrant movements in Europe has directed attention to the crisis of democracy. While looking for possible remedies to democratic deficit, the education for democracy (EfD) has been identified as a possible tool to revive democratic approach and practices, equipping citizens with skills and knowledge necessary for civic and political engagement.

Based on the example of Poland, this presentation discusses how education can facilitate democratic behaviour and attitudes. We examine the tensions between the curriculum of education for democracy, as well as the further educational policies, and the practices of teachers, educators, and trainers who are members of the DEMOCRAT Living Lab created under the framework of the DEMOCRAT Horizon Europe project. We will, firstly, focus on the reported practical challenges in teaching EfD based on a comprehensive but theoretical curriculum covering the essential values and elements of EdF, but with little official support on the practical and participatory approach. In this context, the role of Living Labs as platforms for knowledge and practice exchange as well as for co-creating new and innovative educational approaches and tools. Secondly, we will capture different visions formulated by the practitioners of how democracy should be taught to facilitate the growth of democratic knowledge and practices.

RN10 | T07_02: Gender and Education (III)

Schooling Masculinities: Examining the shifting gaze on boys' bodies in Covid conditions

Michael Kehler, Gabriel Knott-Fayle

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The recent pandemic was a powerful and unsettling time for youth. Students were confronted with unfamiliar and challenging learning conditions that for many have had enduring consequences. This paper provides insight to the ways that a group of boys navigated the conditions that resulted from in-school and out of school pandemic restrictions. Drawing on a 6 month, funded, qualitative study conducted during Covid 19 in Alberta, Canada, we examine the impact covid conditions had on how boys negotiate masculinities in and out of school. With interview data from 10 adolescent boys and 5 parents, our research deepens understandings of situational masculinities and the respatialization of schooled masculinities. While conventional schooling conditions are well known for the disciplining gaze or the "tyranny of surveillance" of boys by boys, we consider the shifts in surveillance practices that result from covid learning conditions in public and private spaces. We specifically examine the tensions between public and private spaces and the role that surveillance and the panoptic gaze had for a group of adolescent boy's abilities to renegotiate performative enactments of normative masculinity. We consider the emergent expressions of masculinities and the ways that shifting covid regulations influenced and informed the daily expressions of masculinities. This research extends previous work that has questioned boys' self reflexive practices and in doing so offers insight to how boys reconfigured and reframed masculinities in what has historically been a limiting and limited context for disrupting normative masculinity.

The Role of Roma Women in Education During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Spain

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University of Barcelona, Spain

Introduction:

Scientific literature has shown that the Roma population, particularly Roma women and girls, is subject to low educational expectations of them. Furthermore, some scientific study characterizes these women as meek and passive agents who do not change their circumstances and are unconcerned with their own or their children's education. Other research demonstrates that the disadvantages they

and Roma families faced in terms of access to excellent education were exacerbated during the pandemic. However, scientific evidence has also shown a Roma women's activism who are working to improve their situation and their communities'. However, there is a research void in the analysis of Roma women's activism during the Covid-19 outbreak in terms of educational outcomes.

Methodology:

Employing the communicative methodology, pioneer in the requirements of social impact and co-creation in the main research programmes, six women's focus groups and 30 life stories were conducted. In total, participants included 47 Roma women and 33 Roma men from three different Spanish autonomous communities. In addition, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 professionals working in the fields of education, social services, and civic organizations. This research is embedded in the ROM21 I+D+i project.

Results:

Despite feeling abandoned by certain educational centres, it was these Roma women who were most attached to the educational centres who were agents of change in their communities in terms of family education in the studied contexts. The research examines how these Roma women were empowered through resistance methods created in collaboration with their communities and specialized educational actors with positive results in the access to quality education of both their children and them.

Gender Differences and Key Predictors of the Intention to Leave Teaching Profession

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Relatively low social status, inadequate financial compensation for work, ageing of the teacher population and the feminization of teaching profession are some of the challenges that EU countries face in the field of education. Moreover, the shortage of teachers and teacher attrition noticeable in some countries appear as important educational and social issues, but also specifically a gender issue in the context of gender imbalances in the teaching profession and wider gender (in)equality in the workforce. Under the assumption that teacher shortages and high turnover lead to a decline in the efficiency of schools and their provision of quality education to citizens, addressing teacher attrition and gender differences in a feminised profession presents itself as a relevant social issue with repercussions beyond the education system. This paper, based on survey research conducted on a sample of upper secondary school teachers in the Republic of Croatia in 2024, examines key structural, institutional, interpersonal, and individual-level predictors of the intention to leave the teaching profession. Additionally, it explores gender-specific models explaining the intention to leave. Preliminary results show that lower levels of teachers' professional identity, job satisfaction, and work-life balance, combined with a higher level of perceived job opportunities, increase the likelihood of the intention to leave the teaching profession. The findings indicate gender disparities in certain factors such as work-life balance and intrinsic motivation, while no significant differences were observed in some of the anticipated predictors. Based on the research findings, practical social and education-related consequences and implications are investigated.

RN10 | T07_03: Expectations, Aspirations and Choices (I)

Tension and Affect in the Educational Decision-making Processes of Danish Lower Secondary School Seniors.

Lise Ulrik Andreasen

Aarhus University, Denmark

Despite initiatives aiming to enhance social mobility through education, Danish society encounters growing divisions based on factors such as gender, ethnicity, and social background. Young people in their final years of secondary school grapple with a crucial choice of future education, which is amplified by the increased importance of education in Danish society today. This presentation is based on continuous fieldwork in two schools in a Copenhagen suburb, where I focus on how young people's perception of themselves and others – in short, their social and affective imaginaries – shape their educational orientations and aspirations for the future. The presentation engages with empirical emergences of tension and affective discomfort linked to secondary school students' considerations of the local high school. This high school enrolls a significant number of students from a Muslim minority background, and the presentation delves into the ways in which young people manage conflicting emotions and tensions regarding their anti-racist awareness on one side and their reluctance towards attending the nearby high school on the other. As the concept of educational choice (Reay et al, 2005) becomes pervasive in the concluding years of school, it is intricately woven into everyday life becoming of young people. Emphasizing peer relations and the significance of how emotions "circulate and stick" (Ahmed, 2004), the presentation seeks to unravel the complexities surrounding affective dynamics of racialized othering and their role in shaping the educational trajectories of young people.

Can Public Bilingual Education Programmes Reduce the Rural-urban Gap in English Learning in Spain? The Case of Andalusia

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Over the last two decades, Spanish-English bilingual education programmes based on the CLIL approach have expanded greatly in Spain. One of the declared aims of these programmes was the democratisation of the learning of English. Paradoxically, after these years, its supposed elitism has become one of the main criticisms. Yet, the equity implications of bilingual programmes have not been sufficiently analysed in empirical terms. In this sense, the rural – urban dimension has been particularly understudied. This study aims to contribute to filling this gap by analysing: (1) how both primary and secondary 'bilingual schools' are spatially distributed across this dimension; and (2) the effect that the 'size of the municipality' variable has on the probabilities of schools offering a bilingual programme.

We take all the schools offering either primary education (N=2,543) or compulsory secondary education (N=1,603) in the self-governing region of Andalusia. We run cartographic and statistical analyses (bivariate and multivariate) of geographically referenced data that have been previously processed using a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Cartographic and bivariate analyses show that bilingual schools are mainly concentrated in larger municipalities. Therefore, families residing in smaller municipalities have far fewer opportunities for their children to receive this type of education. Results from multivariate analysis show that this disadvantage of smaller municipalities has to do with the low presence of subsidised-private and private schools in these areas and with the much lower availability of this bilingual model within the state-run education system. Rural schools therefore face a new element of educational inequality.

Demands, Expectations And Perceptions Of Families From Different Social Classes About 0-3 Years Early Childhood Education in Spain.

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Evidence on the impact of Early Childhood Education (ECEC) on improving educational outcomes promotes agreement, rarely seen in the European education policy field, to enhance educability in ECEC, especially for vulnerable children. However, although there are studies that identify family economic barriers, ECEC research rarely generates sufficient knowledge of a key aspect for the ECEC policies success: what are and how are the perceptions, expectations and ideologies of childcare and educability that families from different social class project onto ECEC services?

In the case of Spain, we hardly know how families from different social classes, exposed to different social constraints and influences, internalise and value the educational character that expert groups grant to ECEC, something that affects the family strategies applied and the family-school relationships.

The aim of this paper is to analyse convergences and divergences between the discourses of mothers from different social classes about ECEC, fundamentally what is considered by families to be quality ECEC and what positions they adopt (of adherence, distance, modulation, strategic re-appropriation) with respect to legitimate pedagogical discourses on ECEC. To this end, 39 interviews with mothers from the working classes, but with different educational levels, and 3 focus groups with 17 university mothers from

the professional middle classes with children aged 0 to 3 years old, were analysed. Our findings suggest, among other things, that the weight of pedagogical reasons in ECEC assessment and decision-making varies according to the family's social class.

Accounting For Taste: Uncovering The Learner-Learning Relationship Through Young Students' Taste For Learning

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The rhetoric of the knowledge society has produced a common thought about the global significance of education (Ule et al., 2015), revealing its crucial role in perpetuating social inequalities (Bourdieu & Passeron, 1977). Understanding the relationship young people develop with learning is crucial in comprehending the construction of school experiences, learner identities, and subsequent educational trajectories among students (Tarabini, 2022).

Hence, exploring the intricacies of this learner-learning relationship remains imperative. This paper focuses on the Bourdieusian (1987) notion of taste as a mediating factor to understand the students' relationship with learning. It particularly analysis how the taste for schooling and the taste for learning is constructed in different social and school contexts, expanding the sociological understanding of the production of taste in the school field. Certainly, since taste is still linked to the ideology of 'natural gifts' (Bourdieu & Passeron, 1977), uncovering the social mechanisms that influence taste remains a significant sociological task, which is crucial for a better understanding of how educational inequalities are perpetuated.

This presentation argues that, just as taste for cultural consumption places individuals within (dis)advantaged positions in the social system, taste for learning similarly places learners within the educational field. The paper aims to explore how this learner-learning relationship is shaped through young people's likes and dislikes about their school experiences, in order to promote a fairer experience for all of them. To this end, the presentation, of theoretical nature, introduces an analytical model and methodological approach for examining the 'taste for learning', addressing its dimensions of what, how, where and with whom learning occurs.

RN10 | T07_04: Parental involvement with school (I)

Opportunities and Challenges for Teachers and School Support Staff Collaborating with Parents

Cintia Csók[1,2], Zsófia Vincze[1,2], Gabriella Pusztai[1,2]

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There is a consensus in the literature that neither school nor family can be successful without the support of the other (Epstein et al. 2001, Paseka-Byrne 2019, Gerdes et al. 2020). However, the majority of teachers do not see the development of parent-school partnerships as a key task. According to PISA 2018 data, the Hungarian education system's performance in this area lags behind the OECD average. The changes following the pandemic and the challenges of working with parents from different social backgrounds and linguistic and cultural minorities make it particularly important to ask what factors influence parent-school cooperation and how teachers' competencies in this area can be strengthened. Qualitative research methods have been used to investigate school professionals' views and beliefs on parent-school relations. Quotas were defined for selecting school actors structured by county, school type, school provider, and career stage in the three most disadvantaged counties of Hungary. In this presentation, we present the results of the analysis of a large text database (N=60) based on focus group interviews with teachers and school support professionals. The analysis, based on grounded theory, was carried out using ATLAS.ti software. Our findings have enabled us to identify several factors (parental SES and racial-cultural background) that may influence the perceptions, preparedness, and effectiveness of teachers and school support staff in this area.

School-friendly Parents? Characteristics of Parental Involvement in Vocational Schools in Hungary

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The parental involvement and its positive effect are the subject of numerous studies, most of which focus on parents of pre-school and primary school aged children. There are fewer studies that focus on vocational school. In Hungary, the social status of families in these schools is low, but the drop-out rate is high especially in vocational schools, which does not provide certification for admission to higher

education.It is particularly important to analyse the extent to which parents are treated as partners in vocational schools. The data collection is entitled The Relationship between Family and School from the Parents' Perspective. In 2022, we surveyed parents whose children attend one of the various levels of education from all school sectors (N=1000), but we focus on vocational secondary school (providing a high school diploma) and vocational schools (not giving a high school diploma). Findings have shown major barriers to parent-school contact. (1) Students from lower strata become independent sooner and do not want their parents to participate in school programs; (2) low SES parents feel uncomfortable at school (3) barriers are mostly related to parental way of life as well as cultural difficulties. The parents reported poor parent-child communication with regard to school life, further plans, and leisure time. In vocational schools, the parental involvement is less intense. This may be a risk factor, as these schools tend to recruit students from low socio-cultural backgrounds, so it would be important to involve parents, which would even have an indirect positive impact on performance.

La Socialización Familiar De Los Adolescentes En Andalucía

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En esta comunicación se quieren presentar los principales resultados de un proyecto de investigación financiado por CENTRA (Junta de Andalucía) sobre la socialización de los adolescentes en esta comunidad. Se trata de un estudio cualitativo con tres fases de trabajo: entrevistas a padres/madres y/o tutores sobre el modo de socializar a sus hijos/as. En segundo lugar, grupos de discusión con jóvenes que han sido adolescentes recientemente explicando su proceso de socialización. Finalmente, devolución de resultados y encuentro con expertos en diferentes áreas relacionadas con la adolescencia. El marco teórico parte de la adolescencia reflejada en los medios de comunicación como una adolescencia en riesgo y delitos. En esta comunicación se presentan los resultados del análisis de discurso de los progenitores. Las temáticas abordadas han sido trayectoria previa a la adolescencia, estilos educativos, alimentación, emociones, entre otras cuestiones. Resulta interesante el tipo de hogar y de familia en la explicación de la relación con sus hijos e hijas así como determinadas emociones alrededor del proceso como miedo o culpa.

Parental Involvement in Academic and Sport Achievement

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According to previous research, the positive impact of parental involvement on academic achievement was revealed. However, little is known about how parental involvement in sports activities of their children contributes to careers in sports and school. This presentation is about the differences in academic achievement, participation in sports activity, and sports results among students of parents involved or not involved in sports. In this research questionnaire survey was conducted among 7th and 8th-grade students learning in three primary schools in a Hungarian city (N = 121). Based on the parental involvement scale, three groups were differentiated, cluster and factor analysis, a Chi-square test and ANOVA, and linear regression were used. According to our results, children of parents involved in both sports and education are overrepresented among students who received awards because of their sports performance, among members of sports talent management programs, and among those who achieved first place in national sports competitions. On the contrary, the highest percentage of children of parents involved in education belongs to those who were given awards for excellent academic achievement. Regarding personality traits, obsessive passion (OP) is the most characteristic of students with non-involved parents and the least characteristic of children with parents involved in education. Belonging to both groups with involved parents can be considered a negative predictor of OP. In conclusion, it can be detected that there exists a positive interrelation between parental involvement in sports and education, and the academic and sports performance of their children.

RN10 | T08_01: Politics, Citizenhip, and Sustainability (I)

Coping with Online Hate Speech Through Collective Intelligence in Children and Adolescents

Tatiana Íñiguez-Berrozpe, Francesco Marcaletti, Carmen Elboj-Saso, Pablo Bautista-Alcaine, Ana Cebollero-Salinas

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Minors are familiar with the hate speech that takes place on the Internet, becoming involved in it not only as spectators but also, and more seriously, as victims or aggressors. This is why the scientific literature has begun to ask about possible educational strategies for preventing and dealing with this problem in the virtual environments in which minors interact. This paper presents the results of several experiments carried out using Collective Intelligence software, with the participation of n.= 560 Spanish children and adolescents (10-16 years old). This technique aimed to make minors reflect on how to face this problem and prevent their participation in it, all through the knowledge that arises from the group, not individuality. The results show that as long as we create optimal working conditions, a community of individuals is more intelligent than the most intelligent of them, and a group of people perform an intellectual activity more effectively than one person alone, in this case through a Collective Intelligence platform. In this sense, this research shows, using a One-factor ANOVA with repeated measures analysis, that a large group of children and adolescents were able to improve their level of moral reasoning when addressing a case of hate speech and a case of social comparison (including hate speech) through an experimental design based on this type of intelligence. This result may have relevant socio-educational implications for preventing and coping with this problem, applying this model to specific strategies.

Should We be Worried about Violent Extremism Ideation among Faculty Members in Pakistani Universities

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When hiring faculty members in Pakistani universities, there is seldom a screening for violent and extremist tendencies. Faculty here influences and serves as role models for students. Likewise, when extremist views or sensitive issues surface in the class, there is a dire lack of faculty training to mitigate or address these concerns. Previous research has indicated a variable but notable inclination of Pakistan's university faculty towards extremist ideologies and violent extremism (VE). This study assessed the value and belief system that the faculty possesses in line with the national interest of countering VE in light of social problem theory. Without a nationally accepted anti-terrorism narrative, we utilized a mixed-method approach to come to a data-driven consensus on an accepted over-the-board academic narrative for anti-terrorism in Pakistan while generating a dialogue on a set of beliefs, causes, and concerns about VE. We conducted thematic analyses from online and in-person qualitative interviews with the faculty and administration in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and quantitative analyses for their violent extremism beliefs and emotional intelligence (EI). The results showed a significant negative correlation between lower EI and extremism and violent risk ideation. The study findings and interviews were instrumental in creating policy recommendations for HEIs, which revealed the need for capacity building of faculty and a thorough screening during the hiring process. After analysis of the qualitative data, researchers can suggest a coherent anti-terrorism narrative in the academic context. Moreover, the study also revealed an in-depth look into the perceptions about terrorism in a larger context of how VE and religious affiliation affect the psychological state of faculty in the Global South.

How Do Teachers Deal with "Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD) for a Socio-Ecological Transformation? Between Political Demands and School Practices.

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In 2015, the "2030 Agenda" (UN 2015) was adopted by the United Nations. The central goal is the socio-ecological transformation. The 17 "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) formulated therein provide an important political orientation for dealing with global challenges. Education, and in particular "Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD), are considered to be of great importance to achieve the global sustainability goals. Its relevance is emphasized even more in the current UNESCO program "ESD for 2030" (UNESCO 2020). In my presentation I will provide detailed insight into the challenges of implementing ESD in schools. My analysis is based on a qualitative reconstructive study with the help of the documentary method. I conducted 20 group discussions with teachers in Germany in order to to interrogate how they understand "sustainability" and how they approach ESD in their daily school business. My analysis reveals a dominance of the environmental aspect in the school sustainability discourse and a focus on individual

responsibility in the form of resource-conserving behaviour. Despite being anchored in the curriculum, whether and how ESD is addressed depends on the commitment of individuals. In addition, my results also show that sustainability is understood as a question of awareness, and that there is a strong tendency of reproducing existing social conditions due to a class-specific view of sustainability. In my presentation I will give a critical account of these findings and compare them with other national and international studies on the current implementation of ESD.

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The Role of Schools in Promoting the Ecosocial Transition. A Look at the Map on Sustainability Practices in Barcelona.

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The role of schools in promoting ecosocial transition practices is critical. This includes not only how schools foster environmental education in the curriculum but also how, in doing so, they move towards forms of participatory governance that have in their principles degrowth economics, ecofeminist approaches, and social inclusion policies. In this paper, based on the data generated in the context of the ECOSOCITIES project and explicitly on the map "Escoles + Sostenibles" from the Ajuntament of Barcelona, we ask ourselves about the nature of the ecological transition practices that schools promote. We observe how schools' ecological practices may be a clue to fostering new public policy instruments for economic well-being, the fight against social inequalities, and the fostering of community resilience. In this sense, we observe the different intervention agencies through which schools can work to promote transition dynamics (in the classroom, in school cloisters, through the associations of children's relatives, through work platforms with other schools, through municipal plans for the development of educational environments, or in within professional teacher associations). We approach a broad diversity of experiences, such as improving the pacification of cities, green paths or the physical environment that leads to school; the enhancement of the community ecosystem of the territory and its expanded education opportunities; the work on eco-dependency, the custody of biodiversity and the claim for air quality; or the impetus geared by gender commissions that work around the comprehensive rethinking of the forms of structural violence within school organisations.

RN10 | T08_02: Inclusive Education (I)

When The Inclusive Education Principle Turns Into Professional Paradoxes For Teachers: A Field Study In Primary Schools In Turkey

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In Turkey, the inclusive education principle appeared in the 1990s to organize the school life of certain groups of disabled children. However, although specialists in educational studies contribute to a normative bibliography that summarizes the ideal principles of inclusive education, it rarely becomes the subject of sociological research. Based upon a field study conducted between November 2018 and January 2020 in nine primary schools in Istanbul, with 74 interviewed actors (teachers, psychological counselors and parents of children with dyslexia and/or ADHD), in order to understand the medicalized definition and treatment of learning difficulties in terms of cognitive disabilities, this communication aims to review the experiences of teachers with the inclusive education. In the absence of institutional tools and efficient school arrangements, teachers find themselves in professional paradoxes to welcome disabled children into their classroom that can be summarized in three dimensions. On a perceptual level, teachers face the injunction to include children with disabilities while they find themselves among the main actors who externalize learning difficulties by reducing them to a neurocognitive problem redefined in terms of disabilities and attributing responsibility to medical actors. On a practical level, the principle of inclusion is not supported by practical institutional arrangements. Teachers find themselves obliged to assume the communication task (with parents, psychiatrists, rehabilitation centers and other actors) while the different actors involved in this process rarely communicate with each other. On an ethical level, reduced to the question of disability, the principle of inclusion constitutes for many teachers the antonym of social justice because to take care of these children in the class, they see themselves obliged to renounce others who would also need special interest.

How Can Social Capital Become a Facilitator of Inclusion?

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Parent-Teacher Cooperation Research Group of Hungarian Academy of Sciences & University of Debrecen

Students with special educational needs are a diverse group. Promoting their learning success is particularly challenging,

even in practice for inclusive schools. At the same time, parents are often left alone with diagnosis and treatment. Therefore, the focus of the presentation is on the families of successful students with special educational needs and the networks around their families. The research question is: What are the differences in social capital between parents of successful students with and without learning, behavioral and emotional disorders, and difficulties (SEN B)? The survey Value-Creating Education 2020 (n = 1156) was analyzed. Parents of 10-year-old children were asked whether their child needs special education services because of difficulties in learning. Separate ordinal regression models were used to examine predictors of academic achievement in the two subsamples of parents of students with and without special educational needs (SEN B). Results showed that factors supporting success differed between the two groups. Family background and involvement of professional helpers (teachers, psychologists, special education teachers) in child-raising were not among the predictors of academic success for students who need special education services because of learning problems, but the availability of an extensive network of the family had a positive significant effect.

Enhancing Educational Environments in Poland: Introducing Quality Indicators for Assistive Technologies in Schools of the Metropolis GZM

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In the pursuit of creating inclusive and effective learning environments, it is necessary to introduce quality indicators for assistive technologies in schools across Poland. This aims to elevate the educational experience of students with diverse needs, creating a more accessible and supportive education. The U.S. Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT) Consortium has identified a set of descriptors to serve as a guide in determining the quality of AT access and use. Basic information about these indicators was the basis for building standards for the use of AT in Poland, integrating the provision of AT services with the applicable educational policy. My research included translation, cultural adaptation, and validation of an American research tool previously unavailable in Poland. This research project allowed us to determine the level of implementation of assistive technologies for children and young people with disabilities in GZM schools, using a research tool to measure the quality and consistency of support provided in the field of AT by Metropolis GZM teachers. The Metropolis GZM comprises 41 cities and municipalities with approximately 2.3 million residents and around 240 thousand companies and institutions, contributing to approximately 8% of the country's GDP. The survey tool is designed to enable individual schools to assess their current practices and plan for improvements in the following areas: Consideration of AT Needs, Assessment of AT Needs, AT in the IEP, AT Implementation, Evaluation of Effectiveness of AT, AT in Transition, Administrative Support for AT, and AT Professional Development.

Discourses And Experiences On Special And Inclusive Education In Families Of Students With Disabilities In Spain

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At present, the latest law on education in Spain (LOMLOE), stipulates that within ten years, regular schools will have the necessary resources to accommodate students with disabilities in the best possible conditions. This process towards an inclusive education system has found resistances from institutions and companies which manage Special Education Schools (SES), as well as on behalf of families of students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) attending SES and that, generally, have had negative experiences in regular schools. Their reluctance has been expressed basically through social media, as analyzed by different studies (Huete et al., 2019; Rogero et al., 2022). This shows that it is useful to deepen our focus on the experiences of families of students with disabilities enrolled in both regular and special schools, in order to understand how their backgrounds influence the discourses that they adopt.

The main aim is to analyse the discourses towards special and regular education of families of students with SEN due to disability based on their experiences in the education system. The initial hypothesis is that the discourses against inclusive education can be partly explained by negative experiences in regular schools, which have led to identify the present situation of inclusion in the regular education with the model for inclusive education reflected in Spanish and international regulations. The main methodological strategy is the qualitative approach through group discussions to deepen on the different discourse positions towards inclusive or special education and how they relate to personal experience.

This Project, "Discursos y experiencias sobre educación especial e inclusiva en familias de alumnado con discapacidad" (DISEIDIS), PID2021-126531OA-I00, is funded by MCIN/AEI/ 10.13039/ 501100011033/ FEDER, UE.

RN10 | T08_03: Expectations, Aspirations and Choices (II)

Structural Adjustment and Educational Reform: Youth Aspirations Towards the Future

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Exploring landscapes of education in local is a daunting task as it involves a great deal of differences across places and spaces. The local communities have set out to research educational policies in their embeddedness in local economies, labour markets and individual life projects of young adults. The author analyses how a variety of local institutional, economic-material, and opportunity structures influences the objectives of educational policies targeting youth educational and labour market trajectories. Our analyses provide answers to the following three research questions: (1) to what extent are the objectives of educational policies influenced by the national skills formation regimes? (institutional opportunity structures); (2) to what extent are the objectives of educational policies based on the local demand for skills? (economic-material opportunity structures); (3) to what extent are the orientations of educational policies influencing youth educational and employment trajectories? (discursive opportunity structures). The paper discusses the educational reform in the age of globalization, with reference to structural adjustment and educational reform, the commodification of higher education, the decentralization of education, choice in education, the privatization of education, multiculturalism and education, the global pedagogies, the schooling for tomorrow, the new paradigm shift in pedagogy, and the Artificial Intelligence in education. Studying the complex relationships between educational policymaking on the one hand, and young adults' life courses on the other, requires a carefully established research approach. The multimethod design was used to bring together the results from the quantitative, qualitative and policy/document analysis.

Earnings and Career Paths of Creative Arts Graduates

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Since 2018 analysis of the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) dataset, a linked administrative dataset created by the UK government, has estimated the "returns" to higher education – the difference in income for graduates, compared to those that don't attend University, and variations in graduate incomes according to the kind of institution that they attend, their social class origin, gender and ethnicity, and the subject(s) that they study. Economists reported that, on average, graduates of creative arts degrees (including art and design, performing arts and media studies) had only a small "graduate premium" in earnings compared to similar people who had not attended University, or at least less than graduates in other subjects. These findings have been linked to suggestions that the government should reduce the number of places on degrees that did not offer high graduate earnings, additional cuts that predominantly affect creative arts degrees, and announcements of programme closures by by several universities, largely in the creative arts.

This presentation will explore whether lower creative graduate earnings are associated with work within Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), in Education (a common destination for creative graduates) or elsewhere. It will explore social inequalities and differences by educational institution in earnings and career outcomes. To what extent are employment outcomes associated with social class background, gender, ethnicity and/or the prestige of the University, regardless of the subject studied? Is under-counting of freelance income an issue?

This research builds on recent analysis of social mobility in creative occupations, and mixed methods research on social inequalities in the creative economy, which have highlighted the role of higher education in the social stratification of creative careers.

Non-Formal Education Between Challenges and Opportunities: Two Case Studies in The Framework of European Youth Policies

Nadia Crescenzo

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In the contemporary scenario, the concept of 'education' is increasingly understood for its potential for emancipation, both personal and social. This approach finds its concrete implementation within the European mobility projects addressed to young people and youth workers, oriented towards the development of competences and skills in the youth sector.

Starting from this framework, the contribution illustrates the results of two case studies on non-formal education projects funded within the Erasmus+/Youth in Action Programme and implemented in Italy. The research work consisted in carrying out 2 participant observations and in conducting 18 interviews with trainers and young participants.

The first case study analyses the experiences and training paths of those working as trainers in the field of non-formal education in the European framework. The objective was to investigate the training and professional experiences and paths of the trainers, the organisational methods and methodologies designed and employed during a non-formal education training.

The second case study consists of a diachronic analysis of the experience of participating in a training for youth leaders who then coordinated international volunteer camps. The aim was to investigate the participants' motivations and expectations, their perceptions of non-formal education, as well as the competences and learning acquired

from the training, the effects of the implemented activities in terms of knowledge, competences and skills acquired, and their transfer into practice.

The results of the two case studies made it possible not only to highlight how, through the European perspective, young people's participation and adherence to European values is built, but also to highlight the challenges related to the training process provided by european institutions in the field of non-formal education.

Dismantling Neuroedumyths In Dialogue With Teachers: A Transformative Study in Socioneuroscience for Quality Education

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Introduction.

Scientific publications about neuromyths, false ideas about how the brain works, have proliferated in the last few years (Dekker et al., 2012). However, there is a gap of scientific knowledge around neuroedumyths, i.e., the use of neuroscientific concepts to explain education problems but making statements that are against evidence from education sciences, including evidence from sociology of education. This paper presents results from the first research study on neuroedumyths among teachers and does so from the perspective of socioneuroscience (Puigvert et al., 2019).

Method.

The study applied the innovative methodology called Public Lectures' Debates Analytics (PLDA). This has meant conducting interviews with twelve participants about the discussions in public lectures that they had attended. The lectures attended focused on neuroscience and school education and the later discussions with the public about the lecture involved the trainers/lecturers and the public.

Results.

The results showed the presence of four neuroedumyths among teachers (Racionero-Plaza et al., 2022): The brain needs to be bored to develop; Violence resides in masculine genes; Brain develops almost completely the first three years of life; and There are right-hemisphere students and left-hemisphere students. Likewise, we found that these neuroedumyhts have been spread among teachers by neuroscientists without knowledge of education sciences. This challenges the most common stand of blaming teachers for holding false ideas about the brain and education (Ferrero, Garaizar & Vadillo, 2016).

Conclusions.

These findings have important implications for teacher training, indicating the importance that those in charge of training teachers on neuroscience and education, are both knowledgeable of best sources in neuroscience (Kandel et al., 2013) and educational sciences (Flecha, 2015).

RN10 | T08_04: Parental involvement with school (II)

Parental Time Use on Educational Activities and Childcare in Turkey

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Many studies have shown how important parental involvement in education is for the academic achievement of the child(ren). Besides achievement, it is also related to other aspects such as a positive attitude towards learning and school, easier adjustment to the school environment, lower absenteeism or dropout rates, student well-being, and higher academic aspirations. The studies highlight the impact of various factors on parents' involvement, including family socioeconomic status, education level, parents' employment status, and gender. Although studies on parental involvement in Turkey focus primarily on achievement, few address the role of parents, gender norms, and family socioeconomic status, all of which impact the level or duration of parental involvement. In this paper, we investigate the amount of time parents spend on their children both in terms of involvement in their educational activities and other childcare activities. To this end, we employ the data from the Time Use Survey conducted by TURKSTAT in 2014-2015. The data contains a total of 4151 mothers and fathers from Turkey. Preliminary analyses show that gender, working status, education level, and income level are all associated with the total amount of time parents spend on their children's education and care. On the other hand, while we focus on the time spent on children's education, only gender has a significant effect. Women spend more time than men on the educational activities of their children. However, this gap between mothers and fathers shrinks in higher income and higher education groups.

Connecting Schools and Parents: The Trust-Building Role of Digital Educational Resources

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The rapid digitalization of education, particularly in the post-pandemic period, transforms the nature of parent-school relationships. Face-to-face interactions between parents and school representatives (teachers, administration) are often replaced by digital communications via school platforms, social groups, chats, or web portals. This shift raises concerns about parental trust, a cornerstone for effective collaboration between parents and schools. Despite its importance, trust remains underexplored in

academic research, often being treated as a peripheral factor rather than a central subject of study.

This study explores the role of digital resources on parent-school relations, focusing on their effect on parental trust. We use Structural Equation Modelling to analyze data from 16,535 parents with school-attending children to provide a comprehensive perspective on the issue. Our findings show that digital resources help parents engage with the school system. These resources offer additional information about the educational process and opportunities, increasing parents' understanding and involvement in their children's education. The positive experience with such services plays a significant role as a mediator. It helps mitigate the negative effects of previous difficulties parents experienced with the school systems.

Importantly, the study shows that effective implementation of digital services at both school and state levels can significantly boost parental trust in the educational system. By enhancing the accessibility and quality of these digital interfaces, educational institutions can foster a more transparent, engaged, and trusting relationship with parents, thereby contributing to the overall improvement of the educational landscape.

What Are the Relationships Between Parents and Teachers? – a Review of Research

Martyna Popławska

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The results of research on the relationship between parents and teachers seem familiar. Researchers have written about how the relationship between the two parties seemingly appears to be good or very good (as parents and teachers often describe it in surveys). However, a closer look at the phenomenon reveals that each side has different expectations of the other. This often leads to misunderstandings and makes it difficult or impossible to cooperate. This is a significant social problem, as ineffective relationships between parents and teachers have a negative impact on students' performance at school. Therefore, during my presentation I will talk about a systematic literature review that was conducted on the topic of parent-teacher relationships. A research question was posed: What are the relationships between parents and teachers in early childhood education level? Therefore, scientific databases were searched to find scientific texts that describe the results of qualitative research on this topic. An additional aspect that I was interested in and that was included in this search was the issue of partnership in the relationship between parents and teachers. Specifically, I was looking for evidence on whether we can speak of a partnership between the aforementioned partners. Partnership is defined according to J. Epstein's concept of educational partnership and is considered the most desirable form of cooperation between parents and teachers. The review report was created using the JBI SUMARI programme. During the presentation, I will present the results of the review.

RN10 | T09_01: Politics, Citizenhip, and Sustainability (II)

Navigating Controversy: Understanding Students' Perspectives on Classroom Discussions on Sensitive Topics

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The inclusion of controversial subjects in teaching serves as a normative anchor within the education system. Teaching controversial subjects offers students insights into significant historical and current societal events, enabling them to develop skills in openness, argumentation and source criticism. These skills are vital for navigating a democracy, especially considering children and young people's exposure fake news and consumption of non-traditional sources of information.

The literature underscores the complexity that teaching controversial subjects introduces for educators. This complexity arises primarily because controversial topics often reflect deeper societal or ideological disagreements, leading to strong emotions among teachers, students and parents. According to the literature, teachers may choose not to address a subject for various reasons, such as insufficient knowledge on a topic, considerations for specific students, or fear of social sanctions. Nevertheless, existing knowledge is based on the perspectives of adults. There is a noticeable gap in research exploring how students experience controversial subjects in teaching and their perspectives.

We analyze students' experiences and attitudes towards controversial subjects within a Danish teaching context. Employing a discourse-analytical framework, we examine focus group data from pupils aged 12–15. We develop a typology that categorizes students' considerations, determining when and why teaching a controversial subject is perceived as either justifiable or inappropriate. Our findings underscore the importance of considering students as co-creators of what is deemed controversial and emphasizing the need to take students' insights and assessments of teaching controversial subjects seriously

Subjects, Attainment or Selection? Disentangling the Effect of Schooling on Political Beliefs and Behaviour in Adulthood

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The role of educational experiences in shaping political attitudes and behaviour has received extensive attention in recent years. However, the mechanisms through which education changes people's political behaviour in adulthood are often hidden due to poor measures of education.

Using new linked administrative and survey data, we try to unpack the causal "black box" of education in the English context, where educational divides were starkly evident during the Brexit referendum and subsequent realignment of the electorate in 2019. Specifically, we link detailed administrative data on adults' school records to their political views in a large-scale probability household panel survey, and test how subjects studied in adolescence are linked with political attitudes and behaviour in adulthood, net of attainment and other characteristics.

We find that studying economics or business studies and, to a lesser extent, Maths is associated with more right-wing economic and social attitudes, and with voting for the Conservative Party. On the contrary, studying humanities and foreign languages is associated with more socially liberal and economically left-wing positions, and voting for the Labour Party. We argue that subject-specific effects on political outcomes may reflect direct learning from subject content, in addition to the socialisation and human capital effects identified in prior research. To further understand the causal foundation of these effects, we (i) analyse whether just passing a crucial educational hurdle at age 16 changes political behaviour in adulthood, and (ii) study schooling reforms that changed the set of subjects offered to students in different schools. Our results provide evidence for the micro-foundations of how educational expansion has reshaped patterns of political conflict.

Exploring the Relevance of Education in the Landscape of Conspiracy Theory Beliefs: A Comparative Study across V4 Countries

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Nowadays, so-called alternative facts and conspiracy theories are receiving more and more attention among politicians and in public debates due to their visibility and the legitimacy they have gained over time. Concerns about the consequences of believing in conspiracy theories are being translated into the search for national and transnational strategies to define means and propose solutions to appropriately and effectively counter the conspiracy narrative. Education and training is seen as one of the key tools that can help combat conspiracy theories, disinformation and fake news. The importance of education in the context of belief in conspiracy theories this study attempts to clarify based on a large-scale comparative quantitative survey, which focused on social conflicts over conspiracy theories and which was carried out in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary (V4 countries). Education and its importance were monitored not only as an objective indicator, namely the degree of education attained, but also through the subjective relevance and contribution of formal education to the life of the interviewees and the degree of trust in the educational system of the countries concerned. This study aims to enhance our understanding of the dynamics underlying the role of education in shaping attitudes toward conspiracy theories. Ultimately, the findings may contribute to the ongoing discourse on devising effective strategies to mitigate the impact of misinformation and conspiracy narratives in society.

Policy Stakeholders and 'Free Speech' at School: Navigating Race, Religion, and Moral Panic

Aslı Kandemir, Karl Kitching, Reza Gholami, Md. Shajedur Rahman

University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

This paper outlines how policy stakeholders in England interpret and translate right-wing national policy on political speech regarding race and religion in schools. The paper is located in a wider global northern (US, France, Australia) context of right-wing moral panics, around the purported need to 'protect' schoolchildren from progressive (e.g., anti-racist, Islam-inclusive) speech (Begum 2022). Despite a history of research into right wing populist ideologies in education (Apple 2006), the specifics of how right-wing 'free speech' politics are translated in education policy contexts is under-researched. The paper presents qualitative analysis of individual interviews with 25 key policy stakeholders at the national and local level, purposively sampled given their role in writing or authoritatively interpreting polices. Drawing on critical post-structural ideas (Ball 1993), we conceptualise policy as discursively shaping, but not entirely closing down possibilities for 'free' subjects and objects of expression, in a school system characterised by polycentric (central government/local authority/school federation) governance. Using a thematic (inductive and deductive coding, cross-coding) approach (Braun and Clarke 2021), we demonstrate how state and third sector stakeholders navigate and enact 'free speech' policy discourses that raise 'concern' about who is vulnerable to problematic speech, what truth is, and how truth is accessed. We contend policy stakeholders recontextualise official policy ideas of school-based 'free speech' and 'political impartiality', and translate them into practices that may accommodate, circumvent or resist right-wing moral panics around progressive speech. The paper concludes that there is a complex web of stakeholder alignment with, accommodation or circumvention of, and resistance to the embedding of right-wing 'free speech' panics. Moreover, it argues that stakeholders define and seek to shape pedagogical spaces upon their own interpretation.

RN10 | T09_02: Inclusive Education (II)

'In a Normal School, You Are Seen as Different'. Disability and Separate Education in Italy.

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This contribution explores the social, organisational and institutional processes that produce disability as an organisational and biomedical category, and the justificatory discourse that normalises 'separate education' as a strategy of care and management of disability by the Italian school system.

Italian legislation establishes that pupils with disabilities must attend mainstream schools. However, 'special schools' for students with 'severe' disability are still relevant and constitutes the surface of a tendency to reject from mainstream education those pupils considered most problematic.

We designed an ethnographic research based on one ordinary primary school in the city of Milan to highlight the processes of management of disability within the framework of the regulations on school inclusion in force in the Italian context. Here we analyse the processes of spatialisation of disability within ordinary schools and the exclusionary processes that occur in school and classrooms contexts. A second study has been designed to explore the processes of channelling disabled pupils into 'special schools'. By means of interviews conducted with families who have 'chosen' these schools for their children, with teachers and health personnel, we highlight the conditions allowing the reproduction of a form of separate education whose existence finds fragile support in the regulations in force.

The contribution explores the empirical data weaving together different literature strands: the sociology of expertise (Eyal, 2013), symbolic interactionism (Mehan et a., 1986) and the perspective of intersectionality (McCall, 2005) to highlight the way in which choices, careers and processes of construction of the disabled identity are produced in different ways based on institutional, organizational and expertise knowledges, as well as according to the different socio-cultural positioning of families.

Implementing the Salamanca Thinking: Attitudes of Pre-school Teachers towards Inclusion in Kazakhstan, China and Russia

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Thirty years ago the Salamanka Statement proposed the movement towards education for all framing the policy of inclusion. A large body of literature revised the variations of how inclusive education has been conceived and implemented in various regions and countries (Ainscow 1999; Hegarty et al. 1996; Mittler 2000; Armstrong 2003). However, the debates on inclusion have mostly addressed policies and practices of the global West. Little attention has been paid to the post-communist experiences affected by socio-cultural heritage and current inclusion policy largely informed by the international, in particular, European policies. When the authors reveal the factors enabling or inhibiting inclusive education in post-communist contexts (Makoelle,Burmistrova 2021; Zimenkova,Jules 2014), they come across the path dependencies that are difficult to change (Kalinnikova Magnusson,Walton 2021). Currently, Russia, Kazakhstan and China gradually integrate into the global processes of reforming educational systems towards inclusion with legislative framework approved in Kazakhstan 2011, Russia 2012, China 2014. The teachers' attitudes and competence play crucial role (Polat et al 2023) in relation to the implementation of the Salamanca thinking (Ainscow et al 2019). While the early start of playing, learning and socializing together is the ground for future inclusive processes, the attitudes of pre-school teachers towards inclusion have been for a long time out of scope of the sociology of education. This paper aims to map the challenges of the transition towards inclusion of children with disabilities in three national contexts through the eyes of the pre-school teachers.

Educational Inclusivity in Kazakhstan: Progress, Challenges, and Future Directions

Aituar Kospakov

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The concept of inclusivity is an integral part of a fair society and the provision of equal rights and opportunities for all individuals. Thus, ensuring equal access to quality education for people with special educational needs plays not only a vital role in realizing the educational potential of an individual as a future professional in their field, but also contributes to socialization and overall improvement in quality of life and well-being. Global organizations, such as the United Nations, OECD, UNICEF, and the World Bank, have clearly defined inclusive education as one of the

priority directions in building a fair and favorable society. According to data, some countries have achieved significant results and positive systemic changes in the realm of inclusive education. However, there are countries that still face difficulties in providing inclusive and equal access to education for people with special educational needs. Kazakhstan, categorized as an upper-middle-income country, experiences a range of institutional and social challenges in implementing inclusive education. The purpose of this study is to analyze factors that serve as both systemic and social barriers in achieving key indicators of inclusivity in education, as well as to examine the experience and existing practices of inclusivity in educational institutions in Kazakhstan. At the same time, we have examined the concept of inclusivity and its role in the educational sphere, as well as analyzed existing strategies and programs for inclusive education at various universities in Kazakhstan.

The Impact of Psychiatric Diagnoses on the Process of Classification in the Special Educational Needs Category and Educational Orientation towards Special Education

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The present study explores the prevalence of psychiatric diagnoses among children assessed for special educational needs and their impact on the classification of children as having SEN and their educational orientation, particularly towards special education.

Through this study we primarily aim to identify possible overrepresentation based on certain personal characteristics, as well as to uncover the subtleties of the professionals' decision-making process and how diagnoses influence this process.

For this research we used data from the records of children with special educational needs in Bihor County, assessed between 2019-2022. The investigation follows a methodological approach that involves several steps, including coding and classifying the diagnoses in the children's records according to DSM-5 criteria, correlating the IQ determined by the psychiatrist with the category of mental disability in which the classification was made, bivariate and cluster analyses.

The main findings indicate significant correlations between psychiatric diagnoses and SEN classification, influenced by sociodemographic factors such as age, gender and family background. The study findings also suggest a lack of rigour in diagnoses for children experiencing educational difficulties, which may lead to overdiagnosis in children in vulnerable groups.

The study concludes that psychiatric diagnoses play a crucial role in the educational pathways of children with SEN, suggesting the need for rigour in the process of assessment, classification and educational referral.

RN10 | T09_03: Expectations, Aspirations and Choices (III)

Beyond Boundaries: Understanding the Higher Education Decision-making Process of Highland Ethnic Minority Students in Thailand

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Access to higher education is essential for personal development and economic security. However, ethnic minority students, who are among the most vulnerable groups, face numerous barriers to higher education. This qualitative study explores the decision-making process of highland ethnic minority students in Thailand, addressing unique challenges arising from their geographical and cultural contexts regarding their pursuit of higher education. Through semi-structured interviews with ten participants, the research identifies key factors facilitating or hindering their access to higher education.

The findings suggest that despite their strong desire to pursue higher education for personal and professional reasons, participants encounter significant barriers, especially statelessness and financial constraints. Moreover, limited access to education due to community values is also an important factor. The choice of university is primarily driven by location, affordability, and learning environment suitability, rather than the prestige of the institution. Participants' field of study selection is guided by practical considerations rather than parental influence. Additionally, the study found that participants who decided not to pursue higher education experienced regret, while the majority of those who continued their academic pursuits expressed satisfaction. Only one participant expressed a desire for a gap year to explore personal interests before committing to a study program. Interestingly, discrimination and language barriers play a lesser role in decision influences. The study highlights unique issues, including statelessness and the influence of community values on attitudes towards education, emphasizing the importance of structural, external, and internal factors affecting the higher education decision-making process of highland ethnic minority students in Thailand. These findings have important implications for policies and interventions aimed at promoting equitable access to higher education for highland ethnic minority students in Thailand.

Going All the Way: Identifying Careerists, Persisters, and Potential Desisters Among Pre-Service Teachers in Luxembourg.

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The persisting worldwide teacher shortage presents a critical challenge for the education sector, exacerbated by contemporary societal transformations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, technological advancements, and increasing social inequalities. This paper focuses on the urgent need to identify candidates who are not only qualified but are also likely to commit to long-term teaching careers, thereby ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of educational institutions.

The teacher shortage crisis is multifaceted, stemming from factors such as unattractive working conditions, insufficient salaries, and a lack of professional development opportunities. These challenges deter potential candidates from entering the profession and contribute to high attrition rates among existing educators. Using latent profile analysis on the different facets of the "Factors Influencing Teaching Choice" scale on a sample of 1126 candidates for admissions into Luxembourg's teacher training programme at the University of Luxembourg we attempt to identify the so called, "highly engaged persisters", "lower engaged desisters" and "classroom engaged careerists", each profile said to have a distinct likelihood of staying in the teaching profession. Using a combination of motivation and self-efficacy scales, along with important socio-demographic indicators we explore these constructs.

One key aspect of this strategy is the development of predictive models that can identify candidates with the potential for longevity in teaching careers. These models should consider not only academic qualifications and teaching skills but also personal attributes such as motivation, resilience, adaptability, and a passion for lifelong learning. By focusing on identifying and supporting individuals who are committed to teaching as a long-term profession, we can ensure a stable, qualified, and motivated teaching workforce, which is essential for the advancement of education in a rapidly changing world.

Adolescent Ambitions: Assessing the Aspirations-Expectations Gap in Romanian Youth

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Aspirations and expectations are crucial in linking a child's socio-economic and cultural background to their educational and social achievements. Current literature highlights a conceptual and theoretical discrepancy between aspirations and expectations, with empirical evidence suggesting a gap in teenagers' future projections. However, this literature often overlooks the differences in how these two characteristics are determined. Our research tackles this issue by examining contrasting expectations and aspirations regarding occupational status among Romanian teenagers. Utilizing a large dataset from a 2021 survey, we test the hypothesis of an expectations-aspirations gap. We employ multivariate models incorporating socio-economic controls and psycho-sociological predictors, aiming to elucidate the distinctions between how youth envision their future. Our findings indicate that the hypothesized gap between aspirations and expectations does not manifest regarding desired and expected occupational status. Nonetheless, our analysis of multivariate models for these two types of anticipations reveals peculiarities. These nuances offer insights into the socio-structural and psycho-attitudinal factors influencing them.

Post-16 Educational Pathways And Social Interactions. The Role Of Peers And Family Socio-Economic Status In Educational Strategies

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After around three decades of research on educational inequalities, there is little consensus on the key micro processes accounting for the association between socio-economic origins and educational choices. This project investigated the extent to which expected occupational and social returns (e.g. conformity with peers' choices) account for the effects of socio-economic background on two milestones of the English education systems – GCSE subject choice and the decision to continue to A-Level, which have significant implications for future social mobility and labour market prospects. Using educational records from the National Pupil Database with data from Next Steps (1989 birth cohort; the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England), we use a broader definition of rational choice than the one used so far and tested several decision-making mechanisms including the absolute expected returns in terms of socio-economic status, the returns relative to the parents' socio-economic status, how much individuals like school subjects and the effect of peers' choices. We use a peers of peers methodology to identify the effect of peers and mediation analysis to assess the extent to which socio-economic differentials in educational choices can be accounted for by those mechanisms. We found that individuals do not take into account financial costs, have little consideration for absolute returns, whilst a substantial part of the socio-economic differentials in educational choices can be accounted for by the avoidance of downward mobility and the conformity with peers.

RN11 Sociology of Emotions

RN11 | T01_01: Theorizing Emotions, Feelings, Affects

(From) Emotions (to) Experiences

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This communication aims to present and reflect upon a seminal idea from John Dewey's Art as Experience. We believe this idea could play an essential role in the future development of the sociology of emotions. The American pragmatist philosopher told us that "we are given to thinking of emotions as things as simple and compact as are the words by which we name them. Joy, sorrow, hope, fear, anger, curiosity are treated as if each in itself were a sort of entity that enters full made upon the scene". However, "in fact emotions are qualities, when they are significant, of a complex experience that moves and changes". For Dewey, neither emotions can be fully understood apart from human experience, nor can life experience be understood apart from emotions. Emotions are "the moving and cementing force" of any experience. They provide "unity in and through its varied parts". In short, experience as a sociological category offers us a unique framework for studying emotions. Likewise, the methodology of life experiences analysis can be particularly useful for studying human interactions and the role affectivity plays in them.

Emotional Capital, Professional Identity And Education

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Unstable times, such as war or pandemic, emphasize emotional aspects in the educational arena. Yet these aspects are always central in the schools' daily routine – especially given the dominance of the psychological discourse today, that permeates the educational field, and the importance of schools in creating and distributing emotional repertoires in society. However, there are significant gaps between the systems' formal emotional agenda, and the reality of emotional practices in this domain.

This talk will present a work in progress, as part of my doctoral research, which deals with such gaps in Israeli elementary schools from a 'bottom-up' perspective, focusing on educators' emotional patterns that construct this professional domain. Proceeding from a cultural approach, emotions are seen here as an acquired, transformative, identity-dependent practice, embedded in power relations. The key to understanding emotional patterns, thus lies not in their 'content' but rather in the socio-cultural dynamics which occurs by the actors operating in their concrete spaces of action.

I examine this dynamic by in-depth interviews with schools' main 'emotion actors' – psychologists, counselors and principals – through analysis of their professional identity discourse. My preliminary analysis points at (1) an affinity between emotional capital and professional identity, and (2) tensions and ambiguities of these actors' professional self-concepts, reflecting power struggles, by which the structure of the educational system as a professional field is contested. I show how this dynamics produce school's emotion-educational domain as loose and marginal, despite the declared recognition of its importance.

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt: The Emotive-Cognitive Evaluation of Intent and Credibility

Alessandra Minissale, Stina Bergman Blix

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Credibility and intent are the most recurrent legal categories in criminal cases across different legal systems, but the law does not offer a specific answer as to how their evaluation should be done in practice, especially in relation to the interpretation of emotional aspects associated with the facts at stake. Drawing on analysis of ethnographic data from trials and deliberations collected in Italian courts and prosecution offices, we discuss the emotive-cognitive dynamics at play in judges' and prosecutors' evaluation of credibility and intent, focusing on cases of murder, intimate partner violence, and rape. Using sociological concepts of epistemic emotions, emotional reflexivity, empathy, and legal encoding, we show that legal professionals use different practices to either avoid settling on feelings of certainty about witnesses' credibility and defendants' intent, or to overcome their feelings of doubts about said legal categories.

Emotionalising Reflexivity, Agency and Time

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Theorising on agency, reflexivity and time is well established in sociology. However, these fields have not systematically theorised emotions. We revisit classic and contemporary theoretical contributions on agency and time, among them thinking, imagining, and projecting the future. Previous works either draw on emotion (and affect) in a common-sensical manner or overlook the role of emotions. We argue that emotions are central to reflexivity and therefore to making sense of past experience, assessing the present, and projecting the self into the future. We give particular attention to types of reflexivity that draw on background emotions related to past experiences of self and agency. This sheds new light on the role of emotions in navigating the more "habitual" moment-to-moment

activities of the present. Reflexivity can thus range from an emotive-cognitive activity to a purely emotional activity. Understanding emotive-cognitive and emotional reflexivity requires a new appreciation of the relationships between feelings and agency hinted at by Dewey, Mead, Schutz and Archer. Drawing on, among others, Castoriadis, we also push towards a fuller examination of temporal emotional imaginaries in times of rapid social change as people try to forecast potentially dystopian futures. The emotional consequences are more complex than navigating fear of risk and can include excitement, hope and even future-projected nostalgia, with consequences for action in the present. Emotionalising reflexivity, agency and time is therefore an urgent task to understand contemporary constructions of collective futures.

RN11 | T01_02: Variations of Emotion Management

An Act of Balance: The Dual Emotion Management of Legal Professionals in Rape Trials Involving Young People

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This paper examines how Danish legal professionals manage conflicting and coinciding emotions in rape trials. Based on in-depth interviews with 40 legal professionals (prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and legal aids) and observations in 10 rape trials involving young people, I explore the balancing act that legal professionals perform in such sensitive trials. In recent years, sociological and ethnographic research has detailed how legal actors manage specific emotions such as empathy, loyalty and 'objectivity' as well as the lack of emotions in court, i.e. the 'dispassion' of law. Drawing on theories of emotion management and emotions in the judiciary, this paper identifies three sets of conflicting emotions that different legal actors manage in court: objectivity/protectiveness, loyalty/self-restraint and uneasiness/confidence. These findings illuminate how rape trials involving young people pose particular challenges to legal professionals who navigate and manage dual and even opposing emotions in court.

Between Retention and Rejection: Guilt Management in the Work-Family Conflict Among Long-Distance Commuter Fathers

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Guilt arising from the work-family conflict among working parents is considered a firm predictor of subsequent actions and adaptations in response to the conflict. Long-distance commuting fathers are much more likely to experience guilt due to their limited parental accessibility. The study investigates whether and how the therapeutic discourse serves upper middle-class, white-collar, long-distance commuting fathers in addressing and managing the guilt stemming from the work-family conflict.

Drawing on in-depth interviews with 31 Israeli long-distance commuting fathers, the study reveals that the fathers employ a therapeutic strategy to address their guilt, alternating between retention and the rejection of it. This strategy involves four distinct behavioral patterns: compensation, ambivalence, repression, and rejection. The cultural tools of the therapeutic discourse serve as a means to normalize or to push away feelings of guilt. In an era characterized by an increasing demand for active paternal involvement, this strategy allows long-distance commuting fathers

to focus on self-actualization, particularly through careers situated abroad, while concurrently fulfilling their parental responsibilities. Thus, I suggest considering guilt an inherent component of a comprehensive strategy for practicing involved fatherhood, particularly for prolonged periods of family separation resulting from career decisions.

Do Emotions Work Alone? Touching Rules and Emotional Labor in Service Work

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Emotions have proven a productive focus of analysis for studying the routinization of gender and race through service work. Arlie Hochschild (1979), who coined emotional labor, helped us to better understand how the commercialization of human feelings pillar the contemporary economy. Yet, scholarship on emotions at work only briefly gestures to the body, which is a key component in performing and consuming service. For example, Hochschild noted that flight attendants smile "in the service of changing inner feelings" (pg. 562). I address this gap by theorizing touching rules, which explains how touch is culturally informed and organizationally controlled to meet social standards of acceptable interactions—interactions that reinforce gender, racial, and class distinctions. By studying men and women working in a high-touch industry—the men's grooming industry—I show how touching rules are elicited, expressed, and managed both physically and emotionally to put clients at ease. I consider the interplay of touch and emotions to show that women in particular end up managing the emotions of clients who might otherwise feel emasculated receiving seemingly indulgent, pampering services. I discuss how this study has implications for understanding how women become responsible for reproducing men's bodies, identities, and larger social privileges. Touching rules explain more fully the commercialization of human capacities and relationships in a service market, and how inequalities are buoyed by a cultural economy.

Emotion Management by Proxy: HR Navigating Tensions Through Managers in Highly Emotive Events

Johanna Tanja Marianne Finnholm

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This article posits that the HR function performs emotion work to proactively manage stakeholder emotions and reactions, both collectively and through managers. Drawing on interviews and observations of HR meetings within the case organization, the paper explores how HR displays a range of skilled emotion management techniques to manage emotions of fear and trust, especially pertinent in highly emotive situations of transformation or change.

However, the article contends that the organization's unemotive cognitive regimes makes for this emotion work to be performed mainly undercover, as HR applies strategies to provide outlets for managers with display and feeling rules that allows for emotions of fear and uncertainty. It asserts that HR balances between control and consent of managers with the purpose to make managers perform in their enactment of emotion management against employees, arguing the tension is recently exacerbated by the devolvement of HRM.

Contributing to the field of emotion management research, this article provides novel descriptions of emotion management on a collective level within in organizational settings characterized by long-term relationships. Introducing the concept of "emotion management by proxy," the paper defines it as using emotion management techniques to prepare individuals for potential future events that may elicit emotional reactions.

Furthermore, the paper advocates that HR engages in this management of emotions not merely to achieve organizational goals efficiency or productivity, but also are driven by a genuine concern for employee wellbeing. Proactive emotion management emerges as a skillset honed through experiential learning and of collective sharing of experience. The conclusion emphasizes the necessity for additional research to enhance both theoretical understanding and practical applications in the field.

RN11 | T02_01: Emotions and Politics

Are Politically Polarizing Emotions Really Detrimental To Democracy? Analysis Of Six European Countries

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Increasing affective polarization has been observed in many Western countries, however, there are not that many studies on what impacts on this process on the individual level beyond partisanship and sociodemographic characteristics. First, it is little known on how specific emotions drive this conceptually strongly affective process. Also, although the strong belief prevails that affective polarization is detrimental to democracy, and we know that it is driven by support for populist and radical right-wing voting, there are no empirical evidence that these people are also not favoring democratic form of governance.

In this paper, using the data from six European countries (France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Italy and Poland), I will investigate what specific emotions – anger, contempt, anxiety, sadness, and hope – increase or mitigate political polarization and also whether and how these emotions are related to (anti-)democratic and (il)liberal values and attitudes. Results are surprising since polarization per se does not seem to be related to polarization, yet emotion like contempt does. I suggest that this means that political polarization is still an expression of democratic form of confrontation and is not detrimental to democracy but some polarizing emotions are.

Black Feminist Politics of Love: theoretical, political, and methodological implications

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Love has long played an important role in the history of feminist thinking, and particularly of Black Feminist Thought. Ferguson and Jonasdottir (2014) have recently charted the growing academic field of "love studies" that, since the 1990s, is increasingly being taken as a serious area of study on its own terms, rather than just in relation to connected concepts such as care or sexual desire. Within this novel field of study, love is being considered as an important ethical, social, and political force. Nevertheless, both the theoretical and political implications of love studies and the key contribution of Black Feminist theories to them have been considerably and consistently overlooked by mainstream academic scholarship.

Drawing on the work of some of the most relevant theorists of love studies (Ahmed, Berlant, Sedgwick, Braidotti, Hardt, Negri, Puar) and Black Feminist politics of love (Cooper, hooks, Lorde, Collins), this paper has four main goals: 1) relocating the roots of the so-called "affective turn" in the longstanding and still largely ignored contribution of Black Feminist Theories; 2) bridging and reconciling different conceptions and implications of love and love studies; 3) overcoming the limitations of identity-politics and intersectionality; 4) advancing and queering current debates on the theoretical, methodological, and political implications of Black Feminist politics of love.

Rediscovering the key role of Black Feminist politics of love and reinterpreting it in light of more recent developments on these matters provides fresh theoretical and methodological insights; but it also sets a new political agenda for positive transformation.

Emotions and Political Scandals: the Quatargate and Its Policy Responses in the European Parliament

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While there is an increasing interest in the role of emotions in political science, not much is known about how emotions unfold in one of the most emotional situations that can be encountered in politics: political scandals. To explore the link between emotions and political scandals, and more specifically, how emotions shape the policy responses to political scandals, this article delves into one of the most shocking corruption scandals in decades: the money-for-influence scandal, also known as Qatargate. The Qatargate scandal constitutes an ideal case for tracing emotions at individual, group as well as institutional levels. Drawing on constructivist emotion literature, the paper explores how the MEPs experienced the violation of the norms within the European Parliament (EP), and how these emotions shaped the EP's political responses, both in terms of transparency and accountability in EU institutions and in terms of Foreign interference in EU democracies. One of the main contributions of this article is that it combines the study of 28 EP plenary debates (from December 2022 to September 2023) with interviews to 4 MEPs and EU officials. This article not only shows that emotions were very prominent in the wake of this scandal, but also how they contributed to the shaping of its policy responses.

Linking Emotions and Political Attitudes in Discourse: A Computational Analysis of November 2015 Paris Attacks Memories

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The memory of violent events is a category of public action widely mobilized today with the aim of orienting citizens' attitudes and behavior. These memory policies (school programs, museums and memorials, commemorations) generally rely on the transmission of content with a strong emotional charge. Some studies (Bouchat et al., 2016) have shown that these devices can trigger the opposite effect to the one expected (e.g., strengthening pacifist attitudes). A sociological perspective could suggest that differentiated socializations, particularly in terms of affective habits, may also exert an influence on the link between emotion and political attitudes. I propose to study this link based on a corpus of nearly 1000 semi-structured interviews conducted as part of a research program on the memory of the November 13, 2015, attacks in Paris. I consider the research program not only as a scientific device but also as a memorial device, which questions and updates the memories and attitudes of volunteers about a past violent event. I measure the semantic emotionality of the narratives and discourses in the corpus using computational text analysis methods (word embeddings). Preliminary results show that the expressed emotionality is correlated (1) with socio-demographic characteristics such as gender and age, (2) with experience, but unexpectedly: emotionality does not necessarily decrease based on experiential distance from the event (participants living in Paris compared to survivors and witnesses). I then plan to explore the interactions between emotionality and the expression of political or moral considerations and lessons, and to examine whether affective habits modulate this relationship.

RN11 | T02_02: Emotions and Gender

Affective-Discursive Articulations of Anti-Gender Mobilizations in Turkey through the Translation of 'Alimony Victimhood' into Rage against Feminism

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This study delves into the transformation of ongoing social media campaigns that oppose the implementation of indefinite alimony between divorced couples, evolving into symbolic resources that contribute to the discursive articulations of anti-gender mobilizations in Turkey. Analyzing the social media posts from two campaign accounts since they were created in 2018 on X (formerly Twitter), this research is situated within the framework of discourse-theoretical analysis of media texts, primarily drawing from Laclau and Mouffe's theory. This approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding not only of symbolic but also affective-emotional dimensions of discourse. By that means, the study reveals that affective intensities and emotional narratives profoundly inform the discursive articulations constructing vivid images of "victimized man" and "threatened family". Indeed, through these images, "alimony victimhood" emerges as a floating signifier of "anti-gender" imaginaries effectively constructing antagonistic subject positions. This antagonism, on the one hand, images feminism as a constitutive other and fosters rage against and disdain for queer feminist sensibilities. Therefore, it allows for the aggression of anti-gender mobilizations towards feminists and LGBTI+ communities. On the other hand, antagonistic subject positions are established through chains of equivalences linking "alimony victims" with Islamist and/or nationalist right. In this light, this research elucidates how the ways that emotional narratives and affective intensities stick to "anti-gender" discourse ultimately inform and fortify populist right in Turkey.

Mobilising Through Indignation: The Case of Autonomous Chilean Feminist Organisations

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In the realm of social movement research, indignation and anger often serve as catalysts for political action. Within the context of Chilean feminism, indignation plays a crucial role in establishing autonomous spaces for activism, serving as a transformative moment rooted in the perception of marginalisation from formal political spheres. Drawing from

semi-structured interviews with 35 autonomous feminist organisations, I argue that the sense of exclusion and indignation towards the formal political system have encouraged the formation of affective communities. This, in turn, represents an initiative to propose an alternative approach to political participation, diverging from the traditional notion of formal partisan politics.

The creation of these affective bridges emerges as the primary driver of social resistance in an environment marked by weakened political parties and a pervasive distrust of political institutions. This has resulted in the adoption of an anti-elite discourse and an anti-institutional approach, casting suspicion upon the more moderate and institutionalized repertoire of actions. This study aims to explain how Chilean feminist organisations have cultivated a culture of resistance within localised territories, advocating for a political agenda centered around self-determination. In this expression of autonomy, the core theme remains the indignation towards formal politics.

Providing Care At The Ticket Office: The Case Of Station Agents In Dealing With Victims Of Sexual Violence On The Francilian Rail Network

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Gustave Eiffel – RATP, France

In March 2020, Ile-de-France operator RATP set up a special unit to deploy measures (communication campaigns, exploratory walks, etc.) to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence in transport, which affects 87% of women (FNAUT survey, 2016). Agents at each station have been trained to apply a protocol for dealing with passengers who are victims of sexual violence. As part of my PhD thesis, I spent three months immersed as an agent, in order to analyse this protocol from the point of view of the agents who apply it on the ground. One of the steps consists of sheltering the victim in the ticket office, which is normally inaccessible to passengers.

This spatial proximity is unusual and does not necessarily establish an empathetic and emotional relationship between the agent and the victim, which is essential in providing care (Obertelli, 2016). The addition of this task to the day-to-day duties of the staff member raises the question of how the operator can identify and anticipate the conditions for implementing care work, understood as listening, caring and empathy, but also as a professional practice (Tronto, 2009; Molinier, 2013).

Under what conditions can agents provide care to victims on the RATP network? How can the theories of care help us to understand the transformation of the service profession? I hypothesise that (1) caring for victims can be compromised when the specific dimensions of care work are not taken into account and (2) agents overstep the boundaries (physical and emotional) that are supposed to frame their professional practice (Joseph, 1988; 1995; Gervais, 2021).

"Trapped Between Fear and Anger? The Emergence and Disintegration of a Community of Rebellion During Women's Protests Against the Tightening of Abortion Laws in Poland"

Monika Frąckowiak-Sochańska, Marta Zawodna-Stephan

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland

The presentation aims to analyze the role of the collectively experienced emotions in forming, persisting, and disintegrating a community of rebellion.

On 22 October 2020, during the pandemic, the Polish Constitutional Tribunal ruled that abortion due to "a high probability of severe and irreversible impairment of the fetus or an incurable life-threatening disease" is inconsistent with the Constitution. This ruling led to mass street protests of hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating despite the pandemic restrictions. The ruling affects all women by interfering with the intimate sphere of their lives. Additionally, the worsening of perinatal care during the pandemic increased the atmosphere of fear.

During the demonstrations (between 27.12.2020 and 6.04. 2021), we carried out qualitative research – the IDIs on a sample of 25 women supporting the protests, representing diverse sociodemographic categories.

Based on the research, we:

• analyze the context of emotions experienced both individually and collectively;

• show how the loss of ontological security as a consequence of the sentence led to the emergence of anxiety and sadness in respondents;

• reconstruct how anxiety and sadness evolved into anger, mobilizing engagement in the protest;

• show how the energy of the demonstrations burnt out and resulted in disillusionment when the goal of the protests was not achieved.

• show that despite the bitterness of the situation, women neither during the demonstrations nor afterwards were 'trapped' in difficult emotions and produced strategies for restoring emotional stability and building a sense of freedom despite systemic constraints.

RN11 | T03_01: Politics and Emotions

"La vida es para disfrutarla"? Polish Expatriates in Spain in Pursuit of Pleasure

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According to symbolic interactionist perspective, emotions are meaningful objects to be interpreted, controlled, used, or managed by social actors, who are engaged in understanding themselves and managing others' impressions of them (Thoits,1989). Symbolic interactionist analyses possess a capacity to illuminate two essential dimensions. First, it explores how individual emotions, experienced at the micro level, can ascend to influence and potentially transform broader social structures, contributing to the dynamic interplay between personal emotional experiences and societal norms. Second, the perspective examines the "downward" trajectory, wherein cultural norms, social structures, and institutional frameworks exert a shaping influence on individual emotions. This aspect reveals how societal elements prefigure the emotional repertoire available to individuals, guiding how emotions are experienced, expressed, and understood within specific cultural contexts (Shott, 1979).

This presentation seeks to dissect the tensions that emerge between the micro and macro levels as Polish expatriates in Spain undertake emotion work to modify the socialised feeling and display rules concerning pleasure. Concentrating on Polish seasonal ("sunlust") expatriates in Spain, the study employs Hochschild's emotion work concept (1983) to investigate how participants navigate Polish cultural norms of pleasure and guilt through emotion work, in alignment with the ethos of new hedonism (Campbell, 1987). Through qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews with 23 participants aged 50-60, this research sheds light on the complexities of emotion work and the ambivalences experienced by the participants as they try to integrate into a different cultural setting while still being influenced by their Polish background.

Exploring Emotional Narratives of Citizenship in Depopulated Rural Environments in Spain

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This paper focuses on the development of a research project concerning the representations, experiences, and practices of citizenship in depopulated rural environments in Spain. Given the increasing integration of key demographic, economic, political, social, and cultural issues related to rural life into the sociological debate and public agenda, this research aims to explore the specificity of citizenship conditions in rural environments.

The pronounced aging of the rural population, the advancement of depopulation, the declining profitability of family economic activities in the primary sector, and limitations in the supply and access to public educational, health, gerontological, or cultural services highlight the growing inequality in access to citizenship rights for the inhabitants of these environments.

We propose to analyse and respond to the socioeconomic and sociopolitical challenges faced by these populations from the perspective of practices defining belonging and participation in society. Our focus is on a space traditionally positioned peripherally in citizenship, experiencing a clear disadvantage. To achieve this overarching goal, among the five specific milestones outlined in the project, this paper concentrates on defining the emotional landscape of citizenship in rural settings. We hypothesize that citizenship practices and experiences are influenced by emotional expressions functioning as markers of structural social positions.

Using a qualitative case study methodology, the project compares two inland Spain environments: one facing an extreme risk of depopulation and the other characterized by dynamic agroindustrial activity, albeit not immune to socio-demographic processes of depopulation and uncertainty about the future. Fieldwork is underway during spring 2024, and this paper will offer insights into the initial empirical results.

Fear of the Future. Effects of the Rise of Radical Right-wing Parties on Civil Society's Commitment to Diversity

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The rising poll ratings of radical right-wing parties are causing increasing concern among civil society actors in Germany. Around a third of the projects surveyed by the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) in the diversity shaping field of action of the federal programme 'Demokratie leben!' state that elections and a possible change of government pose challenges for their work. Civil society projects in regions with particularly high poll ratings for these parties are concerned about the extent to which their work against discrimination and racism will still be feasible after the upcoming elections. This concerns the funding of projects on the topic of promoting diversity – especially if there is a possibility that financial funding will be cut politically in the future. The question of the consequences of a possible participation of right-wing extremist parties in regional governments where the projects are located also concerns the actors– for example with regard to the future working atmosphere and possible increased threats.The intensification of right-wing-rhetoric from the conservative side in the run-up to elections – for example

caused by fear of losing voters – also makes project work more difficult. In general, it seems to the interviewees that it has become much more socially accepted to be racist. The paper focuses from an emotional-sociological perspective on the fears and sorrows of civil-society-actors in the diversity shaping field of action in Germany and asks which strategies actors develop for handling those emotions and being capable of acting.

Political Imaginations of Solidarity – The Role of Nostalgia and Hope

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Taking up the question of the CfP "How can bonding and solidarity be created in a deeply segregated society?" the paper will focus on the role of emotions for political imagination and political action.

Already Émile Durkheim (De la division du travail social. Études sur l'organisation des sociétés supérieures 1893) discussed the characteristics of solidarity in modern heterogeneous societies. Unlike in traditional societies, where solidarity is based on the similarity of individuals and a strong morality (mechanical solidarity), the source of solidarity in modern societies characterised by heterogeneity must be different. Taking up ideas of division of labour, Durkheim argued that mutual dependence of individuals forms the source of solidarity in modern societies (organic solidarity). However, according to Durkheim, a moral attitude is also necessary through which individualism itself is appreciated. Durkheim was not very specific about how this new morality can be developed. The paper will argue that political imagination is necessary in this respect in order to develop solidarity and corresponding moral attitudes in heterogenous societies. The paper will further argue that emotions and their management play an important role in this process of political imagination. Nostalgia and hope will be discussed as examples for the general capacity of emotions to bridge the past, present and future (Barbalet 1998) and also regarding their ability to support ideas of bonding and solidarity in heterogenous societies. In this way, a sociology of emotions perspective shall be added towards existing research on (political) imagination and creativity.

RN11 | T03_02: Emotion Work and Emotion Labour

Foster Care On The Market – Social Workers' Feeling Rules And Actions In Conflict.

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This presentation focuses the emotional dilemmas of social workers who recruit and assess foster parents, in a context increasingly defined by market dynamics. Following privatization paralleled with increasing need for childcare, private and public actors today compete to contract potential foster parents in welfare states like Sweden. For this paper, 43 interviews (with social workers and managers), 21 observation days (shadowing) and 24 investigation documents have been analyzed, theoretically informed by Arlie Hochschild's conceptualizations of feeling rules, and the culturally rooted non-permeable wall between the family and the market spheres. The analysis demonstrates four ways in which social workers today make sense of and relate to this family-market division: They uphold and reconstruct the feeling rules by 1. placing "good" foster parents exclusively one side of the wall 2. getting angry when perceiving foster parents to be guided by the market logic and 3. expressing frustration over the consequences of privatization for social work practice. As a contrast, social workers also 4. cross over and make visits to the market side of the wall as actors to get the job done. The conflicting emotions and actions demonstrated by the social workers can be understood as expressions of a context where the market has advanced its positions and actions have adjusted, but where the individual actors' emotions are not (yet) aligned. The results can contribute to understand the nuances of moral stress and ethical conflicts in human service organizations.

How Do Sex Workers Manage Their Emotions In Concrete Confrontation With Clients?

Antonia Sophie Sendlhofer

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"She can't have feelings". However, for all those involved in sex work, emotions play an important role alongside the physical aspect. Based on an extensive literature review, seven qualitative interviews with sex workers and three informal conversations with people who work with sex workers, this paper aims to explore both the emotions and the emotional work that sex workers do, as well as their use of emotional capital in their work. The sex workers who were interviewed work in a variety of different areas of sex work, so the sample includes escorts, a dominatrix and sex workers who work in a brothel. The introduction describes the situation of sex work in Austria and the theoretical

embedding of emotions in sex work. This is followed by an explanation of the methodological approach, including a reflection on the protocol as a method of documentation and the difficulties in accessing the field. The conclusion of this thesis is that sex workers need to develop emotion management skills to be able to work without being affected in a negative psychological way. Emotional work is used to draw a line between oneself and a client, as well as to engage with a client. For sex workers, who are confronted with different clients and their expectations on a daily basis, emotional and sexual capital are also useful in dealing with these different expectations. Both types of capital can be used by sex workers to present themselves in their role and to deal with clients. There is evidence that both emotional and sexual capital can multiply in the practice of sex work.

Smile, You're on Camera! Emotional Labor in (Post-)Pandemic Academia

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Expressing, managing, and regulating emotions has become a standard part of everyday work activities in academia. When the COVID-19 pandemic shifted these activities online, emotion management became a crucial part of establishing the "new normal" and new forms of engagement arose to sustain it. The present study aims to explore the extent of emotional labor present in higher education and the degree to which this phenomenon has been impacted by the strained social circumstances, crisis, and uncertainty induced by the pandemic. We follow a longitudinal research design, comparing two datasets on the emotional labor conducted by academic staff at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia. The first round of data collection was carried out in 2020, during the very first months of the pandemic, while the second round took place several years on, in a post-pandemic setting. Data was gathered using a structured questionnaire, and respondents included 210 employees at the University, ranging from teaching assistants to full professors. We find notable differences in the characteristics of emotional labor between datasets, primarily concerning deep acting and emotion suppression, as well as a marked gender difference in both. Our contribution provides insight into changing relationships within academia and highlights how the pandemic has transformed the academic emotional repertoire.

RN11 | T04_01: Political changes and emotional dynamics

Demands, Myths and Emotions in Populism: Contemporary European Politics

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This paper operates through a post-Laclauian perspective to analyse contemporary European populisms of the right. It recognises the superiority of Laclau's account of populism over other approaches, including Mudde's ideational one. Yet it finds the formalism or logic of populism that Laclau elaborates to jar with the right populisms that have proliferated in Europe over recent decades. Laclau insists that demands are 'the basic unit' of social analysis, and form into a chain of equivalence from which the 'empty signifier' of a populism emerges. This constructs a frontier antagonising the extant hegemonic formation, posing as a rival political project. In contrast to this bottom-up directionality, we propose myth and emotions as capturing the multi-directionality of contemporary European right populisms. These have deployed nationalistic and other foundational myths in order to reconfigure the political scene, appealing to a people conceived as ethnos and ontos. In this paper, we outline the literature on political myth and emotions to engage in a fruitful conversation with Laclau's account of the role of demands in populism, and then turn to depicting how such myths and emotions have been operationalised through the three comparative cases of Italy, Portugal and the UK.

Modernisation of Grieving in Soviet Lithuania: Emotions and Practices to Support the Illusion of Immortality

Nerija Putinaitė

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Philippe Ariès, in exploring the relationship with death across different epochs, pointed to the transformed attitude towards death in modernity: people began to empty the rituals of death of their dramatic impact. The presentation aims to reveal that the space once occupied by a dramatic response to radical life transformation is now filled with emotions and practices that neutralize the radicality of the transformation.

The presentation examines the shift in society's relationship with death under the conditions of the Soviet regime in traditionally Catholic Lithuania. Modernization of death in this context is understood as a transformation of

religious meanings associated with death into materialistic and also politically charged meanings. The modernization of death meanings under the Soviet regime was systematically carried out, employing various political and propaganda measures to combat religious funeral rituals and create secular funeral practices. This involved shaping material incentives for people to avoid religious burial practices. The main measures of secularization, affecting both public and private life, were implemented from the second half of the 1950s.

As a response to the materialization and secularization of death, two societal reactions emerged. Firstly, there was an intense sentimentalization of mourning, indicating a very strong and personally significant relationship with the deceased. Secondly, it manifested as a peculiar incorporation of the deceased into the realm of the living through various memory practices, and can be viewed as an extended grieving process. Both reactions created a societal-supported illusion of immortality.

The analysis is based on inscriptions found on funeral wreath ribbons and epitaphs on tombstones, collected during ethnographic expeditions in Lithuania from 1968 to 1989, as well as other materials.

Emotional Tension of Ukraine at the Beginning of the War as a Factor of Transformation

Marina Biryukova

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The explosive increase in the group of refugees after February 24, 2022 is due to the extensive theater of military operations. The beginning of the war unleashed an explosion of various emotions among Ukrainians, fundamentally changing their social portrait.

The conclusions were drawn on the basis of an international Internet survey conducted in the summer of 2022 (N=1170 people) and devoted to an analytical description of social characteristics and practices carried out by refugees of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The survey contained quantitative measurements and qualitative assessments of the social well-being of Ukrainians.

According to the results of the study, the respondents had a certain emotional dissonance at the beginning of the war. They were frightened both by the actual events of the war and by the reflection in the mass media and social networks. By the time of the survey, the respondents felt more balanced, but still a feeling of anxiety and uncertainty prevailed. According to the results of the study, women described their own emotions as less disturbing compared to men. That is, men were more vulnerable to the so-called acoustic aggression. Emotional stress influenced a person's decision to evacuate.

The conducted classification of the sample of respondents according to their emotional state at the beginning of the war made it possible to determine that less than half of Ukrainians emotionally "endured" and were ready for active social practices. The sample of respondents was characterized not only by the criterion of having migrated – not migrating, but also by the criterion of emotional stress and readiness for active social practices.

Visual Image Analysis and Emotional Expressions in the Era of Deep Mediatization

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High-speed, low-latency 5G technology will bring about a shift in which everything is a terminal and a medium. Society has entered what A. Hepp defines as "deep media" and the concept of metaverse has been born. The relationship between people and images is not only one of "visual vision", but of "connective action and emotions", of fusion of the virtual and real worlds. The influence of the semiotic theory of Roland Barthes and Umberto Eco and the philosophical theory of Foucault on qualitative research methods is significant. The experience of digital immersion has changed the mode and form of our being in the world, and the analysis and perception of visual images has diversified. In this new metaverse scenario, can visual image analysis be used as a qualitative research method, and how can it be used, combined with media studies, to build a new analytical framework? This paper will discuss the relationship between visual image analysis and qualitative methodological research in the age of deep mediatization, in dialogue with Hans Belting's theory of "theoretical worlds through images," and reformulate the idea of "imageability" (Boehm, 1978). It is divided into the following parts: 1) space and time: visual images as a medium for qualitative research; 2) the virtual and the real: a new framework for the analysis of visual images and the emotional expression of "multiple selves"; 3) the interpretative dimension of images and iconography in the metaverse.

RN11 | T04_02: Emotional and affective communities

Affective Communities: Perspectives into Coexistence in Urban Neighbourhoods

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In the context of rapid demographic, social, and political change, the question of how we live together and 'what is between us' have become burning questions across Europe. Peaceful coexistence is challenged by increased inequalities and polarisation that contribute to the development of affectively tensioned sociopolitical atmosphere. Nonetheless, instead of claiming that diversification would lead to the unravelling of social fabric, we propose that it paves the way for thinking of coexistence in terms of affective communities. Based on ethnographic interviews with diverse people in four cities in Finland and Sweden, we will explore how people form affective communities in socio-economically mixed urban neighbourhoods. Such neighbourhoods have mostly been discussed through stigma, meaning that there is a lack of empirical knowledge on 'what is going on' in these areas affectively. This knowledge is needed as affects play a crucial role in understanding how people organise their social relations in the everyday. Building on Sara Ahmed's thinking on affects, we examine how affects move people both towards and away from each other. This paper presents an empirically grounded and nuanced analysis of how, in segregating urban neighbourhoods, affects construct people's relation to each other as well as to their daily environments and the broader society. We will illustrate how communities and connections are affectively articulated and bring updated knowledge on the affective state of these neighbourhoods. Ultimately, this paper opens a new line of inquiry into the question of what-is-between-us in the city.

Collective Emotions, Rural Resistance and Green-Green Conflicts

Åsa Wettergren, Karl Malmqvist, Carl Cassegård

University of Gothenburg

The aim is to present the outline of a new project (financed by the Swedish Research Council, 2024-2027) investigating green-green conflicts in regional areas. In focus is how people with differing nature interests collectively articulate emotive-cognitive responses drawing on place and time. We define green-green conflicts to include all conflicts in which environmental values are pitted against each other. Often such conflicts emerge in rural areas pulling together locals with differing ideological views. We see green-green conflicts as cases both of clashing environmental nature interests and as cases of global/urban and local/rural values and priorities. Conducting qualitative case studies of place-specific rural conflicts, where competing nature interests are being articulated and corresponding groups are formed, we investigate 1. Conflict lines and group boundaries around nature interests; 2. Collectively shared emotions and perceptions of local past, present, and future; 3. Narration of the global threat of climate change in relation to local present and future. Theoretically we draw on structural theories of emotion, social movements and emotions, and emotions' enactment of past and imagined future as crucial for present emotive-cognitive action choices. Highlighting the impacts of environmental and climate initiatives on rural areas, and the diversity of people and protest motives in these, the results promise to advance understanding of rural resistance and urban-rural polarization. The findings will contribute to research fields on green-green rural conflicts, climate change and temporality, and to collective emotions and climate change.

Longing For Love: Tension Between Disillusion and Hope among Young Danish Adults

Malthe Sebastian Rye Thomsen

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In Denmark, online dating has doubled in the past decade, reaching nearly 500,000 users in a population of 6 million. As a result, it has become a central aspect of young adults' romantic lives, with 18–30-year-olds being the primary focus of my PhD project, which is based on one year of fieldwork.

Studies on online dating highlight that users often reflect on partner preferences and scrutinize physical imperfections, contributing to a 'rejection mindset' where users casually delete and 'ghost' each other (Konings et al., 2023; Pronk & Denissen, 2020). Drawing inspiration from Zygmunt Bauman's critical theory on liquid love, many studies emphasize the transformation and consequences of marketization, the normalization of untrustworthiness, and disillusionment in dating life (Bandinelli & Gandini, 2022; Bauman, 2003; Davidson et al., 2020; Hobbs et al., 2017; Illouz, 2012, 2019; Portolan & McAlister, 2021).

While statistical and shorter qualitative approaches are valuable for examining structural factors, there is a need for a detailed, long-term study. My project contributes a phenomenological analysis of the emotions that dating experiences create and the emotion work that the present dating culture demands. Initial data supports insights on mistrust, cynicism, and disillusionment. However, I have also identified newfound hope in the search for a partner due to the development of new apps.

Thus, my preliminary findings add nuance to prevailing sociological theories on dating culture and have the potential to broaden the understanding of the emotions involved in this phenomenon.

Exploring the Emotional Landscape of Guilt, Shame, Pride, Resentment, and Despair in the Management of the 'Energy Poor' Stigma: Lessons from Public Policy Evaluation in Two Low-Income Vulnerable Neighborhoods in the Southern Periphery of Madrid

José Juan Osés Bermejo

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Public policies addressing both the underlying causes of energy poverty and the mitigation of its consequences have become increasingly prevalent in Europe over the past decade. These policies typically seek to democratize technological and architectural solutions for enhancing energy efficiency, along with providing cost-saving alternatives for domestic energy consumption. Consequently, they implore relevant sociopolitical actors to ensure accessibility of these solutions to vulnerable social groups enduring the most severe impacts of climate change, residential segregation dynamics, substandard housing conditions, and ultimately, poverty and/or social exclusion. Despite the frequent utilization of qualitative methods in evaluating energy poverty policies and programs, studies that aim to assess their outcomes often neglect the emotional dynamics that sustain the management of the "energy poor" stigma among the beneficiaries of specific interventions. Drawing upon evidence from a recent qualitative study that evaluates the outcomes of an energy poverty program implemented in two low-income neighborhoods of a peripheral municipality in southern Madrid, this contribution aims to elucidate the development of management modalities for the "energy poor" stigma. It emphasizes both the social-objective and subjective dimensions underlying the formation and development of these modalities. Emotions such as guilt, shame, pride, resentment, and despair prominently emerge in this context.

RN11 | T04_03: Collective emotions

Emotions: A Motivation for Action and a Sustaining Force for Citizens' Informal Activities in Times of Crisis

Magdalena Šťovíčková Jantulová

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Over the past few years, we have repeatedly faced the challenge of mobilizing resources and coordinating responses to the needs arising from social crises. Experience has shown that some of the key actors capable of responding quickly to emerging humanitarian crises are informal volunteers who offer their time and skills outside the framework of existing organizations, for the benefit of others, often unknown to them and free of charge. In presentation, I will explore the importance of emotions and show that they can play a crucial role in mobilizing and sustaining informal volunteering in crisis situations that without them these activities could not exist. The presentation focuses on informal volunteering during the Covid 19 and the refugee wave associated with the war in Ukraine in the Czech Republic. The data for this presentation consists of twenty case studies of informal volunteering. In my presentation, I address three themes: First, I discuss the importance of emotions as a motivating factor for volunteers who take on duties usually performed by governmental or NPO during crises. Specifically, I will focus on volunteers' empathy, their anger towards the state for not fulfilling its role and their fear of the crisis itself. Second, I examine how empathy, as well as anger or fear, leads to sustained voluntary activity as volunteers made sense of their emotions through their actions. Finally, I show how informal volunteering also created a new space for sociability and community due to the strong emotional and relational bonds that volunteers form with those they helped.

Localizing the Uprisings: Affective Politics of Solidarity and Contention among Turkey's Post-Gezi Local Urban Alliances

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Following the violent evacuation of the occupations during the summer of 2013, Turkey has witnessed a proliferation of self-organized local networks of political activism. While these networks have functioned as spheres of solidarity and togetherness mobilizing a new political language, they have also developed alternative strategies for reclaiming democracy in times of Turkey's authoritarian transformation. This paper delves into the aftermath of Turkey's Gezi uprisings, spanning two years, focusing on these

post-occupy local urban alliances that eventually became the main actors of urban resistance and political opposition. Unpacking the components of affective atmospheres that are reproduced through these collective experiences, it addresses how acting and feeling in alliances enrich or limit the alternative political imaginations in the pursuit of democracy. Its methodology is situated on nine months of ethnographic fieldwork in two cities, Istanbul, and a central Anatolian town, Eskişehir, in 2016 and 2017. Building on the analysis of in-depth interviews and informal conversations with the members of these local alliances and participant observation during their regular meetings and public events, the paper first revisits the post-Gezi political climate's promising potential to broaden the oppositional political field and discusses if and how collective emotions mobilized through these alliances—enthusiasm, belonging, pleasure, trust, care, solidarity, hope, and so on—contributed to envisage a new understanding of democratization from below. Then, it scrutinizes how this potential was soon replaced by the reproduction of conventional ways of doing politics shaped around parliamentary ambitions. Lastly, it discusses the possibility of establishing alternative modes of political relations going beyond temporary alliances at either local or national levels.

Navigating Affective Polarisation: Populism, Emotions and Political Tensions in Small-Town Poland

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University of Manchester, United Kingdom

This paper brings into focus the central role of emotions in political polarisation amid heightened political tension in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Poland in October 2023. Based on 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork in a small town in north-central Poland, I look at the affective dimensions of populist mobilisation and everyday politics in the eighth year of the rule of illiberal right-wing Law and Justice (PiS). PiS's rise to power has been seen as emblematic of a crisis of the hegemonic ideal of European liberal democracy that emerged during Poland's post-1989 'transition' period. The two terms of PiS rule have been dominated by controversy and protests over the rule of law, disregard for liberal democratic principles and repeated clashes with the EU. On the one hand, there is mounting concern over deepening political divisions resulting in an atmosphere of tension and distrust, as well as an erosion of civic community. On the other, there is recognition that the attendant emotions, such as fear and anger, have led to an unprecedented degree of political mobilisation.

Through interviews, participant observation and analysis of mediascapes, the paper looks at the emotions involved in grounded negotiations of polarisation amongst a small-town community and local political actors. Moreover, I examine the role of dialogue in efforts to reduce affective polarisation. I also reflect on the emotional labour of the researcher during ethnographic encounters involved in politically engaged research and the epistemological consequences of the affective space in which an interaction is situated.

Ayatollah Sistani's Emotional Entrepreneurism During the Jihad Against ISIS 2014-2017

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In 2014, Grand Ayatollah Sistani announced a call to jihad against ISIS. In response, hundreds of thousands of his followers and other Shia volunteered with the Iraqi Security Forces, or non-state militias, to partake in the fight against the terrorist group. The jihad fatwa (edict) unleashed very powerful emotions such as anger, fear, pride, hope, and joy to motivate his followers to answer his call to action. However, without the continuous re-invocation of these emotions over the three-year period of the gruesomely fear-invoking war, their empowering effects would have certainly lessened or disappeared. In recognition of this potentiality, Sistani created a system of emotional sustainment to maintain the mujahideen's (fighters) morale during the war.

By conducting and analysing 40 semi-structured interviews with Sistani followers, seminary students and personalities during 2022 in Iraq, this paper seeks to sketch out how this system of motivation was manifested. Doing so means not only highlighting the specific empowering emotions Sistani and his networks stimulated, but also, how they did so through discourse and action, such as Sistani's one-on-one interactions with his mujahideen (fighters), sending motivational preachers to the frontlines of war to deploy encouragement mechanisms, and the emotional effect of logistics support provision. This work also aims to provide greater nuance to the understanding of emotions by underscoring how there exists a variety of different types of emotions from within the same emotive category (e.g. the 'hope' of inevitable victory is not the same, ontologically and functionally, as the 'hope' of martyrdom). The paper will do this by shedding light upon the dispiriting emotions each empowering emotion specifically counteracts in the quest to motivate Sistani's mujahideen.

RN11 | T05_01: Family, Gender and Emotions

"The Emotionally Regulated Child as Ideal Neoliberal Welfare State Subject"

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In this article, we use theory from sociologists Eva Illouz, Edgar Cabanas and Arlie Hochschild to shed light on how the emotionally regulated child has become an ideal in the modern, shifting, neoliberal welfare society. These theorists enable us to see how an emotionally regulated human being is an ideal subject in a market-driven society, where flexibility and adaptability are valuable qualities that make one successful. The regulated individual will seek internal solutions to structural challenges, also in challenging times, and is thus an well-functioning member of society. The well-regulated subject rarely protests or leaches her frustration outward. In this article, we show through empirical examples how welfare state interventions in Norway seek to support the development of emotionally regulated children. We refer to our own studies of trauma-informed care, ICDP (course in parental guidance) and lifeskills trainings in kindergarten to show that the emotionally regulated child has become an ideal for social programs and interventions in Early childhood Education and Care institutions. Read in the light of Illouz Cabanas and Hochschild, we can understand how the effort to create ideal neoliberal welfare subjects who seeks internal psychological solutions to her troubles, starts already in early childhood institutions.

"What if Carolina could Communicate her Emotions?" Girls Already Mothers

Dina De Carvalho

Instituto politécnico de viana do castelo, Portugal

In this study, we were concerned with analyzing the life narratives of adolescent girls-mothers and fathers, based on their stories, their voices, and the terms in which they narrate their experiences. We wanted to explore themes that are not usually addressed in studies on teenage pregnancy, and that require attention to the actors' voice and listening to it. It should be noted that we were based on an approach inspired by grounded theory. We will say that pregnancy presents itself as a stage of discovery for girl-mothers. There are sorrows, doubts, uncertainties that will progressively cease to exist in order to be able to build their own pregnancy. Temporarily, we are facing a phase outlined with the appearance of changes, whether physical or psychological, which will lead to moments in the lives of these peculiar adolescents, which will gradually allow teaching the young woman to be a mother or, alternatively, the rejection of pregnancy and motherhood. In the first case, which corresponds to most of the situations that were studied, the maternity project would end up being assumed, albeit through different trajectories.

Opening the Toilet's Door: Gendered Politics of Emotion Towards Excretions and Lavatories

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This article analyzes the gendered politics of emotions of young Israeli women and men regarding toilet use and excretion. Highlighting the impact of gender, we avoided addressing intersectional dimensions, interviewing twenty white middle-class heterosexual Jewish Israelis about their toilet habits. We noticed three recurring themes: 1) All informants addressed the need for a certain level of lavatories' cleanliness, expressing feelings of disgust towards excretions and filthy toilets; 2) they claimed the importance of privacy and anonymity, describing the feeling of embarrassment whenever they feared being identified by others and 3) they infer indirectly to feelings of shame when diverting accepted social norms of toilet use. Although most informants shared these concerns, clear gender differences were also evident. Men and women differed in what they consider as socially and politically tolerable and legitimate levels of filth, social exposure, and defiance of social rules regarding urination, defecation, and toilet use. Moreover, despite general acceptance and compliance with the deep-rooted social norms and emotions, most of the informants, principally the women, conveyed a more intricate position. Identifying toilet habits as a mechanism of control intended primarily to subjugate women, they contested their own compliance by reflecting at times on their oppression. This paper attempts to offer directions toward greater equality between women and men, behind and beyond the toilet's door.

Who Cares? Relationship Between Gender, Emotional Support And Positive Emotions In Space Analog Missions

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We explore the relationship between gender, instrumental status, and emotional support in a space analog environment. Overwhelming emotional labor can potentially lead

to deteriorated emotional health and that is an important issue for long duration space missions (Alfano et al. 2018). Research shows that in mixed gender teams in space analog environments women are more interpersonal, caring, other-oriented than men (Bishop 2004). It suggests gendered emotional labor distribution in space analog environments but there is a lack of studies that specifically investigate this. It is important because overwhelming emotional labor in some cases can lead to deteriorated emotional well being (Erickson 2001).

Data come from 8 two-week long analog missions (n=43) that occurred in 2022-2023 in LunAres, an analog research base in Poland. We use self-administered questionnaires and regression models and our results indicate that women are seen as providing more emotional support, and while providing emotional support is overall positively linked with positive emotions, for women this relationship is negative. We discuss implications of these results for space missions.

RN11 | T05_02: Emotions in Digital Life

Constituting Affective Treatment: Affect, the Digital, And Sensuous Scenes

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The advent of digital technologies and media has profoundly changed the practices of (health)care and treatment. Doing physiotherapy at home while watching an instructor on health Apps, scrolling through aesthetically appealing, high-resolution close-ups of cuisine on social media, or listening to ambient sounds – all examples can be understood as practices geared towards inducing specific affective reactions, typically those increasing positive affect and overall well-being. Our paper proposes the concept of affective treatment to better understand those non-clinical, digital practices that aim for specific affective outcomes such as alleviating discomfort or lifting one's spirits. Although most forms of treatment and care boast an affective component, our concept focuses specifically on those practices to which affect is central. Drawing on digital ethnographic fieldwork, dramaturgical analysis, and the concept of affective arrangements, we suggest an understanding of the digital practices of affective treatment through sensuous scenes. Sensuous scenes are socio-material settings where and when digital practices occur, sensorially arranging interactions between digital users, digital technologies, and situated surroundings (e.g. a sofa, a picture) for affective treatment. Our analysis reveals three prototypical sensuous scenes that constitute affective treatment: First, the affective potentiality of certain sensuous scenes is closely intertwined with popular knowledge of health and well-being, and this knowledge is enacted in practices of affective treatment. Second, the affective relationality of digital content and situated engagement conjures imageries of past experiences and imaginaries of future life or other people that move individuals to care and feel cared for. Third, certain sensuous scenes are mostly void of linguistic meaning and semantics, gain their affective traction, and "heal" individuals almost exclusively through senses.

Digital Emotions, Social Sciences and Trust 4.0

Adrian Scribano

CONICET National Council for Scientific and Technical Research, Argentine Republic

Today it is common to read or hear about the revolution or society 4.0 (5.0,6.0) The virtual/mobile/digital revolution implies modifications in the management of work, social relations and obviously new politics of sensibilities are being developed. One of the most important aspects of the

advent of companies 4.0 is the rapid development of social media and the enormous growth of marketing and business value. Interactions between the face-to-face social world, the virtual world, and the "mobile" world of cell phones and tablets have grown exponentially.

In the above context, this presentation aims to answer, in a summary way, the following question: What are the connections between emotions, social sciences and trust in today's virtual/mobile/digital world?

To answer the question, the following argumentative strategy was constructed: a) the connections between emotions and the digital revolution are theoretically characterized, b) a look at the central place of the social sciences to develop trust in the digital world is synthesized, and c) some questions are formulated as challenges/agenda for the sociology of emotions in the drawn horizon.

It concludes by drawing attention to the importance of the sociology of emotions as a critical instrument for understanding our "new" ways of trusting science

Emotional Escalation On Social Media During Times Of Political Polarization

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This study examines the role emotions play in reflecting and amplifying sociopolitical turmoil and polarization on social media. Israel 2017-2023 illustrates an intriguing case study, where social media echoed the emotional upheaval of a period of intense instability marked by five consecutive elections. This period has seen a criminal investigation launched against the Prime Minister, a global pandemic, and a protest sparked by an attempt at judicial reform.

My analysis uses a keyword-based dataset of over 10 million Hebrew tweets. Each tweet contains at least one emotive (i.e., emotional expression) associated with a negative reaction to social reality (for example, shame, painful, disgusting, etc). To evaluate how emotives circulate and expand on the social platform over time, I compared tweets from popular users (such as journalists, politicians, etc.) with those from average users. The analysis examines both frequency and engagement patterns as well as narrative performances in selected tweets.

According to preliminary findings, negative emotives have shifted from being dominated by popular users to being expressed more frequently and with higher engagement rates by regular users. It has been gradually occurring since 2019, with heated emotives becoming more actively used by users, mobilized in a manner that fuels contested events with polarizing affects and narratives. These findings suggest that the X (formerly Twitter) sphere in Hebrew is becoming more emotionally charged in a negative way, thereby reflecting and exacerbating political polarization.

Feeling Meritocracy? The Role of Affects in the Transmission of Meritocratic Beliefs on Social Media

Chiara Osorio Krauter

Humboldt University of Berlin

Recent studies show that the media is crucial for the transmission of meritocratic values (Carbone and Mijs, 2022). With the emergence of digital platforms, social media and online spaces they contribute significantly in this regard (Taylor and O'Brien, 2017; Paul 2018). Hashtags such as #studywithme and #studylife reveal millions of videos on TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube aligned with meritocracy's core idea. This suggests that social media plays a role in promoting meritocracy, raising the question of the transmission of these beliefs. However, an analysis of how meritocratic beliefs are transmitted through social media is lacking. I argue that emotions and affects play a pivotal role in the transmission of meritocratic beliefs in social media.

To explore this, I use a case study approach to examine videos and comment sections of two top study content creators, @Marve and @Abao, on YouTube. Comments serve as linguistic material for tracing online affective processes (Massumi 2002).

The analysis reveals the transmission of meritocratic values through interactional rituals, highlighting unique aspects of #studywithme videos. Despite the absence of physical co-presence, these videos establish a shared focus on the productive and disciplined body through meticulous camera work. They create a shared mood and bodily experience, fostering collective engagement and motivation among viewers. The aestheticization of hard work and the comforting atmosphere play a central role in meritocratic value transmission through affect. Furthermore, while online spaces may appear free of barriers to outsiders, I argue that lifestyle representations in studytube videos inadvertently construct barriers. This leads to a 'meritocratic feeling' that cultivates its values. These findings stress the importance of studying emotions and affects as integral components of social order.

RN11 | T05_03: Migration, Place Making and Emotions

Emotional Dimensions of High-Skilled Migration

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Emotions play a crucial role in shaping our daily lives and influencing the decisions we make. This emotional dimension is particularly evident in the process of migration, which inherently involves a diverse range of experiences, each accompanied by a spectrum of emotions. Whether driven by voluntary or forced motivations, individuals embarking on a migration journey undergo a range of emotions such as hope, anger, anxiety, happiness, loneliness, and nostalgia. This emotional element becomes especially significant in the context of transnational family dynamics, interactions with host societies, relationships within communities of origin, and connections with left-behind kin.

This study contributes to the existing literature by focusing on the emotional dimension of high-skilled migration and how the experiences of transnational high-skilled migrants are shaped by emotions. The purpose of the study is to understand the emotional motivations behind migration decisions, emotional ties with the country of origin, emotional dynamics—conflicts and negotiations—in migrant families and relationships, and emotional coping strategies employed. In this qualitative study, the data will be collected through semi-structured online in-depth interviews with highly skilled immigrants who have migrated to the United States from Turkiye, identified through snowball sampling. To enhance the depth of our findings, we will also gather audio diaries from participants at a later stage, following online interviews. This additional method aims to capture and delve into the participants' daily life emotional experiences, thereby enriching the overall dataset.

Survivor's Guilt? Emotional Dimension of Ukrainian Refugees' Sense of Belonging in Host Countries

Valeria Lazarenko

Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

As the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine approaches, host countries are reassessing their approach to refugee reception, moving from humanitarian protection to integration of those who have chosen to stay. Meanwhile, millions of refugees remain in a liminal position, living under 'temporary protection' in safe countries. As a consequence, such liminality leads to a transformation of refugees' sense of belonging, fuelled by of guilt, defined as both a self-conscious emotion and 'an unpleasant feeling accompanied by a belief that one should have thought, felt or acted differently' (Kubany and Watson, 2003).

Drawing on ongoing longitudinal case study ethnographic research into the personal experiences of Ukrainian refugee women in Berlin, the paper will focus on their feelings of guilt and it's relationship to feelings of (non)belonging. The data, collected repeatedly in late 2022 and late 2023, show that the experienced guilt is a complex multifaceted feeling, referring not only to the personal fact of survival, but also to feelings towards Ukrainian society (for staying safe, living a peaceful life, being detached from Ukrainian society and 'not doing enough to support the country'), and towards the society of the host country (for remaining 'a guest' and being a passive recipient of social benefits). The paper will explore this shared emotion and also highlight volunteering and civic activism as coping strategies used by Ukrainian refugees to overcome feelings of guilt and non-belonging to either Ukrainian or German society.

Learning From Affect. How Relationality And Emotions Matter In Place(making)

Naomi Rommens, Seline Westerhof, Beitske Boonstra

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, The

Conflicts between citizens and governments are a recurring phenomenon in spatial development (Visser et al., 2019). When such 'participatory' conflicts arise, a common response of governments is to reiterate the rationality behind development plans. The laws, borders and limitations of the projects are once more explained. This is problematic, we argue, as this response does not acknowledge affective dimensions that come into play in the multitude of ways people relate to places or environments. The emotions, connected to memories, experiences, hopes, i.e., all that encompasses 'sense-of-place', are hardly recognized in bureaucratic reasoning wherein 'participation' is practiced. Consequently, citizens feel disengaged and frustrated with the processes and its stakeholders.

This paper argues that these affective aspects must become better recognised in participatory processes, enhancing people's attachment to a place, their informal relationships, and subsequently, their willingness to engage. This greater awareness of the interrelations between the human(s) and non-human (Latour, 2017) is substantial. Participation in spatial development is, after all, a people-place-relational endeavour.

In this study, we learn from inspiring practices of affect in placemaking, that centres community-driven transformations of spaces into meaningful places (Rommens et al., 2022). We take an inductive and qualitative approach on placemaking initiatives with different phases and governance approaches (top-down, market-driven, bottom-up) in three Dutch municipalities. By conducting interviews, photovoice, participatory mapping and document analysis, we learn how placemaking gives shape and space to affectivity, lessons that can add to the broader spatial participatory literature and practice.

RN11 | T06_01: Love, Trust, Wisdom, Loneliness

Memories of love. Exploring the Three Roles of (Emotion) Memories in Love Relationships

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This presentation delves into the multifaceted roles that emotion memories play within the context of love relationships. This research examines three distinct roles that memories might play in love relationships, shaping their dynamics and outcomes.

The first role explores how emotion memories serve as reinforcements of love, acting as nourishment for the present and providing a deeper, more profound meaning to the relationship. By analyzing the positive emotional imprints (Ahmed 2000) from shared experiences, we can better understand how these memories contribute to the ongoing narrative of love. Conversely, the second role investigates the potential hindrance that emotion memories can pose. Emotion memories encapsulate moments that are left behind, carrying the weight of past conflicts, challenges, or disappointments. Unresolved emotions from these memories may act as stumbling blocks, impacting the present dynamics of the relationship. Understanding and addressing these hindrances are crucial for fostering healthy and resilient love connections.

The third role delves into the aspect of emotion memories as expectations within a relationship. Memories may shape the anticipation of what a relationship should be or what it will become. By viewing memories as integral parts of the love story—akin to a myth—we can unravel the narratives that influence partners' expectations and perceptions of their relationship's trajectory.

In conclusion, this presentation argues that a comprehensive analysis of emotion memories is essential for understanding love relationships. By viewing memories and emotion memories as integral components of a broader narrative encompassing love as a story, a myth, and a reality, we can gain insights into the complex interplay between past experiences and present dynamics in romantic partnerships.

Wisdom and Emotions: A Process-Relational View from the Sociology of Emotions

Jonathan G. Heaney

Queen's University Belfast

The study of wisdom has been growing exponentially over recent years. No longer seen in exclusively philosophical or theological terms, there is now a wide-ranging, international, and multidisciplinary 'science of wisdom' emerging. The dominant approaches to wisdom currently seem to come from cognitive science, psychology, neuroscience, education, organization and leadership studies, and gerontology. Increasingly, there seems to be a shift towards the operationalization and measurement of wisdom where psychometric approaches, coupled with cognitive-psychological conceptualizations of wisdom and its elements (including emotion), are to the fore. However, it is puzzling that, given this growth, and the widespread, albeit often passing, acknowledgment of the importance of 'social' considerations within this literature, that the sociology of wisdom remains almost entirely absent from this emerging field (Grossman etal, 2020). The exception is the work of Ricca Edmondson (2005, 2013; Edmondson & Wörner, 2019). Moreover, while the importance of emotion to the practice of wisdom is also widely acknowledged (e.g. Ardelt & Ferrari, 2014; Kunzmann & Glück, 2019), from a sociological perspective, this treatment is often problematic. For instance, in most models where it is included as a dimension or component of wisdom, emotional life is reduced to 'emotional regulation', 'emotional intelligence' or 'emotional homeostasis' (recalling older, recently fashionable Stoic ideas about emotion), or core emotions associated with wisdom, such as empathy, sympathy, and compassion, are often conflated, confused, or remain vague. In this paper, building on the sociocultural approach advocated by Edmondson, and arguing from specifically (emotions) sociological perspective that draws on relational sociology, I aim to theoretically explore the practice of (practical) wisdom in terms of the 'wise habitus', the 'wise situation', and cultural, emotional, and symbolic capital.

A Study on the Relationship Between Perceived Social Class, Social Trust, and Happiness Inequality in Türkiye

Hilal Arslan

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The empirical findings from national and international comparative studies indicate a positive correlation between high levels of social trust and subjective well-being. In societies where trust in others and institutions prevails, individuals often report greater life satisfaction and happiness. Conversely, a lack of social trust is frequently associated with lower subjective well-being, reflecting feelings of insecurity and diminished overall life contentment. These factors, in turn, impact the distribution of well-being across different socio-economic and socio-demographic groups. However, the role of perceived social class status is crucial in explaining this relationship, as individuals' beliefs about their socio-economic standing can influence the impact of trust on well-being. This study aims to examine the relationship between perceived mobility, social trust, and the distribution of happiness among socio-demographic groups rich in individual resources and those poor in resources in Türkiye, a country characterized by a neoliberal authoritarian system. Utilizing quantitative secondary data analysis

with the most current microdata sets of TURKSTAT Life Satisfaction Survey and the World Values Survey, comparative descriptive analyses and multivariate statistical models reveal a negative effect of social trust on happiness inequality in resource-rich socio-demographic groups with characteristics such as high educational attainment, subjective upper and upper-middle class positions, regular employment with social security, and a high level of satisfaction with the household's financial situation. Moreover, this effect varies due to the mediating and moderating roles of perceived social class.

The Perils of Loneliness: Exploring the Dilemmas and Possibilities for Affective Politics

Cihan Erdal

Carleton University, Canada

This study examines young activists' affective, relational, gendered, and temporal experiences of acting and thinking with others exposed to various forms of social suffering, unveiling the constraints within the struggles for appearance. Through the development of a hermeneutic investigation that integrates the phenomenological perspectives of Paul Ricoeur, Hannah Arendt, Achille Mbembe, and Sara Ahmed, the paper poses the question: How do the reflexive processes and affective engagement of young people with those suffering from rightlessness influence the potency of activist youth agency in confronting social and epistemic inequalities within a neoliberal context? The paper posits that the negative affective signs, including guilt, shame, exhaustion, depression, and burnout among the youth narratives, must be taken seriously, as the movement of these emotions in the intersubjective zones of activist spaces exacerbates the problem of loneliness in an Arendtian sense. The concept of activist youth loneliness is presented as a political phenomenon, resulting in a loss of trust not only in the selves of young people but also in others as allies, potentially hindering the development of world-building practices. Furthermore, the paper elucidates the affective antidotes as both actual and possible responses stemming from youth-led radical democratic spaces against the symptoms of rightlessness under neoliberalism. The analysis draws on the findings of the author's doctoral fieldwork, conducted between July 2020 and May 2022, consisting of in-depth interviews with youth (aged 18 to 34) who are striving for radical social change in European cities of Athens, Berlin, Istanbul, and Paris during the 2010s and 2020s.

RN11 | T06_02: Media and Emotions

Sincere Conversations in Public: The Origins And Meanings of Emotional Media Under War

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During the initial months of the Russian war in Ukraine, millions of Russian-speaking viewers, both in Russia and abroad, became hooked on a particular YouTube format. The format consisted of 1-2 hour videos that featured staged dialogues between a journalist and prominent figures in contemporary Russian public life. It blends personal conversation with political expression in a way that is new to Russian-language media. Moreover, in a while, the genre was adopted by both liberal anti-war (ex. Skazi Gordeevoy, vDud') and pro-state patriotic (ex. Empatiya Manuchi) perspectives on the Russian cultural condition, political regime, and the violent events. If, in the first case, these conversations serve as collective moral therapy at the moment of political violence, in the second case, they transform political dogmatic messages into sincere emotional expressions.

This talk explores the origins and meanings of a particular genre of public self-reflection in both Russian and Western media. It highlights the genre's significance in light of contemporary processes of emotionalizing public domains (Lerner and Rivkin-Fish 2021, Illouz 2023), the culture of staged sincerity, and the dominance of therapeutic-psychological formats (Furedi 2004, Illouz 2003). Informed by politics and collective historical narratives on one hand, and intimate memories and personal moral dilemmas on the other, the genre of sincere emotional interviews has become a form of political defiance (Katriel 2021), moral collective therapy, but also an emotional effort of conformity. The analysis challenges the perception that emotional personal expression is apolitical and instead highlights its ideological, political (Tucker 2018), and also moral significance in the contemporary global context of psychologized political self, as well as in the violent context of war and national rupture.

Newspapers Narratives on Anti-government Protests in Slovenia: The Intersection of Subjective Strategies and Public Emotions

Barbara Gornik

Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

Journalists just like other people, use and create narratives to remind, argue, legitimise, persuade, engage or even misinform the recipients of messages. The narratives they produce are strategic, functional, and purposeful – narratives do political work. The paper views narratives as socially embedded units, enmeshed in the local context and do not stand freely or are separated from the context. It examines emotional dimensions of media narratives on anti-government protests that emerged in Slovenia during the Covid 19 pandemic. The analysis is based on a combination of qualitative content analysis of newspaper articles about protests that appeared in Delo, Mladina and Demokracija in 2020 and semi-structured interviews with 20 journalists who wrote about these topics. The analysis looks at the emotional content in the newspaper articles and discusses it at the intersection of the journalists' subjective experiences, perspectives and strategies to create public emotions. The paper sheds light on journalists' views to explain how the surrounding (institutional) context influences the emotional aspects of media narratives, the telling of a story and the way it is told. Furthermore, it aims to discuss the dynamics between the micro and macro levels of journalists' (inter) actions as a crucial aspect that brings in the strategic dimensions of journalistic exploitation of emotions in the media narratives to counter, suppress, damage or facilitate social movements and thus influence processes of democratic strengthening and/or decline.

Digital Structural Violence-- – Aftermath of Emergency Remote Teaching on Students' Learning

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It has been three years since emergency remote teaching (ERT) was implemented due to covid-19. The suspension of traditional schooling has brought disruption on students' learning on multiple aspects including cognitive development, social skills and emotional literacy. The aftermath of the abrupt switch from in-person schooling to a virtual environment is manifested in the further widened attainment gap in classrooms. As noted by Farmer (2004), structural violence takes on a new form every era. The linkage students' socio-economic status (SES) and academic achievements have been discussed by numerous researchers. ERT has arguably interweaved the inequalities embedded within intersectionality that students belong in. Such digital structural violence impedes the learning of certain students, particularly those embodying specific social identities: low SES, special learning needs and with migration backgrounds. These groups of students are most neglected during ERT, their socio-psychological development and learning needs are often overlooked by other basic needs such as access to materials and resources. This research is qualitative-based, in-depth interviews were conducted on five secondary school teachers in Hong Kong and Singapore. The study reveals that i. students across intersectionality experienced an obvious drop in learning motivation; ii. structural violence has taken a digitised form, it is assembling multiple inequalities at once and ultimately harming students' learning; iii. the teacher-informants are most concerned about the depreciating emotional literacy of students and find it the most urgent yet the hardest learning loss to provide remedies for. As digitalisation of education has become an inevitable phenomenon, this research urges education policymakers to take actions regarding digital structural violence and ensure provision of quality education to all students.

Ecological Grief and Solastalgia. Emotions in View of Extinction and Environmental Loss

Julia Böcker

Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany

The socio-ecological transformations caused by the climate change are not only accompanied by emotions such as anger, fear, and sorrow but also by feelings of grief and sadness. People around the globe anticipate and experience the loss of what is commonly referred to as 'nature', e.g., natural entities and environments, that also provide them with a home, a social or cultural identity, and a future.

People inhabiting the Harz Mountains in Germany mourn the dying forest. In 2019, in Iceland and Switzerland funerals for glaciers were held, marking their loss in public rituals (Schmidt 2021). Members of the Birth Strike movement mourn the decision to not have kids due to environmental conditions. The objects of loss, as these few examples show, differ regarding their materiality and the ascribed social meaning, value, and impact. Further, feelings of ecological grief on a micro level differ from their articulation and popularisation in public, also feeding into "politics of loss" (Eliott 2018) that touch upon the question whose naturecultural losses are acknowledged, prevented, and compensated and whose not.

The paper presents a sociological perspective on grief, sadness and mourning as common "climate emotions" (Neckel & Hasenfratz 2021). It will engage with concepts such as "ecological grief" (Cunsolo & Ellis 2018) and "solastalgia" (Albrecht 2007) – a term describing the emotional distress caused by environmental changes to home environments – to highlight and further develop their potential for sociological research on feelings and emotions in view of extinction and environmental loss.

RN11 | T07_01: Unequality and Emotions

Emotional Gifts At Work: Examining Inclusive Sympathy Towards Hard Of Hearing Employees

Ida Friis Thing

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Research demonstrates that disabled people, across different functional impairments, encounter social exclusion in the workplace. But why is achieving inclusivity so challenging? Focusing on the case of hard-of-hearing employees and drawing insights from sociology of emotions and micro sociology, I examine the cost of inclusive sympathy and its influence on inclusion of employees with communication disabilities in the workplace. Through ethnographic fieldwork conducted in two workplaces and 29 interviews involving hard-of-hearing employees, colleagues, and managers, I find that demonstrating inclusive sympathy carries costs in areas such as rhythmic entrainment during interaction, emotional drain, and inconvenience. The cost of displaying sympathy hinders employees from participating in the interactional struggle to include hard-of-hearing individuals, consequently resulting in situational exclusion for this group. In general, these findings suggest that the cost of showing sympathy prevents employees from including colleagues with communication disabilities, despite their agreement with the feeling rule of inclusive sympathy as an obligation towards people with disabilities. These results challenge practitioners' assumptions regarding the lack of knowledge about disabilities as the reason for exclusion and suggest structural changes at the company level to avoid reliance on individual employees for achieving inclusion.

Emotions and the Normative Paradox of Unmet Equality Expectations – A View from the Periphery

Katrin Grossmann, Christoph Hedtke, Astrid Heck

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"It's getting less and less by the year," said an interview partner in a so-called "structurally weak" region in Germany, referring to the omnipresent perception of loss in his community: outmigration, declining infrastructure, decrease of vitality. Others report on unequal chances in the labour, housing, and real estate market, in the distribution of resources and burdens. These are also the regions where the far right achieves electoral success, coined lately as the revenge of the places that don't matter (Rodríguez-Pose 2018).

Most scholarly work seeks explanations for this in (perceived) growing distributional inequality, and the fear of a loss of material resources (Nachtwey 2016, Heitmeyer 2018). Others emphasize the emotional experience of decline, of feeling overlooked and neglected by politicians. Foroutan (2019) highlights that the promise of equality in a rather unequal reality forms a normative paradox that evokes feelings that can be successfully utilized by the far right. Peripheralization, a process of being cut off from resources and becoming increasingly dependent on the core, the regional and national governments, institutions, and economic players (Kühn 2015), plays a central role here. Emotions of embitterment (Hannemann et al. 2023) and resentment (Hochschild 2016) have been described as outcomes of lived experiences in the periphery.

Building on qualitative work in peripheralized localities in Germany, we disentangle the relation between emotions, place, and the unmet expectations of the normative promise of equality in explaining why a rather distinct number of people express a distance towards democratic institutions and are open to nationalist-authoritarian offers. Emotions here are an entry point to understanding the role of peripheralization in growing distrust in democratic institutions.

Feeling Black in University

Rae-Anne Janay Cohen

King's College London, United Kingdom

This presentation aims to thoroughly explore the intricate relationship between race and emotions, leveraging insights from my PhD thesis centred on the emotional experiences of Black students within an elite London university. While providing a concise overview of the research, the primary focus will be on delving into empirical data presented through narratives. This approach aims to unravel the unique emotional landscapes experienced and expressed by Black students offering a deep dive into the intersectionality and individuality encapsulated in the experiences of 'being Black' within elite academic spaces. This talk will not focus on one particular emotion but will highlight the vast emotional spectrum, capturing the nuances of joy, resilience, anger, frustration, comfort and more.

Marrying theoretical frameworks and historical examples of emotions tied to racial identity, the talk will illuminate how racialised emotions resonate at both the individual level and within the broader social collective of Black communities. By sharing these narratives, this talk will contribute to the developing academic field of sociology of emotions. Furthermore, it will provide a critical examination of the emotional wellbeing of Black students within elite British universities, pressing the need for holistic support systems in these spaces. Attendees will gain profound insight into the multifaceted nature of racialised emotions, prompting reflection on the implications for cultivating truly inclusive and equitable educational environments.

The (Limited) Space Of Anger: Unequal Conditions Of Anger Across Different Social Positions In Society

Betül Özkaya

Aalborg University, Denmark

Anger is an emotion that is often associated with experiences of injustice and can be a breeding ground for agency. Anger therefore has an important potential to create change, for whom its power is available. Building on theories in the sociology of emotions, this article analyzes the unequal conditions of anger based on interview data (50) and diary studies (30) collected in Denmark. The results show that young men with a minority ethnic background, who also have a darker skin color, find it more difficult to make use of the potential of anger when they encounter injustices in their everyday lives. This is firstly because young men with a minority ethnic background lack a language for anger. This is partly due to the fact that some of these young men learn from home to hold back their anger in the majority Danish society – in other words, they learn to overcompensate for their background and appearance through tight emotion regulation. This results in the second point of the article, which through empirical analysis shows how these young men in many aspects of their everyday lives encounter structural injustice that makes them angry, but which they choose not to express – because the consequences are too big if they do. The final point of the article is that when these young men do (finally) express their anger, they more often use less legitimate forms of expression in the majority Danish society – which links to the first finding of the analysis, as these young men have less of a language for anger, and the second point, as they often encounter injustices that they do not react to, and therefore do not have the opportunity to "micro-ventilate" their anger on an ongoing basis. All in all, this means that these racialized young men do not have the opportunity to make use of the potential of anger to respond to injustices and thus create change for the structural inequality they are subject to. This results in either a silenced anger or a reproduction of their weak class position through illegitimate anger management.

RN11 | T07_02: Emotions and post-pandemic effects

Putting Emotional Stratification into Context: Anger and Anxiety Disparities in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

The stratified experience of emotions is a long-standing topic for the Sociology of Emotions and existing theoretical approaches propose several general mechanisms of stratification. However, empirical evidence is mixed and does not always conform to the theoretical expectations. This inconclusiveness may be due to a narrow focus on the emotional implications of persistent socio-structural positions. Instead, we suggest that emotions are often situated responses to specific events and, consequently, research should focus more closely on individual experiences in socio-political contexts. We therefore aim to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to emotional stratification, using survey data (N=1000). Beyond the expected decrease in negative emotions for those with higher incomes, changes in income resulting from the pandemic played a more substantial role, increasing the experience of anger and anxiety. Mediation analyses revealed that the effect of income loss on anger is partially due to respondents' anger about political measures taken during the pandemic and, to a lesser degree, due to anger about others' behaviors. Similarly, the effect of income loss on anxiety is partially mediated by specific anxieties about economic developments and health. Taken together, these findings suggest that going beyond a broad theoretical perspective on emotional stratification can reveal context-specific stratification effects.

Exploring Playfulness and Emotions in the Classroom Navigating the Post-Pandemic Educational Landscape with (Serious) Games

Giulia Conti

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

Playing games generates a plethora of emotions, feelings, affects, and atmospheres. The presentation delves into the reasons why teaching playfulness, even in higher education, remains pertinent. Especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, gamification and game-based learning have emerged as a powerful tool fostering connection despite physical distances, playing a crucial role in maintaining social bonds during these challenging times. A team directed by Giuseppe Riva (Riva et all, 2021) has underscored that

gamers exhibited enhanced performance in both work and academic settings throughout the pandemic. By leveraging the immersive nature of gaming, educators can create engaging learning experiences that resonate with students, fostering a conducive environment for navigating challenging subjects. Utilizing a qualitative research methodology, we aimed to explore the multifaceted impact of gaming in the context of higher education, shedding light on the emotional, and cognitive and sociological dimensions. The presentation will focus on an ongoing research about how to integrate serious games into the academic sphere, and provide a platform to address sensitive topics in the classroom. Focusing on emotions and (shared) feelings into the classroom, the study contends that embracing gaming in education not only addresses the immediate needs imposed by the pandemic but also offers a promising avenue for innovative and effective pedagogical practices.

Making Sense of the Pandemic: Shame Work in an Online COVID Advocacy Group

Maja Sawicka

University of Warsaw, Poland

The term "subaltern counterpublics" was coined by Nancy Fraser to denote "parallel discursive arenas where members of subordinated social groups invent and circulate counterdiscourses, which in turn permit them to formulate oppositional interpretations of their identities, interests and needs" (Fraser, 1990: 67). Subaltern counterpublics represent a social space where meanings and feelings oppositional to the dominant are shaped and shared. Both recent crises experienced worldwide and the prevalence of digital communication can be seen as factors contributing to the proliferation of subaltern counterpublics.

In this presentation, I will investigate the processes of meaning-making in a currently active online COVID advocacy group, resisting the dominant discourse and the definition of the situation that "the pandemic is over" and the infection itself no longer threatening. A key feature of this group is that it insists on sticking to prevention practices, including masking. My focus will be on the collective emotion work performed by the community in digital interactions: how do community members collectively regulate feelings towards COVID-19 to sustain a serious attitude towards the infection and mitigate the effects of shame experienced in interactions with friends, relatives, and strangers?

I will demonstrate that emotion work and its crucial component—shame work—underpin the community's ontological struggle to define the pandemic as still real and relevant. To conclude, I will discuss the importance of collective emotional regulation in the emergence of shared realities in online communities.

This research project was founded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the frames of the postdoctoral fellowship programme.

Institutional Work and Cultures of Compliance During COVID-19 in Tel Aviv and New Orleans

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This study merges a neo-institutional framework with the sociology of emotions, focusing on the culinary, film, and television sectors in Tel Aviv, Israel, and New Orleans, USA. We aim to understand how creative workers in these sectors navigated health policies during the COVID-19 peak (2020-2022). These policies were instigated at the national, sectoral, and the organizational level, reflecting a spectrum of institutional responses for regulating workplace practices. We interviewed 140 individuals, analyzing their emotional and practical responses to these policies, particularly noting their feelings about how workers embraced, endured, adapted, rejected, and resisted institutional policies. Their affective reflections on their workplace practices provide a map of generalizable "cultures of compliance," within which workers felt they could survive and thrive in varying institutional contexts.

We draw on Lawrence, Suddaby & Leca's (2010) challenge to explore how individual reflections position workers within broader institutional contexts, offering choices and limitations. The COVID-19 pandemic presented new institutional contexts, and our analysis seeks to understand how workers' hopes and fears reflect the evolution of these contexts from pre-COVID times. Building on the work of sociologists, such as Lok (2020), Friedland (2018), and Lok, Creed, DeJordy, Voronov (2017), we aim to contribute to recent theories positing that institutions are shaped and potentially transformed by emotions, and we and we add comparative lenses for such theorization.

RN11 | T08_01: Nostalgia, resentment and mistrust

Trajectories of mistrust

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Employment services often require vulnerable citizens to share sensitive information about themselves. The information is used to match them with relevant job opportunities or document their lack of workability, in order to apply for disability pension or supported employment. Sharing sensitive information increases vulnerability and to do so voluntarily requires trust. But what happens when the citizen does not trust the state? In this paper we compare how vulnerable citizens navigate the encounter with employment services, both in the absence or presence of trust. Drawing on theories of trust, risk and uncertainty (Zinn 2006, 2009, Luhmann 2018, Barbalet 2019), we examine how trust and mistrust shape the strategies citizens use to manage complexity in the relation to unemployment services.

Based on 30 interviews with Danish unemployed citizens with problems besides unemployment, we develop a typology of strategies of interacting with the state depending on the citizen's level of trust. We examine citizen accounts of trust and mistrust evolving over time to understand how trajectories of mistrust arise and affect the citizen's encounter with the state. We show how trust enables a mode of collaboration in longer "leaps", whereas mistrust restrict collaboration to small steps, potentially leading to a vicious circle of increasing mistrust growing from experiences of "getting nowhere".

Two Types of Resentment

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Resentment, a political emotion par excellence, is generally understood as moral anger in response to political or moral injustices or offences, geared at correcting wrongdoings, thus being an emotional gatekeeper for equal respect and democratic order. However, we argue that the complexity of resentment is not sufficiently understood. Not only do targets of resentment vary (e.g., socio-economic institutions responsible for austerity politics in left-wing populism vs. refugees, minorities or elites in right-wing populism); we suggest that underlying this variety there are two significantly diverse types of resentment with dissimilar a) socio-psychological dynamics, b) different intentional structure, c) ways in which they are epistemically and normatively appropriate, and d) political consequences. We argue, first, that the underexplored type of resentment emerges through the emotional mechanism of Ressentiment, which transforms self-targeting negative emotions and their vulnerable self into other-directed ones such as resentment and hatred with a morally superior self. The other, better known type of resentment emerges either spontaneously, or through another emotional mechanism of Social Sharing. We then detail how the targets of the Ressentiment-mediated resentment are indeterminate, generic others or scapegoats and how the affective focus of this type of resentment becomes the antagonistically defined allegedly threatened social identity instead of particular wrongs. Moreover, we show how the triggering emotions of this type of resentment become epistemically opaque and the outcome emotion inappropriate in different ways. Finally, we explore its motivational tendencies, suggesting that it leads to anomic, anti-solidaric or dormant violent political action associated with right-wing populism, authoritarianism, and extremism.

"I Feel I'd Just Be Adding to the Stereotype:" Apprehension of Reproducing Racialized Stigmas in Storytelling on Street Harassment in France

Mischa Dekker

KU Leuven, Belgium

Scholarship on covert racism, colorblindness, and white fragility sheds light on the discomfort surrounding the subject of race, and how this may lead people to avoid referencing it. These concepts focus on how uneasiness surrounding race leads people to strategically reinvent racism and marginalize those who challenge it. Consequently, the moral and emotional dimensions of people's concerns about wanting to avoid reproducing racialized stigmas remain understudied and undertheorized. To fill this gap, this article elaborates a theory on the apprehension of reproducing stigmas. I conceptualize this moral emotion as an anxiety about reinforcing the stigmatization of categories of people whom an individual considers to be already stigmatized. Such anxieties concern not only race, but also other subjects covered in the stigma literature, such as mental illness and poverty. I develop this concept inductively, based on a study of street harassment stories shared on online and offline platforms in France. These platforms were instrumental to putting street harassment on the political agenda around the world. However, one question in particular sparked debates and uneasiness among French activists: how to deal with stories that, in their view, reproduced stigmas about Black or Muslim men or disadvantaged areas? Based on a content analysis of 532 stories, ethnography, and interviews, this paper analyzes how victims structured their stories not solely based on what they sought to share, but also on the stigmas they wanted to avoid. Better understanding apprehensions and their effects is important for ongoing research on individuals' reflective work to avoid stigmatization.

RN11 | T08_02: Awareness and 'true happiness'

Awareness: Paradoxes of an Emotion Program

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Closely linked to current conflicts on minority rights, anti-discrimination, and diversity, awareness has emerged in recent years as a specific practice to prevent and avoid discrimination. Within this framework, certain feelings and emotions are perceived to be typical symptoms of conflicts between the privileged and the disadvantaged. This way, individual emotional experiences are linked to specific social categories, and therefore, are seen as playing a crucial part in anti-discrimination efforts. In this paper, we examine awareness as an emotion program that specifically seeks to gain regard for the concerns of individuals and groups whose identity claims are considered contested. Drawing on qualitative data from field research, which explored various anti-discrimination practices, from activist milieus up to today's club scene, the action problems, unintended consequences, and paradoxes associated with awareness are analysed. Awareness claims to raise sensitivity to discrimination and to contribute to the struggle against it. However, these claims are also associated with new problems in the prevention of discrimination, which cannot be tackled by awareness itself. By relying on a politically motivated form of emotion management, affective tensions are created that themselves refer back to awareness practices. In addressing these paradoxes of awareness, emotional sensitivity does not resolve experiences of discrimination when it leads to subjective feelings and emotional reactions becoming the decisive indicator of perceived power relations. How awareness practices could avoid such problems and paradoxes will be discussed in conclusion.

Why Does Class Resentment Not Transform Into Political Action? A Study Of The Food Delivery Workers' Affective Dispositions In The Capital Of Latvia.

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How do affective dispositions of the same occupational group members explain their political (in)actions towards their employers? To answer this question, we rely on 56 semi-structured interviews with the food delivery workers at two platforms in Rīga. Interviews were gathered from July 2022 to June 2023. The interview data is supplemented with publicly available courier chat analysis. Although most couriers express class resentment of the platforms they work for, we find they don't transform this resentment into political action against platforms. While couriers have transformed their class resentment of the platforms into political action in many European countries through strikes, protests, and boycotts, it has never occurred in Latvia. In this article, we interpret several reasons for this: it is due to (a) the variety of affective dispositions they hold about themselves as couriers, (b) low trust in each other, and (c) neoliberal feeling rules that prevail in Latvia. The variety of affective dispositions is due to their different histories of social class mobility. For example, the couriers who had better class positions before this job tend to feel ashamed of this job. This sense of shame stifles their political activism. The couriers who decide to do this job to fulfill other social roles and goals tend to feel good about this job and potentially could mobilize for class action. However, low trust towards others and neoliberal feeling rules prevent them. This study contributes to the literature on class mobilization and class analysis regarding the affect and emotional dynamics.

Exploring Ambivalent Emotional Landscapes in Narratives Surrounding Abortion Debate.

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Emotions play a dual role, acting as catalysts for actions and sources of complexity in human experiences. In public debates, they are frequently employed to categorize perspectives as either 'acceptable/legitimate' or 'unacceptable/illegitimate,' having a pivotal role in times of transformation; when public debates are contentious and fuel polarization. This paper seeks to deepen our understanding of how individual feelings arise from collective moods, creating emotional landscapes that influence people's sentiments within society and towards it.

To achieve this, the study delves into the nuanced emotional experiences of women intentionally choosing abortion, highlighting the significance of ambivalent emotional landscapes in polarized discussions.Drawing on insights from ten qualitative biographic-narrative interviews, our research explores how the absence of established practices and scripts for post-abortion situations leaves individuals within an ambivalent emotional landscape, giving rise to both internal and external stigmatization processes. Our preliminary findings reveal that stigmatization emerges from a misalignment between societal expectations regarding emotions and the authentic feelings experienced by individuals, necessitating intensive emotional work that often remains concealed and unacknowledged.

Set in Austria, where abortion is not only criminalized but also entangled in polarized political debates, our study underscores the importance of comprehending the ambivalent emotional landscapes surrounding the abortion debate. The analysis sheds light on the unexplored emotional terrain of this debate and its implications in a context where abortion remains criminalized and subject to

societal stigmatization. Additionally, our research contributes to sociological scholarship on emotions, examining the heuristic value of ambivalent emotional landscapes to gain a deeper understanding of heated public debates and contentious societal issues, such as abortion.

RN11 | T09_01: Emotions, politics, communities

What Makes a Good Humanitarian? Local Emotion as Resistance to the Isomorphic Pull of Professionalised Aid

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Calls for the humanitarian aid industry to "localise" reflect a policy discourse aimed at wresting power over international crisis response from Western donors, United Nations agencies, and international non-governmental organisations, and putting it into the hands of the local communities, civil society and first responders in disaster affected countries. Such demands are based not only on the claim that local actors can yield a more efficient, effective, and appropriate use of scarce aid resources, but also in more emotive arguments that the international humanitarian endeavour is unfit for purpose and even represents a form of neo-colonialism. In this sense, the use emotions in localisation discourse may reflect peripheral resistance to the dominance of central powers of the global humanitarian organisational field. Specifically, high emotionality contrasts with the field's central norms, values, myths, and professional practices, which seek to regulate the raw emotion of inhumane suffering through institutions of detachment, particularly the debiasing norms of neutrality, impartiality and independence that are cornerstones of mainstream international humanitarianism. By re-injecting emotion into new forms of humanitarianism, peripheral entrants to the field may be able to resist or delay isomorphic forces expected under neo-institutional theory. We deploy computational linguistics methods to study a corpus of humanitarian activity reports published before and after the humanitarian localisation agenda was launched in 2016, to examine shifts in the sentiment of local actors' discourse, and to assess whether emotive discourse mediates the delayed adoption and rejection of central humanitarian norms and practices.

Emotions at the Core of Social Actors' Transformation During the Revolt in Chile

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Beyond the demands and collective actions of the October 2019 social revolt in Chile, the discussion also focused on the importance of emotions and their effects on the lives of those who participated in the protests. Activists commented on different experiences like feelings about

contradictory emotions, feeling new emotions, and talking about the emotions that are considered "negative" for capitalist productive models. These experiences around emotions allowed a before and after in the lives of activists. This paper will present findings in this framework, which are the result of focus groups and interviews conducted mainly with young people during the period of social revolt in Chile and when the pandemic arrived on the continent. Among the main conclusions are experiences of processes of subjectivation that allowed unexpected situations in the intimate lives of activists, provoked the questioning of ideal models of life, and allowed the emergence of a new subject.

Neo-Ottomanism and the Politics of Emotions in Turkey: Resentment, Nostalgia, Narcissism

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My contribution explores the politics of emotions under the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey, and the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as a right wing populist leader. I cover the period after 2002 when the party swept to national power. I examine how emotional politics, and particularly the use of neo-Ottomanist narratives to create a new national mood, contributed to the durability of Erdoğan's rule. I analyse the interactions between national narratives, symbolic politics and politics of emotions, and argue that these interactions are the basis of the popular support the AKP and Erdoğan have enjoyed over two decades.

The Emotional Community of the Pariah, or Why did Hannah Arendt Have no 'Love' for the Jews?

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Jewish 'self-hatred' was considered since the 19th century as a 'pathological' reaction for the ongoing attempt of modern Jews to assimilate within the European general society, where they often lived in cultural and religious 'ghettos' for centuries. One common claim within Jewish circles was that for fully assimilating in a modern non-Jewish society, the Jew had to internalize the anti-Jewish 'gentile' gaze, and often to identify with the anti-Semite aggressor (Reitter, 2012). After the founding of Israel in 1948 this discourse has shifted into a debate over the status of the non-Zionist Jew. Some diaspora Jews who did not support Israel were often accused of being 'self-hating Jews'.

This paper focuses on the exchange of letters between Hannah Arendt and Gershom Scholem, following Eichmann in Jerusalem (1963) – a book where she fiercely criticized the newly established state of Israel. Scholem accused Arendt of being a Jew that lacks any 'love' for her own kind, the Jews. Arendt who presented in her writings the modern Jew as the ultimate 'pariah' in Modern European history, turned into pariah herself amongst Jewish establishments who portrayed her as a prototype for a self-hating Jew for decades to come.

This case study serves for arguing that self-cancelling feelings such as self-hatred among collectives and emotional communities with a long history of displacement and marginalization are not only the final outcome processes of internalizations and self-stigmatization, but could also be genuine authentic, non-pathologized set of feelings that need to be contextualized for what they are, namely real subjective living experiences. Ultimately this paper aims to expand our understanding of self-hatred as a crucial emotion in individual and collective identity making.

RN11 | T09_02: Emotions, work, unequality

Changing Emotional Codes, Emotional Burden, and Their Role in the Construction of Work-related Mental Health of Young Employees

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In Western countries, there has been a noticeable rise in work-related challenges pertaining to the mental health of young employees. This interview study analyses the new role of emotions in work disability and the conflicts arising from the emotion-oriented management of work ability among young employees. The study draws on data collected in 2021 from the municipal sector in Finland, consisting of interviews of young employees, supervisors, and occupational health care representatives (N=70). Qualitative analyses indicated three themes relevant to young employee's mental health related to emotions and their management: (1) The cultural demand for personal growth and the longing for authenticity arising from humanistic individualism, which is typical for well-educated employees working in knowledge-intensive jobs, results in intrapsychic emotional reflection. In contrast, (2) the emotional burden resulting from the erosion of ethical ideals of work is often reported among employees working in human service occupations. In addition, (3) emerging different emotional codes and behavioral standards in relation to work ability provoke moral reflections and ambiguities for both older and younger workers. Overall, mental health among young employees is linked to the change in the role of emotions as part of work disability through different cultural and occupational pathways. This change is producing new social tensions in the domain of occupational health.

People Are Extremely Busy Categorizing me into the Position of the Other: Exploring Humiliation and Strategies Among Individuals with Cerebral Palsy

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Starting from a Crip theory approach, the article focuses on understanding how emotions, particularly humiliation, unfold in the daily lives of individuals with disability. The article, based on qualitative interviews analyses the varied manifestations of humiliation faced by people with Cerebral palsy, connected to accessing support services due to legislative barriers, physical attribute-based ranking, essentializing language, stereotypical imagery, and neglect of cultural symbols. The article also explores strategies employed by people with CP to navigate humiliation. Findings highlight that participants use both individual strategies, such as accepting low-status positions or attempting to fit normality standards, as well as transformative, political strategies, where collective social identification demands an end to the devaluation of the group. The article sheds light on the complexities of emotional experiences of humiliation within an ableist framework. It discusses how emotions can both reproduce and transform notions of everyday life with disability and how it is possible to "crip up" interactional rituals, making it more accessible for individuals with disability to gain emotional energy, confidence, and agency.

Emotional Labor in Journalism: Advancing a New Theoretical Framework

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Emotion has historically been seen as problematic within journalism, associated with bias and sensationalism, and conflicting with reason, resulting in its dismissal. Only in the last decades, following "an affective turn" in media studies (Clough & Halley 2007), did researchers begin exploring the influential role of emotions in journalistic work. This article critically examines how scholars have started to incorporate emotions into journalism research.

One term scholars often employ is Hochschild's concept of emotional labor (1983). However, the article argues that the term has been applied overly liberally. Some academics debate whether emotional labor in journalism involves the suppression or negotiation between personal and professional selves, while others frame it as a journalistic skill. The article states that the lack of a clear understanding of emotional labor among researchers hampers the practical application of the term in scholarly work, which remains "stalled at a crossroads" (Grandey & Gabriel 2015).

To overcome this standstill, the article proposes a two-part theoretical framework that operationalizes the concept within the context of journalism studies. Built upon Bolton (2005) and Hanitzsch & Vos (2017), the model breaks down journalists' emotions into five dimensions and argues that emotional labor is the interplay between them — an ongoing process of experiencing, acknowledging, articulating, expressing, and relating feelings to the industry's norms and expectations. The framework also identifies three types of feeling rules—societal, professional, and organizational—guiding journalists' emotion management.

By applying this model, researchers can locate, dissect, and explain specific instances of journalists engaging in emotional labor.

RN12 | Environment and Society

RN12 | T01_01: Social Dimensions of Water and Climate Challenges

Water Conflicts: More Than Conflicts Over Distribution? – Assessing Conflict Structures With Cases From Germany

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Conflicts tend to be complex and, in many cases, multi-faceted. This could create tensions for individuals involved in the conflict, as well as for those analysing the issue. However, by adapting Vuković et al.'s (2014) approach, we illustrate a possible way of structuring conflicts into different threads and, in a sense, unravel the conflict at hand. The aim of this study is to demonstrate the potential of the methodology adopted and its possible usefulness for subsequent conflict studies, recognising the importance of systematic conflict assessment and forward-looking research. Given that in some situations, conflicts are still ongoing, or new ones may emerge in certain cases, the study also briefly assesses the potential of using this adapted methodology as a structured basis for constructing scenario analyses. In this case, the current systematically explored knowledge on conflicts will be transformed for further use. As the central topic, we explore water conflicts, using examples from Germany. This choice reflects the uncertainty of future human behaviour and the impact of climate change on water resources. An uncertainty that also applies to Germany, which currently has good water supplies but may lose access to water due to degradation, climate change or mismanagement.

A New Water Culture for a Climate-resilient Europe

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Climate change and increasing consumption are driving a paradigm shift in water use, as well as in our understanding of the water cycle as a whole. Water reuse used to be relegated to territories with chronic water scarcity, but the water crisis has become a striking reality for Europe as well. More intense droughts and heat, but also storms and floods, are expected, making it a challenge to manage available resources, while ensuring water quality for all purposes. Water-smart solutions have emerged as key in a new approach to managing the water cycle, especially in cities. This requires innovation in water reuse and storm water management.

As we face the need for significant investment in new infrastructure and governance systems, trust has emerged among the most crucial factors that can make or break a new water strategy, among stakeholders and public authorities. Risk perceptions of water scarcity and quality will be determinant for social attitudes towards a smart and circular economy for water, as will the notions of justice regarding future costs of water infrastructures and services.

This presentation analyses the key socio-economic drivers and barriers to adaptive, fair and resilient water governance. It is based on dedicated surveys and stakeholder meetings carried out between 2021 and 2024 in the six Living Labs of the project B-WaterSmart (H2020, funded by the European Commission, GA No. 869171) in Alicante (Spain), Bodø (Norway), East Frisia (Germany), Flanders (Belgium), Lisbon (Portugal) and Venice (Italy).

Understanding How Informal Water Networks Function In Accessing Water In Peri-Urban Small Town In India

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Scholars have since long argued about the problematic position of the peri-urban interface, characterized by administrative and jurisdictional ambiguity, environmental degradation and marginalization (Dupont, 2005; Narain &Nischal, 2007; Mehta, & Randhawa, 2009). Peri-urban waterscapes do not fit into existing urban or rural planning models because these same models largely fail to recognize the peri-urban interface as a distinct form of territorial development (Mehta et al 2014). Focusing on peri-urban areas for the study of water raises important questions about equity and justice, as it demonstrates how some groups gain improved access to water, while others are deprived of it as a consequence. This work attempts to conceptualize in detail the dynamics of community engagement to water access through informal access in peri-urban Madurai, a small town in Tamil Nadu, India. Madurai exhibits features of a shrinking city, which adds an angle of exacerbated inequalities. Here it is attempted to examine how informal access to water produces or reproduces inequalities in the peri-urban Madurai. A combination of qualitative and quantitative field work involving household level surveys in individual households and informal semi-structured interviews to water vendors in two localities of Madurai one in the center of the city (Avaniyapuram) and other in city periphery (Annaiyur) has been attempted. Broader themes that are under inquiry are dynamics of informal access in peri-urban, small town, shrinking city in India and if and how existing or new inequalities are produced or reproduced.

Towards a Climate Robust-water System: the Value of Water Through a Sociological Lens

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Tap water and its pricing has largely been of interest to economists, in part because water services are mainly perceived as production processes. As a result, much of the existing literature focuses on the economic value of water, leaving the social and cultural importance of water for citizens underexplored. This research takes a sociological perspective on the value of water and studies citizens' experiences and perceptions about (their use of) water. Applying a social practice approach to value creation, we conducted 15 in-depth interviews and developed a conceptual model of the sociological value of water. The results show that although the price of tap water is a concern for people, the actual value of water extends well beyond its price. Water has direct values for citizens in their everyday lives, as well as indirect value by contributing to broader societal systems. In their everyday lives, people (unconsciously) create value by integrating and using tap water when performing water practices such as showering, cooking, or cleaning. Citizens use water not so much for the sake of water itself, but in various household water practices associated with certain values: hygiene, health, relaxation, warmth and so on. People attach great importance to the experiences that water offers them and the values they can achieve through its use. According to our research, people may experience conflicts between these water values and water conservation. Future research needs to consider these conflicts when encouraging water conservation.

RN12 | T01_02: Collective Efforts and Care in Human-Animal Communities

Belief in the Fundamental Similarity of Humans and Other Animals – Edward Westermarck and Theodor W. Adorno and Their Criticism of Kant's Conception of Animal

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Philosophers interested in the status of animals have repeatedly highlighted the negative effects of Immanuel Kant's philosophy on our ideas on animals and animality. Jacques Derrida (The Animal That Therefore I Am: More to Follow, 2008) wrote about Kant's hatred of animal, and especially about his hatred of human animality. When writing about our reluctance to accept human animality, Mary Midgley (The Concept of Beastliness: Philosophy, Ethics and Animal Behavior, 1973) has stressed Kant's role in our aversion to animality in philosophical theory and humanist tradition more largely.

In my research I trace the history of the invisibility of animals and its counter-traditions in the history of sociology. As a result of this enquiry, Edvard Westermarck, and Theodor W. Adorno have emerged as interesting exceptions. Westermarck as a sociologist of the classical period of sociology and Adorno as a much later representative of the post-war sociology share interest in both other animals and human animality, but also criticism of Kant's conception of animals and human animality. Both Westermarck and Adorno are also interested in the moral significance of the animals.

However, sociology has been efficient at ignoring those conceptions of animals that differ from more mainstream positions. Interest in Adorno's views on animal(s) has only been aroused in the 21st century, most probably resulting from Derrida's interest in Adorno's thoughts. Derrida pointed out that Adorno's thinking contains criticism against the Kantian attitude towards animals. Westermarck's ideas are still much less well known. In my presentation, I will go through the features that connect Adorno's and Westermarck's sociological ideas on animals and animality and attention given to Kant's views on animals in their texts too.

From Community to Activity to Care: Companionship in Human-Animal Relations

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A central part of the current planetary crisis is the loss of connection with the more-than-human world. However, while entire species are disappearing from the earth, a renewed turn to animals in particular can be observed: Countless humans share their daily lives with so-called pets, and this interspecies living together gives rise to relationships with a special quality in which the involved animals can be understood, with Haraway (2003), as "companions".

In the project "Animals as Companions" (German Research Foundation, DFG, project number 443785427) we have investigated how the companion status of animals is constituted in animal-human relationships. We have focused on Germany and the German-speaking countries and have worked with a broad set of qualitative research methods from a micro-sociological and cross-species perspective. Overall, we have conducted over 60 semi-structured interviews with keepers of various animals (in addition to dogs and cats, also various small animals, birds, exotic animals and horses) as well as over 30 interviews with service providers in the field of animal-related services and several ethnographies.

In the proposed presentation, we present empirical findings from our project. With Community, Activity and Care we highlight three modes in which animals and humans live a Companionship. Against this background, we would like to discuss at the conference whether and how Companionship holds potential for a convivial life between animals and humans (see van Dooren & Rose 2012) and what we can learn from it for the possibility of a peaceful cohabitation between humans and animals in times of climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and species extinction.

Exploring Dog Agency: An Inquiry Into Dog Agency and Augmentative Interspecies Communication Technology

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Theories of animal agency have been developed since the introduction of animals into sociology. Specifically, scholars have defined and interpreted animal agency in a multitude of ways. However, these frameworks stay theoretical. As there has been few empirical testing of these theories to the everyday reality, we still do not know whether animals display agency or not. The main aim of this contribution is to empirically test agency in dogs, by investigating the experiences of dog owners with Augmentative Interspecies Communication (AIC) technology. The AIC technology focused on is a soundboard with recordable answer buttons. In 2023, I conducted semi-structured interviews with 21 dog owners: 10 respondents from the USA and 11 respondents from Belgium, respectively with and without soundboard. The Generic Inductive Qualitative Model (GIQM) guided the coding and analysis of the interviews. The results suggest that dogs are agents and perform agentic acts. Still, it depends upon several factors whether dogs showcase agency. Often, dogs' actions are informed by their needs and wants and tailored to their interests and preferences. Bringing in the AIC technology into the dog-human relationship offers the dog more opportunities to display their agency. Additionally dog owners with a soundboard have more awareness of and insight into their dog's agency in comparison to dog owners without the soundboard. Lastly the soundboard improves the communication and connection between the dog and owner. Consequently AIC technology provides dogs with a platform to 'speak up' and improve their quality of life.

The Barking Third: Multispecies Entanglements In Dog-Assisted Therapy Sessions

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As an emerging field among other animal-assisted initiatives and interventions, dog-assisted therapy amounts to a distinctive form of therapeutic relationships, in which the nonhuman animal member may act as a mediator for trust-building between human members. By introducing companion animals like dogs to relations of care, therapy work may potentially benefit through dogs' potential capabilities to reduce stress and improve social skills. However, so far the literature on how the interaction with therapy dogs unfolds in therapeutic settings remains scarce. In the presentation, we aim to fill this gap by examining instances of a triadic interaction in dog-assisted therapy. Our analysis draws from ethnographic materials generated from real-life dog-assisted therapy sessions in Finland. By emphasising the role of the 'third' in the relations between the therapist and the client, we find cues that challenge the contemporary paradigm of therapy as a dyadic relationship between human members alone. Theoretically, we draw in the presentation especially from Georg Simmel's work on dyads and the sociological significance of thirds, while extending it to multispecies relationships by employing Michel Serres' thoughts and insights.

RN12 | T01_03: Engaging with Technologies: Perceptions and Participation

Reversing Risk Perception and Co-constructing Agri-photovoltaics Technology with Farmers. A Sociological Approach Based on the Regace Project.

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Technological advancements, particularly in eco-friendly domains, have significantly heightened social awareness. Disruptive innovations, as defined by Bower and Christensen (1995), can transform sectors, requiring a comprehensive understanding and acceptance process. It's increasingly vital to grasp how society becomes aware of these innovations, especially when skepticism may hinder their adoption. Ramirez (2013) highlighted the influence of social networks on agricultural technology adoption, while Rose and Chilvers (2018) emphasized broadening responsible innovation in the era of smart farming. Energy and climate challenges underscore the urgency of engaging all societal sectors in embracing new technologies. This is crucial for energy solutions like agri-photovoltaics, where the HE Regace Project designed participation models for farmers. Early farmer involvement in agri-photovoltaic technology development ensures the social dimension of the project, aiming to avoid top-down impositions and promote co-development by future users. Participatory processes involving beneficiaries change the construction of technological innovation to co-construction, fostering awareness of the environmental sustainability of potential innovation actions (Antonucci, Sorice, Volterrani 2022). Recent studies (Spanaki, Sivarajah, Fakhimi Despoudi & Irani, 2022) have shown that agricultural sectors benefit from extra support and end-user involvement, ensuring a complete understanding of the impact and fair distribution of economic and social value.This paper discusses the initial outcomes of participation and involving farmers from five partner states in the REGACE project, by analysing the potential risks and benefits of this social-technological collaboration in the field of agriphotovoltaics.

In What Ways Does Rural Renewable Energy Infrastructure Shift the Local Interpretation Regarding Supra-local Narratives of Renewable Energy Transition

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The renewable energy transition is a central element of climate change mitigation. It is also of symbolic significance as a visible element of climate policy and transformation by design – and thus the subject of narrative discourse and socio-economic conflict. Rural residents are increasingly confronted with renewable energy infrastructure in their everyday life which may clash with local identities, structures and expectations (Mahon et al., 2023, 685f., 691; Reusswig et al., 2022, 186f., 192; Wüstenhagen et al., 2007, 2683f.).

The overall goal of my research is to understand the connection between metanarratives about socio-ecological transformation and the specific local situation. This connection has been underexplored, especially regarding PV (Schönauer & Glanz, 2023, 1f.; Vuichard et al., 2021, p. 1). In my paper I discuss first results based primarily on group discussions and generate an overview of relevant narratives and orientation structures regarding rural PV implementation. Methodologically I rely on the documentary method (Bohnsack, 2021, pp. 64–67), supplemented by narrative analysis (Arnold et al., 2012, 18f.) and mapping tools (Clarke et al., 2018, p. 127). I further develop a theoretical approach currently based on Anthony Giddens' theory of structuration (Giddens, 2017, pp. 49–62) and a materialist and metabolic view of socio-ecological transformation (see also Moore, 2020, pp. 29–33; Schaffartzik et al., 2021, p. 1408).

Preliminary findings suggest that rural identity is strongly connected to a specific land use and ownership concept based on food production on which legitimacy hinges, which is threatened by the introduction of PV.

Socio-technical Transitions in the Shipping Sector: the Case of Wind Propulsion

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Without international shipping, the world economy as we know it would not exist: grappling with geopolitical tensions and major disruptions in the logistics of "just-in-time" delivery, the sector not only transports massive amounts of fossil fuels, but also contributes to nearly 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which are expected to increase. While the sector's current decarbonisation strategy predominantly focuses on energy efficiency measures and the

uptake of alternative fuels, wind propulsion has been one forward-looking option employed by several companies.

The focus of this work is on wind propulsion initiatives for commercial cargo transport. The aim is to analyse the discursive and substantive configurations of such projects worldwide: values, organisational arrangements and financial situations. Why do they adopt a certain technology over another? This work also traces the emergence and historical development of wind propulsion as an alternative choice to conventional fossil-fuel based shipping. What does this reveal about the direction of a transition in the shipping sector?

Research on the sector's energy transition employs in-depth and regionally focused case studies, or sociological accounts of alternative operating economies, with little attention to a comprehensive picture of wind propulsion development worldwide and overtime. To address this gap, this research uses socio-technical configuration analysis (STCA), an emerging methodology in sustainability transition literature, and qualitative comparative case study research. As a result, this work evaluates shifts and dynamics in the socio-technical configurations of wind propulsion systems across different geographies and analyses their transformative potential in light of decarbonisation pressures.

The Ruins of the Anthropocene: Traces of the Past for a Socioecological Critique of the Present

Anna Clot-Garrell

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This paper explores some of the tensions and contradictions that arise in current ecological crisis debates, particularly the 'new urgency to the politics of infrastructure' (Anand et al., 2018) surrounding the development of renewable infrastructures as a pivotal political response toward climate change. It empirically and theoretically explores the reverse side of ecological and energy transitions by examining the decay, abandonment, and transformation of carbon-intensive infrastructures that are in question today, given their territorial dependencies and environmental impacts. Drawing on ethnographic research conducted in a postindustrial rural region and historically extractivist periphery of the Catalan Pyrenees, I analyze the material and political life of fossil infrastructures in this exemplary carbon landscape, where the traces of the industrial past coexist with the present pressures of new 'green' projects. Such examination aims to provide a critical understanding of present futures, as encapsulated throughout the course of certain sustainable trajectories (Adloff & Neckel, 2021). Infrastructures are promising locations for research since they are sites with multiple spatial and temporal layers that refuse the easy separation between the human and the material (Boyer, 2018; Degens et al., 2022; Niewöhner, 2015; Rippa, 2023).

RN12 | T01_04: Theoretical Perspectives on Social Conflicts and Sustainability Transformations

Navigating Tensions in Eco-Social Welfare Policy Proposals; Between Transformation and Radical Pragmatism.

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The desire to make a difference, to have an impact, to transform society for the better is widespread among sociological projects. This paper navigates the tension between the transformative (and what is at times understood as utopian) potential of eco-social welfare and the pragmatic possibilities of building 'from the seeds of the future' in the contemporary welfare-work nexus towards an eco-social welfare future. The paper argues environmental justice is essential in transformation to a sustainable future and that eco social welfare policy offers immediate foundational steps towards the compass point or north star. Key to this is moving from productivist welfare to a welfare that incorporates social reproduction and care and values many forms of contemporary unpaid work.

While much literature about future policy draws from and on utopian ideals about work, this paper offers pragmatic European examples from the contemporary welfare-work nexus that have the potential to be used towards transformative ends. Crucially these eco – social policies build on values of collective goods and freedoms, mutual interdependencies and advancing a broadly interpreted ethic of care. Building trust through new forms of institutions offers mechanisms for inclusivity, equality, participation and agency, and for advancing new understanding of state, society and markets. As such welfare reform can transform values and is part of the politics of transformation, helping to expand the boundaries of welfare imaginaries and bridging past, present and future.

Understanding Social Conflicts in Sustainability Transformations: Conceptual Frameworks, Research Findings, Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead.

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Social conflicts play a pivotal role in processes of social and societal change. Their significance lies in their capacity to act as catalysts for change or signals indicating areas in need of transformation. Within the realm of conflicts, established power dynamics and practices undergo scrutiny, offering opportunities for challenge, reproduction, and occasional modification of power relations. Conflicts possess the potential to redefine the roles of various actors and instigate the formation or dissolution of alliances and interest groups. In this sense, conflicts can either propel or hinder transformational processes, reflecting divergent perspectives and interests among social actors or societal groups regarding the direction and goals of change.

In recent years, sustainability research has progressively delved into the explicit study of conflicts in the context of sustainability transformations. Despite the longstanding history of conflict study in the social sciences, these sustainability-focused inquiries employ varying conceptualizations and attribute diverse roles to conflicts within transformation processes, yielding disparate conclusions. In this systematic review, we leverage this body of research to address conceptual and methodological considerations surrounding social conflicts in sustainability transformation. Our inquiry investigates how existing research conceptualizes conflicts in sustainability transformations, identifies prevalent perspectives and insights, uncovers blind spots and shortcomings, and proposes methodological and methodical approaches to address these gaps.

This comprehensive review aims to contribute to a more systematic understanding of the intricate role of social conflicts as both realities and practices within the context of sustainability transformation.

Where Science and Technology Studies Meets Social Practice Theory: Contributions to Social Change Dynamics for Sustainability

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How can theories be used to incite social change for sustainability transitions? This conceptual paper draws from Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Social Practice Theory approaches (SPA), emphasizing four ways in which the theories can be brought together to facilitate change in complex systems, based on a review of the literature. First, both theories propose a flat ontology, which avoids assumptions around agency and power. What has more capacity to act in a system can be revealed in a second phase, following empirical investigation. Second, STS and SPA both have a descriptive quality that inform detailed empirical studies, shedding light on practices, processes, actors, and power dynamics. In there many studies, STS priviledge a focus human and non-human actor interdependencies, co-production processes, often using controversies and accidents as heuristic situations, while SPA delves into the everyday, collective dimension of life and practices embedded in norms. Related to this, and thirdly, both theories take seriously material and institutional dimensions: both STS and SPA emphasize the significance of materiality, including technologies, but also of collective conventions, and how these dimensions might make a given systems more, or less, resistant to change. Finally, both theories can also be used to envision possible futures, which can be performative in the present towards supporting social change. They therefore have both a descriptive and prospective quality. Our aim with this contribution is to provide a framework for operationalizing both theories together, with suggestions on how they might be applied to tackle different sustainability transitions challenges.

RN12 | T02_01: Climate Friendly Futures and Youth

Youth Perspectives on Sustainable Futures: Insights from Collaborative Engagements in Greece and Scotland

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The global recognition of the critical role played by youths in shaping a sustainable future is underlined by increasing support from international organizations, supported by national, local, and regional policies. Evidently, youth-led initiatives such as the "School Strike for Climate" have emerged as powerful expressions of dissent against inadequate climate policies that threaten their future well-being. This study delves into the concerns of school students and examines their role in fostering sustainability.

Our investigation builds on collaborative activities with 15–16-year-old students in Greece and Scotland. Employing innovative engagement strategies, we facilitated PlayDecide card games and sessions, focusing on Climate Change and CCUS acceptance, respectively. The exploration concluded with a role-playing game centred on the acceptance of renewable energy technologies. These sessions were recorded and transcribed, while narrative analysis was used to derive meaningful insights.

Preliminary findings suggest that participating students emphasized in their discussions the well-being of family and friends, while highlighting a lack of trust in older generations, including politicians. They strongly conveyed their belief that the impetus for change lies within their own generation. Biodiversity decline and the uncertain impacts of climate change on the natural environment emerged as significant but controversial topics as opinions varied amongst students. Furthermore, students expressed concerns about day-to-day life, highlighting the tangible effects of recent energy price inflation on their lives.

This research sheds light on the nuanced perspectives of youth regarding sustainability, highlighting the need for inclusive policies and actions that consider their perspectives while empowering them as active actors to a sustainable future.

Teenagers and Young Adults Awareness on Energy Savings in Northern EU: Between Accountability and Desire for Energy Saving

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This communication will focus on teenagers and young adults concern on energy and environmental issues in Six northern EU countries (France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Germany). It will characterize how their sense of responsibility in environmental issues is built, how they promote sobriety standards and how this learning about eco-responsibility practices has an impact on their relationship to energy.

This communication examines the reasons why young people are considered as accountable in the fight against global warming and how this situation makes it possible to assert the responsibility of youth in certain public problems, which legitimizes an intervention on their environmental concern.

Based on a quantitative (n=1627) and a qualitative (n=40) surveys starting from semi directives interviews conducted in eleven high school in six different EU countries, this communication will underline the reality of environmental and energy awareness among adolescents and young adults. As learning places, it is therefore interesting to examine how schools take up the energy issue to make it a principle of energy saving education whose principles are supposed to be applied elsewhere. The survey examines the reception of energy efficiency policies and its results on youth energy practices. This presentation will question youth's representation of public policies action as well as political discourses to deal with energy and climate issues. If Young people are targeted by energy saving campaigns at school (European union green education programs) from which they learn the principles to apply them, their lifestyles remain consumerist even based on environmentally responsible principles.

Wanderlust on a Warming Planet: Climate-Friendly Learning in Young Adults' Vacation Practices

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This article explores the social dynamics enabling and impeding climate-friendly practice change using the vacation practices of Danish young adults as a prism.

Going on vacation is often a highly carbon-intensive practice, and much scholarship has described holidays as notoriously hard to reconcile with climate concern. This schism is particularly salient for young adults, who are often found to be particularly concerned about climate change but also travel more often and across longer distances than other

age groups. As such, young adults' vacation practices constitute a topical case of the social dynamics that foster and impede climate-friendly practice change.

With an environmental sociology outset, this article employs an interdisciplinary approach combining theories of practice (Schatzki, 1996; Shove et al., 2012) with the fields of environmental and sustainability education (Wals, 2007), informal learning (Gramatakos & Lavau, 2019; Lysgaard, 2018), and climate change communication (Ballantyne, 2016; Wibeck, 2014) to describe the social learning involved in climate-friendly practice change and social media's roles in it.

Based on digital ethnography and interviews and focus groups with 36 Danish 18-29-year-olds of varied sociodemographic backgrounds, the article describes the social learning involved in reproducing and changing young adults' vacation practices.

It finds that climate-friendly practice change is limited, but does occur, and draws insights from prevailing changes to describe obstacles and opportunities for further climate-friendly practice change. The article shows how learning involved in such climate-friendly practice change is highly situated and social, and that important parts of these learning processes are unfolding via social and other digital media. It concludes by highlighting possibilities and impediments for further climate-friendly practice change – in young adults' vacation practices and beyond.

Imagining Alternative Mobility Futures In The Brussels Region: A Practice Approach

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The Brussels metropolitan area is one of the most congested areas in Europe every working day, despite the fact that alternatives to car mobility (mainly, but not only, by train) are converging on the capital. This presentation focuses on the practice of commuting by car to the Brussels region and is framed by social practice theories. The future of this commuting practice, as imagined by the commuters themselves, will be analysed, focusing on the space considered and the creativity applied. Some elements and paradoxes that may challenge commuting practices and more sustainable mobility transitions are also discussed. The data for this study come from two dozen in-depth interviews conducted in 2022 and 2023 with commuters, namely with beneficiaries of a company car, a specific fiscal scheme. This scheme often comes with a free fuel card for both private and professional trips and is financially very advantageous for those who benefit from it, raising questions of environmental justice. Preliminary results suggest a paradox: commuters with a company car experience larger and more numerous spaces travelled to thanks to the company car and the free fuel card, but they do show a cognitive closure in imagining alternative mobility projects, thanks to or because of the company car and the facility it provides.

Future Generations are like Cheshire Cat? Deciphering Future Generations in Climate Policies and Energy Transition – Findings from Dual Literature Reviews

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Mitigation and adaptation to climate change is a process stretched over time. To this end, climate policies, including the energy transition, have embraced their impact on future generations, who have become one of the stakeholders of these policies. This is evident in the data on the growth of publications referring to "future generations" in recent years. The presence of future generations is therefore fundamental in decision-making processes, but this is a blurry notion that needs to unpack the assumptions that comprise it. This concept is not easy to operationalize as long as each author adopts a different definition of who is already and who is not yet a "future generation". For some, it is the generation of our children (already present in the world), for others it is all those who are not yet born. However, the question arises, should the future generations who will appear in the world in the next 10-20 years be treated equally with those who will be here in another, 100, 200, or even 1,000 years? In this paper, I present the results of two systematic literature reviews on how authors of scientific articles use the term "future generations." By juxtaposing how future generations are conceptualized in the climate change literature ("future generations" AND "climate change" n=105) with the energy transition literature ("future generations" AND "energy transition" n=20), I show that these two research fields differ in the way they conceptualize and include future generations as stakeholders of proposed climate policies. These articles reveal two tendencies: to rhetorically invoke future generations as a normative category to reinforce the call to action on the intergenerational justice framework, and to try to conceptualize future generations depending on the purpose of the research and position of the authors. In the latter case the authors make normative expectations more realistic by creates future generations as a group with certain characteristics needed to be taken into account in a particular case. Future generations are thus what we make them out to be when we talk about them, which then blur in air when we finish. Utterly like the Cheshire Cat.

RN12 | T02_02: Spatial Disparities and Vulnerabilities to Environmental and Technological Hazards

Socio-Spatial Inequalities in Energy Transition, Crisis Adaptation and Sustainability in Contemporary Hungary

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HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences

Energy transition – being a key component of climate change adaptation – has been increasingly on the international political and policy agenda in the recent years. Meanwhile, since 2021 a new energy crisis began to unfold, related to post-pandemic economic development and Russia's aggression in Ukraine, which put an abrupt adaptation pressure on households. Crisis adaptation of households may be in line with energy transition, but tensions may also arise between sustainability and households' responses to the energy crisis.

Households' reaction to such changes in the context of their energy use is contingent on their energy use characteristics and problems, as well as their resources (financial and non-financial) concerning energy transition and crisis adaptation, therefore it shows distinct socio-spatial patterns. E.g. resource poor households in energy poverty, and areas where such households concentrate, may suffer systematic disadvantages during energy transition, which is by now reflected by the strengthening just transition discourse. Socio-spatial inequalities in the crisis adaptation of households is meanwhile a lesser examined topic yet, similarly to potential tensions between sustainability and crisis adaptation.

The presentation aims to contribute to building up scientific knowledge on these issues, by analysing socio-spatial disparities in energy use and households' strategies concerning energy transition and crisis adaptation in contemporary Hungary, and by presenting specific examples of potential tensions between crisis adaptation and environmental sustainability. The analysis is based on primary quantitative and qualitative data collection: a survey conducted in February-March 2023 representative for the adult population of Hungary, and case studies concerning the energy use of higher status, as well as socially deprived households. (Research funding: NRDI No. 138020; 146987.)

Socio-Spatial Vulnerability to Environmental Risks in Lithuania: Understanding Stressors and identifying "Hot Spots"

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The response to complex environmental risks requires the understanding of local contexts, juxtaposing spatial distributions of environmental risks and social vulnerabilities of local communities. Environmental risk reduction should include both physical (for example, the level of air pollution) and human dimensions of vulnerabilities (Frigerio, 2016). Research shows that social vulnerabilities combined with the exposure to environmental risks reveal spatial patterns of risk areas (Radushynski, 2023).

The aim of this presentation is to reveal the patterns of socio-spatial vulnerabilities to environmental risks in Lithuania, juxtaposing the official data of environmental risks (air and water pollution, floods, forest fires) with the population census data of 2021.

Our analysis allows to identify "hot spots" with multiple environmental risks and high social vulnerabilities and understand main factors towards increasing the resilience of local communities to environmental risks. Identification of social stressors in the areas of high environmental risks allow to better plan prevention and mitigation measures.

This presentation is based on the project „Socio-spatial determinants of societal vulnerability and resilience to crises and strengthening the crisis response potential of communities"(SERENITY), funded by the Research Council of Lithuania, no. S-VIS-23-21

Corrosive Communities: Tension and (Mis)Trust in Anticipation of Technological Disasters

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Extant research regarding environmental disasters has highlighted the unique effects of chronic technological disasters such as oil spills or industrial contamination on local communities. Specifically, scholars have underscored how human-made disasters can lead to significant fissures and a deterioration of social capital among residents, a phenomenon known as "corrosive communities." Yet, we know comparatively less about cases where corrosive communities emerge in anticipation of potential localized technological disasters. To address this gap in the literature, we examined the case of Roșia Montană in Romania, where a social rift emerged as a result of a proposed gold mining project. Some members of the community organized to

opposed the proposed project, citing concerns over environmental and political threats. On the other side, proponents and supporters of the gold mining project disputed the legitimacy of the activists' claims resorting to vilification and threats. Our data come from a years-long study that relies on in-depth interviews (n=31), participant observation during protest events, and document analysis, including news coverage (n=180 news articles) and government documents. Our examination of this case allowed us to map specific pathways that lead to significant community contention in the process of environmental decision making. Our results show that threats of arbitration within the context of intractable conflicts can lead to an erosion of trust, contentious relationships, and heightened perceptions of environmental risk among local residents. We conclude our paper by discussing the implications of our work in the context of actual and potential technological disasters and corrosive communities.

A Sociological Analysis of Climate Justice and Vulnerability in Portugal

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The current cycle of climate change is taking place on a global scale, affecting populations and societies across the board. This global condition often leads to the omission of two differentiations that are acutely relevant for sociology: (1) the historical global inequalities that have led to this situation, and (2) the differentiated vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change. Sociological analysis must examine these intrincate issues of responsibility and climate justice across various territories and social scales.

The Portuguese case offers a suitable context to study the wicked problem of climate justice: a society affected by deep inequalities, as well as rapid and recent processes of modernisation; a territory that is doubly exposed to the impacts of climate change, due to its southern position in Europe and to its Atlantic front; its adaptive capacity is heavily dependent on policies and funding support from the European Union. Yet, Portugal still maintains social structures of local solidarity and cooperation – localism – based on some traditional values that have proved especially valuable in face of the financial, pandemic and political crises.

This paper presents the sociological dimensions that expose the strengths and vulnerabilities of the Portuguese society in the face of climate change. It considers the key social and territorial dynamics of the country, both in economic and political-institutional terms, and above all in terms of justice. All this in the light of the foundations of sociological knowledge, which in Portugal were revived after the Democratic Revolution that celebrates its 50th anniversary.

RN12 | T02_03: Technological and Social Approaches to Climate Solutions

Problem-shifting? Tackling Climate Change with Mining CRMs in Europe's Remote Regions

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As the recent Critical Raw Materials Act proves, the EU wants to increase the production of critical minerals in its region in response to being a fossil-free continent in 2050, marketed as a Green Deal. To strengthen Europe's independence from mineralization and metal production in China or developing countries, mining activity is to be increased in Europe – and in practice, it means, on the sparsely populated outskirts of Europe. For example, Europe's northernmost county, Finnish Lapland, is the hot spot for mineral exploration and mining. Around 80 percent of mineral exploration in Finland is situated in Lapland, and half a dozen new mining projects are pending in the province with no prior mining history.

This can be seen as a problem-shifting: the global and European climate crisis and geopolitical risks related to CRMs are solved by supporting new mines in remote regions of Europe. The general problem is moved in place and in time: problem-solving is located, for example, in Northern environments and pushed to the futures of local communities as mines may involve an environmental risk and, in any case, environmental cumulative impacts are realized. What do Lappish people think about the EU's mineral policy? The answer is not clear-cut. Local communities' views are divided on the development of the mining industry in their home regions, and there are local, national as well global reasons behind the different opinions. These themes are discussed in a presentation funded by the underlying research, the Horizon Europe project AGEMERA.

Emerging Narratives Around the Future Of Deep-sea Mining

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Countries and private corporations are moving towards the exploitation of polymetallic nodules from the seabed, known as deep sea mining. While deep sea mining is is currently not authorised – but could be in a near future – exploration is currently permitted.

Deep sea mining is faced with large uncertainties, as there is no existing commercial project acting as precedent, making governance and regulation particularly challenging.

Policy decision-makers look to land-based mining but cannot establish regulations entirely fit-for-purpose if the environmental, social and governance risks of deep sea-mining are not studied and understood better. If deep-sea mining is worldwide approved, it may play a significant role in the global supply of metals required for the energy transition, in particular cobalt, copper, manganese, and nickel but with likely irremediable long-term environmental impacts.

The emerging literature on the environmental, social and governance dimensions of deep-sea mining emphasize the need to understand if/why this new mining activity is considered as socially acceptable in some countries and not in others and what are the arguments of mining companies and countries supporting deep-sea mining and the ones of NGOs and countries opposing deep-sea mining.

This paper looks at the coalition of actors against or in favour of deep-sea mining. A discourse analyse present the emerging narratives around deep-sea mining and helps to understand how all the unknowns of this totally new activity are apprehended by different categories of stakeholders and how positions of each of them are shifting.

Navigating the Future of Carbon Capture and Storage Technology: The Interplay of Social Acceptance and Political Development

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Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CC(U)S) technology faces dual challenges—technical and non-technical. These non-technical hurdles encompass social, political, economic, legal and regulatory dimensions. Neglecting any can impede CC(U)S hubs and clusters. These challenges are dynamic, evolving in response to shifts in public perceptions, national politics, local planning, regulations, and policies.

Public awareness of and acceptance of CO2 storage is low, especially when compared to a more positive perception of Carbon Capture and Use (CCU). It requires an ongoing, comprehensive engagement strategy beyond scientific dissemination, employing multiple channels, ensuring credibility and transparency, and framing CC(U)S as a vital part of climate change mitigation. A challenge arises from mistrust towards politicians, policymakers, and major industry players as communicators for CC(U)S. Research institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) enjoy higher public trust and should lead in disseminating accurate, accessible information on CC(U)S within the broader climate action context.

Addressing these non-technical challenges demands proactive engagement with regulators, local communities, and civil society organisations. Overlooking this aspect can delay operationalisation, from scoping to planning and implementation. CC(U) 's journey to a sustainable future is multidimensional, intertwining technology, society, and politics.

In sum, CC(U)S success hinges on navigating non-technical hurdles that evolve with time. This research is based on an extensive review of literature on the topic, a stakeholders' workshop and a survey of stakeholders to highlight practical approaches for moving forward to address the aforementioned social and political challenges associated with CC(U)S.

Socialising the Carbon Cycle – Reconfiguring Climate Change through Carbon Dioxide Removal

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For around 12.000 years carbon has circulated relatively stable within the boundaries of the natural carbon cycle. The increased exploitation of fossil carbon reserves by modern societies has led to a surge in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration causing an unbalancing of this cycle resulting in rising temperatures at a speed unseen in the deep history of the planet. To counter this the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has outlined different "net-zero scenarios" to achieve a rebalancing of human emission with the natural carbon cycle. Alongside emissions reductions, Net-Zero demands the active removal of Co2 from the atmosphere through different carbon dioxide removal (CDR) methods. My paper explores how the emerging culture of CDR reconfigures climate change mitigation from abandonment to control. I argue that through the explicit effort to remove carbon from the atmosphere, the carbon cycle is becoming the social carbon cycle. Carbon is no longer treated as a natural externality to be observed by a system of scientific practices assuming dynamic development independent of human observation and action, but instead it is treated as a formable, designable, and manageable materiality structuring both social life and environmental conditions. The paper follows an STS approach and is based on the analysis of interviews with actors in the British carbon dioxide removal industry. Based on this data, I outline how the emerging political economy of CDR speculates on controlling atmospheric Co2 levels through a technology-market nexus, and critically evaluate how the relationship between humans and the environment is renegotiated through CDR.

RN12 | T02_04: Critical Perspectives on Food Practices and Cultures

Food Practices And Food Cultures In The UK And Hungary For Sustainability And Net-zero Emission Transition

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Food systems are globally responsible for 20-40% of total greenhouse gas emissions. The EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050, including the food sector from farm to fork. Consumer preferences in relation to food choice and mode of shopping have changed significantly, especially during the COVID19 pandemic, which could have long lasting impacts on how people purchase, store, and cook food in the future. The impacts on energy and emissions have not been researched or analysed in detail. Any technology advances need to be considered within a complete food system context from a social perspective. Potential climate and social impacts on the global food system and the resultant impacts to the EU food system need to be understood to ensure resilience and sustainability. To address the gap in the literature and analyse social, behavioural, and public perception issues for reducing energy and carbon emissions across the food chain, we conducted survey questionnaires in the UK and Hungary to understand how consumers' food related perception and behaviours have changed, and the impacts on energy and emissions reduction by 2050. The survey focuses on younger generations who will be the main consumer groups in 2050. It collects data of their perspectives on food sustainability, alternative protein, frozen food compared to fresh food, food waste reduction, shopping online versus in-person, and food packaging. Results are compared between UK and Hungary on the similarities and differences of the two case study countries and the implications for energy and emissions of their food chain.

Sustainability Assessment In Co-Creation With Practitioners: How Can Transdisciplinary And Transformative Research Support The Shift Towards Sustainable Food Supply Chains?

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As the global community faces the challenges of climate change, resource depletion, environmental injustice and social inequality, understanding and promoting sustainable practices in consumption and production, including distribution, has become essential. In 2023, the Belmont Forum launched a research program on Sustainable Consumption and Production Systems (SSCP2022) with seven international projects. One of the projects, "Co-Creation of Sustainable Transformations of Food Supply Chains through Cooperative Business Models and Governance (Co-SFSC)" coordinates transdisciplinary and transformative research on sustainable local/regional food supply chains in five hubs and with six teams in Turkey, Thailand, Taiwan, Sweden, Germany and the USA. The initial aim is to assess the status quo of current food supply structures and, based on this, to develop sustainable structures through cooperative business and governance models.

Sustainability assessment plays a crucial role in evaluating the environmental, social and economic impacts of human activities and provides guidance to all stakeholders for transformation strategies in the food supply system.

The paper presents the transdisciplinary sustainability assessment within the project, focusing on the co-creation process and the joint definition of objectives and critical indicators for the assessment of sustainability and resilience of food supply chains. It highlights the importance and implementation of stakeholder engagement throughout the assessment process and strategies to foster collaboration between different stakeholders.

Key questions in the research process are: How can sustainability assessment contribute to the transformation process towards sustainable food systems? How can we integrate innovative and participatory methods and traditional ecological knowledge into sustainability assessment? To what extent are practice partners/stakeholders involved in the transformation process? What are their needs, challenges and opportunities? What information and support can transdisciplinary research offer them?

Waste, Identity, 'Other': How Are Sustainable Societies Possible?

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United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) demonstrate the intricate and multi-faceted nature of the unsustainability of modern societies, expressed as tensions or even crises. So, where to start in order to transition to sustainable societies? This paper addresses this question by starting from the issue of food waste as a 'window of clarity' for understanding the institutions and cultural conventions that lead to unsustainable practices (i.e. the sociological theoretical tradition of waste). It adopts a sociological perspective that connects food waste, social representation and identity formation, and the construction of the 'other'. It first discusses food waste as an environmental issue and points to the tensions/contradictions in contemporary societies that generate food waste. It focuses on its representation as the negative 'other' in the food systems, and the implications about the culture that creates it. It then looks into the 'othering' process of marginalized groups, and draws parallels between the two 'othering' processes highlighting how they are based on a similar logic of dichotomisation and polarities of 'good' and 'bad'. It argues that it is this fragmented, binary and antithetical logic that needs to be challenged at its roots for sustainable societies to become possible. It proposes that the representation of human and non-human entities, as well as the analysis of contemporary socio-environmental problems, should become relational and should be based on the 'no waste' and 'interdependence' principles of natural ecosystems, of which humans are a part. It concludes with implications for education.

A Critical Analysis of Sustainable Labels on Food. How Consumers are deceived by Greenwashing

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The Agenda 2030 has successfully popularized the term Sustainable. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the concept of the Limits to Growth and the introduction of Sustainable Development in the report Our Common Future, which first emphasized the integration of Environment, Society, and Economy. Sustainable Development can be perceived as a superficial slogan or, worse, a marketing strategy used to convey a sense of concern for the environment or society. This deceptive practice or marketing strategy, known as Greenwashing, is increasingly employed by businesses to dissuade consumers from changing their consumption patterns while maintaining high levels of consumption.

Greenwashing poses significant risks and challenges to the effective transition towards sustainability. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in the food industry, despite the declining quality of industrialized food.

Given the growing consumer consciousness regarding food consumption and matters of concerns about environmental and social issues, corporations are investing more in communication strategies than in actual sustainability practices. Therefore, the objective of this study is to examine a specific group of Italian industrialized food products that utilize packaging elements and language associated with Sustainability and the Environment. The study focuses on two key aspects of sustainability: a) Social Sustainability, by evaluating nutritional quality and saturated fats, considering shelf-life and exploring potential implications in terms of not communicable diseases; b) Environmental impact through food miles.

By analyzing product labels, we aim to identify practices of Greenwashing within the industrialized food sector and assess whether the Italian food industry is genuinely participating in the ecological and social transition or whether it is perpetuating delays in addressing climate change through deceptive marketing strategies.

So Celebrated and Underutilised: Food Policy Debates Around Legumes

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Legumes can improve arable cropping systems' sustainability and enhance farmed animal and human diet quality. Paradoxically, their production and consumption in Europe are low, whereas their demand for feed is high. Current EU policy agendas push for transformative changes, market and infrastructure restructuring towards plant-based diets, which are replete with paradoxes. Policy objectives frequently contradict each other, with ecological objectives often clashing with economic and international trade objectives. This paper draws on our case studies conducted in five European countries under the RADIANT project, which revealed that legumes have central roles in food policy debates. However, stakeholder interviews indicate that legumes offer contradictory narratives and promiscuous and antagonistic visions among stakeholders, which explains their underutilization. This paper offers an action researchers' perspective on interpretative policy analysis that engages multiple stakeholders and decision-makers in envisioning more favourable policy and governance frameworks. The role of new methodologies required for policy deliberations in science-society-policy interfaces is highlighted to create policy innovations that meet current and future food and nutritional security challenges.

RN12 | T02_05: Conflicts, Policies and Practices in Forest Management

The Forest-Linked Lives of Rural Women and Their Grassroots Protests Against Deforestation: The Case of Aegean Forests, Turkey.

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Turkey's Aegean forests have seen significant deforestation in recent decade, which constitutes more than half of the forest loss in the country. In opposition to the detrimental consequences of deforestation, including forest fires, mining, and construction, local women, especially elderly women from villages, have organized grassroots movements. Based on my ethnographic fieldwork conducted in the forest villages of the Aegean region between 2018 and 2022 and utilizing a feminist multispecies approach, I argue that the interwoven lives of rural women and forest ecosystems serve as the primary driving force behind these grassroots initiatives. First, the local women have strong roots in the forest. They began matching their daily activities with the forest's cycles when they were children, so they have a more sustainable perspective on the forest's resources. Second, foraging is a common activity for local women who have an in-depth knowledge of the forest's edible flora. What Scott (2022) terms "plants for runaways" are the benefits of foraging, which include a reduction in rural poverty, a space for women to connect, and independence from domesticating ties at home. Third, through their ceremonies, arts and crafts, and culinary traditions, elder women have deep connections to the forest, which forms the foundation of what Kimmerer (2013) discusses as "indigenous wisdom" based on reciprocity with nature. By examining these three themes, I demonstrate how local women collaborate to preserve their slow, reciprocal, and long-term relationships with the forests, which are crucial to both their well-being and the sustainability of the forest ecosystem.

Conflicts and Social Mobilization against Clearcutting as an Opportunity to Question the Forest Social Order

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Protests and conflicts against clearcutting have increased tenfold in the last ten years in France. NGOs and citizen movements are so active that they are succeeding in suspending and even stopping many harvesting operations in the most productive forest regions. How did this social movement emerge and how are forest owners' associations reacting to this strong social mobilization against clearcutting? Using a socio-constructivist theoretical framework to analyze the rise and fall of social problems, we will show how ENGOS and local citizens' movements are joining forces today to put clearcutting regulations on the political agenda through highly effective grassroots and internet communication campaigns. Conflicts are also stimulated by the "greening" and "climatisation" of social debates, which means that every logging action should be evaluated according to its ecological and climatic impacts. Clearcuts illustrate these conflicting views by questioning the impact of forest management operations on the landscape, ecosystem services and the ambivalent role of forestry in the economic development of remote rural areas. More generally, these protests are putting into question the forest social order that usually prevail in the forest sector. Despite some moments of violence, we show that these conflicts can be a positive moment according to Georg Simmel' approach of conflicts to discuss the social contract between citizens, forest owners' organizations and forest policy makers. Finally, we will show how these conflicts lead some forest owners to reconsider certain forestry techniques such as clearcutting and policy makers to adapt forestry regulations concerning clearcutting at the margin.

Measuring, Managing and Governing Ecosystems – the shaping of indexes and indicators in Nordic forestry politics

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With the realization that ecosystems are vital for human life, public, political, and scientific attention is paid to maintaining ecosystem stability and 'health'. There has been a shift towards ecosystem-based management, which represents changes in the key principles – the logic – underpinning political, administrative, and science-based processes. The extent and impact of this shift is yet to be seen. However, current knowledge indicates that, rather than a shift towards more environmentally friendly policy, the new logic supports policy decisions that seek to maximize the human benefits from ecosystems. How can this be explained?

In this study, we seek to analyze administrative and science-based processes in environmental policy, targeting biodiversity and ecosystem management in Swedish and Norwegian forestry politics. The empirical material consists of documents and interviews with actors within authorities, academia, civil society, and consultants. We develop and apply a theoretical framework that addresses the interdependencies of governing, measuring, and managing nature. We are particularly interested in how new forms of measuring and assessing the state of nature affect decisions and how nature is represented and managed. Norway

and Sweden are institutionally similar countries that are currently developing rather different measurement systems and indicators for assessing ecosystem health. We will seek to explore how these measurements are shaped and assess their political nature and effects. Thereby, the study seeks to deepen the understanding of processes that make 'nature' governable through specific government technologies and to increase our knowledge of how environmental expertise on ecosystems is formed and authorized in national policy formation.

"Hands off Our Forests!" – Responses to the EU's Climate Change Policies in the Authoritarian Policy Context of the Polish Forest Management

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The European Green Deal (EGD) introduced ambitious targets for the role of forests in climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection, which may seem overly ambitious to some European Union (EU) Member States. In Poland, the EGD has raised serious concerns among key forest policy stakeholders. The aims of this paper are to explore the attitudes of coalitions within the forest policy field towards the EUFS and to examine the impact of the authoritarian shift in Poland on forest policy and its responsiveness to the EGD. Data collection methods included desk research and 30 semi-structured interviews. We argue that the relatively slow adoption of climate change mitigation measures in Poland is due to the strong position of the State Forestry Administration, which does not consider climate change to be a pressing issue. This is reinforced by the fact that forest policy is controlled by a party with a Eurosceptic agenda. While the authoritarian characteristics of the political context of forest policy have initially compromised the implementation of the EGD, they have also undermined the relationships within the dominant forest coalition on the ground and the social legitimacy of foresters. As a result, a major external shock to the sub-system associated with the general election and change of ruling party in 2023 opens a window of opportunity for a major policy shift in line with EU expectations. This paper aims to fill a gap in the existing literature on forest policy responses to climate change. It also contributes to the literature on the impact of authoritarian rule on the character and dynamics of forest policy.

Embracing Degradation: Doing State by Monitoring Thermal State(s) of Permafrost(s)

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Sciences Po, France

Today, everyone seems to care about the degradation of the frozen earth called permafrost. Defined as the ground that maintains a negative temperature for at least two consecutive years, permafrost is no longer reliably frozen. Recent studies have shown that permafrost is thawing and converting into a climatic 'hazard' by releasing carbon dioxide, as well as by causing infrastructures and buildings to crack and break. In this context, monitoring permafrost's thermal state came to be seen as the way to control the processes of its degradation. This paper examines the building of the state-sponsored monitoring system in Russia as a lens through which to explore the state-building processes in the age of environmental crisis. Building upon in-depth interviews with permafrost practitioners—state representatives and scientists who deal with issues of thawing permafrost—and document analysis, I demonstrate how and why states come to be interested in degrading permafrost. I argue that the state enrolls thawing permafrost in its extractive economic and territorial ambitions by reducing complex permafrost processes to 'ballpark' temperatures and by blaming permafrost for economic losses and infrastructural failures. Yet, thawing permafrost is not passive during these processes, and thanks to its ambiguous ontological nature and dynamic material qualities, it directs and redirects the goals of the Russian state in new directions. Following the practices of permafrost practitioners allows us to recognize that there are multiple permafrost(s) in action, which remain out of reach for the state-sponsored monitoring gaze.

RN12 | T03_01: Climate Change Narratives and Policies

The Translation from Climate Change to a Nation State Ranking

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The global community is facing new challenges and problems due to the crisis caused by human-made climate change. To limit global warming, greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced as soon as possible. The timeframe for limiting global warming is closing and necessitates far-reaching transformations within societies around the world. The disproportionate burden of climate change on those who are least responsible for causing it raises questions of climate justice and the need for urgent action. Civil society organizations and NGOs around the world are advocating for swift action by governments responsible for a significant portion of emissions. To achieve this, actors need to attract media coverage and create narratives to push for political action. Although rankings are often seen critically by social scientists, performance indicators have become a popular tool for NGOs and other actors to draw media attention to their causes and advocate for change. Using the Climate Change Performance Index as a case study, this presentation will show how the ranking team transforms climate data into a ranking and generates media attention with its publication. The presentation builds upon ethnographic fieldwork conducted within the ranking team of the Climate Change Performance Index during the publication cycle of 2022 and 2023. The talk offers insights into the work of ranking production in the field of climate governance, the mechanisms of a decentralized media strategy as well as the considerations made to transform climate data into media content.

The Rise of the Climate State: The Contrasting Cases of Climate Strategies in Japan and the EU

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Wildfires, snowstorms and rising temperatures are going hand in hand with rising inequalities and political dissatisfaction. Through the Paris Climate Accord, the world has pledged to become climate neutral in 2050. This implies that large parts of the economy need to be restructured and the role of the state in society is changing. This raises the question whether we see the transformation of the welfare state into a climate state?

In this paper, I contrast two approaches to achieving carbon neutrality in high income countries with a large welfare state – Japan and the EU. Japan has launched its Green Growth Strategy (GGS) to become climate neutral in 2050. This will be mainly achieved by decarbonizing industries and investing in climate adaptation. Whereas the EU's plan – the European Green Deal – also aims to reduce social inequalities and increase political support through its 'Just Transition Mechanism'. The cases will give insight in the changing role of the state and logics concerning the economy and the climate.

In order to analyze the plans, I will use the tools provided by critical sociological pragmatism and socio-legal studies (Boltanski & Chiapello, 2005; Macaulay, 1979). First, I have done a desk analysis of the most important laws and regulations concerning the goal to become climate neutral in 2050. Second, I have completed a discourse analysis based on editorials in newspapers. Third, I have mapped the policy networks in the two capital cities. I have done this through a mix of desk-research and (20+) interviews with key-actors.

Climate Change Or The Anthropocene? Anatomy of a Narrative Tangle

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Anthropocene has become synonymous with climate change. But while the latter term has a precise, albeit controversial, referent, what exactly does the former refer to? A new geologic epoch, says the definition, determined by human impact on the planet. So its referent is not a thing but a relation. But what does such an account mean, and aim at? In this contribution, I examine the conceptual and narrative tangle that has taken shape around the notion of the Anthropocene. The hypothesis is that it is, or belongs to, a governmental dispositive in Foucault's sense of something (rarely resulting from actual design) aimed at protecting the dominant order through the assertion of a regime of truth. This happens first of all by means of discourses, where concepts and ideas are narratively connected, that is translated into stories with implicit and explicit causal factors and related moral lessons. I begin by discussing the main storylines found in the Anthropocene debate; what distinguishes them and what unites them. The emergent picture is already intricated, but it becomes even more so when the link between the Anthropocene and other concepts, Gaia and Earth in particular, is addressed. The result is an elusive interplay of cross-references. I then try to identify the deep mechanism that constitutes the dispositive. I conclude by briefly questioning how to escape it, paving the way to a real climate change politics – an urgent question, as the effectiveness of the dispositive can be measured against the failures of climate negotiations and the emergence at social movement level of a 'post-apocalypticism' of questionable political effectiveness.

Writing France's climate trajectory. Work and bureaucratic diplomacy around the elaboration of the National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC)

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The concept of "strategic State" has taken root in the field of public action. It reflects a desire to (re)position the State over the long term, at a time when many collective problems require us to look to the future. Among them, the climate issue occupies an increasingly important place. While the notion of "urgency", which has now become an integral part of the political agenda, requires the State to act quickly in this area, its intervention is also accompanied by anticipation and the construction of a "desirable future", as evidenced by the creation and mobilization of several instruments.

This contribution aims to illustrate this activity by taking the example of the National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC). Based on a survey of the elaboration of this document from 2017 to 2020, it looks at how the administration in charge of climate issues endeavored to set a trajectory for France, with a view to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. By examining its tools and working practices, as well as its interactions with the bureaucratic players involved in the process, it shows that the construction of a climate future is an eminently negotiated exercise, which struggles to extricate itself from short – and medium-term contingencies, symbolized by the weight of sectoral administrations and the nature of the arbitrations carried out at the highest level of the State. This work is akin to diplomacy, a term often reserved for the analysis of international relations, but which seems to us heuristic to qualify a facet of bureaucratic activity rarely highlighted in research on the sociology of State.

Smoothing Out Tensions: An Embedding Function of Urban Climate Change Adaptation Plans in Poland

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This study critically examines urban environmental documents as a tool of expressing public obligations. Drawing inspiration from the political ecology perspective and science and technology studies, the analysis investigates the power relations involved in designing a written policy under socio-economic tensions. Tracing the development of urban adaptation plans in Poland from 2007 to 2023 demonstrates how environmental documents embedded a translation of complex and uncertain climate threats within an acceptable public obligations. Employing a practice-oriented analysis developed by Kristin Asdal and Hilde Reinertsen, key phases of translation were derived from extensive documentation triangulated with in-depth interviews. The results suggest that, due to EU-inspired and project-based local environmental documents, climate change adaptation in Poland was successfully problematized as a manageable urban issue and then secured through the enrolment of local administration. However, as the issue went through the form of adaptation plans anchored in administrative logic, its mobilization objectives were limited to the internal dynamics of local bureaucracy. In conclusion, the study debates the prospects of environmental documents, including the alternatives in facilitating local preparedness for climate change that are sensitive to their embedding function.

RN12 | T03_02: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Community Insights into Biodiversity Protection

Transforming biodiversity governance? Indigenous Peoples' contributions and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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The 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity arguably marked a radical rights-turn in global biodiversity governance. For the first time in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the new global framework included a strong focus on rights-based approaches, different value systems, and non-market-based approaches, and specific clauses recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to land, territories, and resources. This paper will assess this – rather surprising – outcome, combining legal and sociological analysis, based on a literature review, content analysis of UN documents, participant observation at CBD meetings, and interviews with key negotiators. It will first provide an overview of the contribution of IPLCs to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and of the evolution of the CBD framework to partially recognize such a contribution. It will review opportunities for the meaningful participation of IPLCs in CBD processes. Meaningful participation is understood as a collaborative process based on the recognition of IPLCs and their contribution to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. It will focus in particular on the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit-sharing, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, investigating the conditions that enabled recognition of IPLCs' rights.

Rethinking Multispecies Society, Politics and Justice from Indigenous Sámi Perspectives

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UNIVERSITY OF LAPLAND, Finland

Scholars of environmental humanities, posthuman research and related studies have already for some time highlighted the need for operationalizing new forms of interspecies responsibility, justice, politics, ethics and care in order to find the way out of the planetary emergency. Though it is increasingly acknowledged by scholars that posthumanist, multispecies and more-than-human perspectives in social theory are very much indebted to Indigenous relational ontologies, Indigenous Peoples as academic subjects and their knowledge and epistemes continue to be marginalized. The Indigenous Sámi People living in Northern Europe have to a considerable degree retained own societal, cultural, political and intellectual traditions and institutions that are characterized by human-environment relationality and the centrality of more-than-human perspectives and agency. In our presentation, we, as Sámi social science scholars, will discuss how Sámi societal and political traditions and thought can open new perspectives to sociological and posthuman conversations on environment and society and hence, to rethink, rearticulate and transform the questions of inter – and multispecies responsibility, justice and politics.

Co-management And Local Ecological Knowledge as a Facilitator of Ecosystemic Transformations: The Case of the Lira Fishing Community

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Introduction: The project Mar de Lira and the Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest "Os Miñarzos", was born as a participatory process of a processual and reticular type from the own community of Lira. Its objective was to generate an ad-hoc co-management tool that would allow the transfer of local and/or traditional ecological knowledge between the fishing sector located in the Northwest Cantabrian fishing ground, stakeholders, civil society and Public Administration. Objectives: Within this framework, the objective of this proposal is to demonstrate that a participatory civic culture in the decision-making process is positive and demonstrative for managing fisheries micro-societies from a vision of sustainable and eco-responsible development. Methodology: the research steps lead to the systematization of explanatory variables and show the ecosystemic sustainability indicators that gave rise to the configuration of the first ecosystemic project for the Autonomous Community of Galicia. Discussion: We reflect on the evolution of local and/or traditional ecological knowledge, and how this tool is fundamental in the management of fisheries and the organization of fishing communities. The case of Galicia in Carnota (Lira fishing community) is given as an example. Results: the attributes that guide traditional knowledge and how this is reflected in the case of Carnota (Lira fishing community) are indicated.

Urban Ecosystem and Actors of Regeneration. Pavia and the Experience of the Horti

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The National Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 reaffirms the close relationship between biodiversity protection and restoration and overall health (following the one-health approach), adaptation to climate change, the economy, and sustainable development.

This relationship, applicable to all terrestrial and marine ecosystems, takes on particular significance in the case of the urban ecosystem, considering that over 55% of the world's population currently resides in cities and three-quarters of the demand for natural resources and over 70% of CO2 emissions originate from cities. Hence, there is a need, as indicated by specific goal 10 of the National Biodiversity Strategy, to "halt the loss of green, urban, and peri-urban ecosystems, promote urban greening, and introduce and spread nature-based solutions." This necessity acknowledges the numerous ecosystem services offered by urban greenery.

In September 2022, in the center of Pavia, the historic university college Almo Collegio Borromeo revitalized and opened to the public a space of over three acres. This space combines various activities that integrate the naturalistic dimension, cultural dimension and the social and entrepreneurial dimension.

Horti Borromaici involve collaboration at the local level among public actors, private and civil society's entities, in the realization of an urban regeneration project that places urban greenery and biodiversity at its core. This contribution, by retracing the genesis of the initiative through in-depth interviews, investigates this collaboration, focusing on the motivations of the different actors involved, the value each assigns to biodiversity, and the constraints and opportunities that the local context has presented within the framework of current national and local regulations. The aim is to understand which entities and under what conditions can play a crucial role in urban regeneration processes.

RN12 | T03_03: Understanding Energy Poverty

Tackling Energy Poverty: The Role of Energy Communities

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Climate change and energy poverty are urgent concerns, which the recent energy crisis has made more pressing to solve. Energy communities (ECs) have been highlighted to be key enablers for a fair and green energy transition. However, the potential of ECs to tackle energy poverty remains ambiguous. Three key aims of this paper are to: i) provide an overview of approaches taken by ECs to address energy poverty, ii) highlight barriers faced by ECs vis-à-vis implementation of energy poverty alleviation measures, and iii) assess ECs' (lack of) engagement with tackling energy poverty via a survey and econometric model on self-assessed effectiveness. The latter is done for the Netherlands, which makes for an interesting case due to a doubling of ECs over the past decade and prevalence of energy poverty. The survey response rate was slightly over 25%, with 53% of these ECs being active in addressing energy poverty. Among key results is that measures aimed at strengthening support at neighborhood level (e.g. via investing in provision of local public goods) are used much less compared to financial and other measures. However, this merits more attention since energy poverty not only revolves around housing quality and financial situation of households, but also aspects related to social isolation and institutional trust. The insights for the Netherlands can also be valuable for ECs and policy makers in other countries contemplating or already working towards addressing energy poverty challenges.

Profile of Households Suffering from Energy Poverty in the Municipality of Getafe (Madrid).

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This research is part of the European project ENERGY POVERTY INTELLIGENCE UNIT – EPIU GETAFE (2020) which aims to reduce energy poverty in Getafe (Madrid). The objective of the study is to identify households with visible and hidden energy poverty and their features. Specific conflicts are analyzed, such as the difficulties to keep the house at an adequate temperature, access to the social bonus, payment of energy bills, strategies at home to deal with excess cold or heat, reduction in consumption of home gas or electricity, and the understanding energy bills. The methodological approach is mainly quantitative using an ad hoc survey. The sample includes 741 households interviewed (3.3%

sampling error), distributed almost equally among the neighborhoods of Las Margaritas and La Alhóndiga-Fátima. The questionnaire comprises 41 questions, and the field work was carried out in July 2022. Through the analysis of latent classes, five profiles have been identified based on their characteristics of homes that suffer or not from energy poverty. Despite other deep statistical analysis, an initial view shows that 13,0% of households suffer from very high energy poverty, and 33% at a high intensity. Likewise, one in four households does not suffer from energy poverty, and two groups with different characteristics suffer from moderate poverty.

Double Energy Vulnerability: Residential and Transport Energy Poverty and the Education Outcomes of Young People in Ireland.

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Traditional policymaking often fails to address the new societal implications of the climate crisis and resulting decarbonisation strategies. New eco-social risks are emerging across the life course in the form of residential and transport energy poverty. This paper investigates whether these forms of energy poverty affect – either directly or indirectly – the educational attainment and mental health outcomes of children. Existing research on energy poverty in Ireland has demonstrated that children are more likely to present with health and behavioural conditions when living in poorer housing conditions, such as dampness and lack of heating. However, there is a significant gap in the literature on eco-social risks in the life course in terms of understanding and addressing the role of both residential and transport energy poverty on children's educational achievement and mental health outcomes. Three research questions are explored here: 1) whether there is a direct association between energy poverty in the residential and transport energy domains and educational and/or mental health outcomes; 2) whether associated factors (e.g. gender, degree of urbanisation, income, parental education) affect how energy poverty potentially impacts on educational and mental health outcomes of children by exacerbating social exclusion and inequalities; and 3) whether these dynamics change across time and whether a cumulative impact is evident. We use data from the Growing Up in Ireland study (GUI) – the largest and most relevant longitudinal study on children's development in Ireland. Preliminary findings indicate that energy deprivation is associated with the lower educational achievement and poor mental health of children. Eco-social policies to mitigate these inequalities are discussed.

Causal Stories On The Energy Poverty-Health Nexus: Narratives From Local Stakeholders In France

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While there is a growing awareness of the links between energy poverty and poor health among academics and policy makers, approaches to address these links within a unified policy framework have not yet been developed in France. However, several stakeholders mainly at the local level already work on issues related to both energy poverty and health, often focusing on specific aspects, such as social vulnerability, housing, or health. This research explores the views of local stakeholders on the energy poverty-health nexus. Local authorities and stakeholders such as charities, housing associations, care services, health professionals, or energy suppliers, who are in direct contact with households, are well placed to identify the difficulties of households related to both energy poverty and to health. But what is their understanding of the complex relations between energy poverty and health, and to what extent are they able to integrate considerations related to the energy poverty-health nexus in their professional practice?

This research is based on a case study of a medium-sized city in central France. Based on semi-structured interviews with stakeholders working in different policy fields, we explore how they view the energy poverty-health nexus. From a theoretical perspective, this research shows the importance of considering the different understandings of the topic that drive stakeholders' approaches and decision making, especially on issues that cut across policy fields. From a practical point of view, this work helps to reflect on the potential and limitations of integrating the energy poverty-health nexus into local public policymaking.

RN12 | T03_04: Media Narratives and Environmental Communication

'The Worst Day of the Year' – Media Narratives About the Wildfires of October 2017 in Portugal

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Mass media has a powerful influence in social transformation and strongly impacts on personal and collective views and attitudes regarding some events, by exposing us to a set of facts, opinions and perspectives, often subjectively selected to be disseminated. Media both echoes and helps to create public attitudes, tensions and diverse levels of trust about a large set of issues, also affecting political and policy decisions. Particularly regarding dramatic events – such as extreme environmental events – mass media narratives tend to amplify their occurrence, consequences and to overexploit the views and feelings of the victims. This was the case of the media coverage regarding the wildfires of October 2017 in Portugal which destroyed more than 200 000 hectares of forest (half of the whole burnt area that year). Based on a content analysis of the news issued by eight newspapers with different territorial coverage and periodicity, the current study analyses the (print) media narratives around the wildfires occurred on the 15th October 2017 in the specific case of the Matas do Litoral territories most affected by those fires. The analysis focuses on the news issued immediately after the fires (from 15th October to 15th November 2017) to understand the immediate media handling of the events, considering the way they were communicated together with the political responses; their environmental and socioeconomic impacts; the agents and actors considered alongside their views and feelings. Results show a clear amplification of the role, response and accountability of (mainly political) agents and a greater emphasis on the socioeconomic impacts.

*This presentation was elaborated in the ambit of the ShareFOREST project (PCIF/GRF/0050/2019)

A Content Analysis of the News on Violence against Working Animals in Türkiye

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Violence against animals, in all its abusive forms, is a serious violation of animal rights. In the field of human-animal studies, the topic is usually discussed in relation to violence against humans. Following this, we can claim that violence against animals can be conceptualized as a form of 'masculine domination' (Bourdieu 1998). Within this theoretical framework, this study aims to examine how violence against working horses, donkeys and mules are represented in the media in Turkey.

For this aim, I conducted a content analysis of news on violence against equine animals in three popular newspapers in Turkey, namely, Sabah, Hürriyet and Cumhuriyet between the years 2010 and 2023. I analyzed in these news the following themes: features of the animals and of the violence performers depicted; the context and details of the incident given; what happens after the incident, whether there is a penalty given to the violence performer mentioned in the news. This analysis demonstrated that physical violence against animals is conceptualized as torture and sexual violence in the form of bestiality and rape are represented in the newspapers. News on exploitation of animal labor rarely appear in the newspapers analyzed. Nearly all of the agents of violence are men, performing the violent act individually or mostly in groups. The incidents take place in rural parts of the country where donkeys, horses and mules are still being used. The vulnerability of the animals which are abused is usually depicted in the news by a stress on their disability, such as blindness or old age.

New Stories About Air Pollution – Addressing Justice, Inclusion and Complexity in Media Storytelling

Pawas Bisht

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Air pollution is the greatest threat to human health in India, reducing life expectancy, on average, by 5 years. New Delhi is one of the world's most polluted capital cities with levels of air pollution nearly 15 times the specified WHO limit (5µg/m3) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Media narratives about air pollution are of vital significance in shaping public understanding, framing political discourse, and generating attitudinal, behavioural and policy changes needed to mitigate the problem (Singh and Thachil 2023). This presentation will share insights from an ongoing British Academy funded project, 'Storytelling for Environmental Change' which seeks to identify and overcome limitations in existing media narratives around the issue. The presentation will firstly draw on findings from a large-scale qualitative content analysis to reveal the limited media framing of air pollution in mainstream Indian news media, focussing

in particular on the episodic, fragmented, and hyper-partisan nature of the storytelling. The presentation will then share insights from the practice-based strand of the project which has developed three new film narratives around air pollution. The discussion will use concrete examples from these new films to illuminate new storytelling pathways that address questions of justice, inclusion and complexity around the issue of air pollution. Overall, the presentation responds to the conference theme by reflecting upon key tensions in media storytelling around the air pollution crisis and highlighting pathways for restoring public trust and generating transformative policy action.

Creating Trust and Tension: Framing Climate Change in Media and Public Debate

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Trust in the context of climate change discourse involves the reliance on scientific evidence, official institutions, and communication channels. In this sense, the role of the media in disseminating scientific findings, policies, and positions of social players is crucial in shaping public trust. Up to now, however, there is little research into how the media present climate change and combine visual and textual media.

This talk presents an interdisciplinary study exploring climate change media discourse that draws on perspectives from history, sociology, communication science, and film analysis. The investigation focuses on the media's role in shaping public trust in climate change in Austria, addressing regional dynamics.

Adopting a multimodal approach, the research analyses both textual and video sources reporting on two specific cases, spanning from the 1970s to the present: 1) the media coverage on soy, exploring its centrality in the global food regime and its symbolic significance in discussions about alternative lifestyles and sustainable development; 2) struggles surrounding wind turbines, considering their role as alternatives to fossil fuels, and the tensions and conflicts they invoke in regional and local contexts. The study examines framing processes, visual arguments, fields of action, and the interplay of frames across time, medium, and journalist perspectives.

The authors present their ideas for the development of a systematic methodological framework based on framing analysis. This approach is aimed to be applicable to diverse cases, enriching the understanding of climate communication across perspectives and time frames.

The Role of Media and Learning in Transitions Towards Climate Friendly Vacation Practices

Lars Kjerulf Petersen

Aarhus University, Denmark

This presentation explores the pertinent issue of how and through which forums pro-environmental practice changes are instigated, and how they are dispersed and integrated into new patterns of bodily and cognitive performances. What is it that can set practice changes in motion, reshuffle the constituent elements of any given practice and even sustain them over time? These explorations are unfolded with reference to an ongoing project about transition to climate friendly vacation practices and draw on both practice theory and actor-network theory. One key theoretical and empirical concern in the presentation is how we can and indeed must understand items of media content – the imaginaries and ethics, competences and regulations they convey – as an integral part of the maintenance as well as the transformation of lifeworld practices. Another key concern is how items of media content together with social network interactions are involved in the informal learning processes through which practice changes are developed and consolidated. Preliminary empirical findings, to be included in the presentation, indicate that dominant conceptions of the good vacation often are tied to resource intensive practices but for the most part just as well could be tied to less resource intensive practices. Furthermore, conventional and social media as well as social network interactions all play a role in the creation of concrete vacation desires as well as in the learning of new vacation goals and competences.

RN12 | T03_05: Frontiers of Climate Crises, Military Conflicts, and Displacement

On The Possibility Of Live In Post-human War

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According to recently published research the projected emissions from the first 60 days of the Israel-Gaza war were greater than the annual emissions of 20 individual countries and territories (Neimark et al, 2024), while other research has highlighted the dramatic effects that the Russian-Ukrainian conflict is having, and will have in the future, on the environment, as well as on the world economy, geopolitics and food security (Rawtani et al. 2022; Pereira, 2022). Beginning with an analysis of ongoing tragic conflicts, this paper explores the entanglements between current environmental crises and humanitarian crises. The conceptual frame of the paper is based on the Social Studies of Science and Technology, which proposes perspectives aimed at overcoming the environment/society dichotomy to analyse relationships constructed through agency inscribed in a human-non-human continuum. Following this perspective, war can be analysed as a socio-material practice characterising the Anthropocene by undermining multispecies cohabitations. In this scenario, I introduce the concept of post-human war, a new form of war based on the ever-closer integration on the battlefield of the following elements a) sensor networks, b) digitisation of command infrastructure, c) autonomous and AI systems. Post-human war, whose agency is distributed among human and non-human actors, infrastructures, and artificial intelligence systems, will have relevant environmental implications, analysed in this paper.

The Climate of Occupation – Precarious Social Ecologies and New Climate Frontiers in Pastoralist Communities in Israel and Palestine.

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This paper explores ways in which climate changes articulate with Israel's "nature management" in pastoralist communities of Area C and in the Negev/Naqab. An ethnographic study of these Palestinian communities forms the basis of this paper, which argues that formal and informal practices of occupation, such as land grabs, enclosures of grazing zones, limits on mobility of people and animals, and on access to land-based infrastructure, work as a social ecological regime producing precarious social ecologies –as well as new forms of vulnerability and new environmental subjectivities. The paper draws on the ways in which political ecology, as an epistemological framework, engages with climate change studies. It argues theoretically that investigating the nexus between the occupation and climate change illuminates the ways we understand climate concepts and vocabularies (such as mobility adaptation resilience) that now compose the new hegemonic discourses of climate research and policy. It highlights the importance of understanding climate change as articulated with other pressures in producing social vulnerability and precarity. While empirically looking into pastoralist communities at the geographical edges of the state, the paper contributes to understanding climate changes from the "margins of states" as spaces of many limits but also of potential political possibilities and resourcefulness. Finally, from a regional perspective, the paper attempts to further develop a political ecology of Israel/Palestine as a powerful framework for investigating sociopolitical dimensions of climate change in the region.

Climate Crisis And Its Link With Socio-Political Vulnerability In The Middle East

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Tahadhari Center for Climate and Migration in Euro-Med (TCCMEM)

At the opening of the recent UN annual conference COP28, His Highness King Abdullah of Jordan said "In a region already on the frontlines of climate change, the massive destruction of war makes the environmental threats of water scarcity and food insecurity even more severe"… "let's be inclusive of the most vulnerable: Palestinians, severely impacted by the war on Gaza; Populations around the world, affected by conflict and poverty";

The presentation is addressing the question of 'How poor is the state of the countries in the Middle East, in the context of climate preparedness towards 2030 objectives?', and presents a regional outline developed by Tahadhari Center for Climate and Migration in Euro-Med (Brussels), aimed to focus the attention of climate politics on the Middle East and the South Mediterranean.

It is suggested to examine the goals agreed upon Paris in the terminology so familiar in the Middle East: 'Mitigation of the climate risk' and 'adaptation for climate security', and to propose an outline that is challenging the 2030 goals in a regional prism.

The new research to be presented is aimed to future assessment of mitigation of climate risks and adaptation towards climate security across the Mediterranean region, the linkages between climate change and National security are discussed vis-à-vis the current geopolitical landscape and associated transboundary challenges, in defined geopolitical regions, as Middle East, and South Mediterranean. As for South Mediterranean, prospective climate risks include migratory pressures, climate refugees, water stress and food insecurity that were reviewed.

Vertical Migrations And Climate Change In The Italian Metro-mountain

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Internal migration often receives less attention than international migration, a trend particularly pronounced in Italy where media and political focus has long centered on arrivals from abroad. However, in the past 15-20 years, Italy has witnessed a notable reversal in migration patterns. The once-abandoned Alpine and Apennine mountain regions are experiencing an increasing influx of "new highlanders," drawn by a complex mix of factors, including emerging environmental and climatic considerations. Climate change and land vulnerability are now significant drivers affecting individuals' choices of where to live (Membretti and Lucchini, 2018; Brandano et al., 2023; Dematteis et al., 2023).

To address this phenomenon, the "Climate Migration in the Italian Metro-mountain" (MICLIMI) project has been initiated. This research endeavor aims to omprehensively investigate, quantify, and understand internal migration attributed to climatic factors, particularly within the northwestern Po Valley metromountain. Key project objectives encompass assessing the scale of vertical migration within the country, gauging urban residents' perceptions of climate change impacts in their daily lives, evaluating their interest in relocating to mountainous regions, and identifying migration patterns, especially from cities like Milan and Turin.

The study's findings reveal heightened concerns among urban residents, notably among younger individuals and women, regarding the current and future impact of climate change on their cities. Heatwaves, in particular, are a prominent concern, influencing their consideration of relocating to cooler mountain areas. This climate-driven internal migration trend signifies a significant transformation in Italy's demographic and environmental landscape, as it challenges traditional migration narratives and underscores the growing influence of climate factors on human movement within the country.

RN12 | T04_01: Navigating Tensions in Urban Environmental Activism

Enviromental Activists' Empowerment in Network Organisation. The Case of Polish Smog Alert

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Empowerment can be defined as "a process, a mechanism by which people, organizations, and communities gain mastery over their affairs" (Rappaport 1987: 12) or as a process of acquiring "participatory competence" (Gerschick et al. 1990), understood as a sense of agency, ciritical political awareness, or specific capacities for action. From the perspective of social movement theory, a sense of empowerment is particularly important among subjective factors, as it can be one of the key aspects of the institutionalization or sustainability of activist involvement (Drury, Reicher 2005).

The purpose of this presentation is to analyze the sources and dimensions of empowerment of activists affiliated with the Polish Smog Alert. It is a network of more than 50 local organizations involved in the fight for clean air. Its establishment is related to the fact that Poland is one of the most polluted countries in the EU (EEA 2022). Polish air pollution activism is specific for several reasons. First, it takes a network form. Second, it can get away with being extremely effective in the area of raising social awareness and changing the policy.

The presentation will focus on how empowerment works in a networked or coalition-based organization, pointing primarily to the roles of: 1) core beliefs; 2) institutional and organizational resources; 3) knowledge and mutual learning processes. As the example of the Polish Smog Alarm shows, activists within network organizations can derive a sense of empowerment from the fact of functioning in a broader coalition, and at the same time the network nature of the organization can counteract various processes of disempowerment.

Unraveling the dilemmas of the eco-engaged: An In-Depth Analysis of Sustainable Citizenship's Contradictions and Ambivalence

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In the pursuit of a sustainable society, a large amount of research predominantly focusses on how to enhance a positive ecological transition. Within this line of research, the concept of sustainable citizenship presents interesting avenues incorporating the sustainability issue into our classic notion of citizenship. However, environmental behaviour relies on a range of complex choices and practices which encounter various conflicts with multiple structural barriers, even with individuals who perceive themselves as eco-engaged. Yet, it is unclear what the complexities of everyday life mean for the debate of sustainable citizenship. Moreover, the attitude-behaviour gap illustrates that even eco-engaged citizens do not always translate their environmental values into concrete actions. How do citizens, for instance, give meaning to a pronounced environmental sensitivity on one domain of action with an indifference in other domains? Hence, in this study we aim to better understand how self-identified sustainable citizens navigate the responsibilities of sustainable citizenship. Our goal is to open up the black box of the attitude-behaviour gap by unravelling the complex dilemma's and inconsistencies faced by the self-perceived ecological citizen. We approach sustainable citizenship from a cultural sociological, practice-based perspective to understand how it operates in the complexity of everyday life. We conducted + – 20 in-depth interviews with self-identified sustainable citizens. The findings illustrate the importance of understanding sustainable citizenship in terms of contradictions and ambivalence. Moreover, the results depict the embeddedness of sustainable practices in real life and the complexities of incorporating normative behaviors into different life spheres.

The Power of Knowledge. The Role of Activists' Technical Expertise in Urban Environmental Conflicts

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In the face of the continuous attempts of city governments to privatise and commodify green spaces, local residents organise in neighbourhood-level movements, which employ technical knowledge to support their arguments.

The use of expert knowledge by environmental movements has been explored by different disciplines across the social sciences, which paid attention to activists' learning process, knowledge production and communication of expert knowledge. Drawing on this diverse scholarship, the paper reports a qualitative study comprising individual and group interviews undertaken in the city of Turin, Italy. Here, a host of sub-local green movements formed against a series of interventions planned by the city council.

The paper examines the importance of knowledge as a means to counter unsustainable local projects. The evidence provides insights on how the reasons mobilising these small urban green movements, while being political, are also strongly driven by scientific and legal knowledge. The local residents clustered around a common cause harness their insider skills to mount a sound opposition to the city council's projects. To do so, the technical expertise of the activists is shared within the movements and harnessed to build an evidence-based resistance against the city council's projects.

The paper maintains that activists' technical expertise serves as an effective weapon in urban environmental conflicts. Empowered by their knowledge of environmental issues and planning regulations, urban green activists are capable of interacting with local institutions to make their voice heard. Furthermore, the practice of collective self-education provides urban green activists with an heightened awareness of their ecological rights. Ultimately, the activists' ecological knowledge enables them to claim their ownership of the city's green areas, opening up opportunities for participatory ecological democratic practices.

Participatory Processes in the Making of Urban Ecological Transition: the Role of Social Movilization in the Case of Barcelona.

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University of Barcelona, Spain

This paper examines the role of citizens and urban social movements in setting ecological transition agendas by analyzing the case of Barcelona. Since the Paris Summit and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report of 2018 many cities are rethinking and redesigning their policies on public space, mobility and economic growth. The case of Barcelona shows how a coalition government led by an anti-austerity party emerging from the financial crisis such as Barcelona en Comú (2015-2023) has developed an ambitious agenda on ecological transition with the participation of urban social movements, including not only traditional actors, such as neighborhood associations, but also new ecological movements such as Extinction Rebellion or Fridays for future. This paper focus on the participatory processes for the development of the Climate Plan and the Declaration of Climate Emergency which accelerated plans for ecological transition. Based on qualitative analysis that include interviews and documentary analysis, we examine firstly the conditions and forms in which urban social movements could intervene in the process of strategic planning for the ecological transition and, secondly their impact in defining policy mechanisms and regulations. Results show that ecological movements had a significant role

in configurating ambitious goals for transition in a moment in which the local government set the ecological transition at the center of policy action. Nevertheless, the agenda has been weakened by the COVID-19 emergency and the change in the political color of the city council.

RN12 | T04_02: Environmental Attitudes, Awareness and Concern

Environmental Attitudes: Unpacking the Impact of Carbon Inequality

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Global awareness of the dangers of climate change often fails to translate into public support for protecting the environment, especially when personal sacrifices are required. Previous studies of individual countries suggest that people's unwillingness to pay for protecting the environment is largely attributed to perceptions of unfairness concerning how costs and benefits are distributed. This study aims to advance knowledge about these issues from a country-comparative perspective. More specifically, it examines whether and how inequality in the distribution of carbon emissions within and across countries is important for peoples' willingness to pay higher taxes and prices to protect the environment. My primary hypotheses posit that individuals show greater willingness to pay in countries where (1) the majority maintains lower per capita carbon emissions than the wealthiest decile, and/or (2) carbon inequality has increased over time. Additionally, (3) the inclination to pay is contingent upon the perceived effectiveness of the government, suggesting a reinforcing effect with high levels of Quality of Government. These theoretical hypotheses are explored by using all four waves of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) environmental modules (1993, 2000, 2010, 2020), combined with macro-level data on the distribution of carbon emissions from the World Inequality Database (WID).

Attitudes Regarding the Environmental and Climate Crisis in Austria – With a Special Focus on Rural Areas

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Rural areas are typically perceived as places with conservative and traditional values. This perception is particularly influenced by the election behavior of the rural population in various European countries, who have increasingly voted for right-wing parties that place little emphasis on climate and environmental issues.

Against this background, it is interesting to explore whether the attitudes and behavior of the rural population differ from that of the urban population in relation to environmental and climate issues. Both the environmental and climate crises are intrinsically linked to the future prospects

of coming generations. Therefore, it is equally interesting to explore whether environmental and climate attitudes differ between young people in rural and urban areas. It is hypothesized that for the youth, climate and environmentally related issues are more important than for older individuals, as evidenced by movements like Fridays for Future.

Data from the Austrian Social Survey (SSÖ) 2021 is utilized to address these questions. In the last survey, there was a focus on questions regarding the environment and climate. The selection of questions comprises attitudes towards causes of climate change, measures to protect the climate and environment, willingness to change behavior, and environmental activism. Where question comparability permits, earlier surveys are also considered for a temporal comparison.

"Climate Change Awareness: The Case of Medical Doctors in Artvin"

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Climate change refers to the long-term and continuous change in climatic conditions. The social impacts of this process are reflections of the climate crisis. The social impacts of climate change should be analyzed and evaluated in various aspects. One of the most important consequences of climate change/crisis is that all aspects of society are affected. In this respect, being aware of the change and transformation created by climate change in our daily lives is an important starting point for the future of the world in this process. The first step in examining the interaction of climate change and society is to determine awareness. Turkey is seriously affected by climate change due to its geographical location. However, does the society have a climate awareness to the extent of this impact? This question is of equal importance with the question of why the sociology of climate change is important.

One of the direct and indirect risks of climate change is its impact on human health. In this respect, doctors' awareness of climate change becomes very important. Doctors who are aware of climate change play a pioneering role in raising public health awareness as well as taking precautions by informing their patients about the risks in this regard. This study aims to measure the awareness of the doctors working in Artvin on the effects of climate change on daily life, as well as their awareness on the damage caused by climate change on health and its social impact. The results of this quantitative study conducted with doctors working in Artvin center and various districts will reveal the status of climate change awareness among doctors in Turkey.

Assessing Portuguese Healthcare Professionals' Perspectives on Climate Change-Related Health Policies and National Health Service Readiness: A Qualitative Study

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In alignment with the urgent sociological imperative to address the multidimensional crises stemming from climate change (CC), biodiversity loss, and socio-political tensions, this abstract delves into the critical realm of healthcare preparedness facing escalating climate impacts. With the increasing impacts of CC on health, understanding how health professionals, especially physicians, are informed and prepared to deal with these challenges has become imperative. This study explores Portuguese healthcare professionals' perspectives on climate change-related health policies and the National Health Service's (SNS) readiness to tackle climate impacts. A qualitative methodology was applied, and thirteen interviews were conducted with physicians from various medical specialties in Portugal, aged between 28 and 73, using a semi-structured interview script. This work contributed to confirming that the CC health policies in Portugal are still very incipient and require more proactive measures, interconnected across various dimensions, particularly concerning healthcare professionals. The main result of this research highlights the need for more consistent communication and more precise guidelines for dealing with the impacts of climate change on public health.

RN12 | T04_03: Energy Transition, Resistance, and Acceptance

Cultures Of Resistance To Low-Carbon Transitions In Europe: Insights From Poland And Spain

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In the face of the adverse consequences of climate change, the urgency of advancing low-carbon transitions is widely recognized. However, environmental policies, such as coal phase-out, have sparked social tensions and resistance across various economic sectors and segments of society. Resistance manifests itself, for instance, through protests, activism and political dissent. This paper delves into the cultural dimension of resistance to low-carbon transitions in Europe, drawing insights from resistance-related dynamics in the coal-transitioning countries of Poland and Spain. The study, conducted as part of the CURE project, analyzes responses to the 2018 Europe-wide ECHOES survey (n=18,037) to explore how factors such as fossil fuel dependency, identity, cultural frames of reference, and community engagement with the transition interact with and contribute to opposition to energy transition policies. Based on the analysis of this comprehensive dataset, the paper aims to lay the foundations for a theory that elucidates the origins of resistance to low-carbon transitions. This theoretical framework enriches our understanding of resistance dynamics by emphasizing the complex interplay of socio-economic, cultural, and political factors. The findings of this study underscore the need for further research on the cultural dimensions of resistance in different European contexts and the importance of considering cultural aspects in fostering effective low-carbon transitions globally.

Green Transition and Critical Raw Minerals – Social Awareness and Acceptance in Four Countries

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The Green Transition has become a key narrative for European policy since the European Green Deal was launched. Mining activities, especially those connected to critical raw minerals, has a central role in Green Deal and the green transition. CRMs are an important element in the Green Deal industrial strategy. The idea of just transition is at the core of the Green Deal as well. The just transition can bring tensions and trade-offs between different perceptions and experiences.

Social acceptance of mining activities has become the key challenge for the whole sector's future. The discussion regarding local acceptance has been growing during the past decade as the industry's negative impacts have begun receiving more attention. Acceptance is driven by perceptions and level of trust. Information and knowledge play an important role in how mining activities are perceived and accepted. Communities and citizens need information to be aware and to be able to participate in making informed decisions about exploration and mining activities. It is also of great interest whether citizens' knowledge could contribute political and technical insights, for example, to environmental problem solving.

This presentation is based on the results of a research project on social awareness and acceptance on green transition and CRMs in four case countries: Finland, Czech Republic, Poland, and Portugal. In this presentation, the discussions in community events, results of the citizen survey and results of the interviews of local people will be explored. The results tell what kind of worries there are among the local communities. What citizens know about green transition and CRMs, what they want to know, what the information is like, how it should be?

Non-mobilization in the face of Environmental Risks of Energy Projects: Role of the Visions of the World as a Product of Socialization and Social History

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Why do members of a community where polluting energy projects are planned remain silent in the face of the risks that threaten their lives and livelihoods? Despite a dozen of proposed coal-fired power plant (CFPP) projects in the small city of Yumurtalık in southern Turkey, there was no mobilization effort among the residents, nor were they willing to cooperate with the environmental activists who tried to develop a mobilization in the main city of the region, Adana. In-depth interviews with residents reveal that they had in fact ambivalent feelings and thoughts about these new CFPP projects. However, perceptions of "inevitability of energy projects", "powerlessness of citizens", and "inefficacy of collective action" generate a fatalist resignation that prevent residents from engaging in collective action even if they are concerned about the risks of CFPPs. These findings are in line with the studies that emphasize that grievances are present but contained in such communities. A closer analysis of the findings shows that these perceptions are socially situated: there are regularities in the ways of reasoning behind the perceptions in terms of social origins and political orientations of actors. The present study argues that the perceptions that generate the fatalist resignation in the face of environmental risks are anchored in the visions of the world that actors have interiorized during

previous socialization, which itself is shaped by the social history of the context with its peculiar tensions. Hence, Bourdieu's concept "vision of the world" is a useful alternative to ideology employed in the literature on environmental non-mobilization, thanks to its ability to shed light on the links between perceptions, biography and context.

Who Owns the Wind? Ownership and Land Rush in the Context of the German Wind Energy Development

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In the context of the phase out of coal and nuclear energy in Germany, the federal government has made ambitious plans for the future development of wind energy. By 2032, 2% of the German national territory are supposed to be dedicated to wind energy production. In this context, local conflicts over the expansion of wind energy are sparked by issues such as the distribution of costs and benefits. Thereby, questions of land ownership as well as access and disposal rights to such land become a determining factor of distributive justice.

In our presentation, we first elaborate on sociological approaches to ownership and highlight the (often neglected) relevance of property rights in the context of wind energy development. Based on semi-structured interviews with stakeholders, decision-makers, consultants as wells as community energy actors we dig deeper into conflicts arising from the appropriation of land for wind turbines and their effects on the local creation of value and associated community benefits. We show which factors influence how local communities deal with ownership conflicts around wind energy projects. Among these factors are social cohesion and mutual trust, active municipal planning and organizing, and historical experiences of local cooperation.

RN12 | T04_04: Integrating Sustainability and Environmental Awareness in Higher Education

Mapping The Green Mindset: A Cross-National Analysis Of European Graduates' Climate Attitudes And The Role Of Higher Education

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To address climate change and work towards a green and sustainable society and economy in Europe, it is inevitable to equip future generations with relevant competencies to enable them to make informed decisions and take action in this area (Borgonovi et al., 2022; Leicht, 2012). In this context, higher education (HE) is expected to play a curial role (European Commission, 2020). Through education, research, and outreach, HE not only imparts knowledge and attitudes to students, but possesses the power to transfer these to society, raise awareness and initiate transformative development (Witte, 2023; McCowan, 2022; Michelsen & Rickmann, 2012). Graduates, in particular, form an interesting group of bridging actors, as they convey their acquired competencies and attitudes to diverse segments of society (McCowan, 2022). Therefore, this paper investigates European graduates' attitudes towards environmental sustainability and climate change, including cause knowledge, climate worries and intentions to act, which are considered outcomes of their HE. Further, it explores the role of HE characteristics (e.g., type of institution, degree level, field of study, prevalence of environmental topics in the curriculum) in shaping climate attitudes. For the analyses, we utilize an extract of the EUORGRADUATE 2022 dataset encompassing eight European countries. This approach allows for a cross-national perspective to consider differences arising from country-specific contextual factors. As this is an explorative study, we mainly run descriptive analyses on climate attitudes, but also include multivariate analyses to illuminate the relationship between HE characteristics and climate attitudes.

The Elusive Educational Competencies for Sustainability in Universities

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Universities have an important role to play in generating new ways of thinking and acting that will make it possible to face the socio-ecological challenges of the 21st century with greater guarantees. This has been assumed by numerous international institutions, from UNESCO to the European Commission, among others, which have proposed numerous guidelines and good practice guides to move in this direction. Here we present the results of a European research project (ECF4CLIM, EU H2020, G.A. 101036505), which, among other things, has studied how sustainability is promoted in four European universities (from 4 different countries: Finland, Portugal, Romania, and Spain). Methodologically, a documentary analysis of the regulations and action programs of these universities has been carried out, as well as a series of reconvened focus groups (n=8) with students, and in-depth interviews with faculty and staff (n=35), with the aim of capturing the perceptions, experiences and expectations of the different actors regarding the evolution of sustainability in their respective educational centers. The results show how the promotion of educational competencies for sustainability often clashes with numerous organizational and contextual factors of the universities, over which they do not always have sufficient resources or power to modify them. From this, it is concluded that the promotion of sustainability competencies is not something that can be done only by focusing on the knowledge, skills or attitudes of individuals, but should be contemplated more broadly, attending to the intersection between the individual, collective-organizational and environmental spheres. The results show also the main difficulties in doing so and reflect on how to overcome them.

Forest Connections: Widening and Integrating Knowledges for Socioecological Regeneration in a University Context

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It is becoming increasingly clear that we need interdisciplinary, multidimensional, sensitive approaches to tackle environmental problems. Extreme urgency in reverting climate change and increasing evidence on the positive effects of reconnecting with nature underline the importance of community involvement in such processes. Universities have an enormous potential to contribute to social and ecological regeneration depending on their ability to open and (re) connect areas of knowledge and ways of learning, and to foster deeper and positive ways of being in the world. This is where TERRARE Action-research for social and ecological regeneration, acts. We create a tiny forest at SOCIUS/CSG, ISEG, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal, through a series of participative workshops facilitated by and anthropologist and a biologist, involving students, faculty members, researchers and university staff, who learn the Miyawaki method, design the tiny forest, work on the land, and care for the space and the plants. Moreover, it intends to be a living lab inspiring other studies and processes.

In this paper, we present the project's first results, focusing especially on the processes of knowledge exchange, integration and creation occurring in the workshops and beyond. More concretely, we assess if and how learning and doing together bring about an adequate knowledge to act on reforestation and soil health in the city. Put in other words, how can a tiny forest in the university be a living lab for the current socioenvironmental problems we face?

Pro-ecological Worldview as a Predictor of Preparedness of University Student Population in Serbia to Change Their Living Habits

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Decreased visibility of most ecological risks that societies are facing nowadays may lead to a delayed response towards mitigating the anthropogenic environmental impact, thus endangering the sustainable development of the society and the survival of all living things on Earth. Accordingly, the aim of this study is to determine the degree of adopted ecological worldview and the preparedness of university students in Serbia to change their living habits. Another aim is to determine the frequency of specific ecological practices that help reduce environmental risk. The data were collected through an online survey on a convenience sample of 330 students from different universities in Serbia. The results obtained using the revised NEP (New Ecological Paradigm) scale indicate that the largest share of students in Serbia have a partially developed ecological worldview (69.39% of the respondents). The degree of ecological awareness is a statistically significant predictor of preparedness to change one's living habits. However, regarding the already adopted practices that help reduce ecological risk, there are no significant differences among students with different degrees of ecological awareness. Such data suggest a pressing need to implement higher education programs that will sensitize students to the importance of individual contribution to reducing ecological risk through the adoption of pro-ecological behavioral patterns. To that extent, the obtained results are in agreement with the conclusions of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held in Berlin in May 2021, which insisted on the necessity of curriculum change at all education levels.

Environmental Awareness And Action: Volunteering As A Tool For Sustainability

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The growing concern for the environment has prompted institutions, businesses, and civil society to embrace sustainability criteria in their action plans. Despite environmental advocacy, scientific literature highlights a gap between expressed concerns and actual pro-environmental practices, evidenced by structural and socio-cultural barriers. This study addresses this challenge by proposing applied strategies, focusing on environmental volunteering as a tool to promote awareness and pro-environmental behavior. The environmental volunteering program at the University of Alicante is examined, designed to achieve three goals: increase environmental sensitivity, encourage learning in this field, and promote sustainable lifestyles. Activities encompass interventions in natural spaces, awareness actions, and educational tools aimed at the university community. To assess the impact of these activities on sensitivity and pro-environmental behavior, a survey was conducted among participants in environmental volunteering. The results show a positive impact, suggesting that volunteering has contributed to translating environmental concerns into concrete actions. The integration of these initiatives into action plans of institutions and organizations can be seen as a valid tool to progress towards real sustainability, materializing pro-environmental behaviors in response to growing environmental concerns.

RN12 | T05_01: Empowering Environmental Activists and Organizations

Bringing A Case Together: The Role of Environmental Organizations in The Legal Consciousness of Environmental Movements in Turkey

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In the face of environmental destruction, applying to law is one of the primary strategies in struggling against environmental assaults on living areas. Most of the time, an environmental struggle is accompanied by a legal struggle. In these struggles and/or movements, the actors are composed of local communities, environmental lawyers, and environmental organizations. Together they form a movement and a legal consciousness that goes before and beyond lawsuit processes. Legal consciousness is a concept analyzing lay people's views, perceptions, and approaches regarding the law and rights. This consciousness does not derive solely from "state law" but also from other sources such as social norms, or customs. This paper explores the impact of environmental organizations on the legal consciousness of environmental movements in the context of three place-based rural movements (Akbelen, Avdan, Deştin) in Turkey. I argue that the legal consciousness of these movements is shaped heavily by local communities' approach determined by historical/territorial rights and environmental organizations' approach to commons. By examining the intertwined relations between these actors, I will portray how their consciousnesses come together and form a narrative/discourse, how they are institutionalized and how their engagement with the law facilitates their institutionalism (and vice versa), and how they manage the (social) media relations and communications where they tell their narratives. I suggest that environmental organizations could play a role as intermediaries between local communities, environmental lawyers, and the media.

Unpacking a Mega (Industrial) Project in Turkey: Ecological Conflicts and Environmental Movements within the Changing Forms of State-Society/Citizenship Relations

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This paper investigates the recent development of a mega (industrial) project on the largest river basin area (Filyos

Valley) in an old mining region of Turkey which leads to a further example of ecological conflicts and environmental movements that have increasingly been on the political agenda of the country since 2010s. The project, including the third biggest port of the country, industrial park, and free economic zone on an area of nearly 3,000 hectares, has been constructed by an exclusive hybrid governance between state and capital within a process of huge land reclamation from the sea and the river. Based on urgent land expropriation, deforestation and large infrastructural operations, this mega industrial project has caused ecological and political conflicts among peasants, local urbanites, the state, and capital, with distinct forms of environmental resistances. Contrary to the critical analyses that separate contemporary environmental movements such as "environmentalism of the poor/ of the rich/ of the malcontent" depending on the sociological compositions and/or political opinions of the comprising individuals, I suggest "working-class environmentalism" as an encompassing concept that is to be built on value theory and class relations in order to understand distinct environmental resistances against the state and capital in unity. Drawing on a field study with the social actors involved in this mega project in Turkey, however, I argue that such environmental resistances also constitute a creative tension over the priorities to follow, thereby requiring an urgent political perspective to align themselves against the changing forms of state-society/citizenship relations in contemporary capitalism.

Challenging Restrictive Governance: Transnational Environmental NGOs in China and Turkey

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As climate change emerges as one of the most pressing issues facing humanity, the significance of transnational linkages has been increasing. While the current state of the art has produced many insights about civil society organizations, there is still much to discover when it comes to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in restrictive contexts. There are a lot of discussions on what kind of factors affect the strategies and operations of NGOs, yet we do not know what kind of elements and factors affect the possible interactions between them in contexts in which their operations are heavily monitored and regulated through a variety of authoritarian institutions. Over the years, civil society research has predominantly examined the democratic regimes. However, the escalating presence of authoritarian regimes globally, coupled with the environmental challenges affecting human life, has brought to the forefront the significance of environmental activism within authoritarian contexts. This research proposal suggests that focusing on transnational ENGOs in restrictive contexts can contribute to a better understanding of how domestic institutional structures and regulations develop and change over the years in these contexts and affect the opportunity structures for transnational activism. Bridging the theoretical approaches from the fields of social movement studies, international relations, and organizational studies, the goal is to offer a comprehensive understanding of state-society relations in China and Turkey, where domestic regulatory structures heavily restrict the operations of tENGOs. The over-arching research question of this project is: how do the tENGOs continue operating in restrictive contexts characterized by oppressive regulations?

Climate Justice through Environmentalist and Worker Coalitions?: Placial Thickness and the Case of Ex-GKN for Future

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Alliances between climate activists and workers at the grassroots level are growing but remain marginal even though they may prove critical for climate change mitigation and a just transition. Our paper looks at a the exemplary case of a coalition between metalworkers who were formerly part of the automotive industry and the Italian branch of the climate justice organization Fridays for Future. We argue that the coalition formed as a part of process of placial thickening where platially thick coalitions are those with high levels of shared values, identity, and ideas or solidarity. Place is typically not accounted for in coalition typologies and, unlike space, place emphasizes shared meaning that can only be arrived at from the participants within the space. Thus, placial thickness can change over time as participants' views change. Through interviews of coalition partners and participant observation of coalition events, we argue for the importance of placially thick coalitions in establishing and deepening climate consciousness and actions across greater numbers of sectors and segments of the population. Furthermore, the case study demonstrates the critical role of solidarity within inter-movement or inter-sector coalitions where shared values, identity, and ideas require development.

RN12 | T05_02: Theoretical Frameworks and Knowledge in Environmental Sociology

Social Change Beyond Planetary Boundaries: Why is it Necessary for Environmental Sociology to Maintain an Ongoing Dialogue with Systemic Analysis and the Humanities?

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Since the first report to the Club of Rome on limits to growth, awareness of the ecological crisis owes much to systemic thinking. From systemic analysis we know that industrial civilization began, towards the middle of the 20th century, an extreme, unsustainable acceleration, a very rapid rise supported by the exponential growth in the consumption of materials and fossil energy. As a result, the limits of the planet have been exceeded. Therefore, the way-down is unavoidable, with a substantial degrowth in the physical magnitudes of the system. Forcing things with more technology and more inequality can only gain a little time. All this constitutes a framework that restricts the possible answers to social and political problems. We ignore, on the other hand, whether some unsuspected technological miracle will temporarily alter the picture. Or what will be the concrete trajectories of the descent. Or if politics will be able to maintain democratic procedures. Or whether revolutions will give rise to significantly new social forms. Or whether cultures will express more solidarity or every man for himself. In all of this, nothing saves us from dismay. To explore all this without oversimplification requires a certain amount of Pascalian esprit de finesse, some capacity for qualitative analysis. Environmental sociology must dialogue with systems analysis and the humanities to establish practicable balances between what we know and what we ignore.

To The Public, With The Public, By The Public. Exploring The Potential Of Public Sociology For A Sustainable World.

Kris Van Koppen

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Most of the pleas for a public sociology, such as Burawoy's address at the ASA conference of 2004, promote it as a sociology that explicitly speaks to the public on issues of society, power, and justice. A public environmental sociology, then, should aim at communicating to the public sphere about environmental risks, their societal origins, and their unequal impacts. This is what many environmental sociologists have been doing from the 1970s on. More recently, the concept of doing science with citizens has become increasingly popular, as testified by the rise of citizen science and transdisciplinary research. In the context of sustainable development, we find such initiatives in, e.g., transdisciplinary approaches to nature conservation and citizen monitoring of environmental risks. Building on these approaches, and weighing them against critiques of meritocracy, this paper focuses on a third and more radical interpretation, which does not aim at engaging citizens in practices that are primarily the domain of scientists, but at supporting self-standing ways of sociological thinking among the public. It argues that this is possible and needed. Possible, because sociology, unlike natural sciences, is fundamentally rooted in practices of everyday life. Needed, because public sociological skills are crucial in crafting a democratic and sustainable society. The paper ends with outlining key conditions for this type of public sociology, e.g., in the use of theory concepts.

Environmental Social Coordination: Contributions of Pragmatic Sociology to Environmental-sociological Theory

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While scholars in French pragmatic sociology have made contributions to environment-society research, this has seldom been articulated at the level of how pragmatic sociology advances debates in environmental-sociological theory. The present paper addresses this lacuna. It starts from the assumption that pragmatic sociology has much to offer in terms of what Kari Norgaard – following C. Wright Mills – has called the sociological imagination in times of climate change. In this language, pragmatic sociology helps make visible relations between private environmental troubles and public environmental issues, via a general yet versatile conceptual architecture of the key modes of engaging in and forging commonality via environmental social coordination. In doing so, it allows for integrating key theoretical debates and associated domains of research in environmental sociology that are otherwise often treated separately, across micro-to-macro scales. Coordination, in pragmatic sociology, is inherently uncertain, leading to an emphasis on the situational yet institutionally embedded activation, justification, critique, testing, or replacement of shared conventions of coordination, from everyday settings of environmental concern to matters of transnational environmental politics. More concretely, the paper outlines three avenues, roughly corresponding to a micro-macro continuum, along which pragmatic sociology fruitfully engages with and stands to advance key environmental-sociological debates: first, questions of everyday environmental engagement (consumption practices, everyday eco-citizenships); second, questions of public environmental discourses (media debates, civil society mobilization); and third, questions of multi-scalar environmental governance (neoliberal stakeholder governance, environmental state accountability). Each strand is illustrated by drawing on the author's and other's existing research.

Toward Inclusive Environmental Sustainabilities: a Theoretical Framework for a Counterhegemonic Research Agenda

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Across the social sciences there is growing recognition of the need for critical analysis of Eurocentrism, as well as concrete efforts to redress its epistemic injustices. Yet much European research on environmental sustainability remains framed by Western assumptions and pays insufficient attention to how socio-cultural differences and structural inequalities shape everyday understandings and practices. The Toward Inclusive Environmental Sustainability (TIES) research project aims to pose fundamental challenges to Eurocentric sustainability research by centering the knowledge of migrants (specifically people who have moved from global south to global north contexts) who inhabit a unique 'translocational position' (Anthias 2021) from which to consider prevailing assumptions in the field. In this paper we draw on our research with Manchester (UK) residents who were born in Pakistan and Somalia to illustrate the value of translocational ('journey-based') knowing – as distinct from indigenous ways of knowing – for responding to the climate crisis. Our analysis of empirical findings informs (and is informed by) a theoretical framework that we argue should guide a new agenda for counterhegemonic and inclusive sustainability scholarship. This framework consist of: i) contextualisation: foregrounding anti-migration and bordering practices in European sustainability politics; ii) symmetry: researching the attitudes and behaviours of dominant social actors alongside the marginalised to avoid othering; iii) intersectionality: analysing multiple, shifting and co-constitutive axes of social inequalities to avoid homogenisation and apolitical framings; and iv) translocational epistemology: attending to how people's sustainability knowledge is shaped by changes in locations (i.e., by moving from one physical place in the world to another; by moving from the social position of native to migrant).

RN12 | T05_03: Hydrogen and Wind Power: Public Sentiment and Socio-Technological Perspectives

Public Perception on Hydrogen: A Polish Case Study on Acceptance and Awareness in Energy Transition

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Energy transition encompasses the adoption of innovative and advanced technologies, often unfamiliar to the general public. This research is the first in Poland delving into the societal discourse and acceptability of hydrogen (H2) technology. It comprehensively addresses public understanding and attitudes towards H2 alongside an analysis of media narratives shaping these perceptions.

Critical to advancing Poland's low-carbon emission goals and decarbonization agenda is the cultivation of an informed society actively engaged in energy democracy. To this end, the presented research employs a mixed-method approach: (1) survey data (CAWI, N=2008, assess acceptance and opinions regarding H2), (2) regional Focus Group Interviews (FGIs) provide a deeper understanding of energy awareness, (3) Natural Language Processing (NLP) is utilized for discourse analysis in media, mapping prevalent topics and identifying leading communicators.

Preliminary findings indicate a notable lack of knowledge about H2 technologies within Polish society. There exists a pronounced demand for enhanced information dissemination and expert knowledge. The media discourse predominantly features business-oriented experts, highlighting a deficiency in governmental communication strategies related to low-carbon emissions and H2 initiatives.

Based on these results, the study raises further questions concerning energy justice and the democratic inclusion of laypeople in energy transition processes. Methodological and epistemological reflections also emerge regarding the role of sociologists in informing, educating, and increasing societal awareness about new technologies. Furthermore, the research prompts broader ethical deliberations about the engagement of sociological research teams in emerging technologies like Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS), hydrogen, and Electric Vehicles (EVs).

Stakeholders' Perceptions of Hydrogen And Reflections On Energy Transition Governance

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Few studies address perceptions of hydrogen production. This study aims to fill these gaps using a mixed-method approach, including semi-structured interviews (n=11) and a questionnaire survey (n=73), to understand stakeholders' perceptions of hydrogen production sources through a social construction lens of technology. The results indicate a preference for hydrogen produced from renewable sources over hydrogen produced from non-renewable sources, even when considering higher costs. While prior knowledge of hydrogen, expectations, technological imaginaries, organizational aspects, and subjective stance are relevant aspects for perception's construction, sociodemographic characteristics do not play a significant role in shaping stakeholders' perceptions. The key informants identified hydrogen as a matter that had been overlooked for over a decade, despite its prominent position in the policies and economic approaches of numerous countries. This exclusion of civil society from decision-making suggests that energy democracy, which is based on information dissemination and participation, is not being achieved. Therefore, this study highlights the importance of reflecting on energy governance in hydrogen agendas.

Energizing Tomorrow: Exploring Poland's Socio-Technological Imaginaries in Hydrogen Technologies

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Decarbonisation is one of the most important challenges of the 21st century. Hydrogen is identified as a key element of the energy and climate transition, which is the main mechanism for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. Effective decarbonisation will require new energy technologies, but also new ways of understanding language, vision and discursive policies related to emerging innovations and transformations.

Sociotechnical imaginaries (STIs) is a concept aimed at understanding the creation of a technological future as a key element of social life. STIs can be defined as collective imaginations, beliefs and social concepts that influence the design, development and implementation of technology. STIs understood as visions of a desirable future are: collectively sustained, institutionally stabilized and realized in the public sphere. STIs allow for the conceptualisation of possible forms of the future in the study of energy transisition.

The study is based on 24 individual in-depth interviews (IDI) with experts representing industry, transport, research and development institutions, public administration, industry associations and institutions. The purpose of the research was to identify 1) STIs at the national level, present in the development of technologies in Poland and their nature, 2) key actants and factors involved in the process of creating and stabilising hydrogen imaginers, 3) actors involved in creating, maintaining and legitimising STIs.

Preliminary research results show that the identified imaginaries related to the development of hydrogen technologies associate to the decarbonisation of the Polish socio-technical system. Moreover, the STI are associated with different visions of development models of polish hydrogen society&economy.

Literature review shows that STIs have been repeatedly used to identify STIs in the context of the energy transition in many countries around the world. STIs was used to explore nuclear power in Poland and its implications for the energy transition, and to identify dominant and alternative STIs relating to the energy transition in Poland. Original contribution of research is to focus on the area of hygrogen economy&society in case of Poland using STI concept.

The author is not yet an ESA member, but will join before the PhD Summer School begins.

Beyond NIMBY: Unpacking Public Sentiment on Wind Power in Norway

Olve Krange

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In public discourse, local opposition to wind power (WP) projects is frequently labeled as "Not In My Back Yard" (NIMBY). Characterizing arguments against WP as NIMBY and those advocating for them as NIMBYs not only dismisses the validity of the argument but also suggests a moral devaluation of opposing perspectives. However, research literature on the subject indicates that the phenomenon is more nuanced, viewing NIMBY as primarily a 'proxy' for deeper underlying factors. Acceptance or resistance to WP developments is equally likely to be influenced by factors such as environmental attitudes, identification with the local landscape, past experiences with industrial impacts on nature, and more. Additionally, the extent to which one envisions addressing climate problems within an economic system that requires continuous growth (ecomodernism) or leans towards the notion of necessary negative growth (degrowth) can also shape opinion formation. This paper aims to explore the fundamental dimensions of attitudes towards WP and assess the prevalence of NIMBYism in the Norwegian population. By probing into people's perspectives on wind power development in Norway and additionally in nature near their own residences, we can identify the proportion of the population that can be classified as NIMBYs.

RN12 | T05_04: Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Food Systems

Co-Creating Sustainable Transformations of Food Supply Chains through Cooperative Business Models and Governance and Visioning

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In 2022, Belmont Forum launched a call for collaborative research action on Sustainable Consumption and Production Systems, and seven projects were selected. One of these projects, the project "Co-Creation of Sustainable Transformations of Food Supply Chains through Cooperative Business Models and Governance", coordinates research on sustainable food supply chains (FSCs) in five hubs with six teams from Turkey, Thailand, Taiwan, Sweden, Germany and the USA. The aim is to assess the current status of FSCs and to develop sustainable structures through cooperative business and governance models. In the Turkish hub the research questions are: (1) How can we contribute to strengthening the governance of consumer cooperatives? (2) How can food policy councils support food cooperatives through democratic governance? The practice partners include consumer and producer cooperatives as well as Izmir and Antalya municipalities and the Istanbul City Council as their supporting entrepreneurial ecosystems. Research assesses the sustainability of the current collaborative model, creates a sustainable vision together with producers and consumers, and develops a strategy for increasing the sustainability of a FSC. In doing so, it will explore how traditional agricultural and ecological knowledge will contribute to sustainability.

For Weber and Wiek (2021), one of the four steps of the research process is transdisciplinary sustainability visioning. In December 2023, we carried out a visioning study with our practice partners, the preliminary results of which will be presented. Visioning was structured around the current situation, the vision and how to get there based on the sustainability criteria of an FSC achieving environmental integrity, socio-cultural wellbeing, economic viability and good governance.

Tracing the Fermentation Revival: an Analysis of Microbial Logics Across Health-Food-Sustainability Crises

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Fermentation transforms foods (like flour to bread, milk to cheese) using microbes such as bacteria and yeast. It is a practice that has shaped human-microbe cultures for millennia in literal and figurative ways, building up niche environments and resilient societies. Within this history, the world has been witnessing a fermentation revival (from around 2003) that originated in the US as part of a food movement. Fastforward and fermentation today leverages microbes to mitigate public health crises as well as climate crises, using food to manifest sustainable futures on a global/planetary scale. By focusing on the revival, the paper aims to better understand new forms of what I call "microbial logic" which arise from that period, and how these logics emerge and shift across health, food, and sustainability discourses—all the way to the contemporary moment.

This paper combines the disciplinary commitments of sociology, cultural studies, and gender studies and uses discourse analysis along with conjunctural analysis as its methodology. It contrasts two microbial logics that pivot around fermentation: (1) health interventions in the form of gut microbiome hacks, and (2) sustainability interventions via biotechnologies like precision fermentation. Curiously, the logics between the two contradict each other. Descriptions of microbes called in to solve our health crisis (as biodiverse, crucial, health-promoting agents) stand at odds with the way microbes are framed to solve our sustainability crisis (as single-function, disposable tools). Microbes are necessary, but also expendable in these discordant framings. The paper analyses the social, political, and environmental implications of such contradictions, and it argues that studying the dis/continuities of microbial logics will be crucial to understanding what (microbial) solutions can mitigate multiple (human) crises.

The Perception Of Sustainability Transformation In Food Production

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The planned paper aims at exploring how agricultural innovations and consumers' understanding of the socioeconomic sustainability of agricultural innovations are related to each other, and understand how these innovation may result transformative change. Our research is based on a series of case-studies conducted in four European countries as a part of the EcoNutri project on agricultural innovations. The analysed agricultural innovations are diverse; we aimed at analysing both conventional and organic practices, green-house and open-air sites and innovations with different role in the supply chain.

The current presentation is based on the in-depth analysis of two Hungarian cases: the first one was conducted in an intensive, technology-driven vegetable production company, which sells its products in supermarkets and export markets. The second case explores the practices of an organic farm using direct sales. The case studies on the innovations aim to explore the motivation of the stakeholders along the value chain to involve in the respective innovation. By exploring their aims and motivations, we can better understand how do the different stakeholders participate in the innovation process? How are their ideas and interests represented there? How do the actors along the value chain perceive technological changes and digitalisation?

Our case study-based research aims to understand the role of consumers' values or value judgments' in their decisions. We also aim at revealing their perception of environmental, social and economic consequences of producing fruit, vegetables, and other foodstuffs. As the case studies also explore bottlenecks and challenges in the societal considerations around pollution of agrifood production in the conclusions we consider how society can adapt to these changes.

Citizens' Expectations about Food Sustainability and Support for Policy Measures

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The transformation to more ecologically sustainable futures requires that the food system as a whole develops into a more climate friendly and environmentally benign direction. Indeed, sustainability of food is prominently on the public agenda and is increasingly taking root in food production and consumption as well. It is evident, however, that practices of production and consumption are persistent and do not easily change towards sustainability without political measures that support such a transformation. Previous research suggests that various kinds of policies based on both regulatory (e.g., restrictions on the sales or marketing of foods of animal origin), economic (e.g., taxes based on climate emissions) and information-based measures (e.g., public campaigns and education) as well as voluntary actions by market and other actors (e.g., product and assortment decisions) are needed to promote the transformation. This study looks into citizens' support for policy measures to advance ecologically sustainable food consumption and their expectations about the future of food consumption and production. The study is based on data from a quantitative survey (to be collected in early 2024) representative of the Finnish population (N appr. 1,000–1,200). We will analyse 1) to what extent citizens support regulatory, economic and information-based measures advancing the ecological sustainability of food consumption, 2) citizens' expectations about the developments in food production and consumption in the coming years (e.g., regarding climate emissions, consumption of animal – and plant-based foods, political measures) as well as 3) socioeconomic and food practice related differences in policy support and future expectations.

RN12 | T06_01: Public Perception and Resilience to Climate Extremes and Environmental Risks

Revitalize to Decrease Resilience? Vulnerability to Meteorological Risks of Polish Towns in the Context of Revitalization Processes.

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Extreme weather events pose a serious threat for human health and resources, especially in urban areas. Moreover, extreme weather events are to increase in their intensity and frequency. In Poland several occurrence of heavy rainfall, strong winds and heat waves, bringing losses and even harming people, have been reported in recent years. Regardless, vulnerable urban areas are often undergoing revitalization investments and these are significantly changing the surface, sometimes transforming the function of modernized areas.

Aim of the paper is to analyze whether extreme meteorological events and adaptation to climatic hazards are taken into account during the decision-making processes on implementation of the revitalization activities, and what is the role of such investments in changing vulnerability of towns to meteorological phenomena.

The study is conducted as qualitative comparative analysis of eight case studies of Polish towns. These are selected on the basis of availability of proper quality meteorological data, previous experiences with extreme weather events, as well as on the information on realized revitalization processes. An analysis of decision-making processes within institutions involved in local risk management in the context of extreme meteorological events, as well decision-making regarding revitalization activities is conducted. These information are obtained through in-depth interviews with local key stakeholders.

Based on limited analyses so far, one may expect, that in Poland revitalization processes are among the factors that increase urban vulnerability to extreme weather. Nevertheless, it cannot be treated as the only sufficient factor behind the risk associated with meteorological events.

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Climate Change and Weather Extremes: Between Fear and Trust

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This paper examines representations of the environment in historical times through common sense and science with particular reference to climate. Such semantics are emergent phenomena that are mediated by specific social contexts and evolve in response to various social events and natural pressures. The question arises as to what characteristic features are attributed to climate in the past and in contemporary society? It is believed that our understanding of climate is strongly influenced by our experiences of extreme weather events. Extreme events are occasions that paradoxically strengthen confidence in the normality of the climate. The collective awareness of a stable climate is a form of relief for an essentially fragile human existence. Steadiness moderates fear and provides orientation. The way in which society deals with and explains weather extremes thus generally provides an important point of reference for the semantics of a society's representation of the environment. Starting as early as 1889 with Eduard Brueckner's pioneering work on the relation of climate and society, we discuss our topic by turning to some of the classics of sociological theory and putting them in dialogue with contemporary research.

Do Disaster Experiences Impact Public Opinion on Climate Change in European Countries?

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Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Public opinion is an essential factor for effective climate policy implementation. An unresolved issue is whether ideological or structural factors influence opinion about CC. Some studies claimed the impact. Demski et al. (2017) and Spence et al. (2011) demonstrated that the experience of flooding leads to increased climate change concerns. The survey in Germany showed that experiencing seasonal temperature changes influences personal CC concerns (Pfeifer & Otto, 2023). At the same time, several studies demonstrated no impact of disasters on public opinion (Gärtner and Schoen 2021; Whitmarsh 2008). Thus, no agreement can be found in the literature on whether experiencing extreme climatic/weather conditions impacts peoples' opinions or behavior.

In this study, we assume that individuals exposed to acute or long-term extreme weather events will perceive CC more seriously compared to those exposed to extreme weather events less frequently. Besides, we hypothesized that the experience of extreme climate events weakens the dependence of CC perception on ideological and socio-economic filters. We contribute to the literature by analyzing whether a shift in public opinion due to extreme weather events exists and how it opens a "window of opportunity" for effectively implementing climate policy.

The study relies on the Eurobarometer survey and Emdat records of natural disaster events. Both databases provide location data (respondent place of residence, disaster occurrence); we apply NUTS1 locations to incorporate within-country diversities of opinions and structural conditions. We focus on "heat waves" and "storms". By using multi-level logistic regression, we investigate the potential impact of disaster exposure on climate-change perceptions in the context of other variables, both individual (left-right orientation, type of dwelling) and country-level characteristics (GDP per capita).

Barcelona Residents' Perceptions of Heatwaves, Air Pollution and Noise: Examining the Link Between Environmental Exposures and Risk Perception from Neighbourhood Stigma Theory

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Environmental stressors pose significant threats to human well-being, especially in urban areas. While extensive research has documented higher exposures in socially vulnerable neighborhoods, limited attention has been given to evaluating residents' perceptions of environmental risks within their own communities. Our study addresses this gap by examining perceptions of residential outdoor environmental quality, integrating objective data on built and social environments with multiple measures of pollution, heatwaves, and noise, alongside an original survey of Barcelona residents. Consistent with scholarly discourse, our results reveal distinct levels of concern among the three environmental risks, with heat stress evoking the highest level of concern. We also identify variations in concern levels across socio-demographic factors, including age, gender, and education. Notably, perceptions of environmental exposures appear to be influenced more by neighborhood socioeconomic position than by respondents' individual ability to perceive the problem. By examining the profiles of those most concerned, we pinpoint individuals with heightened environmental sensitivity. We finally discuss the implications of our findings through the lens of neighborhood stigma theory. Our analysis yields valuable insights into the public perception of environmental stressors in urban settings, underscoring the necessity for tailored interventions to effectively address these concerns.

RN12 | T06_02: Political Preferences and Environmentalism

Exploring the Role of Political Parties' Ideological Cleavage and Environmental Issue Salience in Explaining People's Attitudes Toward Environment across 28 European Countries

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Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

This presentation explores the relationship between political ideology and support for environmental protection in Europe, focusing mainly on the nuanced differences between Western/Northern and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). While the prevailing notion is that left-wing individuals are more pro-environment (compared to their right-win counterparts), we delve into the universality of this observation, its causes, the role of individuals' ideology and positions of political parties towards environmental issues as predictors of environmental attitudes in European countries.

We worked on data from the European Values Survey (2017) and Chapel Hill Expert Survey (2019) by integrating individual-level information on citizens' environmental and political attitudes with party-level positions on ideology, policy and environmental issues in 28 European countries. We note substantial cross-country variation of individuals' and parties' positions toward the environment, with respondents and parties in Northern and Western Europe paying significantly more attention to environmental sustainability than those in CEE and Southern Europe.

By scrutinizing the theoretical and empirical boundary conditions, we focus on the contextual factors constraining the relationship between political ideology and environmental attitudes, thereby providing a nuanced understanding of the dynamics at play in European regions. The data confirm that the effect of left-right self-placement is lower for individuals supporting parties that limit salience to the environment; at the same time, the left-right respondent's orientation does not predict environmental attitudes well outside Western and Northern Europe. Our study emphasizes that party positions matter, and environmental issue salience is a powerful moderator of an individual's attitudes.

Extreme-right Parties And Climate Change Concern In Europe

José M. Echavarren, Luz González-Soriano, Álvaro Fernández-Díaz

Universidad Pablo Olavide

Conservative positions, typically aligned with more traditionalist conceptions, have been studied as obstacles to the development of environmental awareness. However, pro-environmental discourses can also be found within some currents grouped under the term "ecofascisms" (Forchtner, 2020); where, for example, the protection of the country's natural resources is an argument to limit immigration (Zimmerman, 1995). In principle, one might expect that far-right parties are more inclined towards ecofascist ideology and, therefore, could stimulate environmental awareness among their voters (or sympathisers) and also their concern for the harmful effects of climate change in their respective countries. However, in many cases, these parties have an ultraliberal economic ideology that may be opposed to pro-environmental measures and force them to be skeptical on environmental issues (Dunlap, 1975). We hypothetise the existence of two kinds of extreme-right parties in Europe, one conservative and the other, more linked to ultra-liberal solutions in the economic realm. The first kind of parties would align with ecofascism and enhance climate change concern amongst right-winged individuals, the later would cause the opposite effect. To test our hypotheses, we will use multilevel analysis techniques and utilize data from the International Social Survey Programme Environment IV (2020) and the Manifestos Project to construct second-level variables regarding far-right parties.

The Banal Influence: Nationalism and Climate Change

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Within sociology, there has been growing interest in exploring the connections between nationalism, the nation-state system, and climate change (Conversi, 2020; Conversi and Hau, 2021; Deese, 2019: Ch 2). Alongside this, studies have explored how the surrounding culture shapes people's responses to climate change in their everyday lives. Notably, this can provide a series of narratives that enable the construction of defences to either shut out the reality of climate change as a threat or deflect from it by casting responsibility elsewhere (Norgaard, 2011; Westcott, 2019). However, an important gap in these studies is a consideration of how nationalism, as part of the surrounding culture, influences individuals' responses to the climate crisis, and in particular how it shapes politicians' responses. The purpose of this paper is to address the key question: How does the ideology of nationalism interact with and influence climate change discourse and policy? To look into this, I will examine a selection of political speeches from leaders of the UK Conservative and Labour parties, both of which

have made 'patriotism' a key component of their identity, on the subject of climate change, from within the last five years. Using the frame of 'banal nationalism' (Billig, 1997), I will consider how the ideology of nationalism influences decision-making and prioritisation within the policy proposals and rhetoric deployed, exploring the tensions created between the need to mitigate the climate crisis, while fitting this within an acceptable frame of nationalism.

A Climate Skeptic Knows His Place – Exploring Authoritarianism, Right-Wing Populism, and Climate Skeptical Beliefs in Southern Norway

Marthe Elden Wilhelmsen

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Despite an expanding body of scientific evidence, climate skepticism remains a global and growing phenomenon. Moreover, climate skepticism cannot be understood as an isolated occurrence but needs to be analyzed in connection with wider social and political trends such as the rise of right-wing populism and opposition to allegedly "liberal" agendas that include questions of intergenerational justice, gender, and ethnicity. Norway presents a particularly interesting yet paradoxical case. On the one hand, Norway aspires to be a "global climate leader". On the other hand, the extraction of oil and gas continues to serve as the economic backbone of Norway's progressive, liberal agenda. Views of Norway having the "greenest oil" reflects Nordic exceptionalism and aligns with the right-wing populist patterns concerning ethnicity and gender.

Drawing on ethnographic research from 2022 to 2024, this paper investigates how hierarchical and authoritarian worldviews shape attitudes, utilizing theories of whiteness (Gabay 2018) to examine the ontological and epistemological structures forming Norwegian exceptionalism. The study employs walking methods (O'Neill and Roberts 2020) and ego social network analysis (McPherson et al. 2001) to enrich ethnographic data, providing a nuanced understanding of authority and climate skepticism.

My research unveils how identity and culture shape the populist, nationalist, and anti-scientific values underpinning climate skepticism. Who can and should be trusted if experts and those in power are viewed as corrupt? How are these views being justified amongst the climate skeptics? The main findings suggest that climate skepticism functions as an identity marker, expressing group belonging among self-proclaimed ostracized truth seekers. This skepticism is deeply intertwined with right-wing populist mobilization, which fosters masculinist identity politics at the intersection of gender, class, and ethnicity.

Understanding how authoritarian views are connected helps unravel a piece of this complex puzzle of climate skepticism. Ethnographic methods, instrumental in building trust with initially skeptical participants, offer a unique lens into the complex nature of climate skepticism and its intersection with broader social transformations.

RN12 | T06_03: Social Practices and Inequalities in Energy Contexts

Social Practices, Gender And Materiality: Women's Agency In Bioenergy-dependent Households And Communities In Ethiopia

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Social practices to provide vital energy services reinforce the high dependence of households in low – and middle-income countries on bioenergy, and aggravate the manifold associated social and environmental challenges. This study explores women's agency in the reproduction of domestic energy-related practices in rural, biomass-dependent households in Ethiopia to shed light on the gendered nature of social practices that shape and reflect local biomass-based energy systems.

Women's everyday lives in the case study region revolve around practises towards providing energy services. For example, women collect wood fuel or dung, produce charcoal and use hearth fires for cooking, hygiene or space heating. Energy-efficient cookstoves are touted solution to a wide array of social challenges, a narrative that side-lines women's agency. Simplistic technological approaches risk entrenching the provision of energy services as a gendered female chore. This interdisciplinary research employs Social Practice Theory and the Stock-Flow-Practice nexus perspective to analyse the interlinkages between agency, practices, meanings and the use of materials in rural Ethiopia using an innovative mixed-methods approach.

Study results reveal women's agency is seriously curtailed by prevalent social practices, but a small option space exists for women to actively reshape their practices. Within households, men take advantage of the energy services and benefits provided by women's work. In the communities, women remain side-lined in the governance of local institutions that could guide energy transitions by channelling agency. However, in households that involve women in decision-making, women steer fuel choices, control energy service generation, and embrace new technologies, suggesting that women exploit their limited agency. Our findings highlight the importance of investigating women's agency that unfolds through their engagement in social practices and institutions impacting rural energy.

Off-grid Community and Energy Innovation in Africa: The LoCEL-H2 Project

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The difficulty of accessing safe and reliable energy provision is a relevant problem, particularly in the rural areas of the Global South (IEA report, 2023). Stand-alone systems (photovoltaic systems with batteries) and local microgrids seem viable solutions for these off-grid rural communities. At the same time, these innovations occur in a context where introducing these technologies may reinforce social asymmetries.

The European project LoCEL-H2 (Low-cost, Circular, plug-and-play, prosumer Energy system for off-grid Locations, including Hydrogen) fits into this scenario. The research aims to test clean and reliable energy systems for off-grid communities in Pakistan and to implement this solution in two cases in Africa, one in Zambia and one in Ivory Coast. Through the development of photovoltaic systems with batteries together with an innovative hydrogen production system (named battolyser) for kitchen use, the research aims to verify not only the technical-economic sustainability of the system but also its social and cultural implications for promoting benefits for the community as a whole. These points recall issues like inclusion and social control of energy.

In this contribution, we intend to present the approach and methodology of LoCEL-H2 to promote a fair social-energy innovation and to present the very preliminary results of the research based on the first field research in Pakistan to obtain insight into electrified and not-electrified communities with solar microgrids.

Societal Responses to Energy Transition in Spain: Survey Insights on Gender, Generational Divide, and the Influence of Fossil Fuel Dependency

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This paper explores the sociology of the social tensions arising from the ongoing energy transition, particularly in Spain, where rapid and substantial economic shifts are unfolding. We conduct a survey to a representative sample of the population (1,500). The variables included in the questionnaire deal with sentiments toward the social and economic impact of the energy transition, as well as overall environmental values and attitudes. We have adopted a multi-stage sample design. The population was divided into two clusters: those living in the former coal mining areas (800 respondents) and the rest of the country (800 respondents). Subsequently, we stratified each of the clusters according to age and sex. The data was collected through a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews) survey technique. The results confirm that the younger and female population exhibits more positive sentiments toward the energy transition. These differences, however, are less significant or even non-existent in the former mining areas. The results challenge some of the main theories in the field of environmental sociology. We refer, for example, to the concept of addictive economies by William Freudenburg. Compared to other rural regions, areas dependent on fossil fuels have been marked by a cyclical pattern of booms and busts. Freudenburg argues that during boom periods, stakeholders often neglect the negative aspects, the potential for an eventual bust, and the necessity of maintaining diverse economic options. In times of economic downturn, it becomes challenging to conceive alternative developmental paths, and a sense of nostalgia for the prosperous periods prevails. This issue is compounded by the older generation, who benefited from the booms and whose experiences influence the attitudes of younger generations.

Energy Prosumerism In Poor Rural Areas: A Practice-Based Account

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Energy prosumerism is usually claimed as a proactive model for households and communities to self-produce, consume and share energy. Particularly in Europe, it refers to energy communities, where local shareholders’ groups (sometimes supported by municipalities) manage and own decentralised green systems for a proximity energy flow. Energy prosumerism is often intertwined with energy poverty because it is supposed to contrast the dynamics of exclusion in the access to secure, clean, and affordable energy. Both prosumerism and energy poverty share a deep normative common understanding about “what should be” a fair and just energy transition. However, these experiences need to be questioned, in terms of the variety of the social practices that are involved.

Based on the first data collected in the Horizon 2020 project (LoCEL-H2), this contribution aims to show how prosumerism and energy poverty are embedded in specific cultural and material contexts, understanding how energy prosumeris is translated in practice, by whom and for what. Adopting a social practice-based approach, provisional findings of fieldwork conducted in three sites in the Punjab Province (Pakistan) are presented. The main line of discussion is that the prosumption model needs to be questioned as proactive and endogenous (since it does not necessarily imply a bottom-up experience) and that the energy poverty condition does not necessarily mean a passive attitude in a “no choice scenario” (since the poor can manage their own poorness).

Social Stratification in Experienced Agency During the Green Transition

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Western societies are shifting towards ecologically sustainable economies. The implementation of these green transition policies will have varying impacts on members of society. Vulnerable individuals, who lack the means and resources to adapt, may experience the greatest impact from large societal upheavals. However, those with more resources may resist change more because they may perceive a potential loss if policies are implemented to curb consumption (Wiedmann et al., 2020). We aim to identify those cultural, social and material factors – either structural or individual – that narrow and limit people's experienced agency during the implementation of the green transition. In particular, we examine how socio-economic resources measured objectively, subjectively and intergenerationally are associated with individuals' views on green transition policies at the individual and societal level and their agency in adapting to these changes.

We employ multivariate analysis methods including linear regression analysis and factor analysis to analyse Finnish data from the International Social Survey Programme 2020 (N=1137), which concentrated on environmental questions, as well as survey data collected in Finland during spring 2024. These data allow an up-to-date assessment on how socioeconomic resources are associated with agency regarding the green transition, with a strong focus on a multifaceted view of socioeconomic resources, including intergenerational trajectories.

We expect more socio-economically advantaged individuals to feel greater agency in protecting the environment than those less advantaged. However, we also expect particularly those individuals who are in intergenerationally high positions to be less willing to reduce their level of living to protect the environment.

RN12 | T06_04: Advancing Sustainability in Agricultural and Fisheries Practices

Small-scale Agriculture in Tunisia and its Challenges: Between Dispossession and Resistance

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This contribution seeks to investigate and assess Tunisian small-scale farmers' agricultural strategies based on local knowledge and social capital. In the context of an agricultural sector and a set of national/international policies which economically and politically marginalises small-scale farmers, coupled with the advancement of climate change risks, the project aims to explore local resistance agricultural strategies. These strategies are envisioned as emblematic of an agrifood system grounded in the principles of food sovereignty, valorisation of local knowledge and local savoir-faire, and which could represent the only sustainable system to deal with the climate and rural migration challenges. The primary case study will be the Oasis system in the South of Tunisia, with a comprehensive assessment of these agricultural systems and strategies from both technical (e.g., use and conservation of local seeds, water conservation, and irrigation techniques) and social capital perspectives (including social roles within rural communities and community and reciprocity strategies).

The theoretical framework underpinning this study draws on diverse interdisciplinary post-colonial perspectives, incorporating insights from Environmental Sociology, Critical Agrarian Studies, and Political Ecology. This approach is adopted to gain a comprehensive understanding of the intricate multilevel dynamics spanning from local to global scales, and to discern the intersectional impacts of these dynamics on small-scale farmers.

As for the research methodology, I intend to engage a qualitative research approach, through semi-structured interviews and participant observation, in order to investigate the dynamics on the ground. This fieldwork is based on pre-existing research experiences on the ground with local farmers, cooperatives, andorganizations. The early findings underscore the resilience of Tunisian small-scale farmers in the face of agricultural challenges, emphasizing the pivotal role of local knowledge in crafting effective resistance strategies within the Oasis system.

This study finds its relevance in the gap in the academic field of research projects in Tunisia that consider the local system as a possible alternative and solution to the aforementioned environmental and migration challenges, and political and economic dynamics.

Possibilities for Profound Land-use Change in a Drying Area

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The Sand Ridge in the Danube-Tisza Interfluve of Hungary grapples with severe water scarcity due to recurrent droughts, significantly affecting agricultural activities and farmers' incomes. The combination of slightly decreasing annual precipitation, increasing temperatures due to climate change, water (mis)management, and agricultural practices compound these challenges. While local and regional actors acknowledge water scarcity issues, they harbour diverse expectations regarding solutions. Some farmers, supported by the local government and associations, have cooperated voluntarily to conserve water and enhance agricultural efficiency. They have initiated landscape restoration using nature-based water retention measures to fulfil biodiversity and climate objectives. However, most farmers and local stakeholders anticipate solutions from external actors. In the MOSAIC (Horizon 2020) research project, we investigate drivers and motivations behind local land use changes. We aim to initiate a science-policy process encouraging farmers and stakeholders to alter their existing practices, such as reducing groundwater over-exploitation, cultivating less water-intensive crops, and employing non-tillage farming techniques. We establish a 'policy lab' to support multi-stakeholder planning and equip the local farmers' coalition with tools to incentivise key stakeholders to implement jointly defined sustainable land use plans. The research, rooted in semi-structured interviews with farmers, local decision-makers, experts, and activists, delves into prevailing circumstances and recognises that farm-level land use decisions impact not only individual farms but also the broader local socio-environmental milieu. Thus, we aim (1) to gain insights into the social and power dynamics of different actors affecting land use changes, (2) determinants shaping decision-making at local and regional levels and (3) to elucidate effective methods for instigating transformative change with diverse local stakeholders possessing distinct interests, power and knowledge regarding their land and agriculture.

Agricultural Digitalisation and Just Transition: a Framework for the Analysis

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Digital agriculture is generally depicted as a new technological frontier allowing both the efficiency and sustainability of the agri-food sector to be increased through the introduction of innovative "green" and cost-effective solutions. However, there is still little empirical evidence on the wider environmental and socio-economic implications of ongoing agricultural digitalisation processes. While the existing literature tends to focus on the potential outcomes of agricultural digitalisation in terms of productivity and market possibilities for farmers, issues related to the broader effects that digitalisation may have on local ecosystems and agrarian structures are often neglected. For instance, there is still much to know about the potential role of digital technologies in reinforcing or contrasting existing power asymmetries and inequalities in agriculture and rural areas, as well as about their impact on the reconfiguration of the relationship between agricultural work and territorial sustainability. The paper makes the point that the digitalisation of agriculture is a political and ecological process representing an important element of the uneven and combined patterns of the capitalist development of agriculture. As such, broader perspectives on political economy and critical agrarian studies are needed to analyse the impact of agricultural digitalisation. At the same time, it is also important to consider that the practices and discourses that inform agricultural digitalisation are strongly shaped by social, economic and environmental factors that may vary enormously across different settings. Starting from these premises, the authors propose a critical framework for equipping empirical research on digital agriculture with a more comprehensive understanding of local contexts, while also retaining a wider political economy perspective inspired by the concept of "just transition".

The Morality of Non-compliance in Capture Fisheries: a Quantitative Exploration of IUU Fishing in Croatia

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While the importance of morality and values for the conservation of natural resources has been well established in the general literature, in the scholarship on capture fisheries the most direct link between the two dimensions is found in studying fishers' non-compliant behaviour. However, up to now, the theme of morality and non-compliance/illegalities in capture fisheries, has been explored primarily through qualitative research. On the other hand, the quantitative research has been mostly limited to the deterrence model of non-compliance, which has largely left out the mechanisms through which normative reasoning translates into justification for non-compliance. In this paper we explore the association of non-compliance with fishers' values, based on the sample of 550 fishers from Croatia. Aiming to unpack moral drivers to non-compliant behavior by looking at various normative statements, we are using the framework of modes of justification (originally drawn from Boltanski and Thévenot's research), which traces how non-compliance can be founded on diverse and competing concepts of fairness. Finally, the level of compliance is analyzed with regard to fishers' environmental attitudes. The sample was collected as part of the project "Sustainable fishing: social relations, identity and co-management of

Adriatic fishery resources", funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, and includes a general population of fishers, including large scale, small scale, and recreational fishers.

RN12 | T06_05: Housing and Environmental Sustainability in Urban Contexts

Health-promoting Housing in Climate Change as an Interplay of Spatial, Environmental and Social Innovations

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Structural, natural, and social environmental conditions directly impact everyday life and human health. Further, the living space and living environment in the neighborhood are key determinants of individual well-being as central everyday places for people (BMAS 2021: 530). The significant influence of the spatial interiors is not surprising. In industrialized countries such as Germany, people spend an average of 90% of their time in living and working spaces. Building conditions and social behavior interact with each other. How we behave depends largely on the spaces that surround us. At the same time, behavior determines the space.

A multidimensional perspective with various interacting factors (performance of building components, space efficiency, renewal cycles, everyday living routines, aesthetic requirements, etc.) plays an important role here, making climate adaptation and health an interesting vehicle for housing development. People and their behavior must be considered just as much as the conditions under which they operate.

The interdisciplinary Urban Health Solutions working group at RWTH Aachen University deals with the interdependencies between people, buildings and the living environment with regard to the design of health-promoting conditions and impulses for health-promoting behavior. The presentation will provide insights of initial conceptual ideas for our research approach in relation to the adaptability of man-building-district to the consequences of climate change and put them up for discussion.

Green Construction Practices in Portugal

Ana Horta

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The environmental sustainability of residential buildings has long been an important concern in international policy agendas. This concern has only grown in recent years due to climate change and natural resource depletion. Indeed, buildings have considerable environmental impacts, such as those related to the materials used in their construction and renovation or the energy and water consumption that

result from their use. Considering the life cycle of buildings, their carbon footprints are significant. The recognition of the need to reduce buildings' energy consumption and CO2 emissions has led to the development of standards defining green construction, as well as policies promoting energy efficiency, decarbonization and the use of solar energy and intelligent technologies in buildings in several regions across the world. However, at a time of high housing costs and housing shortages, how are different social agents relating to these concerns? Considering that some studies have observed an unwillingness of potential buyers to prefer green buildings over regular ones, this presentation analyzes the case of housing currently placed on the market in Portugal. The analysis is focused on the claims and features chosen by real estate agencies to promote houses on websites. In this way, an attempt is made to capture the ideals, values and preferences perceived by advertisers as making a house more attractive to potential customers, in order to influence their choice. Content analysis of housing advertisements is thus used as a basis for discussing and understanding current practices related to the environmental sustainability of buildings.

Investigating the Social Dimension of Sustainable Housing: Problematic Perceptions of Bamboo and Natural Building Materials in Informal Settlements

Bianca Galmarini, Paolo Costa, Leonardo Chiesi

Università di Firenze, Italy

In times of ecological transition, building with natural materials and employing low-tech construction methods become crucial in addressing the global needs for affordable and healthy housing worldwide. Scientific research has highlighted environmental sustainability of bamboo, its low carbon footprint, thermal regulation, and structural resilience. In addition to being one of the most traditionally used materials for housing worldwide, current research focusing on engineered bamboo and bamboo-based composite materials indicates a growing and renewed interest in this natural resource in the building sector. However, people's perceptions on bamboo can interfere with its actual adoption as a housing building material.

Empirical research from Nueva Esperanza, an informal settlement in central Colombia, reveals that despite the long established tradition of the bamboo-based building technique of Bahareque, the inhabitants' relationship with bamboo has changed over time. In-depth interviews and observations reveal that bamboo is perceived by inhabitants with stigma, as a temporary and emergency material, confined to poor and marginalized contexts. This misconception about the durability, resilience, and value of bamboo is perpetuated by the misapplications of bamboo techniques, and is affected by a standardized and globalized ideal of housing that oversees traditional and local knowledge.

This research emphasizes how housing building choices are often based on symbolic rather than functional considerations, and shows how social and cultural dimensions are often neglected in the technocentric approach of sustainability policies. Insights from this study extend to other natural building materials, and reflect on the combined effects of cultural globalization, modernization, and standardized construction practices in marginalizing local building materials and traditional building knowledge.

The impacts of the European Green Capital designation of urban sustainability accounting frameworks: the case of Brescia, Italy

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The study investigates the impact on cities' sustainability assessment frameworks of their candidacy to sustainability related designation such as European Green Capital Award (EGCA). This work focuses on the candidacy of the Italian city of Brescia for the EGCA in 2023. Facing environmental challenges, Brescia's application provides a compelling case study for assessing the impact of the candidacy on the city's environmental impact assessment. Since its establishment in 2006, the EGCA has recognized cities for their substantial contributions to improving quality of life and promoting sustainable development.

Despite the significance of city designations, there is a noticeable gap in scholarly attention regarding how such titles influence cities' performance assessment frameworks and their communication. This exploration at the intersection of environmental communication, accountability reporting and city initiatives provides valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners in the field.

The research articulates a methodology to assess such impacts founded on the hypothesis that EGCA candidacy leads cities to advance their sustainability assessment frameworks aligning them with transnational frameworks.

The research methodology combines qualitative and quantitative approaches. The use of participant observation, in-depth unstructured interviews and document review provides a comprehensive qualitative analysis. The quantitative analysis, comparing indicators submitted for the EGCA with existing environmental KPIs, adds a valuable dimension to the research, especially in terms of cities innovation.

This analysis concentrated on the period of heightened engagement by the Municipality, specifically from January to April 2023. During this time, the Municipality submitted seven datasheets addressing different sustainability issues, encompassing the current, past, and future status of the city.

RN12 | T07_01: Emotions, Memories and Reflections on Environmental Change

Loss Of A Healthy Natural Environment: A Study Of Collective Memory.

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This research recovers the collective memory of elderly people who recall experiences lived alongside the Tagus River in the city of Toledo (Spain). The study develops an individual and collective narrative story to add to our understanding of the relationship between society and its environment during the years 1950-1970. A qualitative methodology is used through documentary analysis techniques and in-depth interviews. The results obtained from the testimonies reflect the influence that the Tagus River had as a natural heritage on the socialization and emotions of Toledo society. The sociological study carried out is unique, since it is the first in which, through collective memory, a contrast is made between the enjoyments of a natural fluvial environment in good condition compared to its current state of an ecosystem in deterioration.

Places Live with Us – Environmental Trauma of Four Generations

Outi Marja Autti

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This paper discusses the link between ecosystem and human health along a dammed river, Iijoki, in Finland. My data consists of qualitative interviews of three women, the grandmother, her daughter, and granddaughter, all talking about their environment and its changes. The informants have lived in the same place and have witnessed different phases of the river – a free river, a dammed one with dry riverbeds, and partially restored, heavily regulated river. The dramatic changes in the environment have weakened the informants' place attachment and sense of belonging. In a rapidly changed environment, the informants' place relation has become contradicted, as the landscape no longer mirrors the histories of local communities, nor their activities.

Places live with us and are often only highlighted when something unusual happens. Klaus Eder has argued that maintaining a modern world requires the exploitation of nature, but at the same time it causes anxiety. The need to understand traumatic experiences and their transmission within a framework of social and cultural influences has been recognised. Pioneers in social science trauma research include Jeff Alexander and Ron Eyerman, whose writings on cultural trauma have been widely used by other disciplines. Trauma research is clearly an emerging research framework, particularly in the environmental social sciences. Recent research on climate change has recognised the importance of exploring the social dimensions of environmental change as well as its social consequences.

My research questions focus on the impacts environmental change may have on place attachment and sense of belonging. Since the three informants in my data have lived in the same place and form a generational chain, I also investigate the transition mechanisms of intergenerational environmental trauma.

Climate Emotions in Videogames: Analyzing The Structure of Feeling of Two Management Ecogames

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The interest on climate emotions is gaining traction in diverse disciplines, from environmental humanities to psychology and sociology. Changes in our natural environment can provoke strong emotional reactions, and sometimes these are part of the affective strategies of the environmentalist movements against global warming. At the same time, the catastrophic effects of the climate crisis are also conveying a sense of pessimism about the future that has been commonly characterized as "climate anxiety", and finds it's counterpart in the rise of post-apocalyptic narratives in popular culture.

Games, at the same time, can be understood as both "environmental texts" with the capacity of simulating complex ecosystems, and affective texts, able to convey emotions. These aspects have been mostly analyzed separately, but the study of the affective relationship of players with ecogames (games in which the natural environment plays a meaningful role) still lacks academic attention.

In this presentation we will analyze the structures of feeling of two management games that deal with the climate crisis in two different ways: Frostpunk, a post-apocalyptic city-builder in which players will confront the danger of authoritarian ecofascism in a fictional Victorian era, and Half Earth Socialism, in which players will try to navigate and solve the ecological crisis after a global ecosocialist revolution places them as world planners. To do that, we will use techniques of game-analysis, interviews and questionnaires to voluntary players, with a sample of university students. The emotions generated by the gameplay will then be compared to those present on the literature about climate emotions, as well as with the affective strategies of environmentalist groups.

Taking (...And Not Taking) Ecological Upheaval Into Account In Visions of the Future

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Scientific modelling of the interactions between human activities and ecological upheavals indicate that the continuity of current social organizations (and therefore associated lifestyles, particularly in wealthy countries) is the least likely scenario on a 21st century scale (Stoddard et al. 2021; Brulle and Norgaard 2019). How do individuals integrate these report into their imaginations of the future, and the way they project themselves into their own future lives (Suckert 2022)?

Measurement of people's relation to environmental issues (beliefs, attitudes, practices, etc.) has been based mainly on questionnaire surveys, carried out over the past 50 years in a large number of countries. This methodological approach is invaluable for comparing variations in "environmental sensitivity" over time and space. But it also has its limitations: a framing bias that we might call legitimacy bias (Bourdieu 1979), and the fact that it measures representations far from practical contexts.

The first part of the presentation will therefore emphasize the value of an interview method based on ways of imagining the future, in order to capture individual variations in relations to ecological issues.

The second part will detail one of the main findings of the survey: measuring environmental sensitivity by questionnaire can conceal the existence of a strong dissonance between different dispositions to believe (Lahire 1998; Leahy et. al 2010) concerning the future. This dissonance is one mechanism among others that makes the ecological transition of social organizations unthinkable or unfeasible, even though individuals are convinced of its indispensability.

The communication will be based on an interview survey (60 in France, 20 in Argentina) focusing on how people imagine the future and project themselves into their own future

RN12 | T07_02: Air Quality, Health, and Social Inequities

Differential air pollution reduction during and after the COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdown in Helsinki Metropolitan Area, Finland

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COVID-19 pandemic-related mitigation measures have positively impacted air quality around the world (Dang & Trinh, 2021). While lockdown measures and reduced economic activity led to a general decline in air pollutants, especially in transportation-heavy metropolitan regions (Venter et al., 2020), disparities in pollution reduction emerged both across socioeconomic and sociogeographical lines (Bluhm et al., 2022; Bonardi et al, 2021). For example, racial and ethnic minority groups experienced disproportionate air pollution reductions, and lower income of neighborhoods was found to be associated with larger air pollution reductions in California, U.S. (Bluhm et al., 2022). Despite strictest measures affecting mobility of residents were introduced in 2020, and most studies focus on data from 2020, the pandemic and its effects, including uneven air pollution reductions extend beyond. Our paper is the first of its kind quantifying air pollution change-related disparities in a metropolitan area utilizing both high-resolution air pollution and socioeconomic data from 2021 as well. Via deploying a generalized difference-in-differences model, we focus on occupation – and income-related socioeconomic gradients' differential air pollution exposure changes. This is of special interest in Helsinki Metropolitan Area, where indications of a non-linear relationship between socioeconomic status and air pollution have been identified (Gosztonyi et al., 2023).

Traffic NO2 Exposure and Perinatal Health Outcomes in Madrid: The Role of Socioeconomic Status

Nerea Bello Iglesias

UNED, Spain

Perinatal health, measured here through low birth weight (LBW) and preterm birth (PTB), is a major health determinant closely related to subsequent processes of cumulative (dis)advantage and, therefore, social stratification. This research aims to disentangle the relationship between individual stressors closely related to health at birth, through the measurement of the maternal socioeconomic resources, and the impact of in utero exposure to environmental

pollution, a contextual stressor widely present in large metropolitan areas.

For the Spanish context, Madrid condenses both problematics. It is a city with a strong socio-spatial segregation, where population with lower socioeconomic status (SES) tend to cluster in the southern districts and, in addition, it is a city with high levels of pollution, especially related to traffic. I will use register data from the Childbirth Statistics Bulletin, for the perinatal health and maternal SES variables, and pollution data from The Integrated Air Quality System of the Madrid City Council, focusing on three pollutants: NO2, PM2.5 and PM10.

The objective of this article is to study whether there is a correlation between worse perinatal outcomes and high levels of pollution in Madrid, and whether there is an unequal distribution of these worse outcomes, affecting to a greater extent those geographical areas associated with lower socioeconomic strata in the city of Madrid. Detecting the clustering of stressors (both individual and contextual) that influence health at birth can help to identify socio-spatial segregation and promote policy measures to mitigate this negative impact.

Construction Of Wind Turbines Linked To Reductions In Physical Health-Related Quality Of Life: Empirical Evidence Using Linked Administrative And Panel Data From Germany (2002-2020)

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The rollout of wind turbines is progressing at high levels – new turbines are erected at suitable locations and dated, smaller systems replaced with more powerful modern systems. Meanwhile, debate continues about the impact of wind turbines on human health and wellbeing. Such impact might occur, some argue, due to noise pollution and infrasound. We combine data from the German Socio-economic Panel (SOEP) with administrative data on more than 30,000 installations in Germany to examine whether there is an impact of wind turbine installations in a radius of 1 to 5 km on health-related quality of life (SF-12). Identification rests on a difference-in-differences design exploiting exact geographical coordinates of households and wind turbines. We find statistically significant negative impacts of wind turbine installations in a radius of 2,5 to 5 km on physical health-related quality of life. Further research using (quasi-)experimental designs is needed to develop societal solutions.

A Citizen Science Approach to Evaluation of the Particulate Matter Exposure on the US – Mexico Border

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Gaining a comprehensive understanding of air quality is pivotal for formulating effective environmental and health policies. In the citizen science pilot project titled B.R.E.A.T.H (Bike & Research: Evaluation of Air for Texans' Health), we collaborated with bicycle users in downtown Brownsville, TX, deploying low-cost air quality sensors developed by open-seneca. This initiative unearthed PM2.5 exposure patterns not detected by the state-run station (TCEQ CAMS) in Brownsville, identifying concerning areas with elevated PM2.5 levels—some reaching classifications of unhealthy, very unhealthy, or hazardous. Particularly troubling were locations near public parks and facilities catering to children and other vulnerable populations. Additionally, we evaluated participants' air quality awareness and the methodology's applicability for future citizen science projects. This multifaceted approach not only deepened scientific insights into local air quality dynamics but also fostered meaningful community engagement.

RN12 | T07_03: Digitalization, Policy, and Narratives in Energy Transitions

Public Involvement in Planning of Possible Small Modular Reactors

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In Finland, several cities and power companies have begun to explore the possibility of using small modular reactors (SMRs) for district heat production. The aim is to decarbonise heat production, which is currently heavily dependent on fossil fuels. SMRs are promised to be cheaper, safer and faster to build than conventional, larger nuclear power plants. However, for district heating, they must be built close to the existing district heating network and thus close to often densely populated residential areas. This raises the question of how residents can participate in project planning and decision-making.

Views on the sustainability of nuclear power vary, but in Finland the support for nuclear power is at a record high. The debate on possible SMRs has not thus far generated opposition and critique, either. Hence, conflicts and counter-narratives to the SMR promise, for example in the media, are practically non-existent in Finland.

This paper examines the overall reform of the Finnish Nuclear Energy Act, in particular how the key actors in the sector see public participation. The reform was launched partly in order to streamline the regulatory framework in preparation for the possible introduction of SMRs. In addition to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure and planning, the Nuclear Energy Act sets out the formal framework conditions for citizen involvement. The current pro-nuclear government has set the objective that the new Nuclear Energy Act and its implementing regulations will be reformed by 2026 at the latest.

Democratic And Energy Cultures Of Transformation Of Young People

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Energy plays a crucial role in addressing climate change, as acknowledged by international institutions like COP28 and IPCC 2022, leading to the development of strategies such as the Energy Plan-South Tyrol-2050 (Italy). This plan aims to manage the region sustainably, reducing CO2 emissions and targeting 90% renewable energy consumption. It advocates for actions like optimizing energy efficiency, conservation, renewable energy production, technological innovations, collaborative governance, and cultural changes. Within this framework, the WAVE project aims to enhance a social and cultural context for optimal energy use in South Tyrol, involving young people in shaping alternative future pathways for a better quality of life and climate.

The WAVE project investigates the extent to which young people are empowered in climate and energy transitions, by actions to reduce inequalities in energy and technology access, amplify societal transformation for deep climate and energy transition (Gantioler et al. 2023), and foster cultures of transformation (Parris et al. 2022). Through education and mutual learning, the project aims to engage young individuals in proactive and resilient approaches to address current and future challenges, cultivating a curiosity for pertinent questions about energy and climate change.

These insights stem from qualitative research, involving 10 focus groups with approximately 200 students and 15 semi-structured interviews with teachers in South Tyrol high schools, Italy. The findings from this case study offer valuable perspectives on cultures of transformation for comprehensive climate and energy transitions, encouraging broader integration between energy cultures (Stephenson et al. 2015) and energy practices (Shove 2021) approaches.

You are Europe. Exploring Policy Narratives of Energy Transition and Digital Technologies for a Sustainable Future

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The EU sees itself as a global leader in promoting a sustainable transition to a more democratic, digital and decarbonised world. Various policy documents offer visions that go beyond technical solutions proposing a normative vision of the world of the future.

This presentation aims to provide a more nuanced understanding of the connections between digital technologies and energy transition narratives, moving beyond simplistic representations of AI as either 'helper' or 'enemy' in optimistic or pessimistic views of building a better post-transition world.

The analysis will address key questions such as:

– How are narratives of energy transition and digital technologies framed in EU policy documents? For example, is AI seen as a helpful tool in the transition, or does cloud tech compete with everyday energy needs?

– What are the implications of the different timelines associated with these narratives for socio-technical change?

It will cover strategic documents related to the energy transition (such as the European Green Deal, RePower Europe, the European Climate Law, and the Hydrogen Strategy), as well as those focused on the development of AI and machine learning (such as Artificial Intelligence for Europe, the Coordinated Plan for Artificial Intelligence, the Ethical Guidelines for Trustworthy AI). Using the narrative of change concept, Greimas' analytical framework and the idea of future narratives, the research will explore the envisioned post-transition world in the context of the EU's three

pillars for energy transition: decarbonisation, digitalisation and democratisation.This approach aims to uncover contextual arrangements that can shape the future.

The Cost of Convenience: Energy Implications of On-Demand Digital Services

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More than three-quarters of greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to household consumption if emissions from upstream production and distribution systems are accounted for. The total emission will change as digitalisation is transforming household consumption behaviour as well as provisioning systems, but the direction and scale of change are yet unknown. One prominent transformation is the rapid rise of on-demand digital services promising fast delivery of various goods and services such as entertainment, food, grocery, retail, and transportation. This research examines the intersection of digitalisation, household consumption, and energy consumption. I use interviews and mini-trials with households in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom to explore how on-demand digital services are changing their experiences, expectations, and behaviours. Household-level insights are then juxtaposed with trends in provisioning systems behind digital services to ascertain the energy implications.

The research finds that the use of on-demand digital services is rife with moral and social tensions arising from a sociotechnical configuration of intra-household dynamics, households' moral economy, socioeconomic factors, social networks, companies' innovation and marketing, and geographical contexts. Despite ongoing tensions, the convenience and speedy delivery provided by on-demand digital services have become normalised and expected. Households reflect that greater use of on-demand digital services increases expectations of immediacy and induces consumption. This consumption pattern is enabled by and simultaneously encourages the intensification of manufacturing and logistics, particularly last-mile delivery, which increases energy consumption. These findings contribute to discussions on the social aspects of demand-side mitigation that are increasingly shaped by digitalisation.

Designing a Robust German Energy System With Regard to Disruptive Events through Stakeholder Involvement

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The German energy system is challenged by growing complexities, uncertainties and changes resulting from system external or internal stress phenomena, disasters, shocks, crises or turbulent changes, such as the Energiewende, but also climate change or the Russian war against Ukraine. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research is needed to proactively tackle these challenges and make the energy system not only sustainable, but also robust and resilient.

The Helmholtz Platform for the Design of Robust Energy Systems and Resource Supply (RESUR), developed in collaboration with the Helmholtz Program for Energy System Design (ESD), is dedicated to this purpose.

Besides to technical and socio-economic modelling, interviews with representatives of relevant stakeholder groups for the German energy system are conducted to explore their expectations of a robust energy system. It is necessary to identify and analyze their perceived options for action and needs for support in case of a disruptive event. In addition to generalizable patterns of action against such events, the case study of a 30-day heatwave in the near future is used.

The presentation focuses on first interview results and reflects on ways to combine socio-technical modelling data with the analysis of stakeholder experiences in an interdisciplinary mixed-methods research approach.

RN12 | T07_04: Digital Media and Public Engagement in Environmental Campaigns

Pixels for a Purpose: Minecraft, Environmental Campaigns and Activism

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The communication of urban environmental issues and sustainability is pivotal for city administrators and stakeholders, facing challenges like public apathy, negationism, and disinformation. The emergence of new media necessitates innovative communicative approaches, with video games standing out as a potential tool for promoting awareness, reflection, criticism, and behavioral changes. Previous research on "serious games" has primarily focused on discrete video game software as the main analytical unit, emphasizing educational value and game-based learning for climate change engagement.

This contribution takes a systemic perspective, examining the co-shaping processes between the game software and its assets, the campaign itself, players, commentators (streamers), and the broader controversy it inserts itself into. Acknowledging the multifaceted roles played by video games in sustainability campaigns, the research introduces a multi-dimensional analytical model applied to two top-down environmental campaigns using Minecraft. The first, a 2021 institutional campaign in Venice, promotes sustainable development through green practices. The second, a 2020 corporate campaign, involves grade school pupils building a local power plant in Minecraft to model water uses and envision an environmentally sustainable city.

The research, based on semi-structured interviews with campaign and software developers, explores intersections between urban sustainability issues, the network of actors and stakeholders involved in sustainability communication, and the video game ecosystem, which includes its assets and affordances and the articulation of its community. The analysis reveals trade-offs in the use of video games within sustainability campaigns, carefully navigated by stakeholders to secure funding and reach the target. It emphasizes current limitations in evaluating campaign benefits for the local context, proposing ideas to overcome these limitations and better leverage the potential of video games in addressing such urgent challenges.

Climate Groups' Discourses On Science: (Re)Constructing Scientific Knowledge In Light Of Political Visions

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New climate groups, such as Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion, have repeatedly pressured governments to take science seriously in political decision-making. Scholars across communication, sociology, and environmental sciences have suggested that science has been 'consecrated' as a guiding force in the discourse of these groups. However, a techno-scientific emphasis may overlook vital values and power dynamics inherent in climate politics, necessitating further investigation in diverse social and political contexts.

This research scrutinizes the discourses of three Portuguese climate groups—Fridays for Future Portugal, Climáximo, and LIDERA—analyzing science-related texts collected from their websites covering January 2018 to July 2022. Drawing on Critical Discourse Analysis and a typification of cited sources, this presentation will examine discursive uses of science and how they are interconnected with the social changes these groups call for.

Groups invoke science in three communicative moves: (a) framing science as a strategic ally, (b) transforming climate science into a political and ethical referee and (c) debating and pluralizing science. These climate groups engage in various forms of discursive (re)construction of science, some of which push science away from the dominant symbolic territory of 'universalism' and 'neutrality'. The discussion focuses on how the groups integrate science to (i) discuss social and political contingencies and translate abstract terms (e.g., just transition) into climate politics; and (ii) search for up-to-date scientific information to reproduce an expert-centered understanding of climate change, seeking ´economic development`. In doing so, we suggest that climate groups can simultaneously reinforce and challenge dominant science.

Empowering Energy Transition: Overcoming Communication Barriers Among Audience Segments

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The global challenge of providing clean, secure, and affordable energy is becoming a critical aspect of everyday life. The increasing global demand for energy necessitates the rapid development of low-carbon energy sources and other technological innovations. Consequently, there are high expectations for various energy transition pathways that not only require political will and business commitment but also aim

to actively involve individuals. This participation among regular consumers might demand meaningful changes in their daily lives, fostering more sustainable solutions, energy conservation practices, and even energy production. Although recent technological innovations in electricity systems already enable the transformation of consumers into prosumers, their potential impact on the energy transition still needs widespread communication to encourage more active engagement. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the attitudes of different audience segments toward their role in the energy transition and identify the main barriers which must be reflected by various stakeholders in communication processes. The main insights gained by implementing the Six Americas Short Survey approach (Chryst et al., 2018) into a representative survey of the Lithuanian public allow for a better understanding of the audience structure in Lithuania and its attitudinal differences regarding climate change and behavioral practices of energy consumption. Measuring the indirect willingness to change energy consumption habits, with or without specific policy incentives, concerns about costs, and other related perceptions among individual consumers, could be important considerations for policymakers to facilitate local energy transition activities and ensure more active public participation in the further stages of it.

Research project ‘‘Social solutions to the climate crisis: behavioral profiles and communication” (KLIM-KOM). Funded by Lithuanian Research Council (S-MIP-22-26)

Situated Language of Symbols in Citizens-Expert Panels on Climate Change Communication

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This paper offers reflections on deliberative Citizen-Expert Panels (CEPs) focused on effective communication on climate change. CEPs were organized in 2023 in three different areas of the Czech Republic. CEPs combined experts’ presentations, facilitated Q&A sessions and debates in small groups without the presence of the experts and facilitator and facilitated plenary presentations of participants‘ decisions. In contrast to the typical use of deliberative methods (e.g. Citizens’ Juries), the CEPs were notably applied as an analytical tool that allow to shed light on the dynamics of group negotiations among citizens with different potentials for empowerment (based on gender, age, expertise, or ability to speak in public). The analysis is epistemologically inspired by the concept of “situated knowledges” of Haraway (1988) and methodologically by Clarke’s (2017) “situational analysis”. It draws on current research in the field of climate communication, with a particular focus on the post-factual emphasis on emotions and the questioning of traditional expertise. The aim is to understand what specific strategies the participants used to achieve consensus. What emotions were associated with particular statements, and how they helped support or refute the „facts“? The main preliminary finding is that what most strongly reinforced consensus among informants with different views or power positions were shared symbols. In particular, they found consensus in opposing politicians, big firms, and the ill-informing media (although they would disagree on which politicians, firms or media to target) and in supporting increased media coverage of climate and a focus on environmental education in schools.

RN12 | T07_05: Environmental Governance and Decision Making

From Climate Facts to Climate Risks. IPCC Experts Ponder on Science for Policy

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The IPCC has successfully built its epistemic authority for policy-relevant science, but the question is whether it needs to change its work as the international community and nation states now face the challenge putting agreements and policies into practice. While there have been many proposals on how to develop science for policy and how to further develop global environmental assessments, the scientific experts involved in these assessments have been little studied. This paper analyses the views of the IPCC experts on the type of knowledge needed to guide policy. The empirical material consists of an interview study with experts involved in the IPCC, from its first assessment (1990) to the most recent (2023). The data from the interviews are analysed thematically using NVivo. The analysis shows that there are tensions in the way knowledge, uncertainty, and risk are viewed. It finds a crucial difference between those who focus mainly on knowledge certainties, and those who have a pronounced risk perspective, including societal risks. In conclusion, the paper discusses the implications for the IPCC of using a risk approach in its knowledge assessments.

Reshaping Environmental Governance: Democratic Innovations in Europe

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In the wake of the escalating environmental crisis, democratic innovations (DIs) try to contribute to democratic decision-making through citizen participation. In this paper, we aim to explore whether and how Dis can help advance the scholarly debate (and policy practice) of environmental sustainability. Our findings are based on an extensive historical review carried out under the EU-funded project "INCITE-DEM Inclusive Citizenship in a World in Transformation: Co-Designing for Democracy". Here we focus on the 345 peer-reviewed articles, supported by interviews with internationally acknowledged scholars, that delve into the role of Dis for environmental sustainability in Europe. Our findings suggest an emerging connection between processes like deliberative mini-publics and the Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action), which is most likely based on the role played by climate assemblies in the last few years. Although such assemblies have had some recognition by public bodies, questions remain open about the impact on the policy agenda and, in particular, the political uptake of citizens' recommendations.

Against this backdrop, and by acknowledging the key themes of RN12 Environment & Society, this paper examines the role of DIs in setting out the conditions for policy solutions to emerging environmental challenges, with a focus on Europe. We believe that the transformative nature of DIs can feed new research on citizen participation for environmental policies. Yet, we also alert for risks of over-reliance on initiatives of participation as a panacea for solutions in the environmental field. A critical appraisal of strengths and limitations of DIs in environmental policy is much needed in the scholarly debate, and this paper can hopefully indicates new pathways for future research.

A Network Analysis of Social Barriers in Ecological Restoration

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In the field of ecological restoration, the decision-making process unfolds within a complex socio-political context marked by divergent interests. These dynamics frequently pose challenges for effective decision-making and the successful execution of ecological restoration initiatives. The social aspects influencing decision-making in ecological restoration have not undergone thorough scrutiny or systematic interconnected analysis. This research aims to bridge this gap by methodically examining the social barriers that hinder the decision-making processes in ecological restoration. Employing an interpretivism approach, the study utilizes network analysis and mapping techniques to construct a systemic representation of these social barriers. Through the execution of 30 qualitative interviews, 88 social barriers impacting decision-making in ecological restoration were identified. These pivotal factors include the discernible lack of interest from the private sector in ecological restoration initiatives, the significant influence of electoral motivations on political decisions, and systemic inefficiencies within the civil service structure. This study enhances our understanding of the socio-political dimensions intrinsic to ecological restoration and offers valuable insights for surmounting these barriers within the decision-making process. Ultimately, it aims to bolster the governance of ecological restoration efforts.

RN12 | T08_01: Conflicts and Mobilizations for Environmental Justice

Sacrifice Zones: Environmental Harms And Activism In The Land Of Greenhouses.

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The contemporary world is experiencing a profound ecological crisis in which a complex of inequalities is crystallized, combining environmental inequalities with 'racist', ethnic, gender and class ones. In the Italian context, the transformations of the agricultural sector and capitalist globalization have left a legacy of serious environmental and social consequences. With this premise, this contribution analyses the case of the 'Transformed Strip' ('Fascia Trasformata' in Italian), a vast territory in the province of Ragusa, Sicily, where intensive and protected farming activities (greenhouse cultivation) have replaced traditional seasonal crops since around the 1960s. The massive use of greenhouses has fueled rapid and violent transformations that has produced a complex of structural changes: economically, socially, culturally and in terms of the landscape and environment. Starting from a contextualization of the territory's environmental criticalities, the present work aims to frame – through the conceptual tools of environmental justice studies, green criminology and empirical evidence gathered in the field – the 'Fascia Trasformata' as a 'sacrifice zone', a place where environmental pollution and degradation intersects into inequality, poverty and exploitation and where the physical and mental health and quality of life of human (and non-human) beings are compromised in the name of economic development. In this context, committees and networks of activists have developed as a form of environmental justice mobilization through different repertoire of actions such as demonstrations, 'waste tour', public denounce and awareness-raising. Through participant observation and interviews, a further objective of this contribution is therefore to provide evidence of their concrete actions and their relevance.

"No To Airport Expansion". Mobilizing Capacity Of The Degrowth Framework Based On The Conflict Around The Expansion Of Barcelona Airport

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The aim of this presentation is to discuss the capacity of the degrowth discourse to articulate mobilizations against large mobility infrastructures. To accomplish this, we contextualize our analysis of the opposition to the proposed expansion of the Barcelona Airport within the urban political ecology framework, employing the Frame Analysis methodology. Our results show that degrowth, despite being a relevant issue in the debate, fails to articulate a broad mobilization against the economic model. This is because not always the most relevant frames for the organization of the movement are those that achieve greater participation. On the contrary, frames with a greater resonance in the political culture and the popular imaginary achieve a greater capacity for mobilization. On this point, it can be concluded that conservationism and the defense of the territory had a greater capacity to extend and amplify the motivation for collective action. This is why degrowth movements could face similar limitations in future conflicts against the growth paradigm, such as opposition to large mobility infrastructures. Further research about how to transcend frame disputes surrounding the environment-economy dichotomy entrenched in liberal democracies is needed.

Enclosing The Open Landscape – Land Grabbing as Environmental Justice, Insights From Romania

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In the last decade, there has been an increasing focus on the issue of land grabbing in Europe (Franco and Borras, 2013), emerging as a pressing environmental and human rights issue, especially in countries of Eastern Europe, which have become targets for large land acquisitions due to their semi-peripherical position and prominent agrarian population. Although the literature touches upon the many negative impacts land grabbing can have on the environment and the local communities, leading to semi-proletarianization, rural decay, marginalisation of peasants, and soil degradation, there is a lack of approaches to this phenomenon from the point of view of Environmental Justice. By employing an Environmental Justice framework to the study of land grabbing in Romania we aim to uncover how land dispossession disproportionately affects marginalized communities, unveiling patterns of injustice.

Using as a case study the land conflict in Hârtibaciu Valley (Central Romania), specifically the concentration of land by Swiss meat producers Karpaten Meat and the civic resistance actions of Peisaj Deschis federation (2023), we will look at the multiple layers of injustices emerging from land conflicts, trying to answer the question of how land grabbing takes place by focusing on the many faces of violence, considering at the same time both direct forms of violence but also structural and more elusive forms of slow violence (Nixon 2011). The study will contribute to the development of an EJ framework in the study of land grabbing, recognizing the dynamics of power in relation to the access to land of human and more-than-human life as a matter of justice.

Social-environmental Implications Of Clay Shrinkage And Swelling: A Sociology Of The Tensions Of Climate Crisis

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This communication highlights the social tensions of clay shrinkage and swelling linked to climate change. Since 1989, the damage caused to buildings by the phenomenon has, in France, been the object of the so-called « natural disaster » regime (Cat-Nat). The environmental risk perception has been the focus of much attention since the 1960s, and have been at the heart of discussions concerning policies, behaviors and attitudes. Contrary to other natural hazards, the European sensibilities in face of drought have not been systematically studied. European temperatures are increasing twice as quickly as the world average, with a 0.9°C rise compared with the 1991-2020 reference period. From the multisite field of a research in three countries in Europe, the careful study based on mixed research methods (observations, interviews, questionnaires) examines the plurality of material cultures involved and the exposure to the elements they generate in terms of knowledge and ignorance in dealing with these environmental issues. Ethnography will also detail the use of techniques and what they do to instrumented land. Through this approach via soil and habitat, the analysis aims to better understand how the parties concerned by material and technical systems try to perpetuate trust in their utilization in spite of climate transformation. This presentation consolidates theoretical perspectives that orbit around a critical sociological discussion on the tensions caused by the planetary crisis, examined through the prism of inhabited ground.

Knowledge and Formative Power. On the Transformation of the Social Relations of Nature and Gender on the Example of Climate Activism in Germany

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The new climate movement marks a notable challenge to existing gender relations, evident in both protest topics and the prominent representation of women among activists and leaders. The intersection of gender and nature relations has historical roots, evident in the gendering of nature ("Mother Nature") and the naturalization of gender roles. This talk explores the ongoing transformations of social nature and gender relations within the current climate movement.

The focus lies on comprehending the specific knowledge concerning gender and nature in the current climate movement and its legitimization. Examining the significance of this knowledge for the emergence of (sub-)political power, insights are drawn from empirical work on Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion in Germany. The theoretical framework leans on the concept of structural reflexivity in societal nature and gender relations, whose transformations are interwoven and may propel each other. Reflexive modernization (Beck) is a starting point, supplemented by the concept of cosmopolitics of the social (Poferl). This heuristic framework aims to analyze dynamics such as the inclusion of previously excluded entities, the dissolution of established distinctions, and the re-figuration of social boundaries.

An analysis of the "regenerative culture" within the climate movement reveals two aspects renegotiating current nature and gender relations: Firstly, the principle challenges modernity's demarcation of nature and society, proclaiming nature as a societal role model. Secondly, the emphasis on care in regenerative culture contrasts with the prevailing understanding of care solely as 'caring for others,' underscoring the necessity of self-care as an integral part of nature.

RN12 | T08_02: Environmental Behaviours and Antecedents for Lifestyle Change

Sustainability in the Basket: Unravelling Middle-class Perspectives on Sustainable Food Consumption Among Shopping Communities in Hungary

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Using qualitative sociological methods, this paper investigates the emergence of sustainable food consumption communities within shopping initiatives in Hungary. The paper is part of a larger nationwide project researching sustainable patterns of food and energy consumption in the context of social inequalities, analyzing the meanings of sustainability for different social groups. The shopping communities are typically consituted by middle class consumers, where women and families with small children are in the focus. The central question is how community and community activities influence members' attitudes, perceptions and behaviour towards sustainable consumption and climate change.

Shopping communities started mushrooming in the last few years in Hungary, mobilizing different types of communities and services, typically focusing on issues such as health, quality food, sustainability, local consciousness, as well as community values and self-help. This paper is based on participant observation and more than 50 semi-structured interviews with members and organizers of shopping communities in different parts of Hungary. We analyze four different types of shopping communities, ranging from online markets to community-supported agriculture (CSA), and from well-organized, small town communities to loose, extended networks in Budapest. The study sheds light on the multi-faceted attitudes and perspectives of middle-class communities towards short food chains and sustainable food consumption.

The initial findings of the analysis indicate that within the loose networks, health and quality food seem to be more emphatic, while smaller communities facilitate a more complex understanding of sustainability, and play an essential role in sustainable practices in general, as well as knowledge production on sustainable food choices, awareness and behaviour.

Does Environmental Sensitivity of Cyclists and Trail Runners Encourage the Adoption of Eco-friendly Behaviours?

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Our communication will focus on the environmental attitudes of trail runners and cyclists in the French Alps. Our research question is : to what extent are practitioners of these sports environmentally sensitive, and how is this environmental sensitivity correlated with 'ecofriendly' behaviours?

Quantitative methodology was employed, relying on two questionnaires. The first pertains to trail running practices and was administered in 11 different running competitions between July 2023 and February 2024 (n = 500). The second focuses on cycling activities and was conducted among cyclists during the summer of 2023 along the route of a cycle route named La Durance à Vélo (n = 345). Both questionnaires were distributed on-site, and in a mountainous region (Hautes-Alpes department, France).

Several studies indicate that practitioners of outdoor activities, especially cycling and trail-running, exhibit positive attitudes towards the environment (Campbell et al., 2021; Mehmood & Zhou, 2023) and this is reflected in more eco-friendly practices (Kil et al., 2014 ; Ribet & Brander, 2020). Unlike Anglo-Saxon literature, French literature demonstrates that environmental sensitivity alone is not sufficient to completely change one's lifestyle (Pautard, 2017; Ginsburger, 2020). Indeed, engaging in cycling or trail-running appears to reveal a social position (Sayagh, 2020), whereas environmental values are linked to high cultural capital (Cafargna et al., 2014).

We hypothesize that both the geographical proximity to outdoor activities and an individual's social position within the social space will influence their environmental sensitivity and the likelihood of engaging in cycling or trail activities. Additionally, we expect that these environmental values do not necessarily translate into 'eco-friendly' behaviours.

Experimental Evidence on How Different Frames of the Energy Transition Influence Political Participation and Readiness to Adopt Lifestyle Changes

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Using a vignette experiment embedded in a nationally representative survey of the Romanian population, we test how different ways of framing the energy transition influence

people's readiness to adopt more sustainable lifestyle changes as well as engaging in electoral and non-electoral political participation to advance the adoption of renewable energies. In this experiment, we create six vignettes: one emphasizing the economic benefits of the energy transition, another highlighting the economic loss of failing to adopt renewable energies, and another presenting the energy transition as a trade-off that requires an initial investment of money to obtain future economic savings. Moreover, another three treatments reproduce these three vignettes, adding an emphasis on the importance of political participation to achieve these changes. We test how these six different frames influence Romanians' support of the energy transition as well as their readiness to engage in lifestyle changes, vote and participate in protests to support the adoption of renewable energies. With this paper, we contribute to ongoing debates on the determinants of support for climate justice policies, as well as strategies to foster the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energies.

When the Municipalities Cannot Find the Way Out of A Paper Bag: Informal Street Waste Paper Pickers in Istanbul

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Industrialization, mass production, and the resulting changes in consumption habits have led to the uncontrolled consumption of natural resources and the emergence of waste issues. For the solution of the waste problem, the policies and practices employed by public actors at the municipal level are extremely important. At this point, municipalities are organizing the collection and processing of recyclable waste to reclaim what has been consumed. The correct functioning of the process primarily depends on the conscious separation of waste by individuals. In this sense, municipalities conduct incentive programs to encourage individuals to separate and bring their waste correctly. It is anticipated that the inclusion of the concepts of "circular economy" and "reverse logistics" in incentive programs and the pursuit of an inclusive incentive strategy would make these policies more effective. Yet, even a short touristic journey would let one to observe informal street waste paper pickers wandering around the city. In this study, the concrete results of the concepts of "circular economy" and "reverse logistics" in the field of recycling will be examined through paper and cardboard waste in the context of Zeytinburnu Municipality in Istanbul. Firstly, by relying on the data derived from in-depth interviews with informal street waste paper pickers this study aims to analyze the informal aspects of waste recycling process and tries to point at what is that is missed by municipality policy makers. Additionally, in-depth interviews with other actors enabling the recycling process, such as housaholds, public officials, recycling vehicle operators, waste collection and recovery facility officials will provide a broad understanding of the whole process and possible inclusive strategies for a sustainable city.

RN12 | T08_03: Renewable Energy Communities

Renewable Energy Communities Between Market and Reciprocity Networks. A Critical Analysis from a Comparative Study of Some Italian Cases

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Current energy systems have long been undergoing a progressive restructuring, which has recently accelerated through the implementation of EU policies within member states. These processes promote the increasing use of renewable energies by focusing on two pillars: on the one hand, greater economic efficiency linked to market mechanisms; on the other hand, the redefinition of energy systems in a distributed and participatory form, primarily through the implementation of renewable energy communities (RECs). However, empirical research, including our own which we present here, highlighted some problematic aspects in relation to the Italian context: the relationships between RECs and the energy markets; the role of public incentives in shaping the new energy market and the emerging "organizational" fashions; the ambiguity of the concepts of "energy community" and "participation", increasingly mediated by a technological infrastructure and highly individualized. Significant exceptions seem to be the Renewable and Solidarity Energy Communities that enhance the role of the third sector, but also of other local institutional actors (such as local government) who use energy communities as a tool within broader policies of poverty mitigation, urban and social regeneration, making use of gift economy and reciprocity mechanisms. Through a critical perspective, we will explore the differences between these two REC models and the implications for territories.

Methodology. We are carrying out comparative research on emerging energy communities in different Italian areas (Sicily, Sardinia, Campania and Trentino-Alto Adige) based on selected case studies. The methods used to collect data and information are mainly qualitative: semi-structured interviews with the stakeholders of the energy sector and promoters of RECs; socio-ethnographic observation.

Our Renewable Energy? Community and Democracy in the Portuguese Transition

Vera Ferreira

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Drawing on a framework informed by energy democracy and community energy literatures, this research explores potential instruments of energy democratization in Portugal, by examining collective and decentralized renewable energy initiatives that self-identify as "renewable energy communities". Following a systematic review of the literature on energy democracy and community energy, an integrated analytical framework to delimit the dimensions and indicators of energy democracy and community energy in Portugal is developed. This situated framework enables the identification of expressions of community energy and instruments of energy democratization in the Portuguese energy transition. In addition, community energy in Portugal is historically contextualized, tracing its trajectory from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. The first mapping and preliminary characterization of collective and decentralized renewable energy initiatives (collective self-consumption and renewable energy communities) in Portugal is thereby provided. In addition to this overview, this research carries out a detailed analysis of four illustrative case studies – based on document analysis, semi-structured interviews, participant observation and field visits –, in order to assess whether they can be considered expressions of community energy and instruments of energy democratization. It differentiates typologies of community energy, as well as misrepresentations and misappropriations of the concept "renewable energy community". Finally, the possibility of replicating community energy initiatives, the difficulties they face and their overall potential to institutionalize energy democracy in Portugal are assessed.

The Indirect Effect of Institutional Setting on Shaping Technology Diffusion: the Case of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) in Italy

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Energy transition results from the intertwining of diverse streams of innovation in the technological, social and institutional domains. This paper aims to explore the complex interaction among these three domains by taking RECs as a testbed for this dynamic and aims to show how the socio-technical paradigm might shade a light on the indirect effect of institutional setting on the evolutionary trajectories of technologies.

The ambition is to bridge two traditions of research on innovation. The first is the institutional approach that emphasizes the role that diverse regulation devices (formal norms, practices, networks and market) play in shaping innovation pathways. The second is the Socio-Technical perspective that highlights the mutual shaping of the technological and social components of a system and conceives innovation as a co-evolutionary process. Our hypothesis is that RECs, instead of being just Socio-Technical innovative assemblages affected by regulation, might play as mediator among the domains of RECs regulation and RES technologies deployment. The mediation mechanism relies on REC's incentives scheme that recognizes economic benefits to shared energy. REC promoters must define a social aggregate and identify a technological system able to maximize economic benefits by satisfying its social needs. Case studies from Italy provide first evidences to assess the extent to which diverse strategies at RECs level produce diverse ST assemblages that concretize in diverse technologies adoption,. i.e. the indirect effect of regulation on technological innovation pathways through ST mediation.

RN12 | T08_04: Exploring Paths to Sustainable Food Futures

The "Protein Transition". Meat and Meat Alternatives between Sustainability, (De)politicised Consumption and Technologies of the Self.

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Meat is facing increasing criticism due to unsustainable production and consumption practices. Three key issues have emerged: ethical concerns regarding the morality of consuming meat, health risks associated with its consumption (such as increased cancer risks and food safety crises), and its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, as highlighted in recent IPCC reports. The background has led many societal actors to advocate for a 'protein transition'. This involves transitioning global protein sources towards sustainability, similar to the proclaimed 'energy transition'.

The study explores how meat and its alternatives are portrayed in the discourse of these actors and the role sustainability plays in shaping this narrative. Using feminist science and technology studies, this study analyses the 'ontological politics' (Annemarie Mol) involved in the creation of meat substitutes. It employs a qualitative research design to examine the discursive practices of vegan/vegetarian NGOs, lobby associations, and marketing strategies for meat and its alternatives. The study reveals a shift. Meat substitutes are marketed towards 'flexitarians' who reduce meat intake without strict abstinence. Therefore, these alternatives are primarily promoted as sources of protein, aligning with nutritional knowledge derived from scientific research. Consequently, meat and its substitutes are considered interchangeable foods and are categorized together as protein sources. Furthermore, protein is associated with strength and a form of traditional masculinity. This raises concerns about the perpetuation of societal power dynamics through strategic discourse practices and whether the promotion of a more sustainable diet is genuinely being considered or if it reinforces the current status quo.

Cultured Meat As "Food For The Future"? Investigating Contentious Science/Public Interfaces In The Anthropocene

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Cultured meat is one of the most disruptive – and discussed – food technologies in the making, largely saluted as an effective response to the biggest challenges of animal farming: environmental and health impacts, as well as ethical preoccupations over the (mis)treatment of animals. Although this novel food is slowly being approved and entering the market, several perplexities, questions, and open oppositions are developing across the social and political sphere. The fact that tensions emerge around technoscientific innovation might open up the space for public deliberations around the future of food. Yet, this debate easily becomes polarised between the technoscientific optimistic and straightforward construction of cultured meat as "technofix" – a neutral solution to the challenges of the present – and outright rejection of it by some publics, concerned by the unforeseeable political, occupational, cultural and health implication of this "hybrid". The repertoires and framings of the different actors are often so distant that this might thwart rather than promote productive confrontations across different segments of society. Our presentation draws on ongoing empirical work carried out in Italy in the context of the recent approval of a law that bans cultured meat, involving interviews to scientists and activists engaged in food or environmental justice mobilisations. The aim is to map and analyse this public controversy, looking at the interface between science and publics. Our specific focus regards how different subjects construct this food technology as promoting – or hindering – safe, desirable, sustainable, and just food transitions in the context of ecological crisis and growing food insecurity.

The Alternative Modernity in Permaculture

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I propose a paper that extends and develops my master's thesis project on relationship between permaculture and modernity. This is my very first ESA Summer School application. I tackle the question of how does permacultural worldview square with ideals of modernity? These ideals – concerning rationality, liberty, equality, progress and prosperity – are based in Peter Wagner's (1994) sociology of modernity.

For Wagner, the history of modernity went through three distinct stages thus far. The arrival of each figuration has been marked by modernizing offensives – seeking to regulate irrational arbitrariness produced by previous figuration, while concurrently pursuing emancipation from these

arbitrarities. Each refiguration was framed by narrative of progress. While such narrative has withered in the current stage, there is a debate whether optimistic streaks in environmentalism do not reinvigorate it (Wager 2016).

The results of my thesis research suggest that permacultural literature does. While criticizing modern agriculture, economy and consumerist lifestyles, permacultural texts continue to adhere to modernizing progressive narrative. Their emancipatory promise includes more-than-human umwelt, their regulatory aims promise to tackle inefficiencies of mass agriculture and industry.

I combined exploratory text-mining based quantitative analysis with qualitative content analysis and frame analysis. I worked with 25 books on permaculture. The goal was to identify patterns in worldview and confront them with Wagner's theory of modernity. Afterwards, I analyzed and interpreted how the literature frames its self-legitimizations and critiques contemporary state of affairs. The paper will follow this research, extending the combination of qualitative content and frame analysis on a broader corpus of permacultural texts.

The study aims to cover yet underexplored dimensions of the movement. It proposes a different angle from the more common one seeing permaculture as an alternative lifestyle (Kolářová 2021). Main contribution of my study is in tackling ways in which this optimistic, environmentally-conscious alternative reiterates ideals at the very core of modernity. Therefore, it contributes not only to scholarship on permaculture and similar movements (see Centemeri 2019), but also to the debate about emergence of green critique (Chiapello 2013) or about reinvigoration of progressive ethos (Wagner 2016).

RN12 | T08_05: Urban Green Spaces

Environmental Justice In Urban Planning: An Analysis Of Green And Blue Infrastructure Initiatives In Girona, Spain.

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Green and Blue infrastructure (GBI) has gained prominence within sustainability agendas as a comprehensive solution capable of simultaneously addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges in urban areas. Despite its potential, the planning and execution of GBI projects often overlook social considerations, particularly those related to justice. This research aims to further the understanding of integrating Environmental Justice (EJ) into urban GBI planning in middle-sized European cities and is guided by the following research questions: 1) How has the EJ perspective been integrated into the planning and management of urban GBI in mid-sized European cities? 2) What are the main discourses informing GBI projects, and to what extent is EJ considered among them? 3) What tensions exist between different narratives and values shaping these projects. Employing critical discourse analysis (CDA), we delve into the diverse narratives, values, and ideologies shaping GBI initiatives in the city of Girona, Spain. Three dominant discourses emerged: "green capitalism", highlighting the potential of GBI for economic development; "commons" emphasizing social cohesion and democratic decision-making; finally, a "technocratic" approach centered on scientific expertise to address environmental issues. Our findings reveal that justice remains insufficiently recognized among policymakers due to the prevailing influence of green capitalism and technocratic discourses. In contrast, grassroots collectives are integrating EJ principles into the commons discourse, employing them as tools for activism and mechanisms to draw attention to existing environmental injustices in Europe, particularly those related to procedural and recognitional justice. The findings hold significance for the ongoing GBI strategies in Girona and offer insights applicable to similarly positioned middle-sized European cities. Importantly, the research highlights the imperative of integrating an environmental justice perspective to mitigate the exacerbation of environmental inequalities among vulnerable groups, especially within contexts marked by pronounced socio-economic, cultural, and linguistic heterogeneity.

Note: I have not joined an ESA Summer School before.

Informal Care For Urban Green Spaces In Czechia – Inconspicuous Practices And Transformative Agency

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Informed by the concepts of diverse economies (Gibson-Graham/Dombroski 2020), everyday agency (Jokinen 2015, Selimovic 2019) and quiet sustainability (Smith/Jehlička 2013) and inspired by the empirical heterogeneity of alternative agri-food practices in Central and Eastern Europe, my contribution explores everyday configurations of informal care for urban green spaces in Czechia. I draw from ethnographic encounters with urban dwellers who practically engage with green sites in the surroundings of their homes, such as public parks, backyards or green stripes along roads. What links my interlocutors and makes their example important for debates on social change and environmental governance is their pragmatic, hands-on approach to the (green) space that surrounds them and their low level of collective organization. Whereas their actions arguably have rather significant material effects that contribute to creating, preserving and transforming urban green spaces, they present them as unspectacular, self-evident and matters-of-course practices, which are not primarily driven by ecological motivations. They also do not consider themselves part of an initiative or a social movement. I argue for the importance of inconspicuous practices of care and their effects on social and environmental sustainability in urban environments. I further highlight that the call for taking seriously the transformative agency enacted through mundane practices must go along with an extended concept of political participation in CEE and beyond.

The study is part of the project "Inconspicuous innovations and resilience in the urban context" (lead: Slavomíra Ferenčuhová) that explores the transformative yet largely overlooked potential of mundane practices in contemporary urban environments.

Assessment Community Spaces: Terraces As An Example Of Social And Environmental Sustainability In The Ciutat Vella District Of Barcelona

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The challenge of adapting built spaces to the changing needs of people at different vital moments is essential to achieve environmental sustainability and promote active ageing of older people. In this context, community terraces can be an asset to be considered in high-density urban contexts. This paper presents the main results from the "Revitalising terraces" research project at Ciutat Vella's district of Barcelona. The project aims to improve rooftops' external spaces, from an ecologically perspective and healthy ageing vision, through the development of low-cost, removable and recyclable solutions for the recovery of existing terraces. Based on a socio-demographic profile's description and the district's equipment's, and on in-depth interviews and focus groups with residents, needs and opportunities of the residents' community are detected. They are used to co-design and construct a prototype to incentivise urban social sustainability. After six months, some of the findings are: 1) the rediscovery of the terrace as a community space after COVID; 2) concerning related to use, access, coexistence, cleanliness and maintenance of this space. Although the space has a lot of potential, the lack of respect for basic rules generates conflicts and encourages further gentrification of the neighbourhood. Finally, 3) the potential for higher quality of life and environmental quality of this space differs according to tourist pressure and the cohesion of the neighbourhood community itself. In more touristic areas and/or communities with low relational density, the neighbourhood is very reluctant to create spaces for community use and prefers to miss out on these positive impacts for fear of further coexistence conflicts.

Potentials and Risks of Urban Community Gardens in Turkey: Case Studies from Ankara, İzmir and İstanbul

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Community gardens have historically been seen as spaces of alternative food networks, social resistance, inclusion, and emancipation for marginalized groups. Corollary, there is a recent growing interest in urban community gardens both in academic writing as well as in practice. Yet, recent studies also reveal that urban community gardens carry the risk of reinforcing the mechanisms of exclusion and neoliberal governmentality by shifting the responsibilities of food provisioning from the state to individuals and communities. In other words, community gardens include different governance schemes and re-generate state-market-civil society relations. Hence, it does not seem possible to address community garden experiences in a monolithic manner, even within a single country. Based on this, this study will explore the emancipatory and alternative building potentials and risks of the urban community garden experiences in Turkey with their uniqueness. The study was designed in the scope of the CO-SFSC: Co-Creating Sustainable Transformations of Food Supply Chains through Cooperative Business Models and Governance project that is a part of the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production. It aims to answer the question

as to what extent community gardens offer alternatives to existing food supply chains and exclusion relations. In this context, rather than making a collective observation, it will examine what types of community garden experiences are alternative and inclusionary, and what types of experiences are reinforcing, reproducing and exclusionary through the experiences of urban gardens in three major cities in Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir). The study will drive upon a field study based on in-depth semi-structured interviews with focus groups and participant observation methods.

RN12 | T09_01: Advancing Environmental Awareness through Diverse Educational Models

Environmental Education in Challenging Times: Practices and Priorities in Portuguese Speaking-Nations

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Since the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Nations (CPLP) was created in 1996, environmental education (EE) has gained recognition for enhancing multilateral cooperation on environmental protection and sustainability promotion in a post(de)colonial context, rooted and purposeful in their shared language. Conducted online in 2020, the second Environmental Education Survey of CPLP followed a snowball methodology to get answers across all member states. It explored the conditions and approaches of EE within the overall setting of the 2030 UN Agenda, taking the concepts of Canaparo's geo-epistemology – resulting from politically and economically peripheral territories, whose historical legacy, although fractious in specific domains, can lead to a common identity from colonial times to the present –, and Öhman and Östman's selective traditions – primarily educational but also shaped by particular sociocultural considerations – as the underlying framework of analysis. The survey received 196 valid responses from EE Experts and Promoters who hold positions in various institutional backgrounds. Addressing the current state of EE in all nine countries, a picture emerges of significant and ecologically prudent human intervention based on fact-based, normative, and pluralist EE approaches. Overall, findings point to a vibrant activity relevant to sustainable transformation that focuses on young people's empowerment and mobilisation.

Ecomuseums in the Mediterranean Area and the Promotion of Biodiversity

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The current biodiversity crisis necessitates systemic interventions to instigate a paradigm shift in societal norms, lifestyles, and regulations. The active involvement of public opinion and policymakers is crucial, emphasizing the need

for a closer, systemic relationship between science and society.

The National Biodiversity Future Centre focuses on monitoring, conserving, restoring, and enhancing Mediterranean biodiversity through a network of institutions.

Among the actions developed, some aim to widen the audience of citizens interested in biodiversity and integrate science-based and local ecological knowledge.

The center promotes integration and networking with museums and ecomuseums, actors that play a central role in in situ and ex situ conservation and the activation of decentralized cooperation with local populations.

In this framkework, the survey "Ecomuseum and biodiversity" aimed at understading their initiatives in the field of sustainable development and ecological transition.

A sample of 93 institutions from 11 mediterranean countries answered a questionnaire collecting information on various topics, including specific activities dedicated to promoting biodiversity and interactions with the tourism sector.

The sample is mostly composed of small institutions, of various nature, in most cases relying on the work of volunteers. Workers and volunteers tend to have humanitarian backgrounds, and biodiversity is a topic relevant for about half of the sample. Tourists represent an important resource for these institutions, but their network of relations on the local territory is wide and variegate.

The study's findings contribute to disseminating NBFC's knowledge and understanding participative actions in Mediterranean countries, enhancing our grasp of collaborative efforts in biodiversity conservation.

Public Science and Education for Sustainability in Museums and Libraries

Inês Vieira

CeiED, Lusófona University, Portugal

The field of socio-educational action for sustainability, in affirmation and growth over the last decades, has been the scene of interventions from civil society and environmental movements, generating institutional affirmation and political intervention, as well as educational proposals in schools and in non-formal educational contexts, including in collective and public facilities for cultural purposes, such as libraries and museums. One of the driving factors behind education for sustainability is related to public science (very associated with this type of collective equipment), the dissemination and popularization of science, directing communication to non-academic audiences. Among the priority audiences of public science for sustainability we can identify teachers, a professional class that needs to update their knowledge for an informed educational intervention that promotes the Sustainable Development Goals. International recommendations and national policies for museums and libraries have followed the reflexivity specific to each field, framing the action of these equipment with different principles, including sustainability. In this context, the project 'Public science and educational pathways for sustainability in museums and libraries in Lisbon and São Paulo' (MUBIESUS) encompasses multi-situated participatory research, addressing education for sustainability at the intersection of critical pedagogy (Darder et al.,2018) with critical environmental justice (Pellow,2018). The first results of this project will be presented, regarding public science practices and recommendations for sustainability in museums and libraries, in dialogue with in-service teachers, seeking to understand their expectations of training for sustainability and its potential offer in this type of public equipment.

Environmental Education and Participatory Sustainable Governance: The Case of the Eco-Schools Programme in Portugal

Leonor Prata

University of Lisbon, Portugal

Despite the long-standing recognition of the critical role of education and citizen participation for Sustainable Development as well as for Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, challenges remain beyond curricular integration, as whole-school and community-wide learning and action remain elusive.

The Eco-Schools Programme, established by the International Foundation of Environmental Education (FEEE), was designed to embody such an approach, aiming to promote the principles of Local Agenda 21 in educational communities. Its methodology integrates Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (EE/ESD) pedagogy with intergenerational participatory governance — an approach which is to be localized by FEEE partner organizations, who coordinate the Eco-Schools Programme at a national level.

Present in Portugal in 1996, the Eco-Schools Programme is coordinated nationally by the Blue Flag Association for the Environment and Education (ABAAE), an Environmental Non-Governmental Organization (ENGO). In collaboration with a diverse array of portuguese educational communities, it currently encompasses over two thousand Eco-Schools.

Educators and schools face multiple challenges in implementing transformative approaches to EE/ESD, due to factors such as instability of national policies, the access to resources in initial and continuous teacher training, institutional and labor conditions, as well as meeting the specific requirements of this programme.

Drawing on a doctoral study based with a mixed methodology that comprised of documental, statistical and ethnographic analysis, this paper will present findings that characterize this portuguese network of sustainable schools, as well as ABAAE's approach to the challenges that teachers and schools face in Portugal.

RN12 | T09_02: Narratives, Nature, and Non-Human Agency

Red Herrings? Reflections On The Promises Of Stories And Storytelling For Oceanic Flourishing

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A central aim of my Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship – Storying Worlds Beyond Fish: Kinship and Connection in the Scottish Minch – is to understand the practices, purposes and value of marine-related stories and storytelling, to deliberate on the potential of storytelling for transforming understandings of marine environments and facilitating marine flourishing. Academic worlds are currently reverberating with a consensus that stories and storytelling are promising tools for shifting environmental values (see recent reviews by Cameron (2012) and Harris (2021)). This consensus transcends disciplinary boundaries whilst simultaneously signalling novel and surprising interdisciplinary scholarly alliances. In the criticisms levelled against science knowledges and in these alliances, the potential of stories is rooted in different purposes. I introduce these purposes and explore what following them means for narrating stories about herring. Clupea Harengus used to be an abundant fish in the Scottish Minch and the North Atlantic, providing nourishment for human and more-than-human populations for centuries before the sophistication of technologically advanced fisheries practices and the inability to reach international agreement on fishing quotas caused overfishing and the near extinction of herring across the North Atlantic in the 1970s. Since that time, herring has not been fished in the Scottish Minch. There are recent signs that the fish may be making some kind of recovery, but what does this mean and why is it important?

Brown Bears as Actors in Biodiversity Conservation Policy: On the Role of Non-Human Agency in Evolving Conservation Institutions

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Do brown bears have impacts on the rules guiding their own conservation? According to established theories on institutions, they cannot. Conceptually, institutions are reserved for human interaction, as there is broad agreement that institutions are integrated systems of rules that structure social interactions of humans, through the use of language. However, bears and humans effectively inhabit shared spaces, in effect communicating not only directly but in relation to the institutions of conservation governance. This paper explores the multi-scalar conservation governance of the brown bear and illustrates the ways in which individual brown bears indeed can be understood as impacting on the conditions of their own conservation. The paper connects with scholarly and policy approaches that deal with human-predator coexistence and cohabitation as well as non-human animal agency, and explores the different forms of agency and action that bears may be understood to possess and execute. The research question is: How do bears as individuals participate in formulating and defining the practices of conservation of the brown bear as a species? Methodologically the research draws on public data sources, including existing institutional accounts for species conservation, analysis of news pieces, as well as supplementary visual field work material.

The Manifestation of Intersubjectivity in the Cat Café: Collective Efforts among Staff, Customers, Cats and Space

Yixuan Li

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Previous research on human-animal relationships has predominantly focused on pets/companion animals, laboratory animals, and industrial animals, often overlooking how space plays a role in shaping these interactions and relationships. Also, there has been limited attention given to animal-themed restaurants or cafes, where related studies focus primarily on paid companionship and emotional labor. However, these unique spaces often offer a fascinating world to observe how humans and animals co-create and experience intersubjectivity. Hence, through ethnography conducted in a cat cafe, the study aims to explore how cats co-construct intersubjectivity with humans amidst the contrast of transient customers and stable staff and space. By integrating the regulations of the cat cafe, the spatial representation of its furniture and equipment, the cats, customers, and staff—so many heterogeneous actors, this study will use Actor-Network Theory as a sensitive tool to capture intersections among them to form a network of the cat café. This preliminary study concludes that within a confined space, and under the guidance of staff, customers are drawn to and enjoy realizing intersubjectivity with cats. Innovatively, this research introduces the concept of "semi-open space" in sociology, highlighting the indispensable and significant role of space as an actor in the human-animal relational network. It also points out that the relationship between humans and animals is not a simple binary model, but rather the result of the collaborative efforts of a multitude of heterogeneous actors, including often overlooked and taken-for-granted elements like space.

Rights of Nature and Justice. A Sociological Approach to Understanding Environmental Constitutional Changes

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This paper analyses processes in which 'nature' is getting rights granted through societal and constitutional. It offers a theoretical approach through which we can understand these processes accompanied by a discussion of a case study that is happening in Europe at this moment: Ireland. This country is about to organise a referendum to change its Constitution and make it possible to include the rights of national biodiversity. The Irish case to be understood in comparison to the other similar ones that happened in other places of the world and in light of the growing of social movements around this issue – such as the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN). There have been locally different ways of justifying constitutional changes to include rights of nature. What the different forms of justification have in common is that, at the first step, 'nature' needed to be integrated as a 'being' before a second moment in which the legal justification for these inclusions can be are grounded within the framework of Anthropocene and environmental justice.To raise and answer this kind of questions could help us to look at the problem of social/political change as a process in which many subjects have their role: the ones who have the power of critical and reflexive existence about what they are doing, as well as the ones who act because they are living entities that impact on the world. The paper connects the theoretical approach with empirical analysis as a way of understanding social change, environmental justice, and political action.

RN12 | T09_03: Participatory Governance and Community Engagement in Energy Transitions

Steeling the Power Away? Participatory Politics in European Just Transition Regions

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The European Green Deal has triggered public debate in regions with a high concentration of carbon intensive industries – such as steel producing regions. As part of the European Green Deal, the Just Transition Fund aims at providing funding to industrial regions in order to alleviate the cost of their transition towards a "carbon-neutral society". However, the participatory processes that are organized to achieve a "Just Transition" have triggered tensions between steel workers, residents and employers.

In this paper, I propose to unpack these participatory practices in the context of the so-called just transition in two steel European regions, namely Hauts-de-France in France and the Dutch region of IJmond. Through more than 40 semi-structured interviews, I provide nuanced insights into the dynamics of participatory governance and its implications for carrying 'just' transitions.

At the heart of the Just Transition strategy lies the principle of "leaving no one behind" as well as the inclusion of marginalized communities through participation. However, participation is enclosed with unequal power dynamics which can contribute to (re)produce new and old inequalities. Scholars have looked at how, by disregarding the role of power structures in producing marginalisation, participatory techniques may further marginalize individuals and groups. Moreover, and in the context of Just Transition, how these participatory practices happened in contexts of important industrial power remains unclear. Strikingly in IJmond , the participatory processes organized linked to the Just Transition didn't seem to mobilize much support for the decarbonization policies. Whereas participatory practices organized by steel workers led to a strike and forcing the owners of the steel factory to take decarbonization seriously. This shows the importance of ownership over the participatory process.

The Role of Trust in Relationships Within the Community to Inhibit the Participation in Energy Refurbishment Project in Italy

Grazia Giacovelli[1,2], Jessica Balest[2], Natalia Magnani[1], Federica Buffa[1]

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In recent decades, the importance of involving the citizens in the energy transition has grown. In this process, some citizens' aspects have emerged as important actors that can inhibit or facilitate social participation in energy transition. Current approaches to the study of the community dimension of participation in the energy transition tend to emphasise the role of the relationships in facilitating participation. Despite this tendency, little research has been conducted on the role of the type of trust in relationships that facilitate the participation in the energy transition. To try to explore this further, this research explores the role of the social network in energy transition participation through knowledge of the type of trust in the community. The case study concerns the energy refurbishment of a historic building in Valbrenta (IT). The research explores whether the type of trust that features the relationships among the actors and citizens in the community can inhibit or facilitate participation in the transition. Through the administration of 14 questionnaires and 8 semi-structured interviews to stakeholders, the network was explored. Research shows that generalised trust, hence weak bonding ties, can favour participation in the energy refurbishment project, conversely, the dominance of personal trust, hence bonding ties can limit participation.

From Grid To Ground: Understanding Knowledge Dynamics In An Energy Community Project

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Energy transitions present a significant challenge to the relationship between energy and society. To change this relationship, it is essential to identify the expectations, knowledge, and ideas embedded in the current energy systems, as well as those required for the desired transitions. However, technical choices behind energy planning can be complex and may obscure decision-making processes, making those choices difficult to follow.

The purpose of this proposal is to present a study on the knowledge dynamics between energy experts and citizens in the development of an Energy Community. The establishment of an Energy Community implies a shift towards decentralised energy systems, where end-users should play a crucial role in the design and management of renewable energy infrastructure. Taking into account the needs and experiences of citizens is crucial for the development of Energy Communities as an alternative socio-technical system. Engaging with the public is not only about involving them in the search for solutions, but also about empowering them to play an active role in the decision-making process so that energy can be reconnected to their daily lives.

This paper presents the results of a qualitative study that followed the development of a pilot project aimed at establishing an energy community in an Italian city. The study collected extensive data through interviews with citizens, representatives of local institutions and project leaders, as well as participant observation during related events. The study shows that although citizen participation is recognised as important in shaping the Energy Community, the pilot project was mostly dominated by a techno-managerial agenda. However, the establishment of a local committee has enabled citizens to reclaim their role by promoting their aspirations and visions.

Citizens' Engagement in Italian Renewable District Heating: a Preliminary Investigation

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While a considerable amount of research has been directed toward the active participation of citizens in the energy transition, particularly in the realm of electrical energy, renewable thermal energy, also central in the European's energy transition strategy, has received notably less attention. This gap reflects the

specific characteristics of district heating systems which often demands significant capital investment and a high level of expertise, factors that have been recognized as major impediments to citizen participation. To fill this gap and gain a better understanding of this issue, we focus our study on the Italian context, where we have identified 200 district heating networks that incorporate renewable energy. Utilizing the institutional logics framework alongside empirical research, our objective is to unravel the governance structures of these projects and investigate the role of citizens in terms of ownership and different forms of engagement (from demand side management to renewable energy community). Our findings reveal that the majority of district heating systems are predominantly controlled in a top-down manner. In this landscape, citizens are often relegated to the role of passive users. However, an alternative model has emerged in some rural regions in the North-East of the country, where district heating is managed through cooperative structures. Eventually, our research will outline the characteristics of this model and the socio-technical obstacles in Italian context to the diffusion of community-based approaches to district heating.

RN12 | T09_04: Policy and Discourse on Climate and Environmental Issues

Urgency Invocations In Urban Climate Neutrality Discourses. The Case Of Warsaw

Anna Horolets

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Urgency is an indispensable tool for political mobilization in times of actual or imagined emergency, such as climate change. What happens to a policy issue when it is declared 'urgent'? Is it contested, by whom and how? What are the patterns of competing urgencies?

In the proposed paper the aim is to analyze how urgency functions as a discursive and emotional practice. The specific question, which will be tackled with the help of critical discourse studies tool-kit, is how the invocations of urgency in urban climate neutrality policy related discourse are framed and how they compete with other urgencies (e.g. of war migrations, economic crisis or the pandemic).

Cities have a special position in action on climate change, as entities responsible for high proportion of CO2 emissions, in which acknowledging the effects of global warming may take complex institutional and cognitive routes. Analyzing the role and impact of urgency in urban climate neutrality discourse as well as tracing competing urgencies will allow to understand what facilitates the framings of climate change as an emergency and what impedes such framings in cities.

Warsaw is selected as a case study not only due to its track-record of climate policy action and participation in the 'EU Mission 2030: Climate Neutral and Smart Cities', but also due to its situatedness within global economic and political regimes as a semi-peripheral metropolis and a capital of a post-communist state. The paper will trace the processes of movement, translation, friction, contradiction and incommensurability between the various understandings of climate change through the lens of the concept of urgency.

Rewetting of Peatlands between Climate Protection, Loss of Culture and Threat of Livelihood: Insights from an Analysis of the Discourse on a Climate Protection Strategy in Germany based on Newspaper Articles

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Drained organic soils, mostly former peatlands, emit considerable amounts of greenhouse gases, especially CO2. CO2 emissions can be stopped by rewetting the drained organic soils. As in other countries where peat soils have been cultivated for agricultural use, this would contribute to achieving international climate protection targets. However, those who strive to achieve such goals run into conflicts with the owners and users of these soils, primarily farmers who – standing in a long tradition of peatland colonisation – fear for their livelihoods.

In order to understand the land use conflicts that are developing around the climate-motivated rewetting of organic soils in Germany, we analysed how the German public communicates about "peatland rewetting" as part of a discourse analysis. For this purpose, we used a data corpus consisting of 758 newspaper articles, representing both the national discourse strand and regional discourse strands in peatland-rich regions. From the 1970s onwards, the loss of a typical landscape component (including for "the homeland"), which is also protected by international nature conservation conventions, was initially publicly lamented. In 2007, the dynamics of the discourse changed as peatlands were publicly addressed as carbon reservoirs and their drainage as a cause of CO2 emissions. Farmers in particular, who had previously been at least ambivalent about the destruction of peatland soil through peat extraction – which was thematised differently from region to region – find themselves in a new complex field of tension of societal expectations. The results are interpreted with reference to various conceptual frameworks of memory studies to determine how meaningful communication about the re-wetting of organic soils remains possible in this field of tension.

Curiosity And Discontent: Press Coverage Of Energy Transformation Debates in Poland

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The challenge of energy transformation remains a contentious issue on both structural-economic and ideological grounds. The drive to transformation away from fossil-fuel

dependence faces concerted opposition raising concerns over the costs to be imposed on businesses and consumers, sometimes also moving in the direction of questioning the feasibility of climate change mitigation policies or an outright climate change skepticism. Poland represents an especially interesting case study for understanding those tensions due to its heavy reliance on coal, which forms a significant part of its energy mix. This reliance poses a challenge in shifting towards more sustainable energy sources without disrupting the economy and employment sectors linked to coal mining and usage. Furthermore, on the political front, Polish right-wing parties, in government in the period 2015-2023, have also developed a transformation-skeptical attitude combining elements of general populist opposition against costly climate driven adjustments with a form of euro-skepticism countering the perceived overreach of European Union institutions trampling over member state sovereignty. Based on algorithmic text mining of a corpus of Polish press articles covering the issue of energy transformation (over 6000 articles published in newspapers and magazines in the period 2016-2023), our study identifies main topics and argumentative patterns present in the Polish discourse on energy transformation. It accounts for the discourse development over time as well as its differentiation on the basis of political orientation, aiming to identify the main agenda pushers and their evolving narratives.

RN13 | Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives

RN13 | T01_01: Intergenerational relations

Intergenerational Relations go Both Ways: Transmission of Gender Attitudes in Two-generation Families

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Research on intergenerational relations regards transmission of attitudes mainly as a unidirectional process. Some literature, however, emphasizes the existence of a bidirectional relation whereby the young generations shape their parents' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviour, helping them adjust to social change. Taking on a social constructionist view on gender and emphasizing the role of personal agency, the research aimed to analyse the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of parents and their children and how they changed throughout the life course as a result of their intimate relations, of life transitions and the experience of new roles, as well as of changing social norms relating to gender. To assess these changes in attitudes and behaviours over time 20 biographical semi-structured interviews were conducted with each member of five families composed by a heterosexual couple and two common children. The interviews, fully transcribed, were subjected to a thematic content analysis strategy using MAXQDA software with categories corresponding to the analysis dimensions: time; life domains; agency versus structure; gender attitudes; and the direction of intergenerational relations. Evidence of the bidirectionality of the relations between the two generations translated into changes in both the parent's and the children's beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours regarding gender roles over time was found. Although the younger generation was more prone to gender equality, the older generations' attitudes and behaviours became more progressist overtime. Despite generational differences, women of both generations were found to be not only the most permeable to change overtime, but also those who led it.

Financial Transfers from Parents to Adult Children in the Context of the Invisibility of Public Policy

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One of the key moments in the lives of many families is children becoming independent and the process of establishing a new household. Typically, this process is supported by various types of transfers from older generations to younger ones. Supporting newly established households and, more broadly, young adults, is also important from the point of view of public policy. In our paper, we analyze to what extent both parties: the older generation making transfers and the younger generation who are the recipients, notice and acknowledge the role of public policy in the entire process, also understood as the omission of certain actions and solutions. Based on data from the 8th wave of SHARE and in-depth interviews conducted in 2019-2021 with 24 families (people aged 21-40 and their parents) in Poland, we argue that for most households, public policy seems transparent, and it rarely appears in considerations about supporting the younger generation. However, in practice, both the scale and goals of transfers are directly related to policy deficits, starting from housing policy, through educational and social policy and services related to the care of small children. Therefore, state policy, although in the minds of the interlocutors usually does not directly influence the willingness to provide financial transfers, is important in terms of their scale and direction. It may also reflect the perception of the role of the state and public institutions in the everyday life of households.

Intergenerational Patterns In Family Business Practices: Evidence From Cross-national Research

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Family business is denoted by the emotional values of the family and the economic aspects of the working environment. As affirmed in the literature, these different values influence the orientation of individuals towards one element or the other, as well as the intergenerational patterns, that may be characterized by consent, conflict and inconvenience, thus determining everyday practices and the continuity of the company over time.

In light of this, the study aims at analysing the intergenerational patterns in family business practices considering economic and emotional values.

In this comparative research led in Spain and Italy, the qualitative methodology has been adopted: family members of 7 family businesses responding to specific criteria (micro/

small dimensions; male/ female leader) have participated in semi-structured interviews.

The data show that the companies are equally oriented toward the family and the company's values, if on one side this model is desirable as it allows to achieve the success of both the systems, on the other it may lead to an overlap of them, which may cause negative consequences on family business practices (difficulties in disconnecting from work and carrying out pleasure activities with family members, …). Furthermore, the generational patterns are attributable to the area of consent in Spain and to decreasing inconvenience in Italy. Finally, the research underlines how generational legitimation may be the key for avoiding conflicts.

In conclusion, the sociological approach adopted contributes to a better understanding of family business patterns and practices, which are mainly studied under an economic/ managerial perspective.

The Whispering Game of Parenting over Three Generations. Understanding Change, Relationality and Temporality in Intergenerational Relations between Youth and their Parents.

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Based on a three-generation study of parental relations in Norwegian youth, Vasbø & Hegna (2023) found the youth generations of the 1950s, 1980s and the 2010s to differ in the way they talked about their parents with warmth and respect vs distance, disinterest and lack of trust. Here, a focus on generalisations within each generation revealed how the middle generation stood out from both the older and younger generations.

In this study we want to explore youths' reflexive experiences of being parented in the context of three-generation biological chains from the same dataset. The data includes 69 qualitative interviews with Norwegian youths, parents and grandparents from 24 biological families from different parts of Norway. These biographical interviews cover a breadth of topics related to growing up, family relations and transition to adulthood, giving a detailed account of intergenerational relational practices in families (Mason 2004). Our preliminary findings show how the youngest generation often use their own parents as a template for how they see themselves as parents in the future. The older generations however, often juxtaposed and contrasted their experiences as youth with their chosen form of parenting – aiming to do things differently than their parents did. Using our chains of interviews, we can see how, like in a whispering game, their intensions were not received by the younger. By applying theoretic lenses of personal life (Smart 2007, 2009) and relational practices we focus on intergenerational relationship as a multidimensional, temporal and non-linear process to deepen previous findings.

Vasbø, K. B., & Hegna, K. (2023). Feeling close, disclosing feelings–family practices and practices of intimacy in youth-parent relations across three generations in Norway. JYS, 1-19.

RN13 | T01_02: Social reproduction within families

Unequal Family Contexts for Children and Adolescents in Spain

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The environment in which children and adolescents develop plays a crucial role in shaping their future outcomes across various social, educational, economic, psychological, and health domains. Current research on the connection between inequality and family context often relies on predefined statistical categories, like household income, parents' educational attainment, ethnicity, or occupation. However, inequalities are not experienced as isolated

categories but at the intersection of multiple social identities, including gender, place of origin, employment status, and living conditions. We propose a quantitative approach to intersectional theory to understand better how interconnected forms of inequality impact the family, migration, and labor contexts of children and adolescents. We aim to reconstruct the contexts in which children from different social classes are raised by utilizing retrospective information from the 2018 Spanish Fertility Survey, which details parents' family and labor trajectories. This approach allows us to identify which social groups are more likely to experience positively rewarded or socially penalized trajectories. Our findings suggest that socially disadvantaged groups face higher exposure to unstable family trajectories and that it is the interaction between various deprivation categories that contributes to more turbulent childhood and adolescence experiences instead of isolated categories. Our research unveils how migration and labor trajectories influence the (in)stability of children's family situations.

"Parenting And New Paths To Education"

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Demography and parenting are two different concepts that interconnect from different perspectives; the populational stricture is an aspect that is influenced by reproductive patterns and well as parenting – that happens when the parents are responsible for a child and their paper is crucial for the cognitive, social and emotional level of their children; their attitude and behaviors towards their kids regarding care and education contributes for their development on different levels: physical, phycological and social.

As this two concepts interconnect, in this paper we explore and structure information about these topics as well as the importance of the parents (or caregivers) as the principal agents for the socialization of their kids.

Different types of parenting are based on the application of activities and practices intertwined to relations of power and hierarchy that are combined to the emotional support and autonomy that the parents give to their children, that being their believes and values that they consider important and relevant to transmit trough educative practices. Parenting is considered a complex task as well as a hard and difficult responsibility to any human being; is a concept and phenomenon that is gaining major significance in a way that is possible to prepare kids to have an independent life.

Now, more than ever, parents have more information that they could ever know about "how to educate" their kids so, in this paper we present the "new" perspectives that the parents have on education, as well as the importance of the family context and other major influential surrounding that shape children character as they grow.

Family Feelings: Tensions around Wealth Reproduction in Superrich Families

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Contesting the paradigm of separate spheres in modern social theory, several works have shown how intimate relations are coproduced and sustained through economic and financial transactions (Bessière and Gollac 2023; Hochschild 2003; Illouz 2007; Wimbauer 2003; Zelizer 2005). This paper delves into the dynamics of wealth transmission, emotions, and conflicts within super-rich families as central actors involved in the reproduction of social inequalities (Carney and Nason 2016; Kuusela 2018; Santos 2021). Through the tightly knit connection between family and capital, these families persisted as units of economic production throughout different phases of capitalism, adapting their modes of economic, social, and legal reproduction. Simultaneously, the cultural ideal of the family as a place for love, emotionality and care has tremendously affected how these families structure and manage wealth reproduction. The reproduction of family AND wealth, therefore, poses specific tensions within superrich families and is subject to transformation over generations.

Drawing on in-depth interviews with members of super-rich German families (at least 100 Mio. Euros net wealth) along with personal, legal, and archival data, I investigate how conflicts in superrich families shape family and wealth reproduction intergenerationally. Conflicts are particularly in-sightful to understand the functions of emotions in the strategies and practices of wealth trans-mission. By reconstructing the family wealth trajectories, I discuss questions of belonging and boundary-making, representation and deviance, control and power, destruction and reconcilia-tion. Family conflicts, widely perceived as a significant threat to wealth reproduction, prompt a network of consultants and lawyers to serve as "hidden helpers" (Derix 2016), aiding these families in institutionalizing conflict prevention mechanisms. They construct frameworks for mediating emotions

by navigating the interplay between the intersection of family and capital. The paper, therefore, unravels the emotions and actors shaping processes of wealth reproduction within families, demonstrating how the management of family feelings serves as an integral part of wealth reproduction. How the entanglements of family and economy, emotionality and rationality, constitute class-specific emotional forms of relatedness, will be the main contribution of this paper.

Family Roles and Women's Work Preferences in Spain: An Intergenerational Study

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This research aims to explore the roles of both early socialization, observed through the roles held by mothers within women's childhood households, and the socioeconomic context surrounding their family sphere, in shaping and expressing certain work preferences in adulthood, specifically pre – and post-motherhood stages. This study examines the potential intergenerational influence of maternal roles on women's career preferences.

The initial query of this study is whether a direct relationship exists between mothers' roles observed during childhood and their daughters' work preferences before and after the motherhood stage. The objective is to examine whether maternal roles have an impact on their daughters' work preferences in adulthood, and if this influence changes due to motherhood. Additionally, I aim to explore changes in primary socialization's determining power on current preferences, as well as the possibility that these also change due to family life context. The study also considers the potential impact of educational attainment and number of children as mediating factors in the relationship between mothers' roles and their daughters' work preferences.

By using two subsamples of the Fertility Survey (INE, 2018), one of childless women aged 25-29 and the other of mothers 30-49, it has been attempted to identify possible differences in the impact of maternal roles at different stages of life. The approach entails a thorough assessment of both present and retrospective data, employing structural equation models to untangle the intricate connections between the observation of maternal roles during childhood and current work orientations.

The results of this research seek to contribute both to the understanding of the complex mechanisms at work in women's labour market choices and to the numerous academic debates on this issue.

RN13 | T01_03: Single mothering

Adapting to Lone Parenthood Over Time: A Qualitative Approach to Life Domain Interdependencies and Spillover Effects

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Although lone parenthood is increasingly common in Western societies, it often remains an unexpected, unintended, and critical life course transition for parents and children. A key feature of lone parenthood is its non-normative character and the vulnerability it entails. Family researchers have mainly studied lone parenthood as a static condition at a specific moment in time, focusing on its association with disadvantages in terms of employment, poverty or health outcomes. From a dynamic perspective, however, the transition to lone parenthood triggers new needs and challenges over time, demanding a redefinition of expectations and simultaneous adaptations across life domains. Examining how lone parents carry out these adaptations is thus key to understanding how vulnerability processes take shape over time. Decisions and events occurring in one life domain influence other domains. The limited resources and experiences accumulated over the life course are likely to play a fundamental role in how these adjustments are made. Framed by a life course approach and drawing on the 11-year-long Swiss qualitative panel, "Multiple pathways to lone parenthood" (2012-2022), this study examines the spillover effects between life domains such as employment, health, childcare, housing, partnership or leisure that takes shape in the transition to lone parenthood and subsequent life transitions. We pay particular attention to the temporality of adjustments and the nature of spillover effects in order to identify at which point in the lone parents' trajectories and in which domains critical strains are generated. The findings of this study will provide an empirical basis for designing policy interventions aimed at supporting individuals and families through this transition.

Single Mothers' Expectations About Repartnering: Family Project Versus Mother's Affair

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Mothers' repartnering is usually understood looking at the demographic and socioeconomic determinants predicting new couples' formation, while subjective expectations about repartnering remain undertheorized. Merging evidence from the literature on predictors with Anderson's

and Green's (2011) theoretical framework on individuals' orientations in repartnering, this article explores variations in expectations around repartnering in a group of 35 single mothers (SM) in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Using the first two waves of a qualitative panel held in 2012/2013 and 2015, 11 types of expectations are identified through thematic analysis and clustered along a continuum from family-oriented to adult-oriented repartnering. In family-oriented expectations mothers incorporate the expected impacts that new partners could have on their children, while in adult-oriented expectations partners' relationship with the children is not an issue and does not factor in mothers' decisions about repartnering. An intermediate cluster of expectations includes cases in which repartnering in neither a pure SM's family project nor uniquely a SM's affair and efforts are made for the SM's family to accommodate the new partner. Potential predictors of expectations are identified, by contrasting single mothers' biographies in each expectation category along the continuum. Having no prior experiences with couple parenting or having bad experiences with it before single parenthood due to domestic violence is common to mothers in some family-oriented types of expectations, while mothers looking for an intimate relationship (adult-oriented expectation) report higher SES and older age. Custody arrangements, child-rearing preferences, fertility intentions and SMs' social network can also affect their expectations.

Experiences of Solo Mothering, Work and Care in England: Navigating the First Three Years

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Solo mothers are one of the new family configurations to emerge in Europe as access to assisted reproductive technologies has increased. Although this pathway to motherhood has been seen as a minority elite practice, it is a growing and increasingly diverse phenomenon in England. However, English parental leave and work-care policies remain premised on a traditional, two-parent family model. Current efforts to address related gender imbalances in work and care focus on increasing paternal engagement, which is less meaningful for mothers without a partner. The impact of this context on the possibilities for solo mothering has not yet been explored in the literature. This qualitative study therefore seeks to establish how solo mothers experience work-family reconciliation, with potential implications for all single parent families.

Data collection is ongoing, using semi-structured, online interviews. Participants were recruited through a snowball sampling strategy on Facebook and via the national Donor Conception Network charity. The sample reflects a range of income levels, with several mothers claiming the 'Universal Credit' benefit to support their families. Data is being analysed using Braun and Clarke's (2021) reflexive thematic technique, taking a feminist intersectional approach to better understand inter-group variation. Preliminary findings suggest that, as a new and contested family form, solo mothers may feel distinct tensions in navigating work-care reconciliation: participants felt that their decision to parent alone limited their freedom to challenge policy inequalities. However, by using parenting culture studies as a framework, the women's accounts may also be interpreted to show how they resist and reframe contemporary parenting norms, for example by constructing non-familial networks of support.

Navigating "Good" (Lone) Motherhood: Lone Mothers' Accounts Through a Social Class Lens

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Despite evolving family structures, societal expectations of "good" motherhood are often shaped by the nuclear family norm and middle-class ideals. Lone mothers, commonly perceived as a homogeneous group and "transgressors" of the nuclear family ideal, actually share a social category. The women who inhabit this category occupy different positions in the social space, influencing their practices and narratives about good (lone) motherhood. Although lone motherhood is a subject of substantial research, less is known about the relationship between social class and lone mothers' experiences.

Hence, we aim to analyse lone mothers' constructions on the meaning of being a "good" mother, exploring the influence of social class on their perspectives. To inform our analyses, we apply an expanded Bourdieusian approach, incorporating Will Atkinson's advancements on Bourdieu's theory and insights from motherhood studies. We combine key concepts such as capitals (economic, cultural, social), trajectory, habitus, and fields, along with Alfred Schutz's concepts of lifeworld and stock of knowledge. Emphasizing their gendered dimensions, our framework elucidates the complex interplay between material and symbolic conditions and individual experiences and agency in shaping lone mothers' practices and narratives.

This study, based in Greater Lisbon, Portugal, interviewed 21 women representing various social classes and living across different locations. For data production, we conducted semi-structured interviews using a biographical approach, supplemented by field notes.

Aligned with our theoretical background, our preliminary results suggest that mothers in dominant positions often associate good motherhood with promoting children's autonomy, while those in dominated positions stress the importance of teaching limits, often linked to controlled consumption.

This research contributes with valuable insights to the limited literature on lone motherhood and social class, offering nuanced perspectives on how women navigate and articulate social norms. It expands our understanding of the definitions of "good" lone motherhood and sheds light on the underlying inequalities that shape both their narratives and practices.

RN13 | T02_01: Parental leave: theoretical and terminological approaches

Formal Rights vs Real Opportunities: Father's Experiences of (Non)Take-up of Parental Leaves in Poland

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Poland has extended fathers' parental leave rights considerably in the last decade. In 2013, 26 weeks of well-paid shareable parental leave were introduced. In 2023, an additional nine weeks of a non-transferable entitlement to paid parental leave for fathers were added to meet the EU Work-Life Balance Directive requirements. Nevertheless, both in 2013 and in the 2023 reform, some peculiar elements in the Polish parental leave system have been added that promote maternal leave use during the entire first year after the child's birth. The system is embedded in a rather traditional culture, casting mothers as the proper carers and fathers as family breadwinners. All this may seriously hinder fathers' capabilities to use parental leave entitlements.

This paper will present the results of 30 individual, semi-structured interviews with Polish fathers conducted between December 2023 and February 2024 in Poland. Employing these interviews, we aimed to explore Polish fathers' considerations, beliefs and experiences regarding using their formal rights to parental leave. In our study, we will pay particular attention to the role of the newly implemented, non-transferable paid leave for fathers. The aim is to shed light on diverse institutional, cultural and economic barriers fathers in Poland face to take advantage of their formal entitlements. We will also explore conditions in which fathers overcome these barriers and successfully take advantage of their rights.

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Parental Leave in Spain 2024: Changes in terminology, regulation, and use

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Spain reformed the regulation on parental leave in 2019, making paternity and maternity leave equal in terms of duration, remuneration, and access conditions, and non-transferable, as part of the gender equality promotion policy. This recent regulation has also change the name of these leave making them gender neutral removing the words "paternity" and "maternity" from its title. This communication aims to discuss the impact of this reform on the practices of using these leaves. The data used in this paper consists of 523,392 records from the Social Security database and QUIDAN Survey 1, 2021, concerning parents of children under 7 years old. The methodology combines descriptive and explanatory analysis. The results show an increase in the usage rates of the leave up to 94% of eligible parents. The percentage of parents who do not use the entire mandatory period is less than 0.1%, but while the proportion of mothers who do not use the full duration of the leave stands at 2%, among fathers, it is 15 times higher. Around half of the fathers split the use of the leave (compared to about 5% of mothers), but only a minority do so once the mother's leave period has ended, severely limiting the transformative potential of the gender relations reform.

What do Parents do on Parental Leave and How Does it Shape Gendered Family Practices?

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In this paper, I discuss how the kind of parental leave taken by first-time parents shapes their understandings and practices of motherhood and fatherhood. I draw on qualitative longitudinal diary and interview data from 21 mixed-sex couples in England, collected during their parental leave. Half of the sample were sharing leave and the other half were not. In the analysis, I draw on the sociology of everyday life to examine both what participants did and the meanings they attributed to these practices. The accounts demonstrate how women on maternity leave alone become primary carer, through a process of learned expertise and moralised pressures around mothering. Their partners' lives did not radically change and they did not develop similar care expertise. For sharing couples, normative practices could be counteracted by fathers' extended leave alone, but couples taking leave at the same time tended to reinforce gendered normative parenting. I detail why these differences occur, showing how fathers on leave alone were able to foster a sense of themselves as primary carers, even if just for a short time. The study fills a lacuna in research on parental leave practices and the ways in which they contribute to gendered parenting outcomes.

The 2021 Baby Boom in Iceland: Exploring the Role of a Parental Leave Reform and the Pandemic

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In 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the total fertility rate in Iceland rose unexpectedly from 1.72 to 1.82. The increased number of births followed an important reform in the Icelandic paid parental leave scheme, which included an expansion of the leave from 10 to 12 months. Analysis of data from Statistics Iceland and focus group interviews with parents who had a child in 2021 were used to explore if and how the parental leave reform and the societal changes related to the pandemic shaped parents' decision to have a child in 2021. As the rise in fertility was short-lived, the results indicate that the baby boom of 2021 can hardly be explained by the parental leave reform. Rather, at least for educated women, who already had children and were in a good financial state, it seems that the pandemic created a favorable atmosphere for having a child. Parents' narratives from the focus group interviews suggest that the pandemic might have been a good time to start or add to the family because of the increased time spent at home and the limited involvement in social activities outside the home.

RN13 | T02_02: Money and family relations

Money Allocations In Families With Biological And Foster Children

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Bringing a child into a foster home affects many family members, both in the biological family and in the foster family. When a child is placed in foster care, there are many challenging emotions, new approaches and practical adjustments that affects not only the child, but also the biological parents, the foster parents, and the foster family's biological children. One of these issues has to do with economy and money. In this paper economic handlings in relation to biological and foster children, are explored from dual perspectives. 20 social service personnel and 35 foster parents in Sweden were interviewed. The paper explores how social service personnel take the foster family's biological children into account when explaining economical decisions, and how foster parents accounts for differences in money allocations between foster children and biological children.

The Role of Money in Commitment Processes: A Sociological Study within Family Home Care

Malin Anne Elsa Åkerström

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The American sociologist Viviana Zelizer has dedicated herself to studying the meaning of money. She observes that money is perceived as corrupting what she refers to as 'the intimate sphere': families, relatives, or friendships. The combination of children and monetary compensation is particularly sensitive. An illustration of the potentially polluting influence of money is found in relation to foster homes; monetary motives for taking care of children are looked upon as morally questionable. This is also evident in Social Services' investigations of those who express interest: 'You're not doing it for the money, are you?', and candidate foster parents must present themselves as motivated by interested in care of children and youngsters. Even researchers have attempted to understand the motives of family homes and categorize them, as if it is possible to nails these down in a once and for all definition.

A more sociological perspective involves examining how motives for commitment change over time. Howard Becker's concept of 'side-bets' serves as inspiration in the analysis of foster parents' stories, illustrating how financial compensation can become more prominent over time. What was initially uninteresting, the compensation in the form of fees and overhead allowances, can evolve into something one depends on for their livelihood. This presentation

utilizes interview material with foster families to demonstrate how such a step-by-step development can occur.

Money, Love and (co) Parenting. Post-separation Parents' Negotiations Around Economic and Care Responsibilities

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Several studies have focused on the economic consequences of divorce. The interest has been primarily on the potential negative impact that it has on the children. However, after the separation parents may be the actors of divorce conflicts on the meanings of money and decision-making processes around the residential time and child support payment may become complex. Money may become the battleground within which to understand the potential trade-off between financial provision and caring, between 'her' and 'his' idea of 'proper' child time, care and maintenance. Vivian Zelizer (1994) offers an alternative model to look at money to the most used utilitarian framework, which focused on the social and symbolic meanings of money. According to this author, people are constantly "earmarking money", creating new currencies and giving money new meanings. The paper explores how mothers and fathers in Italy construct meanings around child maintenance. It focuses on how parents create, maintain or negotiate legitimacy and sense of deservingness of the child-support payment. This study draws on qualitative interviews with 40 Italian separated mothers and fathers all with a shared child custody arrangement. The results show a wide array of trade-off between financial provision and care, which co-exist with contested, dynamic and interrelated dimensions of negotiation about parental responsibilities which are associated with three main post-separation co-parenting styles: parallel, cooperative and competitive styles. In the Italian context, characterized by the persistence of gender asymmetries, differences clearly emerged between fathers and mothers in giving meanings to 'money for the child'.

Nonresident Fathers' Financial Contributions to Their Children and Fathers' Economic Wellbeing

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Parental union dissolutions are common, and many children live a considerable part of their lives in a single-parent family (McLanahan 2004). Besides emotional distress, separation can have striking financial consequences; parents have to make arrangements regarding housing and children's residential arrangements as well as how to share child-related costs. While research on single-mother poverty is abundant (Nieuwenhuis & Maldonado 2018; Nepomnyaschy et al. 2022), economic consequences of the separation to the nonresident parents (mostly fathers) have received only limited attention. Nonresident parents are generally expected to contribute to their children's expenses, usually by paying child support (CS) but they may also make informal contributions which may be considerable in relation to their income. (Dis)satisfaction with arrangements likely increase non-payment but could also affect father-child relationship and increase conflict between parents. Shared residence of children can further complicate financial arrangements between parents.

In this study, we use data from a survey collected among separated parents in Finland in 2019 (fathers n=873) to investigate economic consequences of parental union dissolution from nonresident fathers' perspective. We examine factors related to fathers' financial contributions (both formal and informal) and how these affect their own economic wellbeing. First results show that about half of fathers paid formal CS and about 40% had other arrangements, type of arrangement varying by fathers' socioeconomic status, family situation, and child's residential arrangement. 60% with formal CS reported having economic difficulties, net of SES or other factors, and those with formal CS were less satisfied with the arrangement than others. The results highlight the need to pay attention to fathers' economic situation post-separation.

RN13 | T02_03: Divorce and separation

"Based on the Above, the Fault for the Breakdown of the Marriage Lies Entirely with the Defendant" On the Negotiation of Care Practices of Families in Fault-based Divorces

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Austrian family law is outstanding in Europe because fault-based divorce is still legally valid. These divorces include legal negotiations about the partners fault at the disruption of the marriage. Thus, court files contain first hand insights into the judicial and social normative framework of marriage. A crucial part of the marital obligations is the provision of care work. In the light of the unequal distribution of care work, fault divorces are an important arena in which the negotiation of care practices becomes visible and relevant to legal institutions.

From a praxeological perspective the negotiations about violating or fulfilling marital obligations can be framed as 'troubling families'. In my contribution, I ask how and which care practices are submitted, negotiated and legitimized as marital obligation or marital misconduct. I conducted a qualitative case study by using Situational Analysis and Trans-sequential Analysis on 25 fault divorce files from the period between 2003-2019 of different-gender couples in Austria.

Results show that care practices are negotiated as willingly provided or intentionally denied. The negotiated care practices have different addressees: They are not only addressed 1) to relevant others – such as spouses, children or relatives – but also 2) to the self, which is negotiated as an important addressee for care; e.g. by maintaining one's own health or attractiveness. Furthermore, there are 3) calls to care for more abstract communities, such as the village. Overall, omitted care practices that are interpreted as marital misconduct are often at odds with stereotypical dominant family models.

"Analyzing Post-divorce Dynamics: Work, Work-life Balance and the Family"

Diego Becerril Ruíz, José Jiménez-Cabello, Jesús Jurado Serrano

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The number of divorces in Spain is at an average European level, which is relatively significant, especially if we compare it with the Mediterranean region, where it clearly leads these processes. Specifically, in Andalusia, the territory in which this research is located, there were 16,267 divorces (ENSD, INE).

This region accounts for practically one fifth of the total number of divorces in Spain (ENSD, INE), giving an idea of the scale and challenge involved in family break-up processes. Moreover, for more than a decade the percentage of divorces involving minor children has been around 53%-56% (some 9,700 minors). Among this set of challenges and challenges that post-divorce implies, the manifest and latent challenges of two dimensions stand out: work activity and work-life balance. Thus, the general objective of this research is to analyse how both dimensions are affected during this stage and what challenges they present according to cohabitation regimes (i.e. shared and sole custody).

The methodology used is qualitative, through semi-structured interviews with both partners.

The results provide a better understanding of the dynamics and challenges that divorce poses for both parents and minor offspring in terms of the role of work and work-life balance. Thus, in reference to the first dimension, the importance of aspects such as working hours, job prospects and income of each ex-spouse in the post-divorce period is observed. In addition, the relevance of aspects related to work-life balance, such as the distribution of time, the support of family networks or friends, or what happens in the family home, is also highlighted.

Divorcing during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Social and Gender Inequalities in Family Court Practices

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been especially drastic in family law with countless individuals caught up in the middle of a critical family crisis. In particular separating and divorcing individuals with minor children who were already in a situation of instability experienced increased vulnerability both materially and emotionally with detrimental yet differentiated consequences for mothers, fathers and children.

To avoid delays and to deal with emergency cases, the Swiss Federal Council opened the use of remote hearings in civil proceedings as other countries did. While digital justice holds several advantages (e.g. speed, cost reduction), it also raises several practical and ethical concerns (e.g. technology, confidentiality).

This interdisciplinary project entitled "The practice of family law during the Covid-19 pandemic: digital justice and gender inequalities" aims at investigating the practices and challenges associated with the shift to digital justice during the COVID-19 pandemic in family proceedings in Switzerland with a focus on separations and divorces. It consists in a legal text study of the changes in Switzerland with an international comparison (1) coupled with a qualitative study

with a case study of court practices (2) and a quantitative study addressed to family judges and lawyers (3).

This presentation focuses on the case study of court practices to understand the gender and social inequalities related to access to justice during a major crisis. We focus on two issues especially at risk of leading to exacerbated gendered inequalities and conflicts due to a reinforcement of traditional gender roles: child visitation and physical custody arrangements, and maintenance payments.

Class Divides in the Effects of Parental Separation on Time Use

Tomás Cano

UNED, Spain

How parents and children spend their time is crucial for their well-being and children's future outcomes. However, no study has analyzed how parental separation affects parents' and children's time use. This study uses longitudinal time-use data and panel regressions to disentangle how parental separation changes the amount and type of shared parent-child time. Importantly, this study also shows how such effect varies across social classes. Preliminary results show that separation leads parents to spend less total time with children, as well as it leads children to spend more time unstructured activities, and less time in educational activities. These effects are stronger for lower-class families, hence, reproducing the intergenerational transmission of (dis)advantage. Results are robuts across several sensitivity checks.

RN13 | T02_04: Queer families

Reproductive Imaginations in Queer Family-Making: Tensions Between Outcome and Process

Robert Pralat

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For people who are unlikely to have children through sex, for parenthood to materialise, it first needs to be imagined. Lesbians and gay men, among others, must consider not only whether they want to become parents, but also—if they do desire to create a family with children—how they would do it. Sociologists of families and intimate lives have attended to how people imagine their intimate futures, focusing on notional children as imagined entities: an outcome of becoming a parent. This paper examines instead the process of becoming a parent, and the various pathways to parenthood that lesbians and gay men may consider as they contemplate if having children is what they want. Drawing on interviews conducted in England and Wales, I find that the complexity of achieving parenthood is as capable of capturing people's imagination as is the appeal of having children. I reflect on what can be gained in our understanding of families and intimate lives when the analytical focus moves from the lived experience to the imagination. I discuss how the unease of envisaging the reproductive process, and the way it contrasts with the comfort of imagining a future family as an outcome, may be more pronounced in some national contexts than others. Finally, I ponder how the ambivalence of queer parenthood resembles the mixed feelings about having children experienced in society at large, as concerns about costs of living, fears of the climate crisis and anxieties around reproductive uncertainties increasingly call parenting intention into question.

Tension, Mis-Trust and Transformation: Revindications of same-sex families rights in Greece

Athina Mara

Roehampton University, United Kingdom

Accepting diversity by accepting LGBTI+ human and civil rights is the main objective of Member States of the European Union. Family life, marriage, and gender equality are protected under the European Convention on Human Rights. Despite EU treaties towards equality, pink families often experience sociolegal discrimination in many EU societies (Hicks, 2006). Amidst the heated public national discussions in Greece of a new law that will introduce same-sex civil marriage for the first time and in regard to same-sex kinship rights in particular, this article conducts a critical policy discourse analysis of law 4356; in 2015, it was the legal framework that first extended civil partnership

legislation to include same-sex couples in the country. This law is examined as the first and currently only law that recognises queer family life in specific terms, as it does not provide any legal recognition of parenthood.

The discourse analysis of the paper examines through a sociological lens, how notions of sexuality, family, gender, biological sex, and nation shape laws and public policy pronouncements and contribute to the lack of a corresponding policy framework. By examining the relevant plenary session transcripts of Greek Parliament meetings and public political discourse about the law, I aim to pursue an in-depth sociological analysis of what shapes the sociolegal attitudes around same-sex kinship.

The results of the research show that heterosexism, hegemonic ideologies, and norms about gender and sexuality, as well as dominant views about religion, nation, and kinship, are determining (even the queer) family typology within contemporary heteropatriarchal social rules. These factors contribute to the legal and social exclusion of non-heteronormative families, who "deviate" from hegemonic heteropatriarchal societal rules.

(Re)producing 'Mixed-Race Privilege' in Queer Family-Making? Gay Fathers' Navigation of Racial Hierarchy in Selecting Egg Providers

Jung Chen

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In 2019, Taiwan became the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage. However, the reproductive rights of LGBTQ+ people remain on hold. Assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) are only accessible to non-heterosexual individuals locally. The only feasible way for gay men to become parents to biologically related children is through transnational ARTs and surrogacy. This paper explores gay men's perceptions and strategies for selecting egg providers of particular racial/ethnic backgrounds. The data came from 53 in-depth interviews and 8-month participant observations. While Western gay fathers frequently attempted 'racial matching' by choosing egg providers depending on the race of the non-biogenetic father, Taiwanese gay fathers constructed a different route. There were approximately 150 gay father families in Taiwan, and most of their children are mixed-race, which makes them exceptionally 'visible,' since around 95 percent of Taiwan's population is of Han ethnicity. Westerners account for only 0.1% of the total population. Han-Caucasian-mixed-race children often receive extra attention for their appearances. This research engages with queer theory and the sociology of reproduction approaches to investigate the reinforcement and transitions in the re-making of the racial hierarchy in queer reproduction. Partly, (intended) gay fathers inventively created alternative kinship-making paths. Partly, they sought social recognition by aligning with existing social and cultural norms. Based on the empirical data, the findings reveal a dynamic bargaining process of egg selection situated within the global reproductive industry, in which race/ethnicity gradually becomes commodified and is embedded in the global-local sociocultural context, where white privilege travels from Western countries to locals such as Taiwan: Han-white-mixed-race people are privileged for their linguistic, cultural, and symbolic capitals. This article argues that the emerging 'mixed-race privilege' became predominant among gay-father families in the context of navigating the dominant racial hierarchy in society, their double-minoritised positions as LGBTQ+ families with mixed-race children. By engaging with racial hierarchy in Taiwan and global reproductive practices, I also propose a transnational perspective to examine the (re)production of new racialised norms among gay-father families.

Identity and Family Dynamics: Coming Out Experiences of Queer South Asians to Their Parents.

Pooja Marwaha

The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

This paper will focus on the intricate dynamics of personal and intimate relationships of queer South Asians as they navigate the process of coming out to their families. Through my research, I look at personal and intimate relationships through the lens of an intersectional feminist framework alongside queer theory. My analysis includes aspects of otherness and kinship, interwoven with themes of honour and care.

This paper will focus on the following question from my thesis – How do relationships with parents evolve in response to queer South Asians questioning or exploring their sexual orientation and coming out to their parents?

Drawing on qualitative data collected via semi-structured interviews conducted online and in person from a subset of 21 participants from the broader thesis, this paper will focus on the accounts provided by 12 participants, 4 male, 6 female, and 2 who identify as non-binary or gender fluid. The analysis will draw out gendered differences in the reaction that South Asian parents have towards their adult child coming out to them.

The findings showcase a range of outcomes, from growing trust and closeness between parents and their children, to a lot of tension and estrangement. By shedding light on these diverse narratives, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in the intersection of queer identities and familial relationships within the South Asian context.

RN13 | T03_01: Mental health and family arrangements

A longitudinal View On Maternal Well-Being In Different Post-Separation Care Arrangements In Germany

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Changing legal and cultural conditions across Europe led to a higher share of separated parents practicing shared physical care (SPC), in part because this allows for shared parental roles and children's access to both parents. Prior studies documented that, in countries with little institutional support for SPC such as Germany, fewer and a highly selective group practiced it. Regarding maternal well-being, the benefits of SPC are less clear, and prior findings were mixed. Cross-sectional results from Germany revealed that SPC mothers were less strained compared to mothers practicing sole care. However, findings only offer a single snapshot in time and the ripple effects of changes in practiced care arrangements cannot be taken into account. We aim to examine the effects of practiced post-separation care arrangements on maternal well-being longitudinally and consider the impact of changes in practiced care arrangements as well. Data stem from the large-scale, representative Panel Study "Growing up in Germany," which was collected biennially between 2019 and 2023. Our analyses are based on 456 separated mothers of minors and we differentiate between SPC and sole care with frequent, rare, or no contact with the non-resident father. Preliminary descriptive results showed a high degree of stability in all post-separation care arrangements. Fixed-effect regression models revealed that stability in care arrangements was positively associated with maternal well-being, which is in line with the crisis model viewing any family-related transition as a temporary resource drain. Findings will be discussed in light of the institutional context for post-separation families in Germany.

Spillover Effects of Life Events on Mental Health Among Separated Parents

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Recent advances in family sociology have increasingly considered dyadic designs and the concept of linked lives within families, emphasizing the long-term interconnectedness of family members' lives. Most research has focused on the assumption that these connections persist over long periods of time, often spanning entire lifetimes. However, there is a gap in understanding the dynamics of these connections in the context of separated parents. This study challenges the common view of post-separation lives as independent by examining the enduring dyadic relationship between parents after separation through the lens of linked lives through their children.

Based on comprehensive Finnish total population register data, our research follows parents of underage children through their separation process. Using panel fixed effects models, we investigate the extent to which significant life events of one parent influence the mental health of their ex-partner, specifically focusing on the probability of antidepressant prescription as an indicator. The range of life events analyzed includes partnership transitions such as re-partnering or separation, major family events such as deaths of family members, unemployment, and residential moves.

Our research aims to provide a preliminary understanding of the interrelated mental health dynamics among separated parents. This approach challenges existing notions of post-separation independence in parental dyads and aims to make a significant contribution to family sociology and demography. By elucidating the extent to which life events may continue to affect the mental health of ex-partners after separation, this study enables deeper exploration of the enduring links in separated families in future research.

Effects of Parental Unemployment on Children's Mental Health – A Comparison between the United Kingdom and Switzerland

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Family interrelationships in mental health have been understudied and a better understanding of their mechanisms is needed for prevention. This study investigates how parental

unemployment affects children's mental health. More precisely, it analyzes how the transition to unemployment of a parent can impact not only their partner, but also their children's mental health through its negative influence on their own mental health. We argue that the loss of financial resources and decrease in mental health engendered by a parent's unemployment can spillover to the whole family. We expect this effect to be emphasized by unemployment duration while attenuated by a higher level of wealth and more generous unemployment benefits.

Family composition plays a role when it comes to interrelationships in mental health, as well as in the context of unemployment. We therefore expect single parent families, especially with lone mothers, to undergo more hardships and have the strongest impact on mental health. By focusing on teenagers, this study enables to measure the impact of a parent's unemployment on a very crucial moment in life – the entry into the professional world or into higher education, where good mental health is key.

Our research uses longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel and the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study, which possess similar measures of unemployment and mental health. By comparing the situation of these two countries, it will bring new insights to evaluate and adapt family welfare policies which makes it of interest not only to researchers but also policymakers.

The Impact Of Family Complexity On Social-emotional Difficulties In Early Childhood

Judit Monostori, Laura Szabó, Krisztina Kopcsó

Hungarian Demographic Research Institute, Hungary

Numerous studies have examined how family structure influences children's social-emotional outcomes. However, many studies use a simplistic approach to family structure that doesn't take into account the composition of siblings and doesn't consider the complexity of the family from the child's perspective. In our research we tried to capture the complexity of family arrangements. We hypothesised that there would be significant differences in children's outcomes across these categories of family complexity. However, it was also assumed that selection effects and other indicators of parenting could explain the associations. The dependent variable of our study is social-emotional difficulties (measured by the SDQ) at the age of 3. Our data come from wave 1-3 of the longitudinal birth cohort study Cohort'18 Growing Up in Hungary (N=5862). Bivariate analysis shows that a higher proportion of children living in non-intact families have social-emotional difficulties. In addition, among children who lived with both biological parents, the risk of social-emotional difficulties was significantly higher among those who lived with a half/step-sibling than among those who lived in a full-biological family. However, we also found a strong selection effect, which means that the parents with lower SES are over-represented among the non-intact families. This partly explains the association between family complexity and child outcomes. In addition, the quality of the relationship between the parents, the subjective well-being of the mothers and the income situation of the family also affect children's social-emotional difficulties. After controlling for all these factors, only children in single-parent families are at higher risk.

RN13 | T03_02: Division of domestic tasks

Discrepancies Over Domestic Standards: Effects on the Division of Domestic Labor and Coexistence

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The division of domestic labor has experienced, in recent decades, an unprecedented transformation towards increasingly egalitarian gender relations. However, despite the changes, women are still primarily responsible for carrying out household chores. To explain the persistence of this gap, gender relations theory has argued that achieving a co-responsible division of domestic labor is conditioned by sociocultural aspects related to the construction and dissemination of egalitarian identities. In this sense, gender identities are one of the key factors to analyze the division of domestic labor. Based on this, this article aims to analyze the way in which heterosexual couples manage their disagreements over domestic standards and the effects that this management has on the distribution of domestic work and coexistence.

The work was done using qualitative methodology using semi-structured interviews with both parts of the couple individually. 22 couples were interviewed, with a total of 44 interviews carried out.

The main results show that couples who have a co-responsible perspective on domestic work learn to manage their disagreements with domestic work and to live with their differences. On the other hand, in couples without a co-responsible perspective, when discrepancies occurred over domestic standards, women ended up doing household chores. In this group of couples, it has also been observed how men use these differences in standards as a way to justify the inequality in the distribution of domestic work.

The main contribution of this work is to point out the influence that gender relations continue to exert on the sexual division of domestic work and the importance that, therefore, has the dissemination of a co-responsible perspective of the couple's relationship.

Dynamics in the Division of Housework in Couples. Longitudinal Dyadic Analyses of Subjective Perceptions

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There is much research on couples' division of housework, on the factors influencing this divi-sion as well as on the effects of this division on relationship satisfaction and other outcomes. We know, for example, that particularly highly educated couples start our with rather equal dis-tributions that tend to shift into "traditional" patterns after the birth of a first child, reducing the relationship satisfaction for the female partner. We also know that the subjective percep-tion and evaluation of the division differs, with each partner perceiving the own share higher than the partner perceives it and with the less engaged partner being more satisfied than the more engaged partner. Nevertheless, a new panel study provides reason to revisit this topic: „FReDA" has been launched in 2021 and will release the data of its second panel wave in May 2024. This data will allow combining many research approaches within one analyses, potentially adding puzzle pieces to the picture. FReDA is surveying a large sample of ca. 20,000 adults in Germany, representative for the resident population aged 18 to 49. It comes with partner inter-views, so that about 7,000 couples can be analysed from a dyadic perspective. Both partners independently report their perception of the distribution of several housework chores, their satisfaction with this division, their consideration of the division to be fair and their general relationship satisfaction. This way, not only the distribution as such but also deviating percep-tions can be analysed longitudinally, e.g. depending on birth events between the waves.

The Effect Of Moving Together And Getting Children On The Gendered Division Of Housework: An Event Study Of German Couples

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This study contributes to the examination of the gendered division of housework, utilizing an event study framework and drawing on data from the German Socio-Economic Panel spanning two decades. While previous research offers insights into the factors influencing housework distribution within heterosexual relationships, it often overlooks individuals' housework habits before cohabitation or parenthood. By analyzing changes in housework before and after moving in together and having children, this study aims to discern whether the unequal distribution is driven by shared living arrangements or gendered habits predating cohabitation or parenthood.

The findings indicate that women already perform significantly more housework than men before sharing a household. Upon cohabitation, there is no significant change in housework hours for either gender, suggesting that existing gendered housework habits persist. However, when couples become parents, women absorb the additional housework, exacerbating gender inequality in the hours of house work. This implies that the unequal distribution of housework in childless heterosexual households stems from pre-existing gendered housework habits. Yet, when children enter the household, there is a renogotiation of existing housework arrangments among couples, resulting in heightened gener inequality of hours of house work.

These insights highlight the importance of considering pre-cohabitation and pre-parenthood housework habits in understanding the dynamics of housework distribution within heterosexual relationships.

RN13 | T03_03: New methods for family research

Combining Solicited Diaries and In-depth Interviews in Multigenerational Care Research

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This paper focuses on combining solicited diaries with in-depth interviews in family and care research. It examines the advantages and disadvantages of combining both qualitative research methods using the example of a study on multigenerational care work in the sandwich generation. The empirical study was conducted between February 2022 and May 2022 in Slovenia on a sample of 30 individuals, providing care work to a younger (children, grandchildren) and older generation (parents, parents of the partner). Data collection with the solicited diary method involved the regular recording of activities by participants in selected time periods and provided the researcher with an insight into everyday routines. It enabled the researcher to map key family and care roles and relationships and raised participants' awareness of taken-for-granted caring practices. Combining solicited diaries with in-depth interviews provided a deeper insight into the understanding and interpretation of the participants' world, as well as additional insight into the experiences and contexts that emerged in the collected diary entries. The combination of both methods contributed to a greater quality and depth of the data collected. The two methods proved to be complementary, with each method compensating for the shortcomings of the other. The combination of both methods also proved to be resource intensive, both in the data collection phase and in the data analysis phase. The main ethical issues relate to the intimate nature of caring practices and family relationships and the potential therapeutic nature of both research methods.

Dis/Trust in Families and towards Researchers: Empirical Insights and Methodological Reflections in Researching Wealthy Families

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Wealthy families are a research area that has received relatively little attention in both empirical and methodological studies, especially when viewed through the lenses of family sociology and social inequality, underscoring the necessity for further investigation. In our current project, we address this by examining intergenerational aspects in

the production, preservation, and transmission of wealth in affluent families in Germany. In doing so, we analyse wealth as a dynamic social field which – according to our thesis – is produced and reproduced not only in economic relations but also in family relations. Theoretically, we rely on Pierre Bourdieu and the doing-family approach. Methodically, we draw on family interviews and single interviews with members of different generations. Additionally, we utilize interviews with gatekeeping experts for exploration and sampling.

In our presentation, we aim to introduce empirical insights and methodological reflections of researching affluent families, delving into the importance of trust within wealthy families and towards researchers. We find that trust plays a significant role in familial relationships, but family members may vary in their level of engagement, and mistrust may exist regarding the communication of financial matters. Establishing trust with researchers poses a challenge, especially when entering the field as a new researcher without a background in the milieu or personal connections to wealthy individuals. Conducting family interviews presents an additional challenge, closely tied to the issue of trust within families and towards researchers.

The presentation is based on data from the ongoing collaborative project between TU Dortmund University and the Sociological Research Institute Göttingen (SOFI). The Volkswagen Foundation funds the project, and it is scheduled to run from April 2023 to March 2026.

Enhancing Potentials for Research on Post-Separation Families using the "Growing up in Germany" (AID:A) Panel Study

Diana D. Schacht, Claudia Recksiedler, Simone Schüller, Christina Boll, Christine Entleitner-Phleps, Alexandra Langmeyer-Tornier, Sabine Walper, Claudia Zerle-Elsäßer

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Rates of separation and divorce are persistently high in Western societies, and post-separation families are becoming increasingly diverse and complex, for instance, due to more active fatherhood and increased and faster repartnering. However, post-separation family forms that emerge after parental separation are insufficiently captured in official statistics in Germany because the definition of families is household-based (i.e., no record of non-resident children or parent) and step-parenthood is not accounted for. Many large-scale panel surveys also offer limited information to accurately classify post-separation family forms and care arrangements. This limitation stems as well from their household-based design lacking often crucial information on the nonresident parent, the parent-child, as well as the interparental relationships.

Yet, these indicators have shown to be essential in understanding subsequent child and family-level outcomes, including emotional and economic well-being. The panel study "Growing Up in Germany" (German title: "Aufwachsen in Deutschland: Alltagswelten; AID:A") launched in 2019 aims to provide comprehensive information on living arrangements, care routines, and relational conflicts of a wide range of family forms. This includes single-parent households, stepfamilies, and information on non-resident biological parents. This paper introduces the survey module specifically targeting post-separation families with a non-resident parent, the so-called "Module on Post-Separation Families", and compares it with other German surveys. Finally, we discuss the research potentials that arise in connection with the broader spectrum of information collected in the survey, encompassing economic deprivation, subjective well-being, health, parental education and employment, as well as attitudes and values.

Research, Teaching and Learning Sociology of the Families and Intimate Lives in Times of AI: Tension, Trust, and Transformation

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This paper addresses (new) challenges in research, teaching, and learning the sociology of the families and intimate lives in times of artificial intelligence (AI). Drawing on the author's own experience as a teacher for over 20 years, it explores the current tensions and challenges faced when exploring related topics with chatbots, notably ChatGPT. Generative AI broadly refers to algorithms that can create new content including text, images, audio, video, and code in response to a prompt. There are many services powered by large language models (LLMs), perhaps the best known of which is ChatGPT, on the cover of Time Magazine on Feb. 27, 2023. While ChatGPT has shown the world recent developments in computer science, it was also one of the most visible faces of growing AI concerns. In early 2023, the media began reporting cases of schools blocking ChatGPT, as students were asking the chatbot just released in late 2022 to write papers and answer take-home tests. Moreover, recent research points to Gen Z driving early adoption of generative AI, incorporating it as an important dimension in their (online) lives. Methodologically, the paper follows a conversation between a family sociologist and ChatGPT with a focus on family configurations and intimate interactions. In the end, informed by contemporary sociological theorization, the reflection aims to contribute to a better understanding of the role and challenges of using chatbots as reliable tools to present and critically discuss family and intimate life in research, teaching and learning contexts.

RN13 | T03_04: Family dynamics during the pandemic

"Having Fun As A Teen... That Was Basically Over". Mothers Supporting Adolescents During The Covid-19 Pandemic In Austria

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Growing up is challenging for adolescents, their parents, and families, even in times without crises. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these challenges, and had multifold detrimental impacts on adolescents. Research has shown that parents, especially mothers, were particularly concerned about the negative impacts on adolescents' educational and psychosocial development, and struggled to support them. This contribution provides a comprehensive sociological analysis of mothers' experiences and challenges in accompanying adolescents through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Theoretically based on family stress theory, and emotional work theory, we empirically rely on an Austrian qualitative longitudinal study with a subsample of 25 mothers of 31 adolescents aged 14 to 19. Respondents were surveyed repeatedly (12 waves of data collection) over a 2-year period (March 2020 to June 2022), using problem-centered telephone interviews and diary entries. Data was analyzed using the Grounded Theory coding scheme.

Results show that mothers' challenges in accompanying adolescents evolved around four main strands: social, physical, psychological, and educational well-being of their children. These multifaceted challenges required mothers to actively engage in emotional and care work, while at the same time struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on themselves, and on other family members. We identified four distinct types of maternal support: Coaches, Buddies, Cheerleaders, and Bystanders. To conclude, we argue that the consequences of the pandemic on this sensitive period in the lives of adolescents and their parents have been underestimated, and that the resulting complexities in families deserve more attention in family and youth research.

The Burden of Children During the Pandemic According to Family Configurations

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Living arrangements depend on many (positional) factors such as gender, age, level of education, occupational status and sector of activity. Living or not with a partner and/or with children also influence individual and collective constraints and opportunities, in particular regarding doing gender practices and the division of labor. Additionally, unexpected, non-normative events, in particular when they have a large collective impact, as it is the case with the COVID-19 pandemic, may trigger significant systemic reorganizations reflecting to some extent the influence of specific social policies. This paper proposes to capture the intersectionality of the structuring factors at play using a configurational perspective inspired by the work of Norbert Elias and by life course studies. This approach aims at emphasizing the relations existing between individuals rather than focusing solely on individual attributes. This allows observing how these (gendered) interdependencies are affected by the measures of confinement and by the conditions in which they were experienced. Using two waves of the Swiss Household Panel (2019 and the special COVID-19 wave realized in May and June 2020), we first built a typology of household configuration in 2019, that is then used to assess the impact of the lockdown on the household members relationships and outcome such as well-being, changes in occupation and income situation, time use, home schooling, family and social life. Eventually, our typology of family configurations is used to analyze the content of qualitative interviews focusing on family life, conducted with both partners of 22 families during the lockdown. We use textual data analysis to compare the narratives of the mothers and the fathers regarding how they perceive the burden of children, especially in relation to home schooling.

Challenges and Experiences in Conducting Qualitative Longitudinal Research in Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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In times of extraordinary crisis, society and research face unpredictable challenges. Families were particularly affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying restrictions on their lives. Qualitative longitudinal studies offer a good opportunity to capture change in families over time in uncertain and dynamic situations, such as a global pandemic. However, conducting qualitative longitudinal research during the pandemic was challenging, as standard research practices and methods reached their limits.

Based on the Austrian qualitative longitudinal study "Corona and Family Lives", we discuss practical and ethical questions for family researchers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this study, 98 parents with kindergarten – or school-aged children were surveyed repeatedly over a period of more than two years (March 2020 – June 2022) using problem-centered telephone interviews (65 respondents) and diary entries (33 respondents). Data collection started in the first week of the first Austrian lockdown (March 16, 2020) with weekly to bi-weekly contacts, and continued at larger intervals until June 2022. Thus, the sample is extraordinarily large, as it comprises 12 waves of data collection (in total, 727 interviews and 372 diary entries).

In this presentation, we outline the key challenges, and show how we addressed them. In particular, we focus on the following issues: (a) limited methodological and technical options for recruitment and data collection due to lockdowns and other restrictions; (b) the ethical responsibility of researchers and the motivation of respondents to participate; (c) management of a large qualitative sample and panel maintenance over time.

Lessons From Affective Relational Injustices Of Family Carer/Care Home Resident Relationships Disrupted by COVID19

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If access to affective caring relationships is a basic human right, it was a social injustice to deny 'family carers' and residents of care homes meaningful opportunities to continue their long-established intimate relationships during the COVID-19 pandemic. My starting point is the consequences of this denial from the perspective of the 'family carers' (whether daughters, sons, partners or others who had long-term affective caring relationships) who were prevented from visiting an older person in a care home. It is based on joint research conducted in Scotland led by George Palattiyil during the first 'lock down'. Variation in the family carers' understandings and experiences of 'family care' versus 'institutional care' grounds an analysis that adds further nuance to theorising of the associated injustices and inequalities. Analysis of family carers' accounts also extends recent sociological commentary on the routine devaluing of affective-caring relationships and increasing risks of neglect and harm when care is delivered in an increasingly marketized and corporatized or neoliberal welfare regimes. Tracing the trajectories of harm in the accounts of women and men as family carers helps us to understand inequalities by showing how harmful outcomes fall unevenly in ways which are patterned by the varied quality of institutional care tolerated across the marketized care home sector as well as by the varied burdens of guilt, responsibility and incapacity in the delivery of 'family care', across genders and generations. While a sense of injustice was pervasive, consideration is also given to why those with the most reason to fear neglectful 'institutional care' were no more likely to call for radical change in care home sector but rather to defend those giving 'institutional care'.

RN13 | T04_01: Separation and family configurations

Children's Family Relationships Across Households in Postseparation Family Configurations

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In Finland, a significant proportion of children experience parental separation, with one-third of married and half of cohabiting parents' children affected before age 15. About 93 percent of the separated parents agree to have joint custody versus solo custody, with nearly 30 percent of children living in joint physical custody arrangements. According to qualitative studies conducted among children of separated parents, children's understanding of their family often consists of members from the two homes especially in dual-residence arrangements. Indeed, after parental separation, children's family relationships are located in two different households. These relationships often include parents and siblings as well as parents' new spouses and stepsiblings. However, on a more general level we know little about the quality and quantity of children's relationships and the composition of the two households. In this descriptive study, we analyse children's family members in the divorced/separated parents' households and we ask, what kinds of family configurations exist after parental separation from the point of view of the children. We analyse children's family relationships by using the data from a large and unique survey based on a representative sample of divorced/separated parents (n=3449 of which 2320 are mothers and 1104 fathers), whose children were 1-17 years old at the time of the data collection. The aim is to study i diversity of children's family configurations based on parents' information about the residents of their homes. Furthermore, information about duration of the child's residential arrangement enables us to consider the evolution of the residential arrangements over time. We also analyse children's family configurations in relation to other questions in the survey including analysis about the differences between maternal and paternal homes.

Coparenting in Stepfamilies: Interrelational Factors in Parenting Experiences

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A growing number of people live in a stepfamily, in which both parents and stepparents play an important role in children's lives. Research has pointed out the importance of positive coparenting between parental figures for children's and caregivers' well-being. But what constitutes positive

coparenting relationships in stepfamilies, and how are they related to parenting perceptions and parenting stress? This study uses Flemish-Belgian survey data from 2021 (n = 3323) to understand how interrelational factors contribute to parenting experiences. By including measures both specifically on the coparenting relationships, for example instrumental and emotional support in parenting related matters, and more general measures of relationship quality and feelings towards the partner and ex-partner, we aim to add to the existing literature and further disentangle parenting dynamics and experiences within stepfamilies. Preliminary findings highlight that although parenting related instrumental and emotional social support are linked to measures of parenting experiences, mainly relationship quality with the partner and ex-partner are related to parenting perceptions and stress. This highlights the importance of understanding coparenting relationships with current and previous partners and their role in parenting experiences beyond the purely parenting related topics.

Stepfamilies and the Law

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The commitment between conjugal and parental life in stepfamily households, the absence of legal recognition of the stepparent role, and the importance attached to biology in the definition of modern parenting are aspects that prevent stepfamily members, namely stepparents and stepchildren, from maintaining lifelong relationships. Drawing on census data (2001, 2011, and 2021), legal literature, and interviews with experts (law professors, lawyers, and public prosecutors), this paper aims to discuss Portuguese stepfamily members' rights and responsibilities during and after the marital relationship. At a time characterized by increasing family diversity (single-parent families, stepfamilies, same-sex couples, etc.), how does Portuguese family law regulate and protect the social ties established between stepfamily members? What happens to the stepparent-stepchild relationship in the event of death or conjugal break-up? Is the legal recognition of the stepparent-stepchild relationship a child's right, a stepparent's right or both? Results show that, between 2001 and 2021, the number of individuals living in a stepfamily household increased, including the number of children. Despite the growing statistical evidence of stepfamilies in Portugal, the national legal system seems to prevent rather than promote the recognition of stepfamily members' roles and relationships. In 2008, the implicit recognition of stepparents as third parties was a step forward, although the law has a very wide scope and is not limited to stepparents.

Exploring Children's Experiences in Dissolving Stepfamilies: A Qualitative Analysis

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This research delves into the experiences of children navigating the dissolution of stepfamilies, focusing on the impact on their mental health. Existing studies predominantly adopt a retrospective approach or explore long-term consequences, overlooking the critical period of the divorce itself. Acknowledging this gap, the study leverages data from Awel, an organization providing support to children and youth (6-25 years) facing various life challenges.

In 2022 alone, Awel facilitated 22,165 interactions, with a notable portion related to familial struggles. This study employs a qualitative in-depth analysis of chats and emails between Awel and children specifically addressing the challenges arising from the dissolution of stepfamilies.

Initial examination of the data reveals two distinct perspectives on the dissolution of stepfamilies. The first perspective centers on relief, where children express hope for the dissolution. For some, the separation brings relief, because they still harbor dreams of their parents reuniting, facilitated by the absence of parental relationships. These children seek support during their time within the stepfamily.

The second perspective revolves around stress, capturing the experiences of children who successfully integrated into the stepfamily. For these individuals, the disruption of their established family life becomes a significant stressor. Awel receives most contacts from this group during the dissolution phase, as they seek guidance on navigating the aftermath of a second dissolution.

This study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of children's perspectives during the dissolution of stepfamilies, shedding light on both the relieving and stressful aspects of this complex phenomenon.

RN13 | T04_02: Family planning, fertility, and reproductive technologies I

Fertility Intentions In The Age Of Intensive Parenting

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Fertility rates have significantly declined in advanced, industrialized nations. The factors contributing to these demographic changes are diverse, but it is evident that women are opting for fewer children, delaying childbirth, and a growing number of individuals are choosing not to have children. To explore this trend, examining individuals' and couples' fertility choices within the context of evolving parenting culture proves insightful. Over the past few decades, there has been an increased focus on the notion of intensive parenting and its implications for parenting. This paper explores how intensive parenting ideology influences behaviours and expectations in the parental role. Drawing on two datasets; interviews with 22 Icelandic voluntarily childfree individuals and focus group interviews with 14 young Icelandic women regarding their attitudes toward having children, the study explores how intensive parenting ideologies influence fertility decisions. The Icelandic context provides an interesting research backdrop, given its emphasis on gender equality and policies that support both parents' participation in work and childcare. The findings indicate that women perceive the role of motherhood as mentally and emotionally draining and requiring significant personal sacrifices. Being "ready" to have children is therefore not only linked to notions of self-fulfilment but also to an assessment of when they can expect to possess the skills of a "good" mother. This suggests that narratives of intensive mothering have influenced decisions on fertility in Iceland. While the interviewees acknowledge the unequal responsibilities and duties of mothers and fathers, they do not question the individualism and intensity that characterize modern parenthood.

Beyond the Western Model: Gender (In)equality and Fertility Intentions in Türkiye

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We examine the relationship between gender equality and fertility intentions of both men and women in Türkiye, a topic that has been largely uninvestigated. Using the novel data from the 2022 Turkish Covid-19 Values Study (TCVS), we specifically explore how the fertility intention of married couples is influenced by their division of labor in the household and gender ideology.

Focusing on a sample of married men and women (N=388) who are in their childbearing ages (18-49), our findings deviate from the gender revolution theory that explains the positive relationship between gender equality and fertility intention in many European societies. In the Turkish context, the unequal distribution of housework and childcare responsibilities do not emerge as significant predictors of fertility intention, not only for men but also for women. In fact, for men, it is greater patriarchal values which are associated with a greater desire to have more children, while for women it is the economic determinants. As women's economic difficulty increases, their desire to have more children in the future decreases.

The division of labor in Turkish households is still uneven, with women performing the overwhelming majority of domestic and childbearing tasks. The fact that gender equality and fertility intention are not positively related as it is in the Western context indicates, in Hochschild's terms, a continuation of a "stalled revolution," suggesting that "the second half" of the gender revolution has yet to occur in Turkish society.

Socio-Structural Inequalities In Fertility And The Family In Germany

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Unequal opportunities to start or expand a family or to live a certain family model ultimately represent risk factors for social cohesion and should be analysed in more detail. Therefore we want to provide an overview of the socio-structural differentiation of fertility and family in Germany, with a particular focus on social inequalities. Our descriptive analyses are based on data from the Family Demographic Panel FReDA (2021) and the Microcensus (2022). With the help of these data sets, we analyse how the diversity of fertility and family living arrangements has developed historically and how it is currently subdivided in terms of social structure in Germany. In doing so, we orientate ourselves on the classic social structure indicators such as age, gender, education, migration status and regional reference (place of residence, size of place of residence). Among the classic socio-structural indicators, special attention is paid to the fertility of men, as they are still neglected in the context of fertility and family. We also look at the phenomenon of fertility postponement in the context of socio-structural dimensions. Furthermore, we extend the range of analyses to include normative factors such as values and attitudes (ideal age for starting a family) and thus go beyond the classic socio-structural dimensions. Our findings show that the classic socio-structural indicators – as well as the newly added ones – actually have a strong influence on fertility and family life. A socio-political sensibilisation to these differences is necessary.

Fertility During Uncertainty: Changing Economic Conditions Under Covid-19 and Fertility Intentions in Türkiye

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Declining fertility in Türkiye began long before the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, since the 1960s birth rates in Türkiye have been falling steadily, and in 2017 below replacement fertility was observed for the very first time. However, the total fertility rate dropped to 1760 per 1000 women in 2020, even a sharper reduction than previous years, potentially fueled by the economic risks and uncertainties triggered by Covid-19 pandemic. In our paper, we examine how such worsening economic conditions of individuals influence their fertility decisions, a phenomenon largely uninvestigated in the Turkish context.

Using the novel data from the 2022 Turkish Covid-19 Values Study (TCVS), our sample focuses on married couples (N=259) who are in their childbearing ages (18-49). Our results partially deviate from the risk aversion theory that explains the negative relationship between economic uncertainty and fertility decisions in times of crisis observed in most European societies. In Türkiye, we do not find worsening economic conditions to be a significant predictor of fertility intention for couples who have only one child. Instead, a decline in economic conditions lower fertility intention of couples only when they already reached their ideal family size of two children.

Our findings suggest the prominence of the "ideal family size" of two children in the Turkish context despite the socio-economic risks engendered by Covid-19.

Therefore, our findings persuade us to re-examine the risk aversion theory and investigate beyond economic factors to explain the predictors of fertility intention in times of crisis.

RN13 | T04_03: Informal family care

Social Capital As Resource Of Care Practice In Italy: A Qualitative Study On Caregiving In Italy

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The term caregiver indicates "someone who provides care", referring to individuals providing care to someone with a low degree of autonomy, who they are connected to by emotional and/or family bonds. During the Covid-19 pandemic, all formal and informal support and care networks were put to the test and had to draw on their reserves of social capital. Within these networks, the level of the caregiver's engagement has dramatically increased, producing negative effects on several aspects of their lives.

In this context, the study aims to understand the trust and cooperative networks available to caregivers, identifying the main mechanisms underlying the caregiver's role and tasks in Italy. This qualitative research is part of a larger national and mixed method project conducted in Italy in 2023-2024. In this presentation we discuss the results from dyadic interviews (with Dyads of caregivers and their reference individuals), involving 10 young caregivers (aged 20-30, at high risk for social exclusion) and 20 senior caregivers (aged 55-65, the so-called sandwich generation). The analysis unit, characterized by the dyad, allows to involve participants in the construction of a joint response, detect interactions and understand how people co-construct and interpret the social reality in which they live and share.

Results reveal a wide spectrum of life experiences in terms of social capital and an ambivalent perception of the caring tasks. Some experiences are marked by difficulty, anxiety and stress, while others are grounded in solidarity and gratitude among family members. Resilience emerged as a crucial protective factor.

"We are in agreement, we don't beat each other" – Tension, Trust and Transformation in Caring Family Figurations

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In Germany, as in many European countries, the overwhelming majority of care and support for older persons is still provided by private care arrangements. In most cases, these support arrangements are organized and carried out by people who are considered part of the family.

With Norbert Elias, these family arrangements can be understood as (changing) figurations that are characterized by interdependence and mutual dependence as well as affective ties and fluctuating balances of power. In my dissertation project and as a part of the German research training group "Doing Transitions", I investigate the familial care constellations regarding transitions that become visible when new care needs arise. Against this background, I conduct family interviews in which the older and younger family members participate together. The family interviews are supplemented by individual interviews and network maps to also record non-family actors.

The empirical material shows that family figurations are complex structures of biographically evolved relationships, symbolic boundaries, and intertwined vulnerabilities. Thereby, on the one hand, care arrangements can be maintained through trust in the family construct, in family relationships, and in one's position in the family. On the other hand, the so-called 'implicit knowledge' about family and (care) work is changing between the generations as the societal framework alters. This leads to conflicts and tensions, which are suppressed through humor and outsourcing the conflict from the family – or are resolved through learning and negotiation processes.

In a first interpretation, these processes may be interpreted as 'family transitions'.

Differences In Informal Care To Parents Between Women And Men: The Role Of Individual Gender Role Attitudes And Institutional Context

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Introduction: Despite women's increased participation in the labour market and shifting attitudes towards men taking up unpaid work in the domestic sphere, family-based care of older persons remains highly gendered. We investigate how individual gender role attitudes of women and men influence their provision of care to parents and whether this relationship is moderated by the national institutional context, namely public policies and social norms in relation to informal care.

Data and method: We use data from the Generations and Gender Survey and apply multilevel logistic regression including specific country-level variables to analyse the effect of individual values and the overall level of gender equality across different European countries.

Main findings: We find that individual gender egalitarian views correspond with a significant decreased likelihood of providing care for women, and increased probability for men. This association holds when controlling for individual and family characteristics and after adding the country-level variables. While these conform earlier results on gender egalitarian attitudes contributing to a more equal sharing of domestic labour, our analysis finds limited support for the moderating effect of country contexts on the relationship between gender egalitarian attitudes and the probability of providing care.

Interpretation: Caution should be taken in placing too much hope on changing behaviours through shifts in individual gender role attitudes, however attitudes towards gender roles may still contribute to narrowing the gender gap in informal care by influencing policy change through lagged generational change.

The Impact of Sandwich Care on Employment and Wellbeing in Germany

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For the past few decades, the consequences of informal caregiving have become more and more important. One crucial aspect is the provision of care for another adult – usually a parent – while also providing care for a dependent child called "sandwich care". Using data from the 2001-2018 waves from the German Socio Economic Panel (GSOEP), we investigated the association between different modes of care (only childcare, only informal care, sandwich care) and the labour earnings, work-time, self-rated health and life satisfaction of caregivers aged 17-64 using (lagged) fixed-effect models. Our results showed that the provision of sandwich care, as well as an increase in care intensity is associated with a reduction in labour earnings, working hours and satisfaction with life. Additionally, we were able to find that the effects for labour earnings and working hours also persist for at least one wave after the provision of care. Analysing our data stratified by sex revealed that only women show significant decreases in their labour earnings and satisfaction with life if providing sandwich care.

RN13 | T04_04: Siblinghood and other personal relations

Theorising Intimacy: Humour, Disability and Siblinghood

Tom Joseph Ryan

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Sibling sociology makes clear the unique nature of sibling relationships and the importance they have on how we define our own identities (Davies, 2015). Central concepts to the study of siblings such as love, care, fighting, humour and ambivalence (Davies, 2023) raise interesting and important questions when read from a disability studies perspective (Meltzer and Kramer, 2016). Humour can be seen as a central part of family life (Fiadotava, 2021), being both a source of joy and, at times, a source of frustration. This is particularly the case for siblings, where the backstage nature of sibships creates a space in which boundaries are pushed (Punch, 2008), with sibling's abilities to provoke each other often being down to an intimate understanding of one another. Humour and disability is a potentially controversial topic, with disabled people often being the 'butt' of jokes in society. Alongside this, there are also more radical 'crip' readings of disability humour that argue for an 'insider' disability humour in which these potentially controversial exchanges can take on new more affirmative meanings (Sweden, Ebener and Grist-Gordon, 2012). This paper will use early findings from my thesis to explore how people with learning disabilities and their siblings navigate humour, raising questions around whether the backstage nature of sibling relationships creates a space in which jokes that would not be permissible elsewhere can be enjoyed by siblings. These findings are the result of narrative inquiry, with the addition of the creative methods of timeline mapping and photo elicitation.

On Sisterly Sacrifice: Negotiating (In) Dependence

Katarzyna Dębska

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When the term "sacrifice" is mentioned in the context of family relationships, it is usually associated with motherhood and mothering. In Polish culture, the image of the Mother-Pole, a woman who sacrifices her wishes, her health and even her life for the sake of her children, plays an important role. Although it is both contested in theory, for example in feminist texts, and often rejected in practice, it remains an important point of reference. The experience of sacrifice in family relationships takes place not only in vertical relationships, as in the case of mother and child, but also in a lateral perspective. The motif of sacrifice appears in the narratives of adult sisters who, for various reasons, have been cast in a maternal role in relation to their siblings – mostly younger sisters. In my presentation I will discuss variations of this experience from three perspectives: 1) sisters who have sacrificed for the benefit of their siblings, 2) sisters who are the recipients of this sacrifice, and 3) sisters who remain outside of this relationship, observing the bond between one sister mothering another. The focus of the analysis is on the process of negotiation of identity, power, and (in)dependence within the sisterly relationship across the life span and the consequences of this type of bond for the quality of sisterly relationships for women. The presentation is based on the results of a qualitative study conducted with a group of 65 adult siblings in Poland.

Customary Law concerning the Law on Inheritance in the Culture of the Serbian Community in Kosovo and Metohija – the case of the city of Kosovska Mitrovica

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Although numerous social changes took place during socio-historical development that most directly affected family life as a whole, many customs were maintained and developed into socially acceptable rules of behaviour. In light of such considerations, the main research focus of this paper will be centred on the prism of family relations in the probate of male and female heirs, most often siblings. The Law on Inheritance of the Republic of Serbia does not distinguish between male and female heirs, that is, the testator's children who constitute the heirs of the first line of succession; on the other hand, customary law in the tradition of Serbian society dictates that female heirs renounce the inheritance of deceased parents and that the entire property is inherited by the male heir – the brother. The declaration of inheritance of renunciation of the family inheritance is irrevocable. Gender stereotypes are shaped under the strong pressure of social customs and norms, and the main hypothesis of the paper is that tradition and customary law are still stronger than the law, as evidenced by data from the court practice register. The paper will present statistical data from the court on probate proceedings conducted in the territory of the municipality of Kosovska Mitrovica, which explicitly confirms the hypothesis that sisters still give up their part of the inheritance in favour of brothers. At the same time, the reverse situation is much rarer. In addition, a secondary analysis of the content of the papers of researchers who have dealt with this or a similar topic so far will be used.

Forgiving and not Forgiving in Personal Relationships: Forgiveness in Families

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Despite interpersonal forgiveness being an established area of study in psychology and communication studies, sociological research into the role, significance, and practicing of forgiveness in personal relationships is virtually non-existent. This talk will discuss findings from the first qualitative sociological study on forgiveness in personal relationships, drawing on data from 42 in-depth interviews in the UK and from a specially commissioned Mass Observation Project directive. I will firstly discuss why forgiveness should be a significant topic for sociologies of personal life. I will also argue that the perspectives of qualitative sociology facilitate insights into the meaningfulness of forgiveness that the overwhelmingly quantitative approaches of current research into forgiveness from other disciplines cannot provide. Focusing here specifically on forgiveness in family relationships, I will use my data to illustrate how forgiveness is an ordinary and integral feature of enduring close personal relationships. Forgiveness was narrated by participants as not only integral to ensuring that relationships endure and could be repaired, but also as providing key moments through which difficult experiences within familial relationships were made sense of. This data illuminates forgiveness as a relational practice that is deeply entangled in complex circumstances, extended relationships, and personal histories. Instances of forgiveness thus also highlight the entwinement of relationships with our senses of self, providing moments of reflection on responsibilities, how we treat and have been treated by others, what we are willing to accept, and what course our future actions should take.

RN13 | T05_01: Child custody

Joint Physical Custody and Mothers' Life Satisfaction in Belgium, Finland, and Germany

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Joint physical custody (JPC) is an increasingly common care arrangement in which children live about equally with their parents after separation or divorce. This study examined the association between JPC and mothers' life satisfaction in Belgium, Finland, and Germany. The objective was to determine whether mothers with (asymmetric or symmetric) JPC differed in terms of life satisfaction from mothers with sole physical custody (SPC) and whether there were country-specific differences. Using data from the studies Divorce in Flanders, Survey among Separated Families in Finland, and Family Models in Germany, we estimated OLS regression models for resident mothers in SPC and JPC families with minor children. Results showed significant differences between the countries. Mothers in Belgium did not differ in terms of life satisfaction depending on their child's physical custody arrangement. However, mothers with symmetric JPC had higher life satisfaction than their counterparts with SPC in the Finnish sample, while both asymmetric and symmetric JPC mothers reported higher life satisfaction than SPC mothers in Germany. These differences, however, disappeared after introducing control variables to the regression models. Findings suggest that selection into different physical custody arrangements may explain the positive link between JPC and mothers' life satisfaction; a finding with far-reaching implications.

Parenting In The Context Of Shared Physical Custody: A Typology Of Boundaries Drawn With The Ex-partners' Dwelling

Laura Merla

UCLouvain, Belgium

Shared physical custody is a post-divorce arrangement where children alternatively reside with each of their parents. Based on the testimonies of 21 Belgian teenagers, collected with participatory methodologies, and semi-structured interviews with their parents, this presentation

explores the boundaries that the parents draw between their dwelling and that of their ex-partner, based on their own parental functioning. We first present five parental functioning styles (adapted from Widmer et al, 2004). These styles correspond to different practices and ways of conceiving family relationships within the new household, and in relation with the ex-partner. We then show that each parental functioning corresponds to a specific way of drawing boundaries with the ex-partners' home – thus giving shape to a particular form of island (the fortress island, the cocoon island, the reef island, the open island, and the wild island). The degree of (im)permeability of the boundaries delimiting each parental island depends on three types of spatial-temporal limits, namely boundaries of displacement, which refer to the potential for children to move between their parental residences and see their parents when they are not residing with them; virtual contact boundaries, which refer to whether or not children are encouraged to keep in touch with their parents through communication technologies; and transfer boundaries, which refer to the extent to which children are allowed/expected to take personal belongings to the other parent's residence. Each type is illustrated with quotes from the children's testimonies. Finally, we show that the way in which each parent establishes a particular form of inter-household boundary is influenced by a variety of factors, including material, spatial, familial, and temporal.

Troubling Families and Troubling Parents in Custody Proceedings – "both do not embody the ideal image of an intact family of origin"

Marlies Zuccato-Doutlik

University of Vienna, Austria

Parental separation leads to a family reorganisation. Especially when custody is negotiated in court, 'family troubles' become 'troubling families', applying values and norms to family and parental practices. The headline quote is drawn from a 2001 Austrian custody case, understanding such proceedings as discourse field where various actors compete for definitions of family and parenthood. This contribution deals with the discursive construction of family and gendered parenthood in custody proceedings combining theoretical concepts as Troubling Families and Doing Good Parenthood. The main question is, how familial relations and practices are negotiated and which guiding principles and interpretative patterns are powerful.

Applying a discursive and hermeneutic approach, 30 court files from Austrian custody proceedings from 1961 to 2018 were analysed through GTM, understanding these documents as material manifestation of the social order of knowledge. Findings are that the construction of custody proceedings themselves emerges from parental failure to conform to expectations of providing an 'intact family of origin' with biological, opposite-sex parents. Therefor, mothers and fathers are compelled to legitimize family and parenthood by producing and displaying certain narratives and practices along such demands. Simultaneously parents are positioned as 'good' or 'bad' through gendered interpretations of these ideas. Displaying new family can be seen as fulfilling the expectation of a 'complete family', while a single father may be interpreted as 'incomplete' family due to an interpretative pattern of the 'womanless household'. This contribution highlights the transformation yet persistence of normative family and gendered parenthood concepts within the discourse of custody proceedings.

Shared Custody and Parental Alienation as key concepts in a "struggle for children" – the Polish case

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University of Warsaw, Poland

The primary goal of my presentation is to examine the social actors participating in lobbying for Shared Custody (SC) in Poland, with a particular emphasis on the narratives they present and the narrative techniques they deploy.

Applying the Narrative Policy Framework (NPF) as a theoretical framework and methodological inspiration, I will:

– study WHO (which social actors are actively participating in lobbying efforts for SC, evaluating their connections, motivations, and viewpoints in the debate);

– investigate WHAT is said in these actors' narrations, dissecting the core themes, arguments, and justifications put forth to support their stance on SC;

– investigate HOW the narratives are constructed, aiming to uncover the narrative strategies used by social actors to influence public opinion and policy-making.

Specifically, I use NPF to lead the investigation of key parts of the narratives, such as the portrayal of "Villains", "Victims", and "Heroes", in order to discover recurring patterns and persuasive strategies.

According to my preliminary findings, the Fathers' Movements and the politicians (mostly from the right side, but also from the centre of political arena) are one of the key social actors for the implementation of SC in Poland. In their lobbying, these players have been documented exploiting controversial notions such as Parental Alienation and Parental Alienation Syndrome.

By analyzing the narratives employed by social actors advocating for SC in Poland, this research aims to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing debate over custody arrangements not only in Poland but also in other European and non-European countries. A unique aspect of my presentation will be the exploration of similarities and differences in the arguments used by social actors advocating for SC in different countries.

RN13 | T05_02: Fatherhood

"Who Cares?" Attitudes Towards Parental Roles, Caregiving and Fatherhood in Today's Hungarian Society

Éva Sztáray Kézdy[1], Zsófia Drjenovszky[1], Adrienn Orosz[2]

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According to the traditional parental role perception, caring within the family, especially taking care of small children is primarily the role of the mother while the father, as the breadwinner, provides the family with financial stability by working in the labour market separated from the family. In recent decades, however in line with social change a shift is observed from the traditional parental roles towards a more egalitarian concept of family role and a more equal distribution of chores and caring responsibilities. There is also a growing expectation from society for fathers to be more involved in their children's lives, and the inner need of fathers is also increasing to be more actively involved in caring responsibilities.

In our presentation we first summarise the results of recent Hungarian attitude surveys on parenthood and parental role expectation.

We then present the Hungary-relevant results of the European Values Study (EVS) 2017 and those of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) Family and Changing Gender Roles 2012 and 2022. We are focusing on the perception and division of childcare responsibilities and parental leave, as well as the values regarding the social perception of fathers' childcare roles.

As we know from previous studies that egalitarian family role conceptions are mainly characteristic in the case of younger families with higher education and living in big cities, in order to explore the attitudes of future parents towards parenting, 8 focus groups were conducted with university students. In our presentation, we also highlight the main findings of our qualitative focus group research about attitudes towards parental roles and caregiving.

Between Distance and Closeness: A Folk Model of Involved Fatherhood from Afar

Danny Kaplan, Liat Sheffer

Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Involved fatherhood is typically associated with face-to-face physical engagement during routine childcare. This study examines whether and how the "therapeutic discourse" serves as a cultural toolkit for upper-middle-class, white-collar, long-distance commuting (LDC) fathers to balance their pursuit of careers abroad and societal expectations of involved fatherhood in the absence of their daily presence at home. Drawing on a qualitative phenomenological analysis of 31 interviews with LDC Israeli fathers, the study delineates a "folk model" of involved fatherhood from afar that makes sense of the father-child relationship by using key therapeutic mechanisms: digital communication with a preference for telephone calls; dialogic conversation characterized by structured routines, authentic content, temporal availability, emotional engagement and quality time; and interpersonal reflection and self-reflection. The folk model reverses the classic paradigm of paternal involvement by substituting face-to-face engagement with remote emotional engagement and physical accessibility with temporal accessibility. The study reveals how a radical rhetoric of therapeutic discourse can be detached from everyday parental care. In a parenting culture that prioritizes intimate relationships over everyday family functions, LDC fathers are able to brand their version of involvement as competent and appropriate, no less than that of fathers who return home every day.

"I feel a lot more on the team, and I can score some points now": Remote-First Work Practices and Paternal Engagement in Childcare and Domestic Tasks

Lauren Jennifer Ryan

University of Melbourne, Australia

Fathers' utilisation of flexible work arrangements (FWAs) to manage their work and family responsibilities is often plagued by negative consequences including workplace discrimination and social stigmatisation, resulting in a low uptake of FWAs by fathers for the purposes of care. Existing literature on fathers' experiences with FWAs is largely focused on accommodation strategies, which allow employees to opt-in to certain forms of FWAs offered by their employers. In contrast, remote-first work is a FWA universally applied across the whole organisation and designed to increase employee autonomy, provide location – and time-agnostic work environments, and facilitate the integration of work and family responsibilities. Detailed scholarship on the sociological impacts of this emerging model is currently missing. Using work-family border theory and needs exposure hypothesis, this study provides a critical examination of how fathers employed in remote-first organisations organise their work and family lives, with a particular focus on changes to the gendered division of household labour and care. Using data from in-depth qualitative interviews with 16 fathers working in remote-first organisations across three countries, findings indicate that remote-first work provides fathers with increased opportunity and motivation to engage in caregiving and domestic tasks while maintaining rewarding levels of workforce participation. Fathers report feeling supported to do this care work by their employers and personally value their increased engagement in child – and house-related tasks/activities, with positive implications for self-identity, relationships with

children and partners, and the gendered division of labour and care at home. Findings from this research provide important practical and policy insights into the ongoing development and implementation of the remote-first model and its impacts on fathers' contributions to the division of household labour and care.

Is Paternity Leave Always Linked with Higher Father Engagement? Exploring the Different Ways of Using Paternity Leave and Their Implications for Gender Equality with Mixed Methods

Alix Sponton

Sciences Po Paris, France

This paper relates to "Gender-arrangements and the division of work within couples" and "Work-family balance, work-family conflicts, parental leave".

Research have shown that leave taking lead men to increase their childcare participation. Usually, studies focus on tasks occurring at daytime. Yet, dealing with fragmented sleep represents one of the main challenges faced by caretakers at the beginning of the child life. Women are most often the one taking care of other family members at night (Burgard, 2011), leading Susann Venn and co-authors (2008) to theorize this gendered division of sleep as an additional "shift" for mothers.

This presentation explores the short term and long-term relationship between paternity leave taking and men involvement in childcare at night in France.

This presentations relies on mixed methods. First, I conducted repeated interviews with 32 fathers from various social background, shortly before and two months after childbirth. 21/32 immediately used at least two weeks of paternity leave. Second, I used the French survey Modes de garde (2021), representative of parents of children under 6 (N= 8351) (logistic regressions).

Qualitative results show that, after the birth, fathers were more likely to get up at night while they were on paternity (even more so if the baby was bottle-fed). The impact of leave-taking was very clear, since fathers immediately started to sleep through the night when they returned to paid work. Quantitative results show that, at long term, fathers who took paternity leave after birth contribute a little more to the "night shift" compared to the ones who either postponed or did not take leave at all – and, thus, rarely experienced getting up at night in the first weeks.

RN13 | T05_03: Family policies and interventions I

Families And Caregivers In Italy: Changes And Cultural Challenges In Care Strategies

Isabella Crespi, Marta Scocco, Melanie Sara Palermo

University of Macerata, Italy

In Italy, there is a preference for maintaining older people in their own living and family environment. However, this has not been matched by equally decisive support from the family and from family members who take charge of the dependent older person. The still dominant model of public assistance at the national level is based on the provision of the accompanying allowance, which effectively offloads the responsibility of organizing assistance onto the family and requires its members to make a significant commitment to care and assistance of the frail older people by caregivers. Given families' pivotal role in caregiving, the paper aims to investigate the adaptations, strategies, and tools for enhancing welfare policies and systems. The focus extends to the family context with informal caregivers.

This paper analyses literature, documentary analysis and open-source secondary data (Share, Eurostat, OECD, and Istat), specifically within the Italian context, to highlight the main demographic and social change related to ageing and family care responsibilities.

Finally, the analysis of the caregiving models within families using literature and previous research examines how caregiving relationships and practices are considered in the Italian context in recent years and which are the main potential aspects to be developed regarding family policies and social interventions.

Navigating The Moral Landscape of Foster Care – Differentiating Types of Suspicion and Blame In Paid Parenthood

Katarina Jacobsson

Lund university, Sweden

Foster care is a way of providing a more family-like upbringing and care for children who, for various reasons, cannot stay with their biological parents. The fact that foster carers are paid a fee to care for a child is not questioned in contemporary child welfare practice, but the level of the fee and what it is spent on (or not spent on) are morally charged issues. Foster parents' motives may be questioned by the media, neighbours or social workers, who may suspect financial gain. Although payments are essential and may be crucial to successful recruitment of foster carers (of

whom there is a severe shortage), the issue of foster carer remuneration is fraught with sensitivity, suspicion and blame. This presentation will differentiate between several types of suspicion in money talk that foster carers encounter or reproduce, ranging from subtly educational to explicit blaming comments. Building on economic sociologist Viviana Zelizer's argument that money is often defined as corrupting in family, kinship and friendship relationships, the analysis suggests that foster carers learn how to navigate such suspicions in talk about reimbursement through various encounters with websites, social workers and foster carer communities. The study is part of a three-year research project exploring how money symbolises both the value of good care for those in need and a morally charged or corrupting aspect. The material consists of both texts (official and social media) and interviews with foster carers and social workers.

The FamILens® Model For The Evaluation Of Policies Family Impact: An Application In The Italian Context

Sara Mazzucchelli, Maria Letizia Bosoni, Medina Letizia

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF MILAN, Italy

There is an increasing international debate around the opportunity to assume a family perspective in policy and practice, in particular concerning the impact of policies on family well-being.

In line with this perspective, the Family Impact Lens (FIL) is a model of analysis, design, and implementation of policies and practices that triggers a virtuous and circular dialogue between policymakers, professionals, and researchers, to devise interventions that can positively "impact" on the living conditions and well-being of families, in their different structural forms and socio-economic conditions.

This contribution will present the Family Impact approach, which is based on five evidence-based principles (Bogenschneider et al., 2012; Belletti, Bramanti, & Carrà, 2018) studied firstly in the USA by the Family Impact Institute of Purdue University. This presentation moreover aims to briefly illustrate the path made in recent years by Italian leave policies and changes noticed since April 2014 (Jobs Act), analyzing the impact of policies and interventions on the well-being of families through the FamILens® model (Family Impact Lens).

The Perils of "Reading History Sideways": Is Unmarried Cohabitation Really a Moving Target?

Martin Kreidl, Klára Reimerová

Masaryk university, Czech Republic

Several authors argued that unmarried cohabitating unions are a "moving target" (Seltzer 2000: 1247). It has been proposed that the meaning of unmarried cohabitation changes with its rising diffusion, typically evolving from a "marginal phenomenon" over a "prelude" phase to finally become "indistinguishable" from marriage.

These developmental theories share the emphasis on gradual – and presumably universal – change; i.e. they operate within the so-called "developmental paradigm" of family change and face the peril of "reading history sideways" (Thorton 2001). Interestingly, no study has examined within-country change in the status of unmarried cohabitation so far.

Our aim in this presentation is to see if the position of unmarried cohabitation in the broader landscape of family change evolves over time. We operate with one common typology of unmarried cohabitations (Hiekel et al., 2014) and examine it across two different time points. Did the number of people living in different types of unmarried cohabitations change as predicted by the developmental paradigm? Do we see an increase in the number of cohabitations that are "indistinguishable from marriage"?

Our analysis is based on the GGS (Generations and Gender Survey) data from Czechia. We use two samples, one from 2005 and one from 2021.

While prevalence rose, we find no change in the prevalence of various types of unmarried cohabitations. It appears that in 2021, unmarried cohabitations still primarily served as "prelude" to marriage and the presence of the mode "advanced" types did not change. We challenge the idea that cohabitation is a "moving target" a propose that we should be more careful in operating with the "developmental paradigm" when studying family change.

RN13 | T05_04: Family planning, fertility, and reproductive technologies II

Fears and Barriers to Having Children: Choosing Dog Ownership as an Alternative?

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There is keen interest in reproduction in Hungary: the government has taken several steps in an effort to increase the number of children born since 2010. Despite this, the number of births is not increasing while the number of dogs kept as companion animals is increasing. It is therefore interesting to examine whether choosing dog ownership is an alternative to having children. To answer this question, we conducted 27 semi-structured interviews with childless women or mothers with only one child aged 18 to 45 years living in a large city, who had owned a dog for at least one year.

Our preliminary results show that voluntary childlessness is not closely related to dog ownership. Most childless interviewees also want to have at least one child. However, dogs are seen as a member of the family, and in many cases, they are thought of as a 'quasi' child or sibling of an existing child. Nevertheless, dogs are not thought to be a complete substitute for a human child. We found that there are different reasons why a woman may not want to have (more) children. For example, not having found a suitable partner, or not having the appropriate financial status or housing circumstances. Moreover, many women reported difficulties in reconciling work and family life, which they can manage with a dog, but would not be able to manage if they had a child. They also reported that dogs can play an important role in meeting their needs for care and connections.

Genetic Strangers or Potential Kinship? Egg Donors' Experiences and Expectations in and beyond Anonymity

Yu-Ling Huang

National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan

This paper undertakes an exploration into gamete donation anonymity in Taiwan and how the changing cultural shift towards openness and transparency in the United Kingdom stir the discussions in the island. Enacted in 2007, Taiwan's Assisted Reproduction Act has established anonymous gamete donations as the prevailing model, safeguarding the rights of recipient couples and donors. Curiously, the welfare of offspring has been a marginalized consideration for two decades. Scrutinizing legal texts, media discourse, and drawing insights from in-depth interviews with thirty egg donors, this study delineates the intricate interplay of legal regulations, cultural perceptions of kinship, and organizational dynamics within IVF clinics collectively shape anonymity across legal, medical, and kinship practices. First, the Act, devoid of criteria addressing the offspring's welfare, build secrecy as a guiding principle, steering medical and kinship practices. Second, during clinic consultations and informed consent processes, anonymity is underscored as pivotal for the privacy and familial security of recipients and donors. Third, the public narratives, as portrayed in television shows, depict genetic kinship outside marriage as a threat to familial bonds, thereby reinforcing the anonymity regime. The commercialization of gamete donation among young women intensifies these trends. However, knowledge of some measures ensuring offspring welfare in the UK prompts many donors to reconsider their expectations of anonymity, advocating for a recalibration that balances of the needs of offspring and donor privacy. Proposing a cultural shift towards openness, this study contends that introducing such values into the existing gamete donation regime is imperative.

Oocyte Self-Preservation for Non-Medical Reasons. A New Medical and Social Challenge for Family, Parenthood, Human Reproduction

Lia Lombardi

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Background

This proposal concerns ongoing research, at the Université Lumière Lyon2, on the topic of the new medico-technological challenge of Oocyte Self-Preservation for Non-Medical Reasons (OPnM) and its impact on human reproduction; on gender relationships, families, and parenthood. It is an interesting field for social sciences, as well as for law, bioethics, biomedicine, and biotechnology.

This research is carried out in three European countries (France, Italy, and Spain), detecting differences in laws, social protection systems, women's rights, and moral and ethical norms on procreation, family, and parenthood.

The main aim is to produce a comparative analysis between these three countries with similar cultural roots but with important differences in the political, legislative, and ethical-moral aspects related to OPnM.

Methodology

To develop this research and to capture the complexity of the OPnM theme, the analysis is conducted through four macro-contexts: 1. institutional; 2. socio-cultural; 3. economic; 4. medical.

It consists of an "integrated" research plan focusing on:

1. Systematic review of the literature, laws, and empirical data on oocyte self-preservation in the three target countries.

2. Field research using qualitative methods, carried out in the target countries and in medical centres and CECOS: 110 semi-structured interviews; 6 focus groups.

Preliminary results

– Analysis of 16 interviews with healthcare professionals and 30 interviews with women in their AOnM pathway, in France and Italy.

– Ongoing social change in relation to parenthood, family, reproduction

– Data from secondary sources on oocyte self-preservation for medical and non-medical reasons in the three target countries.

– Legislative analysis of Medically Assisted Procreation (MAP) and OPnM in the three target countries.

– Medical and sociological approaches to OPnM in the target countries.

The Fertility Timing Gap: The Intended and Real Timing of Childbirth

Jitka Slaba, Jirina Kocourkova, Anna Stastna

Charles University, Faculty of Science, Czech Republic

The fertility gap, which indicates the difference between the planned and actual number of children born, can be explained by the shift in parenthood to older ages and is associated with the non-attainment of one's intended reproductive plans. The paper focuses on the gap in the timing of entry into parenthood, i.e. between the planned and actual age at the birth of the first child. The study is based on data from the "Women 2016" survey which re-interviewed women of fertile age from the second wave of the Czech Generations & Gender Survey conducted in 2008.

Czechia is particularly interesting when analysing the timing of entry into parenthood – in Czechia, the fertility postponement commenced significantly later than in Western European countries and was markedly more dynamic in terms of its development; moreover, recent findings indicate low realisation of the short-term childbearing intention since only one in four childless women realise their original transition to parenthood plans.

Results reveal that at the population level, the fertility timing gap differs across generations. While for Czech women born between 1966 and 1971 the planned age exceeded the actual observed age by one year, the realisation of fertility occurred two years later than planned for the youngest generation (1983-1990) included in the study. At the individual level, the unplanned postponement of fertility (fertility timing gap) was found to be related primarily to partner-related and health factors.

RN13 | T06_01: Family policies and interventions II

Multifaceted FamILens in Italy: Creating Family Impact Checklist to Help Professionals "Think Family"

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Families constitute a fundamental cornerstone for individual and community well-being across the entire life course. A large amount of research has consistently demonstrated that family-centered approaches for family services result in more positive outcomes for both individuals and family relationships. This underscores the pivotal role families play in enhancing educational success, fostering social competences, facilitating work-life balance and mitigating the impact of various risk factors. Despite the acknowledged significance of supporting families through policies and practices, exists a lack of instruments and tools for designing policy/services with a "family thinking" approach. This deficiency leaves practitioners inadequately equipped to design programs addressing diverse range of family dynamics. To addresses this gap, this study explores how the Family Impact Lens (Bogenschneider, Little, Ooms, Benning, Cadigan & Corbett, 2012) and its Italian adaptation, the FamILens (Carrà, 2023), can align policies and services with the specific needs of families. The objective of the study was to define and validate four Family Impact Checklist specifically for use in four key areas of intervention: family mediation, elderly home care, human resources management, and social services in child protection. Each study incorporated co-design sessions and a two-round Delphi involving over 15 experts in each domain. The four adapted Checklists encompass a variable number of items across six "think family" principles: family responsibility, family stability, family relationship, family diversity, family engagement, and family networking. After this phase, four large-scale family impact analysis will use surveys through the validated checklists targeting statistically significative samples of professionals. These developed tools can aid professionals in formulating impactful, family-friendly programs that ultimately lead to enhanced individual and community well-being.

Social Workers' and Children's Perspectives on Grief in Family and Close Relationship

Paula Vainikka, Henna Pirskanen

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Children can experience different griefs in their lives. Grief can be caused by, for example, the death or illness of a

close one, ending of a friendship, or many other adversities in life. In this presentation, we explore grief from social workers' and children's perspectives to gain a multi-faceted understanding of the phenomenon, and draw on the concept of relationality.

The presentation is based on two sub-studies conducted in the wider research project Children's and young people's sorrow and grief in family and close relationships (2020-2025) in which data has been collected from children, young people and professionals in Finland and Spain. The first sub-study comprise interviews from social workers (n=18) in Finland. The second sub-study data comprise grief maps, along with interviews, from children (n=21) aged 8-9 years in Finland. We ask 1) what kinds of manifestations of children's grief do social workers interpret and recognize in their work and 2) what family and close relationships children describe as, on one hand, supporting, and on the other hand, as related to the causes of their grief?

Our results imply that social workers perceive children's grief as related to relationships. They only very rarely see it manifested as a "pure" feeling of grief, but often manifested in different ways. Respectively, children's grief map analyses illuminate the various ways in which children's grief is embedded in family and close relationships both as causes of difficult emotions and as sources of help and support. The findings highlight the importance of professionals' ability to recognize and work with children experiencing grief, and the importance of giving children an opportunity to define grief and the relationships attached to it.

Discourses on Work-Family – and School-Family-Relations: Children's Counter Positions

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In conservative welfare states, the approach to children in families is ambivalent. On the one hand, families are made responsible for children; on the other hand, public access to and interest in children has increased.

This connection is approached differently in political discourses on work-family and school-family relations. Work-family relations are dominated by an adult-centered view on parents' work-life balance and further a conflicting relation of working parenthood and (good) childhood. In school-family relations, attention is paid to children's future outcomes, which creates tensions of the family as both a site of (missing) education and of (good) childhood. In both cases, family and home seem to be contested site for children with figures such as the overburdened or unskilled family.

Interestingly, these two aspects of working parenthood and family as a place for education are rarely connected in discussions about "how childhood is done" (Spyrou et al. 2019, p. 8).

To unravel these assumptions about family and home in children's lives on theoretical and political levels as well as in everyday life we explore/focus on/research children's positions in home/work and home/school relations. With a situational analysis, we examine children's everyday life with home-based working parents in Austria (n=11 families) and children's (n=43) positions on family-school relations in Germany on base of two qualitative muti-methods studies. We show the heterogenous, overseen, and contradictious discursive positions on home and family and argue that to understand children's lives we need to include the junctions of family and home with work and schools from a generational-relational perspective.

The Impact of COVID Social Policies on Gender Relations in Central and Eastern Europe

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The pandemic created a lot of stress on families, as parents had to take care of sick children and at times stay at home during lockdowns. We conducted a survey of parents living in Czechia, Hungary and Slovakia which included questions both about how COVID influenced their work-life balance and how social policies might have helped them deal with the situation. This includes questions about which parent stayed at home or if both stayed at home, how long they stayed at home during lockdowns, who did most of the childcaring and household tasks when they stayed at home, how different types of social policies helped them cope with the situation, etc. Our paper will investigate both how the pandemic influenced work-life balance and how social policies influenced this. We have chosen 3 neighboring countries to compare the situation to see if any differences emerged. All 3 countries have hybrid welfare systems that have been strongly influenced by Bismarckian pre-communist traditions with genderizing family policies; yet, they also have quite different political developments. Hungary has deviated the most as it is moving in the direction of one-party rule and an "illiberal" state, while Slovak politics has been dominated by a large number of populist parties of various colors, including a party devoted to families (We are Family). Czechia had a coalition of a centrist-populist and social democrats that was replaced by a center-right coalition.

RN13 | T06_02: Negotiating work-family constraints

Early Motherhood and Labour Market Outcomes across Europe: the Role of Cultural Age Norms across European Welfare States

Julie Winters, Nadia Sturm, Jan Van Bavel

KU Leuven, Belgium

Due to rising educational attainment and an increased participation in the labour market, balancing family and professional responsibilities has become a persistent challenge for many European women. This is often perceived as one of the main reasons why these women have been delaying significant life events such as childbirth in the past decades. We investigate the impact of early motherhood on labour market outcomes across various European contexts, where countries differ in cultural age norms as well as family and labour market policies. In general, motherhood coming earlier than cultural norms prescribe, is expected to be associated with less favourable labour market outcomes. In countries with an extensive social safety net and higher levels of gender equality, this negative impact of early motherhood may be attenuated. We investigate these issues using the Timing of Life Module from the European Social Survey data from 2018, covering 29 countries. Preliminary results show that there is an association between early motherhood and unemployment in Europe. In Mediterranean countries early motherhood can be linked to more part time labour and in liberal welfare states with unemployment. Against expectations, early motherhood in social-democratic countries is associated with both more unemployment and part time labour. Since we find that the welfare state typology used so far does not work well to make sense of diversity across Europe, we will next move away from this clustering and employ multilevel modeling and fixed effects models to address cultural and institutional differences.

What Did You Say, Where Are we Going on Sunday? – Societal Dimensions of the Mental Work of Employed Mothers

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Physical and emotional labour are frequent topics in research on gender inequality within the private sphere, whereas mental labour, though heavily pervasive, has remained mostly overlooked. Mental labour involves managerial responsibilities such as anticipating needs, identifying options, making decisions, and monitoring their execution for all household members. Primarily performed by women, it often detrimentally influences their overall well-being, especially in case of employed mothers. Our mixed-methods study on domestic mental labour explores the complex dynamics of underexplored elements of traditional gender roles in heterosexual relationships. The analysis first focuses on quantitative data on gender division of mental labour within heterosexual relationships, particularly in societal aspects related to maintaining social support networks and planning and organizing family life and time. The data, collected in 2022 from a representative sample of individuals in heterosexual relationships in Croatia, explores gender differences in the allocation of these responsibilities. The scale encompasses items covering various domestic mental work facets, such as planning time with a partner, arranging gatherings, planning celebrations, coordinating vacations, and reminding of important events and birthdays. Integrated with the survey data, insights from semi-structured interviews with employed mothers conducted in 2023 offer a multifaceted understanding of mental labour division. This research segment explores whether traditional gender roles persist and what impact they exert on quality of life for working mothers. The qualitative depth provided by interviews enriches the quantitative analysis by bringing nuanced perspectives of working mothers concerning the challenges and experiences of allocation of responsibilities and balancing mental labour.

Home Office as a Practice in Which the Boundaries Between Work and Home Are Negotiated.

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The paper deals with the issue of home office, which has become a common type of employment in Slovakia only in the period of the Covid 19 pandemic (2020-2021), due to the risk of spreading the infectious disease. The sudden and strict introduction of the home office has affected the whole of society by leading to various unexpected, unpredictable and unrecognised situations for both employers and employees, as well as for their family members.

This paper will focus on the theme of negotiating the boundaries of actors between work and home in the space of the home. In examining this negotiation, it is particularly concerned with focusing on the gendered aspects of the division of labour, on the aspect of the presence of children requiring care, but also on the time and space in which the actors' negotiation occurs. Relevant theories that address the topic under study include theories of the boundaries between work and family or theories of the dichotomy of public and private space.

The paper is based on the findings of quantitative research conducted on a representative sample of respondents working in home offices in Slovakia. The quantitative research, constructed from several dimensions, provides, by mapping the attitudes and opinions of the respondents,

insights that will help to understand more deeply the processes and interactions taking place in the home environment of which the home office is a part. They can also contribute to better setting processes, conditions and boundaries between private and public. The findings are unique in Slovakia, as previous research has only addressed the issue of home-office from the perspective of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Couples' Careers Revisited: the Role of Gender Ideologies

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We assess the role of gender ideologies for couples' work trajectories, using data from the German panel study Labour Market and Social Security (PASS). First, we conduct a multichannel sequence analysis to identify work trajectories of heterosexual couples in intensive family formation age (she < age 40). Second, trajectories are predicted based on partners' individual and joint gender ideologies as well as social structural characteristics.

We identify six typical work trajectories, three of which clearly dominate, accounting for more than 80 percent of couples: (1) dual fulltime, (2) marginal secondary and (3) one-and-a-half earner, all featuring a male fulltime earner. The less common patterns are (4) dual limited and unstable employment, (5) dual precarious, and (6) male breadwinning-female homemaking.

Regression models indicate that gender ideologies matter for some but not all joint work trajectories. Most importantly, gender ideologies predict dual fulltime trajectories: couples' joint egalitarianism fosters and believes in separate spheres hinder adopting this trajectory. At the same time, these essentialist believes increase the likelihood of adopting a marginal secondary earner trajectory. His but not her gender ideologies offer explanatory potential beyond social structural characteristics.

RN13 | T06_03: Multiculturality in place and space

Between Guest and Family: Diversified Family Boundaries and Tensions in Host Families for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

Ines Gottschalk, Franziska Seipelt

Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

This presentation focuses on host families of unaccompanied refugee minors. At present, due to various global conflicts within and outside Europe, issues relating to the care and support of these young people have become increasingly topical and relevant for the sociological research landscape.

Host families are broadly defined as various temporary, family-like constellations that accompany a refugee who has come to Germany without a parent or guardian. The unaccompanied adolescent is integrated into an existing social structure in different ways, so that the relationships within the family are centered around them. Consequently, we ask: How is the understanding of the (nuclear) family collectively renegotiated, and to what extent must all family members undergo identity changes within it?

The microsociological, praxeological study examines host families in an interpretative-qualitative paradigm from an emic perspective. In the data collection phase, five families were interviewed through family talks, along with biographical-narrative individual and couple interviews. A special methodological feature of the study is the triangulation of collective and individual negotiations of (family-)life, as well as the consideration of different points of view from the host family members.

A characteristic of the host family is that the family boundary is (temporarily) extended, and that family members apply different understandings to the family, which can cause tension among members. Especially young refugees occupy a precarious and constantly renegotiated position between being a guest and a family member. The host family and refugee, as an extension of the 'nuclear family', thus exemplifies a life (together) in transition, influencing the formation of relationships and the development of identity for all parties involved.

Mothering in Informal Cubicle Homes: Spatiality, Care Infrastructure, and Intergenerational Relationships

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Despite growing scholarly attention given to housing informality as a consequence of spatial injustice and housing inequality, the contextualized impact of informal housing on family relationships is still under-documented. Home is a place where everyday care work takes place, through which individuals conceive their identities and maintain family lives. It is also the corporeal site in which intersectional inequalities are manifested in everyday settings, particularly central to women's lives because they are usually the primary caregivers. Capitalizing on the literature on space and care infrastructure, this study investigates the reproduction of intersecting marginalization of gender, class, migration status, and housing informality, by focusing on the mothering practices of migrant women and intergenerational interactions in subdivided flats in Hong Kong – tiny units divided from a larger domestic quarter that house the city's low-income families. Data was collected through years of ethnographic observations and in-depth interviews conducted with tenants. Based on the biographical stories of 47 families, the findings illustrate the centrality of space in the construction of motherhood and how female migrants deployed spatial strategies to sustain family lives in impoverished conditions. The narratives of both the mothers and the children demonstrate how the hegemonic discourses of motherhood – which are configured under a neoliberal and traditional familial culture – were replicated and challenged. Resonating with the experiences of many metropolitan cities and urban areas across the globe, this article sheds light on the unacknowledged care labor of migrant mothers and problematizes the stigmatization of migrant motherhood in the context of housing informality.

Tensions and Negotiation Regarding Children Education: Mutual Life and Coping Strategies of Women in Intercultural Jewish-Arab Families in Israel

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The number of mixed couples has increased in recent years in Israel, with several thousands of them being Jewish-Muslim mixed couples. Studies which examined how mixed Muslim-Non-Muslim couples cope with their shared life, found that the non-Muslim women display, both at the interpersonal and in the raising children aspects, full assimilation into the Arab culture, or maintain a mutual acculturation pattern.

Following these findings, the present study examines, through in-depth interviews with 13 Jewish Israeli middle-class women married to Muslim Arab Israeli men, the coping strategies used by the women regarding their daily mutual life and their children's education, such as the language spoken at home, and children's educational institutions.

The findings differ from previous studies, show that the interviewees have a wide range of coping strategies: on the one end, there are families who display full assimilation into Muslim culture. On the other end, there are families in which a complete assimilation of Jewish culture is done by the partners. In between, there are families in which mutual acculturation of both spouses occurs either through daily confrontations or through respectful, democratic negotiations based on acceptance and tolerance towards the other culture.

These findings imply that the existence of these intercultural families, and the ongoing negotiations that occur within them, reveal cracks in the rigid ethno-national-religious boundaries which prevail among the social groups in Israel. In addition, they teach how daily tensions can be resolved through trust and a willingness to mutual transformation on the part of both partners.

Attitudes towards Sexual Liberalization in the Turkish Second Generation in Europe

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This paper examines attitudes toward premarital sexual relationships among second-generation Turkish migrants and their non-migrant counterparts in six European countries. Attitudes toward virginity at marriage are crucial for understanding demographic variations across countries and within social groups, reflecting the liberalization of family values as a driving force of the Second Demographic Transition. Moreover, attitudes toward virginity serve as a significant marker for gender inequality. Life-course research on the transition to adulthood and union formation reveals persistent differences between immigrant and native groups in Europe, such as leaving the parental home, marriage, and childbearing among immigrants from countries with a Muslim tradition.

Data from the project on The Integration of the European Second Generation (TIES) in Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland were used. The sample included 4770 respondents (aged 18 to 35 years), with 49.5% being Turkish migrant descendants. Respondents were asked about the acceptability of premarital sexual relations for both men and women. Three research hypotheses were investigated: 1) Building on assimilation theory, second-generation Turks may hold more conservative attitudes than natives. 2) Comparative integration context theory suggests cross-country variations in attitudes toward virginity. 3) Socio-cultural determinants of attitudes

toward premarital sex, including gender, education, and religiosity, were explored.

Results indicate that Turks in countries with more liberal values among the majority groups also hold more liberal values, albeit at a lower level on average. Minimal differences were found between female and male respondents, although virginity at marriage was deemed more important for women than for men.

RN13 | T06_04: Dating and matchmaking

Dating in a Divided Society: Mixed-religion relationships among 16-year-olds in Northern Ireland

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Northern Ireland is a society emerging from significant violent conflict. Although the height of sectarian violence has passed, the legacy of these tensions remains including segregated social spaces such as neighborhoods and schools. As the most intimate type of community-mixing, romantic relationships can provide a useful lens to determine how much progress has been made in removing barriers for inter-group relations across the divide. Mixed-marriages (Catholics and Protestants) have remained relatively low at around 10% despite the lowering of sectarian tensions. Intimate relationships of young people who were born in NI during the peace process can provide insight on mixed-relationship trends as well as identify if barriers remain for cross-community mixing. This study utilizes the 2023 Young Life and Times, a large scale annual representative survey of 16-year-old in NI (n= 2,065) to run multinomial logistic analysis examining what characteristics influence the likelihood of dating someone of a different religion. The results show that religious identity, religiously segregated environments, and where the young person met their partner influenced the likelihood of dating someone from a different religion compared to same religion. The research findings suggest opportunities to meet may be playing a role in barriers to mixed-religion dating in NI among young people alongside preferences and third party resistance. The research addresses gaps in the literature by investigating prevalence of mixed-relationships among young people and examining how opportunities to meet can shape the prevalence of cross-community dating within the NI context. Implications are discussed.

Intimate Tensions: Transformation and Trust in the Negotiation of Gendered and Sexual Relationships on Dating Apps

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This paper draws on data from a UK Economic and Social Research Council funded study of dating app use before, during and after Covid social restrictions, to examine the tensions experienced by heterosexual and lesbian, gay, gay and queer (LGBQ) identified people in negotiating digital intimacies. Drawing on nationwide survey of over 824 people in the UK who used dating apps (with roughly equal

numbers of heterosexual and LGBQ participants), and 53 qualitative interviews), it identifies (i) the diverse personal and social factors that lead people to use dating apps, (ii) the intimate tensions that participants experienced, and their implications for trust, and (iii) how such tensions were linked to how dating apps commodify intimacy. Dating apps can appear to provide 'new' and experimental ways of doing intimacy that can be personally and socially transformative, especially at times of personal and social crisis. However, this masks the ways in which, in the pursuit of profit, they also bolster socially entrenched gender practices. We argue that the tensions that dating app users experience emerge from how dating apps commodify intimacy, which undermines intimae trust and sets limits on the transformation of gendered intimacies

Who is Our Better Half? A Study About the Characteristics That Spanish Take into Account when Looking for a Partner

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The way of looking for a partner is conditioned by the social context. In the new digital society, matchmaking processes are mediated by new information and communication technologies, affecting both expectations and behaviours. This study examines the social transformations within the matchmaking market, considering structural and cultural factors. Structurally, some factors are essential: demographic changes, characteristics of the middle class, and increased matchmaking opportunities through ICT. Culturally, the analysis includes trends towards relational individualism, the romantic love's role, the magnitude of emotional elements in the digital society, and the eroticization of daily life.

The research adopts a triple theoretical perspective, economic, social psychology, and sociological. Exchange theory encompassing economic, status, educational, and erotic elements, is employed alongside social psychology to explore the personality aspects contributing to stable relationships. Sociology investigates the interpersonal dynamics when seeking a partner, emphasizing communication, sincerity, agreements, and sexual satisfaction.

The aim is to analyze significant factors that spanish value when initiating romantic relationships, such as money, age, beauty, marriage intentions, religious values, etc. Data is derived from a national opinion survey conducted by the "Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS)" in October 2021. Descriptive analysis identifies crucial characteristics, followed by multivariate techniques like cluster analysis to categorize individuals based on common factors. Three typologies—idealistic, traditional, and communicative—are defined, reflecting changing preferences: traditional emphasizing romantic love, idealistic being more materialistic, and communicative emphasizing equality and independence.

Tension, Trust and Transformation: Indian Family in Online Matchmaking

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With the advent of the internet technology and its widespread use, the Internet has come to act as 'social intermediary' in matchmaking across the world. This study explores (whether and) how the internet influences marriage choices and family dynamics during match-fixing in the Indian context. It seeks to un-weave the individual-family-community interaction in the context of changing gender norms. The findings of the study are based on both qualitative and quantitative data gathered through mixed methods (such as profile analysis, personal interviews and participant observation).

Using a combination of theories, debates and concepts (Giddens 'theory of structuration' and Bourdieu's 'theory of practice' along with Feminist notion of selfhood and autonomy), the paper reflects upon the prescriptive, restrictive and supportive role played by the family in the context of online spouse selection. The study, thereby, documents continuity and change in family structure, norms and values by exhibiting the tension and trust between the individual and family and the process of transformation in the realm of matchmaking in India. Findings of the study indicate towards a preference for mutual compatibility and intimacy among individuals nevertheless maintaining the centrality of the family.

RN13 | T07_01: Transnational families

Perspectives of Children and on Children in Transnational Custody Conflicts

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In light of rising global mobilities, more children are growing up in transnational families. When it comes to separation or divorce, questions or conflicts about cross-border custody are becoming increasingly relevant. Parental divorce and separation in transnational families have a massive impact on children's lives and yield complex family situations and transitions. When considering children as active agents within families, however, it becomes clear that their experiences and perspectives are still not considered adequately. Focusing on children in transnational custody conflicts is needed, particularly in the theoretical frame of the Doing Family concept: it is assumed that children do family themselves, and have agency within their families.

In our contribution, we examine the perspectives of children and on children. We ask how children experience transnational custody conflicts in transnational families, and how their situation is negotiated by other kin and network members. To this end, we rely on qualitative multiple-perspective interviews with members of transnational families who experience(d) transnational custody conflicts (currently 13 interviews; ongoing data collection). Data are analyzed according to the Grounded Theory Methodology coding scheme. First findings show that children develop strong opinions when it comes to their role in transnational custody conflicts. They are concerned with their future and are aware of the different levels of conflict, located in their families, wider kin networks, or in a broader societal context. At the same time, they struggle with the lengthy and time-consuming character of legal proceedings. Parents express strong feelings like guilt, fear, or anger, and construct their children as needing protection within the conflict.

Navigating Emotions In Transnational Family Reorganization After Separation Or Divorce: Mothers' Experiences Across Borders

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With increased global mobility, a growing number of individuals establish transnational family ties. Simultaneously, transnational divorces and separations that unfold within complex social, cultural, and legal contexts become more frequent. Conflicts over parental rights and responsibilities can lead to legal battles over children's custody, or to cases of international parental child abduction or relocation. Amidst such emotionally intense and conflictual situations, establishing new family structures across national borders yields emotionally charged reorganization processes.

This contribution explores how mothers who experience conflictual transnational divorces or separations navigate and manage their emotions. Theoretically, we draw upon the concepts of emotion work (Hochschild), emotional reflexivity (Holmes), and the ambiguous loss theory (Boss). Empirically, the study relies on an in-depth qualitative analysis of ten narrative interviews with mothers from post-separation transnational families.

Results show that maternal emotion work and emotional reflexivity are essential in the organization of post-separation parenthood, in interactions with various family members, and within the complex legal frameworks of transnational families. Mothers' emotion work is guided by feeling rules, generated by social norms. While social and legal expectations emphasize unemotional and rational decisions, mothers find themselves within a highly emotional climate of fear, uncertainty, powerlessness, and loss of control. They struggle with expectations to manage their own emotions in order to ensure their children's well-being while simultaneously responding to emotions of their children, ex-partners, and extended family. Mothers' experiences are substantially shaped by the resources they have at their disposal.

Negotiating Gender in Transnational Conjugality: The Experience of Post-Soviet Women Living in France

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Drawing on a study conducted among French-post-Soviet couples residing in France, this paper delves into the intricate implications of migratory experiences and transnational conjugality on gender dynamics. When post-Soviet women migrate and establish intimate relationships with partners in the destination country, they experience a shift of gender regime (Connell 1987). For some of them, this shift is intentional, forming part of a deliberate gender project: they use international matchmaking precisely to avoid the gender regime they encountered in post-Soviet countries (unequal relationships, unreliable partners, marginalization on matrimonial market, etc.). For others, shifting gender regime may occur without deliberate intention. In these cases, women share accounts of intimate interactions where, at times, conventional gender expectations are momentarily suspended. When "doing gender" (West & Zimmerman 1987) is impossible, the gender regime's norms and rules are revealed and denaturalized. Beyond these temporary disruptions in interactions (Goffman 1974), the women's comparative assessments witness a relaxation of gender norms, challenging traditional definitions of masculinity and femininity from the women's perspectives. This demonstrates the transformative power of migration on gender relations and sheds light on the opportunities for increased agency and freedom that transnational conjugality

and migratory experiences can offer. Consequently, this paper advocates for a different perspective on the understanding of gender dynamics within the context of migration and conjugality, by taking into serious account the women's comparative assessments, and considering their analyses and reflexivities on gender, which are shaped at the crossroads of their home and destination countries.

RN13 | T07_02: (Un)making intimate ties

From the Formation of the Couple to the Breakup. Practices and Perceptions of Couple Relationships of Young People Today

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This study aims to analyze the new practices and perceptions of Spanish youth regarding couples. We want to know how the relationship formation process works, its dynamics and management of the breakup. The aim is to identify the factors that intervene and acquire importance in each of the stages of life as a couple, from union to dissolution. We will study what have been the main changes in couple relationships and the management of intimacy in recent decades, since this social phenomenon has experienced important alterations. Among these changes, it is worth highlighting the development and greater prominence acquired by new technologies in daily life. Quantitative and qualitative information has been combined. As for the first, secondary sources of quantitative data have been used to reflect the main characteristics of young couples. Regarding the qualitative methodology, information from the GESTIM Project financed by the BBVA (The management of intimacy in the information and knowledge society) has been used. Three discussion groups of young people between 18 and 29 years old have been held, considering the geographical area, as well as sex, level of education, profession, and romantic situation.

Waiting Ever After: A Conceptualisation Of Chronic Readiness

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Previous studies have indicated the importance of commitment readiness (i.e., the feeling of being "ready" to commit to another person) in successfully forming and maintaining romantic relationships. The experience of commitment readiness has been found to support the development of skills that facilitate bonding processes (e.g., being more conscious of one's appearance or being more sociable towards potential dating partners), increasing one's motivation to invest in and maintain a relationship. Consequently, commitment readiness is associated with more stable relationships, leading to greater well-being.

However, when commitment readiness persists for an extended period without resulting in a romantic bond, the prolonged feeling of wanting to commit may lead to what has recently been identified as "chronic readiness". These individuals might be under the impression that certain relationship skills are present, but if they do not succeed in forming a romantic relationship, this could lead to insecurity and diminished confidence, which, in turn, hinders relationship formation.

As of now, knowledge on chronic readiness is quite scarce, as the concept has not yet been fully developed – neither theoretically, nor empirically. For example, it remains unclear whether and when a breaking point can be identified at which commitment readiness becomes "chronic" and potentially problematic regarding relationship formation. Using data from the German Family Panel (Pairfam), this paper investigates the presence of significant changes in behaviour or beliefs related to finding a partner that can be attributed to being chronically ready for a commitment. In doing so, this study forms an important step in making chronic readiness identifiable and operationalisable and in better understanding the duality through which commitment readiness can affect relationship formation.

Intergenerational Perspectives on Instability Within Family Transitions

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Seen as the last steps in transitions-to-adulthood, entering a stable relationship (partnering) and having a child (parenting) represent the key markers in family transitions. While the changing norms regarding love and relationships, family formation, as well as reproduction, largely offer freedom and agency, such a multiplicity of individual pathways also creates an intergenerationally increasing sense of instability. To that end, young adults today face 'risky freedoms' (Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, 2004) when they consider settling down and/or taking on parental roles. Thus, the paper explores 'instability' in family transitions from an intergenerational perspective, demonstrating the shift towards recognizing more ambivalence and shakiness in family decisions.

The data stems from the ULTRAGEN project (Becoming an adult in times of ultra-uncertainty), specifically its WP2 component implemented as Multi-Perspective Qualitative Longitudinal Research (MPQLR). Over two waves, 121 interviews were completed in 2021 and 2023 with members of 35 family dyads consisting of young adults (aged 18-35) and one parent each.

The analysis focuses on the narratives of family transitions, i.e., framings of partnering and parenting decisions and paths, as well as mutual intergenerational evaluations of attitudes and choices, i.e., comparative understandings of how (and why) one's parent/child thinks about partnering and parenting in certain ways. These are explored through an intergenerational look at 'risky freedoms' within relational and reproductive choices. We demonstrate a profound sense of both personal and structural instability in the changing attitudes towards family transitions among young adults. 'Shakiness' is also recognized by the parents' generation as a major hurdle for the family transitions they wish for their children.

Family Formation in the Neonatal Intensive Care Environment: Investigating the Impact of Preterm Birth on the Well-being of Mothers and Fathers of Preterm Infants

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The experience of premature birth does not impact solely on the infant and the parents as individuals. Still, it occurs in the context of a critical point in time when they are developing a relationship with one another as a family. Indeed, factors such as parental well-being and family cohesion significantly contribute to the child's developmental outcomes (Elgar et al., 2004). Nevertheless, studies largely focus on the mother-child dyad (DeMier et al., 2000), thus the challenges of preterm fatherhood are so far under-investigated (Mackley et al., 2010).

This paper assesses the stress level of 104 mothers and fathers of preterm babies admitted to intensive and sub-intensive care in two Northern Italy units and its association with clinical (referring to their babies' health conditions) and socio-demographic (referring to families) variables. Indeed, social determinants of health (such as education, occupational social class, job insecurity, employment status, and nationality) have been scrutinized as risk factors for preterm delivery (Dolatian et al., 2012; Weightman et al., 2012) and still rarely investigated in the complexity of the neonatal intensive care environment (Dudek-Shriber, 2004; Ballantyne et al., 2013; Stevenson, 2021).

The study utilized standardized questionnaires with internationally validated scales to evaluate the well-being of parents at the time of discharge and it was conducted on parents of a premature newborn who had survived and were being discharged after a minimum of 10 days of NICU stay. The results suggest that families' unique characteristics and living conditions may impact their response to the hospitalized infant's situation.

RN13 | T07_03: Parenting adult children

Expectations and Experiences of Mothering Adult Children in Later Life: A Comparison between Turkey and the U.S.

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Motherhood ideologies are powerful cultural forces which exert tremendous pressure on women of younger children. However, mothering adult children is a topic that has received little attention in both family and gerontology scholarship. The popular notion of the parental role drastically transforming and even disappearing when children transition to adulthood, often idealized as clear-cut independence from one's parents in Western cultures, may explain the relatively scant attention to motherhood in later life. In this paper, I examine the expectations and experiences of older mothers of adult children to understand how they compare to earlier mothering with a cross-cultural comparison between Turkey and the U.S. The data for this study come from semi-structured in-depth interviews conducted with 23 American and 21 Turkish mothers who are above 60 years old and have at least two living adult children of their own. Mothers in both samples identified ways in which their experiences with motherhood for adult children differed significantly from their experiences with younger children but were still important. Yet, how they interpreted their motherly responsibilities to their adult children varied between two countries due to the cultural values of independence at adulthood vs. familism. The most striking differences were in how normative they considered financial support and giving advice. These expectations were also subjected to changing needs and demands of their adult children. This study contributes to the literature by showing how mothering activities and expectations are subject to change in later life and shaped by cultural context.

The Role Of Physical And Digital Proximity In The Quality Of European Intergenerational Relations

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Parent-child relationships are amongst the most emotionally intense ties with both positive and negative aspects. In our study, we explore how the quality of these relations is associated with the physical and digital proximity of adult children to their parents. Generally, ties are thought to be stronger when generations live physically closer, as it allows for a higher level of contact, support and more frequent interaction. However, with the recent surge in the usage of digitally mediated communication, the question of how the use of digital platforms affects the quality of intergenerational relations and whether physical distance can be "bridged" by using digital forms of communication arises.

Using data from the European Social Survey (2020-2022), our research provides a wide comparative perspective, as we examine the proposed association in 28 European nations for adult children with alive parent(s) and parents with adult children as well. We measure the quality of intergenerational relations via the reported level of emotional closeness, and our key independent variables are physical distance indicated by travel time and the frequency of digital contact via phones, messaging or digital screens. Preliminary results suggest that physical distance reduces the quality of intergenerational relationship in most countries, while digital forms of contact have a less widespread but (if significant) strong positive effect. Interaction models imply that a combination of digital avenues may have a pronounced effect in certain countries, and that the negative effect of physical distance can be compensated by digital avenues to a limited degree.

Reconfiguring Relations in the Empty Nest – The comparison of Polish and French Empty Nesters.

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The empty nest phase involves significant reconfigurations of family dynamics, relationships, roles, and emotions. While many psychological studies have investigated empty nest as a period of the family life cycle (Duvall 1971; Feeney et al. 1994; Liberska 2014), sociological studies of this phenomenon are less common and focus on dichotomic questions, such as whether the empty nest brings the risk of marital dissolution or whether it is a chance to renew the relationship between the spouses (Dennerstein et al. 2002; Schmidt et al. 2004; Mitchell and Lovegreen 2009).

Adult children are completing their education, finding a job, and leaving home at a later age on average in many countries (Cherlin 1997, Seiffge-Krenke 2013, Beaupré et al. 2018, cf. Eurostat). In many aspects changes in the dynamics of the transition to adulthood in Poland and France are similar to situations observed elsewhere in Europe and the USA (Arnett 2000; Galland 2003; Benson and Furstenberg 2006; Gillespie 2020; Van de Velde 2008).

Are there cultural differences among parents who face this stage of family life?

The project "Till death do us part... " consisted of 260 in-depth qualitative interviews executed in Poland and France between 2019 and 2022.

Our outcomes (Żadkowska et al. 2024) show that the empty nest phase is a transformative period that challenges and reshapes family dynamics, identities, emotions, and relationships. It highlights the interplay between personal experiences and societal expectations. There are many similarities between Polish and French parents in navigating this pivotal stage of life. Still, some differences mirror either the social system or the cultural norms and beliefs that shape social and gender roles.

The Impact Of Parental Divorce On The Leaving Home Process Of Adult Children In Southern EuropO

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In Spain, as in other southern European countries, the family is a fundamental source of support in life processes such as transitions to adulthood for young people. However, the changes that have taken place in the family sphere, such as the consolidation and extension of divorce (Requena and Ayuso, 2021), make us wonder what impact this may have on intergenerational support networks. This paper presents part of the results of a research project that forms part of a doctoral thesis. The aim is to analyse the family support that children of divorced parents receive from both parents during the process of leaving home in Spain. To this end, in-depth interviews were conducted with both the children and their own parents.

The selection criteria for young people are: being children of divorced parents, being between 25 and 35 years old, and having ever lived away from parent's home. The sampling criteria are established according to sex, social class of origin and level of education. Spain being a family-oriented country where family support strategies during the process of youth emancipation are based on the possibility of prolonging co-residence or returning to the parents' home, we found differences in the discourse of these young people related to the changes that parental divorce introduces in terms of these support strategies.

RN13 | T08_01: Gender and family roles I

"Momma Knows Best?": Untangling the Links Between Mothers' and Fathers' Traditional Gender Values and Their Parenting Practices

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In this study we used gender essentialism as a lens to examine culturally embedded gender inequalities between mothers and fathers. Gender essentialism pertains to the belief that men and women are biologically distinct, and thus better suited for different societal roles and behaviors (Bem, 1993), including parental roles (Hays, 1996). In the specific context of parenting, an essentialist view of gender can explain traditional gender values and expectations, seeing mothers as better suited to caring for children. Previous research has focused on the relationship between parents' traditional gender values and their involvement mostly in terms of quantity, that is hours spent on childcare. By focusing on the quality of parental involvement, this study aimed to fill previous gaps by investigating the relationships between mothers' and fathers' gender essentialist beliefs and their involvement in positive (i.e., parental responsiveness, autonomy support) and negative parenting practices (overprotection, controlling parenting). Our sample consisted of 1,260 Belgian heterosexual parents (Mage = 49.6 years old; 62% of mothers) of adolescents. For both mothers and fathers, the endorsement of gender essentialist beliefs was related to more involvement in negative parenting practices. Additionally, among fathers, gender essentialist beliefs were associated with less involvement in positive practices. These findings highlight the importance of considering parental gender values when studying parenting, as these can play an important role in understanding the quality of parents' involvement in their children's lives.

Examining the Interplay Between Fathers' Involvement and Mothers' Gender Essentialist Beliefs about Parenthood

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Despite changing societal expectations towards fathers' involvement in family life, important gender disparities persist within most Western countries (Sullivan et al., 2018). Research has increasingly investigated the factors that might hinder fathers' involvement and try to understand contemporary family dynamics. In this study, we address the question of the potential mechanisms that might underlie this persistent gender gap. We longitudinally tested two hypotheses: (1) mothers' endorsement of gender essentialist beliefs, according to which fathers are biologically less suited to parenting (Pinho & Gaunt, 2021), would predict less father involvement across time through mothers' gatekeeping (i.e., maternal behaviors that discourage and control fathers' involvement in childcare); (2) fathers' lower involvement would, in turn, predict mothers' endorsement of gender essentialist beliefs across time. Thereby, we particularly focused on positive types (i.e., responsiveness and autonomy support) and negative types (i.e., overprotective and controlling parenting) of involvement. We used three-wave longitudinal data from 167 heterosexual Belgian couples. Cross-lagged models indicated that mothers' essentialist beliefs did not significantly predict change in any of the fathers' parenting practices. However, each of the four parenting dimensions predicted change in mothers' essentialist beliefs. Nevertheless, when we examined the effect of mothers' essentialist beliefs (at T1) on fathers' parenting (at T3) through maternal gatekeeping (at T2), we found evidence for an indirect effect of mothers' essential beliefs on fathers' responsiveness, autonomy support, and controlling parenting. In conclusion, our findings highlight that mothers' gender essentialist beliefs about parenthood and fathers' parenting may mutually reinforce each other across time.

The Parental Night Shift: Gendered Inequalities in Night-Time Care in the Accounts of Finnish Parents.

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This paper examines gendered inequalities in parenting in families with young children from the novel perspective of night-time care and the intimate, 'forgotten hours' between late evenings and early mornings. This 'parental night shift' is studied in the era of intensive parenting, in which the expectations placed on parents – especially mothers – have shifted dramatically over recent decades and parenting has become more emotionally absorbing, labour intensive, and expert-guided. Theoretically the study is based on family studies, gender research and sociology of sleep. We understood the parental night shift as a form of unpaid, gendered hidden care work. Our starting point is that the requirements of paid work and work life become part of intimate practices and negotiations of care at home, and therefore the paper also draws on the existing work-life and care research.

In the paper we analyse gendered inequalities in night-time care through the written narratives (n = 53) and interviews (n = 25) of Finnish parents of different gender, social class and work-life situation and living in various family configurations. The empirical data gathered in 2022 is analysed by applying discursive and narrative methods.

Our preliminary results suggest that night-time care is highly gendered phenomena and a burden often borne by mothers due to their primary carer roles that relate to embodied, cultural and affective, difficult to describe, reasonings. It also seems that parents' experiences on night-time care vary according to families social class, work-life demands and roles and other factors.

RN13 | T08_02: Violence and constraint in family formation

Exploring Marriage Formation Process through Bride Abduction in South Kazakhstan

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No publicised research has been conducted on bride abductions in Southern Kazakhstan since Werner's research in the 1990s who estimated that about 71% of all marriage cases involved abduction. Based on a PhD research, this presentation aims to address two aspects neglected in previous studies. First, it examines the marriage process through the eyes of not only the brides and the consent given by them, but also through the motives and roles of other actors – family members and the broader community – involved in the marriage formation and decision-making processes, and the influence of socio-economic and cultural norms within which these marriages are formed. Second, it examines how pre-marriage couple relationships are developed in this context.

Building on 56 semi-structured interviews with brides, grooms and their family members, the research confirms that different forms of bride abductions are still common practice in the region. Drawing on Werner's typology, it classifies these as 'non-consensual bride abduction' – in which the bride does not give any consent to the marriage prior to the abduction, and 'semi-consensual bride abduction' – in which the bride does not give her consent to the abduction but sees the young man as a potential groom. However, the research subsequently departs from this typology, by viewing bride abduction and the marriage formation as a complex process which involves different stages and the participation of various actors. It highlights that decisions on marriage are made by families collectively, rather than by isolated actors, as well as the power and gender relations within these processes.

How Common Are Forced Marriages In Germany?

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Forced marriages are repeatedly discussed in the context of integration and migration, in Germany. This has even led to the passing of legislation aimed at strengthening the persecution of forced marriage. So far, research on this topic has focused on women in women's shelters and relied on the social workers' categorization of marriages. While this approach was able to shed light on forced marriages in some particularly conflictual situations, this selective access to the population of interest has left important questions unanswered. Currently, it is neither known, how many people are in a forced marriage, nor which people are affected by it, in Germany.

In our study, we apply a Bayesian network scale-up approach to estimate the number of people in forced marriage and investigate, how forced marriage is distributed by age, gender and migration background. To do this, we leverage two surveys: In the first, we test our survey items and collect context information on a convenience sample to ensure the validity of our approach. We then ask refined questions to a representative sample. This approach allows us for the first time to produce an estimate of the propensity of forced marriage in Germany.

The Role of The Family in Women's Perceptions And Experiences of Violence

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This paper examines the institution of the family in women's perceptions and experiences of intimate partner violence. The study is based on the results of a project which aims to evaluate policies and practices in combating violence against women through a gap analysis method, which was supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) between 2020 and 2023. Data is obtained from semi-structured in-depth interviews conducted with 36 women in 12 provinces of NUTS-1 statistical regions of Turkey. Women in their narratives state that their families of origin come to the fore in three stages in their experiences of and reactions to violence they face from their husbands. Firstly, they state that experiences such as poverty, violence, and loss of parents in their families of origin prevented them from standing on their own feet. Not being able to continue their education, their lack of a profession or a vocation, led them into "wrong" marriages. In the second stage, during the period of post-marital violence, women think that the lack of support from their families causes the violence to continue and accelerate. Those who receive family support say that family support is significant for ending the violent relationship. In the third stage, they say that the positive or negative approaches of their families of origin towards violence they face are effective on their decisions to end the marriage and/ or seeking public institutional support. In conclusion, this study reveals that the family, especially the root family, plays an important role in women's experiences of violence, their perceptions and reactions to violence as well as asking for support from public and non-governmental organizations.

Gendered Rural Housing Pathways of Woman Exiting Patriarchal Families. Empowerment Strategies of Working-class Rural Stayers in Poland.

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To better understand the impact of macro – and meso – changes on family relationships, it is useful to look at rural areas and at the family experiences of rural residents. In particular, the experiences of working class women, whose patterns of empowerment and emancipation from patriarchal family are still little known. The aim of this paper is therefore to discuss two questions. First, what are 'the gendered rural housing pathways' practiced by working-class women who have decided to leave patriarchal family relations (divorce, escape from violence) while still staying in the local social worlds of traditional villages? Second, what are the consequences of these alternative residential trajectories for the social transformation of rural family relations?

The analysis is based on qualitative research conducted in the most traditional eastern region of Poland. The study combines biographical interviews (N=30) and participant ethnography (12 months) conducted between 2018-2022 in the (post)agricultural, Catholic, and far-from-town rural municipality.

By proposing the concept of 'gendered rural housing pathways', I show how the intersection of gender, class and rural locational capitals enables the empowerment of women with the least economic and educational capital (bartering labour for housing, buying own houses). I also analyse the impact of these pioneer biographies on the changes of the moral and families' patterns in the villages studied – in the context of three decades of multidimensional rural transformation (e.g. ageing, depopulation, mobility, deagrarisation and proletarisation) in Poland.

RN13 | T08_03: Parenting challenges

Intensive Parenting Practices in Lithuania: Transgressing the Middle-class Boundaries?

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Researchers argue that while being a middle-class phenomenon intensive parenting increasingly becomes a normative ideology that transcends class boundaries (Sjödin & Roman 2018). This ideology not only prioritizes achievement, competitiveness and instrumentalism but also perceive children as projects to be moulded into a particular kind of social subjects. At the same time this ideology promotes standards by which women and men are defined and judged. Parents and in particularly mothers grapple with constant pressure to be accountable for all aspects of their children's lives.

Despite the normative reach of intensive parenting across social classes, distinct divisions might persist in everyday parenting practices. Middle-class families, with their elevated overall resources, might find it more manageable to navigate the intricacies of intensive parenting, meeting the normative guidelines with greater ease.

Using the data from the representative Families and Inequalities Survey (N=3000), in this paper, we examine how the intensive parenting practices are linked to the social class in Lithuanian society. Our study focuses on families with young children, examining various empirical aspects of intensive parenting. To measure the parenting practices, we use the Parental Efficacy Scale (Van Ijzendoorn et al. 1999) and Parenting Style Scale (Aunolos, Nurmi 2004; Sebre, Jusiene 2015). The social class position is measured with the objective and subjective indicators. Despite expectations, regression analysis, incorporating additional controls, indicates a weak predictive relationship between social class and parenting style and parental efficacy outcomes. This prompts a hypothesis that the weak association may signify the widespread adoption of intensive parenting practices in society. However, the authors caution that measurement issues should also be taken into account when interpreting the findings.

Family Roles And Identities Change In Ukrainian Families In 2022-2024

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The research task of the held project is to reveal how the crucial change in living circumstances have changed the family life, family structure, values, priorities, roles and identities

with the connection to social interests, practices and other social institutions inside and outside of Ukraine.

The project results are based on three main parts of a field work:

1. Survey (August 2023, 3 groups of women, 356 participants from Ukraine) – IDP families; wives, whose husbands are serving / served in 2022-2023; women who have traveled abroad and returned to Ukraine as the refugees, with their family members.

2. Series of in-depth-interviews (Febrary-May 2024, 30 women from the hosting European countries).

3. Survey (February 2024, 3 groups of women, 600 participants from Ukraine and the hosting European countries) – mapping of identities which they are having revealed more or less during the 2-years of the full-scale war period.

The findings cover family composition, family life aspects change, analyzing the women's role in the decision-making and family well-being in the changed circumstances, with a special stress to parenting, partners' relationships, roles and identities shifting.

It is crucial to track the families' transformation within the institutional structure of different (native and hosting) societies.

Comparing the attitudes for the previous / current life of Ukrainian women, we find out their coping strategies and values modification. Also the issue of a transformed social capital is discussed.

Cultural Norms Regarding Parental Employment: A European Comparison

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This study compares cultural norms regarding the labour force involvement of parents with young children in different European countries. A country's political and institutional framework structures gender arrangements by determining parents' options for reconciling family and work and by transmitting cultural norms regarding maternal or paternal roles.

Whereas previous research focused on the effects of welfare states on gender role attitudes in general, we use a more concrete measure: attitudes towards the ideal number of weekly working hours for mothers and fathers with two-year-old children. Thus, we examine attitudes towards the extent and division of parental employment. We use data from over 30,000 respondents aged 18-50 from the 2020 Generations & Gender Programme from six different countries that differ significantly in their policies to support working parents (Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway).

Descriptive analyses show that across countries people consider part-time employment to be ideal for both parents. The ideal working week for fathers ranges from 31.5 hours in Estonia to 35.9 in the Czech Republic. In contrast, the ideal working week for mothers ranges from 9.7 hours in the Czech Republic to 32.2 in Norway. This suggests that people in defamilialistic welfare states are less likely than those in the familialistic countries to support a traditional division of paid work between parents of young children. In multilevel regression analyses, we will further test whether these differences are policy or compositional effects by including macro – and micro-level factors such as country-specific childcare rates or individual educational level.

RN13 | T08_04: Singlehood and childlessness

Unraveling Gendered Trends in Singlehood Across Birth Cohorts and Countries

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Research worldwide has shown an increasing prevalence of the unpartnered and those living alone across all age groups in the last decades. These trends cannot solely be explained by an aging population. Moreover, the trends differ according to gender and show substantial cross-national variation. Singlehood research has been lacking a multidimensional approach, focusing only on a certain type of single, while limited research has pointed towards different trends according to different types of singles. Moreover, there have been different conclusions according to birth cohorts and gender. Therefore, this study aims to bring this together while providing insight into cross-country differences taking different types of singles into account in Europe and the United States, exploring variation according to gender and birth cohort.

For this paper, we map trends in singlehood using multiple longitudinal datasets consisting of retrospective studies (Share, FFS) as well as prospective studies (Pairfam, GSOEP, PSID, Understanding Society). The data includes birth cohorts ranging from 1931-40 to 1971-80 across 42 countries. We use several descriptive methods to map gendered trends, including sequence plots to investigate variation in different types of singlehood among cohorts throughout different life course stages. In line with previous research, we expect a rise in occurrence, but not in the numbers of years spent in singlehood. Furthermore, we expect that the rising prevalence of singlehood is largely due to an increase in singlehood among women in more recent cohorts.

A (Wo)man with a Plan? Understanding Life-course Plans among Single Emerging Adults.

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Even though the number of single (young) adults is rising, singlehood is often seen as a temporary status after which individuals settle with a romantic partner. This paper focuses on developmental tasks that explain periods of singlehood, as some tasks could be prioritised over others. Research among young adults found that being single allowed young adults to pursue individual goals and interests, and therefore, they deliberately delayed romantic involvement. This paper addresses the fundamental assumption behind this rhetoric, which is the idea that emerging adults plan their relationship status. The 'Developmental Tasks'-argument implies a conscious and planned path that young adults foresee for their (future) relationship status. Using 43 qualitative in-depth interviews with single people between 25 and 35 years; we pose the research question of "how emerging adults plan their relationship status if they plan at all?".

The study contributes to the literature by expanding knowledge on reasons for periods of singlehood among emerging adults. It remains to understand how and why young adults plan their relationship status, prioritising certain developmental tasks over romantic involvement. This will give better insights into young adults' life choices and experiences, especially since earlier studies have shown that there are more developmental tasks than in earlier cohorts and that the sequence of these developmental tasks is less fixed.

Is Precarious Union Formation Making it More Difficult for Women with Low Educational Attainment to Enter Motherhood?

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Until recently, highly educated women have been more likely to remain childless than women with lower eductional attainmant but there are signs that this has been changing in a number of European countries. One reason is that is has become increasingly difficult for women with low educational qualifications to secure a stable partnership, which in turn may be related to the rise of the dual earner family model, where women's labour market earnings have become increasingly important for the family's economic wellbeing. Results from single-country studies have shown increasing childlessness and postponement of births among the lower educated indeed, especially in the Nordic countries. Nevertheless, general trends across regions in Europe remain unclear and the focus lies on descriptive results rather than testing causality. The aim of this article, therefore, is analysing how women's likelihood of having a first child is influenced by their educational level and to what extent this relationship can be explained by changing selection into partnerships. We explore these relations using European Social Survey data from 2006 and 2018 from 27 countries. We jointly model union formation and entry into parenthood and their interrelationships using structural equation modeling, and compare the results with what we find for men.

RN13 | T09_01: Gender and family roles II

Attitudes Towards Gender and Family Roles in Czechia: Change Between 2005 and 2020-2022

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Czechia is one of the countries where the employment of women (and mothers) is relatively high, but the division of family responsibilities remains traditionally gendered. This study explores how attitudes towards gender and family roles developed in Czechia between 2005 and 2020-2022. We analyze data from the Generations and Gender Survey, rounds 1 (2005) and 2 (2020-2022). The sample includes 8,543 respondents aged 18-49 years (M = 33.7, SD = 9.2). As measures of attitudes, we utilize respondents' agreement with statements that concern women's and men's roles and the centrality of children in their lives. Data are analyzed using multinomial logistic regression models. The preliminary results suggest a large shift toward less traditional attitudes. The probability of agreeing that women need children to be fulfilled decreased from 0.69 in 2005 to 0.33 in 2020-2022, and agreement that men need children decreased from 0.5 to 0.25. In both cases, women's attitudes changed significantly more than men's, and female respondents considered parenthood less essential in both women's and especially men's lives than male respondents. Men and women were also less likely to think that a preschool child suffers if their mother works in the later period. The changes were dependent on education, with highly educated people experiencing a steeper decrease in traditional attitudes.

Potentials of Innovative Digital Technologies for Household Management

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Mental labor is the invisible and understudied cognitive and emotional work related to childcare and household management. Household tasks and responsibilities which are complex and time-consuming often disproportionately burden women, causing excessive mental load. Digital technologies, and artificial intelligence (AI) in particular, have the potential to revolutionize household management by automating tasks, streamlining communication, and providing personalized support. This study examines the potential of AI tools and other innovative digital technologies for household management, with a focus on gendered differences and a particular emphasis on employed mothers' needs. Findings from a mixed-methods study conducted in Croatia show data from a representative sample of individuals in heterosexual relationships on the gender differences in the use of applications or programs that help to better organize and plan household and family obligations. The interviews with employed mothers provide insights into the specific challenges they face in managing their households and their experiences with different digital tools. The interviews with IT professionals provide insights into the potential of AI to address the challenges faced by employed mothers. Based on the findings of this study, we offer several recommendations for the development of AI tools for household management including personalization, intuitiveness and options for household members collaboration. Development of AI tools that address these recommendations could have a significant impact on the quality of lives of employed mothers. These tools could help to reduce their mental load, improve their work-life balance, and enable a more gender-equal distribution of responsibilities in the private sphere.

Traversing Spatial and Temporal Redefinitions at Home During Long Career-Break: Barriers and Strategies of Return of Women Professionals in the UK

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Amidst the prevalence of research on women returning to work after maternity-break in the UK, this paper focuses on the overlooked experience of women professionals returning from extended career-breaks and asks: how does the experience of extended career-break influence women's perception of barriers, and their strategies of return-to-work?

The paper draws on the structure-agency debate and Anthony Giddens' theory of duality of structure to understand the role of family practices in women's return journey. The theory explains the recursive nature of 'practices' and the constraining and enabling effects of 'structure' within which action takes place. Specifically, the paper employs Giddens' construct of domination (structure) that directs the distribution of resources (modality) and is expressed as power (interaction).

Utilising qualitative data collected through interviews with 42 female participants with career-break between 2 to 10 years and undertaking thematic analysis, the paper illustrates the link between gendered practices at home and individual time-availability, and how it affects family power dynamics and women's re-entry into the workforce. As the couple's relative earnings shape the structure of dominance in unequal distribution of domestic work, power is exercised by the earning male partner through avoidance of housework. The consequent tension and inequity in access to time becomes a barrier to women's return, reinforcing the earnings gap that serves as both a medium and outcome of unequal labour practices within the family.

The paper emphasises women's 'agency' in their return-to-work decision but highlights the perceived decrease in women's ambitions, linking it with their cognisance of time constraints and work-family conflicts. The paper establishes that in the resultant strategy of 'finding a fit', women's agency is outweighed by their structural context.

RN13 | T09_02: Family ideologies

Four Decades of Trends change in European Family values: towards a postmodern family?

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The aim is to identify and describe how the ideals regarding marriage or long-term coupling and family caring values in the last decades, between 1980 and 2017, have changed: both about an adult child's duty to care for an ill parent and parents' responsibilities to their children, related to the social meaning of children.

Findings are based on data from the five waves of the European Values Study (1981, 1990, 1999, 2008, 2017) for all 30 European countries participating in the EVS (26 European Union countries plus Iceland, Great Britain, Norway and Switzerland).

To obtain this broad picture describing the ideals regarding marriage, we have developed a typology of marriages based on data from the 2008 and 2017 European Values Study and inspired by Louis Roussel's models. Two criteria have been used to classify evaluative opinions on marriage and construct the ideal types: the nature and function of the bond between partners. The first criterion, the nature of the relationship, differentiates those who favour an Alliance model (43% of Europeans in 2008 and 20% in 2017), a Fusion model (38% and 48%) and an Association model (19% and 32%).

In summary, we describe how the social values guiding couple relationships and relationships between parents and children and adult children and elderly parents have transformed in the last two decades. We apply a principal component analysis to understand the data's logic, followed by a typology of countries.

From Renters to Investors?: Residential Property and the Asset Economy in German Couples' Lives

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Research Question: How do the aspirations of German couples towards residential property reflect broader shifts in Germany's housing market?

Theoretical Approach: This study employs the asset economy (Adkins et al. 2021) as a central theoretical framework, complemented by Karl Mannheim's concept of orientations.

Data: Based on in-depth interviews with 47 German couples, diverse aspirations towards residential property are

captured, considering generational, socio-economic, and regional variations.

Methodology: A qualitative approach categorizes and interprets couples' aspirations using the Documentary Method, discerning patterns and influences shaping property perceptions.

Main Findings: The study identifies a divergent perception of residential property among German couples. While a small segment views residential property primarily as an asset to be optimized, the majority still perceives it as a once-in-a-lifetime family investment, emphasizing stability and long-term security over speculative gains. Additionally, the youngest cohort faces significant barriers accessing the housing market, primarily due to rising house prices in major German cities. This challenge has prompted varied responses: some young couples are turning to less expensive rural areas to achieve homeownership, while others, constrained to renting in urban centers, are increasingly engaging with the asset economy through alternative financial strategies and products.

Interpretation: The emphasis on homeownership among couples, even younger ones facing market barriers, hints at an economic development in Germany where the asset economy's influence is burgeoning, though not yet predominant. The research reveals a complex interplay between economic changes, the evolving role of property, and intimate lives.

Family And State Intervention In Young People's Gaming Behaviours And Its Effect On Family Relationship

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In the digital age, the contradiction between mobile games between parents and children is becoming more common. Parental surveillance on mobile phones allows access to digital conversations and photos, enabling continuous contact with young people. Additionally, the emergence of applications, such as youth protection models and parental controls, legally facilitates parents in monitoring their children's online behaviour (Boyd & Hargittai, 2013). Lachace's (2019) study underscores the adaptability of teenagers to parental monitoring. Furthermore, the Chinese government published one policy about the time and money youth can spend on mobile games in 2021.

This research, based on 1,800 questionnaires and 20 family interviews, addresses the following:

(i) The current state of online gaming among young people, along with parental and state interventions in China.

(ii) Identification of problems and their impact on family relationships.

(iii) Exploration of potential solutions to enhance family relationships and establish an appropriate level of intervention in young people's gaming.

Key findings from the survey and interviews include:

1. Limited understanding of the country's anti-addiction system, leading families to provide personal information for youth to play mobile games; despite this, most parents do not endorse youth gaming.

2. Parents resort to reasons like protecting eyesight or being busy with schoolwork to encourage youth gaming, resulting in conflicts with their children.

3. Parents often use short single-player game durations (10 minutes) to control their children's gaming, displaying a lack of in-depth knowledge about mobile games and insufficient communication with youth.

Narratives of Joy: Exploring Non-Religious Identity Construction across Humanist Family Generations in Western and Eastern Europe

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From a sociological perspective, the construction of non-religious identities is still largely unexplored, particularly when it concerns atheist families' everyday life and discourses on joy and happiness. This paper aims to fill in this gap by discussing the results of two research studies on secular Humanist movements in Western and Eastern Europe, which explore the everyday life of non-religious families, their activism, and practices.

The research projects RE-Green and WHosGreen, funded by two distinct research grants, involves six countries (United Kingdom, Norway, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary). This paper is based on the data collected so far in United Kingdom, Norway, Italy, and Romania, as parts of these research projects which are still in progress. In this paper, the data discussed come from in-depth interviews involving Humanist grandparents, parents, and children, which investigate – among other themes – discourses and practices concerning joy in the everyday life of atheists, agnostics, and humanists.

Results allow for a discussion of how non-religious identities are discursively constructed through generations. The themes emerged from the interviews stress the relations between joy, agency and institutional discourses on happiness built from the Humanist non-religious organizations of which the interviewees are members.

This paper also aims to contribute to demonstrating the methodological and theoretical importance of addressing joy in sociological research to understand the experience of minorities and marginalized groups, particularly within the dynamics of family and intergenerational relationships.

RN14 | Gender relations in the labour market and the welfare state

RN14 | T01_01: Session 1: Family Constraints

Navigating in the Familistic Sunset: Conjunctions Among Fragmented Life Paths. A field Research

Fatima Farina

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The pluralization of private life choices conflicts with the formulation of public policies based on a rigid and reductive definition of family. In recent decades, economic and syndemic crises have highlighted the social interdependence that often extends beyond blood ties and is instead built on proximity networks or shared living conditions. The gap between practices and policies thus creates a significant challenge not only from a cognitive perspective but also for the development of appropriate policies for individuals involved in forming affective relationships, mutual aid, and care.

The paper explores the constraints of a familistic welfare system rooted in blood ties and female care, drawing from the outcomes of the Conjunctions research conducted in Italy, which encompasses nearly 60 comprehensive interviews. The objective is to achieve a profound comprehension of elective social networks, enduring relationships, and mutual support. The analysis incorporates factors such as the risks of exclusion, the divergence in life and work paths (including territorial mobility), and the escalating demand for aid in response to an aging population and the intensification of existential precarization.

Dual Care: How Did Mothers Working as Teachers Survive the COVID-19 Lockdown?

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An increasing number of studies have focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected women's labour market status and how, under the sudden suspension of educational, social, health and leisure services, women could cope with care tasks. Mothers raising small children were particularly affected by the exacerbated care crisis of the pandemic. While schools applied various strategies to adapt their activities to online means of communication, teachers were a social group heavily faced with the need to adjust their activities to the lockdown.

The paper focuses on how those mothers who were educators dealt with the double expectations of caring for their children and their students. Our research explores the factors behind their strategies to accommodate the needs of their families, their own children, and their pupils. To investigate these questions, in May 2020, we conducted 52 interviews with Hungarian mothers working from their homes, of which 25 interviewees were teachers or educators. In the analysis we identified four main factors shaping the strategies applied: 1) the characteristics of educational activities, the relative importance of the subject taught, their students' age; 2) the interviewees' professional ethics and identity; 3) the family setting with special regards to intensive mothering and spousal hierarchies; and 4) expectations of the school management. We also found that despite the various negative experiences caused by structural shortcomings, interviewees individualized both the difficulties and possible solutions.

Gendered Experiences in Gendered Organizations: How Qualitative Researchers Experienced the Covid-19 Pandemic

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There is empirical evidence that Covid-19 affected men and women differently. In academia the feminization of the pandemic was especially visible in a lower rate of submitted publications. There are, however, other aspects of academic work that need reflection.

Going beyond the binary gender, we would like to present how participants representing different types of femininities and masculinities organized their research work during the Covid-19 pandemic: how their methodological and ethical approaches differed.

Our analysis is based on 42 in-depth interviews with a biographical component with men and women, before, with or after PhD, with and without children, who conducted qualitative research during the Covid-19 pandemic. The theoretical frames for the presentation are Joan Acker's theory of gendered organizations and R. W. Connell's masculinities theory.

Beyond the Home Office: Understanding the Emotional Landscape of Telecommuting Intensity during the Pandemic

Shan Peng

Tohoku university

Over the past three years, the prevalence of COVID-19 has led to an increasing trend of individuals adopting remote work arrangements. However, there is no consensus in the literature on how telecommuting tensity affects workers' mental health. Using data from the COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Cohort Studies: MRC National Survey of Health and Development, 2020-2021, this paper examines how subject negative and positive emotions vary among telecommuting workers between high tensity and low tensity using time and individual fixed-effects models. The research finds that low-intensity telecommuting is associated with more negative emotions compared to high-intensity telecommuting. The effect of telecommuting on workers' well-being also varies by social capital and gender. The frequency of chatting outside of an individual's household reported a lower level of negative emotion. Female and high-intensity telecommuting workers experience the lowest level of negative emotions. Besides, the frequency of meeting people outside of the household mediated the negative effect of telecommuting tensity and negative emotions. This paper provides new evidence on the impact of telecommuting during the pandemic and sheds light for policymakers and employers to re-evaluate the benefits of telecommuting.

RN14 | T01_02: Session 2: Motherhood

Perceptions and Expectations About Motherhood: Two Case Studies on Women in Highly Demanding Professions

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This presentation is part of the project "Fertility, motherhood and high professional demands: women in the military and high-level female athletes", funded by BBVA Foundation in its 2021 call for Scientific Research Grants.

In the Spanish demographic context, considered of lowest-low fertility (Wilkins, 2019; Esteve et al., 2021; Baranda, 2019), it is well known that for several decades the achievement of women's educational and professional projects has had an impact on family formation strategies, including delaying the age of motherhood, and a gap between desired and actually observed fertility (González and López, 2021; Baranda, 2019). This situation evidences the difficulties that still exist for many Spanish women to reconcile desires for motherhood with professional careers.

From a research approach that considers groups especially representative of the processes studied as key cases for their understanding, and through a mixed methodology (qualitative and quantitative), this research analyzes the decisions, expectations and perceptions about fertility and motherhood in two specific groups of women whose professions involve a very high level of demand and commitment during the reproductive ages: high-level female athletes and military women.

The results show the different dimensions that shape the expectations, perceptions and obstacles surrounding reproductive decisions in these conditions of special professional demands. Also, we analyze the differences between these two case groups and with respect to women in the general population. The conclusions can help guide policies and measures aimed at reconciling professional projects without renouncing the desires of women who wish to become mothers.

Reconciling Work and Motherhood: Unravelling the Effects of Family Policies and Labour Market Regulations on Mothers' Wages

Anna Gerlach

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Despite much progress, gender differences in the labour market persist in modern economies, and motherhood in particular continues to have a negative effect on women's careers. States can implement family policies to promote mothers' employment by making it easier to reconcile work and family life. They can also introduce labour market regulations to increase job security and pay equity. However, these policies can have unintended consequences for mothers' wages, and the effects may vary by mothers 'educational attainment. This paper asks how mothers' wages evolve after the birth of their first child and whether the effects of family policies or labour market regulations differ across educational groups. I analyse panel data for 26 European countries from the EU-SILC and the SOEP and combine it with policy measures from Eurostat and the OECD. Using multilevel models, I show that family policies that facilitate the reconciliation of family and work, such as extensive childcare availability, are associated with higher wages for all mothers, and this effect increases over time. However, long parental leave, which is linked to long career breaks, leads to permanently lower wages, which is most pronounced for higher educated women. Regulations that aim at more marginalized groups in the labour market, such as minimum wages and employment protection for temporary contracts, positively affect wages, while regulations that target the more protected core workforce, such as collective bargaining and protection for permanent positions, have mixed effects. The results suggest that mothers are still often treated as labour market outsiders.

Key Challenges Of Managing Pregnancy And New Parenthood For Mothers And Fathers Who Work In Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) In The UK

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The transition to parenthood is one of the most impactful processes in working life and the single most important event in the gendering of careers with adverse implications for gender equality. Despite considerable progress towards more 'family-friendly' working by large trailblazing UK companies, evidence suggests that many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (employing 1-249 staff) lag behind in their recognition of the challenges parents face, and the implementation and promotion of 'family-friendly' work options. Understanding and addressing the challenges in managing new parenthood within an SME context is important because SMEs account for 99.9% of the UK business population. Previous research focuses on experiences of pregnancy, parenthood, and employment in large organisations and thus excludes the majority of workers. SMEs often do not have a dedicated Human Resources department or formal maternity or paternity policies, which can generate inequalities for those juggling work and care. However, less hierarchical structures may also be associated with closer, family-like relationships that influence the level and nature of support provided to expectant and new parents.

This paper draws on data from 40 in-depth interviews with expectant and new mothers and fathers (which is part of a larger, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded study on the 'Transition to Parenthood in SMEs'). We conceptualise adaptions to new parenthood as a process of mutual adjustment (employer and employee ad hoc bargaining) in the context of gendered organisations with the key characteristics of SMEs (e.g., more informal staff management and resource scarcity). We find that participants experience SME specific work-life reconciliation challenges, but also identify good practice examples that both SMEs and larger workplaces can learn from.

Internalised and Normalised Bodily Experiences of Mothers in Precarious Work

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Extant literature situates the maternal body as valuable in public space yet 'monstrous' (Gatrell, 2011; Riad, 2007; Thanem, 2011) and 'out of place' in the workspace (Gatrell, 2008) which resultantly increased embodiment research in the world of work. This qualitative research delves into the maternal bodily experiences of mothers engaged in precarious work, particularly those facing financial constraints. The study highlights the intricate interplay between the personal and professional lives of mothers in low-income positions. Struggling to balance economic pressures with familial responsibilities, participants navigate a delicate equilibrium marked by societal expectations. The tension is palpable as mothers grapple with the societal demand to embody both the ideal mother and ideal worker, further exacerbated by financial limitations. This internal conflict is reflected in the nuanced bodily experiences of these women, offering insights into the subtle negotiations required to navigate their roles. The study involves in-depth interviews with 20 participants and the findings underscore the impact of precarious work on the psyche and physicality of mothers, shedding light on the embodied challenges they face. As financial constraints intersect with societal expectations, participants reveal a complex web of internalized and normalised norms that shape their bodily experiences. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of mothers in low-income jobs, unravelling the subtle dynamics between personal and professional realms in the context of precarious employment.

RN14 | T02: Session 3: Work-Life Balance

Part-time Work As Solution For Work-family Reconciliation In Finland?

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Tensions between family responsibilities and paid employment are one of the key challenges for parents with young children. Part-time work has been commonly used especially by women to manage these tensions. Whereas it may have a positive impact on work-life balance and overall life satisfaction, it also carries penalties including lower status and income and weaker career opportunities. These penalties reflect a "flexibility stigma": workers who use flexible working arrangements for care purposes are seen as less productive and less committed.

Public policies in Finland aim at promoting work-family reconciliation with relatively generous leave policies combined with affordable public childcare services. Parents of young children who choose to work part-time receive a small benefit, but this option is used by less than one in ten families, mainly by mothers.

In this paper, we discuss the temporary use of part-time option and obstacles related to it among parents of young children, analysing intersections of gender with sociodemographic and labour market aspects. We use data from the Finnish Parental Leave survey collected in spring 2022 among parents with 1-2-year-old children (n= 1524 fathers, 1824 mothers).

Preliminary results show that parents with a better position in the labour market are more likely to temporarily swift to part-time work. For them, obstacles to part-time work are related to work pressure rather than family economy. Among fathers, part-time work is also more common among those who have previously taken full-time child care leave, supporting their spouse's return to work after parental leave.

The results suggest that socio-economic disparities in sharing childcare responsibility and family leave between parents are reflected also in the gendered "flexibility stigma" in the labour market.

Is Work-Family Balance (still) The Province Of Women? Opportunities And Inequalities In Portugal and Spain

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Work-family balance (WFB) has been in recent decades at the centre of debate as the share of dual-earner families with small children has significantly increased. As a result, traditional strategies for the articulation of work and family have been questioned, claims for more gender balanced options became critical and WFB has been included in the set of "new social risks", alongside other crucial challenges to welfare states.

This paper addresses strategies and opportunities for WFB in Iberia and the gendered variation they entail, and seeks to understand the extent to which real, unconstrained choice is equally available. Despite shared historical and political backgrounds, the Portuguese and Spanish democracies present both distinct patterns of employment and care and distinct challenges in WFB which have gone largely unnoticed.

Theoretically, it draws on Sen's capability-approach, arguing that women's and men's choices are bound up with the real opportunities they have and ultimately that gender inequalities in capabilities may correspond to similar inequalities in the actual division of labour. Most importantly, instead of assuming an ideal division of paid and unpaid work that suits all working parents, it supports the maximization of available options which are, in turn, shaped by multidimensional factors at the institutional and cultural levels. Empirically, this involves the analysis of reconciliation policies (parental leaves, childcare and tax incentives) labour market features (occupational segregatio, gender pay gaps and flexibility of working times) and gender norms. It draws on publicly available data for 2019, since our variables of interest have suffered significant variations during the Covid-19 pandemic context and that is beyond the scope of this study.

The Effect of Organisational Family-friendly Flexible Work Arrangements on Women's Promotion Prospects

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Even though women have been able to increase their participation in management positions to a small extent in recent years, they are still significantly underrepresented in management positions. Organisational measures to promote gender equality and work-life balance are seen as an option to reduce inequalities between men and women. Against this background, I examine whether family-friendly flexible work arrangements (FFWA) in firms can promote the advancement of women into leadership positions (including

part-time) and thus contribute to reducing gender inequalities in firms. This is investigated using a German linked-employer-employee dataset (LIAB) from 2012 to 2016 and logistic panel regression models.

First, the analysis shows that FFWA improves the chances of advancement for employees, with women and men benefiting equally. Second, FFWA increases the chances of being promoted to managerial positions with reduced working hours – this effect is slightly stronger in men. For women in highly qualified professions, the conflict between work and family is still significant. Even with FFWAs, female part-time workers still have significantly fewer opportunities for advancement, suggesting that FFWAs alone cannot overcome deep-rooted work culture and societal expectations.

Third, surprisingly, no significant effects of FFWA were found for mothers. FFWAs are generally viewed as mechanisms to help working mothers balance work and family responsibilities. However, the results suggest that even with the FFWA, mothers do not have a better chance of being promoted to a leadership position. This raises the question of whether FFWAs are being implemented in workplaces in a way that truly supports working mothers.

Work and Family Plans of Male and Female Theology Students Based on the Results of a Focus Group Study

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The expectations, plans and goals of future pastors are developed and consolidated during theological studies. One of the particularities of the pastoral vocation is that work and private life are closely intertwined and difficult to separate. The personal choices of prospective pastors are thus also crucial in shaping their professional careers, which previous research suggests may be more of a constraint for women.

We conducted six focus group interviews with Protestant theology students preparing for a ministry career. Our aim was to find out what gender differences and similarities can be observed among the theology students' interpretations of goals, vocational success and work-life balance in their career. The plans and expectations of current pastoral students can have a decisive influence on how gender-based differences in opportunities in the churches develop.

The focus group method provides an opportunity both to explore the participating male and female theological students' own experiences that have shaped these goals and perceived or projected opportunities, and to explore the prevailing discourses among students on these issues.

The results suggest that female theology students were more reserved and cautious in their articulation of goals than their male counterparts. On the one hand, they assume that reasons outside and above them may override them and that the conservative church environment may constrain their options. On the other hand, it was repeatedly expressed that, as women, they find it difficult to reconcile pastoral work and family life and take it for granted that they will compromise more in the professional field.

RN14 | T02_02: Session 4: Poverty: Mothers, Children, Families

Contesting "Work First" Outcomes in Local Front-Line Settings in the UK and Sweden: Two Case Studies

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Social security reforms in the UK have and Sweden increasingly prioritise placing people in paid work, often using the threat of withholding benefits and thereby pushing people to take low paid insecure jobs without the training and skills support that further progression. Drawing on Nancy Fraser's theorisation on the 'politics of needs interpretation', this paper examines how work-first policies are interpreted and managed by localised interagency meetings where the undermining of women's rights, employment and skills development can be contested. Contextualised against social security reforms that put emphasis on a "work first" approach, the paper suggests that localised inter-agency meetings can become arenas where perceived hegemonic injustices are symbolically elaborated and challenged from below. Although discourses emphasising self-sufficiency and the importance of work tend to act as depoliticising and normalising, the way they are implemented in practice is not necessarily accepted passively by frontline professionals, who can question wider social inequalities, interpretive justifications, as well as harmful consequences for individuals, notably women, young adults and minoritized groups. The sharing of challenges and strategies can also encourage cross fertilization for ways forward in in improving conditions of employment and narrowing pay and training gaps

Family Policies and Roma Women in the Anti-liberal Political Regime and Workfare System in Hungary

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Family policy in the Hungarian illiberal system is pro-natalist, it aims to improve the demographic situation framed as a national interest. The policy objectives are characterized by an increased role for employment-based income support, explicitly articulating "responsible parenthood". Roma women typically appear implicitly in family policy discourses. Still, the emergence and strategic use of stereotypes about welfare dependency or buzzwords about the neo-liberal inspired "work-based society" (=wokefare) in discourses designates the place of Roma women.

Using critical frame analysis, our study provides an overview of the changes in family policies starting in 2010; shows what discursive tools and narratives politicians, decision-makers, and other government actors use and how Roma men and women appear in them; and analyzes the dynamics between anti-gender discourses, illiberalism, and workfare, as well as the effects of new, employment-based family policies on the Roma in general, and Roma women in particular.

The main findings show that family policy is anti-poor and anti-Roma, with little or no support for the most vulnerable groups, and various negative impacts on Roma women. At the same time, policy discourses differentiate between "deserving" and "undeserving" Roma, those who "live for their children", and those who "live off their children". According to the ideology of "work-based society", work is framed as a route to social integration, recognition, and appreciation of Roma, or in other words, the way to become a "deserving" citizen of the country. This group also deserves to benefit from the family policy measures, and these Roma women can legitimately contribute to the increase in births.

Duress And Agency: Women In Persistent Poverty Document Their Lives

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How is life felt by people who experience persistent poverty? Given the systemic denial of self-representational agency from those living in poverty and the neoliberalisation of the welfare state in Israel, this paper turns to those who remained invisible to both the media and the state during the pandemic and later under the Gaza war (2023). In line with current tendencies to prioritise the lived knowledge of people in poverty, we provided our interlocutors with a specifically designed diary tool to share their mundane experiences at their own discretion. Using diaries (N=10) as well as interview data (N=35), this paper unpacks the ways participants deal with and understand their everyday relationships with the absent Israeli state, mostly in regards to welfare and education. Based on a thematic analysis of the diaries and interview data, our findings reveal the Janus-faced abandoning/monitoring state that they routinely confront. We demonstrate how they are constantly chasing the state, struggling to receive the support they lawfully deserve. At the same time, being subjected to state monitoring and surveillance often results not only in mistrust but also in withdrawing almost altogether from the welfare services and social workers, and turning to alternative support networks. We conclude by offering two insights that accentuate, on the one hand, what we and our diarists already know, namely that they count for nothing. Still, on the other hand, the act of self-documentation itself reveals the representational agency of those brave diarists who refuse to forsake their worthiness as citizens.

Abandonment and Adoptions: The Geographical Organization of a Child Welfare Policy

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A new approach to child welfare has seen the light over the last decade in Denmark: Adoption without consent from biological parents is used more often by municipal child protection services. Before reforms to adoption – and child welfare law in 2015, Denmark saw 1-2 yearly cases of child protection adoptions. After the reform, numbers have risen yearly, to 45 adoptions in 2022. But Danish municipalities use adoption without consent to a varying degree; while half of the 98 municipalities have not applied the policy, and a small handful of municipalities conduct half of national adoptions – most of these are poor and rural municipalities.

This paper explores the case of three municipalities that are amongst the ones who conduct most adoptions. Inspired by institutional ethnography (DeVault and McCoy 2006), the study explores the reasons behind rising adoption numbers through interviews with municipal child welfare case workers and their nearest managers. The paper points to a couple of reasons for the more frequent use of adoptions in these municipalities; a larger number of children in foster care placement coupled with a political investment in adoption as a solution. The paper uses the concept of "organized abandonment" (Gilmore 2023) to explore the conditions of austerity that paved the way for adoptions as policy, and argues that adoptions constitute a care fix (Dowling 2017) that reorganises care responsibilities geographically.

RN14 | T03: Session 5: Finances, Provision, Breadwinning

Changing Breadwinning Patterns in Europe: Cohort and Time Period Effects

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Women's earnings have become over the last decades increasingly important for household economies, with dual-earning gradually becoming the norm and female breadwinner households on the rise in many countries in Europe (O'Reilly & Sánchez-Mira, 2019; Vitali & Arpino, 2016). Younger cohorts of individuals with different labor market orientations and gender attitudes may bring changes in couples' breadwinning arrangements, but these are also the result of economic needs and employment opportunities, which fluctuate during periods of crisis (Chesley, 2017; Sánchez-Mira, 2021). Economic shocks are thus likely to trigger changes in breadwinning patterns, with distinct effects depending on the characteristics of the crisis and their sectoral impacts on gender-segregated labor markets (Karamessini & Rubery, 2014). Moreover, European countries vary a great deal in terms of socio-economic levels and patterns of breadwinning and have experienced to different extents the last waves of crises (financial crisis of 2008, Covid-19 pandemic, cost of living crisis). Against this background, this paper will analyze changing trends in breadwinning patterns over the last two decades in Europe. Using repeated cross-sectional survey data (2003 to 2022) covering 31 European countries from the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), we employ Age-Period-Cohort-Interaction (APC_I) models to examine how i) age-graded trajectories, (ii) economic fluctuations, and (iii) cohort replacement jointly determine the changing trends in breadwinning patterns among cohabiting couples over time and across countries. Overall, we expect cohort replacement to shift couples towards more dual earning and female breadwinning, a trend that will have been fueled by economic shocks according to their different magnitudes and nature.

Earn More, Care Less?

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This study examines how women's relative earnings affect parental leave distribution in Sweden, focusing on first and second-born children from 2015 to 2019. It utilises Swedish register data and a pre-post comparison model to test if a woman's increased earnings share changes her partner's parental leave share, using a gender-egalitarian context to assess a generalized bargaining model in marital decision-making. This model posits that parental leave division is tied to earnings distribution, predicting that higher female earnings would increase fathers' leave participation. Initial findings go against a generalized bargaining model: increased earnings share for mothers correlates with reduced paternal leave for the father, challenging the bargaining model and questioning its applicability. This discrepancy suggests alternative theories like role theory or doing gender, emphasizing gendered behaviour, might be more relevant, even in gender-egalitarian settings. Despite these findings, the authors warn against definitive causal conclusions, as observed patterns could plausibly be explained by potential group differences, rather than a causal relation between earnings and parental leave division. Overall, this article contributes to understanding gender equality in parental roles, especially in countries with advanced family policies.

Parenthood and Economic Reliance: Mapping the Role of the Family, the Labour Market and the State

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People depend on multiple sources of income for their economic well being, including wages, earnings of family members, and state benefits. Reliance on these different sources of income is typically studied in a zero-sum framework, obscuring the ways that the family, the labour market and the state interdependently determine people's position in the income hierarchy. This is particularly true for women, whose roles within family reproductive labour often push them to rely simultaneously on their own wages and income from their partners and the state. However, in an era of labour market precarity, economic interdependence may increasingly be the case for men as well. This paper explores the degree to which reliance on direct and indirect relationships to income vary with gender and parental status. Using survey data from the US, I find that for women parenthood is associated with lower reliance on wages and greater reliance on partners' earnings. However, for men parenthood is associated with greater reliance on both wages and partners' earnings. This finding demonstrates the importance of conceptualizing reliance on different sources of income as interdependent, rather than mutually exclusive. I then map out the labour-market, income redistribution, and family-formation conditions under which direct and indirect sources of incomes are complements for one another, as opposed to substitutes. This approach to studying income attainment can be used in cross-country comparisons to better understand how gendered work-family-welfare dynamics produce income inequality.

Italian Audiovisual Companies Between Female Leadership, Innovation and Soft Power

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Starting from the hypothesis that gender is embedded in the global contemporary society's individual, interactional, and institutional dimensions, this research proposes recognising female employment and empowerment in major Italian audio-visual companies. Recent data (Brand Finance, 2023) confirms that companies aiming to better manage their international brands must strategically bid on young people and women leaders (Gavrila, 2023).

Women leaders bring a unique perspective to the table, which can lead to more diverse and inclusive storytelling and content creation, and improve the overall performance and success of audio-visual companies (Andersen and Jensen, 2014; Blass et al., 2022). They can challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes in the industry, paving the way for more opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups (Liddy and O'Brien, 2021). A progressive increase in the representation of women in creative, productive and managerial positions within Italian television can create a greater understanding of the difficulties of being a working woman and provide the added value of a female presence in Italian audio-visual companies. In addition to official data, this proposal analyses the primary data of 40 in-depth interviews with TV producers, authors and managers of successful Italian television programs. This methodology aims to trace a set of personal and professional career trajectories and their distinctive and innovative contributions to Italian audio-visual industries. The intention is to: highlight which Italian production contexts are currently favourable to the empowerment of women workers in the television industry and outline future trends: using an intersectional lens should be a general key, capable of considering, in addition to gender, the different social identities that systematically contribute to discrimination, hindering the formation of true leadership positions (EENCA, 2020).

How Do Economic Opportunities Shape Boys´ And Girls´ Math Job Aspirations? A Micro-macro Approach

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The Gender-Equality Paradox (GEP) is the phenomenon that the gender gap in STEM aspiration is larger in wealthier and more gender-equal countries. A common explanation for GEP is that boys and girls have more opportunities for gendered self-fulfillment in terms of education and job decision when economic conditions are better. We improve prior literatures on GEP by testing this explanation in a more refined manner. We investigate micro-level social origin effects on girls' and boys' preferences for a math-related job under various macro-level economic conditions. These conditions are societal affluence, social welfare provision, female labor market opportunities, and the pay of STEM and non-STEM jobs. Three waves from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) on students' math-related job aspirations are collected, enriched with datasets of the Global Welfare Dataset (GLOW), International Labor Organization (ILO), and World Bank (WB). With Generalized Ordered Logistic Regression, we find that social origin and societal affluence are negatively associated with girls' math-job aspirations, and that for boys these effects are smaller. A second finding is that in countries with a higher STEM to non-STEM wage ratio and with a lower female employment ratio in STEM, boys and girls aspire more for math, and this about the same for every social origin. Third, when longer maternity insurance and unemployment insurance durations are provided, boys' and girls' math aspirations decline, but not for children from higher social origin. Our findings support and extend Charles economic opportunity theory for gendered STEM aspirations and decisions.

RN14 | T05: Session 6: Equal Pay Policies

Formally Engaging, Informally Opposing: Employer Organizations' and Business Advocacy Groups' Discursive Resistance to Equal Pay Policy in Finland

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This paper provides novel insights into the relationship between business advocacy groups' and employer organizations' lobbying tactics and public policy development. The study analyzes the attempts of renewing Finnish gender equality law in several instances, from 2010 to 2024, and social partners' and business advocacy groups' influence on the policy process. The focus is on the kinds of discursive and rhetorical strategies that central actors use in opposition to equal pay legislation, and on power dynamics within this setting.

This study uses a longitudinal qualitative research design and utilizes several datasets from 2010 to 2024 to trace central actors' discursive strategies around the policy processes, both before and during. These datasets include: minutes of meetings of working groups, parliamentary data, press releases, positions, media data, statements, policy documents, reports.

Our findings highlight that while trade unions tend to support equal pay initiatives, employer organizations and business advocacy groups resist any changes to equal pay law, and they do so very clearly and consistently, using a variety of discursive strategies. This in turn has implications for policy development and, ultimately, opportunities to advance gender equality and equal pay.

With EU Directive on pay transparency accepted in 2023, to be implemented within three years via national legislation, this topic is of high relevance across the EU and beyond.

Tension, Trust and Transformation in Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value in the UK 1968-2024

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What women are paid is, in the end, the ultimate barometer of how the value of their work in the public sphere is perceived. In the UK, from the beginning of the industrial revolution to the present day what women are paid (or not paid) for their labour has been wrought with tensions and has sorely challenged working women's trust in the State, their employers and their trade unions. In most developed economies attitudes and, concomitantly, government policy and law in relation to gendered pay discrimination began to change in the 1960s, but how far can we call progress since then transformation when there is still a gender pay gap of 15%? Reporting on the findings of a major AHRC funded project, Gender Equality at Work: An Interdisciplinary History of 50 Years of Workplace Equality Legislation, this paper examines the development of equal pay for work of equal value as a legal, political and industrial relations phenomena in the UK over 7 decades. The research is theoretically framed in Feminist Institutionalism and draws largely on historical documentary data but also on oral history research, examining key legal cases, equal pay disputes and pivotal sociological moments along the way. The research evidences the tenacity of institutionalised pay discrimination in the way that women's work and pay are negotiated and evaluated to the problematic legal remedies that are available for them to access their human right to pay equality.

Can Public Procurement – as a Form of Responsive/reflexive Regulation – Offer Transformative Potential for Equality?

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Gender segregation persists in the construction sector despite industry calls to increase workforce diversity, particularly in response to labour shortages. One mechanism for urging contractors to take action to increase the numbers of women, ethnic minorities or other under-represented groups is public procurement – when public sector clients build equality requirements into tendering processes for building contracts. This paper revisits our earlier work on the transformative potential of public procurement – as a form of responsive or reflexive regulation – to increase workforce equality (Wright and Conley 2020) by examining recent data collected by the Buying Social Justice through Procurement project on the procurement practices of local authorities, housing associations and universities in Great Britain.

Previously we argued that responsive or reflexive procurement regulation can offer a 'third way' between hard, 'command and control' regulation by the state and voluntarist or deregulatory approaches, neither of which have achieved sufficient gender equality progress. We examine different forms of procurement legislation used in England, Scotland and Wales and assess how far they are responsive or reflexive to gender equality.

Based on expert interviews, a survey of procurement officers and good practice case studies the paper explores the extent to which civil society stakeholders are involved in procurement, from identifying needs, specifying equality requirements and monitoring delivery. By identifying the barriers and opportunities for civil society to engage with public procurement practices that seek to increase social value, we develop our analysis of whether responsive/

reflexive regulation can produce tangible equality advances for disadvantaged groups.

The First Year Gender Pay Gap Reporting in Ireland: A Sociological Analysis of Organisations' Plans to Mitigate Gender Pay Gaps.

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Two key legacy features of labour markets globally are a sexual division of labour (Connell 2009) and a persistent gender pay gap. One policy solution that has been implemented in the past decade across the OECD is gender wage gap reporting. Making data on pay available publicly potentially increases awareness of the problem, something that proponents see as likely to increase organisations' efforts to close the pay gap (Hijzen 2023).

In 2022 organisations in the Republic of Ireland with 250+ employees were required to report on their hourly gender pay gaps for the first time and also to report the actions planned to mitigate any pay gaps. In total, reports published by 538 organisations were located and analysed.

In this paper I will give a brief overview of the quantitative data identifying where gender wage gaps are largest and smallest. My primary focus will be on the actions planned by organisations to mitigate gender pay gaps. Ryan (2023) identifies four problematic features of the gender equality initiatives proposed by organisations: they focus only on numbers, the actions are about fixing women rather than systems; the organisations are too optimistic about progress to date and intersectionality is ignored. All of these are evident in the Irish GPG reports. In addition there is a lack of concrete plans of action & targets.

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Hijzen, A., 2023. The gender wage gap and the role of firms. OECD, Paris.

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RN14 | T05_02: Session 7: Gender Mainstreaming – Gender Equality policies

Catching Up Or Falling Behind? An Analysis Of Progress Towards Gender Equality In Southern European Countries After The Covid-19 Pandemic

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Both the Great Recession and the COVID-19 crisis have had more intense and long-lasting consequences in Southern European countries, threatening to unravel previous gains in gender equality. In this paper we explore the extent to which the COVID-19 crisis has widened the gap between Southern countries and the European Union, halting earlier convergence trends in gender equality and widening inequalities.

Previous studies have shown the negative gender impacts of austerity policies implemented during the Great Recession at the EU level (Karamessini and Rubery, 2014; Walby 2018). There is also growing evidence that the multifaceted effects of the COVID-19 crisis have been far from gender-blind (Alon et al. 2020a, 2020b; Bluedorn et al. 2020; EIGE 2022; Eurofound 2022). Women have borne the brunt of the increase in care work during the pandemic, leading to difficulties in reconciling work and family life and a deterioration of their position in the labour market (EIGE 2022; Eurofound 2021, 2022, 2023; Hupnau and Petrongolo 2020).

Using data from Eurostat (Labour Force Survey) and Eurofound (COVID e-survey), this paper examines the hypothesis of a potential de-convergence of peripheral Southern European countries with respect to the EU27 through a systematic picture of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on women's well-being and employment indicators. It also raises the issue of the performance of different social protection models and their capacity to safeguard progress on gender equality, highlighting the need to strengthen EU's compromise with gender equality and social cohesion, particularly during economic crises.

Gender Mainstreaming in Practice. Everywhere and Nowhere?

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Institute for Social Research

Gender mainstreaming (GM), as defined by the Council of Europe, means 'the (re)organization, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that gender

equality perspectives are incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policymaking'. GM aims to eliminate gender bias in existing routines by transforming organizational practices and processes. It builds on the idea that obstacles to equality exist in the structures; they are institutionalized and can therefore only be changed by institutionalizing the perspective of equality.

As this suggests, GM is an ambitious strategy. A growing body of research points to challenges when translating the theory of GM into practice. Studies find that GM functions only to a limited extent as intended and rarely achieves its goal of improving gender equality. The challenges are not solely a matter of institutional and political resistance, but also a lack of conceptual clarity.

In Norway, GM has been a central strategy since the Gender Equality Act of 1978, but the duties of employers and public authorities were strengthened in the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act of 2017. Public authorities are obliged to promote equality and prevent discrimination in all their activities, and to issue a report on the activities related to the duty. This article questions how the strategy of GM is understood and implemented in practice. Firstly, we investigate this by comparing authorities' reports from before and after the recent strengthening of the duties. Secondly, we conduct interviews with leaders in Norwegian ministries, to assess how they understand and implement the duty in their daily work and their perceptions of the opportunities and challenges of GM strategies.

Exploring The Challenges Of Gender Mainstreaming In Public Administration

Malin Espersson

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This paper investigates the challenges of gender mainstreaming in Swedish municipalities, with a focus on the initial implementation. Since the mid-1990s, gender mainstreaming has been the prevailing strategy within Swedish authorities and public administration to increase gender equality in society. In simple terms, this means that a gender equality perspective must be integrated into all decisions and at all levels in order to ensure an equal provision of welfare to all citizens. Still, many gender equality challenges remain, which may call into question the effectiveness of the strategy. In Sweden, the discourse of gender equality is strong and organizations in both the public sector and the business sector are expected to work actively on gender equality, to maintain organizational legitimacy. However, critical researchers argue that extensive changes have not taken place and that the strategy of gender mainstreaming has contributed to the bureaucratization of gender equality work.

The study is based on 20 semi-structured interviews with officials, managers and politicians involved in gender mainstreaming in a Swedish municipality, document analyses and participant observations. Drawing on the concept of decoupling, from institutional theory in organizational studies, this paper aims at understanding initial implementing gender mainstreaming. Through the analytical notion of the occurring talk, decisions and actions, this study analyses how actors in different parts of the municipality value and act in relation to gender equality and gender mainstreaming. The paper demonstrates how officials uses different strategies to move forward with gender mainstreaming, despite a lack of interest or priority from other groups.

Women´s Drop to the Top as Governmental and Political Leaders

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Women are underrepresented in all levels of government and in the parliament (European Institute for Gender Equality, IEGE, Gender Statistics Database). Additionally, the representation suffers of the "drop to the top" syndrome, i.e., the degree to which female representation drops as seniority level increases. What prevents women from advancing in political leadership? The model proposed in this analysis tries to understand the acceptance of males as the prototypical leaders, from the theory of "culture of gender", which defines the expectations that society has for women and men as leaders, and Inglehart´s postmaterialism theory. Data are obtained from the EVS/WVS (2022). European Values Study and World Values Survey.

RN14 | T06_01: Session 8: Domestic Care

Private Domestic Care Services for the Elderly: Inequalities and New Conditions of Care in a Changing Swedish Welfare State

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The sector for private domestic services in Sweden has grown rapidly since the RUT tax deduction was introduced in 2007. Already in the government proposition (2006/07:94) it was suggested that services provided by the expanding market would come to replace parts of the publicly funded elderly care, thus marking a shift in the organisation of care in the welfare state. Today we begin to see the effects of this, people over the age of 65 are one of the main groups making use of the RUT tax deduction (Swedish NAO 2020: 34) and an increasing number of companies offer services specifically targeting the elderly, their relatives and their different needs. At the same time research has shown that it has become more difficult to get publicly funded home care (Szebehely et al 2017) and during the last decades care for the elderly has been characterised by austerity, decentralisation, privatisation and 'freedom of choice' (Brennan et al 2012; Edebalk 2022). Departing from a qualitative study on paid domestic care for elderly and the changing conditions and understandings of care we will in this paper analyse the characteristics of the market focusing the relation between public and private care as well as underlying understandings of what care work is. We will argue that the expansion of the market reproduces inequalities between different groups of elderly and their relatives as well as between employers and employees, relating specifically to gender, race and class.

Home Care For Profit: Digital Platforms Brokering Migrant Women's Labour in Spai

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This article explores the recent proliferation of digital platforms that provide senior home care in Spain. Based on qualitative fieldwork consisting of semi-structured interviews (n=20) and participatory workshops (n=3), the aim is twofold: on the one hand it identifies the underlying causes of the proliferation of these companies, such as changes to legislation regulating domestic work and increased collaboration between the welfare regime and private enterprise in the provision of home care, particularly since the 2020 health emergency; and on the other hand, it analyses how the activity of the platforms has affected the nature of the sector and the migrant women's working conditions. The results indicate that the expansion of digital platforms marks a new phase in the commodification of care in Spain. Our analysis highlights the contradictions between the business model of these actors, which define themselves as organizations able to guarantee the "professionalisation" and "formalisation" of home care work, and the harsh reality of the dire working conditions encountered by workers, mostly migrant women from Latin America.

Home Care Workers' Cooperatives: Building Spaces of Resistance for Sustainable Care Provision

Antía Eijo Mejuto

Universidade da Coruña, Spain

Domestic and care work has been families' main response when it comes to providing long-term care in Spain. A family-based system, together with an insufficient public coverage leave the organisation of care falling on private solutions adopted by families, encouraging a progressive marketisation of care services that shifts the burden of care work mostly to domestic workers. Despite the essential nature of this work, which has been highlighted and acknowledged by public institutions during the pandemic, its execution has been based on precarious conditions and deficient labour law. Although some fundamental rights have been recognized through the recent legislative changes introduced in Spain, such as the access to unemployment subside or limitations in relation to workers dismissal, care and domestic workers have been applying their own strategies to face discrimination and to dignify their profession during the past years. Thus, workers have gathered through cooperatives created with the double goal of promoting decent working conditions while also ensuring the right to quality care. Through a qualitative methodology based on semi-structured interviews, this paper aims to analyse the role of these social economy initiatives in building an alternative care provision model. Moreover, it aims to evaluate the capacity of this community-based and self-organized initiatives to alleviate the structural inequalities care workers must face and to guarantee service users' right to access quality care services.

The Flip Side Of Gender Segregation: Men In Female-Dominated Occupations

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Men's participation in female-dominated occupations remains limited, and this phenomenon perpetuates occupational segregation. To describe why men are reluctant to work in these roles, the literature suggests three types of explanations. First, female-dominated occupations often

offer lower wages to male-dominated jobs. While women have strong incentives to enter male-dominated fields, men lack pecuniary reasons to pursue female-dominated occupations. Second, female-dominated occupations are often concentrated in specific fields, whereas male-dominated or gender-neutral occupations offer a broader range of career alternatives. Third, men may fear social stigma when engaging in female occupations and tasks. These theoretical explanations have predominantly been explored in single-case studies, which neglects cross-country variation as well as temporal transformations of labor markets, both potentially affecting men's opportunities and incentives to engage in traditionally female-dominated fields. In this study, we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of male participation in gender-atypical work from a long-term, comparative perspective. Specifically, we analyze Labor Force Survey (LFS) data from 21 countries spanning the years 1990 to 2020. The empirical section is divided into two blocks: First, we conduct a descriptive analysis to explore men's employment in female jobs across countries and within countries over time. Second, we run multilevel analyses to examine individual, occupational, and country-level factors. This includes assessing the intersection between gender and occupational status among workers. Thereby, our study contributes a comprehensive description and assessment of men's lack in female-dominated occupations.

RN14 | T06_02: Session 9: Care Employees and policies

Professional Recognition And Job Quality: The Gendered Cases Of Israeli Art Therapists And Childcare Workers

Orly Benjamin

Bar Ilan University, Israel

Government procurement in social services has been already criticized for encouraging low-quality jobs and deteriorating job quality in contract-based provided services. The impact of these ramifications for women in care and service occupations has been discussed with an emphasis on three issues: failing to apply updated professional knowledge in the area of the provided service; governmental contracting bodies' interest in lowering service costs; and, for limited governmental control over service quality and job quality. When attention has been directed to service providers it was commonly noticed that they were seeking ways to reduce their costs benefiting from the little control over the service they provide. Up until recently, the path of reducing costs through political intervening in professional recognition processes, a process reducing expenses for both service providers and governmental contracting bodies, has not been systematically examined, In order to shed light on the political dimension of cost reduction in the operating of social services, I raise the following research questions: what political actions serve cost reduction of services provided by non-governmental entities? and, how politicians apply gendered consideration in processes of professionalization and occupational recognition for art therapists and childcare workers. To expose the political moves holding back occupational recognition of these two occupations, I have applied feminist discourse analysis on Parliament protocols discussing these occupations and I present my comparison of the gendered considerations raised by an ultra-Orthodox party representing a service provider. I show how for both art therapists and childcare workers, Ultraorthodox politicians prevented occupational recognition leaving both occupations unrecognized for their occupational training, skills and experience. The gendered consideration focused on the assumption that limited training can replace existing demands.

Gender Inequality in the Healthcare Sector: Occupational Segregation by Gender in Medicine and Nursing

Rebecca Graziosi

University of Macerata, Italy

Occupational segregation by gender may negatively affect individual choices about education and occupation, as well

as society and the economy (EIGE, 2018). This kind of gender inequality seems to reinforce stereotypes and constitute a ground for discrimination (EIGE, 2018; WHO, 2019). In the healthcare sector, occupational segregation by gender is manifested by the tendency of female workers to be employed in some medical specialties (such as pediatrics or gynecology, among others), nursing and midwifery, or generally in less retributed and prestigious occupations (WHO, 2019). This research analyzes the experiences of nursing students and medical residents to seek to understand how certain individual drivers (decisions, hopes, ambitions, etc.) may foster gender-based occupational segregation. Adopting the Grounded Theory method, 40 semi-structured interviews were conducted (20 with nursing students and 20 with residents from different medical specializations). The respondents were selected from diverse areas of Italy. The main finding demonstrates that cultural and organizational factors may play a role in contributing to occupational segregation jointly with individual factors. In addition, the analysis of the interviews revealed two core categories. One concerns the moment of the choice of specialization or university course and the key people who guided the decision, while the other category involves discrimination episodes. Various key people seem to influence respondents' choices and motivations to different extents. Also, in the background, the dimension of change taking place in the health sector in terms of greater gender equality arose.

Undervalued and Underpaid: the Role of Marketisation in the English Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Crisis

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Early years education and care (ECEC) is central to public policy objectives for addressing childhood social, economic and education inequalities, and enabling women's labour market participation. Yet, in England, the creation of markets to deliver these objectives has been fraught. Our two major research projects – undertaken at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and three years on – show the ECEC sector in crisis, characterised by unaffordability for parents, providers in financial distress and chronic labour shortages.

This presentation addresses the 'productivity paradox' in ECEC, whereby labour shortages have not prompted wage rises, detailing how state-coordinated mechanisms of marketisation operate to set wages and place constraints on quality of work, ultimately entrenching the undervaluing this feminized care workforce.

We present findings from two large, multi-method research studies of staff across the ECEC sector (5000 survey responses and over 300 interviews) collected in 2020, 2021 and 2023. Surveys collected key indications about ECEC staff satisfaction and leave intention, and interviews sought rationales for staff attitudes to their work.

We contribute to theories of gender relations in the labour market by examining the relationship between marketisation, working conditions and gendered labour market outcomes. We show how:

i. by stimulating demand-led provision, marketization has exposed the sector to a high level of volatility.

ii. the state, as monopsony buyer, acts as a price-setter.

iii. in adverse market conditions, these factors, combined with demand inelasticity and limited price flexibility, drive providers to erode working conditions and pay.

Collective Care Initiative in Spain: Gendered Dynamics and Transformative Feminist Strategies in Social and Solidarity Economy.

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Faced with the care crisis, collective initiatives have been developed in Spain to address the demand for care and articulate new forms of organization. They help move towards more egalitarian relationships and a more democratic organization of care. Most of them operate in a horizontal and assembly-based manner and they are aligned with the principles of Social and Solidarity Economy. As such, the situation of women is perceived in better terms than in the labor market in general. The objective of the contribution is to identify what is transformative about them. For this purpose, by adopting the Classic Theory of Gift, we analyze the way that reciprocal responsibilities and associated moral obligations operate in these projects. We address three cases, all within Spain: 1) a worker cooperative that facilitates co-responsibility among cooperative members and that produces agroecological food and offers catering; 2) a non-profit association that provides care to elderly people; and 3) a group of families associated around an educational model of alternative pedagogy. The field work was carried out between November 2021 and August 2023, through 27 in-deep interviews, 6 workshops, and several participatory observations. A total of 45 people (36 women and 9 men) participated in the research. The results show both gendered dynamics and transformative feminist strategies. In the three initiatives, reciprocity operates as a regulating principle. This said, we also observed that this regulation occurs within a context of dynamic tension in which fatigue and self-exploitation are counterbalanced by individual and collective self-care practices.

Exit As Market Response: Analyzing Nurse Turnover in Sweden As A Contradictory Response to Job Dissatisfaction and Care Crisis

Rebecca Elizabeth Selberg

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The global care crisis is now a marked feature of capitalism, and its resulting care deficit represents a pressing social issue. A central aspect of the care crisis is nurse turnover and – retention, which affects countries of all levels of socioeconomic development, including the Scandinavian countries and their expansive public sector healthcare systems. In Sweden, staff shortages among women-dominated healthcare workers have increased in the last years, despite heightened political attention and policy development aimed at increased retention; job hopping is so widespread that it is currently undermining the provision of high quality and timely medical interventions and necessary care efforts – and causing unstable working conditions for remaining nurses.

Based on a survey questionnaire and in-depth interviews with registered nurses in the Swedish healthcare system, and within a theoretical framework drawing on both Hirschman's seminal typology around exit-voice-loyalty and Hochschild's and other feminist scholars' analyses of marketization, this article explores job hopping and exit spirals in the Swedish healthcare sector as a specific feature of the care crisis. The results indicate that nurse exit constitutes a contradictory response grounded in the nursing professions' adjustment to marketization. This article thus contributes to the growing field of empirical studies on the care crisis, as well as to feminist understandings of gendered divisions of labor and important developments in care professions.

RN14 | T07_01: Session 10: Labour market outcomes of gender segregation and education

"Occupational Gender Segregation in the Spanish Labour Market: Diagnosis and Policies"

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Women working in occupations where there is a significant majority of men face different challenges from those in occupations with more gender-balanced workforces, and also different from those in feminised occupations and sectors. Identifying this situation, and understanding why occupational segregation in the labour market persists, is a central issue in addressing gender inequality in paid work.

In Spain women assume a greater share of the burden of reproductive work. This, in Spain, is accompanied by an insufficient provision of public services to cover care needs. Both circumstances lead to difficulties in women's access to the labour market, as well as in the trajectories followed by women. However, despite these difficulties, women are increasingly entering the labour market.

With the massive entry of women into the labour market we are witnessing an increasingly common and generalised presence of women in the different productive sectors and occupations. However, this is not the case; occupational segregation persists.

Given this situation, it is necessary to enrich employment policies with measures aimed at significantly and progressively reducing the aforementioned gender inequalities in the Spanish labour market, for which it is necessary to identify the existing situation and the underlying causes of these inequalities.

The research presented is structured as follows: firstly, we examine the growing participation of women in the labour market; next, we analyse the occupational gender segregation using information from official statistics, mainly the LFS; in the following section, we present the main explanatory elements of the gender inequalities studied, accompanied by the main lines of intervention.

Women's Occupational Segregation And Mental Health. Exposure To Risks Among Female Professionals In Five Micro Classes

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This study explores the intricate dynamics between gender, occupation, and work-related strains impacting women's mental well-being using the 2020 EU-LFS ad-hoc module data on 38,066 female professionals in Western Europe. The primary aim is to discern how different occupations affect diverse experiences of work-induced strains affecting mental well-being, such as work overload, violence, and challenging client interactions.

Key findings from the study highlight significant variations in risk exposure among women employed in diverse occupational groupings, and critically question the compensating differential theory that assumes female-dominated occupations to have more "women-friendly" working arrangements which in turn compensate for the lower salaries paid. The data show, on the contrary, that interactive service-sector occupations are more exposed to risks to the mental well-being of female workers. Health professionals emerge as a group particularly susceptible to these risks, followed by legal-cultural professionals and teachers. Notably, when considering shift and weekend working, risk exposure increases considerably for these workers.

Emphasizing a "within-gender" perspective, the study uncovers nuanced occupation-based inequalities affecting women. It introduces a novel approach to occupational segregation, examining exposure to work-induced strains, asserting that such strains are unevenly distributed, particularly in professions with more female workers.

The study urges policymakers to reevaluate customer-worker relationships, advocating for gender-specific measures to mitigate heightened psychological well-being risks in professions with increased female representation.

In conclusion, the study comprehensively explains the intersection of gender, occupation, and work-induced strains, highlighting how micro-classes shape women's experiences in the labor market

Are Gender Gaps in Education Leaving Less Educated Men Behind in the Labor Market?

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The gender gap in education has reversed globally, with women now outnumbering men in higher education in most advanced economies. This shift has raised concerns about the potential impact on men's economic conditions. This study examines whether men in Norway are falling behind in the labor market due to these reversed educational disparities and changing labor market opportunities. We analyze employment, income, and wage trends for young men and women with varying education levels from 1980 to 2019 using population-wide data from public registers. Our findings suggest that the key divide in Norway is between men with and without completed upper secondary education. This contrasts with findings from the USA, where the critical divide is found between those with and without higher education. Moreover, in Norway, men with completed vocational upper secondary education have comparable incomes and employment levels to men with undergraduate degrees, who in turn have better labor market outcomes than women with the same level of education. Contrary to findings from countries like the USA, real wages have not decreased over time for any groups of men or women in the Norwegian context. However, employment levels for young adults with only primary school education have significantly declined since the early 1990s in the Norwegian labour market. More men than women do not complete upper secondary school, potentially making this trend more detrimental to men. However, men have higher labor force participation rates than women in this subgroup, as well as among those with upper secondary education as their highest degree. Consequently, the proportion of young men and women outside the labor market remains similar.

"I'm Not a Farmer, Just a Helper" – (Self) Marginalization of Female Farmers in Poland

Marta Gospodarczyk

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Farming is challenging for researchers studying work-related issues. Especially in its more traditional shape, farming is deeply entangled with family, causing the usual lines between workplace and home to blur. This is due to the physical proximity of the home and the farm, the inclusion of virtually all family members in the farmwork, and the familial line of succession. The existing research shows a stark gender divide, with women living and working in farming households more likely to consider themselves "helpers" rather than farmers in their own right, despite performing most of the same tasks as the men in the household; they are also less likely to own and manage their farms. This (self) marginalization of female farmers is the focus of the paper.

The paper is based on the research conducted in Eastern Poland in 2023 and 2024, during which individual interviews with men and women from farming households were conducted. The research confirmed, that women are less likely to identify themselves as farmers; they perform both housework and farmwork; they are also often responsible for the farm's paperwork. The paper will elaborate on the labor division in the investigated farming households, as well as the attitudes of both men and women regarding what constitutes "farmwork", "housework", "work" and "not-work", as well as "men's work" and "female work". Therefore, this paper is devoted to decoding the meanings of gender and work in a specific context, where the line between work and home is oftentimes blurred.

RN14 | T07_02: Session 11: Resisting Care Normativity

Double Burden Of Work Hazards Among Norwegian Female Employees?

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Background: Despite the fact that the Nordic welfare states, Norway included, are known for their gender equality, the Norwegian occupational structure is highly gender segregated. However, few have studied the degree to which men and women experience a double burden of hazardous working conditions. Aims: To shed light on differences in how men and women are facing both high physical and high psychosocial exposures, and to explore the role of the occupations that men and women typically hold. Data and Methods: We use Norwegian register data that include all employed men and women in 2021. We further exploit two recently constructed Job Exposure Matrices (JEMs) to characterize the physical and the psychosocial (Job Strain) work environment among working men and women. Occupations are coded in accordance with the Norwegian version of ISCO-88. Both JEMs are grouped into quintiles, cross-tabulated and analyzed separately for men and women. The focus of the analysis is on the combinations where the exposures on both dimensions are low (1st and 2nd quintile) and where the exposures on both dimensions are high (4th and 5th quintile). Results: 1) In the lower quintiles, indicating low levels of physical and psychosocial exposures, 76 per cent are men. In the higher quintiles, indicating high levels of physical and psychosocial exposures, 72 per cent are women. 2) The occupation specific analysis reveals that typical male dominated occupations (managers, professionals) have low scores on both dimensions, whereas female dominated occupations (salespersons, nursing assistants) have high scores on both dimensions. Conclusion: In Norway, the double burden of work hazards among women is clearly present, largely due to the gendered occupational segregation.

Emotional Economy in Care Migration Recruitment Strategies and Its Gender Effects at the European (Semi)Periphery

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Neoliberal cuts in public spending on long-term care have worsened working conditions in care services for older people in global North, which is reflected in labour turnover and care deficit. Like most Eastern European countries, Slovenia is in a triple position in this transnational political economy of care: local care workers are leaving as daily commuters for work in neighbouring Austria and Italy; migrant care workers are being recruited from European ''third countries'' of the Western Balkans, for whom Slovenia is often only a transit destination for migration further to Western Europe. Although Slovenia has bilateral agreement on labour migration with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the recruitment of migrant workers mostly bypasses official channels, following two strategies: migrant social networks and family reunification. In this paper, I discuss these two recruiting strategies as a mobilisation of the emotional economy in the management of labour migration, which is functional for keeping labour costs low because it shifts costs of transition, integration and social reproduction onto migrant social networks and families. Particular attention is paid to the gendered effects of these strategies, with a focus on the favouring of migration within the traditional pattern of family reunification and the processes of deskilling legitimised by migration and labour regulations.

The empirical evidence comes from research Transnationalisation of eldercare (ARIS, J5-3104). In 2022/3 we conducted three series of interviews: with 11 national stakeholders; with 16 migrant care workers; with 8 stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country from which most migrant caregivers come to Slovenia.

Caring Masculinities in Banking and Finance: Gender and Change in the Workplace?

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Despite welfare state policy facilitating men's caring in private life becoming increasingly common, industry and workplace equality and diversity initiatives tend to target women. Yet, the masculine (unencumbered and disembodied) worker ideal continues to limit the attainment of gender equality in all its complexity. Drawing on research into gender and career development in the UK Banking and Finance sector conducted in 2010-11 and 2018-20, I examine the gap between policy aspirations and practice, and consider men's engagement with care to attain gender-equal outcomes. Through a critical policy analysis and 68 semi-structured interviews with women and men employed in banking and finance, I demonstrate how the industry has spearheaded policy to advance gender equality by addressing above-average gender pay gaps and improving the underrepresentation of women in leadership positions. However, the sector's legacy of long-working hours and presenteeism, incentivised risk-taking, lack of collective responsibility, and entitlement to high pay undermine these objectives. Interviews reveal the extent to which organisational policy and practice facilitates men's care in the private sphere (e.g. for children, partners, parents) and in their public roles (e.g. for colleagues, direct reports, mentees, and by advancing workplace caring behaviours and culture). I explore how men's caring subjectivities and behaviours are gendered, how they are imbricated with class and seniority, care-obligations, sexuality, age, and migration,

and how they are structurally embedded in workplace and welfare state contexts. Extending the concept of Caring Masculinity, I theorise the work that men's private / public care at work does in shifting gender role attitudes and power relations towards workplace transformation.

Digital Communication From Gender And Intersectional Perspective

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Objectives: The COVID-19 pandemic was followed by the precipitous digital shift that brought about deep transformations in the sphere of paid work related to an increasing trend in distant employment (telework) and utilization of ICT. We expect, however that the opportunities for distance work depend on individual characteristics – gender, age and ethnicity, on characteristics at mezzo – occupational and at national level. The aim of this paper is to explore the relationships between different occupational groups and their attitudes to the opportunities of the digital communication in the European societies. Applying the intersectional approach we recognize the interplay between the objective position of individuals in the social structure and their socially constructed identities Collins (2015).

Data and methods: We use individual quantitative data from the European Social Survey, conducted in 2020/2021 and apply comparative descriptive analysis and multivariate analysis on the topic of digital communication.

Preliminary results:

Women have lower digital skills than men in the three of the indicators used in the ESS survey and in parallel we observe the negative tendency that is caused by the occupational class and age. In terms of the benefits derived from the digital communication, women are more likely than men to respond positively to the question that mobile communication helps people feel closer. Online communication contributes to women's empowerment. Women who use internet are twice more confident than women who don't use internet in their ability to participate in politics.

RN14 | T08_01: Session 12: Persistent Gender Pay Gaps

What Lies Behind the Unexplained Fraction of the Gender Pay Gap? Findings and Insights on How to Ensure Equal Pay

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This paper addresses gender inequalities in the labour market in Portugal, focusing mainly on the gender pay gap (GPG). Considering the core characteristics of the country's workforce and the main patterns of men and women's participation in the labour market, the limitations of the human capital arguments are highlighted. We estimate both the raw and the adjusted gender pay gap and demonstrate that, when individual differences (age, seniority at the workplace and education levels) between men and women are controlled, the gender pay gap is seen to be even more pronounced. Moreover, the application of a decomposition method sheds light on the magnitude of the unexplained fraction of this gap, thereby supporting the thesis that the 'value' of work is not gender-neutral and the need to tackle both direct and indirect discrimination processes on the grounds of gender. The findings suggest the need for job evaluation methodologies and pay policies that fully ensure both direct and indirect non-discrimination on the grounds of gender at an organisational level, together with a consistent and well-articulated approach towards the deconstruction of gender stereotypes in all fields of public policies. In the final part of the paper, the role of the social partners and social dialogue in the elimination of the GPG is also stressed.

Architectures Of Inequality And The Gender Pay Gap

Rachel Verdin

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The UK's gender pay gap stands at 14.3% (White, 2023) and, while it is shrinking, the rate of closure is slow, varied and by no means consistent. The introduction of the Gender Pay Reporting Regulations in 2017, and the furore surrounding the subsequent publication of company reports, prompted a resurgence of interest in gender equality. This mixed methodological study examines the first six years of largely untapped pay reporting data with a case study focus on the finance sector, given the particularly large pay gaps therein. The 'architectures of inequality' model is developed as a new analytical tool to understand the progress and resistance that marks this wicked problem. This visual tool helps to elucidate how the continual momentum of societal shifts and legal and organisational interventions helps to insulate

the GPG. The examination helps us to better understand how this decades old problem persists, demonstrating how a broader and embedded lack of transparency, alongside practical realities, such as workplace norms, continue to restrict progress. Two key findings are presented from this examination. First, the application of the architectures model reveals how common blind spots, such as the thorny issues of transparency and accountability, remain central to the persistence of the gender pay gap. Second, an ongoing dynamism demonstrates how the impediments to alleviating the gap are in constant flux, exerting continual pressures on any potential progress. By observing these interactions and paying close attention to the data the barriers and unintended consequences of equality policy can be identified.

Explaining Earnings Differences in and Within Female-Dominated sectors: Evidence for the Care Sector in Portugal

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The aim of this study is to analyze earnings differentials in the long-term care (LTC) sector and to assess how these compare to other female-dominated and 'caring' sectors (child care, health care and social work) in Portugal. This analysis is framed by the intersection of two main theories. The first is the 'devaluation theory', which posits that female work is less valued, leading female-dominated sectors or occupations to face an earnings penalty. The second theory is the 'compensating wage differentials' associated with emotional labour, which see the latter as a job demand that is compensated by the market.

We use a unique matched employer-employee data from Quadros de Pessoal in 2021 for Portugal – an administrative dataset including all employees and firms in the private sector (profit and non-profit) in Portugal – employing a multilevel framework to identify earnings gaps and potential contributing factors for women and men within the LTC and caring sectors.

Our findings reveal that female-dominated sectors face an earnings penalty that is particularly evident in the caring sectors and occupations associated with high emotional labour. Within the caring sectors, the earnings penalty is statistically significantly higher in the LTC sector, even after accounting for various individual – and firm-level factors. Analyzing gender differences further in the caring sectors, male workers in LTC performing high emotional labour occupations experience an additional earnings penalty compared to women.

These findings hold substantial relevance to understand the composition of the gender wage gap, the valuation and the attractiveness of the caring sectors in general and the LTC sector in particular for women and men and the gender balance of the care workforce.

Is Gendered Employment Related to Job-holders' Occupational Prestige Evaluations?

Sabine Krüger

Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany

The need for social status has long been recognized by sociologists as an essential aspect of social life. It has long been suggested that the occupational structure is a key factor of status inequality and that social prestige is attached to jobs in a manner that is remarkably consistent across national boundaries. However, not much is known about how individuals estimate the prestige of their occupation. This study explores the various factors that influence how people evaluate their own occupational prestige, with a focus on gender differences. Specifically, it addresses the following research questions:

I. Do the prestige ratings differ between job holders and people outside of an occupation?

II. If so, does this apply to specific professions, or is it more independent of the profession and related to characteristics of the job holders?

III. Do male and female job holders differ in their estimations of their occupational prestige?

IV. Are the differences greater for men and women working in gender-(a)typical occupations? What explains the variations?

The study uses data from a follow-up study on prestige to the 2018 BIBB/BAuA Employment Survey prestige, the sample contains data on 6342 individuals employed in 347 occupations. Preliminary results suggest that differences in job holders' prestige evaluations are related to individual differences rather than occupational attributes and that women tend to "underestimate" their occupation's prestige. People working in male-dominated occupations tend to "underestimate" their occupation's prestige as well, but there is no gender-specific effect of working in an (a)typical profession.

RN14 | T08_02: Session 13: Networking in the academic world and beyond

Breaking Into the Boys' Club: Unequal Network Composition and Returns as Explanations for Gender Differences in Career Success

Roza Meuleman

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To this day, one of the most prominent dimensions of labour market inequality is the significant and persistent gender gap in career success. Women earn less and are less likely to occupy management positions than men for instance. These inequalities are detrimental to the financial independence of women and, in turn, contribute to broader labour market inequalities. In recent decades, empirical research has increasingly focused on social networks as an explanation (Collischon & Eberl, 2021; Lutter, 2015). Yet, more detailed answers to fundamental questions of whether, how, and why networks contribute to gender-related [labour market] inequality are needed (Woehler et al., 2021). Building on gender role socialization and social network theories, we therefore address three questions. First, to what extent do men's and women's social network resources differ, and can these differences (partially) explain gender differences in career success? Second, to what extent do social network resources relate differently to men's and women's career success? Third, are these possible gender differences specific for certain types of network resources? To address these questions, we use nationally representative data from the Netherlands: the Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social sciences panel. In this dataset, we collected unique information concerning individuals' access to various network resources among the general working population. Linear regression analyses and Structural Equation Models are used to examine the direct and indirect relationships between gender, network resources, and career success. Preliminary results show that women have less network resources than men, which partly explains the gender gap.

Reproducing Gender Inequalities in the Academic Labour Market: Discretionary Practices in the Quest for 'Excellence'

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Excellence has become the benchmark for evaluating, recruiting, and promoting academics. It is conceived, within the normative framework of meritocracy, as the result of individual performance and effort, independent from individuals' ascribed characteristics and measurable through formalized parameters considered neutral and objective. However, scientific literature has drawn attention to the distortions that the 'faith' in meritocracy produces in academia, especially in terms of gender inequalities.

Drawing on 176 semi-structured interviews with early and advanced-career academics in STEM and SSH Departments, members of competition selection boards, Departments' Directors and their deputies in four Italian Universities, the paper investigates how excellence is constructed in selection and evaluation procedures and explores the implications in terms of (re)production of gender inequalities.

The results show that, despite the insistence on the importance of standardized criteria in the recruitment and promotion procedures, the margins of discretion are still wide. Discretionary practices, indeed, are interpreted as: correctives to merely quantitative evaluations, since they have 'measurable' elements that set them apart from arbitrariness; a form of gatekeeping aimed at selecting those who truly deserve to be admitted into the scientific community; the result of the pursuit of excellence in a context characterized by the so-called 'credential inflation'.

Discretion then leave room for biased evaluations and decisions guided by cooptative practices – where academic recruitment and promotion are decided at a local level through mechanisms rewarding loyalty to a research group – that are now obscured by the centrality of meritocratic rhetoric and that perpetuate institutionalised patterns that privilege men.

The Tension Between Gender Equality Policies And Gender Inequalities In Universities: A Case Analysis Of The Faculty Of Political Science And Sociology (University of Granada, Spain)

Patricia S. Sánchez-Muros Lozano, María Luisa Jiménez Rodrigo, José María García de Diego, Ana Burgués de Feitas

University of Granada, Spain

Despite the increase in the number of women in higher education and their representation as academic staff, several indicators show that behind these 'big numbers', inequalities persist. In addition to the structural and symbolic inequalities that still persist, the limitations of equality policies in promoting effective change have been identified as an important factor. The present research, which is still in progress, focuses on the case analysis of the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Granada (Spain). It aims to provide data on the dynamics of gender inequality operating in academic life, as well as the perceptions and effects of gender equality policies, in order to develop an effective gender equality plan. To this end, a multilevel (university, faculty and department) and multi-method approach (analysis of indicators, documentary

analysis, surveys and semi-structured interviews with key informants) is used. The advanced results confirm that policies are often limited to positive attitudes and informal agreements, without achieving practical effectiveness and damaging confidence in public policies. Surveys of teachers show statistically significant differences between men and women on issues such as work-life balance, visibility and recognition of performance. These and other issues have a major impact on academic careers, limiting access to leadership positions, specialised training, mobility, job stability and promotion to higher ranks. Interviews with women experts corroborate these data and indicate that progress has been insufficient. It was emphasised that these findings need to have a social impact, raising awareness and promoting substantial changes in the academic sphere.

Towards Equality in Research and Innovation: Quantitative Analysis of Gender Equality Plans in Polish Universities and Polish Research Institutes

Karolina Sikora

Jagiellonian University, Poland

In 2021 the European Commission set the introduction of Gender Equality Plan (GEP) as an eligibility criterion for Research & Innovation (R&I) institutions seeking funding within the Horizon Europe programme, to further promote gender equality as a value of the EU and highlight the positive effects of gender equality on research and innovation. Prior to this event, the gender equality policy instruments in R&I institutions in Poland had been dispersed or mainly implemented within the HR Excellence in Research programme. The establishment of the GEP eligibility criterion led to an increase in development and introduction of GEPs in Polish universities and research institutes.

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the results of quantitative content analysis of 83 GEPs introduced in Polish universities and research institutes. The research performed was multi-layered, addressing the following research questions: 1) are the GEPs compliant with EU guidelines in terms of their scope?; 2) do GEPs detail budget allocations and specify the entities tasked with their implementation?; 3) do GEPs employ inclusive language and incorporate an intersectionality perspective?

Research findings reveal that the scope of the GEPs is similar across institutions, and generally aligns with EU guidelines. GEP implementation details are frequently vague, indicating dispersed responsibility. Moreover, budget details in GEPs are unclear, suggesting potential resource access issues. Finally, the use of inclusive language is most often inconsequential, and the intersectionality perspective is rarely considered.

RN14 | T09_01: Session 14: Alternative Organizations

Cooperative Organisations and Women's Employment in Italy: All That Glitters Is Not Gold

Rebecca Paraciani, Alessandro Martelli, Ilaria Pitti

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The purpose of this paper is to delve into the phenomenon of women's employment in cooperative organisations. Women have historically represented a significant part of the social and employment base in this kind of enterprises. Indeed, in principle, cooperative organisations seem to offer more opportunities of employment and empowerment of women than capitalist enterprises.

Focusing on Italy – a country distinguished by a rich, well-developed and diversified ecosystem of cooperative organisations – this paper problematises these assumptions by looking closer at the kind of employment that women get in cooperative enterprises.

Through the secondary analysis of national statistical data and the analysis of semi-structured interviews with experts, the paper analyses horizontal and vertical segregation labour segregation and gender pay gap in the cooperative world. With women representing almost half of the employees, cooperatives seems to be fertile ground for female employment.

However, data show a gendered horizontal segregation of labour with women working mainly in social cooperatives, in agriculture and in the service productive sector. Moreover, women are able to break through the glass ceiling and to reach positions of leadership and power only in social cooperatives, highlighting a vertical segregation of labour in the others field. This type of segregation, combined with the fact that women work less due to the massive spread of part-time contracts, contributes to a relevant gender pay gap despite the impressive levels of female employment distinguishing the coperative world.

Tensions and Ambivalences in Women Entrepreneurs' Governance of Time in Spain: Between Agency and Subjection

Carlota Carretero García

Jaume I University, Spain

This presentation focuses on the governance of time in the narratives of young women entrepreneurs in Spain. The study of this topic aims to delve into how the reorganisation of time currently taking place through the political promotion of a new labour achetypical subject (the

entrepreneur) impacts on women's daily routines. Also, it allows to analyse the (dis)continuities and ambivalences in the meaning given to the promise of agency and capacity for self-organisation that contains the hegemonic entrepreneurial discourse. For this research, 30 semi-structured interviews were carried out with young women entrepreneurs who participated in public training programmes on entrepreneurial competences for women. The analytical approach is rooted in critical discourse analysis and connected to governmentality studies and feminist theory. This approach allows to address the power relationships and inequalities, but also the meanings given to individual experiences and vulnerabilities, that emerge through women's narratives focused on the self-governance of time.

Sisterhood and Solidarity in Times of Crisis: Early Days of Shelter Work in a Canadian Prairie City.

Elizabeth Quinlan

University of Saskatchewan, Canada

In June 1988, the all-female workforce at a shelter for women fleeing from domestic violence voted in favour of striking. The shelter's Board of Directors retaliated by locking out the workers. Tense labour relations ensued for months. While walking the picket line, the shelter workers continued to fulfill their care responsibilities for the female residents. In turn, the residents supported the workers' line. How did that solidarity emerge?

Having been guided by the feminist politics of the Anti-Violence Movement to challenge the injustices of patriarchy in the decade before, the shelter workers turned their attention to confronting the power relations embedded in their employment in the late 1980s. The paper reports on a study that examines how the solidarity between the shelter workers and residents emerged at a time when neoliberalism was in its ascendency pitting workers against citizens. The study endows a sensitivity to discourses that shape and are shaped by coalition building between workers and citizens. The study's data of archival documents and oral history interviews with surviving shelter workers offers fresh insights on how workers can combine the struggle for labour rights with the feminist principle of 'caring for the other'.

Female Entrepreneurs In Rural Areas In Japan: Networks And Collaborations To Rebuild And Redesign Shrinking Cities

Kuniko Ishiguro

Tokyo International Universiry, Japan

This research investigates the characteristics, motivations, and management styles of female entrepreneurs in rural areas in Japan, as well as challenges facing them. The country has long been struggling to promote gender equality in economy and employment. Meanwhile, problems of shrinking population, aging society, depopulation in rural areas, and weakening competitiveness in the global economy have increased. This research addresses two major issues: women's advancement in the economy and how to tackle the country's economic problems, and tries to assess how one important group of people can promote both women's advancement in the economy and regional revitalization. The research has been conducted in rural areas in Eastern Japan to examine women's contribution to these local economies, as well as to analyze sources of their power to set up and sustain their businesses. It has found out that the women researched have been driven by their simple questions regarding the current problems in the economy and society which central and local governments have been unable to solve and have tried to find solutions for themselves by organizing their own networks and involvement and collaboration with local governments. Unlike big businesses based in Tokyo or big cities, whose sole focus may be economic success, those female entrepreneurs have started to become very important actors for the revitalization of the country, and for furthering female advancement in the country's economy and the society.

RN14 | T09_02: Session 15: Masculine Occupations

Women's Work in the Judiciary. Notes from Spain

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Universidad de Cádiz, Spain

This paper explores women's representation in the justice administration from a labor perspective. The analysis is based on two premises. Firstly, it recognizes the growing presence of women in legal studies in democratic nations, suggesting this should be mirrored in the professional realm with women over-represented in the legal professions. Secondly, existing research on law and gender often focuses on bias in judicial decisions, overlooking women's positions as legal system employees. This study aims to fill this gap by descriptively analyzing gender in the Spanish judicial system, identifying women's roles, categories, and professions. Reseach questions include: Where are women in the justice system? Are they represented in all judiciary areas? What are their main occupations and positions? We delve into quantitative analysis on Spanish judiciary employment using statistics from sources like the General Council of the Judiciary, the Public Employment Bulletin, and the National Statistics on Public Employment. We concentrate on three legal professions: judicial, prosecutorial, and lawyer careers. The data highlights the significance of official statistics in making women visible, revealing challenges to gender equality policies. The available data will demonstrate the importance of official statistics in making women visible, becoming a sample of the resistances and counter-resistances to the implementation of gender equality policies in public administration. It reveals how the lack of reconciliation of work and family life linked to the lack of co-responsability, persists as one of the main obstacles to the equal participation of women in the judicial system, thereby widening the gender gap and reinforcing gendered roles in the labor market.

Male Dominated Workplaces and Part-Time Work as Mechanisms of Informal Occupational Closure That Exclude Women from the Pilot Trainer Role

Stella Margaret Warren[1], Sue Durbin[1], Vanda Papafilippou[1], Marnie Munns[2]

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Aviation is a traditionally male working environment (Durbin et al., 2022b; Bridges, 2014; McCarthy et al., 2015) where women's suitability and abilities are questioned (Yanıkoğlu et al., 2020) a persistent masculine and misogynistic culture persists and women struggle to be accepted by both colleagues and passengers (Durbin et al., 2022a, 2022b; McCarthy et al., 2015).

To understand the extent of the underrepresentation of women in the sector, this article focuses upon the pilot trainer role, which is a senior progression route for pilots, but with very low numbers of women who make up just 0.9% of all UK registered trainers/examiners (CAA, 2022).

We examine the processes, professional/organisational cultures and informal workplace practices (Tomlinson, 2006) that result in less transparency in the career progression of women to the pilot trainer role. To understand how this specific profession 'closes' towards women, we turn to the theory of occupational closure (Weeden, 2002; Witz, 1990). Traditionally, analysis of occupational closure has been mostly associated with the conscious efforts of professions to regulate access, but informal processes and interactions, which are difficult to trace and are often persistent in professions, act also as a mechanism of informal occupational closure (Evetts, 1998; Roscigno et al., 2007; Tomlinson, 2006). Adopting the theoretical lens of informal occupational closure, we can understand structural inequalities, such as blocking women to progress to a pilot trainer role when they work part-time, but also the interplay between organisations and professions, and individual level processes (Acker, 1990).

Aetiology Of Gender Inequalities In Italian Public Administrations

Roberta Zonno

Università degli Studi di Bari, Italy

The purpose of this contribution is to understand if and how the merit system adopted by Italian Public Administrations in the past twenty years has been contributing to foster gender inequalities.

In fact, in this system, based on what is called "performances cycle", which sets goals, tasks and rewards of both offices and individuals, evaluations are generally conducted by managers with a gender-neutral approach, aiming to make such evaluations as effective and objective as possible. This means that managers do not consider specific gender-based factors, like unpaid care workload of children, disabled and elder relatives due to gender stereotypes, nor sex-based factors, such as pregnancy and birth. It is very important to underline that in Italy, maternal paid leave covers five months to be spent before or after birth, and is an inalienable right. Therefore, women must be absent from work for at least five months, which on a twelve-month-evalutation makes a difference indeed.

The main theoretical framework of this research can be summarized into three main areas: theories of late second-wave/early third-wave feminism (i.e. Bacchi, 1990); theories of public value from both economic and political science prospective (i.e. Deidda Gagliardo, 2022); theories of management and organization (i.e. Conley et Koskinen Sandberg, 2023).

The conduction of the research involves three Italian city councils and has been divided in three sections: in the first one, a self-assessment tool will be used to understand

which gender equality criteria the administration has set and which ones need implementation; secondly, employees will be asked to answer questionnaires to understand their perception of gender inequalities in performance evaluations and managers will be interviewed to assess their awareness of how gender-neutral evaluations may impact on careers and economic rewards. Eventually, there will be focus groups to share the results and to offer a testing of gender-sensitive indicators and tools in performance cycle management.

The contribution is cutting-edge because aims to reinvent the methodology of performance management and evaluation, improving careers opportunities for women civil servants.

On the Road to Gender Equality? Truck Driving Women in Sweden

Lisa Maria Ringblom

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In recent decades, the proportion of women has increased significantly in several previously male-dominated professions in Sweden, such as physicians and lawyers. Common to these is that they are well-paid, high-status professions that require higher education. However, the number of women is now also increasing in several male-dominated working-class professions but why?

Today, we have significant knowledge of the mechanisms that create and maintain gender inequality in working-life. However, changes towards increased gender equality are not as well researched. Therefore, more knowledge is needed about how gender-integrating processes function and how gender norms and gender patterns in working life can be changed and challenged.

In Sweden today, the male-dominated profession of truck drivers consists of eight percent women. However, there are good reasons to believe that this figure will increase significantly in the coming years. Increased interest in the profession by women can e.g. be observed in the upper secondary school's Vehicle and Transport program, where 24 percent of those admitted in the autumn of 2020 were women.

The overall aim of the study is to investigate how gender-integrating processes in male-dominated blue-collar professions can be understood and explained, and thereby how gender equality can be improved. The empirical data consist of 30 interviews with truck driving women and transport industry experts.

RN15 | Global, Transnational and Cosmopolitan Sociology

RN15 | T01: Global Sociologies

In search of Global Sociology: A critical overview of competing research agendas

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University of Cyprus, Cyprus

This paper critically examines the idea of global sociology. While academic Sociology initially emerged out of the critical self-reflection of Western societies, in the post-1945 era the field extended its reach to the rest of the world. The notion of global sociology emerged in the 1960s and has been on the agenda of the International Sociological Association since at least 1990. Delving deeper than the mere notion of a sociology that is applied to the entire world, global sociology requires the re-examination of the role of core sociological concepts and narratives, especially regarding the extent to which these reflect Eurocentric preoccupations. Global Studies and Postcolonial Sociology, two of the most widely known research fields claiming global intent, are examined as to whether they provide convincing narratives for global sociology. While both offer promising insights, they also suffer from important drawbacks. Instead of attempting to unearth new grand narratives that would displace the narrative of Western modernity, though, it might be possible to envision a plurality of such narratives coming from different regions of the globe. Sociology can thus be conceived not as exclusively global but also as local and glocal.

Sociology and Anthropology: Is there still a Difference in a Globalized World?

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This contribution questions the persistence, today, of solid boundaries and a real difference between sociology and anthropology. The distinction between them is, in fact, not in the object, given that both study people and their relationships within society and different cultural contexts. The distinction is not even in the scale of their analyses: if, in fact, anthropology favours a micro perspective, large sectors of sociology adopt this same perspective. The distinction is not even in the research techniques adopted: if in fact anthropology favours qualitative techniques based on direct observation, these techniques are also widely used in sociology. The distinction then probably lies in the origins and different starting objectives of the two disciplines. On the one hand, anthropology was born out of curiosity to know and study the "other" societies with which the West came into contact in its expansion while, on the other hand, sociology was born to try to understand and hopefully direct a society that was transforming with unprecedented depth and speed. In a nutshell: anthropology was born to study others, while sociology was born to study ourselves. The question is then the following: is this distinction still justifiable in a world, such as the current one, in which the processes of globalization make the distinction between "us" and "them" increasingly less clear and relevant, in whatever way we want to define these terms, and in which, moreover, the field of sociology is fortunately populated by an ever-increasing number of non-Western scholars?

Internationalization of Sociology in Lithuania: Challenges and Opportunities

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Institute of Sociology of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania

Internationalization of sociology has been a crucial issue in sociological literature for several decades. It is agreed that global scientific knowledge circulation makes a valuable impact for the development of sociology. However, a critical analysis of global power relations between the centre and the periphery of sociology coupled with an investigation of the impact of internationalization for national sociologies reveals the existence of numerous challenges. These challenges encompass intellectual dependency, Eurocentrism, social inequalities, and the dominance of the English language, among others.

This paper attempts to contribute to the ongoing debate on internationalisation of science by analysing challenges and opportunities inherent in this phenomenon, with a specific focus on small countries. The empirical foundation for this analysis derives from a case study of Lithuania. Methodologically, the present paper draws upon a synthesis of previous research on internationalization, documentary analysis, and a secondary analysis of sociological data.

Prosociality to Cope with Global Challenges: A Research and Policy Agenda

Giacomo Bazzani

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In response to contemporary global challenges, the concept of solidarity undergoes a transformative reevaluation, demanding a departure from conventional interpretations. This article contributes three pivotal insights to navigate this evolving landscape. Firstly, it discerns the emergence of unprecedented interdependencies arising from global challenges and introduces the concept of altruistic solidarity.

This new paradigm transcends traditional distinctions between mechanical and organic solidarity, reflecting a profound shift in societal interconnections.

Secondly, the article advocates for a precise definition, demarcating solidarity from other social processes and grounding the conceptual framework in the empirical criterion of prosociality. This distinction ensures a focused examination of solidarity, using prosociality as the litmus test for understanding its dynamics across diverse contexts.

Lastly, the article introduces the Five Strategies prosocial model, a comprehensive interdisciplinary guide designed to provide practical insights for researchers and policymakers. This model elucidates strategies for studying and promoting prosociality effectively, underscoring its pivotal role in addressing global challenges. By navigating the intricate interplay between societal structures and prosocial behaviors, the model equips stakeholders with a versatile tool for informed decision-making and policy formulation. This holistic approach positions altruistic solidarity and the Five Strategies prosocial model as crucial elements in fostering cooperative responses to the multifaceted challenges of our interconnected world.

RN15 | T02: The Diffusion of Ideas and Discourses

Intergovernmental Organizations As Carriers Of World Cultural Norms and Principles: Analysis Of Discursive Change In Formal Reporting Of Four Organizations

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Social scientists have been increasingly interested in examining global social change. Literature often ascribes the change to IOs and the norms and principles they promote to nation-states. However, research is scarce on how these norms and principles enter IOs' agendas. Existing research focuses on individual norms and on who or which entity has accelerated the adoption of the norm in question in the organization at any given time. In this study, we supplement the existing research on IOs as consumers and carriers of global norms and principles by investigating four prominent IGOs – the IAEA, the ILO, the IMF, the OECD – and the rhetoric used in their annual reporting. Our initial findings indicate that despite their distinct tasks and profiles, all four organizations start to take a stand on the increasingly diverse norms and principles shared in world society in the mid-90s and especially in the 2000s. Yet, there are differences in what kind of norms or principles are perceived as most pertinent in the sense that they are first incorporated into IGOs' annual reporting. There are also differences between organizations in how these norms and principles are used as part of communication directed at member countries. We argue that the abstraction of the language evident in IGOs' formal reporting is part of a wider discursive shift in world society that started after the end of the Cold War, and which accelerated as the 21st century entered. The change in IGOs' formal rhetoric is largely a result of organizations' aspiration to construct themselves as influential by addressing an increasingly large number of their member countries.

Private Affiliations in International Public Policy: The Case of UN Space Governance

Florian Rabitz, Inga Popovaite, Vidas Vilcinskas

Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Diplomats that represent governments in international negotiations have normative commitments to serving the public interests both of their home countries and of

international society at large. But diplomats also frequently have parallel commitments arising from their private affiliations to organizations other than their respective governments. Examples of such private affiliations include memberships in think tanks, consulting roles for civil society organizations, or collaborations with industry organizations. While private affiliations are not problematic as such, they can raise challenges regarding conflicts of interest in international public policy. In this paper, we use social network analysis to gauge patterns of private affiliations in the rapidly evolving field of outer space governance. We focus on the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the primary international forum dealing with diverse political and legal aspects of outer space at a historical moment which sees an unprecedented increase in the number of private space organizations. We collect publicly available information from social media about private affiliations held by current diplomatic representatives in COPUOS, using 2-mode networks to associate individuals with organizations. Preliminary results suggest that the diplomatic representatives of spacefaring nations tend to hold strong corporate ties that exist in parallel to their public interest commitments, raising questions regarding regulatory capture that have similarly been raised in other international forums such as the International Maritime Organization or the International Civil Aviation Organization. We conclude by discussing the need for improved transparency measures and conflict-of-interest policies in order to ensure inclusive, accountable and democratic governance of outer space. IRB approval has been obtained for collection and processing of personal data.

The Global Circulation and Performance of Extreme Narratives

Gwenaellë Bauvois

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Extremist narratives are frequently perceived as mere ‘stories’ recounting specific events or situations within a particular national, political, historical, or cultural context, particularly in discussions related to nationalism and immigration. However, in this paper we argue that the exploration of extremism, along with its narrative content, should transcend narrow national confines and be regarded also as a global phenomenon.

Extreme narratives, for instance conspiracies reinforcing the mistrust in politicians and in the media, are not static, impermeable and strictly restricted to one geopolitical setting, particularly amid global crises. These narratives circulate, more and more quickly in the hybrid media system, and gain reinforcement through processes such as reiteration, repetition, and citation— through ‘performativity’ —manifesting differently across diverse contexts. Furthermore, these extreme narratives are ‘being performed’ by diverse ‘populist’ actors, notably politicians and identity entrepreneurs, enhancing their emotional stickiness by tapping into sentiments of fear, shame, or pride. While being localised on some level, these narratives also frequently exhibit striking similarities across different contexts, more notably when societal tensions take a supranational dimension.

This paper provides theoretical insights into the global and transnational nature of the circulation and performance of extreme narratives, drawing on preliminary reflections and findings from the ongoing Horizon project ARENAS (Analysis of and Responses to Extremist Narratives).

Testing the Role of Kin and Nonkin in Personal Networks at the Intersection of Familism and Individualization

Shira Offer

Bar Ilan University, Israel

Normative, social, and demographic shifts associated with late modernity have led to major transformations in the realm of intimacy and care. Scholars have argued that in contemporary society, nonkin relationships assume a larger role in people’s lives and increasingly fulfill functions traditionally associated with the family. Using egocentric network data collected with a representative sample in 2021, this study examines the roles of kin and nonkin in the support networks of Jewish and Palestinian Israelis (N = 899 respondents who named 6,648 alters). Israeli society provides an excellent case study for testing this issue because it is characterized by conflicting trends of high familialism and strengthening individualization. Results show that in general, among Jewish and Palestinian respondents alike, both immediate kin and nonkin (a category that mainly included friends) were an important source of support. The share of extended kin in the support network was small, especially among Jewish respondents. However, multilevel analyses revealed that after controlling for sociodemographic characteristics, immediate kin were more likely than nonkin to provide support among Jewish respondents only. Among Palestinian respondents, the opposite trend was observed. These findings were not affected by perceptions of familism, which were generally high, but perceptions of family strain considerably weakened the likelihood of immediate kin providing support. No significant difference was found between extended kin and nonkin in the likelihood of support. These findings are discussed as part of the defamilialization debate and recent economic and social developments.

RN15 | T03: Actors and Agency in a Global Context

"Migrants as Agents of Change: from the Welfarist Approach to Mutual Learning in Some Co-development Practices"

Silvia Malacarne, Anna Facchetti, Gloria Mussetto

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In the latest decades, international development cooperation and migration have had to contend with a progressive paradigm shift, rooted in the enhancement of human capital and the creation of reciprocal relationships between the North and the global South, in contrast to the traditional welfarist approach. In this scenario, this contribution aims to focus attention on the mutual learning concept which, thanks to the results of previous research, can be defined as an exchange of heterogeneous resources within a context of asymmetrical relationships where all involved actors can teach and, simultaneously, learn from each other. In the present research, mutual learning is investigated within the field of co-development, a cooperation strategy that highlights the agency of migrants and seeks to overcome the paternalistic logic characterizing the "donor-beneficiary" relationship for decades. The research question is whether it is possible to trace the mutual learning construct in successful practices of co-development that testify to the aforementioned paradigm shift. From a methodological perspective, a qualitative approach has been adopted; through the implementation of semi-structured interviews and participant observation, collected from different research projects about migrants and co-development process, the following results were emerged: an enrichment of theoretical reflection on the relations forms between the parties involved in co-development actions; the identification of cases where migrants have played an active role both towards their own communities of origin and in host societies, revealing themselves as agents of change. The added values of this contribution are, firstly, exploring mutual learning construct in the co-development context, and, secondly, the identification of empirical evidence that underscores the urgency of bridging the gap between theoretical reflection and empirical research in cooperation and migrations study.

Shaping The Human Self. Global Issues For A Professional Imagination In Social Work Training.

Sylvain Beck

Paris CI Migrations, France

This paper argues that the professional training of social workers is a laboratory for studying the shape of the human self by the preparation to the practices of crafts (Beck, 2023 ; 2024 forthcoming). Based on a methodology of participant observer in schools of social work in France (2015-2023) this paper, I argue that the professional practices are firstly shaped during the training and by the encounters, mixing emotions and sensitivity (Pappell, 1972), identification, and the taste of the otherness embodied in an institutional context and a social policy making as a trial experience that shapes a human self with an ability to a global social change as an intermediary level. This argument lies on to the interconnection between local and global scale by national political action as a shifting level. Following the few studies interested in global or transnational social work (O'Leary, 2019), rethinking professional identities (Nuttman-Shwartz, 2017) and practices (Panagiotaros, Boddy, Gray and Ife, 2022), or education in social work (Gabel, Gatenio, Healy, 2012) also considers social work at the heart of global issues. Interestingly, we can understand universal social problems divided in structural and conjunctural that social workers have to face of. Social and individual problems like access to human rights and social protection, child protection, disabilities, homelessness, sexual abuses and conjugal violences, drug abuses, mental health, racism and discriminations, immigration and asylum seeking are situations that we find around the world. But the social policies are structured at a regional, national and local level. They articulate professional practices and bureaucratic responses which a social diplomacy requires a professional imagination in the Anthropocene era.

Rethinking Cosmopolitan Sociological Method: Cross-boundary Ethnography

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As boundaries become increasingly blurred and complex, researchers in complex and culturally diverse field settings face uncertainties in interaction mechanisms, difficulties in establishing trust, and distances from local contexts. Addressing this issue, this study introduces cross-boundary ethnography, which has evolved through the study of interactions among groups within a bus station in Shenzhen. It combines sensory ethnography, ethnography of recognition, and digital ethnography. These approaches assist researchers in deeply observing and experiencing "place," establishing long-term trust relationships, and exploring new spatio-temporal dimensions, thereby revealing the researcher's presence, the complementarity between

research methods, and the process of interpreting local culture. Secondly, this article will clarify the relationship between cross-boundary ethnography and cosmopolitan methodological approaches, with the former being built upon the latter. Finally, the significance of cross-boundary ethnography lies in establishing a methodology that transcends both universalism and particularism. It requires researchers to self-position in plural and multi-sited spaces, reshape their roles, and dynamically respond to local situations.

RN15 | T04: Cosmopolitan Sociologies (1)

Being Cosmopolitanism In The Margin: Making The Bubble Tea On The Imagination

Xinwei Zhang

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During the summer of 2022, at a sandy beach located in the greater Helsinki, a bubble tea stall made a recurring appearance every sunny weekday afternoon and on weekends. This simplistic stall, in contrast to the more elaborate bubble tea shops, followed a streamlined process involving three steps: pouring tea from a thermos into a plastic cup, adding three pumps of fruity syrup based on preference, and incorporating a spoonful of colorful popping balls, omitting the conventional shaking process. Surprisingly, this modest set-up captured the attention of every child at the beach with an interest in bubble tea during that summer. This engagement led the children to encourage their parents to purchase the drink, share images of themselves with the drink on social media, and employ the hashtag #bubbletea in their posts. No one seemed to care if it was an authentic bubble tea, everyone was happy they were involved in a fashion process of bubble tea. “It tastes weird. I don’t like it, but I will post it in my ins stories.” One of the customers told to me, and it is her first time to try bubble tea.

How did this happen? Bubble tea is today a world-wide phenomenon. Bubble tea is not only associated with East Asian migration and diasporas; it is also deeply connected with young people and youth culture. As bubble tea has migrated, the practices and meanings associated with it change, but one constant is its connections to youthfulness, and fashion (Sigley 2015).

What are these consumers who don’t know what bubble tea is consuming when they are consuming bubble tea? Is bubble tea drinking part of broader trends towards more cosmopolitan forms of cultural consumption, especially among other non-East Asian consumers? This paper will explore how bubble tea turn to be a symbol of cosmopolitanism through interview and participant observation data and how people imagine cosmopolitanism via drink bubble tea.

Theorising Mobile Subjectivity: The Case of Digital Nomads

Mari Hannele Toivanen

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Digital nomadism is a rapidly growing phenomenon, particularly in the post-pandemic world. This presentation focuses on various aspects of digital nomad lifestyle, as narrated by digital nomads themselves. It also briefly touches upon the structural aspects (nation-state, neoliberal

capitalist system) of this form of lifestyle mobility, and its impact to the formation of mobile subjectivity. The empirical focus is on work, social relations, mobility as lifestyle and identity. In this presentation, I offer a conceptualisation of post-pandemic mobile, nomadic subjectivity drawing from an ethnographic study on digital nomadism. I ask: How do mobile subjectivities emerge? How is such subjectivity performed by digital nomads and sustained through mobility/immobility? How is the mobile, nomadic subjectivity entangled in embodiment, practice and context? As classical migration paradigms are falling behind in capturing the lived reality of modern-day nomadic mobilities, this presentation offers conceptual insight on the supranational dimension of digital nomads' social reality. The presentation draws from large ethnographic material, qualitative interviews with sixty-five digital nomads and stakeholders and observation data, collected by the author between 2019-2024, in Thailand, Spain, Portugal, Mauritius and Bulgaria. More broadly, the presentation sheds light on the profound societal and global changes we are currently witnessing concerning work, (lifestyle) mobilities, digitalisation and their impact on social and professional lives.

Locality and Cosmopolitanism in Action: Research of the Independent (Indie) Music Scene

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This paper offers an exploration of Israel's independent (indie) music scene as a prism to theorize locality and cosmopolitanism in action. It is based on research in Israel's indie music scene, focusing on its two prominent festivals. Through this research, we lay the groundwork for a nuanced discussion of localization and cosmopolitanism. While aligning themselves with national ethos and spaces, organizers of these festivals also constitute a part of a social and professional network that transcends Israel's borders. Moreover, unlike festivals dedicated to national or international values, practitioners in the local indie scene feature a nonchalant approach to both, effortlessly intertwining spatial, cultural, and stylistic categories as a matter of course. This reality creates a holistic sense of place that challenges binary distinctions and defies the analytical logic of "glocalization". To illustrate the continuous movement through spatial and cultural realms we use the model of a Mobius strip, a physical shape that allows for a recurring motion from the outer to the inner surface by moving along a singular plane and without transgressing any borderlines. The festivals, thus, embody a unique and fluid form of cosmopolitan expression, challenging traditional paradigms of cultural interaction.

Multiple Expressions of the Sense of Belonging and Transnational Practices of Solidarity in the Light of Translocality: a Case Study of Senegalese in Tuscany

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Senegalese migration to Italy is characterized by strong ties with the motherland, as evidenced by the extent of remittances and the propensity for associationism to be "actors of development" in the contexts of origin. The paper analyzes how the sense of belonging marked by the continuous tension between the "myth of return" and "dual presence" defines both the migratory culture and solidarity practices of the Senegalese migrant, within which translocality (the places where mobile subjects are locally rooted; see Smith 2001; Sinatti 2017) may offer new analytical perspectives on the transnational characteristics of everyday life. The first part of the paper will explore the characteristics of Senegalese transnational migration culture and its continuous redefinition based on trade-offs between definitive return and the benefits offered by staying in migration. The second part presents four forms of solidarity (religious, village, secular-multiethnic, and cooperative) promoted by Senegalese organizations toward their country, for which the different ways of experiencing translocality highlight multiple expressions of the moral economy of belonging and of migrants' transnational practices as agents of development, interpreted from the binomial "moral obligation/sacrifice" versus "responsibility/opportunity". The aim is to identify how translocality makes possible access to different forms of social and material capital, as well as the shift from a more traditional aid culture based on membership in specific groups toward more secularized and professionalizing engagement strategies ascribable to the mainstream of development cooperation. The analyses are based on ethnographic research conducted in Tuscany.

RN15 | T05: Cosmopolitan Sociologies (2)

Cosmopolitan Democracy The Test Of The 21st Century

Daniele Archibugi

Irpps – Italian National Research Council, Italy

The never dormant cosmopolitan aspiration had ignited with new hopes at the end of the cold war. After the roaring 1990s, it almost seemed that it was possible to live without enemies and that the democratic regimes of the West would also extend to the East and South of the world.

Unfortunately, two wars of aggression, the one in Afghanistan and Iraq, have had the deleterious effect of losing the leading role that Western countries could have claimed. Global challenges are increasingly pressing (in just over five years, the world had to deal with financial crises, environmental emergencies and pandemics) while the attempt to respond to them with shared global governance has given disappointing results.

Is it still possible to affirm a democratic global governance to move out of the current impasse?

If the traditional idea that the players of international politics should be a restricted circle of state governments is rejected, what are the social and institutional forces which could carry out a positive role in a fresh democratic global governance?

The paper explores the cases of a few new actors which, although sporadically, have managed to provide enhanced vigour to the hope of a cosmopolitan democracy. Three cases are scrutinized: i) local government activism in Riace (Italy) to host refugees, ii) international NGOs providing micro-credit to women in Indian rural areas, and iii) transnational networks of social participation. On the ground of these experiences, their potentials and limits for genuine cosmopolitan citizenship will be explored.

"Trans-local Connections and the Staging of Cosmopolitanism: Dramaturgy of Town Twinning"

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This contribution focuses on a practice of trans-local and transnational interconnection that has experienced a strong boost, especially after the Second World War: town twinning. Various forms of such associations existed and continue to do so, and they seem important in the context of the idea of "living in one world." From a historical perspective, town twinning has often been associated with values such as international understanding, the promotion of peace and open-mindedness, and has been linked with the idea of bringing citizens from different contexts, that is, countries and regions, into direct, personal exchange.

What meaning is attributed to town twinning arrangements today – in the context of multiple global crises and strong social polarization and contradictions? Our study explores this question using the example of Vienna and its diverse international district partnerships. The main interest lies in the staging of these connections and specifically the way in which they are lived and dramaturgically set. Through an ethnographic research perspective and drawing on theoretical considerations of discursive institutionalism, symbolic interactionism, and the dramaturgy of existence (theater studies), we investigate rituals and socialities characteristic to these connections, which are sometimes called "friendships from below." The analysis focuses in particular on gifts and artifacts and their placement in public space, and the narratives that encompass these connections. In this context, failed connections and pretended declarations or expressions of (political) friendship are also of interest. The aim is to illuminate and better understand forms of enactment of (trans-)locality and cosmopolitanism in and through town twinning.

The Cosmopolitan Brands Of Elite Universities: Reproducing Local Inequalities On The Global Stage

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Abstract

This paper draws upon Pierre Bourdieu's analysis of the competition for economic, social and cultural capitals within educational fields to analyse the work of elite university brands. Despite their immediate recognisability, exclusive brands such as Nike or Chanel, Harvard or Oxford, possess a nebulous quality that is difficult to define or value. Brands often act as a medium through which relational values are generated and in which consumers invest in a brand experience. The relational nature between brands and brand consumers can readily be understood within a Bourdiesian frame as the completion for cultural, economic and social capitals. Whilst elite university brands perform similar functions of generating value, they also exhibit other characteristics that are more unusual. This includes elite universities being uniquely positioned to 'self-certify' their brand's value without the need to generate greater brand consumption. Unlike many universities they do not have to compete for students for example, and if anything their exclusivity, including along lines of class and race, adds value to the brand. Elite universities also reproduce institutional positions in which they are the final arbiters of knowledge production. Drawing upon qualitative research conducted at four elite universities in the US and UK this paper will explore how this brand exclusivity functions as a local phenomenon with the ability to generate value and power nationally and transnationally. We conclude elite university brands are 'Cosmopolitan Brands' immersed in local and highly exclusive practices which reinforce wider inequalities of class and race on the global stage.

Mediating Cosmopolitan Consumption: A Comparison of Global Consumer-facing Brands, Ethical Brand Strategies, and Cosmopolitan Configurations

Sonia Karen Bookman, Tiffany Hall

University of Manitoba, Canada

Part of a broader trend toward the "moralization of markets" (Stehr, 2008), global consumer-facing brands from Starbucks to H&M have adapted the mantra of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and now act as "moral entrepreneurs" in their respective fields (Otto et al., 2021:5). Such brands comprise popular sites where consumers daily encounter images of global cultural diversity, principles of social and environmental responsibility, and opportunities to engage in, what can be captured by the term, cosmopolitan consumption. As market mechanisms with wide-reaching influence, we are concerned with the ways in which such brands shape cosmopolitan ideals, practices, and visions, in other words, what it means to be cosmopolitan in contemporary consumer culture?

Although there is a growing scholarship on cosmopolitan consumption, little sustained attention has been paid to investigating how it is articulated and underpinned by market cultural forms such as brands. In this paper we consider how global companies and their brands support and mediate particular kinds of cosmopolitanism and cosmopolitan consumption via their involvement with, and implementation of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Focusing on three global consumer-facing brands, Amazon, H&M, and IKEA, in a Canadian context, the paper draws on material from recent case study research (2020-2023), including documentary study, detailed textual and visual analysis of brand communications, and visual observation of brand environments. A critical, comparative analysis will reveal how the brands articulate different visions of cosmopolitanism and assemble particular cosmopolitan affordances, developing distinctive strategies for engaging consumers in cosmopolitan consumption and the co-performance of a responsible brand image. We conclude by exploring some of the broader social and cultural implications of such cosmopolitan configurations, in terms of their potential effects on public discourse.

RN15 | T06: General Session

Epistemic Leaps In Political Mind Reading: Portraying Senator McCain's Mind On Russian State Television

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Attributing thoughts, desires, motives, emotions, and other inner experiences to other people is a highly routinized feature of our everyday sensemaking. However, even though people can imagine and believe to know what is going on in other peoples' minds, there is no direct access to others' consciousness, leaving room for multiple interpretations all based on an epistemic leap from the interior of one mind to another. In our paper we argue that the routinized folk-psychological way of making sense of the reality around us and the lack of actual access to others' minds opens a site for political persuasion. To grasp this process, we introduce the idea of political mind reading as a means of persuasion in political rhetoric in which political actors make sense of political events by suggesting folk-psychological descriptions of how things are and why, and so doing the mind reading routine for their audiences. Furthermore, we suggest that the portrayal of others' minds works as a form of epistemic governance, that is, as a means to influence people's conceptions of reality and actors in it. In the empirical analysis this phenomenon is investigated through the case of a Russian political talk show, 'Bolshaya igra', analyzing extracts of political mind reading in the opening episode of the program (broadcast in September 2018) centered on the legacy of U.S. senator John McCain.

Does International Mobility Pay Off? Comparing Labour Market Success of German Remigrants and the German Non-mobile Population

Antonia Clara Görtz

University Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Although remigration account for a large part of migration events and professionals and academics are increasingly required to have international experience for a successful career, little is known about the impact of remigration on individual labour market success. Whereas some authors stress that remigration is associated with failure of emigration, other researchers underline that remigrants' career could benefit due to their international experiences in terms of rising human capital. In this case, there could be benefits in job positions and wages. Therefore, the presentation addresses two questions: First, does international experience pay off in terms of labour market success? And second, which occupational groups does this apply to?

To answer these questions, remigrants and the non-mobile population are compared. Analyses are based on data from the German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS) and the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP). Entropy balancing and mean value comparison is applied for the comparison of the German remigrants and the mobile population. Appropriate regressions are used to investigate differences between remigrants and the non-mobile population in terms of different labour market outcomes (wages, occupational status, unemployment risk). It can be assumed that international mobility affects remigrants' labour market success. However, some differences in terms of gender, skills and migration background could be assumed. The analyses contribute to a better understanding of possible social inequalities with regard to individual returns to international mobility.

Resilience through Relationships: Social Networking Strategies of Ukrainian Refugees in Poland and Australia

Lukasz Krzyzowski[1], Maria Nawojczyk[2], Oleksandra Missa[2], Anastasija Plakhotnyk[3], Janusz Mucha[4]

1Edith Cowan University, Australia; 2AGH University of Krakow, Poland; 3Jagiellonian University, Poland; 4University of Bialystok, Poland

This paper presents a comprehensive comparative analysis focusing on the experiences of Ukrainian refugees in distinct social, cultural, economic, and environments. It underscores the role of digital platforms in connecting refugees with their homeland and forming supportive networks in their host countries, highlighting how these modern technologies bridge geographical distances and foster community building.

Utilising three waves of interviews incorporating ego-centric social network analysis, the study provides unique insights into how refugees build and depend on these networks for support and wellbeing. The analysis showcases how these social networks are instrumental in facilitating not just practical aspects of resettlement but also in maintaining local and transnational support connections.

The comparative analysis with Australian data enriches our understanding of how different contexts shape refugee experiences and social networks. A significant focus is placed on the role of digital platforms in enhancing connectivity, bridging distances with their homeland, and forming supportive communities in host countries.

The study also examines the balance between local support networks within host communities and transnational connections, analysing their impact on refugee experiences. Findings demonstrate how these networks facilitate integration, providing resources, practical and emotional support, and advice.

The paper concludes with significant policy implications. It advocates for policies that recognise and strengthen these social networks as they are integral to the social integration and overall well-being of refugees. It suggests that government and non-governmental organisations should focus on facilitating and enhancing these networks, providing resources and platforms that can assist in the creation and maintenance of these vital connections.

RN15 | T07: Transnational Sociologies

Vaccination Against Covid-19 – The Transnational Issues

Irina Zamfirache, Raisa Zamfirescu

University of Bucharest, Romania

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way individuals trust and relate to their healthcare systems. Our research focuses on the challenges that the European countries have faced regarding the vaccination anti Covid-19. We propose a general typology regarding vaccination hesitation, acceptance and refusal against COVID-19 for the EU27. The analysis has two dimensions: a quantitative one based on the information collected at the beginning of most of the national vaccination campaigns in Europe, including Eurobarometer 94.3 and country case studies based on social documents, mass media coverage and laws regarding vaccination. Based on the knowledges, attitudes and perceptions stated by the respondents of the European states (EU27), we constructed with the help of the cluster k-means (SPSS) statistical analysis a typology with four categories on the subject of vaccination against COVID-19. Our study proposes a matrix with five items / scenarios on a scale from total agreement to total disagreement. We chose a typology with four attitudinal types (clusters). The information collected for the case studies provide additional details and explanations for the issues that the healthcare systems faced regarding vaccination and also explain the tensions associated with the vaccination against COVID-19.

Transnational Feminist Studies of Telemedical Abortion: The Need for Collaborative Research

Paula Wallmeyer

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This presentation explores the efforts of NGOs that provide telemedical medical abortion (TMA) at the European level, making abortion more accessible by reducing financial and logistical barriers. Positioning my research in line with the transnational feminist paradigm, I draw on research strategies that seek to foster social change while simultaneously working to counter the privileging of institutionalised knowledge production. Attempts to regulate women's reproductive choices are closely related to heteronormative notions of the family, regressive notions of gender, and racist notions of the nation. As a topic at the heart of this discourse, abortion is subject to political regulation like almost no other medical service, leading to an international patchwork of abortion legislation. Consequently, access to abortion is highly unequal at the international, national, and regional levels. The spatiality of the issues ultimately makes it a question of mobility. Transnational NGOs are addressing the reality of limited and unequal access to abortion by dispatching abortion drugs worldwide. The presentation focusses on these organisations in a European context and discusses collaborative research processes that aim to align the interests of researchers and the community. I draw on expert interviews with NGO staff and representatives, which aimed to find shared points of interest and working together to refine the interview guide for the following interviews with women seeking TMA. The outcome is a collaboratively constructed research tool. This strategy aims to expand my research community beyond academia, fostering research that aligns with the interests of practitioners in the field.

Puerto Ricans Online Gaming Communities on Discord: A Virtual Ethnography from a Transnational Perspective

Luis Eduardo Andrade Silva

University of Salamanca, Spain

As digital landscapes evolve, so too do the modalities of community and identity construction, particularly within online gaming spheres. This study examines how Puerto Rican migrants engage in transnational identity formation through the microcosm of Discord's gaming communities. The central research question is: How do online gaming environments act as cultural nexuses for transnational identity among migrants? Rooted in theories of media evolution and migration integration, this virtual ethnography challenges traditional assimilation paradigms, highlighting the salience of gaming platforms in sustaining diasporic ties. It scrutinizes the dynamics of community engagement, symbolic interaction, and identity performance within these digital arenas, emphasizing the intersection of play and cultural expression.

Utilizing digital ethnography as its methodology, the study employs immersive participant observation within Puerto Rican gaming groups on Discord. This approach enables an in-depth understanding of the sociocultural practices that underpin community cohesion and the complex layering of migrant identities in online spaces. Preliminary results reveal that gaming communities on Discord serve as more than mere virtual playgrounds; they are crucial in perpetuating cultural traditions, fostering social learning, and facilitating transnational connections. These interactive environments offer migrants a platform for cultural negotiation and community building, often resulting in the reinforcement of national identity while simultaneously encouraging integration into the global gaming culture.

This investigation contributes a detailed examination of gaming communities as significant social ecosystems that extend beyond entertainment, impacting real-world integration and identity formation. It highlights the intricate ways in which gaming practices and digital communication converge to create a unique transnational space for migrants, where the rituals and narratives of gaming become intertwined with the lived experiences of diaspora. This research adds to the growing field of digital social sciences by

elucidating the role of gaming in migrant transnationalism, offering insights into the mechanisms through which digital play spaces can mirror, challenge, and transform cultural and social realities. The significance of this work is highlighted by its focus on a demographic that has not been extensively explored within gaming studies, thereby contributing a fresh perspective to the virtual ethnographic study of Latin American migrants' online gaming communities.

Homemaking as a multilocal process. The case of Bangladeshi migration across Rome and London

Simone Cerulli

University of Milan Bicocca, Italy

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork on Bangladeshi migrant communities in Rome and London, this research aims at deepening the study of diasporic and transnational networks in their attempts to carve a niche in the context of arrival, by exploring the intersection of spatial politics, religious practices, and homemaking processes. In a context of global interconnectedness and exponentially increasing sources of imagination, new forms of belonging, identity and adaptation to space emerge. This gives rise to new challenges for both young generations, in their being "twice-migrants", and local and national policies in their responses to an ever-increasing complexity. This contribution therefore investigates what it means for an entire generation of people born on Italian soil to grow up and adapt to a hostile context that does not recognise their autochthony, and thus opt for emigration in search of a sense of belonging. This gives rise to a paradox that generates further and often painful friction between the multiple contextual identities to be cyclically deployed, between the different dimensions of being Bangladeshi, Italian Bangladeshi and British Bangladeshi.

RN15 | T08: Global Orders

Institutional Orders in COVID-19 Responses: Negotiating State Legitimacy and Global-local Asymmetries in Uganda and Tanzania

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1University of Jyväskylä, Finland; 2Makerere University, Uganda; 3Sokoine University, Tanzania

The paper explores institutional orders manifested in Uganda and Tanzania during the Covid-19 response. We draw and build on organizational institutionalism to interrogate power dynamics in building state legitimacy first, embedded in state-citizens relations and second, in regard to global policies and guidelines led by the World Health Organization (WHO). We argue that within existing socio-political regimes in these two East African countries, the global Covid-19 measures were adopted, adapted, or resisted in ways that drew on different sources of legitimacy when portraying state tutelage, neglect, and coercion over citizenry. Based on an analysis of newspaper articles reporting on Presidents' addresses as well as announcements and orders from governmental bodies such as Health Ministries during 2020-2022, the paper scrutinizes the use of diverse institutional orders not only to legitimate state (in)action but also to acquiesce to and dismiss the global policies emanating from the powerful global North. We show how the two neighboring countries adopted strikingly different but hybrid responses that were legitimated through the logics of science, economy, religion, tradition, and authoritarian populist politics. Uganda's long-reigning President Museveni took a robust science-led and militaristic enforced strategy while Tanzania's President Magufuli initially embraced and then abandoned the WHO science-led approach and announced the country Covid-free; to be changed again after President Hassan assumed power in 2021. We discuss how the different legitimation strategies resonated with the two countries' post-colonial history of shifting global relations and the reproduction of their particular authoritarian states.

Discourses of Suspicion in Actor Designations: Articulation of Legal Subjects in Foreign Agent Law

Ivan Serbin

Tampere University, Finland

This article explores how the discussion and the subsequent reporting of the law in the state media rationalised the Foreign Agent Law in Russia between 2012 and 2022 to various audiences. By referring to the Membership

Categorisation Analysis and Bakhtin's consideration for the dialogism of discourse, I look at how identification and homogenisation of respective actors are used to communicate the legitimate view of the ontology of social reality. The preliminary argument rests on the observation that by employing a repertoire of membership identifications and narrative structures, the advocates of the law constructed an ontological view dominated by the hermeneutic of suspicion in international relations and models of appropriate citizenship.

Adopted upon Vladimir Putin's return to power in 2012, Russian Foreign Agent Law subjected the multitude of actors in civil society to rigorous regulation under the pretext of combatting foreign influence on domestic affairs. Unfolding in the past decade the law drew on strategies of external legitimisation through cross-national policy comparison. By referring to the example of similar policies elsewhere, such as the Foreign Agent Registration Act in the USA, the politicians in charge communicated the legitimacy of the newly invented policy. At the same time, the expansion of the law which gradually subjected the entirety of civil society was marked by the amplification of polarising political rhetorics. In this sense, the arguments in favour of the policy constructed the ontological view of international politics as a recurring attempt to subvert the indigenous processes by covert influence.

I argue, that presenting the policy as an import rather than an indigenous measure rationalised the securitisation of civil society and established a precedent for further expansion of the trend to gradually delegitimise organisations deemed dangerous. In this fashion, the discursive strategy of the proponents of the law builds on the popular imageries of modernisation in line with the universal trends, thus refuting the critique from the actors of civil society affected by this measure and international commentators alike. However, by referring to the binary semiotics of 'Us and Them' the expansion of the policy was rationalised to the national audiences.

(Re)mapping Global Power Relations? Logistics, Labor and Humanitarian Aid

Patricia Sarah Ward

University of Bielefeld, Germany

This paper considers how humanitarian logistics organizes labor relations in the contemporary economy. Over the past few decades, research has been prolific on the economic, social and cultural effects of the global (re)organization of supply chains on work and workers, highlighting continuities as well as transformations in terms of labor processes, workers' mobilities and solidarities, the role of the state, and the reproduction of the colonial division of labor. Yet, the majority of this work focuses on the private sector. What is missing from these analyses is the inclusion of transnational humanitarianism: a major global industry that embeds logics from both profit and non-profit sectors in its operations, and organizes labor in and beyond 'crisis' contexts. Drawing upon critical interdisciplinary scholarship on logistics and sociological analyses of the labor process, this paper considers the organization of work and workers in major humanitarian logistic hubs located in Italy and Dubai, spaces where multiple state and non-state stakeholders strive to satisfy a variety of 'clients' and 'mandates' on 'humanitarian emergency' premises. I find that the labor relations that manifest and are produced from these spaces urge more elaborate explanations about first, how market, but also other logics organize labor and workers. Second, the vehicles of power stakeholders mobilize to construct and delineate skill and social value. I argue that thinking with and through humanitarianism as logistics expands explanations about the processes that construct the international division of labor and thus mappings of global power broadly construed.

RN15 | T09: Global Networks

Do External Threats Decrease Political Polarization? Climate Change and Immigration Discussions on Finnish Twitter After the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Tuomas Ylä-Anttila, Antti Gronow, Arttu Malkamäki, Yan Xia, Mikko Kivelä

University of Helsinki, Finland

Increasing polarization poses serious challenges to democracy. Research has suggested that the rise of an external threat can decrease polarization and increase social cohesion, but the evidence for this claim is mixed. To better understand this phenomenon, we investigate whether the external threat posed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 depolarized discussion on divisive topics – immigration and climate change – on Finnish Twitter. Analyzing retweet networks before and after the invasion, we find that polarization does decrease, but only selectively. The depolarizing effect is confined to specific subtopics of divisive discussions and is limited by motivated reasoning – the tendency of participants to interpret new information in a way that fits their pre-existing, polarized frames. These results suggest that the depolarizing effect of external threats is limited, at least in the context of polarized bubbles on social media.

Global Science Cooperation at Cross-Roads? – Sino-German Research Collaborations amid "De-Risking" and "Research Security"

Lynn Sibert

Technical University Berlin, Germany

A distinct global science system that manifests itself through transnational knowledge production and transfer, is usually discussed as a paradigmatic expression of global cooperation. Amid intensified geo-political conflicts and an increased focus on national security, new challenges for open scientific cooperation arise, especially in the fields of emerging technologies. At the same time, the balance of power in global science has shifted: While asymmetries between Global South/North persist, China has developed into a leading center for scientific research output and cutting-edge innovation. While trends towards securitisation of collaborative science with "critical third countries" are becoming apparent in European science systems (following earlier science policy shifts in the US, i.e. "China initiative") and concepts of risk-aware collaborations being established, there is currently still little research on this topic. However, these changes of collaborative science offer major insights for adjusting and developing empirically-informed theoretical concepts of global cooperation. There is an urgent need to broaden the predominant bibliometric study of global scientific cooperation through qualitative-interpretative approaches. As part of an ongoing research project on Sino-German scientific cooperation, both document analysis (current guidelines, policy recommendations/measures from universities, research institutions and funding organisations) and ethnographic data are being collected to investigate researchers' and science administrators' perspectives and experiences. First results from field research conducted in internal workshops organised by German research institutions in response to new science policy requirements, in which conditions and measures for the future design of cooperation with Chinese partners are discussed, will be presented. Key conflict lines will be outlined looking at the extent to which established concepts of global cooperation are being challenged.

(Re)Bordering Europe: The Impacts of Brexit in the Dover-Calais Borderland

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For multiple decades, the European Union has not only grown together politically and

economically but also culturally and socially. Brexit, however, has shown that this kind of transnationalization can be reversed. While the political and economic consequences of this

have been the subject of a vivid public and scholarly discussion, its social and societal impacts have been largely absent from these debates.

The aim of my research project is to fill this gap by analyzing the social consequences of Brexit. Borderlands have been shown to be particularly suitable areas to investigate processes of (de)transnationalization. This is particularly true for the Dover-Calais crossing. The crossing is the most important transportation link between the UK and continental Europe, playing a pivotal role for the flow of both goods and passengers.

In a first step, I present my theoretical framework and conceptualize how the UK's exit from the EU could influence the border and, in turn, the lives of borderland residents. I argue that Brexit changes the legal and political configuration of the border as well as border discourses. This, then, has an effect on the lives and experience of people in the borderland, which consequently influence identities, perceptions, and discourses.

Following this, I present the initial findings of my fieldwork. Brexit has turned the border into a legal and psychological barrier for transnational mobility and cooperation. This is particularly visible in areas such as fishery, local and regional administration, and NGOs in the migration context. Actors in these domains face increased difficulties for cross-border activities. Potentially, these observations

could be indicative for larger processes of a restructuration of transnational mobility and interactions that results from Brexit.

EUropean Borders and Urban (In) Security

Nina Perkowski

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Over the last thirty years, borders have become increasingly diversified: border controls no longer take place only at state borders, but also within state territories. This paper critically examines this shift, with a particular focus on how urban areas are becoming new frontiers of border control and security. Through a comparative analysis, this paper examines how border logics are transposed into urban contexts, reshaping social relations and notions of (in)security and belonging. Hamburg and Milan serve as contrasting case studies, offering insights into the spatialization and governance of danger and (in)security within urban settings. The paper examines public debates and urban security practices in each city, revealing distinct narratives and challenges. In Hamburg, the discourse on urban security is dominated by issues of racial profiling and the police's expanded authority in designated "dangerous spaces". Conversely, urban security debates in Milan are marked by controversies related to the military operation "Safe Streets" and the ensuing power dynamics between national, regional and urban authorities. Examining both cases, the paper argues that an economy of fear, often underpinned by white ignorance, informs urban bordering practices in various ways. As such, the paper underscores the need for a critical engagement with the types of (non-)knowledge that influence perceptions of migration and (in)security across different scales, shaping policies and practices both at the EU's external borders and within EUropean cities.

RN16 | Sociology of Health and Medicine

RN16 | T01_01: Trust and health

Classical and contemporary scholars maintain – with robust argument – the centrality of trust in doing society. In a way, trust can be considered the concrete of social relationships. Defined as a positive expectation emerging in a condition of uncertainty and vulnerability (Guido Möllering), trust appears to be a pivotal notion in healthcare. Besides the commonplace about trust that patients must grant to healthcare professionals responsible for curing their vulnerable bodies, it is crucial to consider the trust that healthcare professionals must accord to patients, particularly when their vulnerability emerges. Two examples can offer a plastic view of the issue: childhood vaccination and psychotic crisis management. In the first situation, parents must trust healthcare professionals proposing inoculating medication in a loved, precious, healthy body. In the second vignette, we can imagine a psychiatrist made vulnerable by the behaviour of the disturbed patient, deciding if to carry on or suspend – for instance, by binding him/her to a bed – the therapeutic alliance. For this session, scholars are invited to discuss either theoretical or empirical studies, focussing on the cure and care relationships where the need for trust emerges in a frame of particular vulnerability of patients and/or healthcare professionals.

Trust In Government In A Time of Crisis: Does It Matter?

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The ability of governments and nations to handle crises and protect the lives of citizens is heavily dependent on the public's trust in their governments and related social institutions. The aim of the present research was to understand public trust in government during a time of crisis, drawing on interview data (N = 56) collected during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada (2021). In addition to the general public (n = 11), participants were sampled to obtain diversity as it relates to identifying as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (n = 7), LGBT2SQ+ (n = 5), low-income (n = 8), Black Canadians (n = 7), young adult (n = 8), and newcomers to Canada (n = 10). Data were coded in consideration of social theories of trust, and specifically the nature of trust between individuals and institutions working with government in pandemic management. Canadians' trust in government was shaped by perceptions of pandemic communication, as well as decision-making and implementation of countermeasures. Data suggest that although participants did not trust government, they were accepting of measures and messages as presented through government channels, pointing to the importance of (re)building trust in government. Perhaps more importantly however, data indicate that resources should be invested in monitoring and evaluating public perception of individuals and institutions generating the evidence-base used to guide government communication and decision-making to ensure trust is maintained. Theoretically, our work adds to our understanding of the nature of trust as it relates to the association between interpersonal and institutional trust, and also the nature of trust across institutions.

Medical (Dis)Trust and Post-Mortem Organ Donation Behaviours

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Organ transplantation is a lifesaving medical treatment. For its functioning social trust is crucial, as organ procurement for transplantation relies solely on the voluntarism of individuals through a decision for organ donation. This is especially important with post-mortem organ donation that requires of people to accept reality of death, which exposes our powerlessness and our dependence on medical institutions and other social structures.

Many factors, from personal to institutional or systemic, contribute to individual decision about post-mortem organ donation. This presentation will be focused on the role of medical (dis)trust, including the fear of medical neglect of potential donors, distrust in brain death diagnosis and expectation of a miracle, and trust in healthcare institutions.

Presented study is part of a larger study exploring the interplay between socio-cultural aspects of death and post-mortem organ donation behaviours. We conducted a qualitative study in Slovenia in 2021 using semi-structured in-depth interviews with people who are not registered as organ donors. With reflexive thematic analysis we identified how attitudes towards death interplay with post-mortem organ donation behaviours and how are they framed by wider socio-cultural aspects of death.

The findings show that medical (dis)trust is one of the major potential inhibitors of decision to donate organs, i.e. if present among personal beliefs one is less likely to consent to post-mortem organ donation for oneself or others. The study also suggests that the level of trust in healthcare institutions might be reflected in the decision for or against post-mortem organ donation as an expression of support or resistance to the established system.

RN16 | T01_02: The tensions surrounding medicine: declining trust and legitimacy towards expertise, epistemic challenges and transformative processes

The crisis of medical expertise, exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, is a significant concern for scientists and regulatory agencies whose role and authority are being questioned. Besides the conflict between the scientific community and the social groups that opposed controversial positions, we witness epistemic tensions even within the medical field. While Evidence-Based Medicine is still the gold standard, the universal applicability of the hierarchy of evidence has been challenged, and a more pluralistic approach has been advocated. The pandemic has questioned the feasibility of controlled trials in times of crisis, and the careful analysis of real-world settings and real-life clinical practices has been proposed as a new standard during emergencies. We invite contributions that critically reflect on the epistemic tensions in medicine during the pandemic and beyond. A (non-conclusive) list of topics includes: – the evolution of EBM, even in the light of AI, and the real-world evidence perspective; – the trust towards scientific and medical experts and regulatory agencies after the pandemic; – the tensions between protocols/guidelines and decision-making in everyday clinical practice; – bottom-up knowledge production by epistemic communities and communities of practice; – the role of sociology in sustaining the transformation towards a more pluralist approach in medical research.

"Anti-Scientific Americans:" The Prevalence, Origins, and Health Policy Consequences of Anti-Intellectualism in the U.S.

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Anti-intellectualism is a pervasive and pernicious force in contemporary American political life. Often conceptualized the dislike and distrust of experts – i.e., individuals who can make credible claims of superior knowledge in scientific and academic fields – anti-intellectualism has been thought to motivate opposition of evidence-based health policies.

In this manuscript, I summarize insights from a book project in which I offer a new theoretical framework (and empirical tests of that framework) for understanding the prevalence, origins, and health policy consequences of anti-intellectual attitude endorsement in the U.S. Bringing together micro-level survey data from dozens of cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys (spanning six decades), and macro-level data from hundreds of aggregated opinion polls dating back to the 1940s, I find that anti-intellectualism is both a pervasive and pernicious presence in American public life. I demonstrate that about one third of Americans can be thought about as holding anti-intellectual attitudes at any given time, which have become increasingly politicized following the rise of the Tea Party in the early 2010s. Reviving often-overlooked insights from Richard Hofstadter's pioneering work, I also show that anti-intellectualism both shapes and is shaped by Americans' resentment of the role that experts play in the policymaking process. Anti-intellectualism further motivates opposition to expert-backed health policies, including resistance to the advice of public health experts in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, I show that – – in periods where public anti-intellectual attitude endorsement is comparatively greater – – elected officials tend to respond by curtailing experts' influence in the policymaking process. I conclude on an optimistic note, by discussing how what we might learn from this research can help restore trust in experts.

Doubt in Medical Science As An Important Consequence Of The Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case Of Serbia

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One of the greatest achievements of medical science and science in general is the vaccine invention – by Edward Jenner who created the smallpox vaccine. In honor of this invention, Pasteur suggested that all vaccines should be given that name, and the vaccine discovered by Jenner was named after him. Moreover, thanks to the efforts of the

World Health Organization (WHO), smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980, which was the first eradication case ever of a human disease. Owing to vaccines, millions of human lives have been saved, particularly when it comes to infectious diseases such as smallpox.

On the example of Serbia, we show the continued action of antivaxxers in the past ten years. Public figures, mostly with no medical education, led a mass-media campaign against the MMR vaccine, which resulted in local epidemics, primarily measles, and was followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, when the announcement of the vaccine created against this disease immediately sparked stories about its harm to human health. In Serbia, the already existing prerequisites through years-long action of the anti-vaccine lobby were combined with the new cause – anti-COVID-19 vaccination, where this lobby's activities were transferred on to social media. The anti-vaccination process was strongly politicized and supported by foreign news pointing to vaccine nationalism, affairs regarding vaccine acquisition, corporations fighting for profit and many other weaknesses, which further deepened the Serbian citizens' mistrust. By the end of the pandemic, approximately 60% of adult citizens were vaccinated against COVID-19, which does not necessarily mean doubt was removed.

Tensions Around Expertise in Medicine? Laypeople and the Popularisation of Health-Related Self-Measuring Devices

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Technical devices that can be used to measure various body data are becoming increasingly popular, as sales figures show. In times of increasing data processing and sharing, the usage of these devices can be seen as a potential challenge to medical expertise. Although these devices (e.g. the Apple Watch or the Fitbit) do not necessarily comply with medical technology standards, the data and figures generated by them and their automatic evaluation might compete with, or even undermine, the expertise of medical professionals, and result in mis-(self-)diagnosis and/or – treatment. Based on interviews conducted with both patients and doctors in Germany as part of the research project "Digital Body Knowledge. Conflict Lines of Problematic Popularity in Health Care" (funded by the German Research Foundation), this presentation aims to answer the following questions: What role does data collected from patients play in medical practice? Does it really challenge medical expertise? And do healthcare professionals interact with the increasingly popular devices and their output? This presentation will demonstrate which tensions and (needs for) transformations are evident in the field and who (does not) trust whom – or what. Central to this is the infrastructure of the German healthcare system, in particular the state of its digitalisation, but also a deep-rooted scepticism towards technical innovations among the population and a primarily cautious approach to data protection create a unique framework for the (non-)negotiation of knowledge between laypeople and experts in the healthcare sector.

Rethinking Healthcare Assessment: Bridging the Gap Between Subjective Experiences and Objective Criteria

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This submission presents a new approach to evaluating healthcare systems in the context of evolving social transformations and the pivotal role of trust in healthcare. A novel health care index is introduced, seamlessly blending individual assessments with objective macro criteria, overcoming the limitations of traditional comparisons. The index, crafted through a data-driven procedure, uniquely incorporates subjective elements by weighting macro indicators based on individual self-rated health, adding a nuanced dimension to the evaluation process. In a multilevel model, this innovative index proves not only effective in minimizing country differences but also in explaining variability in self-rated health without impacting other estimates.

Moreover, the paper extends the discourse on health system comparisons by introducing a subjective level to traditional objective factors. The analysis delves into correlations between this subjective index and existing health system indices, highlighting the importance of considering not just objective health determinants but also subjective aspects like access to the health system. Intriguingly, correlations weaken when health expenditures are imposed rather than chosen voluntarily, underscoring the significance of subjective experiences in evaluating healthcare systems. This research contributes to the session's exploration of trust in healthcare, emphasizing a holistic approach that seamlessly integrates objective and subjective dimensions for a more captivating and comprehensive understanding of health system performance.

RN16 | T01_03: Trusting health information online in the era of transforming social communication

New communication technologies are influencing all aspects of people's lives. By making access to information more democratic, easier and immediately available (Muhammed, Mathew 2022), web-based platforms and applications encourage patients to deal with their informational and emotional needs in a new way. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the limited access to professional medical care has increased people's will to turn to various online channels (e.g. websites, online health communities) for healthcare purposes (Pöyry, Reinikainen & Luoma-Aho 2022; Kothari, Walker & Burns 2022). Therefore, it seems important to explore sense-making and decision-making processes employed in such situations, especially in the case of risk and uncertainty (e.g. life-threatening diseases). The use of online sources does not happen in a vacuum, but it is integrated into a texture of social practices (Gherardi, 2004) in which trust plays a crucial role. Trust, a highly complex and multidimensional phenomenon, has cognitive, emotional and behavioral dimensions, which merge into a unitary social experience (Lewis and Weigert 1985). In this sense, it is relevant to unveil how patients negotiate the risks associated with their choice to use online channels for healthcare purposes (e.g. Chauhan and Campbell, 2021).

In Such A Dark Period, The Only Light: Patients' Motivations And Strategies To Seek Care From #TERAPIADOMICILIARECOVID19

Alberto Ardissone

University of Macerata, Italy

This contribution presents the findings of a qualitative study conducted in Italy about a peculiar online health community named #TERAPIADOMICILIARECOVID19 (#TDC19), which, since April 2020, has assisted people with COVID-19 with early-at-home therapy delivered by volunteer doctors, free of charge for patients. The aim of the study was to analyse patients' motivations and strategies when negotiating risk in the context of this choice. Findings showed that patients' choices were the outcome of a process that forms an entangled ecology of care involving several dimensions, crossing micro, meso and macro levels: a) the process of knowledge-building by assessing mass-media, ascertaining the best protocol and recalling previous experiences with similar diseases; b) the experience of feeling abandoned by general practitioners (GPs) and healthcare institutions; c) the positive encounter with #TDC19's posts of gratitude written by people who were cured by #TDC19 doctors. In the end, patients' choice was not a leap of faith; they negotiated and balanced out the perceived risks associated with COVID-19 and with the possible available choices (GPs, do-it-yourself, #TDC19-doctors) based on a strategy that encompassed a blend of rational and in-between logics.

Health Misinformation And Social Divides During The COVID-19 Pandemic

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The COVID-19 pandemic has been followed by a massive infodemic, defined as an overabundance of information (whether accurate or not) that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when needed. The propagation of health misinformation through social media has become a major public health concern today. Although there is broad agreement among health professionals, researchers, and policymakers on the need to control health misinformation, there is still little evidence about the effects that the dissemination of false or misleading health messages through social media could have on public health in the near future. The present study aims to characterize the COVID-19 infodemic and its impact on social and health decision-making processes using a combination of social media mining techniques, surveys, experimental, and simulation data. In general, we observed that health misinformation was highest on Twitter and on topics related to tobacco products and drugs. During the pandemic, high politicization of health issues was noted. Misinformation on other health-related topics, such as vaccines or chronic diseases, was also highly prevalent. Furthermore, bots were identified as a source of disinformation that favors the dissemination of false or misleading content while contributing to increased social polarization and negative sentiments among population. Significant differences were detected in the structures of the diverse communities in relation to specific topics of conversation. Our findings show that the processes of social polarization can vary considerably depending on the misinformation sources, the network topology and the subjects on which the debates are articulated.

What Did Healthcare Organizations Learn from Covid-19? A Pragmatist Approach

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Healthcare organizations experienced radical changes in their organization and management, everyday practices, and core tasks during the covid-19 crisis. This paper examines whether and how the experiences from the pandemic have resulted in lasting organizational learning. Based on a longitudinal interview-study with Danish healthcare professionals in the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and 2.5 years later, it is shown that while only few codified and formalized learning outcomes appeared as lasting, certain more tangible and invisible new habits and organizational routines have developed from the Covid-experience. The study adds to discussions of organisational learning in healthcare by emphasising the habitual aspect of learning processes, even in times of crisis or uncertainty. This discussion is based on John Dewey's understanding of learning as the experience-based refinement of predispositions to act in certain ways.

Trust In Official Health Information Sources: The Perception Of Public Sector Communication On Covid-19 By Italian Citizens And General Practitioners.

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University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy

In the digital and platform society (van Dijck et al. 2018), health discourses are generated from multiple online sources in a hybrid and convergent media ecosystem (Jenkins et al. 2013; Bentivegna-Boccia Artieri 2019). Public health institutions try to inhabit digital environments by being aware of the e-patient phenomenon (DuPré 2014; Ferguson 2007).

During COVID-19 (Lupton 2022), public health institutions accelerated the use of digital media to deal with the infodemic and information disorder (PAHO 2020; Lewis et al. 2021), with advantages and disadvantages (including the risk of increasing inequalities) (Coombs 2020; Lovari et al. 2021). According to the literature on crisis and emergency communication, institutions' communication on the various aspects of the pandemic has to be integrated, multi-channel, and inter-institutional.

In this regard, a study has been conducted aiming to detect which information sources were used by Italians during the pandemic, the strategic role of public health institutions' communication, and the population's trust in them (Ducci et al. 2022), detecting the citizens' perception and the general practitioners' point of view.

The study was based on a quantitative method.

In May-July 2021, telephone interviews with a structured questionnaire were subjected to a stratified sample of Italian citizens (1.001 units), and a structured questionnaire was administered to a sample of general practitioners in a pre-selected region.

The results highlighted:

– differences between Italian citizens in relation to their attitudes towards information sources and health institutions communication;

– the need for greater inter-institutional and integrated communication between general practitioners, institutions, and healthcare facilities in order to satisfy citizens' needs.

RN16 | T01_04: Gender perspectives in sociology of health and medicine research

"Don't Say That The Doctor Gave You 'Only' Five Years – Say He Gives You 'No Fewer Than' Five!". Relation Between Prostate Cancer Support Group and Biomedicine.

Katarzyna Barbara Slaby

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In the presentation, I am portraying a prostate cancer support group ("Gladiator" association) in the context of its relationship with biomedical surroundings. Based on the fieldwork carried out between 2019 and 2022 in a mid-size city in Poland and having insight into narrated personal cancer experiences and public performances I would like to highlight the specific underpinnings of support group and its narrative of prostate cancer itself. In the interviews, men recall their experiences without withholding personal and intimate details. Still, on the group level, they reaching out for a language rather rooted in objectivity and solution-oriented discourse on prostate cancer, close to what Arthur Frank (1995) called the 'restitution narrative', empowered mostly by an extended version of 'patient and physician male dyad' (see Oliffe, Thorne 2007). This results in peculiar overtrust (to refer to the conference theme) and uncritical partnership with the local clinical settings, leading to a kind of biomedicalisation of association as a whole.

However, it is worth emphasizing that the context of the association's activity is the peculiar under-recognition of that type of support group (at least, in Poland) as well as the lower public awareness of prostate cancer itself, compared, for example, to breast cancer. There is also no denying that an illness such as prostate cancer can compromise a sense of masculinity and agency. Nevertheless, since the association's agenda is strongly oriented mostly toward providing information on preventive care and health promotion, it significantly impacts who (or what) the organization supports, and which voices are heard and which are being silenced.

Applying Multilevel Intersectional Analysis on the COVID-19 Incidence from a Gender Perspective

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As shown by previous research, both structural gender inequalities and gender normativity that conforms men and women's social practices and subjectivities, affect the risk of exposure with regard to health issues (Hare-Mustin & Marecek, 1994; Pujal & Amigot, 2010; Artazcoz, 2004; Velasco, 2009; Kingle, 2008; Regitz-Zagrosek & Seeland, 2012; Schiebinger, 2018). In particular, in the case of infectious diseases transmitted through social interaction such as COVID-19 the gender perspective is especially relevant in terms of identifying how gendered practices and structures are affecting the disease (Nkangu, Olatunde, Sanni, 2017; Smith, 2019; Smith, Avdiu & Nayyar, 2020; Wang, et al., 2020). This pandemic has shown the relevance of care work to sustain the current socio-economic system as frontline jobs, and, at the same time, it makes visible some requirements of care sector linked with the quality of care services.

The project, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Assessment of Catalonia (AQuAS), aims to identify how gender and intersectionality with other socio-economic axes of inequality (income level, educational level, origin) affect the incidence of COVID-19 through a multilevel intersectional model based on the Public Data Analysis Programme for Health Research and Innovation (PADRIS). The analysis will look into gender inequalities with an intersectional approach (Evans et al., 2017; Merlo, 2018); taking into account the age, origin and income.

"'Stop Telling Us it's Not a Real Pain!' The Socio-Historical Analysis of Discourses Behind the Painful Experiences of Women Living with Endometriosis in Ireland"

Barbara Gornicka

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Endometriosis is one of the most complex, debilitating and enigmatic conditions, which affects at least 10% of women's world population (Jackson, 2019; Horne et al, 2017; Huntington & Gilmour, 2005). This chronic gynaecological disease is a 'heterogeneous disorder of unknown aetiology defined by the presence of endometrial-like tissue (lesions) outside the uterus' (Horne et al, 2017: 2191). It includes severe pelvic pain, during and outside menstruation times, pain during intercourse, heavy periods, problematic levels of fertility, or leading to complete infertility (Vigano et al, 2004). Currently, it takes on average nine years to receive a correct diagnosis in Ireland, which makes it one of the most

misdiagnosed or slow to diagnose conditions (EAI, 2020). Women's menstrual pain has been normalised among medical circles and women are reluctant to disclose any abnormalities around menstrual pain and other irregularities, due to stigmatising or discrediting factors Seear (2009; 2014). The origins of stigmatisation, tabooisation and fear attached to women's reproductive anatomy and its functions has a long history (see Shorter, 1982; Laqueur, 1990; Lindquist, 2016). Despite the switch to the 'two-sex model' paradigm, the hierarchical sentiment between men and women continues to linger (Bueter,2017). While this history is well developed in an international context, there is less clarity as to the context in Ireland. This paper discusses how the social and historical discourses reveal gendered differences in the standards of care, diagnosis and treatment among the suffering Irish women. It investigates the historical gendered narratives within medical knowledge and practices, which surrounded women's reproductive health in Ireland and specifically endometriosis.

RN16 | T02_01: Trust and health (2)

Classical and contemporary scholars maintain – with robust argument – the centrality of trust in doing society. In a way, trust can be considered the concrete of social relationships. Defined as a positive expectation emerging in a condition of uncertainty and vulnerability (Guido Möllering), trust appears to be a pivotal notion in healthcare. Besides the commonplace about trust that patients must grant to healthcare professionals responsible for curing their vulnerable bodies, it is crucial to consider the trust that healthcare professionals must accord to patients, particularly when their vulnerability emerges. Two examples can offer a plastic view of the issue: childhood vaccination and psychotic crisis management. In the first situation, parents must trust healthcare professionals proposing inoculating medication in a loved, precious, healthy body. In the second vignette, we can imagine a psychiatrist made vulnerable by the behaviour of the disturbed patient, deciding if to carry on or suspend – for instance, by binding him/her to a bed – the therapeutic alliance. For this session, scholars are invited to discuss either theoretical or empirical studies, focussing on the cure and care relationships where the need for trust emerges in a frame of particular vulnerability of patients and/or healthcare professionals.

Institutional Mistrust. The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Prison Healthcare

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Prison is a social environment in which suspicion permeates all relations between groups (and, often, individuals), both horizontally and vertically (Ronco, 2016). This element of distrust, characterising the more traditional opposition between prisoners and prison staff (Sykes, 1958), also affects the doctor-patient relationship. Despite various legislative interventions that have followed over the years and culminated with the Prison Healthcare Reform of 2008 – which transferred healthcare competences to the Ministry of Health, and therefore to territorial services – the frame of suspicion that characterises infra-walls relations between doctors and patients has not been eradicated.

This contribution, moving from ethnographic research carried out in three Italian prisons between 2017 and 2019,

aims at providing some considerations regarding the twists that the element of "trust" assumes in the therapeutic relationship within prison walls. Where "trust" turns out to be the pivotal element in such relationship outside, in prison there is a reversal that sees "suspicion" as the core category through which to filter the healthcare relationship. The frame of suspicion comes to be configured as the primary interpretative filter for healthcare workers in prison, so much as to be transmitted and "taught" to new operators. This leads to the production of categories such as those of "simulators", "crackpots", "hypochondriacs", through which some prison patients are labelled. Those simplifying categories are oriented to reduce a perceived constant threat of "being fooled" (and thus the menace to the institutional imperative of "working tranquility"), ending up posing serious challenges to an effective relation of care.

Trust and Chronic Illness Management at School: Reflections from a Research with Children

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The contribution intends to present a reflection on a topic that is little dealt with in the sociological literature in the field of children's illnesses, namely the management of chronic illness at school. In particular, attention will be focused on the analysis of some factors that can facilitate or hinder the management of chronic illness at school, considering that this management implies a complex collaboration between services (school and healthcare) and different actors (families, children, school and health personnel).

The proposed reflection moves from the results of a qualitative research carried out in a North-West Region of Italy, which investigated the point of view of children (8-9 years old and 11-12 years old) suffering from asthma and type 1 diabetes and that of adults (parents, teachers, health personnel) involved in the illness management process. The aim was to grasp the subjective meaning attributed to asthma management behavior and practices at school and the constraints and resources that contribute to structuring children's agency and participation in this specific context. In particular, it will be highlighted how the issue of trust is central to the analysis of the illness management dynamics at school, in the division of social labor between the actors and the institutions present in the school environment, especially in the attribution of responsibilities. The research has highlighted how trust acts on at least three levels: in relations between institutions, i.e. between the healthcare service, the school service and the families; between adults and students/patients and in peer relations.

Aggressive Repertoires During the COVID-19 Crisis in Romania

Cosmin Toth

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This analysis examines the discursive construction of decision-makers during a significant public health crisis—the peak of the COVID-19 crisis in Romania. To accomplish this objective, comments posted as reactions to news about vaccination on one of Romania's most accessed news sites were analyzed, along with a sample of comments posted on YouTube channels of three TV news stations in Romania.

The primary methodological approach employed was content analysis, complemented by techniques specific to discourse analysis. This combination aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how decision-making authorities were socially constructed and the legitimacy of their actions and decisions. Comment analysis often revealed an aggressive or anxious tone. However, the discursive constructions and their targets varied. The comments were categorized based on the level of aggression, structural and discursive mechanisms used, types of reproach (moral or epistemic), and the target of aggression. Subsequently, repertoires of aggression were identified to unveil the criteria by which decision-makers are evaluated, as well as the legitimacy of their actions and decisions during crises.

As a conceptual reference point, we drew upon the definition of repertoires provided by Wetherell and Potter (1988, 172): "building blocks that speakers use to construct versions of actions, cognitive processes, and other phenomena.". Interpretive repertoires, as linguistic resources, serve as ideological statements representing "systems of terms used recurrently to characterize and evaluate actions, events, and other phenomena" (Potter and Wetherell, 1987, 149). Through these repertoires, we aim to unveil the normative structure and value expectations used to define and evaluate decisions and actions of relevant actors in times of crisis.

The Role of Trust in Health-Related Conspiracy Beliefs during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Conspiracy theories pose a significant threat to public health during crises by eroding trust in public institutions and scientific knowledge. While prior research has explained believing conspiracy theories through informational deficiency, psychological traits, or poor cognitive skills, these explanations fall short in accounting for sociocultural influences of alternative truth discourses, eroding trust in knowledge, and increasing uncertainties. This study aims for an expanded understanding of conspiratorial beliefs by incorporating sociological dimensions such as trust and ideological beliefs in a global health crisis context.

The research investigates how trust in political institutions, healthcare services and scientists, religiosity, political view, and sociodemographic factors are connected to belief in health-related conspiracy theories during the Covid-19 pandemic. Research data is obtained from Türkiye Covid-19 Values Study Survey, conducted face-to-face with 1500 samples in April-May 2022. The descriptive results show that 44.8% of the respondents endorse at least one conspiracy theory. The preliminary regression analysis indicates a negative relationship between conspiracy theory belief, and trust in political institutions and scientists. Although there is negative association between health system trust, the relationship is not significant. Also, increased religiosity is significantly related to higher conspiracy theory belief. No significant relationship is found for age, gender, class, and education.

The findings indicate the significance of considering the role of building trust, especially in political institutions and scientists, during the communication of health-related information to counteract belief in conspiracy theories in times of informational uncertainty and public health crises.

RN16 | T02_02: The tensions surrounding medicine: declining trust and legitimacy towards expertise, epistemic challenges and transformative processes (2)

The crisis of medical expertise, exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, is a significant concern for scientists and regulatory agencies whose role and authority are being questioned. Besides the conflict between the scientific community and the social groups that opposed controversial positions, we witness epistemic tensions even within the medical field. While Evidence-Based Medicine is still the gold standard, the universal applicability of the hierarchy of evidence has been challenged, and a more pluralistic approach has been advocated. The pandemic has questioned the feasibility of controlled trials in times of crisis, and the careful analysis of real-world settings and real-life clinical practices has been proposed as a new standard during emergencies. We invite contributions that critically reflect on the epistemic tensions in medicine during the pandemic and beyond. A (non-conclusive) list of topics includes: – the evolution of EBM, even in the light of AI, and the real-world evidence perspective; – the trust towards scientific and medical experts and regulatory agencies after the pandemic; – the tensions between protocols/guidelines and decision-making in everyday clinical practice; – bottom-up knowledge production by epistemic communities and communities of practice; – the role of sociology in sustaining the transformation towards a more pluralist approach in medical research.

Risks And Errors In Healthcare: The Construction Of Personal Health And Well-Being

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Safety in healthcare is linked to the issue of error prevention, clinical risk control, and guideline implementation. Errors in the medical-hospital setting are the result of actions implemented in structured role contexts that result

in uncontrollable and unexpected effects, generating unintended consequences. However, error is fruitful because it generates additional knowledge. In the medical-hospital setting, it can be predicted or controlled with increased health safety standards and widespread risk-management activities. At a time in history, when continuous global emergencies highlight the critical nature of a health care system that is not always up to the task of resolving the issues posed, preventing or reducing errors means: maintaining a high level of medical-hospital safety; protecting the health and well-being of the patient; and controlling that the patient is not the victim of adverse events or harm during the period of hospitalization and, in the most extreme cases, death (Kohn, IOM 1999).

The cognitive questions, using error and risk as keys, attempt to identify an interpretive model (Yin 2014, Schütz 1982, Glaser & Strauss 1967) of the relationship that has been established between physicians and patients through the analysis of actions and outcomes during the pandemic phase, which prompted the implementation of guidelines and the treatment of risk, increasing levels of health safety.

Navigating Uncertainties: Tension and Trust in Indian Public Healthcare around Chronic Illness Management

Avilasha Ghosh

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The public healthcare system forms the the backbone of India's health provisions and national welfare, aimed at providing universal healthcare to individuals across socio-economic groups. Recent studies of Indian public hospitals, however, show evidence of underfunding, declining quality of care, and steady patterns of underutilisation of public health facilities by patients (Baru 2003; Mahal 2022). The declining quality of care in Indian public hospitals along with experiences of prolonged waiting, speedy consultations, low inventory of medicines, and understaffed management severely impact patients' sense of wellbeing and trust in public care services. In such a context, how do patients who use Indian public hospitals for chronic disease treatments perceive the quality of care and infrastructure in state-provisioned healthcare? Since most patients who access public healthcare in India are from economically marginal groups, what are their daily challenges in accessing timely, quality care? Drawing on my fieldwork in two large public hospitals in the metropolitan cities of Delhi and Kolkata, and a sociological analysis of my interactions with public healthcare professionals and patients in the out-patient waiting rooms, I build an ethnographic account of care and conflict between patients and staff in Indian public hospitals. The paper highlights the everyday struggles of poor patients seeking primary care services in public hospitals, and aims to provide a critical overview of the Indian public health infrastructure with a focus on patient experiences of illness, care, trust, and conflict in the out-patient wards of government sponsored hospitals.

Medical Activism in Changing Society: Contradictions of the Expert's Position

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Medical knowledge is influenced by many social factors. In conditions of social uncertainty, the question of the expert's social position becomes especially relevant. To what extent can experts go beyond their direct technical competence by using symbolic power to solve public health problems? We studied the phenomenon of "medical activism" as an example of the conversion of professional power into social power. The research question was whether physicians focus only on the technical aspects of their profession or believe that they should also pay attention to broader social issues and determinants that influence both the health status of individuals and constitute the institutional context of medicine.

Views on medical activism were analyzed using data from interviews (N=26) with healthcare professionals. A thematic analysis was conducted. Different positions have been identified. The most common view of medical activism involves expanding the role of the health professional from that of a narrow expert to that of an active participant using their knowledge to solve health problems. A narrow type of medical activism involves doctors attempting to achieve progressive goals when attempting to balance the unequal social relationship between doctor and patient. Broad type of medical activism goes beyond the medical context and seeks to use symbolic power to achieve broader goals—improving access to quality health care for disadvantaged people. Some informants put medical activism in question and treat public health problems as rooted in conditions beyond the control of health professionals. The research was supported by RSF (project No 22-18-00261).

Aesthetic Plastic Surgery as De-/stigmatizing Body Work – Tensions Between Everyday and Expert Knowledge About a Medical Discipline

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Aesthetic plastic surgery has been recording increasing numbers of procedures for years, but the growing number of procedures does not simply translate into social acceptance or popularity. Aesthetic plastic surgery is discussed in relation to its possibilities and limitations as well as its intentions and effects as an ambivalent, tension-filled phenomenon between the poles of empowerment and self-subjugation.

I have addressed the circumstance that the legitimacy of aesthetic plastic surgery as a medical discipline is not given

per se, but is constantly under negotiation, in the context of my research and asked about current patterns of legitimization or delegitimization of aesthetic plastic surgery in Germany. For this purpose, I brought together social perspectives with medical professional self-conceptions by conducting group discussions with everyday actors and expert interviews with aesthetic plastic surgeons.

By analyzing the empirical material and drawing on Goffman's concept of stigma, I will show that the body modified by aesthetic plastic surgery becomes the central object of social demarcation. While aesthetic plastic surgery liberates the body from a stigma from a professional perspective, from an everyday perspective the body is stigmatized by aesthetic plastic surgery in the first place. In conclusion, the presentation shows that behind these different assumptions are completely different understandings of medicine (curative vs. wish-fulfilling), its mode of action (pathogenetic vs. salutogenetic) and, subsequently, different understandings of health and illness.

RN16 | T02_03: Trusting health information online in the era of transforming social communication (2)

New communication technologies are influencing all aspects of people's lives. By making access to information more democratic, easier and immediately available (Muhammed, Mathew 2022), web-based platforms and applications encourage patients to deal with their informational and emotional needs in a new way. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the limited access to professional medical care has increased people's will to turn to various online channels (e.g. websites, online health communities) for healthcare purposes (Pöyry, Reinikainen & Luoma-Aho 2022; Kothari, Walker & Burns 2022). Therefore, it seems important to explore sense-making and decision-making processes employed in such situations, especially in the case of risk and uncertainty (e.g. life-threatening diseases). The use of online sources does not happen in a vacuum, but it is integrated into a texture of social practices (Gherardi, 2004) in which trust plays a crucial role. Trust, a highly complex and multidimensional phenomenon, has cognitive, emotional and behavioral dimensions, which merge into a unitary social experience (Lewis and Weigert 1985). In this sense, it is relevant to unveil how patients negotiate the risks associated with their choice to use online channels for healthcare purposes (e.g. Chauhan and Campbell, 2021).

"It's kind of my job to post perfect stuff, but kind of not" – How Influencers with Borderline Personality Organisation become Activists for a Salutogenetic Personal Recovery in the Instagram Stories

Julia Beckmann

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How do people with Borderline Personality Organisation (BPO) communicate their lives with this severe mental illness in their Instagram stories and how does Instagram co-constitute this discourse? By using the

hermeneutic-knowledge-sociological video analysis, I could divide this audio-visual material into its formal and content-wise dimensions to make assumptions about how the inside-outside dialectics of people with BPO is developing, which is per definition disturbed for them due to trauma in their childhood. This leads to the typical black and white thinking and immense emotional tension for people with BPO. Their process of recovery could be analysed by integrating the analyses across cases with the Constructivist Grounded Theory. Thus, two levels of communication could be identified. First, there is the symptom level, where the peoples' aspiration of posting is the act of posting itself because building a trustful relationship with their followers makes them feel less lonely. They can communicate their symptoms and how they deal with them productively instead of self-harmingly. On this level, much more contradictions of the formally used Instagram functions and the content-wise oral speech are presented than on the second, the reflexion level. Here, they do not problematise themselves anymore but, in an activist way, societal pathologies Instagram itself is seen as symbolizing. Thus, our general cultural structure, to put it in Eva Illouz' words, is criticised and makes necessary transformed ways of participating on Instagram. This leads to them often withdrawing from it to return later with a new idea of how they can participate without being exploited, as Instagram for example censors postings which have the word Borderline in it. Also, they fight for a destigmatisation of mental illness and the false belief that no recovery is possible which they are often antagonised by in hateful messages they receive via Instagram. In theoretical terms, subjectivation can be viewed as solving affective conflicts which enriches affect studies with methodological approaches to their theoretical claims which affect studies are often criticised for having omitted so far. In general, my work is a call for a salutogenetic perspective on health and medicine to help destigmatising (mental) illness.

Pharmaceutical Marketing Influences the Perception and Trust of Medical Doctors and the Pharmaceutical Industry Among Polish Patients.

Marta Makowska

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In Poland, a majority of medical doctors (MDs) meet with pharmaceutical sales representatives (PSRs) who visit their offices to promote medications and distribute promotional items, drug samples, and conference invitations. Although this form of pharmaceutical marketing is not directly aimed at patients, it remains perceptible to them. In May 2023, a survey with 1057 Polish respondents sought their perspectives on MD-targeted marketing experiences and trust levels in MDs and pharmaceutical companies. Survey results revealed that instructions from MDs on notes with drug logos were encountered by 70% of respondents, while 44.3% noticed pharmaceutical company logos in MD offices. PSRs in medical facilities were seen by 38.1%, and 33.2% reported longer waits for MD appointments due to PSR visits. Educational materials sponsored by pharmaceutical companies were received by 25.4% of respondents, and 23.0% received drug samples.

The mean trust in MDs was 6.28 (SD = 2.1), while the average trust in pharmaceutical companies was lower (M=5.03, SD=2.3). The study indicated that statistically significantly less trust is placed in MDs and pharmaceutical companies by individuals who noticed the logo in the doctor's office, encountered a PSR in a medical facility, and waited longer for an appointment due to the PSR's visit, compared to those who did not experience these situations. Individuals who received a drug sample from the MD statistically significantly trust MDs more than those who did not receive one. Interestingly, receiving a drug sample had no impact on trust in pharmaceutical companies. MDs and pharmaceutical companies must be aware that their marketing relationships are not invisible and indifferent to patients, and they should consider the consequences of this collaboration on trust.

Reliability of Health Information in Polish Diabetes Online Health Communities: Insights from Administrators and Moderators

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The importance of new technologies in the process of health information seeking has undoubtedly increased in recent years. Over half of Europe's population searches online health sources and even more in the US. Among these sources are Online Health Communities (OHCs) – web-based platforms bringing together individuals with similar health conditions. Nevertheless, the potential dissemination of misinformation/disinformation within these groups raises concerns among healthcare providers.

Given the global significance of diabetes as one of the most problematic health conditions, we focused on Facebook groups for individuals with type 1 diabetes and their families in Poland. The objective was to investigate the reliability of information shared within these groups in the context of chronic diseases. Drawing on empirical data gathered from in-depth interviews with administrators and moderators of Polish diabetes OHCs, we explore two issues: the kind of misleading content shared by the members of such communities and the strategies (or lack thereof) employed by the administrators/moderators in managing content to ensure the accuracy of health information disseminated within these communities.

In our presentation, we will try to answer the following research questions: 1) What kind of misinformation appears in the groups surveyed, and who is responsible for disseminating it? 2) Do the content administrators/moderators of the Facebook support groups ensure the accuracy of the

health-related information published in them, and if so, how? 3) Is this a well-thought-out strategy or rather ad hoc interventions in challenging situations? 4) On what basis do group managers decide whether information is reliable?

Smoking Is An Important Part Of Life. Smoking and Change in Smoking Habits in a Population from Finnmark County, Norway

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The population in Finnmark, the northernmost county in Norway, have been listed at the top when it comes to prevalence of smoking. Today they are approaching the national average. This paper is based on biographical interviews with 33 current and former smokers aged 25-70 years recruited from three different municipalities in Finnmark. This includes fishermen and reindeer herders. The paper discusses smoking as a practice. How do smoking affect people's everyday life, and what do former smokers miss from when they were smokers?

People trust public information of the harmful effects of smoking, and both former smokers and current smokers see smoking as a temporary practice. Smokers know they must quit, but the question is when. Smoking is an everyday activity, which structures people's everyday routines. It is a social activity and a good friend which provides comfort, well-being, and joy both at home, among friends and outdoors in nature. People spend much of their free time in the wilderness. Smoking enhances the pleasure of sitting together by a campfire, or on a fishing trip, it is a reward for a long skiing trip or a long walk, and it makes reindeer herders and fishermen endure long working days. For this population there is a strong contradiction between the benefits and the health damages by smoking. Especially this is revealed in the relationship between outdoor life and smoking.

RN16 | T02_04: Citizenship and the politics of healthcare

This session will focus on the varieties of citizenship involvement in the context of health and medicine. In the last three decades, we witnessed an increasing role of different citizenship initiatives, including the emergence of health movements, patient self-help groups as well as more institutionalised forms of patients and public involvement, accompanied with the emergence of patient organisations and patient councils. The aim of this session will be to reflect on the varieties of bottom-up and top-down citizenship involvement in national and transnational contexts and on their impact on the transformation of healthcare, medicine and biomedical research. We therefore welcome contributions dealing with, but not limited to, the following questions: What mechanisms and processes enable and undermine the impact of citizenship on the healthcare systems, health, medicine and biomedical research? How are the citizenship initiatives pperceived by professional communities? What is the involvement of professional communities in citizenship initiatives? How is the healthcare citizenship impacted by digital technologies? How do the expressions of citizenship relate to consumption? Are there any difference between bottom-up and top-down citizenship initiatives? Both conceptually-oriented and empirically-driven studies are welcome.

Work (Re)Integration Following a Chronic Illness Diagnosis in Romania: Can Nonprofit Organisations Play a Relevant Role in the Process

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Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Chronic illnesses are increasingly prevalent in the workforce and produce considerable impairment in work participation. However, a considerable proportion of the workers with chronic conditions continue work during treatment or return to work. The Romanian context regarding work integration or return to work after a diagnosis of chronic illness is yet to be studied and understood, as only in the last years studies have emerged on this topic. Nonprofit organisations (NPOs) can potentially influence the work (re)integration

process alongside other categories of stakeholders, yet their role has not been studied in the Romanian context.

Building on a theoretical framework informed by the Person-Environment Fit theory, we employed a qualitative design and collected data through semi-structured interviews with 11 officials of Romanian nonprofit organisations active in fields relevant to this topic. Thematic analysis using NVivo was employed to emphasise the main topics in their discourse. The poster will present results on how representatives of Romanian NPOs view their actual and potential role in work integration and return to work following chronic illness, the barriers and facilitators, and their collaboration with other stakeholders.

The results show a poor and relatively informal involvement of NPOs in the work (re)integration of workers with chronic illnesses. Nevertheless, their expectations and intentions are to be more involved in formal collaborations with other stakeholders (government institutions, employers, health professionals, or labour force agencies) in the future. Based on the data collected, several recommendations are advanced to increase the role and contribution of these organisations in return to work facilitation.

Public Health Activism in Russia: NGO's Politics and Strategies

Olga Borodkina

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In modern society, issues related to health are not only at the forefront of the medical community's attention but also of public opinion. NGOs as the key actors in public health activism play a significant role in the transformation of public health. The focus of this research is on changing NGO policies and strategies that face new risks. The research methods included the analysis of statistics and epidemiological data as well as expert interviews with NGO leaders (N=15). The research results indicate that the key activities of NGOs are focused on ensuring access to treatment, including for socially vulnerable groups, fostering constructive relationships between patient and medical organizations, and changing inefficient practices in healthcare delivery. The main factors influencing the activities of health-related NGOs include government support, sources of funding (including international, state, private sources), and interactions with governmental organizations, primarily medical and social service entities, and a public attitudes. NGOs have been making a significant contribution to overcoming discrimination against individuals with various illnesses, including mental disorders. However, in recent years, most health-focused NGOs have faced considerable challenges. The reasons for this situation are largely associated with the luck of international funding, strong competition for grants from Russian foundations and state founding, low level of public trust to NGOs. In conclusion, it is emphasized that digital health activism is developing. In addition, it is necessary to develop an effective cooperation between NGOs and government organizations.

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Birth Activism in China: Mappings of the Birth Organizations

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This project maps the current landscape of birth organizations that emerged around 2010, committing to improving women's birth conditions and reducing unnecessary C-section rates and routine episiotomies. The project draws on recent ethnographic research on childbirth medicalization in China (Santos 2020, 2021, Santos and Zhang 2024) to show how the emergence of women-centered birth organizations in different parts of the country was a societal response to the moral dilemmas posed by excessive medicalization and increasing confrontation with obstetric violence. Theoretically, the project connects critical studies of childbirth medicalization (Davis-Floyd, 2004) with a growing body of research on social movement and the "anthropology of the good" (Ortner, 2016), highlighting the importance of ethical and moral tensions in researching childbirth under the technocratic governance. This project explores new possibilities of how the birth organization improves women's childbirth experiences and influences the process of childbirth medicalization.

Returning Under the Pandemic: COVID-19, Home Quarantine, and Affective Citizenship

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Often hailed as a 'success story' in the fight against Covid-19, by the end of 2021, Taiwan had recorded the lowest total case count and the second-lowest death rate per 100,000 people among OECD countries with comparable demographics. One of the reasons for this achievement was a strict quarantine policy coupled with a high compliance rate, which mandated a 14-day stay in a designated location for all new entrants, regardless of vaccination status, with exits permitted only under exceptional circumstances. Although extensive research has been conducted on the efficacy of quarantine and its adverse effects on those quarantined, the motivations for individuals' adherence to such liberty-constraining measures—particularly when quarantine was home-based and monitored solely through mobile phone signal tracking—remain insufficiently examined. This study, based on interviews with 49 Taiwanese citizens quarantined during the pandemic, reveals that effective epidemic control depends not only on government-imposed measures but also on the willingness of citizens to cooperate. While not legally barring the return of Taiwanese nationals from overseas, they were frequently perceived as a threat to epidemic management and faced emotional ostracism by the island's population. To regain their moral

standing within this small country, returnees rigorously followed quarantine protocols to minimize risks, often voluntarily adopting stricter constraints than those mandated. Their willingness to comply was driven more by a commitment to demonstrate affective citizenship than by mere rational risk assessment, underscoring their reassertion of a responsible role and a sense of belonging within the community, frequently foregoing their personal freedoms.

RN16 | T02_05: Exploring the intersections of health inequalities and social policy in diverse societies

The contemporary landscape of European societies is characterized by increasing diversity, driven by factors such as aging populations, immigration, ethno-racial identity, and shifting dynamics in social class and gender. Within this context, there is an imperative for a comprehensive examination of the interrelationship between health policy and the different healthcare needs of diverse populations to effectively understand and address health inequalities. This session welcomes multidisciplinary contributions that critically examine the political economy of healthcare and the political framing health needs. The contributions should foster a deeper understanding of the implications that current social policies have on shaping the access and utilization of healthcare by diverse population groups, as well as the challenges posed by evolving demographic realities for healthcare systems in meeting the needs of their populations. This session invites scholars with theoretical and empirical contributions that offer insights into the intersection of policy and health from the structural, practice, and service user perspectives.

Gendered Health Impact of Longer Compulsory Primary Education? A Register-Based Study of the 1997 Educational Reform in Norway

Kristian Heggebø, Jørn Ljunggren

NOVA, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Starting in the school year 1997-1998, a national reform extended primary schooling from 9 to 10 years in Norway. As a result, 6-year-olds were for the first time enrolled in the school system. Longer education is associated with better health outcomes, in part because educational credentials can be converted into higher-paying jobs with fewer occupational hazards and better working conditions. Furthermore, people with longer education tend to process and understand complex health information more easily. Thus, reforms leading to longer compulsory education may improve health outcomes. However, there could be a non-negligible gender component in the health impact of such educational reforms. Girls outperform boys in all

subjects except physical education in Norwegian primary school, which indicates that there are gender differences in school readiness. "Forcing" everyone to stay in school longer may therefore amplify gender differences in educational attainment, with potential spillover effects on health and longevity. This paper examines whether the compulsory extension of educational careers in Norway was followed by fewer in – and outpatient hospitalizations and lower all-cause and cause-specific mortality, comparing cohorts exposed to differing educational systems (9 vs. 10-year primary education). Administrative register data, covering all registered inhabitants in Norway, are analyzed with various regression techniques. First, the 1991 (post-reform) and 1990 (pre-reform) cohorts are contrasted. Second, the cohort pairs of 1991/1992 and 1989/1990 are examined, to take potential lagged effects into account. Finally, pupils born close to the January 1, 1991 "cut-off" (i.e., those born during January-March 1991 and October-December 1990) are investigated, to adjust for unobserved heterogeneity.

// the FRAGMEN project will receive data in March 2024 //

Health Outcomes of Risk of Automation at Work: Evidence from Germany

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This study investigates the impact of risk of automation at work – proxied by the percentage of routine tasks in the occupation – on subjective and objective health outcomes of German employees. We merge the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) (2013-2018) with occupational information from the expert database BERUFENET of the Federal Employment Agency. We define occupations with less than 30 percent of routine tasks as having a low risk of automation, occupations with 30-69 percent of routine tasks have a medium risk of automation, and occupations with at least 70 percent of routine tasks are considered to have a high risk (Dengler and Matthes, 2015). We estimate fixed effects models in order to reveal gender-specific differences in health outcomes of workers employed in occupations with the medium and high risk of automation and those employed in occupations with the low risk. Our findings suggest that both men and women employed in occupations with the high risk of automation tend to be worse off in terms of self-reported health and anxiety in comparison with their counterparts in non-risky occupations. No effect is found on healthcare use in both gender groups. We also conduct several robustness checks (e.g., different model specifications, stratified analyses) with results remaining mostly consistent with our main findings, while uncovering some heterogeneity in effects among the analyzed groups. Overall, the results of this study highlight potential threats of automation to health and the need for policy measures which might prevent its negative spill-over effects.

The Impact of Race and Class on Distributive Justice and Trust in the Norwegian Welfare System

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Distributive justice and trust are at the core of Norwegian universalism, whereas race and class speak to specific forms of diversity. The intersections of race and class with the distributive justice system in Norway present challenges, impacting the generalized trust in its public service institutions. Diversity introduces complexity to the standardized universal approach in distributive justice because it questions the inclusivity of normative policies in redistributing resources and conceptualizing need. An equality-oriented approach, though seemingly fair, requires recipients to actively mobilize equal rights into opportunities to fairly benefit from social services, particularly in using healthcare.

While addressing health equity is essential in promoting health equality, it is not sufficient. Health equity and trust are intertwined. The utilization of health services and adherence to health recommendations depends greatly on the users' trust in the healthcare system. Despite the high levels of trust citizens in Norway have in its social institutions, individuals from societies with distinct institutional differences or those who have been historically discriminated against will not readily accept this trust.

An intersectional perspective becomes key in both understanding the challenges of diversity for Norway's universal ethos of equality and equity, and in uncovering various barriers to health equity. This paper critically reviews the implications of race and class as sources of diversity on redistributive justice and the trust of immigrants in Norwegian health institutions. It contributes to the discourse on retheorizing universal welfare policies, emphasizing the need to address intersectional drivers of inequality in policy.

RN16 | T03_01: Trust and health (3)

Classical and contemporary scholars maintain – with robust argument – the centrality of trust in doing society. In a way, trust can be considered the concrete of social relationships. Defined as a positive expectation emerging in a condition of uncertainty and vulnerability (Guido Möllering), trust appears to be a pivotal notion in healthcare. Besides the commonplace about trust that patients must grant to healthcare professionals responsible for curing their vulnerable bodies, it is crucial to consider the trust that healthcare professionals must accord to patients, particularly when their vulnerability emerges. Two examples can offer a plastic view of the issue: childhood vaccination and psychotic crisis management. In the first situation, parents must trust healthcare professionals proposing inoculating medication in a loved, precious, healthy body. In the second vignette, we can imagine a psychiatrist made vulnerable by the behaviour of the disturbed patient, deciding if to carry on or suspend – for instance, by binding him/her to a bed – the therapeutic alliance. For this session, scholars are invited to discuss either theoretical or empirical studies, focussing on the cure and care relationships where the need for trust emerges in a frame of particular vulnerability of patients and/or healthcare professionals.

Understanding Experiences of HIV Stigma in Dentistry: Working with Dentists and Patients in Creating a Shared Protocol for Infectious Diseases, Including HIV in the Republic of Ireland

Paul Ryan

Maynooth University, Ireland

This paper is based on a research project undertaken in conjunction with HIV Ireland and the Irish Dental Association and funded by Gilead Sciences. The research takes place against the backdrop where equal access to dental care remains a significant issue in Ireland for PLWHIV. For example, over the last 10 years, HIV Ireland has supported 34 people making discrimination related complaints. Research carried out on public attitudes and stigma in relation to HIV in Ireland, found that 34% of PLWHIV had experienced discrimination by a dentist. (Public Communications Centre, Stamp Out Stigma Campaign, HIV Related Stigma and Discrimination in Ireland today, 2007).

The paper presents findings from Focus Groups undertaken with both dental patients and dentists to understand both the experiences of PLWHIV accessing dental care (documenting stigma and discrimination, good practice, complaints) and the dental profession (registration protocol for new patients with HIV, information required, knowledge of medical advances in HIV treatment)

The paper utilises concepts of anticipated and experienced stigma amongst patients to produce a nuanced picture where intersectional identities impact upon disclosure of their HIV status and their willingness to contest their treatment. Dentists similar revealed a diverse understanding and knowledge of HIV treatment which reflected on behaviours they understood as best practice. Work is ongoing in devising a shared protocol endorsed by the Irish Dental Association based on the findings.

What Do We Think About Physicians? Socio-structural Determinants of Attitudes Towards Physicians in 18 European Countries

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The evaluation of a healthcare system's quality spans diverse dimensions, encompassing accessibility, medical efficacy, the provision of adequate care, and societal functions. A pivotal aspect of healthcare quality stems from social expectations and evaluations, particularly those directed at physicians. Social expectations act as determinants of social satisfaction, potentially exposing gaps between the envisioned ideal behaviour of physicians and the public's perception of their actual conduct. This study aims to scrutinize socio-structural determinants influencing social evaluations and expectations toward physicians across 18 European countries. Our investigation utilizes data from the International Social Survey Programme's Health module (2021), emphasizing public perspectives on health system views, priorities, resources, access, and quality. Employing indicators such as trust, communication of treatment options, medical skills, material orientation vs. care towards patients, and ethical behaviour, we analyse social evaluations and expectations towards physicians. To understand the socio-structural determinants in these 18 European countries, our analysis tests the aforementioned indicators against wealth, equality, and dominant social paradigm markers (GDP, Human Development Index, Inequality-adjusted HDI, Neoliberal versus public health value orientation). Anticipating a robust association between satisfaction with physicians and the overall prosperity of the selected countries, our research aims to contribute nuanced insights into the intricate interplay of socio-economic factors shaping public perceptions of healthcare, within the specified European context.

RN16 | T03_02: The tensions surrounding medicine: declining trust and legitimacy towards expertise, epistemic challenges and transformative processes (3)

The crisis of medical expertise, exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, is a significant concern for scientists and regulatory agencies whose role and authority are being questioned. Besides the conflict between the scientific community and the social groups that opposed controversial positions, we witness epistemic tensions even within the medical field. While Evidence-Based Medicine is still the gold standard, the universal applicability of the hierarchy of evidence has been challenged, and a more pluralistic approach has been advocated. The pandemic has questioned the feasibility of controlled trials in times of crisis, and the careful analysis of real-world settings and real-life clinical practices has been proposed as a new standard during emergencies. We invite contributions that critically reflect on the epistemic tensions in medicine during the pandemic and beyond. A (non-conclusive) list of topics includes: – the evolution of EBM, even in the light of AI, and the real-world evidence perspective; – the trust towards scientific and medical experts and regulatory agencies after the pandemic; – the tensions between protocols/guidelines and decision-making in everyday clinical practice; – bottom-up knowledge production by epistemic communities and communities of practice; – the role of sociology in sustaining the transformation towards a more pluralist approach in medical research.

Power and Trust: Narratives of Aesthetic Surgery Through Aesthetic Surgeons

Michaela Honelova

Charles university, Czech Republic

Theoretical framework In Western societies, women's youth and physical beauty are highly valued. It is gendered, socially constructed ideas about the female body that influence how women experience their aging and how they talk about their 'aging body.' The growing presence, visibility, and acceptability of cosmetic surgery have significantly affected society and its perception of aging and beauty. Therefore, it is necessary to research how this medical specialty works, how aesthetic surgeons use their medical knowledge (power), the negotiating process, and how trust is built through the journey leading to the aesthetic surgery procedures.

Methodology The research was based on fifteen in-depth interviews with aesthetic surgeons. Ten interviews with men and five interviews with women were conducted.

Preliminary findings On the one hand, they are medical professionals. On the other hand, however, they act as gatekeepers to the world of an entirely optional medical specialty. Therefore, aesthetic surgeons use specific communication practices, language, trust-building, and gender-specificities. The interactions between female clients/patients and surgeons occur within a broader context of power and negotiating power positions. Each choice and negotiation is situated concerning power. Power provides the conditions for negotiation between enabling and constraining.

Despite the expanding mass availability of selected anti-aging products, their specialized purchase is subject to ostentatious consumption, as clinic visits are costly. Because aesthetic surgery procedures are still expensive, only some women can afford them. This fact causes increasing social inequalities between people. It leads to double pressure for women from society and a lack of finances, which can have negative consequences. Aging women may subsequently experience more significant inferiority, deprivation, and marginalization.

Medical Discourse And Menstruating Bodies

Petra Poncarová

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In current sociology, menstruation is slowly becoming a forefront topic. However, there is still only a little focus on the analysis of medical discourse in conjunction with menstruating bodies. The way we talk about menstruation in Western societies today is heavily influenced and constructed by medical professionals. The Western medical knowledge is heavily based on the assumption that the male physiology is normative, therefore women's bodies and experiences are susceptible to the process of medicalization. Thus, medical discourse is a key factor in constructing the image of woman existing around her reproductive organs. In my own research, I focus on analysing professional medical discourse around menstruation and menstruating bodies in selected Czech medical journal articles and other sources that mediate professional medical communication between experts and lay people. With the use of critical discourse analysis, I will present not only the historical shift in professional knowledge dealing with the issue of women's reproductive health and how professionals communicate this knowledge, but also how the menstrual discourse is operated in the Czech environment within the framework of medical communication and expert ideology.

Diagnostic Change and Medicalization of Sociality

Niklas Westberg

University of Halmstad, Sweden

My presentation will include two parts. In the first, I will present results from a study concerning Asperger syndrome (AS) and Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and in the second part of my presentation I will discuss the concept of "medicalization of sociality" – and how to understand this process from a sociological perspective.

In year 2013 the diagnosis AS was eliminated from the leading diagnostic classification of mental illnesses (DSM-5) and was incorporated in the category of ASD. For people with AS this alteration in diagnostic classification had a strong impact on their everyday life; as subjectivities, solidarities within the aspie-community and relations to various agencies and collectives were now subject for renegotiating and conflict.

Grounded in an on-going study, involving interviews with 15 people with AS and analysis of an online community, the paper will focus on two questions related to this process: How does AS as a cultural category, embedded in psychiatric discourse, structure the feelings and explanations of mental suffering and what happens with this interpretative practice when the diagnosis is incorporated in ASD? In what ways does diagnostic changes transform the conditions for AS as a resource for subjectivity, collectivisation of suffering, and management of feelings of social deviance?

My second part of the presentation will concern "medicalization of sociality". By this phrase, I mean that psychiatry to an increasingly large extent targets impairment in social interaction as signs of mental illness and disorder – as illustrated in diagnosis such as AST, social phobia, selective mutism, avoidant personality disorder. From a sociological point of view this means that new areas of human living become medicalized and subject for medical social control.

Social Pharmacology, Implications In Pharmaceutical Practice

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Keywords: social pharmacology, pharmacists, health, medicine

Introduction

Social pharmacology focuses on the social, cultural, and behavioral aspects of medication use, aiming to understand and address the complex interplay between medications and society. As pharmacists play a vital role in ensuring safe and effective drug therapy, it is crucial for them to grasp the concepts and principles of social pharmacology.

Objective:This article aims to provide pharmacists with an overview of social pharmacology, its significance, and the potential implications for pharmacy practice.

Methods: The study was carried out through a review of the literature

Results: Social pharmacology is an interdisciplinary field that integrates concepts from sociology, anthropology, psychology, and pharmacology. It recognizes that medication use is influenced by a multitude of factors beyond the physiological aspects of the disease and drug action. These factors include social determinants of health, cultural beliefs, socioeconomic status, health literacy, patient-provider communication, and adherence to therapy. By examining these contextual factors, social pharmacology aims to enhance medication-related outcomes and patient well-being.

Conclusions:Social pharmacology provides a framework for pharmacists to actively engage in public health initiatives. By analyzing medication utilization patterns, identifying high-risk populations, and collaborating with other healthcare professionals, pharmacists can contribute to the development and implementation of effective public health strategies.

RN16 | T03_03: Obstetric Violence between Transformations and Trust

Obstetric violence refers to the mistreatment and abuse that women may suffer during childbirth, usually from health care workers. It is still largely unrecognized and underreported in many countries. Trust and transformation are two key concepts for counteracting obstetric violence. Trust is the basis of the patient-provider relationship and, more in general, of the relationship between care giver and care receiver. Health care systems transformation, on the other hand, involves addressing structural issues, such as promoting accountability, improving working conditions and ensuring that health care workers receive adequate training and support. In summary, addressing obstetric violence requires building trust between health care workers and women, as well as transforming health care systems to prioritize respectful, woman-centred care. By emphasizing trust and transformation, societies can work to reduce obstetric violence and promote positive birth experiences for all women. We believe that sociological research in this field represents an inescapable tool to combine the detection of the problem, the critique of the devices that foster it and, at the same time, to find, together with the different stakeholders involved, including institutional and medical area stakeholders, effective solutions in the field of medical practice, health management and practitioner training.

Abortion, Conscientious Objection and Health Practitioners: What About Midwives?

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The paper, based on the most recent data and documentary material, focuses on the use of conscientious objection in the field of voluntary termination of pregnancy by health professionals involved in this procedure.

Italy stands out on the European landscape for having the highest percentage of objectors, being second only to Portugal (63% gynaecologists; 40% anaesthetists and 33% non-medical staff) with significant variability between regions (Ministry of Health 2023). Since conscientious objection may become a limit to the effective enforceability of the right to terminate a woman's pregnancy, it appears essential to explore the reasons behind this choice in order to remove the obstacles.

In relation to gynaecologists, such reasons have been investigated and are multiples (De Zordo 2015 ; Lalli and Montegiove 2022 ; Ghigi and Quaglia 2023). For non-medical professionals, especially midwives, the issue still appears underestimated. Not only does the question not appear on the agendas of professional and representative bodies, but there is not even any research in this regard, demonstrating the fragility and lack of legitimacy enjoyed by the profession. Therefore, an in-depth study seems necessary to assess the ability of the professional category to address and appropriate this issue by claiming its own jurisdiction. Such investigation is particularly relevant, especially in light of the recent demands coming from the health public sector and from midwives themselves to gain autonomy in abortion care, at the international level.

Towards Temporal and Affective Theorisations of Pain and Contraceptive Care

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The intrauterine device (IUD) is a long-acting reversible contraceptive that is inserted through the cervix and placed in the uterus by a healthcare worker. Pain and discomfort are documented side-effects of IUD use, but are regularly dismissed by healthcare workers who may refuse to remove IUDs due to pain (see e.g. Higgins et al, 2016; Mann et al, 2022). While much is known about the tensions arising from this dismissal of pain during IUD use, less is known about longer temporal frames of pain and their relation to caring dynamics.

Drawing on qualitative interviews exploring histories and imagined futures of contraceptive care with 18 IUD users in Scotland, this paper will discuss how participants imagined pain before, and experienced pain during, IUD insertion. Participants received insufficient information about pain or pain relief from healthcare workers, and their accounts demonstrate how this lack of transparency and limited discussions about pain can subvert and undermine consent, often resulting in feelings of violation that embed mistrust prior to and at the point of insertion. This caused some participants to reject the IUD in their imagined futures of contraceptive care, even if satisfied with this method during use, therefore minimising autonomy and heightening mistrust over extended and imagined temporalities. Engaging with past, present, and future orientations, this paper furthers temporal understandings of pain and the tensions shaping contraceptive care, which are necessary to grapple with to ensure that the needs of contraceptive users, and ethical principles of care, are met affectively and temporally.

Exploring Care Practices of Women From The Global South In Long-Term Care Facilities In Germany

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The aim of this paper is to introduce care practices advocated by women from the Global South, who work in long-term care institutions in Germany. I seek to analyze the labor market in the care sector within the German context because, according to Tronto's conceptions of care (1990, 2013), this is a space with significant implications for institutionalized hierarchies of class, race, ethnicity, and gender as forms of cultural and social production.

The hypothesis suggests that many female migrants from the Global South join the care sector in Germany, typically occupying the lowest positions within the institutional hierarchy in long-stay care facilities for the elderly. These positions are often assigned to racialized female bodies because of the historical linkage of racialization and feminization of this work, associated with the tasks related to cleaning the 'dirt of others,' hard fiscal work, and providing direct or indirect care for those unable to do it for themselves.

It is relevant to determine whether these institutions perpetuate intertwined hierarchies of racialization and feminization without considering the special care abilities of racialized women from the Global South can provide.

I am interested in identifying the practices that these women try to carry out in their daily work to investigate whether there is room for fostering direct care practices aligned with the socio-cultural context from which they originate and whether these practices tend to benefit the recipients of care.

Furthermore, I aim to explore whether it is possible for these alternative care practices to be promoted or institutionalized within long-term care facilities or whether women workers face discrimination, racism, and censorship in implementing these care practices originating from the Global South.

The Experience of High Blood Pressure. A Qualitative Study on Women's Understandings and Enactments of Hypertension in the Context of Pregnancy and Beyond.

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Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a diagnosis often characterized as asymptomatic and measures of blood pressure (BP) are abstract and basic medical parameters. In medicine, hypertension is regarded as a basic representation of health-risk and linked to lifestyle, i.e. weight, nutrition, alcohol and tobacco. Furthermore, BP is closely followed up during prenatal care, since pregnancies are often regarded as a stress-test on the body. Several women develop hypertension during their pregnancies, and some also develop more serious conditions such as pre-eclampsia (PE) or gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) which give them higher risk of cardiovascular diseases throughout their life course. Therefore, monitoring women's BP beyond pregnancy is receiving increased attention and women diagnosed with PE or GDM are recommended to follow up their BP in consultations with their GP annually throughout their life course. However, only a marginal share of women diagnosed with PE or GDM follow up these conditions after pregnancy. Hence, there are innovative steps taken to develop an eHealth app which may assist women to self-measure their BP, as well as nudge them to see their GP for in-clinic measurements of BP. To generate knowledge on the experiential side of living with and monitoring hypertension, we are currently interviewing women in Norway diagnosed with PE and GDM. In this paper we aim to develop understandings regarding how women interpret, experience and handle their hypertension as a temporal and possible chronic condition, and how these perspectives reflect complex and multiple understandings of disease ontology and health risks.

RN16 | T03_04: Citizenship and the politics of healthcare (2)

This session will focus on the varieties of citizenship involvement in the context of health and medicine. In the last three decades, we witnessed an increasing role of different citizenship initiatives, including the emergence of health movements, patient self-help groups as well as more institutionalised forms of patients and public involvement, accompanied with the emergence of patient organisations and patient councils. The aim of this session will be to reflect on the varieties of bottom-up and top-down citizenship involvement in national and transnational contexts and on their impact on the transformation of healthcare, medicine and biomedical research. We therefore welcome contributions dealing with, but not limited to, the following questions: What mechanisms and processes enable and undermine the impact of citizenship on the healthcare systems, health, medicine and biomedical research? How are the citizenship initiatives pperceived by professional communities? What is the involvement of professional communities in citizenship initiatives? How is the healthcare citizenship impacted by digital technologies? How do the expressions of citizenship relate to consumption? Are there any difference between bottom-up and top-down citizenship initiatives? Both conceptually-oriented and empirically-driven studies are welcome.

The Politics of Post-infection Disease Diagnoses: the Case of Post-COVID-19

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COVID-19 has brought an unprecedented amount of attention to post-infection disease or post-acute sequelae (ongoing, relapsing, or new symptoms present long after infection). Where many of these diseases have long struggled for attention and recognition, the widespread experiences of post-, or long, COVID-19 have relatively quickly led to a significant level of acceptance. Whilst many patients still feel unseen, unheard, and stigmatised, an increasing number of resources are being directed towards a better understanding of post-COVID-19. With a visible patient advocacy movement and different hypotheses on the pathogenesis and core symptoms, the diagnosis is currently being constructed. Building on an analysis of the different experiences, paradigms, and advocacy movements around post-COVID-19, in this paper we map the post-COVID-19 route to disease acceptance. Combining a document analysis with preliminary empirical findings, we focus on the emerging forms of knowledge-making and changing configurations between the different medical stakeholders, lay or patient experiences and advocacy, and (online) media in the co-production of this new illness concept. The current construction of the post-COVID-19 diagnosis, and its appeal to other patient groups that are seeking validation, provides valuable insight into the politics of diagnosis(-making). The strategic (re)positioning of post-COVID-19 and adjacent illnesses (e.g., other contested and post-infection diseases such as myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome) deserves scrutiny to understand how diagnoses are shaped when much is still unknown and uncertain. Considering post-COVID-19's high prevalence, how the diagnostic boundaries will be drawn will significantly impact the distribution of resources and our understanding of illness, cure, and care.

Trans*forming Healthcare – How Affects And Responsibilities Oscillate Between Trans Patients And Their Healthcare Providers

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In recent years trans, inter, nonbinary and other genderqueer (TINQA*) people have not only become more visible in academia, they are also receiving more attention in public and medical discourse. While Medicine plays a major role in TINQA* people's lives, healthcare professionals are only partly familiar with their needs (Appenroth & Castro Varela, 2019); a deficiency Tronto (1998) would describe as both a moral problem and one of expertise. Especially when a person's marginalisation is as explicitly tied to their body, medical contexts can become sites where their social positioning is negotiated (Appenroth & Castro Varela, 2019). Hence this current project step of my doctoral thesis focusses on how healthcare providers talk about healthcare for TINQA* patients in Austria. I analyse the data gathered at lectures on this topic using Constructing Grounded Theory (Charmaz, 2006) and Institutional Ethnography (Smith, 2006). All research steps and questions are also discussed with "Community Teams" representing various TINQA* voices. Therefore, I can put the discourse amongst healthcare providers in context with TINQA* people's expectations towards them. First insights show that most general practitioners are aware of their knowledge gaps. The current situation, which requires three assessments prior to receiving gender affirming healthcare, is viewed as problematic by many gynaecologists. However, they fear that renegotiating the national guidelines might lead to worsening care due to a conservative political climate. TINQA* people trace these and other experiences of discrimination back to the affective positionalities of healthcare providers.

This role reversal facilitates an empathic reaction from TINQA* patients towards their healthcare providers. I aim to reconnect these perspectives back to the bigger picture of institutionalized healthcare.

Symbolic Violence, Public Health and the Tactics Used to Challenge the Stigmatisation of Homelessness: Findings from an Ethnographic Case Study in South London, UK

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Stigma and discrimination in health and social care systems are widely recognised as leading to poor health and welfare. Stigma can stop people accessing health and social support, and lead to unfair treatment from professionals. Despite that recognition, there is little in-depth knowledge of how stigma is experienced and navigated by people facing homelessness and where, and how it is embedded in social processes. Without that knowledge we cannot challenge the stigma people experience at a system and social level. This particular knowledge gap comes in the context of long-standing calls for social theory on stigma to engage with power, structure and symbolic violence.

This paper presents findings from an ongoing ethnographic research taking place in London UK. We draw on interview data with 42 people who are currently homeless, and then additional interviews with those working in and managing services, and observation in hostel and day centre settings. The paper explores how stigma is experienced and examines the tactics used by those experiencing homelessness to manage, resist or subvert stigma through everyday practices and discourses.

The presentation will explore the implications of these findings for public health policy and practice, and offers a critical re-examination of Pierre's Bourdieu's concepts of misrecognition and symbolic violence, and specifically looks at how recognition and misrecognition of stigma co-exist and interact in dynamic ways. We will then reflect on our research methodology informed by a participatory ethos that moves away from deficit driven models to centre the strength, ingenuity and resistance of marginalised communities.

"Strategies for Coping with Risk and Uncertainty among People with Disabilities in the Context of Online Health Information""

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The aim of my presentation is to reconstruct the strategies employed by individuals with disabilities in coping with risk and uncertainty concerning health information. Understanding these strategies is crucial as they influence how individuals with disabilities utilize such information and make decisions regarding therapies or medical procedures. In line with Jens O. Zinn's (2008) concept of uncertainty and risk, emphasizing the social aspects of coping with uncertainty, this analysis seeks not only to explore individual strategies but also to present the social context shaping the community of individuals with disabilities in the online space, impacting their coping with risk and uncertainty and fostering trust in health-related content.

For my research, I will apply the method of netnography. The analysis will encompass the content of publications, comments, and reactions to posts related to health topics posted in Facebook groups. This will enable an understanding of dominant narratives, identification of issues and behavioral patterns, and reconstruction of strategies related to the use of health information by individuals with disabilities.

Within the study, I will focus on participant observation to better grasp dynamic interactions and strategies in the online community of individuals with disabilities. Such an approach will allow inferences about the strategies employed in these online communities in the process of sharing knowledge and experience regarding health. Additionally, sentiment analysis will provide a better understanding of how individuals with disabilities perceive health information in social media. The application of sentiment analysis is particularly important in the context of studying the influence of online strategies on trust in this information.

RN16 | T04_01: The tensions surrounding medicine: declining trust and legitimacy towards expertise, epistemic challenges and transformative processes (4)

The crisis of medical expertise, exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, is a significant concern for scientists and regulatory agencies whose role and authority are being questioned. Besides the conflict between the scientific community and the social groups that opposed controversial positions, we witness epistemic tensions even within the medical field. While Evidence-Based Medicine is still the gold standard, the universal applicability of the hierarchy of evidence has been challenged, and a more pluralistic approach has been advocated. The pandemic has questioned the feasibility of controlled trials in times of crisis, and the careful analysis of real-world settings and real-life clinical practices has been proposed as a new standard during emergencies. We invite contributions that critically reflect on the epistemic tensions in medicine during the pandemic and beyond. A (non-conclusive) list of topics includes: – the evolution of EBM, even in the light of AI, and the real-world evidence perspective; – the trust towards scientific and medical experts and regulatory agencies after the pandemic; – the tensions between protocols/guidelines and decision-making in everyday clinical practice; – bottom-up knowledge production by epistemic communities and communities of practice; – the role of sociology in sustaining the transformation towards a more pluralist approach in medical research.

Reimagining Community Based Compulsory Treatment Through an Ethics of Care Framework

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Community based Compulsory Treatment Orders (CTOs) were introduced in Scotland through a rights-based agenda. They aim to reduce repeated readmission to psychiatric hospitals, and ostensibly improve people's outcomes. CTOs contain both caring and controlling dimensions and the coexistence of these antithetical components creates significant ethical tensions in practice. Medicalised cultures and associated hierarchies of power can result in a loss of control, creating mistrust and conflict between individuals on CTOs and mental health professionals. This paper aims to provide a reimagining of compulsory treatment by proposing how an ethics of care can be used to interrogate the ethical complexities surrounding compulsory treatment and human rights entitlements. This framework was developed as part of doctoral research based on semi-structured interviews with 35 people on CTOs, families, and mental health advocates. The data was thematically analysed using NVivo, with second order analysis involving interpretation through ethics of care principles. This paper will discuss the potential to foster trust through attentiveness and responsiveness, its grounding in a situated ethics, and the underpinning relational ontology which focuses on the negotiation of power in relationships. I propose that this framework opens new territories through which rights can be analysed, providing a valuable tool to examine and transform practice relating to compulsory treatment.

Timing and health

Christian Bröer, Zana Chadud Cosac, Anne van Wieringen, Mirthe Visser

UvA/FMG/Sociology, Netherlands, The

In this contribution we present the first results of research into people's everyday attempts to organize time and they way this might be related to health. We approach time as practical activity – hence timing – and focus our preliminary analysis on three aspects everyday life in households with young children: pregnancy, breastfeeding and stress. The analysis builds on longitudinal ethnographic work in the Sarphati Panel in Amsterdam.

We approach pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding and more broadly the "first 1000" days of life as the period in which the life of another human has to become part of the wider world. Our approach loosely follows Zerubavel and Goudsblom in the sense that a time is seen as a social attempt at coordinating and managing a range of natural and social processes. Our attempt is more specific in the sense that we focus on microsociological timing practices and their relation to (unruly) bodies. Practices are then defined as consisting of meaning, materialities and know-how (following Blue and Shove). These practices respond to both pragmatic contexts (bodily development, micro-situational constraints and opportunities and power struggles in everyday life) and institutional rhythms (loosely in the sense of Lefevbre). We assume that stress is not only a consequence of time scarcity but rather related to experiences of unsuccessful timing practices. Particularly the overload of prevention, risk and health concerns and thus of future time, we think, accounts for stress among young parents. We exemplify this through a detailed analysis of interviews and observations in 40 households which we followed from the birth of the first child until the child turned 5.

Making Ambiguity: How Clinicians Manage Diagnosis Categories to Shape Parent Responsibility

Dan Liu

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Recent decades have witnessed a dramatic increasing rate in the prevalence of invisible developmental disorders which include developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder. Early identification of development disorders has long been considered as a medicalised regime across nations by involving the development and application of numerous assessment scales in the fields of psychiatry and psychology as evidence for diagnosis. Accurate, abstractive and timely diagnosis, therefore, provides both medical practitioners and parents with guidelines for actions in hospitals and home. However, under what conditions do clinicians hesitate and even refuse to provide an accurate diagnosis? Following sociology of diagnosis that addresses diagnosis as a process, this study examines clinician-patient interactions in two departments that offer early identification and interventions services in Southwestern China. Participant observation and in-depth interviews reveal that clinicians deploy ambiguity of diagnosis as an interactive strategy that groom parents to take responsibility, namely, perform high-quality of compliance with treatment norms. Three types of the strategies are identified, prioritising risk over symptoms to facilitate parental engagement, personalising differences over criteria to preserve hope, and specifying function while avoiding diagnosis to maintain parental engagement. These strategies are efficient to convince parents to accept treatment plans and facilitate parental involvement in the early stage. However, these strategies inadvertently contribute to increased blame and stigma towards parents as their children progress through treatment. This study contributes to the understanding of complexities and consequence of diagnosis by pointing out how ambiguous narratives are articulated and shape client actions.

Neighbourhood Socio-economic Deprivation And Low Birthweight For Babies In An Ethnically Diverse Area In England

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1University of Bedfordshire; 2Groundwork London; 3Independent

Background

Babies born with low birthweight (< 2500 g) are vulnerable to death, restricted growth, poorer development, and long-term health complications. Neighbourhoods represent structural and contextual conditions in which babies are born, but links between neighbourhood socio-economic deprivation and low birthweight are seldom examined in ethnically diverse areas. We analysed spatial variations in birthweight based on socio-economic deprivation at neighbourhood levels in an ethnically diverse area in the east of England, UK.

Methods

Using routinely collected anonymous data of births between April 2015 and February 2022 from a National Health Service maternity hospital in England, we conducted geospatial analyses of maternal residence postcode areas to understand associations between birth weight and neighbourhood deprivation based on 2019 English Indices of Multiple Deprivation. The analytical methods included generalised linear regression, optimised hotspot, and spatial autocorrelation (Global Moran's I) in ArcGIS Pro 3.0.2.

Findings

Of 36,359 births, 34·4% were to mothers from Black Caribbean, Black African, Indian, Pakistani, or Bangladeshi backgrounds. The prevalence of low birthweight (9·1%) was higher than the national average (6·8%). Low birthweight varied across Indices of Multiple Deprivation deciles, from 3·9% in the least deprived to 10·5% in the most deprived neighbourhoods, with significant clustering in the most deprived neighbourhoods (Moran's I 0·061; p<0·0001). Mean birthweight differed by 228g between the least (3402g) and most (3174g) deprived neighbourhoods. We found an inverse linear association between birthweight and neighbourhood socio-economic deprivation (R^2 0·18).

Conclusion

Babies born to mothers in the most deprived neighbourhoods of ethnically diverse areas are more likely to have low birthweight, indicating significant area-based socio-economic health inequalities and highlighting the need for targeted primary and secondary interventions.

RN16 | T04_02: Exploring the intersections of health inequalities and social policy in diverse societies (2)

The contemporary landscape of European societies is characterized by increasing diversity, driven by factors such as aging populations, immigration, ethno-racial identity, and shifting dynamics in social class and gender. Within this context, there is an imperative for a comprehensive examination of the interrelationship between health policy and the different healthcare needs of diverse populations to effectively understand and address health inequalities. This session welcomes multidisciplinary contributions that critically examine the political economy of healthcare and the political framing health needs. The contributions should foster a deeper understanding of the implications that current social policies have on shaping the access and utilization of healthcare by diverse population groups, as well as the challenges posed by evolving demographic realities for healthcare systems in meeting the needs of their populations. This session invites scholars with theoretical and empirical contributions that offer insights into the intersection of policy and health from the structural, practice, and service user perspectives.

Treating the Prisoners amidst the Universal Health Coverage in Taiwan: Negotiating Between Punishment and Care

Ting-She Chang

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Since the initiation of the National Health Insurance (NHI) in 1994, Taiwan has been famous for its universal health insurance coverage for all people, including almost all national and expatriate residents. However, one missing piece in the puzzle is the inmates inside prisons and other correctional facilities. Almost 20 years after the NHI initiation, the inmates were finally included by amending the National Health Insurance Act in the name of Health for All. In 2013, inmates staying longer than two months in prisons and correctional facilities could be covered by the NHI with the premium paid by the government, regardless of their economic status or crime records. Through the interview, the ethnography, and the archival data, this study tries to understand how and why this change was amended so lately, what is relevant to the human rights campaign and the politics in Taiwan, and how the healthcare inside prisons changed after this coverage for inmates. NHI program launched new prison clinics by cooperating with civic hospitals to replace the original scarce and insufficient public physicians hired by each prison. Although accessibility to healthcare increased after this change, I argue that authenticity and deservingness play central roles in the inmates' acquisition of healthcare and coverage with the NHI. The physicians, nurses, and the correctional staff in prison triage, diagnose and medicate for those who are sick and deserve care. The debate about their authenticity and deservingness of healthcare manifests the tensions and contradictions that prison should simultaneously confine and care for prisoners. The penitentiary staff, the medical professionals, and the inmates are trying to negotiate the tensions and the boundaries between punishment and care.

Medical Decision-Making Challenges among Migrant Populations in Belgium: A Focus Group Study

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This study explores the challenges faced by individuals with a migration background in Belgium's healthcare system, focusing on medical decision-making (MDM). We intend to examine two primary challenges: (1) preferences for information disclosure and (2) responsibility in MDM. In Belgian healthcare, the law and ethical codes mandate clear disclosure of diagnoses and prognoses, yet migrant patients from collectivistic cultures often prefer limited information or truth concealment, sometimes favoring family involvement over direct patient communication. Additionally, these populations may prefer family-centered decision-making, contrasting with the emphasis on patient autonomy in Belgian medical practice. Our research specifically investigated these aspects of MDM among the three largest migrant groups in Belgium—Maghreb, Turkey, and Sub-Saharan Africa—through three focus groups comprising patient representatives and healthcare workers with a migration background. The aim was to understand the unique preferences and challenges these groups face in MDM across various contexts, including critical versus chronic care, decisions with severe versus less severe consequences, and choices concerning physical versus mental health disorders. Preliminary findings indicate distinct preferences and challenges within these migrant groups, which vary significantly based on the nature of the medical situation. This study highlights the importance of culturally sensitive healthcare practices to accommodate the diverse needs of migrant populations in medical decision-making processes.

Gender, Social Class And Health Inequalities. Beyond Who Has Worse Health.

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The aim of this research project, which is a PhD Thesis, is to broaden the knowledge about the huge disparities in health that still exist in our societies. There are many determinants of health to consider but this work focuses on gender, social class and, above all, the intersection of both factors from a sociological, feminist and intersectional perspective.

To do so, population aged between 50 and 60 years old living in Andalusia (Spain) will be studied to understand gender and social class differences in health, both quantitative and qualitative, as not only results in health will be examined but also health narratives and social representations about health and disease. Therefore, the focus will be on the experiences related to health throughout life, trying to find which differences exist between man and woman from different social classes and why those exist, knowing masculinity and femineity norms play an important role, as well as economic and social inequalities. The main contribution of this project is that it does not pretend to participate in the debate about which gender has worse health, but to understand and be able to explain what it means to be a women or a man from a certain social class in terms of health and disease.

A mixed-method approach divided into three work packages is proposed to answer those inquiries: 1) a statistical analysis of secondary data; 2) qualitative biographic interviews; 3) focus groups.

Exploring Social Inequalities in the Dynamics of Multimorbidity

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Multimorbidity, defined as the coexistence of multiple chronic diseases, poses a significant challenge to healthcare systems, impacting quality of life, service utilization, and mortality rates. This challenge may also worsen in more disadvantaged social strata, which shows us the need for further evidence to enhance our comprehension of its social ramifications. Our study seeks to profile the evolution of multimorbidity patterns using data from the population between 50 and 80 years residing in the province of Cadiz (Spain). Employing Latent Class Analysis and Hidden Markov Models along with socioeconomic data of the local health area, we characterized the dynamics of 14 chronicity profiles, stratified by sex and age. Within these profiles, the differences by sex stand out, with more mental and musculoskeletal patterns found in women, and men having a higher prevalence of patterns with dependences (mainly alcohol and tobacco). The dynamics of the profiles shows cardiometabolic patterns as the basis of evolution towards complex and multisystemic profiles. Patterns that mix age-related diseases are more prevalent in higher status areas of the province, and these profiles tend to evolve to less severe combinations. On the other hand, the complexity of multimorbidity patterns increases more rapidly in localities with lower socioeconomic status. These trends are also maintained or increase as the age of the individual advances. These results show the persistence of social inequalities in multimorbidity, underscoring the imperative for targeted interventions in resource-poor areas and at younger ages to alleviate the impact on patients' health status and quality of life.

RN16 | T04_03: Exploring social capital's impact on health through sociological lenses

Social capital has been defined in different ways over recent decades, however, there is unanimous agreement in recognizing the value of social networks and the associated norms of reciprocity. At the individual level, starting from the definition of social capital provided by Putnam, who refers to "features of social organization such as networks, norms, and trust, that facilitate coordination for mutual benefit", it should be recognized that social capital creates value for the individuals who are part of social networks, but also for others. Conversely, from a Coleman viewpoint, the forms of social capital, such as trust, mutual exchanges, norms, and sanctions, define social capital from a social cohesion perspective, i.e., a collective property emerging from individual interactions. Scholars have demonstrated the relevance of social capital in different domains, such as economic and social outcomes. However, as Putnam states, "In none is the importance of social connectedness so well established as in the case of health and well-being". The variety of the empirical evidence indicating that individual and/or collective social capital is likely to be a significant determinant of some important health outcomes is impressive. Higher levels of social capital seem to produce healthier societies, but understanding the processes linking social capital to health in a broader sociological approach is challenging. To fill this gap, our session aims to facilitate discussions on qualitative and quantitative papers that focus on theoretical, empirical, and methodological issues to analyze the complex relationship between social capital – in its different forms – and health outcomes.

Explaining Inequalities In Harms From Gambling And Alcohol: The Role of Public Sociology

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Gambling and alcohol cause more harm to health in economically disadvantaged places in the United Kingdom (UK), despite lower levels of product use among people living in these places. A public discourse that focuses on individual responsibility and 'problem drinkers' and problem gamblers' has obscured the role of industry and government in the development of inequalities. Our paper shows how public sociology can be used to develop approaches and frameworks that draw out public understanding of the complex processes through which alcohol and gambling practices contribute to inequalities in health. We present a synthesis of theories and explanations in the sociological, geographical and public health literature about the unequal harms from gambling and alcohol in economically disadvantaged areas and explain how this synthesis informed co-production with public health stakeholders. The paper describes our approach to co-production in the form of participatory systems mapping with stakeholders in disadvantaged communities, and presents the insights this method afforded into local processes of inequality. We show how sociological theory was used to sensitize stakeholders to global, national and local processes of power inequality, enhancing the development of shared knowledge on the issue of inequalities from gambling and alcohol in urban UK settings.

The Significance Of Identity And Ageing In a North Sami Community

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This paper explore experiences of ageing based on interviews with female and male inhabitants in a North Sami community. The focus is on older adult's involvement in activities that emphasise and maintain them as participants in specific kinds of activities that require knowledge, skills and mentorship, and to what degree this provides them with social capital and ethnic identity. Thematic analysis of the data indicates that social capital and identity are particularly apparent within three contexts: 1. family and social relationships, 2.reindeer herding and other traditional labour and 3. Sami language. We conclude that older people hold vital positions in the local community regarding these three contexts and that this benefits the community. In return, older adults gain a position in the community as cultural authorities, they are respected, needed and considered as a resource the community depends on.

Types of Negative Ties and Self-Rated Health

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Relevance: Tensions often arise when trust is broken. In this study, I look at tensions at the relationship level and their interaction with self-rated health. Sociologists have often studied the effects of social capital on health, showing that social support is beneficial. But we know little about the relationship between negative relationships and self-rated health, although findings from the University of California

Social Networks Study – UCNets – suggest that negative relationships are quite common. Approximately 15% of all relationships are rated as 'sometimes demanding or difficult' (Offer and Fischer, 2018).

Objective: To address this research gap, I examine the extent to which different forms of negative ties are associated with self-rated health.

Methods: I developed a negative tie scale (TNT scale). Furthermore, I conducted an egocentric network study (N:151) using a selective mixed mode approach (online and paper). In order to obtain representative data for the German population, I based the sampling on the random route procedure. In my analyses I draw on the network model of health inequalities (Klärner et al. 2022) and use OLS regressions, taking into account interaction effects.

The results show that the association between negative ties and mental health is independent of the type of negative ties and is specific to women.

RN16 | T04_04: Vaccination and (dis)trust: what sociology can teach us in the face of contemporary challenges

In the context of current sociopolitical tensions and challenges to trust in institutions, the issue of vaccine hesitancy has taken center stage. The proposed special session aims to explore vaccine hesitancy as both a symptom and an agent of tension, as well as a catalyst for a crisis of trust. The session intends to discuss how trust in vaccines, science, the healthcare systems, and public health authorities has been impacted by contemporary challenges, including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic. The understanding of the ways in which different forms of vulnerabilities may intersect with vaccine attitudes and shape it is key to this exploration. We propose to analyze vaccine hesitancy in the context of broader processes of constructing distrust in expert systems. Thus, the special section welcomes contributions that open a discussion on the ways in which trust in expert systems is both eroded and strengthened. We are particularly interested in papers that provide critical reflections on the role of trust in redefining the conceptualization of vaccine hesitancy, offering new frameworks and perspectives for understanding this complex social phenomenon. We hope to bring together papers using various methodological approaches and disciplinary focus, whether comparative or country-based, that address the following topics: i) critical reflections on the existing conceptualizations of vaccine hesitancy; ii) mechanisms that lead to trust erosion and/or restoration in the context of vaccine hesitancy; iii) comparative studies on vaccine hesitancy and trust in different European and global regions, highlighting cross-cultural differences and similarities; iv) exploration of how intersecting identities and vulnerabilities, including factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and geographic location, shape vaccine attitudes and hesitancy.

Covid-19 and Vaccine Distrust: The Case of Turkiye

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Although the Covid-19 pandemic, which emerged in 2019, officially ended in 2023, its effects on individuals still persist. Experts have explained that, following the epidemic, which caused radical changes in the daily lives of individuals, the primary solution was the vaccines developed for the pandemic. Ultimately, the Turkish Government was supportive of vaccines, and state leaders encouraged citizens to be vaccinated through the media. This research, conducted between August and December 2022 when the social impact of Covid-19 lessened, aimed to measure individuals' perspectives and confidence in vaccines in general. Meanwhile, Turkish citizens had been receiving specific vaccine doses since 2021. The research involved 474 people in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, and participants were reached through an online survey. According to the findings, most participants were vaccinated, believing that the vaccines protected them from the virus, yet stated hesitancy about receiving booster doses. One thing that participants were certain they would not continue to get vaccinated. When the data were examined in terms of gender, it was revealed that women were more prejudiced against vaccination than men. The research focused on vaccine hesitancy, exploring reasons for the general distrust of vaccines. These reasons are believed to stem from both biological factors and the perplexing comments made by the media, experts, and speculations surrounding the vaccine.

The Risks of Choice: a Comparative Analysis of the Tensions Related to Childhood Vaccination Decisions

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The paper analyses the tensions intrinsic in childhood vaccination decisions by deepening the intersection between risk, choice, and emotional burden. The main aim is to disentangle the complex relationship between childhood vaccination decisions and intensive parenting. Parents, and particularly mothers, are increasingly held responsible for risk management and morally guilty for their children's social and health problems.

Although the choice whether to vaccinate the child or not may be considered a middle-class privilege and a source of empowerment, it is also a burden which consists in paying the price of this decision, in terms of stigmatisation. Moreover, the choice related to vaccination is risky, because prevented diseases may cause health problems, as well as vaccines may have adverse effects, both minor and severe (rare) ones. Vaccination decision making process is performed under uncertainty, it is often a stressful and anxious endeavour, not adequately supported by healthcare professionals' understanding and information. Parents, and specifically mothers, react to this tension

between empowerment and burden in different ways, related to how they conceive the risks of vaccination and their parenting/mothering role. Drawing on the results of interviews and participant observations in Czech Republic, Italy and Portugal, we will outline the strategies play out by mothers to manage their children's health choices and to be considered "good mothers". While in Czech Republic and in Italy mothers express fears and anxiety related to vaccination choices, particularly when they cherry pick vaccines or express doubts, in Portugal mothers feel empowered by their choice because they are persuaded that their lifestyle promotes their child's health and prevent him/her from contracting diseases.

'You say yes, I say yes' Vaccination Homophily in Ego Networks During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Vaccine hesitancy is an inevitable risk for societies as it contributes to outbreaks of diseases. Prior research suggests that vaccination decisions of individuals tend to spread within social networks, resulting in a tendency to vaccination homophily. The clustering of individuals resistant to vaccination can substantially make the threshold necessary to achieve herd immunity harder to reach. In this study, we examined the extent of vaccination homophily and its association with vaccine uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic in Hungary using a contact diary approach in two cross-sectional surveys. The results indicate strong clustering among both vaccinated and unvaccinated groups. The most powerful predictor of vaccine uptake was the vaccination rate within the egos' social network. Vaccination homophily and the role of the interpersonal network in vaccine uptake were particularly pronounced in the networks of close relationships, including family, kinship, and strong social ties of the ego. Our findings have important implications for understanding COVID-19 spread dynamics by showing that the strong clustering of unvaccinated individuals posed a great risk in preventing the spread of the disease.

Pathways to (Dis)trust: an Analysis of Vaccine Hesitancy Through the Concept of Trajectory

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The paper builds on the data from the international project VAX-TRUST: Addressing vaccine hesitancy in Europe, which explores vaccine hesitancy in seven European countries

through a combination of different research techniques. The analysis presented in the paper is based on 30 in-depth interviews with hesitant parents (all of whom deliberately delayed or refused at least one of the mandatory vaccinations), 19 in-depth interviews with health professionals and 60 hours of observation in three different paediatric practices during vaccination consultations conducted in the Czech Republic. Acknowledging emotions as pivotal, the paper employs the trajectory concept to dissect how vaccine hesitancy evolves within individual life courses. I argue that comprehending hesitancy as a trajectory provides a nuanced lens to capture the socio-cultural, psychological, and experiential factors influencing parental vaccination decisions. This paper emphasises the role of interactions with healthcare professionals in shaping vaccine hesitancy trajectories. A central aspect of the analysis is the exploration of healthcare interactions beyond vaccine-specific discussions, recognising their significant impact on parental perceptions. Our study sheds light on the often-overlooked aspect of (mis)recognition, exploring how feelings of being (mis)understood or inadequately acknowledged contribute to the construction or deconstruction of trust in vaccination. Moreover, I highlight the dimension of power and powerlessness as triggers for (dis)trust in the context of vaccination decisions.

RN16 | T04_05: Artificial intelligence and technology in health and medicine: uses, impacts and ethics

The Impact Of A Digital Referral To Improve Access To Children And Mental Health Services. A Prospective Observational Study With Real-world Data

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Background: In the UK, children and young people's (CYP) mental health needs are increasing, whilst access to care is worsening. This trend is sharper in the North of England and post-COVID-19. Health Information Technologies (HIT) has been shown to successfully simplify access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), reduce waiting times, and provide anonymous support and reliable information.

Methods: A single-centre prospective observational study was conducted to evidence the impact of "CYP as One" – a single digital referral point to CAMHS – in reducing waiting times and referral rejection rates. The first 12 months of the "CYP as One" implementation was compared with the 12-month pre-implementation (historical control group) using non-parametric tests.

Results: "CYP as One" showed an increase in 1,314 referrals, particularly self-referrals (71%). There was an increase in 16.13 days of waiting time in the Implementation Phase (53.89) compared with the Pre-implementation Phase (37.76) ($p < .001$). However, the Implementation Phase led to a reduction in waiting time for months 10 ($M=16.18$, $p=9.04E-05$), 11 ($M=17.45$, $p=1.38E-08$), and 12 ($M=31.45$, $p=1.51E-11$). Rejection rates increased due to the increased volume of referrals (108%).

Conclusions: The "CYP as One" improved access and reduced waiting times for CYP after the initial phase. However, the available real-world data did not enable investigations on whether referrals with specific mental health-related conditions affect waiting times and staff time. "CYP as One" represents a promising model for digital transformation in youth mental healthcare, with ongoing research needed to assess its long-term impact and cost-effectiveness.

Medical Anxiety in SNS Users: Unravelling Health-Related Information Seeking Behaviours

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Health-related information (HRI) seeking is a routine activity of social networking sites (SNS) users that helps them satisfy the related information needs. However, social media exposure may also result in information overload and health related anxiety (Soroya et al., 2021). Anxiety, in turn, is likely to distort SNS users' assessment of health risks and of general HRI credibility. As existing research on HRI seeking behaviour rarely explores real-life social media usage data (Verelst et al., 2016), there is limited understanding of SNS-related factors affecting medical phobias and anxiety. This work seeks to cover the gap by establishing a relationship between different self-reported experience of SNS usage, HRI seeking and medical expertise, on the one hand, and the levels of health concerns and anxiety, on the other. For this, an online survey of a national representative sample of the Russian population (N=1200) was carried out. The results of the study will reveal factors that make SNS users susceptible to excessive health concerns and anxiety-related distortions in the perception of HRI.

Advancing AI Literacy in Healthcare: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Medical Professionals' Competence for Ethical AI Integration in Clinical Practice and Societal Impact

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Background: Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in healthcare has highlighted the need for enhanced AI proficiency among healthcare professionals. Misunderstandings of AI can lead to data misinterpretation and inappropriate clinical decisions, compromising patient trust. Varied and sometimes conflicting attitudes toward AI among physicians and trainees, as shown in studies (Simões et al., 2022; Elhoseny et al., 2022; Wood, 2021), indicate the necessity for deeper research (Murero, 2020).

Aims: Our study evaluates AI literacy among medical professionals, identifying their strengths, knowledge gaps, and readiness for AI implementation. We focus on how doctors perceive the impact of AI on their work and their preparedness to integrate AI into their workflows, considering both socio-technical and ethical dimensions.

Methods: We use elicitation interviews (Patton, 2015) to assess AI literacy through stimulating scenarios and simulations, particularly in cardiovascular clinical cases (D'ancona et al., 2022). This approach aims to understand medical professionals' reactions to AI and their readiness for daily integration, providing insights into their knowledge, perceptions, and training needs (Yang, 2023). Our sample comprises medical students and practicing doctors, with analysis focusing on thought patterns, comprehension levels, and AI knowledge gaps correlated with demographic, professional, and socio-cultural factors.

Results and Impacts:

Our ongoing study (n=58) aims to clarify AI's role in medicine and to inform targeted educational programs for enhancing AI understanding and application. Improving AI literacy is crucial for advancing healthcare quality and fostering access to innovative care through evidence-based policy-making (Hosseinzadeh et al., 2023) and human-centered regulation.

This study emphasizes essential skills and training for doctors to integrate AI in healthcare ethically and responsibly, ensuring effective use of emerging technologies without exacerbating social inequalities or patient risks.

AI Revolution in Healthcare and Medicine and the (Re-)emergence of Inequalities and Disadvantages for Ageing Population

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AI systems in medicine and healthcare are being extensively explored in prevention, diagnosis, novel drug designs and after-care. The application of AI technology in healthcare systems promises impressive outcomes such as equalising healthcare, reducing mortality rate and human error, reducing medical costs, as well as reducing reliance on social services. In the light of the WHO "Decade of Healthy Ageing", AI applications are designed as digital innovations to support the quality of life for older persons. However, the emergence of evidence of different types of algorithmic bias in AI applications, ageism in the use of digital devices and platforms, as well as age bias in digital data suggests that the use of AI might have discriminatory effects on older population or even cause harm. This paper addresses the issue of age biases and age discrimination in AI applications in medicine and healthcare systems and try to identify main challenges in this area. It will reflect on the potential of AI applications to amplify the already existing health inequalities by discussing two levels where potential negative impact of AI on age inequalities might be observed. Firstly, we will address the technical level of age bias in algorithms and digital datasets (especially health data). Secondly, we will discuss the potential disparate outcomes of automatic decision-making systems (ADMs) used in healthcare on the older population. These examples will demonstrate, although only partially, how AI systems may create new structures of age inequalities and novel dimensions of exclusion in healthcare and medicine.

RN16 | T05_01: Tensions and transformations in the context of health care professionalism

The Managerialisation of Health Care: Exploring the role of management professionals as care providers in Sweden

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Most advanced welfare societies have worked hard to reform the provision of health care. After World War II, physicians and clinicians in Europe contributed to shaping professional medicine and to modernise the health care sector. During this period, a structure for a healthcare provision that was both scientifically based and effective started to take shape. In Sweden health care is universal and funded through progressive taxation. Since the 1990s, however, an increasing number of private actors have started to deliver healthcare, competing on price and results. Nevertheless, financing is still mainly grounded in tax transfers and fiscal policies.

This paper asks what processes are actualised when health care is incorporated into a welfare system where ideas from management experts have played a vital role in reshaping the health care sector as a welfare institution. Through an analysis of public reports and policy documents developed between 1945 and 2022, a genealogy of Swedish health care is constructed. To understand the mindset of management experts, the dominant management models implemented in the healthcare sector is also examined.

The results show that health care underwent three processes: legitimisation, rationalisation and organisation. In line with this development, healthcare has seen a shift in emphasis from egalitarian aspects of care to more utilitarian concepts of management. As a consequence, management professionals have become a major influence in the provision of healthcare.

"Unpacking Healthcare Providers' Legal Consciousness in Managing Discriminatory Patient Demands in Healthcare Settings: A Qualitative Study"

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This qualitative research aims to explore the legal consciousness of nurses from diverse backgrounds concerning potential discriminatory requests by patients seeking treatment from healthcare providers based on race/ethnicity, gender/sex, or religion. The study will employ in-depth interviews to investigate nurses' attitudes when faced with such requests, examining whether distinctions are made between different types of requests, the patient's motivations, and relevant factors. Additionally, the research will explore whether responses to these requests vary based on the underlying motivations.

The study will also delve into nurses' perspectives on existing policies, or the absence thereof, addressing patient requests for a different healthcare provider on the grounds of race/ethnicity, gender/sex, or religion. Through this, we aim to gain insights into how healthcare providers navigate and interpret institutional guidelines and protocols related to such patient demands. Furthermore, the research seeks to uncover healthcare providers' perspectives on the perceived non-applicability of Belgian non-discrimination laws to patient requests for a different healthcare provider based on the specified criteria. In some countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and the United States non-discrimination law is not applicable in these situations, leaving healthcare providers legally unprotected when confronted with discriminatory requests for a different healthcare provider. By exploring nurses' viewpoints on legal frameworks, this research contributes to the understanding of how legal consciousness shapes healthcare professionals' attitudes and responses to discrimination-related challenges within the healthcare setting. The findings aim to inform policy discussions and contribute to the development of more effective and equitable healthcare practices.

Health Professionals' Intervention in the Context of Domestic Violence Against Women: Exploring Perceptions and Experiences of Providing Healthcare.

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Domestic violence against women is a complex, multidimensional and transversal social phenomenon, and a widely recognized issue of public health, which requires that all sectors of society, including the health one, take the necessary action to prevent and address it. It is still an important issue in Portugal, despite the existing public policies regarding the promotion of gender equality and the ongoing fight against all forms of gender violence.

The study aims to contribute to the knowledge on the role of the health sector in intervening in domestic violence against women, particularly in primary health care, by analyzing health professionals' perceptions of their practice in dealing with domestic violence, and by mapping the difficulties that, according to them, they face in providing healthcare and support to victims. To fulfill this aim, a qualitative methodology was chosen, using focus groups with health professionals working in primary healthcare, in a Health Centre Group in an inland region of Portugal.

The main findings point to the lack of a specific protocol and insufficient information and skills to deal with domestic violence situations and victims, which hinders the professionals' confidence in their intervention and tends to orientate it towards a more medical response, even though they recognize its limits. Resulting from these findings, some implications for practice are discussed, such as the need for clear and specific orientations to guide health professionals' intervention; the need to offer training that enables them to fulfill their role of providing appropriate health care to women experiencing domestic violence; and need to position themselves in the context of an integrated, multi-sectoral intervention aiming to support victims and combat domestic violence.

RN16 | T05_02: Trust and health (4)

Classical and contemporary scholars maintain – with robust argument – the centrality of trust in doing society. In a way, trust can be considered the concrete of social relationships. Defined as a positive expectation emerging in a condition of uncertainty and vulnerability (Guido Möllering), trust appears to be a pivotal notion in healthcare. Besides the commonplace about trust that patients must grant to healthcare professionals responsible for curing their vulnerable bodies, it is crucial to consider the trust that healthcare professionals must accord to patients, particularly when their vulnerability emerges. Two examples can offer a plastic view of the issue: childhood vaccination and psychotic crisis management. In the first situation, parents must trust healthcare professionals proposing inoculating medication in a loved, precious, healthy body. In the second vignette, we can imagine a psychiatrist made vulnerable by the behaviour of the disturbed patient, deciding if to carry on or suspend – for instance, by binding him/her to a bed – the therapeutic alliance. For this session, scholars are invited to discuss either theoretical or empirical studies, focussing on the cure and care relationships where the need for trust emerges in a frame of particular vulnerability of patients and/or healthcare professionals

Risk, Trust, and Responsibility in the Practice of Modern Medicine: Examples and Dilemmas from Radiology.

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The practice of modern medicine increasingly depends on various diagnostic tools including imaging examinations with significant implications for doctor-patient relations, trust, risk to patients, responsibility, costs to health care systems and individuals, increasing workload for medical personnel, hospitals, and clinics, increasing demands of overspecialization, etc. Although all medical specializations are affected by these trends, radiology is both leading and impacted by them mostly. Responsible for carrying out all current imaging examinations and most likely to be impacted by AI and deep learning, the role of radiologists is multifaceted and includes the identification of pathological

findings in imaging examinations, the diagnostic interpretation of these findings, communication of the results for further treatment or imaging re-examination, and even the provision of treatment through image-guided intervention.

International research identifies the following problems unique to radiology that raise dilemmas and have implications for risk, trust, and responsibility for individuals and health care systems: overuse of diagnostic imaging / unnecessary imaging tests, radiation burden, wrong diagnoses, remote diagnosis (teleradiology), applications of artificial intelligence in medical imaging and issues of communication and trust between radiologists and patients.

In this paper we present findings of a focus group study and interviews with radiologists who work in the public health care system in Greece related to their everyday experiences, their understanding of doctor-patient relations, issues of responsibility and trust, and the use of AI in medicine. Our participants emphasized the need for evidence-based guidelines of good clinical practice, relevant regulation, and medical education and practice focusing on patient-centered medicine.

PCCP Project: A Worldwide Strategy To Eliminate Sexual Abuse And Improve Wellbeing And Trust With Scientific Evidence Of Social Impact

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Introduction

Child sexual abuse and the sexual abuse of adults is a public health problem worldwide with devastating consequences for victims' health (Barth et al., 2013). It is present in all institutions of society and has social roots now well studied in social sciences (Melgar et al., 2021). Protocols and interventions addressed to mitigate sexual abuse are often not based on scientific evidence from social sciences and do not engage victims in their design, thus failing to achieve what they promise and this translating into a lack of trust in survivors and society at large. Given that according to research, bystander intervention is crucial to eliminate abuse (Tirion et al., 2023), it is central to recover the trust of communities in sexual abuse prevention and response initiatives. We claim this can happen when programs are grounded in evidence of social impact (Flecha et al., 2018). In this paper, we share the example of the PCCP Project launched by the Jesuits in 2018 to contribute to eliminate abuse in all their institutions worldwide.

Method and Results

After a baseline survey (2019) and a global safeguarding audit (2022), a main need was identified across Jesuit works in the world: quality training. To respond to such need, the Jesuits launched in December 2023 a new training programme addressed to all schools, universities, social works, etc, to ultimately transform all their institutions into safe places. The programme is grounded in scientific evidence from multiple sciences and is being designed in dialogue with key stakeholders. The evidence gathered up to know shows that this programme is regaining the trust of survivors and communities in policies and training on safeguarding.

The Woman Who Trusted Too Much: From Chains To Webs Of Trust In Mental Healthcare

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The aetiology of mental illness remains controversial and scientific uncertainty surrounds the relations between work and mental illness. Depressive and anxiety disorders are commonly stigmatised but not necessarily contested by medical professionals. However these conditions may be questioned by medical and non-medical actors involved in the social security (sickness compensation) system. This paper investigates the relationships between interpersonal and system trust involving multiple institutions by exploring a single litigated case of sick leave due to occupational mental illness. The study is part of a broader project that researches (dis)trust amid psychology therapy offered to Brazilian bank workers experiencing workplace difficulties. Our longitudinal case study follows a female bank worker in her 40s, who received regularly (weekly or bi-weekly) psychology sessions over 30 months, using reflective notes made regularly by the psychologist over the duration of the psychological therapy, combined with in-depth interviews with the patient. We explore how mental illness stigma and the contesting of the illness' causation or of its existence are present in the relationships of the worker with her family, employer, lawyers, and medical and non-medical work compensation authorities. These three phenomena – stigmatisation, contesting of causation, questioning of illness existence – reshape existing trust relationships, revealing the role of different kinds of system expectations in processes of (dis)trust and highlighting the social functions of distrust. The study illuminates the complex entanglements between, across and beyond trust relationships in healthcare and contributes to broadening the understanding of how different trust relationships involving multiple systems influence one another.

Trust in the Doctor in Telemedicine (the Case of Russian Megacities)

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The report presents the results of a mixed empirical study implemented in 2020 – 2021, which included semi-structured interviews with residents of large Russian cities (N=90) and a telephone survey of residents of St. Petersburg (N=861).

It was revealed that it is necessary to separate remote medical consultations in general and telemedicine as one of its options. According to the results of the study, 25,2% of respondents have ever communicated with a doctor

remotely. As a rule, such interaction occurs with "trusted" doctors – those with whom personal, and often repeated, contact has proved effective, and can be the initiative of both the doctor and the patient. The situation is different in the case of telemedicine, the attitudes towards which can be explained by the perception of the features of interaction in the doctor-patient system. The inability to provide a physical examination and difficulties in establishing personal contact are among the significant reasons preventing the use of telemedicine. Since telemedicine involves contact with unknown doctors and is always the initiative of the patient, the basis for applying to it is not interpersonal trust in the specialist, but the presence of institutional trust in the healthcare system and a significant degree of patient autonomy. People who note the presence of health problems and have a habit of taking care of him in various ways, including by monitoring medical prescriptions, are more likely to communicate remotely with a doctor. A higher level of income increases the chances of using such consultations. Predictably, representatives of older age groups turned out to be in the group of outsiders.

RN16 | T05_03: Exploring the intersections of health inequalities and social policy in diverse societies (4)

The contemporary landscape of European societies is characterized by increasing diversity, driven by factors such as aging populations, immigration, ethno-racial identity, and shifting dynamics in social class and gender. Within this context, there is an imperative for a comprehensive examination of the interrelationship between health policy and the different healthcare needs of diverse populations to effectively understand and address health inequalities. This session welcomes multidisciplinary contributions that critically examine the political economy of healthcare and the political framing health needs. The contributions should foster a deeper understanding of the implications that current social policies have on shaping the access and utilization of healthcare by diverse population groups, as well as the challenges posed by evolving demographic realities for healthcare systems in meeting the needs of their populations. This session invites scholars with theoretical and empirical contributions that offer insights into the intersection of policy and health from the structural, practice, and service user perspectives.

Unraveling Socioeconomic Disparities: A Concentration Index Analysis of Health Insurance Coverage Among Households Affected by Depression and Anxiety in Kenya.

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The top 25 major causes of diseases and disorders worldwide include depression and anxiety disorders. The main of this study is to unravel socioeconomic disparities by conducting a concentration index analysis of health insurance coverage among households affected by depression and anxiety in Kenya.

The 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) data was used in this study. Through Emile Durkheim's

theory of Social functionalism and by conceptually taking into account hierarchical data structures, multilevel ordinal logistic regression evaluated the effects of several independent variables. Fitting multilevel mixed-effects ordered logistic models was made possible by Stata's "meologit" command. The concentration index was a measure of insurance coverage inequality connected to wealth, which determined whether insurance coverage was concentrated disproportionately among wealthier individuals.

A sample of 31,351 households was analyzed of 2.6% and 1.7% registered the presence of depression and anxiety depression respectively. It is only 0.8% of those who registered depression, anxiety or both were receiving treatment. A total of 37.6% of households with depression and/or anxiety were insured. Higher wealth indices are associated with a considerable rise in the probability of having health insurance coverage. For the wealth indices Poorer, Rich, Richer, and Richest, the odds ratios were 1.97 (SE = 0.618, $p < 0.031$), 4.09 (SE = 1.236, $p < 0.000$), 9.62 (SE = 3.140, $p < 0.000$), and 25.00 (SE = 9.670 $p < 0.000$), respectively. The Wagstaff normalized concentration index indicates a substantial Socioeconomic disparity in health insurance coverage, estimated at 0.5144 (SE = 0.0405, $p < 0.000$). The positive value indicates a concentration of coverage among wealthy persons.

To guarantee equitable coverage, measures addressing socioeconomic disparities should be implemented and outreach efforts for health insurance should be directed at lower wealth groups.

Sexual Orientation and Later Life Inequalities across National Settings: A US-England Comparative Study of Same-Sex and Different-Sex Households

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This cross-national study explores later-life inequalities in health, income, and household tenure between same-sex and opposite-sex households, comparing findings from the United States and England. Utilizing nine waves of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and fourteen waves of the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS), our research explores the evolving nature of these inequalities across the life course, revealing significant within and between-country differences. Findings indicate that individuals in same-sex households in both countries face distinct challenges in chronic health conditions, mental health status, and economic well-being. We argue that these challenges are the result of the interaction between life transitions and varying policy, legislative, and societal attitudes over time toward same-sex relationships. For instance, household tenure and retirement income inequalities, more pronounced in the U.S. than in England, reflect these dynamic, divergent social and policy landscapes. Our analysis, accounting for relationship quality/satisfaction, gender, age, urban/rural living environments, and employment status, offers a comprehensive view of how these inequalities manifest and change throughout the life course. The life course perspective underscores the cumulative impact of national contexts on the experiences of aging individuals in same-sex relationships. Acknowledging data limitations due to the underrepresentation of sexual minorities in large nationally representative studies, we argue that these insights are vital for understanding how different policy contexts across the life course can shape the specific challenges and inequalities this demographic group faces, underscoring the need for informed policies and interventions.

Self-care in Unaccompanied Minors (MENAS)

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Self-care is a widespread concept among health professionals but less explored in the field of social sciences.

In medicine, psychology and nursing it is defined as the ability of a person to act in the prevention of disease and, along these lines, most intervention programs have been developed to date, both at the institutional and private level. However, despite awareness campaigns, especially among young people, the rates of overweight and obesity, eating disorders, drug and alcohol consumption, risky sexual behavior, etc., are increasing. In this aspect, most research focuses on analyzing the descriptive behavioral profile, i.e., whether or not they do it, and less on the study of the factors influencing the behaviors manifested.

Consequently, this project has created and validated the Self-Care Practices and Management Questionnaire for young people between 12 and 17 years of age (PGJ), which serves to obtain detailed information on the different dimensions that affect this population as well as the level of relationship between them in order to subsequently be able to develop appropriate intervention guidelines.

The results show that the Psychological Practice dimension is the dimension with the lowest score in the surveyed population. In addition, significant correlations are observed between the risk factors with social support, self-esteem and life satisfaction. Along these lines, intervention strategies have been proposed (workshops with young people and caregivers) in order to subsequently analyze the changes produced.

RN16 | T05_04: Body, space and technology in health care

Layers of Senses – Experiencing Intercorporeality in Teletherapy

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Teletherapy, namely, therapy that uses technology for communication between patients and therapists, became popular during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is challenged by the impersonal nature of remote and technological communication. Using Merleau-Ponty's theoretical concept of intercorporeality, which refers to the perceived reciprocity between two people's bodies during communication, this lecture aims to elaborate on spiritual caregivers' experience of interacting with patients during teletherapy. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with 15 Israeli spiritual caregivers who use various forms of teletherapy. Interviewees emphasized their physical presence with the patient as a main principle in spiritual care. They indicated the involvement of nearly all senses in physical presence therapy, which allows for joint attention and compassionate presence. When making use of various communication technologies in teletherapy, they reported the involvement of fewer senses. The more senses involved in the session and the clearer it is that space and time are shared by both caregiver and patient, the stronger the caregiver's presence with the patient. Interviewees experienced teletherapy as eroding the multisensory joint attention and intercorporeality and, hence, the quality of care. We point at the advantages of teletherapy for therapists but claim, nonetheless, that it challenges the main principles of therapy. Joint attention in therapy is, fundamentally, a multisensory phenomenon that may be understood as intercorporeality. Our use of the notion of intercorporeality sheds light on the reduction of the senses involved in remote interpersonal communication and its impact on care and, more generally, the interpersonal communication experienced during telemedicine.

The Social Value of Place-based Creative Wellbeing. A Rapid Review and Evidence Synthesis

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Creative wellbeing is an increasing field of interest to which biomedical and social sciences have made uneven contributions. The instrumental value of culture and its subsequential public investment is grounded in the interplay of social, cultural and economic capital to attain and preserve wellbeing and health and foster social mobility. The current evidence addresses the effectiveness of arts interventions in improving illnesses. Little attention has been paid to the social value of creative wellbeing for the general population.

This paper is a rapid review and evidence synthesis that aims to answer, "What is the social value of place-based arts and culture interventions at an individual (wellbeing) and community (social inequalities) in the UK and Europe?"

After a systematic search of five databases, search engines and a call for evidence in August 2022, 14 out of 974 sources met the inclusion criteria. Studies were organised into three themes (Community, Events, Museums), and outcomes were analysed considering the indicators and dimensions of wellbeing (Office for National Statistics).

The review evidences that creative wellbeing leads to improvements in wellbeing outcomes and can contribute to alleviating social determinants of health. However, considering their impact on the underlying causes of structural social inequalities requires caution. While insightful, current conclusions are limited, emphasising the need for supplementary, high-quality mixed-methods research to demonstrate long-term impacts.

In partnership with What Works Centre Wellbeing and Spirit of 2012, the review shaped the evaluation of Coventry UK City of Culture 2021, offering evidence of community-based art practices' effectiveness in enhancing wellbeing and addressing health-related social determinants. Insights into efficient mechanisms and inequality drivers informed decisions on future UK City of Culture programme design.

Telemedicine in Rural Germany. Potentials and Hurdles from a Regional Peripheralization Perspective.

Tobias Mettenberger

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Particular potential of telemedicine is seen in the supply of sparsely populated rural regions far from urban centres. Where distances for general practitioners and patients are long, specialist doctors are lacking and the service spectrum of smaller hospitals is limited, digital information and communication technologies seem particularly effective. Likewise, digital transformation in such remote areas is associated with specific difficulties e.g. in view of financial, personnel and infrastructural resource bottlenecks.

Against that background my study addresses the question, how rural specific context conditions influence the potentials as well as the hurdles for digital medical solutions. Drawing on regional peripheralization theories and the empirical base of 27 interviews with 33 persons, I reconstruct the perspectives of crucial stakeholders in the field of Germany's rural telemedicine.

My results show that fundamental and mutually reinforcing processes of regional peripheralisation are expressed, both with regard to the potentials and the challenges of telemedical solutions. Relational peripheralization is addressed by problematizing asymmetrical relationships between rural

and urban areas, structural peripheralization by addressing various resources bottlenecks mitigating regional actors and institutions. Finally, discursive peripherisation, driven by negative self – and external attributions, is reconstructed, looking at the described regional situations as well as on the ways, in which the experts develop their narratives.

On this basis, I would plead for further specifying the interplay of group – and space-specific contextual conditions, shaping the use of telemedicine and other digital technologies, also in order to better understand much-discussed digital divides. My paper further concludes, that telemedicine solutions are by no means a panacea, but merely one building block within integrated medical supply concepts.

RN16 | T05_05: Exploring social capital's impact on health through sociological lenses (2)

Social capital has been defined in different ways over recent decades, however, there is unanimous agreement in recognizing the value of social networks and the associated norms of reciprocity. At the individual level, starting from the definition of social capital provided by Putnam, who refers to "features of social organization such as networks, norms, and trust, that facilitate coordination for mutual benefit", it should be recognized that social capital creates value for the individuals who are part of social networks, but also for others. Conversely, from a Coleman viewpoint, the forms of social capital, such as trust, mutual exchanges, norms, and sanctions, define social capital from a social cohesion perspective, i.e., a collective property emerging from individual interactions. Scholars have demonstrated the relevance of social capital in different domains, such as economic and social outcomes. However, as Putnam states, "In none is the importance of social connectedness so well established as in the case of health and well-being". The variety of the empirical evidence indicating that individual and/or collective social capital is likely to be a significant determinant of some important health outcomes is impressive. Higher levels of social capital seem to produce healthier societies, but understanding the processes linking social capital to health in a broader sociological approach is challenging. To fill this gap, our session aims to facilitate discussions on qualitative and quantitative papers that focus on theoretical, empirical, and methodological issues to analyze the complex relationship between social capital – in its different forms – and health outcomes.

Loneliness, Capabilities And Biographical Disruption: What Can Be Learned From Taking A Social Network Approach To The Everyday Management Of Long-term Conditions

Ivaylo Vassilev

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Loneliness has been recognised as a growing problem for individuals and for the health and social care systems. A range of risks have been associated with loneliness, but there is limited understanding of the relevant mechanisms.

This paper explores loneliness in the context of living with a long term condition, and argues that it can be understood as the lack of capabilities to reconstruct disrupted valued ways of life. This conceptual framework is then applied to studies of self-management support for people living with long term conditions, with a specific focus on the processes that may lead (or not) to social engagement and social support.

Specifically, I draw on Morgan and Burholt (2020) and argue that loneliness can be conceptualised as a biographical disruption (Bury 1982). This is because its onset has been associated with different events and transitions (e.g. bereavement, relocation into a care home, the breakdown of a marriage in later life) that disrupt taken for granted behaviours, social roles, and identities and require a complete rethinking of one's biography and self-concept. I then draw on the capabilities approach, as developed by Nussbaum, and argue that identity reconstruction is dependent on people having the freedoms or opportunities to be and do what they value. Capabilities are here understood as genuine opportunities that depend on a combination of more 'internal' capacities and more 'external' circumstances including access to resources, material environments and social relationships.

The findings indicate that for people living with long-term conditions loneliness could be in part an outcome of limited opportunities for rebuilding social status outside of the labour market and the limited social value attached to such activities and work.

Social Bridges to Health Literacy: Examining the Role of Social Capital in Elementary School Contexts

Maria Świątkiewicz-Mośny[1], Magdalena Ślusarczyk[1], Małgorzata Bała[2], Natalia Ożegalska-Łukasik[1], Aleksandra Piłat-Kobla[2], Anna Prokop-Dorner[2], Oliwia Mandrela[1], Aleksandra Potysz-Rzyman[1]

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Health capital demonstrates a strong correlation with social capital, where socio-economic factors play a significant role in influencing health status, lifestyle choices, and access to healthcare services. Our definition of health capital aligns with Bourdieu's concept, encompassing the aggregate of resources possessed by an individual that can impact their position in the social field of health (Schneider-Kamp, 2021). A crucial component of health capital is health literacy, denoting the ability to discover, comprehend, and utilize health information, emphasizing communication competencies and critical thinking skills. Health literacy remains an evolving competence, occupying a prominent place in the World Health Organization's objectives.

This presentation aims to explore the connection between the health literacy levels of primary school students and the socioeconomic capital of their families. Our study involved assessing the health literacy levels of over 1200 Polish pupils aged 12-15 using the Claims Evaluations Tool (CET) and the Health Literacy for School Age Children (HLSAC). To examine their social capital, we inquired about family living conditions, leisure activities, extracurricular engagements, and parental educational levels. The ensuing findings will explore the intricate relationship between health literacy levels and the socio-economic status of students.

Our investigation seeks to affirm hypotheses proposing that the socio-cultural environment molds students' perspectives on health. By analyzing health practices observed in schools, we aim to elucidate the school's role in shaping health competences.

Parental SES and Child Disability Using 41 Years of Cohort Data

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The George Washington University, United States of America

This paper uses 1979 – 2020 National Longitudinal Study of Youth data to explore how transitions in socioeconomic status in childhood are related to the trajectory of childhood functional limitations. The project relies on materialist theory and the minority model of disability to hypothesize that parents of children with lower socioeconomic means are more likely to be functionally limited than those families with higher levels of SES. To model the trajectory of functional limitations, this research relies on population average

growth curve models to assess the temporal, longitudinal effects of SES instability on child functional limitation. Results from the study indicate that parental employment, net of other parental and child demographic characteristics, decreased the odds of a child being functionally limited (limitation of daily activities due to chronic conditions). In this case, higher SES translates to monitoring of warning signs of emerging limitations. In addition, parental employment means that their child will have health insurance coverage that enables them to see physicians who could assess warning signs of functional limitations. Other results are situated within the sociology of disability literature to highlight the role that SES affects child disability.

What You Can Buy, Who You Know and Who Listens to You: The Impact of Different Types of Capital on Health in Iceland.

Sigrún Ólafsdóttir

University of Iceland, Iceland

Sociologists have long been interested in the impact of social position on health. In general, those who are more vulnerable experience worse health than those who have more advantage in society. Research has focused on various positions, including class, race and gender, but scholars increasingly call for a more nuanced understanding of social stratification. Building on Bourdieu´s theory of different kinds of capital, I examine the impact of economic, cultural, social and symbolic capital on health. Using recent survey data from Iceland (N>1,000) which includes unique measures on these four kinds of capital, I ask how these more nuanced measure, independently and in interaction with more widely used measures of social location, impact physical and mental health. The results show that economic, social and symbolic capital impact health, specifically that those who hold more capital report better health. The impact is in addition to the effect of other measures of social locations. The broader implications are that in a society that may be more equal than most, there are still clear distinctions between social groups that impact health in meaningful ways, not only in terms of the position the individual holds in the stratification system, but in a more nuanced ways of who people know, how powerful they consider themselves to be and the economic power they perceive themselves to have.

RN16 | T06_01: Obstetric Violence between Transformations and Trust (2)

Obstetric violence refers to the mistreatment and abuse that women may suffer during childbirth, usually from health care workers. It is still largely unrecognized and underreported in many countries. Trust and transformation are two key concepts for counteracting obstetric violence. Trust is the basis of the patient-provider relationship and, more in general, of the relationship between care giver and care receiver. Health care systems transformation, on the other hand, involves addressing structural issues, such as promoting accountability, improving working conditions and ensuring that health care workers receive adequate training and support. In summary, addressing obstetric violence requires building trust between health care workers and women, as well as transforming health care systems to prioritize respectful, woman-centred care. By emphasizing trust and transformation, societies can work to reduce obstetric violence and promote positive birth experiences for all women. We believe that sociological research in this field represents an inescapable tool to combine the detection of the problem, the critique of the devices that foster it and, at the same time, to find, together with the different stakeholders involved, including institutional and medical area stakeholders, effective solutions in the field of medical practice, health management and practitioner training.

Sociological Ambivalence In Reproduction. The Applicability Of Obstetric Violence To Gestational Surrogacy.

Daniela Bandelli

Lumsa, Italy

This paper will discuss the main points of adherence and incompatibility between gestational surrogacy and the concept of Obstetric Violence (OV), which is “the appropriation of the body and reproductive processes of women by health personnel, which is expressed as dehumanized treatment, an abuse of medication, and to convert the natural processes into pathological ones, bringing with it loss of autonomy and the ability to decide freely about their

bodies and sexuality, negatively impacting the quality of life of women" (Venezuela law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence, 2007) . This discussion will be built on the scientific literature on OV in the context of technically assisted reproduction (ART), and on the reflections emerged during focus groups conducted in 2023 by the author in Italy with midwives, doulas, and activists supporting the so-called "natural childbirth". The sociological theory of ambivalence will enable to look into the tension generated by the following contemporary social trends: an emerging collective consciousness about the structural violence in medicalised pregnancy and childbirth, and on the other hand the increasing normalisation of procreative paths with technical and expert control on different phases of the procreation process, disembodiment of conception, outsourced pregnancy, and separation of mother and child at birth. From the focus groups it emerges that the value of the woman's choice and self-determination provides the core repertoire to mitigate the above mentioned tension and to overcome an apparent ambivalence between medicalisation and nature.

Routinized Episiotomies in Türkiye: Obstetric Violence and Trust

Eylem Mercimek, Dilek Cindoğlu

Kadir Has University, Turkiye

This paper explores the relationship between obstetric violence and trust by focusing on how trust in the obstetric setting is built, instrumentalized, and abused by healthcare providers and receivers, with a specific focus on routinized episiotomies in Türkiye. An episiotomy is a surgical incision implemented to enlarge the vaginal opening during childbirth. While the World Health Organization does not recommend the routine use of episiotomy in spontaneous vaginal births and suggests a maximum ten percent episiotomy rate among all vaginal deliveries, routinized and non-consented episiotomies are widely practiced in Türkiye, particularly in first pregnancies. Focusing specifically on this practice, the paper explores the multidimensional relationship between medical decision-making and trust, including the trust between OB/GYNs, midwives, and doulas, trust between healthcare professionals and expectant mothers, as well as trust in both the woman's body and the healthcare system. The data for this paper is based on grounded theory research conducted between April and October 2023*. Seventeen focus groups and group interviews were held with OB/GYNs, midwives, mothers, and fathers in Istanbul, Ankara, and Hakkari. Additionally, ten in-depth interviews were carried out with experts in the field, such as NGO representatives. The research data are coded and analyzed with MAXQDA. Preliminary findings suggest that trust can be both a reason and a strategy for facing and dealing with uncertainties in obstetric settings, potentially resulting in obstetric violence. The findings point out the influence of power dynamics rooted in gender inequalities among stakeholders in the medical setting, affecting the decision-making process regarding the implementation of episiotomy. The significance of the research is to reveal the negative consequences of over-medicalization of childbirth and women's bodies, and gender inequalities in obstetric settings through opening up a discussion on the relationship between obstetric violence and trust by focusing on the ways in which trust is built, instrumentalized, and abused.

Eylem Mercimek, a Ph.D. student in Gender Studies at Kadir Has University, has not participated in an ESA PhD Summer School before.

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A Latin American Response To Mistreatment And Abuse During Childbirth In Healthcare Systems

Giulia Stolfi

University of Florence, Italy

Obstetric violence is a kind of mistreatment often experienced by women during childbirth. It concerns the excess of medicalization, the pathologization of physiological processes, disrespectful and improper behaviors, related to the hegemonic medical discourse and to the abuse of the theory of medical necessity. In Europe, including Italy, there is a lack of legislation to protect women from these abuses. Obstetric violence has been treated for the first time in Latin America, where many States (including Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Mexico) have enacted laws on the subject, adopting instruments to prevent and combat the phenomenon with a perspective based on the protection of Women's Human Rights. This approach, recently, has been shared and supported also by many international organizations, who consider obstetric violence as a form of gender-based violence. In Brazil, Institutions, women's associations, and representatives of professional groups are working to improve the quality of obstetric care services with the aim to humanize childbirth and to ensure more respectful care, valuing the autonomy and protagonism of women in childbirth. The policies and measures adopted are an important transformative factor to promote social change. The analysis proposed is based on the research that I'm carrying out in Brazil as a PhD student in Human Rights theories at the University of Florence. In a comparative perspective, it's useful to look at the Brazilian experience to understand if this model can provide responsive elements to Italian and European healthcare systems.

Professional Ethics For The Prvension Of Obstretic Violence

Sara Fariello

Università della Campania, Luigi Vanvitelli, Italy

Obstetric violence is a form of gender-based violence and a serious violation of human rights in childbirth. Women's human rights include, in fact, their right to receive dignified and respectful reproductive health-care services and obstetric care, free from discrimination and violence, including sexism and psychological violence, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and coercion (UN, 2019).

In Italy, o.v. is addressed in the legal framework of medical responsibility and health policies differ on a regional basis. The literature is recent and focuses mainly on the testimonies of women. I argue that it's useful to show the phenomenon from the side of those who may be acting such violence, to illuminate aspects not yet investigated and to identify the conditions that may promote it or, conversely, limit it. Recent research has highlighted the importance of midwives' professional ethics in the prevention of obstetric violence (Fariello & Pratschke, 2022). The midwifery-led care model offers the foundations for a new paradigm in opposition to medicalization: it focuses on the one-to-one equal relationship between midwife and woman, communication, consensus, continuity of care, personalized care, and empowerment. This model is based on the concept of physiology to claim a sphere of responsibility and, at the same time, the involvement of women during pregnancy and childbirth. It requires a greater autonomy for midwives and more staff on shifts. Therefore, public policies can encourage a more respectful and holistic approach to labour and childbirth, also through the enforcement of the obstetric role.

Communication Between Mother and Midwife: Critical Profiles and Fiduciary Perspectives.

Chiara Magneschi

Università di Firenze, Italy

The so-called paradigm of social reproduction and the political ethics of care have declined the conception of motherhood beyond the destinal stereotype, advancing the demand for more fulfilling ways of becoming and being mothers. The ability to endure, as an index of perfect femininity, has for centuries invisibilized traumatic experiences of motherhood and childbirth. It is therefore essential to argue that motherhood is a choice that, if undertaken, demands the utmost care: the woman exposes herself to the wound, but the wound must be prevented by those institutionally competent to do so.

The research question that will be attempted to be answered is how we can make motherhood and childbirth places of authentic care. The hypothesis is that reference to a fiduciary paradigm can enhance the connotations of these phases of life, from a relational, shared, widespread perspective. For the woman, feeling that she can rely on the care of staff is essential; for the latter, perceiving trust in their work is essential. How this connection can take place is the more specific question that will move the development of the research. The attempt will be to create an operational perspective by exploiting precisely the value of trust, lately the focus of intense jusphilosophical reappraisal, for a new social ontology.

RN16 | T06_02: Vaccination and (dis)trust: what sociology can teach us in the face of contemporary challenges (2)

In the context of current sociopolitical tensions and challenges to trust in institutions, the issue of vaccine hesitancy has taken center stage. The proposed special session aims to explore vaccine hesitancy as both a symptom and an agent of tension, as well as a catalyst for a crisis of trust. The session intends to discuss how trust in vaccines, science, the healthcare systems, and public health authorities has been impacted by contemporary challenges, including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic. The understanding of the ways in which different forms of vulnerabilities may intersect with vaccine attitudes and shape it is key to this exploration. We propose to analyze vaccine hesitancy in the context of broader processes of constructing distrust in expert systems. Thus, the special section welcomes contributions that open a discussion on the ways in which trust in expert systems is both eroded and strengthened. We are particularly interested in papers that provide critical reflections on the role of trust in redefining the conceptualization of vaccine hesitancy, offering new frameworks and perspectives for understanding this complex social phenomenon. We hope to bring together papers using various methodological approaches and disciplinary focus, whether comparative or country-based, that address the following topics: i) critical reflections on the existing conceptualizations of vaccine hesitancy; ii) mechanisms that lead to trust erosion and/or restoration in the context of vaccine hesitancy; iii) comparative studies on vaccine hesitancy and trust in different European and global regions, highlighting cross-cultural differences and similarities; iv) exploration of how intersecting identities and vulnerabilities, including factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and geographic location, shape vaccine attitudes and hesitancy.

Creating Bridges: Understanding The Role Of Materialities In Childhood Vaccination Encounter

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Whereas there has been some research on the role of the materialities of care in the healthcare interaction, less in known on how these materialities may influence the interaction between healthcare professionals, parents, and the child in the vaccination encounter. The current study intends to address this gap, by shedding light on how caring practices are performed in vaccination settings and their impact on children and their parents. The study draws on data from Portugal, namely on 71,5 hours of observations of different vaccination sites and in-depth interviews with 30 healthcare professionals. A thematic analysis was performed which allowed us to identify key themes within the data. The findings suggest that materialities are pivotal in the developing of caring relationships within the vaccination encounter. The focus on mundane materialities may help to bring light to certain practices that often go unnoticed in the vaccination encounter, but which may be key to manage childhood vaccination. The relational effect of mundane materialities upon the vaccination experience is demonstrated.

Blind Spots in Childhood Vaccine Hesitancy Research: Bilateral Trust, Child-Centeredness and Trajectories of Hesitancy

Dino Numerato[1], Jaroslava Hasmanová Marhánková[1], Mario Cardano[2], Alice Scavarda[2], Luigi Gariglio[2], Alistair Anderson[3], Petra Auvinen[4], Ana Patrícia Hilário[5], Pru Hobson-West[3], Aapo Kuusipalo[4], Esther Lermytte[6], Joana Mendonça[5], Paulina Polak[7], Tadeusz Józef Rudek[7], Maria Świątkiewicz-Mośny[7], Pia Vuolanto[4], Aleksandra Wagner[7]

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The topic of childhood vaccine hesitancy has attracted extensive social-scientific attention that has even increased amidst the recent COVID-19 pandemic. The complexity of vaccine hesitancy at micro-, meso – and macro-levels has been reflected by the voluminous scholarship that focuses on a variety of factors, including socio-characteristics, lifestyles, values or lay knowledge of parents, their trust in expert knowledge, healthcare authorities or healthcare professionals, the perceived risk of vaccination or vaccine-preventable diseases, and the role played by health care systems, politics, social and mass media. Epistemologically inspired by relational sociology, the aim of this paper is to identify and explore three blind spots in childhood vaccine hesitancy research. The study draws on the extensive empirical evidence generated through a rapid team ethnography in seven European countries (Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom) as part of the international project VAX-TRUST. The findings of this paper are threefold: First, trust affecting vaccine hesitancy is bilateral and determined by trust of health care professionals in other actors involved in vaccination, in addition to the more commonly studied trust of parents in health care professionals; second, vaccine hesitancy is affected by the omnipresent yet analytically invisible role of children; and, third, vaccine hesitancy is processual, mutable in time and, therefore, trajectories towards or away from vaccine hesitancy have to be systematically explored. We conclude that these observations not only enrich the current academic debates concerning vaccine hesitancy but, at the same time, could usefully inform child vaccination policies.

It's The Companies I Don't Trust: A Focus Group Examining Vaccine Hesitancy and Institutional Distrust

Alec Cali

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

In this article I explore the relationship between regulatory distrust and the adoption of vaccine hesitant beliefs in an American context. Focus groups were conducted through Zoom with 63 participants located in 22 American states in winter 2022 who indicated distrust with the American regulatory system and/or hesitancy towards any kind of vaccine. Qualitative analysis showed that, independent of other beliefs or identity, participants saw vaccines as just another medical treatment, something that should be consumed or avoided based on personal, biological risk factors. There was a stark contrast between those who continued to trust the regulatory system and those who did not: Those who did not were more likely to believe that pharmaceutical corporations "bought" regulators and public health officials. They also believed the institutions responsible for vaccine and medicine production and regulation could be fully trusted with their recommendations. There was a general understanding in this group that "the system" has stopped protecting or "working for the regular people." Several participants used the ongoing opioid crisis in the United States as both an example and the cause of their distrust in pharmaceutical companies and regulators. My analysis suggests that long-term pro-vaccination campaigns must begin focusing on fundamental causes of distrust between patients and the health system. I also suggest that the international crisis of trust reflected in the research is the result of the global system of neoliberalism. I conclude with

recommendations for future on research the intersection of anti-neoliberal sentiments and health decision making.

Sociological Theory and Intervention: Study on Vaccine Hesitancy

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This study is part of a larger study that aims to gain a broader understanding of the phenomenon of vaccine hesitancy at the European level and support healthcare professionals' expert position when meeting with vaccine hesitancy and related challenges to expertise, specialist knowledge and evidence-based recommendations.

The study focuses on the second objective and, thus, on the design and implementation of public health interventions towards vaccine hesitancy. According to the objectives and actions of the project Horizon "VAX-TRUST – Addressing vaccine hesitancy in Europe", we thought it was necessary to deepen sociological theory and connect it with intervention in Public Health. Therefore, the main objective of this study, based on a literature review (LR), is to find answers to two fundamental questions concerning public health interventions: a) the usefulness of theory for the design of public health interventions and b) the applicability of theory to interventions. We thus explored the literature on the subject (social sciences and public health) and tested intervention models.

The study dwells on some specific theories (Actor-Network Theory, Social Worlds Theory, Normalisation Process Theory) which, due to the complexity of their approach and the consideration of some critical intervention elements (context, interaction, network, etc.), seem appropriate for the design and implementation of PH intervention.

Furthermore, the study shows examples of the interaction of the analysed theories with two well-known intervention models (the 6SQuiD framework and the TIDIeR checklist).

The analysis of this study shows that a complex public health intervention can be traced back to multiple theories to be more effective.

RN16 | T06_03: Disability and mental health at the intersection of policies, technologies and (new) inequalities

The session aims to discuss the possible transformations produced by both the introduction of new technologies of care and the recent Covid-19 pandemic in the disability field, in terms of both opportunities of inclusion, the expansion of old inequalities and the production of new ones. We will provide a space to critically discuss the effects of these phenomena on the international and national policy regulative framework; on the regional or local policy, services or practices; on families, persons with disabilities and disability welfare policy professions. International, national and local studies on tensions, barriers, boundaries, spaces and practices of care for and by persons with disabilities are welcome. The pandemic presented both threats and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers, as well as the introduction of new technologies of care. Persons with disabilities experienced not only isolation, but also new forms of support. Remote or hybrid forms of assistance increased the interactions between healthcare professionals, family members/caregivers and persons with disabilities, but they could not replace the role of direct contact in professional encounters. In order to tackle the multifaceted empirical dimensions of the topic this call for papers is intended to solicit both theoretical and empirical contributions, as well as reflection on ethical issues. We welcome papers from any theoretical and methodological perspective. Empirical studies may involve solo, collaborative and team-based research. Quantitative, qualitative, creative and art-based method are welcome along with experiments, ethnographic and autoethnographic ones.

Unravelling Intersectional Barriers: Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Women with Disabilities in Uganda

Rupankar Dey

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This research delves into the accessibility of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP) services for women with disabilities in Uganda, examining how intersecting identities create barriers to access and assessing the effectiveness of these services in enhancing sexual well-being. Drawing on the concepts of intersectionality and capabilities, the study adopts Levesque's healthcare framework to analyze barriers from both the demand and supply sides.

Conducted in semi-urban and rural areas of Uganda, the research utilized individual qualitative interviews with healthcare professionals, beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, and focus group discussions. The findings reveal multifaceted challenges in SRH and FP service access for women with disabilities. Intersectional identities play a crucial role, emphasizing that access alone does not guarantee positive outcomes. Financial status significantly influences the realization of service benefits, with intriguing disparities noted between rural Kalangala and semi-urban Kampala. Disability type proves pivotal, impacting service accessibility, while education, financial dependency, and religion shape access for both beneficiaries and providers.

The study also critiques prevailing SRH policies for adopting a one-size-fits-all approach, neglecting the unique needs of women with disabilities influenced by their intersecting identities. The research underscores the necessity for nuanced and identity-informed SRH and FP policies tailored to address the diverse challenges faced by this demographic. It calls for a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics influencing accessibility and advocates for policy adjustments that account for the complex interplay of factors shaping the experiences of women with disabilities in seeking SRH and FP services.

Addiction and Psychiatry: A Critical Intervention

Bruce Cohen

University of Auckland, New Zealand

Despite the increase in psychiatric, media, and public discourse regarding the prevalence and growing number of addictions in western society in the twenty-first century, sociological analyses of such conspicuous behaviour has remained relatively thin on the ground. This is perhaps surprising given the mental health system's continued inability to adequately identify and define what exactly 'addiction' is, or to provide effective treatments for those they have labelled as (for example) drug, alcohol, gambling, food, social media, gaming, or sex 'addicts'. In advance of the publication of Addiction and the Medicalisation of Conspicuous Behaviour: New Critical Perspectives (a sociological volume from Jo Reichertz, Martin Harbusch and myself, due out in 2025), this presentation performs a critical analysis of addiction to assess the key historical dynamics and current drivers for this form of medicalisation, including consideration of who ultimately might benefit from the pathologisation of such consumption practices. From consideration of the early moral entrepreneurs who first named certain behaviours as addictions in the late nineteenth century, through changes to the American Psychiatric Association's third edition of their Diagnostical and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in 1980, to the latest tests for efficacy within the field, this talk will also offer some useful pathways for future sociological research in the area. At the same time, my own Marxist intervention here will argue that, ultimately, addiction discourse reflects certain economic and ideological priorities of capitalism for both surplus value and the social control of (mainly) working class populations.

"Walking in the room waving a piece of paper" Understanding Mental Health Stigma in Turkey Through the Perspectives of Mental Healthcare Professionals.

Baris Kamyab Muhammedrezai

Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Stigma is an important barrier to health seeking behavior for mental health disorders. Therefore, it is crucial to understand and analyze the extent and the effects of stigmatization. The Republic of Turkey acknowledged this issue in 2006 and there have been efforts to tackle this issue from various institutions. In this study, my goal is to explore how mental health is stigmatized in contemporary Turkey through the perspective of mental healthcare professionals. To achieve this goal, I conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with mental healthcare professionals consisting of 6 psychiatry specialists and postgraduate medical doctors in training. Results have shown that stigmatization is still prevalent in Turkey and the efforts to tackle the issue have not been effective. In the context of Turkey, there is a close relation between mental health stigma and somatic symptom presentation in clinics. Professionals can act as stigmatizers in certain situations and patient fear towards institutional stigma is a prevalent topic in clinical care. Even though the topic of stigmatization has been studied extensively, few studies have been done focusing on the perspectives and the experiences of professionals.

Mental Health Digital Solutions: The Twilight Zone Of Empowerment And Responsibilization?

Emilie Kristine Dyrlev Thorsen

Aarhus University, Denmark

Mental health has been announced as a pressing and ubiquitous issue worldwide. This paper investigates the transformative potential and sociological implications of digital mental health interventions in Denmark. The paper emphasizes the dual nature of these technologies as levers for empowerment and responsibilization, bestowing psychiatric patients with flexibility and autonomy while concurrently imposing a heightened sense of individualization and responsibility for managing their mental health.

Using latent class analysis (LCA), the paper uncovers latent classes based on psychiatric patients' experiences with, and attitudes towards, mental health digital solutions. Moreover, the LCA reveals patient groups along the lines of experienced empowerment and responsibilization. This is based on a representative survey sample distributed to 7.000 Danish patients being in psychiatric treatment in 2023.

In the subsequent analysis, the paper unearths the intricate relationship between mental health digital solutions and digital inequalities. Using multinomial regression analysis, the paper examines the association between socioeconomic position, severity of mental illness, age, gender, geographic location, migration status, social support, and patient classes. The explanatory variables are accessed via population register data.

By shedding light on these connections, the research contributes to the broader understanding of how digital mental health solutions intersect with social structures, accentuating the need for targeted policies that address digital inequalities. This inquiry ultimately seeks to inform both academic discourse and public policy strategies for digitalizing psychiatric care practices.

RN16 | T06_04: Active ageing: the tensions between the end of working life and the beginning of a new (?) healthy and social life

After the two-years of Covid 19 pandemic emergency, the social and working life balance is quickly changed. The search for a new normality is still the objective of many segments of the world population. Indeed, if from the one hand, elderly have suffered from the lockdown in terms of sociality, from the other hand, workers have experimented a new organization of time between personal and working life. Considering the acceleration to a new organization of the society, even more attention has been focused by policy makers to the "active ageing", as the process which allows people to continue to achieve individual well-being objectives and participate in activities in society according to one's abilities, desires and needs (WHO). Indeed, "Health" is one of the four pillars proposed by the WHO in the Active Ageing Policy Framework (WHO) stating that the care system should focus on health promotion, disease prevention and equitable access to quality primary health care and long-term care. The aim of this session is twofold. From the one hand, we discuss policies promoting active ageing, based also on working life balance evaluation and considering not only retired, but also elderly workers, gender differences and other peculiarities. The purpose of these activities is aimed at improving physical and mental health conditions (e.g., encouraging physical activity or digital knowledge), and the participation in economic and social life with new roles. From the other hand, we discuss results from both qualitative and quantitative research, especially based on existing active ageing programs. Interdisciplinary approaches and international comparisons are very welcome.

Loneliness Among Old Age Dependents and the Role of Cats and Dogs as a Protective Factor

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University of Barcelona, Spain

Loneliness is often associated with older age. Age-related losses and decreasing health may affect social contacts which in turn are expected to increase the risk of loneliness. Studies consistently demonstrate that older adults who are lonely or socially isolated have higher rates of depression, more health conditions, and greater mortality.

The purpose of this study is to identify whether being a cat/dog owner, among other factors, makes a difference in terms of loneliness in old age. Data were used from a representative sample of non-institutionalized dependent old persons (>65) in Barcelona-Spain (Survey on Care Strategies for Older Dependents 2023, DEPCURA-BCN project). Among the n=1,150 individuals 14% did own a pet. Logistic regressions show that owning a cat/dog reduces significantly the risk of feeling lonely (UCLA-3≥6) but only among women, once controlled by age, health subjective status, Duke-UNC Scale, household size, degree of dependency and household income. In the case of men, we found that household size, and particularly living with another person, reduces significantly the risk of feeling lonely, controlling by other factors too. Future research should focus on elucidating the underlying mechanisms, and longitudinal studies are required to deepen our understanding of this association.

Health And Education As Determinants Of Opportunities For Healthy Ageing In Poland

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1Jagiellonian University, Poland; 2Cracow University of Economics

Health is an unevenly distributed resource in society. Its state is influenced by a range of factors, from genetic predispositions, lifestyle, environmental conditions, to access to medical services and education. Conversely, health status is a major factor influencing market opportunities, social, and cultural participation. This presentation aims to examine the impact of health status, measured through self-assessment, on various aspects of life in Poland, particularly focussing on the relationship between health and education. As indicated by the nationwide, representative Human Capital Study research conducted since 2010, good well-being and positive health assessment are common among young people but vary significantly among older individuals. The primary explanatory factor for this disparity is the level of education, which is in turn related to the nature of the job, access to networks, information, and facilities to maintain good health. Based on multiyear survey data, we will demonstrate how health problems become factors that exclude individuals from professional life or diminish its quality, act as barriers to learning and development, including access to information about medical services and prevention, which in turn hinders health improvement and maintaining activity in old age.

How Do Middle-Aged And Older Adults Maintain And Manage Their Social Networks? A Qualitative Network Analysis

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Background: Social integration is a crucial factor for physical and mental health, and therefore for active ageing. Managing social networks can be challenging for older adults, who are at risk of declining social networks and health. It is essential to understand how older adults maintain their social networks, especially during the transition from work to retirement. Our research aims to explore how middle-aged and older adults maintain and manage their social networks, with a focus on potential differences between working and retired adults.

Methods: Qualitative network interviews were conducted with 28 members of social clubs in Germany, aged between 45-80 years (mean 62 years). Additionally, 25 unstructured egocentric network maps were analysed. The network maps revealed the importance and frequency of contact of social contacts and provided information about alter-alter relationships. The data were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.

Results: We developed five preliminary themes: (1) geographical proximity, (2) duration of social relationships, (3) contact maintenance, (4) network composition and (5) systematisation of social contacts. For retired participants, family relationships became very important but some participants invested more time into the social club, other volunteering organisations or friendships. Some participants actively joined the social club to have a fixed social group without having to put too much effort into it.

Conclusion: Joining a formal social network, such as through volunteering, can be a useful strategy to prevent social isolation and promote active ageing.

The Role Of Health Status In Network Tie Formation, Maintenance And Dissolution: A Prospective Study Among Community-Dwelling Middle-Aged And Older Adults

Amelie Reiner

University of Cologne, Germany

Previous research has shown that changes in the social network, including the formation and dissolution of relationships with confidants, shape an individual's health, and vice versa. While previous studies concentrated on adolescents or utilized standard regressions that primarily examine health as a predictor of subsequent sent and received friendship ties, net of baseline, focusing primarily on health as a predictor of subsequent friendship ties, this study investigates the entire friendship networks of middle-aged and older adults using longitudinal social network analysis. The approach recognizes the distinct needs and resources related to health and social networking in older populations, expanding the scope beyond previous research.

The aim of this study is to test whether health status shapes the formation, maintenance and dissolution in middle-aged and older adults` friendship networks, and vice versa. Because network processes are expected to differ by health problem, we distinguish between self-rated, mental and physical health.

We collected three-wave sociometric data among older adults in two local social clubs in Germany, from 2022-2024 (N=40—50, response=78—88%). SAOM test the aforementioned health variables and social network dynamics longitudinally.

While 39-42 per cent of ties were maintained out of all friendship nominations observed, 11-31 per cent of ties were newly formed, and 27-50 per cent of ties were characterized by dissolution. Tie formation is negatively correlated with the deterioration of health status.

This study investigates the interplay of social network dynamics and health status in the most vulnerable and largest population, guiding interventions to identify and support those at risk.

RN16 | T06_05: When the Medical encounters the Social: Exploring How Medical Conceptualizations and Practices of Care Affect the Social Provision of Long-term Care

Long-term care is a critical component of healthcare systems, serving individuals with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and aging adults with various healthcare needs. However, the provision of long-term care in contemporary societies is inscribed in a web of intersecting inequalities including gender, race/ethnicity, class, age, and immigration status. This panel aims to critically examine the ways in which medical conceptualizations and practices of care may participate in maintaining and reproducing these inequalities within the long-term care system or, alternatively, in how they can challenge them. Topics may include, but should not be limited to, how different medical personnel, ranging from primary physicians to nurses, from specialists to care coordinators, and others: – discuss Ideal forms of care, best practices, skills, qualities, and abilities fundamental to the provision of care – design or recommend long-term care projects for large groups or individuals – experiments with new forms of long-term care provision or simply theorizes the possibility of new ones.

Theorizing Masculinity, Ageing, And The Lived Body – The Case Of Prostate Cancer

Thomas Roland Johansson[1], Jesper Andreasson[2]

1University of Gothenburg, Sweden; 2Linneaus University, Sweden

Theorizing masculinity, ageing, and the lived body – the case of prostate cancer

Jesper Andreasson and Thomas Johansson

The concept of hegemonic masculinity is filled with cultural appropriations and descriptions of masculinity. In certain versions hegemonic masculinity turns into a more classical, restrained, stoic, disciplined, and emotionally disconnected

masculinity, while in other versions men can be described as caring, and emotionally present. This study aims to theorize on how masculine ideals are played out in relation to prostate cancer treatment side effects, such as incontinence, impotence, lack of libido and fatigue. Such transformations of bodily functions and capabilities may lead to an increased attention to the lived and gendered body, and to health issues. In relation to this we will investigate how the concept of hegemonic masculinity can be used to analyse the ill and ageing body. We will utilise an intersectional approach to masculinity and the ill body, acknowledging the multi-dimensionality of social factors, identities, and power. Adding to the sociologically informed theoretical framework found in feminist studies and critical studies on men and masculinity, we will further lean on theories and perspectives found within phenomenology and body studies. Indeed, many of the side effects connected to prostate cancer treatment are experienced in reference to the fleshiness of the self and to senses of ongoing corporeal ageing. We will theorize on the lived/experienced, socio-cultural, and inter-relational levels of masculinity and prostate cancer – as discussed by and among men – in relation to thoughts about ageing, sexual dysfunction, and incontinence.

Beyond Stigma and Biomedical Frameworks: Humanising Dementia Care and Ageing

Ieva Stončikaitė

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This presentation focuses on the complexities of long-term care for individuals living with dementia through interdisciplinary humanities-based approaches. It argues that narrowly defined biomedical and neoliberal conceptualizations of old age and unidirectional care practices contribute to reproducing inequalities and diminishing the autonomy of older adults. Drawing on Foucault's observation, the presentation highlights how medical institutions have constructed an organic model of the body, health, and illness, subjecting it to a clinical gaze and medical repository. The prevailing notions of dementia as 'failure' permeate health and social care practices, as well as everyday interactions, which translate to the organizational structures of care institutions and public discourse. The social inability to see dementia beyond the lens of shameful and deteriorating bodies that lack personhood and agency underscores the need for alternative narratives surrounding dementia and long-term care. The presentation addresses the role of creative engagement and non-verbal communication as an alternative means to involve older individuals as more active co-participants. It also demonstrates how literature can bring to the forefront the realities of care and dementia, including the negatives of ageing bodies, which are seldom voiced in gerontological scholarship. Humanities-based research holds the potential to be translated into care policies, interventions, and practices with the aim of rethinking the dynamics of ageing and dementia care, and improving the lives of ageing individuals, their families, and caregivers, and rethinking the dynamics of ageing and dementia care.

"Ageist Practices Among Health and Social Workers: Preliminary Results from a Pilot Study in Italy"

Elena Allegri, Cristina Calvi, Eugenia Mercuri, Francesca Zaltron

University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy

Population ageing increasingly challenges health and welfare systems. Studies have revealed the existence of ageist practices and representations, i.e. age-discriminatory practices towards older people, in health and social care systems in the Western world. Such practices also have effects on the health outcomes of older people, reducing longevity. The contribution reports some preliminary results of a study conducted within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan funded project AGE-IT. In particular, the research presented here, conducted in northern Italy with professionals in the health (doctors, nurses) and social care (social workers) spheres who are most concerned with older adults, explores the ageist practices that can take shape in professional contexts of care and cure through the reconstruction of certain representations and definitions that guide the actions of professionals and that can favour ageist practices. The research adopts a qualitative method using the focus group technique (n.3) to reconstruct, on the one hand, the meanings that professionals attribute to the concepts of ageing and self-sufficiency/non-self-sufficiency; on the other hand, the possible ageist practices enacted in the three professions and in the organizations in which they work. The analysis sheds light on the coexistence of two mechanisms that can potentially generate ageist practices in the social and health care professions: the first acts at the micro (individual) level through stereotypes and prejudices that can condition relationships with older patients or users; the second is at the meso level and acts through the organisational constraints within which professionals work.

Mechanisms of Algorithmic Inequality in Medicaid Long-Term Care

Ailish Burns

Brown University, United States of America

States in the United States are increasingly using algorithms to determine medical eligibility for Medicaid long-term care (LTC), which provides institutional, in-home, or community-based care for the elderly and disabled. Though algorithms are often purported to be more objective than non-algorithmic methods, research has shown that they may increase social inequality. However, there is limited understanding of how the context in which algorithms are used shape their capacity to exacerbate or reduce inequality. In this project, I compare two Medicaid LTC programs and ask: How do bureaucrats use algorithms and other tools to determine medical eligibility for Medicaid LTC? I conduct in-depth interviews with Medicaid eligibility

screeners, administrators, and advocates in Wisconsin and Florida. While both states use algorithms to determine medical eligibility, applicants in Wisconsin undergo just one in-person assessment by a social worker, whereas applicants in Florida are subjected to at least one screening over the phone, an in-person assessment by social workers, and an assessment by their physician. One reason for this difference may be funding structure: Florida spends less per resident on LTC than Wisconsin, especially on non-nursing home LTC, which has resulted in very long waitlists for services. Preliminary results suggest that algorithmic eligibility processes require applicants to 'signal' their disabilities in ways that are legible to lay people and fit into particular pre-designated categories. This signaling requires significant cultural capital, especially in Florida where the eligibility process is more complex. The capital required to navigate supposedly "objective" assessments of disability may contribute to widening inequality in access to healthcare, particularly in states with less funding and more restrictive Medicaid programs.

RN16 | T07_01: Disability and mental health at the intersection of policies, technologies and (new) inequalities (2)

The session aims to discuss the possible transformations produced by both the introduction of new technologies of care and the recent Covid-19 pandemic in the disability field, in terms of both opportunities of inclusion, the expansion of old inequalities and the production of new ones. We will provide a space to critically discuss the effects of these phenomena on the international and national policy regulative framework; on the regional or local policy, services or practices; on families, persons with disabilities and disability welfare policy professions. International, national and local studies on tensions, barriers, boundaries, spaces and practices of care for and by persons with disabilities are welcome. The pandemic presented both threats and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers, as well as the introduction of new technologies of care. Persons with disabilities experienced not only isolation, but also new forms of support. Remote or hybrid forms of assistance increased the interactions between healthcare professionals, family members/caregivers and persons with disabilities, but they could not replace the role of direct contact in professional encounters. In order to tackle the multifaceted empirical dimensions of the topic this call for papers is intended to solicit both theoretical and empirical contributions, as well as reflection on ethical issues. We welcome papers from any theoretical and methodological perspective. Empirical studies may involve solo, collaborative and team-based research. Quantitative, qualitative, creative and art-based method are welcome along with experiments, ethnographic and autoethnographic ones.

Battles over 'unruly bodies'. Practitioners' interpretations of eating disorders and the Utility of Psychiatric Labelling.

Alison Fixsen, Damien Ridge

University of Westminster, United Kingdom

Our paper highlights the complexity of professional discourses, power plays, claims and counterclaims and the ongoing struggles over the 'unruly bodies' of patients with eating disorders. We conducted an inductive thematic analysis of data from five studies, covering thirty semi-structured interviews with UK health-care professionals working in the eating disorder field. Findings suggest that professionals engaged in various struggles over eating disorders (EDs), which were compounded by the labelling process itself. Whilst person-centeredness was valued, encounters with ED patients were frequently framed as outstandingly problematic in terms of treatment resistance, with clients' unruliness spurred on by ED competitiveness on social media and in-hospital rivalries. Paradoxically, the labelling of eating disorders created further expectations for patients in terms of achieving specific weight levels and diagnostic labels. Reportedly this resulted in competition over who was sickest, which was mirrored by treatment priorities within an overstretched public health system. Participant stories also highlighted interesting tensions between professionals rationalising their work with patients and acknowledging themselves as potentially vulnerable to societal pressures which promote disordered eating. We argue that, whilst lay narratives around EDs continue to be framed by authorities as unruly behaviours in deviant individuals, the gap between officially sanctioned and illicit ED discourses could continue to grow.

'I Don't Think There's Many Black African Caribbean Men That Talk Positively About Mental Health Services' : Mental Health Professionals' Perspectives on Distrust Amongst Black Men Detained in Psychiatric Hospitals

Jeremy Dixon[1], Caroline Leah[2]

1University of Bath, United Kingdom; 2Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

A growing body of literature has highlighted the importance of establishing and maintaining trust between people with mental health problems and mental health services. However, trust is a challenging concept within mental health care. Mental health laws in most jurisdictions, allow mental health professionals to detain people with mental health problems against their will, which can promote distrust between these groups. Quantitative research has consistently shown that African Caribbean men are disproportionately detained under mental health laws, contributing to a lack of trust between them and mental health services. In this presentation we draw on Möllering's theory of trust and control as a duality to explore how mental health professionals believe that trust can be established with African Caribbean men.

Our qualitative study used experienced-based co-design and thematic analysis to explore how the experiences of African Caribbean men detained under the Mental Health Act might be improved. In this presentation, we focus on the views of 13 mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and police officers who were interviewed in 2023.

Professionals in the study identified that African Caribbean men commonly distrusted mental health services. This distrust was seen to be driven by stereotypical views within services about this group being 'risky' and 'dangerous as well as assessments and interventions not being culturally adapted. These factors were viewed within the context of socio-cultural and political factors, namely African Caribbean men experiencing higher levels of poverty, substance-misuse, trauma and discrimination. Furthermore, issues relating to the mental health workforce were identified, including the lack of diversity in the workforce and inadequate training relating to black people's perspectives.

Those 'In Limbo' Who Are Neither Healthy Nor Disabled: A Phenomenological Approach to Hearing Loss

Ayşe Nur Leblebicier

Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Turkiye

Disability statistics are obtained from people with 'disabled' status who are included in a certain degree/rate. However, there are also individuals who are not included in the prevalence. This study focuses on the hearing loss 'experiences' of individuals with mild or moderate hearing loss who are 'invisible' in society, despite being in a disadvantaged group in Turkey. In fact, to be considered disabled in Turkey, an individual must have a hearing loss of 40%.In this case, the person's hearing aid use is not legally defined, even though it is medically called 'mild', unless the sensory loss exceeds 40%. Therefore, calling these individuals 'disabled' remains ambiguous. Even though individuals with moderate loss have a disability status, they do not associate themselves with deafness and are educated in schools without special equipment. This population, which is neither sick/disabled nor healthy, is 'in limbo'. The study, conducted with qualitative research principles, uses a phenomenological design. The sample of the study is individuals who experience 'mild or moderate hearing loss' between the ages of 18-40. The questions of the research are what experiences they have regarding mild/moderate hearing loss, how it affects their daily life practices, what are the issues that prevent them from participating in society, and the strategies they apply when they want to be included in the system. The data collection technique is in-depth interview

and a semi-structured interview form is applied to the interviewers. Since they are difficult to access, the snowball technique is used. In the pilot interviews, some of the participants stated that they left their education unfinished due to the difficulties they experienced, while some stated that they received education in normal schools, saying 'I wanted to be a normal child'. However, this situation has deepened their disadvantaged position. As many researchers have noted, "there is no doubt about the serious impact of severe/profound hearing loss, but the impact of mild/moderate hearing loss is less well known." Because they are not included in the prevalence, it becomes difficult to study about them. This study aims to introduce these 'in limbo' individuals to the literature.

Depression and Its Major Risk Factors Among the Ukrainian Female Forced Migrants in the Czech Republic

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Around half a million forced migrants from Ukraine have received "temporary protection" in the Czech Republic due to the full-scale russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Forced migrants are facing a wide variety of traumatic and stressful events which cause increasing mental health disorders. This cross-sectional study was conducted as part of a bigger mixed-method research project with Ukrainian female refugees in the Czech Republic over 18 years old (N=919) via an online survey. The descriptive statistics showed that the respondents' average age was 38 years; 68.4 % were married; more than 70 % of respondents had children under 18 years old. 71% of the participants hold a university degree, 86.7 % have resided in Ukrainian cities and towns, and 73.8% have had employment in Ukraine. Before participating in the survey, the forced migrants stayed in the Czech Republic for an average of 15 weeks.

Depression symptoms were measured by using the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9). As a result, 53,4 % of females have moderate to severe symptoms of depression. Linear logistic regression analysis was performed to investigate the associations between depression and self-reported health adjusted by socio-demographics. Analysis revealed that discrimination, lack of the desire to talk with loved ones who remain in Ukraine, lower self-reported emotional and psychological status, employing avoidant coping strategies, and higher levels of perceived stress and anxiety are major risk factors for depression. As well to be employed, and having better relations with relatives, colleagues and neighbours are protective factors.

The study showed that more than half of Ukrainian female forced migrants in the Czech Republic experienced moderate to severe depression symptoms, and these findings have important public health implications.

RN16 | T07_02: When the Medical encounters the Social: Exploring How Medical Conceptualizations and Practices of Care Affect the Social Provision of Long-term Care (2)

Long-term care is a critical component of healthcare systems, serving individuals with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and aging adults with various healthcare needs. However, the provision of long-term care in contemporary societies is inscribed in a web of intersecting inequalities including gender, race/ethnicity, class, age, and immigration status. This panel aims to critically examine the ways in which medical conceptualizations and practices of care may participate in maintaining and reproducing these inequalities within the long-term care system or, alternatively, in how they can challenge them. Topics may include, but should not be limited to, how different medical personnel, ranging from primary physicians to nurses, from specialists to care coordinators, and others: – discuss Ideal forms of care, best practices, skills, qualities, and abilities fundamental to the provision of care – design or recommend long-term care projects for large groups or individuals – experiments with new forms of long-term care provision or simply theorizes the possibility of new ones.

Assembling Caringscape in End-of-life: Care Practices in Hospice Home Care

Anne-chie Wang

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In a highly institutionalized death-prevailing context in contemporary society, how do family caregivers and medical professionals care for end-of-life patients at home? This paper adopts the concept of "caringscape" to explore the time–space practices of family caregivers and hospice home care teams for end-of-life patients in hospice home care, involving anticipating the dying trajectories, organizing care resources, doing bodywork and emotion work for the end-of-life patients. Data include in-depth interviews with 21 family caregivers and ten hospice home care members,

participant observation in a hospice ward in Taiwan for 12 months, and 18 times home visits to patients' households with the medical team. This paper found that caregivers assemble houses into caringscape, including arranging medical devices, human resources, and different trajectories of care practices. To care for end-of-life patients, caregivers do bodywork and emotional work to make patients dignified. This paper reveals that despite the widespread belief that homes are inherently good for caregiving, it depends on the family caregivers' and medical professionals' care practices, which are relatively invisible under the health insurance system.

Social And Organisational Prerequisites For Robotics In Home Care. An Exploratory Study From Italy

Ivan Galligani, David Natali

Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy

Robotic technologies are seen as promising solutions to address the growing need for home care for elderly. At the same time, it is widely recognised that a greater diffusion of robotics depends not only on strengthening of the technological readiness, but even more on the level of social acceptance and organisational preparedness in the field (Pekkarinen et al., 2020). While clinicians and managers often consider robots as valuable options for promoting care effectiveness and efficiency, professional and informal caregivers tend to be more sceptical (Tuisku et al., 2023). Even setting aside the unjustified (albeit widespread) fear of being substituted by robots, care workers are worried about the risk of mechanisation of care, i.e. the subordination of professional practices to the needs of robots (rather than the contrary) (Frennert et al., 2021). Moreover, caregivers fear the loss of 'human touch' and, paradoxically, the reduction of autonomy due to the inability to manage robots. In conclusion, embedding these technologies requires the strengthening of operators' and beneficiaries' trust in robots, along with the adoption of the most effective organisational arrangements to meet users' needs.

In this perspective, the authors present findings from a research on the social and organisational prerequisites for the adoption of robotics in home care, conducted as part of an Italian NRRP-funded project (FIT4MEDROB). The findings are based on a series of focus groups involving clinicians, professionals and patient representatives, as well as field observation of relevant cases of robot experimentation for home care in the context of FIT4MEDROB.

Agency-In-Dying: The Consequences For Knowledge And Care

Rachel Cummings

Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom

As the work of Margaret Locke (2001) has demonstrated, time of death is a complex, contested concept in modern medicine. Locke's work focuses on medicalised death: how modern technologies blur the transition from living to dead. In hospice care, a space designed in-part to minimise medical interventions and technologies, time of death is complicated otherwise. Experienced palliative care staff exchange stories about patient agency-in-dying: passing away on significant days (Christmas, birthdays), waiting for a relative to arrive, a grandchild to be born or a bedside vigil to end. This presentation will consider these discourses of agency and their use in medical settings: how they are used clinically to aid prognosis, and non-clinically to mark out meaning and individuality when both are threatened by death. Based on interviews and ethnographic field-work on a hospice in-patient unit in London, I will place these narratives of agency-in-dying in relation to discussions around care and agency in medicine (for example Mol 2008) and broader social life (such as Asad 2003).

How do Emergency Medical Services Deal with Death in a Death-denying Society?

Olga Nesporova

Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology, Czech Republic

The paper focuses on issues surrounding death and the related level of trust in emergency medical services in the Czech Republic. We combined the phenomenological and oral history approaches so as to discover more about the experiences of ambulance personnel when facing the death of a patient. We conducted 60 interviews with current and former emergency medical services personnel (physicians, paramedics, nurses and drivers). The issue of death was studied from three main perspectives: 1) dealing with death generally in the emergency medical services context, 2) communication with the relatives of, and those close to the deceased, 3) personnel strategies aimed at addressing death and related traumatic issues in the emergency medical services context. The role of trust is also discussed with respect both to emergency services personnel and their patients and within individual ambulance teams. The analysis of the interviews revealed that the level of preparedness for, and responses of emergency personnel to the death of their patients has improved in recent decades, whereas the degree of trust of relatives of, and those close to dying patients has generally decreased. Recently-introduced innovative palliative care services are gradually resulting in the introduction of new approaches to death for emergency medical services personnel in the Czech Republic, where the denial of death remains an attitude that is shared by a significant proportion of the population.

RN16 | T07_03: Illness narratives and contested illnesses: sociological perspectives

On the Limited Moral, Institutional, and Narrative Effects of ADHD: Israeli Mothers and Teachers Talk about ADHD in the Era of the Increasing Influence of Neuroscience.

Galia Plotkin-Amrami

Ben Gurion University of The Negev, Israel

Recent years have shown the growing influence of neuroscience on the understanding of self, brain, and personhood. This is particularly relevant for neurological conditions in which brain difference and personhood are perceived to be closely intertwined (Tan, 2018), such as ADHD. However, ADHD is perceived as a contested disorder characterized by blurred boundaries, a high level of comorbidity, and uncertain etiology (Malacrida, 2004; Singh, 2008). How does the scientific and clinical uncertainty around ADHD diagnosis penetrate the school and the family domains in Israel, given the dominance of the neurological etiology of ADHD?

Based on 42 in-depth interviews with Israeli mothers of children with ADHD and 27 teachers working in two Israeli schools, I explore teachers' and mothers' narratives of the origins of the disorder and how they see their role with 'troubled' children. I show that while they largely accept the neurological etiology of the disorder, it doesn't resolve the "blame games" among them (Frigerio et al. 2013). ADHD appears as an ambiguous signifier of disability.

I argue that the limited moral power of the neurological narrative of ADHD is closely related to its limited narrative and institutional effects. For mothers, the ADHD diagnosis is perceived as a narrow neurological problem of attention. It doesn't provide many pragmatic benefits at school and cannot qualify the child for personal aid. Furthermore, It doesn't explain the wholeness of the child's self and cannot account for the emotional, behavioral, and social problems. The neurological etiology does not free teachers from responsibility. They presented conflicting explanations of ADHD. The uncertainty around the disorder and the inclusion policy leads them to develop pedagogical solutions to cope with 'troubled' children.

Somatic Diseases Versus Psychosocial Disorders

Vibeke Klitgaard

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The study in question is based on three years of participant observation in two daycare centers of community psychiatry in the Municipality of Copenhagen. Diseases in somatic medicine are characterized by three elements: They are involuntary, involve functional reduction and suffering. In somatic medicine the body is in focus, but the body cannot produce meaning. However, according to Luhmann's (1971; 1984; 1997) systems theory all psychic and social activities take place in the medium of meaning. Even if it is invisible in itself, it becomes manifest in various forms, for instance, in forms of communication, i.e. as a social phenomenon. In "mental illness" you find the same three characteristics, but they take place in the medium of meaning, not in the body, as some psychiatrists tend to postulate.

The involuntary element is already part of the medium of meaning. The function reduction comes about when people lose their communicative skills and the suffering is caused by the hallucinations, massive delusions, bizarre communication and behavior, paranoid notions of self-reference etc. that all involve suffering. I consider "mental illness" a biased concept in favor of the medical/psychiatric profession. I think a more precise term would be "psychosocial disorders". In their serious forms, psychiatric patients come up with reasons for their acts and speech, that are not acceptable to their social environment. For instance, a patient stating that her reason for moving out of her flat, was that her voices told her to do so. You can call psychotic patients meaning-disordered.

Living With Fibromyalgia: Illness Narrative of a Contested Disease

Cristina Lonardi, Maria Gabriella Landuzzi, Roberta Fraccaroli, Valentina Moro, Michele Scandola, Vittorio Schweiger

University of Verona, Italy

BACKGROUND

Fibromyalgia (FM) affects around 2 million people in Italy, as the 2nd/ 3rd most common rheumatic disease. Italian essential levels of care do not yet include FM, which remains a contested illness in many care settings. Persons with FM are often misunderstood: having a chronic, invisible, and often contested disease frequently based on a diagnosis of exclusion can undermine the credibility of the person. FM impairs physical health and disrupts psychosocial functioning because it is difficult to explain and understand in lay social contests and the situation is exacerbated by the fact that women are most affected.

OBJECT

An exploratory study was conducted at AOUI Verona Pain Therapy Center on women with FM to investigate the social experience of illness.

METHODS

Qualitative narrative interviews (30) were administered to women with FM at the Pain Therapy Center in Verona – Italy.

RESULTS

Research shows that FM (its symptoms and social representation) has the following effects on social health: clinical stigma not only by GPs; intrafamilial practices of stigmatization, also within the couple's relationship; inability to perform consistently in professional, social and family settings, and related relationship management problems; hiding illness from others as a form of resistance.

At the same time, people's experiences of FM are proliferating on social media as a way of demanding recognition and access to essential levels of care: micro, meso and macro dimensions of illness are struggling to be reconciled in the life and illness biographies of people with FM.

RN16 | T07_04: Social challenges online and onlife narration

In the last few years critical events such as pandemic and war have increased the already existing democratic decline, geo-political tension, violence, and inequality, leading to an unprecedented global crisis. As sociologist, we need to better understand, explain, and address such crisis and its effects on people life and health. Narratives have been widely employed within social sciences for decades to comprehend in Weberian terms the point of view of the social actors and the meaning they give to what they do in their ordinary life (i.e., how people tell their stories starting from their health experiences). An epistemological assumption to observe how the sense of action is expressed by narrating itself in daily practices or by sharing their sentiments and emotion on digital platforms. Therefore, the textual analysis allows the sociologist to understand how the interaction between a social system and its environment works in a variety of socio-cultural contexts. There are a variety of qualitative and quantitative textual analysis methods and their application to narrations is increasingly popular and led to eminent work, e.g., online communication has been successfully used for capturing diverse trends about health and disease-related issues, such as people's storytelling on Covid-19, and sentiments toward vaccination. This session is dedicated to studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods to analyze narration. We are particularly interested in research addressing people response to recent time crisis and social challenges online and onlife.

The Intensification of Parenting and Generational Fracturing of Spontaneous Physical Activity from Childhood Play in the UK

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Despite an increased drive over the past two decades in Western societies to promote children's physically active play to improve their health, there are concerns that childhood has become less physically active. There are also fears that a previously naturally occurring aspect of childhood

has become less authentically playful. Both trends highlight changes over time in the amount and type of play practiced by children and are often cited as consequences of generational shifts. Yet, research which analytically employs the concept of generation to connect changes to childhood with relevant social transformations is lacking. Inspired by Mannheim's conceptualisation of generations, this paper draws on life history interviews with 28 United Kingdom residents born between 1950 and 1994 to propose a fracturing of naturally occurring physical activity from childhood play. As shifts in childhood and parenting have become inextricably linked, this argument illustrates the impact of an intensification to parenting upon greater parental surveillance of increasingly organised forms of childhood physical activity at the expense of spontaneous play. Future physical activity policy should be sensitive to the social climate in which recommendations for children are made, as this places expectations upon parents due to how childhood is currently understood within neoliberal contexts.

Understanding the Medicalization of Female Genital Cutting in Assiut, Egypt

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Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGC) involves the partial or total removal of external genitalia or other non-medical alterations to female genital organs. This practice is increasingly becoming medicalized, defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as procedures performed by healthcare providers. This study focuses on the qualitative examination of the decision-making process of mothers, traditionally regarded as primary decision-makers in FGC, regarding the medicalization of their daughters' cut. Conducted in Assiut, Egypt, a region with high medicalization rates in FGC, we interviewed 25 mothers to gain insights into their motivations.

Preliminary findings reveal that mothers seek the involvement of health professionals for various reasons. Chief among these are a heightened trust in healthcare providers to mitigate health risks associated with FGC for girls. Additionally, mothers express the belief that doctors can assess the necessity of the cut by examining girls beforehand, considering factors such as organ size. Notably, the latter is particularly interesting in relation to sociological medicalization theory, as the medicalization of the practice seems to go beyond the practitioner alone – but also refers to a "medical need" to cut or not.

On the Medical Stereotypes of Suicide: Social Representations Among Researchers and Psy Professionals

Andy Eric Castillo Patton

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In recent decades suicide has been a subject of relevant social and epidemiological interest, although it seems that a greater concern for this phenomenon has arisen in the (post)pandemic period. However, the causes leading to suicide tend to be surrounded by miscellaneous myths, something that has contributed to inaccurate narratives and aprioristic collective imaginaries, usually spread by mainstream media.

Besides social myths and prejudices, some researchers also point to medical stereotypes on suicide, referred to aetiopathogenic disproportions and psychopathological exaggerations (Hjelmeland, 2010; Marsh, 2013; García-Haro et al., 2019). Despite these meaningful views, there is a lack of research concerning how psychiatrists, practitioners, and sanitary workers think about suicide. Therefore, this communication delves into the stereotypes of suicide within mental health professions, particularly among psychiatrists and psychologists. Thus, considering the critical proposals on social representations and social imaginaries (Durkheim, 1898/2000; Morin, 1962/1966; Castoriadis, 1975/2007), this research analyses the discourse and impressions of 25 semi-structured in-depth interviews to psy professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychotherapists) from two European countries (Spain and Belgium).

The main results of this study point out, on the one hand, that suicide is conceptualised by psy professionals as an ambiguous behaviour, related to problems rooted in mental disorders, social problems, and cultural traits. On the other hand, the interviewees acknowledge there is a discussion about the veracity of suicide contagion, whether it is a myth or not. Hence, this research highlights the (dis) encounters among social actors professionally involved in suicide awareness and prevention beyond general stereotypes.

Experience as Evidence: Patient organization's as knowledge agents

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In recent years, a norm to include members of the group in question in the planning, execution and dissemination of research has been established. Within medical and healthcare research, this change represents a break with the traditional biomedical knowledge hierarchy where the patient and user perspective has long been ranked lowest, if not neglected. Today, we are dealing with a more

clearly democratic ideal, namely that the patients' voices and perspectives should also be included in the medical and healthcare knowledge production, thereby creating a more inclusive and perspective-rich basis for diagnosis and treatment.

In this presentation, we examine and problematize how the Cancer Association, the ADHD Association and the Endometriosis Association in Norway engage with research and present their members' experience as relevant expertise for research on these illnesses. The work is part of a wider sociological exploration of how patient activism possibly may takes shape and impacts on what counts as evident knowledge about health and disease in today's societies.

RN16 | T08_01: Disability and mental health at the intersection of policies, technologies and (new) inequalities (3)

The session aims to discuss the possible transformations produced by both the introduction of new technologies of care and the recent Covid-19 pandemic in the disability field, in terms of both opportunities of inclusion, the expansion of old inequalities and the production of new ones. We will provide a space to critically discuss the effects of these phenomena on the international and national policy regulative framework; on the regional or local policy, services or practices; on families, persons with disabilities and disability welfare policy professions. International, national and local studies on tensions, barriers, boundaries, spaces and practices of care for and by persons with disabilities are welcome. The pandemic presented both threats and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers, as well as the introduction of new technologies of care. Persons with disabilities experienced not only isolation, but also new forms of support. Remote or hybrid forms of assistance increased the interactions between healthcare professionals, family members/caregivers and persons with disabilities, but they could not replace the role of direct contact in professional encounters. In order to tackle the multifaceted empirical dimensions of the topic this call for papers is intended to solicit both theoretical and empirical contributions, as well as reflection on ethical issues. We welcome papers from any theoretical and methodological perspective. Empirical studies may involve solo, collaborative and team-based research. Quantitative, qualitative, creative and art-based method are welcome along with experiments, ethnographic and autoethnographic ones.

Depression and Family Formation

Sanna Kailaheimo-Lönnqvist, Heta Moustgaard, Pekka Martikainen, Mikko Myrskylä

University of Helsinki, Finland

Mental health problems are increasing, and fertility is declining. In this paper, we examine how depression medication prescription is related to family formation. More, we examine how an individual's own and possible partner's depression medication prescription history is related to union formation and family formation.

We use Finnish total population register data and use cohorts 1977-80. We perform separate analyses for men and women. We account for an individual's whole relationship history from the age of 18, including cohabitations and marriages, and we follow individuals until they are 40 years old.

Our preliminary results suggest that depression medication use history is negatively related to having a partner but positively related to the number of partners. This suggests that depression causes difficulties in finding a partner and on the other hand, also forming long-lasting partnerships. We also find that depression medication use is negatively related to age at first birth and positively to the number of children if both partners have a depression medication history. Thus, our study shows that having and not having children is negotiated within couples, and taking account also partnership history is also important.

The Rise of Mental Vulnerability at Work – A Socio-Historical and Cultural Analysis

Ari Väänänen

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland

Mental health emerged as a public concern and a problem at work in the late 1900s and early 2000s. This presentation formulates a novel history-based approach that diverges from ordinary frameworks of occupational health and mental health by developing the socio-historical and sociology-orientated perspective of mental vulnerability. It examines the contribution of both cultural (eg, medicalization, psychologization) and realism-oriented (eg, changing work, epidemiological transition) approaches in understanding the long-term rise of mental vulnerabilities and examines how these processes have taken shape as part of historical agency. The presentation analyses the formation of mental vulnerability over the decades using materials produced by occupational stress sciences, the media and occupational health professionals and by investigating long-term changes in different occupations (eg, teaching, social work, insurance sector). It suggests that we are witnessing the spread of subjective experiences of scarcity, the transformation of workplace challenges into rituals of mental health, and the expansion of wellness medicine. The presentation is based on several research projects carried out and led by Professor Väänänen. It combines archival, interview, and register research and uses frameworks from various scientific disciplines and discussions. The presentation brings together the central themes of the recently published book (Bristol University Press/Policy Press) "The Rise of Mental Vulnerability at Work – A Socio-Historical and Cultural Analysis" (Väänänen, 2024).

Methodological And Theoretical Issues In Research On The (Macro-) Social Determinants Of Mental Health Using Cross-National And Multilevel Perspectives. On Current Practices And Future Directions.

Christopher Etter

University Of Salzburg, Austria

Mental Health must be considered a crucial dimension of wellbeing at the individual and societal level. Therefore, the World Health Organization has prominently put the topic on its agenda by creating an action plan to promote mental wellbeing. Moreover, effective health promotion measures require inputs from various disciplines, including sociology, at all stages of implementation. Sociologists' research on the social determinants of health can be particularly valuable in understanding health risks external to the individual. To gain such insights, researchers typically use qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. However, when applying a cross-national approach to study the effect of macro-level structures (e.g. the welfare state) on health and health inequalities, comparative survey research can still be considered state of the art.

This contribution aims to further discuss this specific type of research and to demonstrate its potentials for effective health policy. At the same time, it critically reflects on theoretical and methodological issues, that may arise when applying cross-national and multi-level perspectives to mental health research based on population surveys. Among such pitfalls are the availability of suitable data sets, that allow for integrating sociological theories (such as the stress process model or health lifestyle theory) in health research, as well as issues of coverage, measurement, measurement invariance, data-structure, and the application of adequate methods of analysis. To address these issues and make them more visible to researchers, a theoretical model, which systematizes these issues along various stages of the research process and core dimensions of the "total-survey-error" concept, will be presented and discussed.

Psychotherapeutic and Clinical Treatment of Work-Related Suffering

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The fact that working conditions in contemporary society are undergoing a fundamental process of change has been recognised by the public at least since the debate about burnout, but at the latest since the Covid-19 pandemic. The increasing flexibilisation, precarisation and digitalisation of the world of work is accompanied by an increase in mental stress: Not only can work trigger or exacerbate mental suffering, it can also make it more difficult to respond appropriately to health impairments in good time. The rising number of psychiatric diagnoses therefore also raises the question of clinical, therapeutic care. How is the relationship between mental health and work dealt with in clinical facilities? What role do gender-specific assumptions and ideas about the origin and social status of patients possibly play? What influence do psychotherapeutic treatment methods have?

The paper presents result of a research project funded by the German Research Foundation that answers these questions based on a qualitative empirical study in various psychosomatic acute and rehabilitation clinics. In particular, the work of the multi-professional teams is focused on. The research led to a typology of the psychotherapeutic understanding of work-related suffering based on the reconstruction of practice theories that will be presented. It includes the analysis of collective theories of work and work-related suffering in the context of clinical treatment and possible differences in acute hospitals and rehabilitation clinics. It also includes the analysis of potential differences within psychotherapeutic paradigms. Finally, the project explores potential differences within the therapeutic teams themselves, which can manifest themselves both within and beyond their hierarchical structures and professional staffing.

RN16 | T08_02: When the Medical encounters the Social: Exploring How Medical Conceptualizations and Practices of Care Affect the Social Provision of Long-term Care (3)

Long-term care is a critical component of healthcare systems, serving individuals with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and aging adults with various healthcare needs. However, the provision of long-term care in contemporary societies is inscribed in a web of intersecting inequalities including gender, race/ethnicity, class, age, and immigration status. This panel aims to critically examine the ways in which medical conceptualizations and practices of care may participate in maintaining and reproducing these inequalities within the long-term care system or, alternatively, in how they can challenge them. Topics may include, but should not be limited to, how different medical personnel, ranging from primary physicians to nurses, from specialists to care coordinators, and others: – discuss Ideal forms of care, best practices, skills, qualities, and abilities fundamental to the provision of care – design or recommend long-term care projects for large groups or individuals – experiments with new forms of long-term care provision or simply theorizes the possibility of new ones.

Unveiling the Paradox of Pain Relief: Analgesic Use, Chronic Pain, and Well-being in the Elderly

Vanessa Hoi Mei Cheung

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Chronic pain affects a significant portion of the population, leading to functional disability (Dagnino & Campos, 2022). The global elderly population has grown considerably in recent decades, and the adverse effects of chronic pain on these individuals pose a current clinical and social challenges. This study employed a quantitative design to rigorously examine the prevalence of pain and patterns of analgesic consumption among elderly participants.

The results indicated that approximately one-third of the participants reported moderate to severe levels of pain, highlighting a considerable burden of discomfort within this demographic. Notably, nearly 30% of the participants resorted to taking Panadol up to three times per week, demonstrating a dependency on over-the-counter medications for pain relief. Furthermore, 35% of the individuals reported suffering from various chronic illnesses, such as arthritis and osteoarthritis, which are associated with persistent pain.

A significant discovery of this research is the positive correlation between the consumption of Panadol and the presence of depressive symptoms ($p < .001$), as well as suicidal ideation ($p < .001$). This indicates a potential psychological impact associated with the management of chronic pain through the use of common analgesics.

The aim of this research is to enhance our understanding of Panadol use and pain management among the elderly. In doing so, it seeks to improve the quality of life for the elderly by fostering more effective and psychologically sensitive pain management strategies. The implications of this study are substantial, providing a basis for the advancement of clinical practices and the development of policies to support the well-being of the aging population.

When the Medical Meets the Social: An Exploration of How Geriatricans and GPS Think of Home Eldercare and Its Provision.

Francesca Degiuli

Fairleigh Dickinson University, United States of America

Research on the relationship between long-term care and immigrant labor has traditionally focused on the triangle involving state, market, and families to understand how the organization of long-term care comes into place. Little to no attention, however, has been paid to the role of doctors in generating and sustaining these labor relationships. This paper begins to fill this gap by exploring how Italian general practitioners and geriatricians, both directly and/or indirectly, influence the decisions of aging adults and their families in designing individual long-term care projects which often involve hiring immigrant homecare assistants. The paper is based on qualitative interviews and participant observation conducted at regional and national scientific conferences between 2019 and 2020. The analysis of the data shows that geriatricians and general practitioners tend to converge on ideal practices of care often involving the notion of "aging in place." At the same time, however, the two groups differ on who should provide home eldercare, with what skills, and in what conditions. This because general practitioners tend to focus predominantly on protecting female family caregivers, while geriatricians are more concerned with the well-being of aging adults.

Multimorbidity Patterns in the Urban Population in Poland

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The aim is to present the results of analyses realized on the basis of data from the interdisciplinary longitudinal study Bialystok PLUS. Based on the collected data, we estimated the prevalence of multimorbidity (physical diseases) in the general urban population in Poland by gender, age, education level, labor force participation and socio-economic variables. Sixty-seven conditions were identified based on interview (known conditions) and medical tests performed (unknown conditions). In addition, we utilized the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 (GBD 2019) disability scale to assess health loss by disability severity.

Multimorbidity has become a major concern for public health, health systems and health care providers and has increased due to an aging population, changing lifestyles, better socioeconomic conditions and better treatment options. The prevalence of multimorbidity depends on gender, age or education level but also other social factors. The prevalence of multimorbidity in the urban population is higher than in the rural population. People with multimorbidity have higher mortality rates, high health care utilization and increased spending.

Bialystok PLUS is a single-center cohort study. The survey has been conducted since 2018 on a sample of residents of Bialystok (Poland) aged 20-80. Participants were randomly selected from the residents of Bialystok in order to obtain a distribution of proportions similar to the city's population. Nearly 2,000 people have been surveyed and medically examined at this point.

Our data can help select appropriate screening tests based on a respondent's socio-demographic profile to identify multimorbidity based on both known and unknown conditions. Based on this, it will also be possible to create more relevant health policies aimed to specific social (target) groups at risk for specific multimorbidity.

Innovating long-term care systems in a European comparative perspective in COVID-19 emergency time: Lessons from Italy, Spain, Finland, Germany and Poland

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Germany; 4Institute of Sociology and Center of Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland

Introduction: In Italy, Spain, Germany, Finland and Poland, long-term care (LTC) systems are integrated into different care regimes (Schulmann et al., 2014), characterised by different balances between health and social care and formal care and informal provision. Existing LTC models influence the effectiveness of care provision and their ability to respond to health and social emergencies. The five countries, therefore, reacted differently to the health crisis due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Recent studies have identified how the health crisis in some countries (for example, Germany) has functioned as an engine to promote social innovations (as defined by the European Commission, 2011) to support existing LTC.

Aims: This study aims to identify how the five LTC systems responded to the pandemic crisis, highlighting suggestions and lessons for effective and innovative LTC care policies and practices at national and European levels.

Methods: Expert interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders conducted in all five countries were analysed using qualitative content analysis. Results: The health crisis caused by Covid 19 has highlighted numerous aspects of difficulties and opportunities in LTC systems. Regardless of the LTC model adopted, the experts underlined how better coordination and integration of LTC components promotes innovations in the LTC sectors, supporting the diffusion of more sustainable and effective care practices capable of counteracting emerging problems due to current and future social and health emergencies.

RN16 | T08_03: Illness narratives and contested illnesses: sociological perspectives (2)

This session highlights illness narratives. We particularly welcome narratives of long-term illnesses such as eating problems, CFS/ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalopathy), and other forms of illness often recognized as diffuse or contested by biomedicine. These conditions might be disabling, potentially fatal, and often substantially impair physical health and disrupt psychosocial functioning. Eating problems, from restrictive eating to binge eating and their subtypes, affect a high number of people, in fact, estimates from 2019 show a global prevalence four times higher than had been thought. Multiple reports also show an increase in the incidents of CFS/ME and other contested or diffuse illnesses. The increased incidence of these type of illnesses the last decades emphasizes the social and cultural component of these illnesses, and underlines their connection to contemporary societal conditions and context. Research on fibromyalgia, eating disorders, pain, CFS/ME and other illnesses is dominated by biomedical and psychological perspectives. There is a need for intensive sociological investigations of these phenomena. This session invites and welcomes empirical and theoretical papers that investigate the connection between different forms of eating disorders, CFS/ME, pain, or other forms of contested long-term illnesses and cultural and societal characteristics. Studies of treatment practices is also highly relevant and welcome.

Navigating ‘Becoming’ in Transitions: Unravelling Paradoxes in Transition to Self-Management of Type 1 Diabetes

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A recent systematic review of adolescents’ transition to self-management of T1D has revealed multifaceted factors which influence optimal transition for adolescents and their families, including achieving a balance between

normalcy and self-management requirements, and interdependence, which is understood as collaborative co-management among adolescents and their network of supports (Leocadio et al., 2023). Our paper presents findings that speak to some of the paradoxical processes that emerge and influence adolescents' transitions to self-management drawing on our recent qualitative study (2022). Eighteen in-depth interviews were conducted with adolescents (aged 15-18 years old) living with T1D, and their parents. Data was analysed using Thematic Analysis (Clarke & Braun, 2023). Firstly, we explore the transition from insulin injections to insulin pump as a simultaneous facilitator and inhibitor of transition to self-management. Secondly, we reveal contemporary narratives of adolescence drawn upon by both adolescents and parents which can simultaneously promote and inhibit transition. These paradoxes share light into the complexity of how these teenagers reconstruct a new identity based on new roles and responsibilities; problematize some of the categories and distinctions (such as, facilitators and inhibitors) often used to analyse transitions; and reveal the individual and social dimensions of 'becoming' in transitions (Allport, 1955), a concept that we propose can help us better understand the dynamics of health and illness-related life transitions as young people navigate and reconcile the pressures of medical and social expectations while striking out one's own place and autonomy in managing their diabetes.

The pandemic disruption of trust: Eating Disorder illness narratives

Hilde Berit Moen

Nord university, Norway

This paper explores the illness narratives of adults living with eating disorders or eating disordered behavior during the covid-19 pandemic time. The changes in everyday activities and lifestyle caused by the corona-virus pandemic and related lockdown had a strong impact on mental health of the general population. These social changes are regarded of additional burden to both individuals with pre-existing EDs and for people belonging to atypical categories of ED diagnosis. Impact of covid-19 on individuals with self-reported EDs show strong and wide ranging effects on eating disorder concerns and illness behaviors consistent with ED type.

Qualitative, digital semi-structured interviews were conducted with 8 adult women, aged 21 – 66, exploring their illness experience. The participants self-recruited to the study through a Norwegian eating disorder interest organization.

The narrated illness narratives represents the simultaneous challenges of handling both ED illness and personal lives in times of social lockdown. Applying 'illness trajectory' and 'biographical disruption', as key theoretical concepts, the processual and thematic analysis discloses the illness experiences typically containing a beginning, a middle, and an end. These three phases also represents the time before covid, the period during covid, and the stage after covid hit and social lock down, each phase with distinct characteristics.

Results show that as Covid strikes, the women's lives change dramatically, and simultaneously, so does their ED or eating problem. Rather than illness disrupting life, the pandemic disrupts illness. This paper elaborates on the tension this disruption causes, and on the shifting aspects of trust and ontological security during this period in history.

Beyond Diagnosis: A Context-Sensitive Exploration of Narratives of Recovery from Problematic Gaming

Benediktas Gelūnas

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Gaming disorder, officially designated as a diagnosis by the World Health organization in 2019, has become a focal point in discussions surrounding emerging behavioral addictions, exerting substantial influence on theoretical debates and public health approaches. Advocates of the diagnosis assert the necessity of a standardized approach to confront a growing public health concern, aiming to diminish stigma and formulate research, prevention, and treatment policies. Conversely, critics identify fundamental flaws in the illness paradigm, citing issues with its theoretical foundations, confirmatory methodologies, political implications, and a lack of consideration for social context and object specificity. Recovery processes and treatment or prevention options, particularly, remain inadequately researched and challenging to address within a symptom-centered diagnostic framework.

In response to the debates surrounding gaming addiction, I conducted a narrative interview study involving 30 adult men from different countries, recruited online, who identified as being in recovery or recovered from problematic gaming. I sought to both address the scarcity of qualitative, context-sensitive, exploratory research on the subject and find out what (ex-)gamers themselves perceive as helpful factors in the process of recovering from problematic gaming. In the participants' stories, recovery from problematic gaming emerges as intricately linked to the quality of social relationships, external support systems, and availability of meaningful alternatives. These findings question mainstream approaches advocating medical or professional interventions for gaming addiction. Instead, considering problematic gaming as proportional to challenging social circumstances suggests a need for support models emphasizing the facilitation of social connection and enhancements in overall quality of life.

A Preliminary Qualitative Study On Patients With Acute Myeloid Leukemia: Quality Of Life, Alternative Treatments, And Care Practices.

Elisa Castellaccio

Università di Bologna, Italy

The Horizon project called IMPACT-AML (Master Framework and Pragmatic Clinical Trial for Relapse or Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia) in which we (UNIBO) are involved as health sociologists aims to create a platform for rare blood diseases to conduct clinical studies on alternative therapies. Our goal is to investigate, in various phases, the social and quality of life aspects of AML patients and their family caregivers. Specifically, we aim to emphasize the main care and assistance needs for AML patients, highlighting areas for potential improvement in treatments.

This research presents the preliminary results of a qualitative study conducted on patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals using narrative-based medicine interviews and Living Lab. The purpose is to confirm, deepen, and expand on what emerged in the literature, which already presents data on this matter: leukemia has an obvious negative impact on patients, caregivers, and their wider families. It is crucial that healthcare is delivered holistically at every point in the patient journey/pathway, considering wider quality of life issues in treatment, management, and ongoing care.

In particular, the research involved 30 AML patients who were interviewed through in-depth conversations based on narrative-based medicine. The patients were divided into three partner countries: Italy, Germany, and Spain. The two foreign countries provided us with transcriptions of the interviews they conducted, and consequently, we processed the results. Additionally, two Living Labs were conducted: one with healthcare professionals (using the Nominal Group Technique) and the other with caregivers (using the World Café Method).

RN16 | T08_04: Social challenges online and onlife narration

In the last few years critical events such as pandemic and war have increased the already existing democratic decline, geo-political tension, violence, and inequality, leading to an unprecedented global crisis. As sociologist, we need to better understand, explain, and address such crisis and its effects on people life and health. Narratives have been widely employed within social sciences for decades to comprehend in Weberian terms the point of view of the social actors and the meaning they give to what they do in their ordinary life (i.e., how people tell their stories starting from their health experiences). An epistemological assumption to observe how the sense of action is expressed by narrating itself in daily practices or by sharing their sentiments and emotion on digital platforms. Therefore, the textual analysis allows the sociologist to understand how the interaction between a social system and its environment works in a variety of socio-cultural contexts. There are a variety of qualitative and quantitative textual analysis methods and their application to narrations is increasingly popular and led to eminent work, e.g., online communication has been successfully used for capturing diverse trends about health and disease-related issues, such as people's storytelling on Covid-19, and sentiments toward vaccination. This session is dedicated to studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods to analyze narration. We are particularly interested in research addressing people response to recent time crisis and social challenges online and onlife.

Work and Mental Crisis. Biographical Narratives About Work, Illness and Recovery

Agata Krasowska

University of Wroclaw, Poland

The proposed paper seeks to delve into the complexities inherent in the experience of mental crises, particularly those associated with conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression. Grounded in extensive research, the study investigates how individuals undergoing crises navigate the challenges within the labour market.

A central inquiry driving this investigation is the potential therapeutic impact of work on those facing mental health challenges. Specifically, the study aims to ascertain whether work serves as a healing mechanism, discernible through the narratives of the individuals involved.

This exploration is twofold, focusing on the language employed by informants to articulate their experiences of illness and the dynamics of the recovery process. I am therefore interested in how the experience of illness is revealed in the language of the informants, but also in how the recovery process takes place: whether it takes place within the framework of trust in institutionalized forms of recovery, or whether these are more individualized forms of coping (mistrust to institutions). The analysis is inspired by three categories describing the types of work undertaken by informants: paid work, biographical work, and reproductive work. The empirical foundation for this study is derived from biographical narrative interviews (BNIs) conducted according to the principles of Fritz Schuetze methodology.

The paper is based on the projects: NCN OPUS „COV-WORK: Socio-economic consciousness, work experiences and coping strategies of Poles in the context of the post-pandemic crisis" which focuses on the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic to the world of work and pilot studies: The experience of a mental crisis in the precariat and in the narratives of experts.

Narrative Recognition and Identification: A Qualitative Study into Reading Literary Texts with People with Advanced Incurable Cancer

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Objective

People with advanced cancer may perceive their disease as a contingency experience, disrupting one's life goals and shattering one's life-story. In the context of the research project, In Search of Stories, we investigate whether and how the reading and discussion of selected literary stories – presenting diverse ways of relating to contingency – may support participants in recognizing, identifying with and potentially relating differently to their own (disease-evoked) contingency experiences.

Methods

This qualitative study describes the experiences of 25 people with advanced incurable cancer who selected a story from a curated collection of 10 literary texts. Subsequently, they were interviewed by a spiritual counselor, using a reading guide as a conversation template. The interviews were thematically analyzed for their conceptual content using a template analysis.

Results

Most participants were able to recognzie and identify with contingency experiences and related existential concerns presented in the texts, including impending death, bodily alienation, loss of self-control, and being muted or silenced by the social environment. Although some participants were unable to identify with the stories. The discussion of the text with a spiritual counselor enabled participants to find words for their emotions and experiences, and to move towards first articulations of their finitude. Participants explained that metaphors enabled them to share their illness experiences with their social environment, regaining a sense of agency in constructing their illness narrative.

Conclusions

A structured reading and discussion of literary stories suggests that it may support people with advanced cancer to become sensible of their cancer diagnosis as a contingency experience, from which they develop alternative modes of relating to their bodies, the self, the social world, and their own mortality.

Through Their Eyes: Understanding the Cancer Experiences of Polish Adolescents Using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Magdalena Pluta, Piotr Siuda

Kazimierz Wielki University, Poland

Cancer profoundly affects adolescents, posing unique challenges due to their developmental stage. This period is marked by significant emotional, cognitive, and social changes that make cancer diagnosis and treatment incredibly daunting. Adolescents must manage their treatment side effects, fear, and heightened anxiety. Despite this, the adolescents' firsthand accounts of living with cancer are still scarcely explored. This study addresses this gap by exploring the meanings Polish adolescents attribute to their cancer experiences, focusing on how their perceptions and interpretations evolve during the diagnosis and throughout treatment. The study involved six interviews with Polish adolescents (15-18 years old) at these critical junctures. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was used to delve into the participants' thoughts and experiences. Conducted over several months and numerous stages, the IPA interviews offer a thorough analysis of their narratives, highlighting the researcher's interpretive role in understanding patients' perspectives. This study revealed nuanced ways adolescents navigate and make sense of the illness. For example, they were prone to myths about cancer, especially during the diagnosis stage. Additionally, young people often feel misunderstood and stigmatized,

experience many previously unknown problems, and develop strategies to deal with them. The present research lays the ground for further research on adolescents' unique experiences. Additionally, we present guidelines for developing strategies for young people to cope with cancer, considering their developmental stages. Furthermore, we aim to inform programs aiding young cancer patients, including post-recovery returns to everyday life, and contribute to developing educational, care, and therapeutic strategies in hospitals and schools.

Communication Advertising and Health: The Italian Digital Platform for Online Psychotherapy

Francesca Greco

University of Udine, Italy

In Italy, the online psychological counseling and psychotherapy demand increased during Covid-19 pandemic to face the growing mental distress and avoid the spread of contagion. After the health crisis, this increase was such that of the companies providing this service on digital platform entered into the stock market, apparently overcoming the stigma traditionally associated with mental disease. Several factors supported this change, such as the technological progress, the lockdown increase in the internet use, the focus of media communication on people's need for psychological support, and the enactment of psychological services provision policies.

The research aims to study the online psychotherapy advertising communication to identify its characteristics and the possible repercussion on the job market. To this aim, we analyzed 16 digital platforms, in Italy and abroad, offering consulting in Italian language, and we interviewed 10 young psychological doctors working in this service to explore their choice motivation.

Results show that easiness, flexibility, economic advantage, professionalism, efficacy, choice, and customized matching are the main element characterizing both the advertising communication and the psychologist. Then, it seems that the change in the health practices determined by the pandemic has the positive effect to overcome the stigma connected to the psychological treatment. Nonetheless, this change will impact also the young psychologist's job market with a shift from the traditionally self-employed practitioner with his/her own set of patients to a digital platform's "employee", only fiscally self-employed.

RN16 | T08_05: The Power of the Use of Creative, Visual, and Arts-based Methods in the Study of Health and Illness

Social scientists investigating health, illness, and medicine issues face the crucial decision of selecting the most appropriate research methods and techniques to reach reliability and richness in their collected data. These methodological choices involve a reflective, dynamic, and continuous engagement of researchers with the health topics to be studied in regard to an array of dimensions such as ethical issues, analytical aspects, the researcher's own skills, and/or the sociocultural environment of the research. The selection of the best methodology is of paramount importance when dealing with complex or multifaceted health issues, sensitive or illicit medical topics, and vulnerable or marginalized groups (either patients or caregivers). Beyond more traditional quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection, sociologists are making use of creative, visual, and arts-based methods solely or in combination with traditional methods to increase research participation, enhance reflexive discussion of health issues, and establish engagement during the research process of data collection. With this session, we seek to assemble and critically discuss a diverse and thought-provoking collection of contributions that showcase the relevance and transformative power of creative, visual, and arts-based approaches to studying health and illness experiences. We thus invite scholars and early-career researchers to contribute to this exploration by presenting their concrete case studies, highlighting its epistemological, ethical, and practical aspects, and especially how these data collection catalysts promote trust and enable multiple voices in health research, reducing verbal communication barriers, and facilitating the collection of rich data.

Fabulative Encounters: Rethinking Addiction Stigma through the Creative Practice of Filmmaking

Lena Theodoropoulou, Nicole Vitellone

University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

In the sociology of health and illness there has been much debate on the uses of Goffman's stigma theory. In this paper we consider the implications of Goffman's concept of stigma for sociological research on recovery from drugs and alcohol. Rethinking stigma through Deleuze's concepts of fabulation and minor practices, we propose an epistemological and methodological framework that reimagines the policy-making and practice of recovery. To do so we draw on our 4-year interdisciplinary collaboration with the visual artist and filmmaker Melanie Manchot, and people in recovery from drugs and alcohol from a Liverpool community arts group engaged in the production of Manchot's first feature film STEPHEN (2023). Focusing on observations of the method of filmmaking and impact of the camera on our participants, the paper addresses the transformative potential of interdisciplinarity and arts methods for sociological research on recovery. The project STEPHEN included three stages: a pre-production stage (workshops with recovery participants), a production stage (filming of STEPHEN) and a postproduction stage (participant-led dissemination of the film) which premiered at the Liverpool Biennial in June 2023. In voicing our participants' engagement with the different stages of the project, we account for the transformations that become possible through fabulative methods of filmmaking. In so doing we show how interdisciplinary research offers a new research agenda for the social sciences which points to the ways in which fabulation as a minor mode of recovery concerns an engagement with telling fables, the production of (un)realities, and creation of a people to come.

Staging Cancer: Participatory Arts-Based Research Into Narrative Meaning-Making And Identity Formation By Adolescents And Young Adults After Cancer Treatment

Emily Ruth Elizabeth Evans[1,2], Niels van Poecke[1,2], Michael Scherer-Rath[3], Gerty Van de Perre[4], Mirjam Sprangers[5], Jacqueline Tromp[1,2], Hanneke van Laarhoven[1,2]

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The diagnosis of cancer may evoke experiences of contingency for people, shattering self-narratives, and compromising meaning-making and a sense of self-identity at large. Cancer's biographical valence, thus, may necessitate a process of narrative reconstruction, conceptualised as a sociocultural practice. Post-treatment adolescents and young adults (AYAs – age 18-39) are a growing population of (former) people with cancer, who may stand precariously in the (re)construction of their narrative identities. In project Staging Cancer, we conducted participatory arts-based research (PABR) to investigate: (a) day-to-day meaning-making practices by Dutch post-treatment AYAs; and (b) whether and how participating in a PABR project could support participants in narrative meaning-making. The project was comprised of eleven 2-hour workshops, during which professional performance artist Gerty Van de Perre, together with cultural sociologists and post-treatment AYAs, worked with a variety of artistic methods to co-create a (public) participatory artwork. Intertwined/synonymous data collection included: audio-visual documentation, participant observations, diary accounts, rich pictures, focus groups, and in-depth interviews. Data analysis included narrative, visual and thematic analyses. Preliminary results show that participants experienced alienation in everyday life – the world as flat and mute – arising from the desynchronisation of time-experienced as chronic and disrupted, and time-'external' as linear, accelerating and goal-oriented. This obscured participants to take a 'still' and 'higher' position perceived as necessary to engage in narrative (re) construction. PABR was experienced as a distinct, co-constructed universe of sincerity, recognition, and enaction – a sphere of resonance – in which participants could collectively work to self-distance and move towards integration of their contingency experiences.

My Culture, Our Culture, And the Culture of "the Others" – Constructions Among School Health Professionals in Sweden

Emmie Wahlström, Jonas Stier

Mälardalen University, Sweden

Trust is essential in institutional encounters between school health professionals and children. For children, trust conditions their participation in the encounters, whereas professionals work to establish trust by actively listening and motivating children. Trust is also conditioned by the embedded asymmetrical distribution of power and intersections in these encounters, i.e., between school health professionals and "patients" and by adults and children and with regard to variations in language, ethnicity, gender, culture etc. To establish interpersonal trust and manage power asymmetries and intersections, school health care professionals need to understand the embedded structures and cultures influencing the encounter. Accounting for a growing number of children with migrant backgrounds "questions of culture" need to be explored. Thus, this presentation addresses school health professionals' understanding of culture and migration – including understanding of their

own culture, the cultures embedded in the encounter and in relation to the construction of "the other".

With focus on and empirical data from Sweden, this study explores school health professionals' (e.g. school nurses and school social workers) understanding of culture, as they are key people in many children's everyday life. Data will be collected through 6-8 focus groups (3-4 with each profession) and analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis and discourse analysis. The discourse analysis will generate results on how the professionals conceptualize culture in relation to themselves and as well as the potential of potential consequences for the encounter. Data collection will be conducted during the spring and preliminary findings will be presented at the conference.

RN16 | T09_01: Disability and mental health at the intersection of policies, technologies and (new) inequalities (4)

The session aims to discuss the possible transformations produced by both the introduction of new technologies of care and the recent Covid-19 pandemic in the disability field, in terms of both opportunities of inclusion, the expansion of old inequalities and the production of new ones. We will provide a space to critically discuss the effects of these phenomena on the international and national policy regulative framework; on the regional or local policy, services or practices; on families, persons with disabilities and disability welfare policy professions. International, national and local studies on tensions, barriers, boundaries, spaces and practices of care for and by persons with disabilities are welcome. The pandemic presented both threats and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers, as well as the introduction of new technologies of care. Persons with disabilities experienced not only isolation, but also new forms of support. Remote or hybrid forms of assistance increased the interactions between healthcare professionals, family members/caregivers and persons with disabilities, but they could not replace the role of direct contact in professional encounters. In order to tackle the multifaceted empirical dimensions of the topic this call for papers is intended to solicit both theoretical and empirical contributions, as well as reflection on ethical issues. We welcome papers from any theoretical and methodological perspective. Empirical studies may involve solo, collaborative and team-based research. Quantitative, qualitative, creative and art-based method are welcome along with experiments, ethnographic and autoethnographic ones.

Psychic Suffering, Activism and Biosocialities: A Case Study

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Since mid-20th century, biomedical and psychological languages about suffering have reflected the impact of international agencies and scientific networks, with proposals in the fields of science, ethics and human rights in psychiatric therapies. The discourses and interventions of these actors interact with local contexts, creating a global culture of mental health, while opening spaces for a wide variety of idioms of suffering and local health policies. Since the 1990s, activism in mental health, namely the demand, by patient associations, for rights, therapies and greater social inclusion, has expanded significantly. Patients' and rights defense associations are today key players in defining public mental health agendas.

This communication is part of the work carried out within the scope of a research project – PSYGLOCAL – Psychic suffering and human rights: epistemologies of mental health, policies and activism in psychiatry (Lisbon, Portugal and Salvador, Brazil, c. 1950 – c. 2020) (FCT Financing Ref: PTDC/FER-HFC/3810/2021) – which discusses the relationships between different epistemologies of mental health and concepts of human rights.

In this communication, we present the results of fieldwork carried out with ADEB (Association for the Support of Depressive and Bipolar Patients), discussing "embodied epistemologies" of mental health and human rights vocabularies. Using a collaborative and qualitative methodology, a socio-historical analysis is carried out, using documentary research, individual and group interviews and direct observation.

Data shows that psychiatric diagnosis is aggregating. ADEB contributes to a biocitizenship that produces new identities, community and hope. But simultaneously, it disciplines and contributes to the hegemony of the biomedical paradigm.

Work Disability and Occupational Agency – How Work Environment Shapes the Mental Health-Related Work Disability Among Young Health And Social Care Workers?

Noora Amanda Heinonen[1], Anu Katainen[1], Hilla Nordquist[1,2,3], Tea Lallukka[2], Anne Kouvonen[1,4]

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During the recent decades, work disability related to mental health, including sickness absence, has alarmingly increased among young adults, particularly women, in several European countries. In addition to individual risk factors, several adverse working conditions have been associated with an increased risk of sickness absence due to mental disorders. These adversities appear common in female-dominated human service occupations such as health and social care work. The objective of the current study was to enhance our understanding of the relationship between work and mental health in today's health and social care settings. Additionally, the study aimed to explore this relationship from the perspective of young workers experiencing mental health-related sickness absence, an aspect that has been less studied in the research literature of social medicine. The data, collected in 2021, consists of 23 interviews with young (aged 21–34) health and social care workers with self-reported sickness absence related to common mental disorders over the past 12 months. Methods of thematic content analysis were used. As our interpretational framework, we utilized the theories of relational sociology and agency (Emirbayer, 1997; Emirbayer & Mische, 1998) and the concept of professional agency. The findings contribute to our understanding of the relationship between mental health and the world of work. They also provide information that is instrumental in modifying working conditions and practices in health and social care organizations to improve the well-being of workers.

RN16 | T09_02: From complementary andalternativer medicines to integrated medicine

Reconciling Indigenous Holistic Health Philosophies with Biomedical Science: Towards a Culturally Inclusive Healthcare Paradigm

Maria Beldi Alcantara

USPFM, LIM-50, Brazil

This paper presents a compelling argument for a fundamental transformation in healthcare, advocating for the integration of indigenous holistic health philosophies with biomedical research. The aim is to cultivate a truly inclusive and comprehensive healthcare system. The necessity of this integration is underscored, highlighting its potential to deepen our understanding of health and well-being and to create a more equitable, culturally appropriate biomedical environment.

At the outset, the paper juxtaposes the indigenous holistic conception of health—an ontological view that seamlessly integrates physical, spiritual, environmental, and communal aspects—with the predominantly biological orientation of conventional biomedicine. This comparison serves to illuminate the limitations inherent in a reductionist approach when addressing the complete spectrum of health and illness.

Through methodical case analyses, the paper demonstrates the enriching potential of incorporating indigenous knowledge within biomedical practices. It particularly focuses on mental health, chronic illness management, and preventative medicine, showcasing how indigenous perspectives can enhance these areas.

The narrative then shifts to explore the broader implications of this synthesis for medical research and health policy formulation. The paper advocates for the inclusion of indigenous methodologies in research, arguing that such an approach can diversify research perspectives and foster more culturally inclusive health policies. This stance acknowledges the validity and critical importance of indigenous health practices in the scientific domain.

The findings of this paper suggest that marrying indigenous holistic health philosophies with scientific inquiry is vital for developing a more effective, culturally aware, and patient-centered healthcare system. It promotes a cooperative and respectful approach that values the depth of indigenous practices alongside scientific advancements, advocating for a healthcare sector that is both diverse and solidly rooted in scientific evidence.

Exploring the Cultural and Socioeconomic Differences Among Users of Complementary and Alternative Medicine through the Identification of Latent Classes

Roman Hofreiter

Matej Bel University, Slovak Republic

The purpose of the presentation is to introduce new insights into the usage of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) by individuals. The presentation is based on two surveys conducted in Slovakia in 2019 and 2023. We will showcase three typologies of individuals and their association with CAM usage.

The first group is called “Experimentators,” who simultaneously use multiple forms of CAM. The second group is called “Lifestyle users” who primarily use CAM as a component of their healthy lifestyle. The last group is the “CAM nonusers.” We will also present selected social and cultural characteristics of these latent classes.

“Experimentators” have a strong distrust of the healthcare system and health professionals and lean towards an anti-scientist and strong individualistic interpretation of health. Both “Lifestyle users” and “Experimentators” share an individualistic approach to health. However, “Lifestyle users” have a higher level of trust in healthcare professionals and accept a scientific approach in medicine. They tend to combine elements of CAM with a biomedical approach to improve and maintain their health.

On the other hand, “Nonusers” share a low level of trust in medical professionals with experimenters. Their lack of interest in healthcare, lower education levels, and lower-income sets them apart from the previous groups.

“Primum Non Nocere” – Investigating The Relationship Between Healthcare Professionals And Complementary And Alternative Medicine (CAM)

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Despite not being included in medical guidelines, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) are sometimes promoted by healthcare professionals, who may recommend or practise them. Based on the explanatory framework developed by Strauss (1982), Baszanger (1990) demonstrated how contested medical practices – such as CAM – rely on legitimation processes at multiple levels: within the medical community and towards the outside

world (in this case, with patients). Furthermore, the labelling theory developed by Becker suggests that the categorisation of a practice as deviant or not depends on its social perception, which may influence a caregiver's attitude towards it.

This paper explores French healthcare professionals' representations of CAM and the operationalisation of these representations in their care practices. The data is drawn from a mixed methods study, combining 30 exploratory interviews with caregivers from five healthcare professions (doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, nurses, care assistants) with diverse characteristics (duration of studies, existence of a deontological code, time devoted to the patient, possibility of informal interactions) and an online survey targeting all healthcare professions, which enabled me to refine my preliminary hypotheses.

By considering CAM heterogeneity, whose perceived legitimacy varies according to several factors (existence of recognised diplomas, scientific studies, integration into care spaces, colleagues' practices), this study proposes a CAM typology explaining how a caregiver classifies practices as acceptable or deviant. The data analysis also provided a basis for categorising behaviours towards CAM (rejection, recommendation, practice), identifying factors favouring each attitude, either towards the caregiver (trust in medicine, socialisation, ...) or the patient (stereotypes towards patients and their illness). In particular, the psychologisation of patients' symptoms may favour their referral to CAM, whether for their supposed virtues or as a placebo. This study provides a better understanding of how healthcare professionals construct their representations of CAMs, and the impact these representations have on care practices and patients' care pathways.

I have never joined an ESA Summer School before.

RN16 | T09_03: Exploring Mitigation Strategies, Preparedness and Response of Health Professionals in the face of Health Crises and Disasters

Healthcare professionals in Europe and Worldwide play a pivotal role in securing the health and well-being of populations in the face of health crises (e.g., pandemics) or disasters (e.g., extreme weather, flooding, wildfire, earthquakes). Sociological reflection can offer valuable insights into the mitigation strategies, preparedness, and responses elaborated by health professionals in order to ensure timely and effective crisis responses, highlighting obstacles and opportunities. Indeed, sociology is key for understanding: a) the influence of social structures and networks (either formal or informal), such as healthcare systems and organizations, and health-related associations (hospitals, government agencies, professional associations, online communities) on the establishment of inter-professional collaborative practice, and the role of resilience, adaptability, and interconnectedness going beyond organizational boundaries and institutional responsibilities; b) the impact of professional identities, norms and roles on shaping health professionals' behavior during health crises or disasters, either facilitating or hindering collaboration between them (physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, social workers, and public health officials); c) the effect of institutional factors and power dynamics within different healthcare systems (hierarchies, regulations, and resource allocation) on the establishment of collaborative and coordinated actions during health crises or disasters, regarding decision-making and distribution of responsibilities; d) the significance of the contribution of health professionals, as members of broader communities but with positions of authority and expertise, to fostering trust, public health education, community engagement, mutual support and social solidarity in critical times, thus mitigating its effects. Submissions should be based on empirical studies related to the sociological analysis of the mitigation strategies, preparedness, and responses

elaborated by healthcare professionals in the face of emergent health crises or disasters.

Healthcare professionals in Europe and Worldwide play a pivotal role in securing the health and well-being of populations in the face of health crises (e.g., pandemics) or disasters (e.g., extreme weather, flooding, wildfire, earthquakes). Sociological reflection can offer valuable insights into the mitigation strategies, preparedness, and responses elaborated by health professionals in order to ensure timely and effective crisis responses, highlighting obstacles and opportunities. Indeed, sociology is key for understanding: a) the influence of social structures and networks (either formal or informal), such as healthcare systems and organizations, and health-related associations (hospitals, government agencies, professional associations, online communities) on the establishment of inter-professional collaborative practice, and the role of resilience, adaptability, and interconnectedness going beyond organizational boundaries and institutional responsibilities; b) the impact of professional identities, norms and roles on shaping health professionals' behavior during health crises or disasters, either facilitating or hindering collaboration between them (physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, social workers, and public health officials); c) the effect of institutional factors and power dynamics within different healthcare systems (hierarchies, regulations, and resource allocation) on the establishment of collaborative and coordinated actions during health crises or disasters, regarding decision-making and distribution of responsibilities; d) the significance of the contribution of health professionals, as members of broader communities but with positions of authority and expertise, to fostering trust, public health education, community engagement, mutual support and social solidarity in critical times, thus mitigating its effects. Submissions should be based on empirical studies related to the sociological analysis of the mitigation strategies, preparedness, and responses elaborated by healthcare professionals in the face of emergent health crises or disasters.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Social Implications in the Organizational Context of a Brazilian Hospital Foundation

Camila Rinco[1], Leonardo Brescia[2], Adriana Melo[2], Helder Yankous[2], Igor Michalick[2], Maria Fernanda[2], Marcell Temponi[2], Rodrigo Otávio[2], Rogério Nunes[2], Allan Claudius[1]

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With the speed of spread of SARS-CoV-2, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Characterized by the WHO as a pandemic, in the face of COVID-19, the States of Brazil organized themselves, installing Operations Centers and preparing Contingency Plans for the Public Health Emergency, whose objectives were to publicize the governance structure of the bodies' actions of the government, the response measures to combat the pandemic, as well as the alignment of information regarding the area of coverage, assisting health services in analysis and decision-making. In the State of Minas Gerais, the Department of Health published the Operational Contingency Plan by Health Macroregion, a document that described the organization of points of care, highlighting the role of hospitals in care due to COVID-19. In the city of Belo Horizonte, the San Francisco of Assis Hospital Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic entity that provides free hospital care through the Unified Health System, mobilized internally with the creation of the Planning Committee. This, with the mission of adapting care flows, allowed the opening of beds for patients with COVID-19 and maintained routine care, causing the least possible impact on the supply of beds. Despite this organizational context, the lethal virus has worsened poverty and social inequalities, adding to personal and physical insecurity, affecting patients, clinical and care staff in different ways, changing the profile of care provided and at the same time impacting insecurity in the necessary learning, forcing a change in the training and teaching method of health professionals.

The Reactions of Social-Health Networks To Catastrophic Events. The Case Of The 2016 Earthquake In The Marche Region

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In the field of healthcare, the tendency to seek organizational models based on the integration of all social and healthcare services emerges, as demonstrated by the WHO guidelines. In the Italian healthcare system, this has led to the creation of local integration systems that involve the

definition of protocols and formal relationships between centers that provide social and healthcare services.

Catastrophic events, such as earthquakes or floods, cause rapid and unexpected changes that undermine the planned structure of the inter-organizational structure. Existing network configurations must quickly adapt to the new situation.

Thiswork presents the results of a study involving ASUR (Azienda Sanitaria Unica Regionale) Marche in the province of Ascoli Piceno, which was hit by the 2016 earthquake, and the University of Urbino Carlo Bo, aimed at studying the evolution of the structure of the inter-organisational network linking the centres involved in providing social welfare services in the field of mental health, as a consequence of the seismic event.

The analysis was carried out using Social Network Analysis based on data from both databases and semi-structured interviews. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted to investigate the meaning and context of social relationships within the network.

The results show that in emergency situations the network adapts and becomes denser. The evolution of the network depends both on how these external pressures are received by individual actors, and on contingent situations, such as geographical location and available resources.

Facing the Unexpected: Communities of Practice and Bottom-up Knowledge Production as a Source of Resilience

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1Universy of Bergamo, Italy; 2Marche Polytechnic University, Italy; 3Bruno Kessler Foundation, Italy

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of relying on resilient healthcare organizations, capable of anticipating and preparing for the unexpected, coping effectively when occurring, and transforming themselves afterwards (Duchek 2020). Weick (1993; 1995; Weick et al. 1999) identifies those features underpinning organizational resilience: virtual role systems and leadership, attitude of wisdom, respectful interaction, improvisation and bricolage. Studies focused on healthcare organizations during the pandemic, underline that the organizational capacity of improvisation (Lloyd-Smith 2020) requires clear lines of communication and coordination, a shared understanding of the situation, but also autonomy and self-organizing. This means involving in decision-making those at the frontline who experience the interplay of action and interpretation in their daily practice.

Drawing on this theoretical framework, the paper analyzes some informal networks of physicians, activated through various channels (WhatsApp, Facebook, Youtube) during the early pandemic phases, which acted as communities of practice (Lusardi, Bronzini, Piras 2023). Interviews with some of the participants in these networks and the analysis of the secondary sources (videos, documents, publications, etc.) – reveal how the exchanges within these communities fostered the emergence of a shared representation (sense-giving), bricolage and creative solutions from the existing repertoire of knowledge, and the production of new knowledge. Recognizing their role in mitigating the impact of the pandemic is important to critically reflect on the limitations of an approach to crisis and disaster management that relies solely on 'social and institutional engineering,' undervaluing the role of informal relationships and processes or forcing them into predetermined procedures

Building Health System Preparedness Through Primary Care: Institutions And Professions In Czech Republic And Italy

Zuzana Kotherová[1], Stefano Neri[2]

1Charles University, Prague; 2University of Milan

The emphasis on empowering primary care (PC) services is one of the key developments in the European healthcare systems after the Covid-19 pandemic. These efforts reflects a common belief that a long-term, patient-centred and, above all, trust-based relationship between PC staff and patients is essential to ensure not only continuity of care in ordinary times, but also a timely and effective crisis response, increasing health system preparedness.

Against this background, the article compares the ongoing changes in PC in the Czech Republic and Italy. In both countries, the pandemic represented a "window of opportunity" for reforms, which had been long planned but postponed or aborted, within two healthcare systems which belong respectively to the Central-Eastern Europe health insurance systems and the Mediterranean national health services.

The paper aims to map the primary care reforms, its causes and consequences, by adopting a mixed research design. Based on a quantitative analysis of PC data, two country case studies were carried out, relying also on analysis of official documents and 10 semi-structured interviews. Our results shows that both reforms point to shift PC from solo practice to multi-professional services, while being committed to preserve the trust relationships between PC staff (especially GPs) and patients. Although the adoption of GP gatekeeping by the Czech system, organisational arrangements chosen for these purposes are different and do not substantially increase hybridisation. This not only depends on the institutional characteristics and heritage, but also on the role played by doctors and health professions in the two systems.

RN16 | T09_04: Biotechnologies Reshaping Birth and Death and the Life In-Between

The rapid evolution of biotechnologies has not only transformed health care but has undeniably ushered in a new era where fundamental aspects of human existence – birth and reproduction, death and end-of-life care, and life itself –, and the way that people experience lifecycle events are undergoing significant and profound changes. Technological innovations and interventions have extended lifespans, enhanced physical and mental capabilities, and enabled humans to exert greater control over biological aspects. Nevertheless, biotechnologies have also raised ethical and sociological questions about the boundaries and meanings of life and human potential. Biotechnologies, such as genetic engineering, regenerative medicine, and artificial intelligence, are remaking the very fabric of existence, challenging traditional notions of life, health, and death. Assisted reproductive technologies, such as genetic testing, impact reproductive choices. Biomedical advances contribute to the overall well-being of individuals, allowing longer and healthier lives, thus reducing the burden of disease and mortality in society, but can also reinforce existing social disparities. These advances have an impact not only on health and illness issues but on human life itself and on the organization of society. The transformation in biomedicine goes hand in hand with the transformation of the government of life. This session welcomes papers with a critical theoretical and/or empirical approach, either country-focused or with an international comparative scope, addressing the transformative effects and societal implications of biotechnological advancement.

Surveillance Medicine and Biotechnology Governance: A Case Study of Wolbachia Project Against Dengue in Singapore

Ying Chen

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In Singapore, dengue control has been a focal point of public health interventions since the 1960s, resulting in decades of significant achievements. However, due to climate change, dengue fever has recently emerged as a severe mosquito-borne disease in Southeast Asia, as well as in many other tropical regions worldwide. Consequently, dengue control has regained prominence as one of the most pressing concerns for the Singapore government. Drawing on eight months of ethnographic research with the NEA, scientists, and local residents, this paper examines the social construction of the Wolbachia Project in Singapore as a case of biotechnological governance aimed at combating dengue, an infectious disease. This paper unveils how the implementation of Wolbachia-Aedes suppression technology, an international technology advocated by the World Mosquito Program, was adapted in Singapore to align with local social and cultural realities related to the disease. This paper exemplifies how the historical evolution of dengue control is a dynamic process shaped by the interplay of state interests and objectives, international influences, the emergence of new medical knowledge and technology, evolving perceptions of disease and health, local environmental conditions, societal dynamics, and the political, social, and economic forces at play within a specific locality at a particular point in time. By doing so, this paper engages with the concept of "surveillance medicine" and extends to the discussion of biotechnology as a form of modern medical regime for the challenge faced by climate change.

Relational Metaphors in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART): The social dynamics ART beneficiaries forge with their in vitro embryos

Catarina Delaunay

Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal

Rhetorical devices, namely metaphors, frame our thinking as they allow us to reason and use abstract concepts that do not directly evoke sensory-motor information, but are elaborated based on our concrete experience in familiar domains. Metaphors populate medicine, moulding the practices and identities of both health professionals and patients. Within Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), the literature reveals a diversity of metaphors about infertility, its diagnosis, and treatments. When thinking about and reflecting on their embryos, ART beneficiaries mobilise their understanding of some relational properties and social dynamics often used for other concrete entities, such as a baby, a functional device, or a valuable resource. We

propose an analysis of the relational metaphors that beneficiaries use to describe the different social dynamics they forge with their embryos created through in vitro fertilization (IVF) in a laboratory setting. The analysis is based on data collected from 69 in-depth semi-structured interviews and 85 validated questionnaires (online survey) with IVF recipients, as part of a concluded research project on the plurality of meanings and statuses attributed by experts and laypeople to human embryos. The data reveals that embryos are seen as embodying a potential child or viable biological material, through medical visualisation technologies. Beneficiaries become emotionally attached to certain embryos, which must be nurtured and cared for, sometimes triggering feelings of abandonment towards the ones that become supernumerary, especially after the birth of an IVF child. Embryos can also be part of a reciprocity cycle relative to the possibilities offered by science and medicine.

Saving Lives: Transforming Human Biological Samples Through Caring Practices In A Biobank

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Biobanks have established worldwide with a growing trend of standardization and automatization of the collection and storage of biological samples and associated clinical and lifestyle data.

This research explored how these normalized laboratory-like units contribute to reflect visions of health, illness, and the body, departing from a setting where usually patients or sample's donors are usually absent. Thus, through ethnographic research, I followed the biological samples trajectories from the harvest to the storage and samples' distribution to researchers.

Along their trajectory to the biobank, the biological samples were progressively transformed into objects of scientific practice: from their physical form and status to their codification and categorization – transforming body parts into ready made products to scientific research.

However, the nature of these objects is continuously defined through a wide range of practices that (re)invest the sample with its human nature and identity while refusing to render them into mere objects.

The organization of care and the caring practices mostly performed by the biobank staff play a key role in transforming the biobank into a healthcare place. Attributing human features to samples, reproducing healthcare spaces, or constructing health and illness narratives through biological samples are ways of resisting to the dehumanization, contributing to create meaning in biobank existence – to save human lives.

Enchantment of Birth and 'the Biomedical Empire'

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Some mothers describe their birthing experiences as 'not quite from this world'. They share experiences of birthing that could be described as having a layer of something luminous, wonderous or enchanted. Jane Bennet (2001) has in discussing what 'enchantment' may be, suggested that 'enchantment entails a state of wonder, and one of the distinctions of this state is the temporary suspension of chronological time and bodily movement. To be enchanted, then, is to participate in a momentarily immobilizing encounter; it is to be transfixed, spellbound.' The state of wonder at birth is present in some birth-givers' narratives, but also in narratives of some birth professionals. However, most women give birth at hospitals that are primarily oriented toward medically safe birth care. The hospital environment, biomedical practices and medical power over birth may not very easily fit together with experiences of enchantment. In this presentation I ask, how to make sense of powerful birth experiences that do not seem to fit into our common everyday or medical understandings of birthing? Following Barbara Katz Rothman's (2022) claim that the power of medicine now fills the criteria for what she calls 'the biomedical empire', I analyse how 'enchanted experiences' fit in or clash with the biomedical system and its paradigm for birth care. My analysis draws on qualitative birth narratives and narratives of birth professionals (N=180). It utilizes narrative analysis and suggests that different paradigms of birth often clash or the biomedical approach dominates. However, sometimes birthing at a hospital may harmoniously reconcile biomedical readiness to holding a space for enchantment.

RN16 | T09_05: Social and cultural factors in health care

Factors Influencing Dietary Inequalities Among Adolescents In Spain

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Adolescence is a period of important changes in various aspects of an individual's life, which influence an individual's health. Health problems encountered during adolescence can persist into adulthood and lead to different clinical conditions. Healthy eating behaviours are crucial during adolescence to support physical growth and development.

The aim of this qualitative study was to identify the environmental factors that can determine dietary inequalities among adolescents in two Spanish cities – Madrid and Bilbao – in secondary schools located in neighbourhoods of different socioeconomic status (SES).

The study area included six neighbourhoods (three in each city) of different SES — low, medium, and high. We sampled 12 secondary schools (six in each city: two per SES). We conducted 36 semi-structured interviews (SSIs) and 24 focus groups (FGs). We conducted 12 semi-structured interviews (SSIs) with school principals (they were considered key informants), 12 SSIs with adolescents and 12 SSIs with parents. We conducted half of the SSIs in Madrid and half in Bilbao. We conducted 6 FGS with adolescents, 6 with parents and 12 with teachers. We conducted half of the FGs in Madrid and half in Bilbao.

The analysis of the discourses obtained from SSIs and FGs showed the following factors as determinants of adolescents' diet: The influence of the image cult on diet, through social networks; the family models – Eating as a family is considered a protective factor for a healthy diet-; lack of time causes more pre-cooked foods to be consumed; The influence of the peer group. Furthermore, we found that in the low SES areas adolescents eat at home more often alone and is perceived an environment with more unhealthy food on offer.

Exploring the Role of Trust in Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake in Hungary

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A number of studies have found that trust in science was associated with a higher willingness to be vaccinated against Covid-19. However, only a few of them drew on a theoretical framework developed in health psychology. The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), one of the most supported theoretical frameworks to predict health-related intentions, such as the intention to get vaccinated against Covid-19, posits that a behavioural intention is the outcome of three components: attitudes toward the behaviour, subjective norms (i.e. social pressure), and perceived behavioural control. Some attempts have been made to extend the TPB with further potential predictors. Related to this line of research, our study aims to explore the influence of trust in science on Covid-19 vaccination intention by using an extended TPB model. In addition to the hypotheses on the components of the TPB, we also hypothesize that more trust in science is associated with a more pro-vaccination attitude (and thus a higher willingness to get vaccinated). To test our hypotheses, we used a sample of 761 adults from a survey conducted in Hungary in late 2022. We applied structural equation modelling using vaccine acceptance as the main endogenous variable. Our findings support that trust in science is positively associated with vaccine acceptance, with the effect being mediated by attitudes toward Covid-19 vaccination. Results also show that people with higher education and income, and those with more epistemic trust tend to have more trust in scientists.

Unveiling Childhood Vaccine Hesitancy: The Role Of Religiosity And Political Ideology In Türkiye

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According to the WHO, between two to three million lives are saved annually due to the development of vaccines. Despite such achievement, many individuals continue to refuse or hesitate to get vaccinated. In Türkiye, the number of families refusing childhood vaccinations increased from 183 in 2011 to 23,000 in 2018, and the vaccination coverage rate for measles decreased from 98% in 2016 to 95% in 2022.

The prevalence and determinants of childhood vaccine hesitancy have mainly been investigated in Europe. Yet, the influence of religiosity and political ideology on vaccine hesitancy has been under-investigated. Also, studies in Türkiye are mostly regional and examine other underlying distrust factors in childhood vaccinations. This paper aims to fill this gap in the literature and unveil the reasons behind distrust in childhood vaccinations in Türkiye. Specifically, we examine the question "How do political ideology and religiosity affect the prevalence of childhood vaccine hesitancy?" Drawing from the Turkish Covid-19 Values Study (N=1500), our descriptive results show that mean trust in childhood vaccination is 6.63 on a scale from 0 to 10.

Studies on the relationship between religiosity and vaccine hesitancy generally yield conflicting findings; whilst some research identified a positive correlation, others discovered a negative one. Our findings reveal that religious individuals are more likely to favor childhood vaccination in Türkiye compared to non-religious individuals. Moreover, unlike most European societies where right-leaning individuals tend to disfavor childhood vaccination, right-leaning individuals trust childhood vaccination more compared to left-leaning individuals in the case of Türkiye.

Examining the Policy Process of Protective Housing Policies in Portugal in Times of Crises

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The Covid-19 pandemic produced important disruptions worldwide. To mitigate the impacts of the economic downturn on housing, namely increased evictions, the Portuguese parliament, similarly to other countries, approved legislation that granted supportive protective measures for the payment of rents and mortgage loans. In the aftermath of the pandemic, has arisen the current cost of living crisis, combining rampant inflation with the continuous rise in housing rents and the abrupt increase in mortgage rates, once more putting housing security at risk. To support families in financial distress supportive measures were again developed.

To examine how these protective housing policies were discursively constructed during the policy process, a thematic analysis of the parliamentary debates concerning these protective policies will be conducted. In this communication the dimensions of analysis, such as the mobilisation of social representations of protection, of housing policies anchored in other European Union countries, of social identities of housing stakeholders (own and attributed), as well as of emotions, will be presented and described. The comparative analysis of the two crises will allow to identify the communalities and differences between physical insecurity (Covid-19) and socio-economic insecurity (inflation).

RN17 | Work, Employment and Industrial Relations

RN17 | T01_01: SPace & collective bargaining

Back To Its Old Tricks? Ryanair's Collective Bargaining Struggles

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Following a rare instance of transnational strike action by pilots, Ryanair's post-2018 decision to recognize trade unions was an important step in an open-ended struggle. The European Employee Representative Committee, critical in forcing Ryanair's hand, sought a pan-European collective agreement, but Ryanair instead returned employment relations to the national level. Subsequently, Ryanair pursued an array of strategies to undermine workers' interests and the collective bargaining process. Such strategies included intimidating union members and concluding collective agreements with non-traditional aviation unions. This paper analyses how employment relations struggles unfold and evolve in a transnational context. In other words, how has Ryanair management sought to undermine collective bargaining and how have traditional aviation unions, on the other hand, responded? By using a critical case study, this paper seeks to develop the theorization of transnational labour activism by studying how workers' struggles unfold in a transnational context, on the one hand, and how they might be overcome, on the other.

Collective Bargaining on Telework in South Europe: Different Responses to post-Covid-19 Legislation in Spain and Portugal.

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This article analyzes and compares dynamics in collective bargaining on telework in Spain and Portugal at the sectoral and company level, in three sectors where this form of work organization is technically feasible for a large number of employees: financial sector, ICT consulting and chemical industry. In these two countries, new legislation has been recently passed that comprehensively changes the legal regime for teleworking, in a context of increasing prevalence of teleworking as a result of the pandemic. Subsequently, negotiating telework has played an unprecedented role in collective bargaining. Using a qualitative methodology combining documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders, the analysis has been based on the behavioral theory of labor negotiations, recent research on the different types of flexible working arrangements at work and institutionalist approaches. Generally, the results show the predominance of distributive exchanges in negotiations. More specifically, national legislation and particularities of each sector accounted for different outcomes in negotiations. This paper is part of an EU funded joint study: TWING – Exploring the contribution of social dialogue and collective bargaining in the promotion of decent and productive telework in the post-COVID-19 scenario.

Digital Nomadism – New Opportunities And Tensions Of Location-Independent Work

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During the pandemic, millions started working remotely for the first time. Remote work has since become an integral part of daily life for numerous knowledge workers. Concurrently, digital nomadism as a location-independent lifestyle has gained popularity. Digital nomads are knowledge workers who leverage digital technologies to blend work with (permanent) travel.

Studies emphasize shared values, privileges, and generational experiences among digital nomads, who, however, differ in terms of employment status (whether salaried employees, freelancers, or gig workers). Surprisingly, the employment status of digital nomads has been neglected to this point, although we know that it comes with specific opportunities and tensions (such as questions of autonomy and embedding in organizational structures, precarity and social security challenges).

Therefore, we focus on the heterogeneous employment relationships of digital nomads and address the following questions in our contribution:

How does employment status affect subjective working conditions and self-perception of digital nomads?

How do motivations and mobility requirements differ?

What tensions of location-independent work can be derived from this?

Drawing from interviews with digital nomads (n=16) conducted during field research in Madeira, Portugal, our contribution holds relevance in two key aspects: (1) highlighting the overlooked significance of employment status among digital nomads, and (2) examining the transformative potential of location-independent work in terms of employment status and mobility.

We aim to gain a deeper understanding of emerging tensions arising from digitalization and mobility by linking the discourse on digital nomads as a new lifestyle with discourses on the transformation of work.

Do Collective Agreements And Works Councils Narrow Immigrant-Native Wage Gaps For Disadvantaged Immigrant Groups? Novel Evidence from German Linked Employer-Employee Data

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In recent decades, workers' bargaining power has declined worldwide and immigrant-native wage inequalities have been widening. Previous scholarship has shown that immigrant-native wage gaps are smaller in firms with collective agreements and works councils using cross-sectional data, indicating an association between workers' bargaining power in firms and immigrant-native wage inequalities. Yet, it remains unclear whether this correlation is causal. We provide novel evidence using German longitudinal linked employer–employee data covering 542 firms and 878,403 employee observations. We investigate whether changes in collective agreements and works councils in firms narrow within-firm immigrant-native wage gaps, especially for disadvantaged immigrant groups, i.e., immigrants from non-Western countries. Using firm-fixed effects with double-demeaned interaction effects, our results show that collective agreements narrow immigrant-native wage gaps within firms for immigrants from non-Western countries by 62.0 percent, but we find no effect for immigrants from Western countries. For works councils, our results provide no empirical support for narrowing effects on within-firm immigrant-native wage gaps. Furthermore, potential sources of bias, such as reverse causality, do not drive our findings. Overall, our results indicate that if collective agreements were as prevalent as in 1996, immigrant-native wage inequalities for disadvantaged immigrant groups would be 23.6 percent narrower in Germany.

RN17 | T01_02: Platforms and digital work

Digital Labour Platforms And (In) Formal Jobs: Case Study On The Domestic And Care Sectors In Italy

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Informal working arrangements characterizing the domestic and care sectors seem to be challenged by the rise of digital labour platforms (DLPs) that imply various changes, including the formalization of workers. However, recent studies reveal that platform labour may entail practices that perpetuate the precarity associated with informal labour markets. Yet, little is known about the imbrications between the informal economy and DLPs.

This article aims to explore on the one hand, how DLPs affect workers in occupations that have been traditionally characterized by high level of informality, and, on the other, how gig (in)formal workers represent their work and what meanings they associate to the formal and informal work in location-based platform economy.

Based on 24 interviews with gig workers and 3 interviews with persons performing administrative and managerial work for DLPs, research findings suggest that DLPs offer job opportunities to vulnerable social groups and flexibility. Concerning meanings attached to formal and informal work by workers in the domestic sector, these are various and/or contradictory. Digital labour may be perceived as a way to formalise employment relations. DLPs are considered as intermediaries between clients and workers that guarantee the existence of formal work through, for instance, the issuance of pay slips. Yet, this does not often reflect reality, as most platforms only match the demand and offer sides. Moreover, DLPs can be also seen as a source of safety, because workplaces and working hours are trackable. On the other hand, those who are aware of the nature of (informal) employment relations through digital labour platforms see themselves engaged in the undeclared work market and excluded from health insurance and work-related injury provisions.

Care Work in the Platform Economy: Compounding challenges for trade unions

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'Ageing in place' is now the dominant and preferred model of long-term care delivery across Europe. The commodification of care has given rise to an increasingly large home-care workforce with the private sector emerging as the

dominant supplier of care in much of Europe. Conditions for homecare workers are generally acknowledged to be poor, attributed to high levels of feminisation and migrant labour; a plethora of ad hoc and informal arrangements, and low union density (Murphy and Turner, 2017). The latter aspect is the focus of this paper with the emergence of digital platforms in the sector. Trade unions have always faced difficulties in organising homecare workers owing to the invisible nature of the work conducted within private homes as well as other structural barriers and workforce characteristics. This paper will explore and compare the situation in both Ireland and Italy via analysis of in-depth interviews with senior trade unionists and other stakeholders conducted during 2023. We find additional difficulties for unions organising care platforms as the techniques and actions associated with organising platform workers are based on those aimed at a predominantly young, male and highly visible workforce e.g. delivery couriers. We draw on recent EU initiatives including the European Care Strategy and the Directive on Platform Work to examine a range of pathways toward worker organisation in the sector. We contribute to the literature on trade union organising specifically regarding the representation of female and migrant workers.

The paper concludes with recommendations on regulation and organising in the sector.

How Care Platforms Shape the Market Where They Organize Their Economic Transactions : A Case Study in Belgium

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Existing literature on labour platforms (hereafter only platforms) have considered platforms as market self-organizers which set the rules which govern the economic exchange between service providers and clients (Frenken et al., 2020). As such, platforms are said to operate as 'marketplaces' by controlling private market governance principles through deciding, for example, who can enter the platform, the rules that should be followed when labour provides services, and if and when to dismiss service providers (Kirchner and Schüßler, 2018). Platforms often do this by potentially bypassing national state regulation (Niebler et al., 2023). Yet, platforms are digital market organizers in markets which are neither inevitable nor natural. Hence the key question is: how platforms shape the market where they organize their economic transactions?

This paper will tackle this question by studying a case of a domestic care platform called Helpper, which is market leader in the care services in Belgium. We use both a social-constructivist approach in the economic sociology and labour process theory in the sociology of work to unpack the black box of market creation. We do so by examining how the platform, together with other market actors such as clients, workers and labour market intermediates, confront the problem of the supply and demand by governing the labour force in line with their accumulation logic. We argue that the investigated platform makes it easier for those in need of care services to purchase care services at a cheap price, as the platform outsources cheap and/or unpaid voluntary work (see Taylor, 2005) by peer-to-peer self-employed workers to organizations that experience labour shortages or to clients directly.

Meeting With Care: The Transformations of Meeting Practices in Post COVID-19 Hospital Management in Belgium

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In today's organisations, meetings are ubiquitous. In general, meetings are defined by their instrumental or strategic functions, setting aside the relational purposes. However, meetings as rituals, act as a reflection of organisational and managerial practices. This study explores meeting practices in hospitals to investigate hospital management and to question whether an ethic of care approach emerges from the changes administered during and after the COVID-19 crisis. This qualitative study is based on 153 in-depth interviews, collected between September – December 2022, with a diverse panel of hospital managers and staff in hospitals across the French-speaking regions of Belgium.

Meetings are a necessary tool for the good functioning of hospitals and hold both instrumental and relational purposes according to hospital staff. However, during the COVID-19 crisis, the sanitary context and regulations meant that the occurrence, and the form of meetings changed. The sudden changes made the relational aspects that were removed or transformed visible. Since the crisis, hospitals have adopted and integrated online meetings, raising a discussion around the tension between the heightened efficiency these allow, and the time and space removed from relational elements.

Meetings are spaces for social relations and attention to staff's needs. They're spaces of and for 'care' in organisations. Presence appears to be an important dimension of care – caring for each other and for the work in organizations. The crisis has made relational practices embedded in meetings visible and shown their importance for the hospital as an organization.

RN17 | T01_03: Precariousness

Labour, Precariousness and Digital Platforms: Couriers in the city of Porto

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Couriers have become a regular presence in contemporary cities and

are a profession that illustrates recent changes in the world of work.

This paper is based on sociological research, entitled "Labour, Precariousness and Digital Platforms: Couriers in the city of Porto", and embarks on a comprehensive journey through their lives and experiences. By mobilising a mixed methods approach, this research combines qualitative and quantitative research methods and aims to achieve a holistic understanding of these workers. The qualitative research includes interviews and participant observations and provides insight into the sociodemographic characteristics and career paths of this population, while the collection of quantitative data reveals broader trends in precariousness and the platformisation of work. This research highlights the internal plurality of this professional category and its composition full of migrant workers, mostly from Brazil and India. The prevalence of precarious working conditions and lack of access to social services are conditions faced by these migrant workers who find platform work an easy entry into the Portuguese labour market. The gig economy and platform-based labour practices transcend geographical borders, having a global impact on labour markets. This research situates delivery work via digital platforms in the European and Portuguese context and how labour laws, social welfare systems and economic dynamics shape the experiences and career paths of these workers. The aim is to contribute to a deeper understanding of this evolving profession and its implications for wider labour market trends. The experiences of digital distribution platform workers illustrate the intricate interplay between technology, labour practices and urban dynamics, offering an insight into the contemporary world of work and its social ramifications.

Labours Lost in Translation: Making Sense of Worker Compensation in the App Economy

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What are we paid for while working? The answer is not trivial: the ways in which labour is conceptualized and its value is calculated and justified have been subject to labour struggles and transformations throughout history. The platform economy, which singularizes tasks and their compensation, offers new answers to these questions, that often provoke worker resistance. We explore this tension by analysing the discourse of Wolt couriers on the introduction of a new, opaque dynamic compensation model. Building on interviews and data from online currier groups (where resistance was organized), we suggest that when the calculation of worker compensation is delegated to opaque algorithms, algorithmic decisions must be translated into human language, explained and justified. Workers need translation to give meaning to the constantly changing sums they are offered for constantly changing tasks; decide which tasks to accept; and retain a sense of agency. Employers need translation to legitimize compensation models and manufacture consent. How successful translations are, informs workers' feelings and actions. In our case, a conflict arose from the gap between different translations: the management claimed payment depends on curriers' 'effort'; whereas curriers translated the algorithmic model differently. They viewed it as conflicting with their own understanding of effort and as problematically hybridizing distinct logics of hired labour and independent contracting; and experienced opacity as a threat to their agency and control over their income. The algorithmic imaginary turns then into a medium of labour relations and labour struggles, where the cultural work of translating algorithms becomes instrumental.

Self-Precarization and the Normalization of Atypical Work in Sweden: The Case of Digital Freelancers

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This paper explores the tensions of the normalization of non-standard and precarious work in Sweden, a country still often categorized as a Social Democratic welfare state despite decades of neoliberal deregulation and restructuring. I examine how insecure and precarious work is subjectively managed, negotiated, and normalized by a particular segment of workers – freelancers and gig workers in the creative/cultural industries. Building primarily on interviews with freelancers finding gigs through digital platforms, I am interested in how different ways of managing and negotiating precarious work is connected to the formation of specific subjectivities. Here I seek to develop Isabelle Lorey's (2011, 2015) notion of "self-precarization", to understand how non-standard working conditions by some segments of workers are being understood as desirable, rather than being seen as something imposed "from above". Taking the ambivalence of self-precarization seriously, my results identify four reoccurring "tensions" in the narratives of the interviewees through which I argue freelance subjects are formed: choice and necessity, autonomy and constraint, temporal flexibility and colonization of free time, and self-realization and self-exploitation. As a mode of subjectivation, I argue that it is in these tensions – in a constant push-and-pull between the desire for good, meaningful work and the often-harsh and exploitative material realities

of digital capitalism – which self-precarization operates. Focusing on these tensions can help us better understand precarization as normalizing process, important to digital capitalism through the production of a flexible and contingent labor force, accustomed to doing precarious piece-work while also containing seeds of resistance against it.

In Search of Institutional Power? Collective Representation of Platform-based Food Delivery Motor Couriers in Turkey

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Location-based platform work, particularly food delivery, is increasingly dominated by the self-employment model worldwide. A major repercussion of this model is the minimal role for the state in industrial relations since the work relationship is mainly arranged between the platform(employer) and worker(courier) in a biased understanding of "equal" business partnership. Accordingly, self-employed couriers are deprived of their right to unionize and collective bargaining.

Many studies using the power resources approach based on Wright (2000) and Silver (2003) suggest that platform food delivery couriers have a certain degree of workplace bargaining power and disruptive capacity; however, their institutional power resources are almost non-existent (Vandaele, 2018). This is indeed considered as the major drive for the the self-employed couriers to develop novel ways of collective representation to mobilize their associational power.

This study focuses on the case of collective representation of platform-based food delivery motor couriers in Turkey. The study first delineates the broader landscape of the courier representation ecosystem, examining how various organizations seek to attain power via the logic of influence. This way, it aims to expand the scope of existing literature on collective representation in platform work, highlighting the specific institutional dynamics within Turkey as an illustrative Global South context. The analysis depends on the qualitative data collected from 12 representatives of courier associations, grassroots unions/initiatives, longstanding trade unions and the recently established Chamber of Couriers. The study argues that although coalition power among different courier organisations is constrained by internal tensions and lack of trust; organisational creativity through the Chamber may facilitate legal regulation as it formalises their relations not only with the employers, but also, for the first time, with the state.

RN17 | T02_01: Platform economy

How Welfare States Shape the Platform Economy: Analyzing Cross-country Variation in the Composition of Platform Labor Across Europe

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This study assesses how welfare and labor market institutions influence the size and skill composition of the online platform economy. We conduct a cross-country comparison using comprehensive data from workers registered on upwork.com, combined with country-level variables from 34 European countries. Consistent with previous studies, our results reveal that lower-income countries tend to dominate the supply of low-skilled labor in the online platform economy. In contrast, countries with higher national salaries have a more balanced distribution of platform workers engaged in both low – and high-skilled jobs. However, our analyses challenge a purely market-driven perspective and demonstrate that welfare generosity is associated with a lower prevalence of low-skilled platform work. Our research highlights the significant role of the welfare state in shaping the online platform economy and underscores the importance of further comparative research on the impact of institutions on the platform economy.

Consumer Attitudes and Employment Relations in the Platform Economy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment

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The role of consumers as key labor market actors is periodically brought up in the employment relations literature. With the consolidation of digital labor platforms as an integral part of the labor market, consumers again warrant attention. Studies suggest that consumers significantly influence the platform economy, directly and indirectly, e.g., when platforms shift central labor management practices to platform consumers, both regarding performance management through ratings and reviews and assigning work. Despite the central role consumers play as initiators and evaluators of platform services, few studies have engaged with how consumers influence labor practices and the working conditions of platform workers. Following a pre-registered study plan, we conducted a forced-choice conjoint survey experiment administered to a representative sample of

3,029 Danish respondents. We sought to answer how attitudes towards working conditions and worker stereotypes potentially influence labor relations on gig-work platforms and whether differences exist across distinct platform services.

Across food-delivery and cleaning platforms, we find that respondents consistently indicate a substantive preference for workers with access to social benefits, while workers' wage levels have a minimal influence on respondents' choices. Secondly, we find significant gender and ethnic biases among respondents on both platforms, and while these biases are moderated by workers' ratings, they persist even for workers with perfect ratings. This study provides novel insights into consumer attitudes and their potential impact on labor practices in the platform economy. In conclusion, we discuss the potential implications of consumer attitudes toward gig workers' rights for policy and further studies.

The Future of Platform Work: Can Anticipated EU Regulations on Improving Working Conditions in the Platform Work Sector be a Game Changer for the Gig Economy? The Polish Social Partners' Perspective.

Dominika Polkowska

Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland, Poland

The platform work sector has been growing rapidly over the past 10 years. It is assumed that it will remain so in the coming years, and the number of platform workers will increase. So, on the one hand, digital work platforms seem to be slowly entering a phase of maturity. On the other hand, this is not followed by worker protection. The development of the platform sector is, therefore, largely at the expense of workers. Currently under procedure, the Directive on improving working conditions in platform work addresses this problem. The Directive introduces a presumption of an employment relationship, and it will be the platform's task to – possibly – rebut this presumption.

Based on IDI interviews with representatives of trade unions, employers' organizations, government, NGOs, fleet partners, platforms, and on FGI interviews with platform workers, I will show, using the example of Poland, that harmonization of the directive into national law can be problematic due to the conflicting interests of the various stakeholders. According to employers' organizations, its introduction may lead to the collapse of the platform sector in Poland. Trade unions, on the other hand, point to the chance to normalize work via apps. Experts believe that probably nothing will change. Platform workers also seem uninterested in changing the status quo, which is fostered by the platform work model adopted in Poland based on civil law contracts (not widely known in other EU countries). Based on the results of the research, I will try to answer the question about the actual future of platform working in the context of the newly proposed regulations and how, in the future, it should be organized.

Gig Workers in the Platform Metropolis: Delivery workers in the Netherlands and South Korea

Seonok Lee

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We are witnessing "platform capitalism" (Srnicek, 2016), which replaces traditional contracted labor with a more informal and flexible workforce. In the platform economy or gig economy, labor on demand is common, and hiring services take place via internet-based platforms. One of the main arguments of platform companies is that they are not employers but rather "facilitators that do not pick favorites" (Gillespie, 2010, p. 358). However, a burgeoning literature on gig workers and crowd workers/data workers illustrates how platforms enforce precarious, flexible work conditions and long working hours by manipulating the old cost-cutting strategy of denying the employment relationship. Platforms argue that platform workers are "self-employed." These workers exist in a state of "legal liminality" (Chun, 2019), in which they are neither fully protected nor fully denied by law. Exemplified by Uber drivers as self-employed couriers in The Netherlands and Bamin delivery in South Korea, this new labor relation has been called both "enabling and exploitative" (Kaine & Josserand, 2019). Additionally, there is growing evidence that gig work has become more migrant work (Van Doorn, 2021). This paper focuses on (migrant) delivery workers and "digitally mediated service work" (van Doorn, 2017) that residents of dense urban metropolises, such as Amsterdam (Groningen) and Seoul. Therefore, the research questions are "How do Amsterdam (Groningen) and Seoul deal with delivery platforms and gig workers?" and "How can we understand this new form of labor relations in platform capitalism?" This is a timely and globally relevant project that will provide academic researchers with a more global lens through which to understand and theorize the impacts of platforms.

RN17 | T02_02: Migrant labour

Addressing Unfree Labour: Migrant Workers in the Construction Industry

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There are various seemingly irreconcilable tensions around unfree labour, both in its presence and in terms of how to tackle it. This is especially the case for migrants, who occupy a particularly vulnerable position in labour markets. This has been exacerbated by recent legislation, such as the 2022 Nationality and Borders Act, which effectively repositions certain exploited workers as criminals rather than victims, undermining the modest gains made by the 2015 Modern Slavery Act. At the same time, the economy is dependent on migrant workers in many ways, producing tensions between political rhetoric – and in some cases policy – and economic reality. This research explores these tensions through a case study of the UK construction industry; a sector dominated by flexible and precarious work, opaque subcontracting practices, and cost-cutting driven by low profit margins. Data collected from interviews with 50 managers, directors and peripheral actors in the construction industry highlight why companies are failing to address exploitation risks in their labour supply networks. This is explained through a model comprised of four strategies that practitioners use in response to the competing and conflicting tensions between market forces, on one hand, and the pressures to respond to the presence of unfree labour on the other. These strategies reveal why even well-meaning managers and directors who are desirous of addressing exploitation feel constrained in doing so. It also explains, from practitioners' perspectives, what is required in order to bring about a transformation to reduce unfree labour.

Highly Skilled STEM Migrants as Boundary-Spanners in the Global Organization

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In the globalized economy, the role of highly skilled migrants (HSMs) in occupying hard-to-fill positions for enhancing organizational performance is well-recognized (Bound et al. 2017). However, less attention is paid to the impact of organizational norms on the transformative potential of these individuals. Despite HSM's capacity for driving change and technological progress (Parey et al. 2017), companies often perceive them as functional components, akin to 'cogs in a machine' (Peixoto 2001) or position them within limiting pre-constructed identity profiles (Wu 2021). This paper argues that STEM migrants act as agents of connection and change, both within and outside the organization, such as enhancing collaboration with external partners and across knowledge domains.

We investigate the perception of newly arrived HSMs regarding their ability to alter organizational norms using their unique skills sets. Employing the concept of 'boundary spanning' that refer to specific individuals' effectiveness in operating across complex inter – and intra-organizational, socio-cultural and geographic boundaries (Schotter et al. 2017) we show how HSMs experience organizational norms as constraints on their agency. The analysis draw on qualitative interviews with 40 skilled STEM migrants recruited for senior positions in seven multinational companies in Denmark about their workplace experiences.

The paper makes a twofold contribution to the understanding of skilled migrant labor. Theoretically, we argue that HSMs offer unique transformative agency that allows for boundary spanning within organizations. Practically, we unveil how organizational norms can inadvertently limit these employees capacity to act as bridges across different work dimensions. Our findings challenge suggest a reevaluation of how organizations engage with the unique capabilities of HSMs, promoting a more inclusive and dynamic environment for change and innovation.

A Complicated Story. Organising Migrant Workers in the Italian Shipbuilding Industry

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In Italy, the shipbuilding sector is relevant in terms of people employed. Fincantieri's one of the larger multinational companies in the sector across the world.

Historically, the sector has been characterised by a strong labour movement. However, starting from the 1990s a production restructuring based on the increasing role of outsourcing involved the sector, weakening the union representativeness, eroding collective bargaining, generating situations of over-exploitation and non-compliance with labour standards. The global competition has acted as a market constraint to reduce labour costs and increase flexibility. Nowadays, hundreds of third-party firms operate within the largest group's shipyards.

Alongside the increased use of outsourcing, the presence of migrant – from Eastern Europe and Bangladesh – labour force has grown. The workforce is segmented on the basis of skills and nationality of origin: Bangladeshi workers often fill the low value-added jobs.

This paper's the result of a research conducted as a part of my PhD. I selected as a case study the company town of Monfalcone, hosting the largest shipyard in Europe. Monfalcone has less than 30.000 inhabitants and the shipyards employs 1600 direct workers and hundreds of subcontracted workers. The percentage of migrants living in Monfalcone is 30%. This has been instrumentalised by the anti-immigrant right-wing.

Following Burawoy's (1998) methodological indications (extended case method), I conducted a study in a paradigmatic context to analyse transformations characterising contemporary workplaces: globalisation, outsourcing/subcontracting, role of labour migration. Through semi-structured interviews, participant observation and archival research, I tried to find out what strategies are adopted by unions to organise migrant workers in this context. I focused on both established and grassroots unions, by adopting the analytical perspective of Power Resource Theory.

Bridled Labour in Delivery Platforms? Irregular Forms of Employment at the Intersection Of Flexible Labour Markets and Segregating Migration Regimes

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Literature has extensively showed how digital platforms and their algorithms create controversial forms of work relationships which undermine labour rights. Although platform economy is a stronghold of migrant labour, the focus of research has mainly remained within the taken for granted worker-citizen framework of the nation-state. To gather a more accurate understanding of platform labour is vital to introduce the question of migration status and the migration regime within which platform delivery operates. Building upon Moulier Boutang analytical contribution, this article explores forms of "bridled labour" in the current configurations of platform economy. Studying the on-location platform sector of food-delivery in Spain, we focus not only on the strictly labour aspects such as contractual arrangements, an issue covered enough by the literature thus far. Innovatively, our study engages with the under-studied intersection of labour legislation with migration legislation. In the process, our study sheds light over the underside of delivery platform labour: its unspoken reliance on non-citizens. This approach builds on emerging literature on migration and platforms, which is further contributing to complexify the realities of platform labour. Methodologically, it combines scientific literature review, desk research analysing labour and migrant regulation and ethnographic fieldwork.

RN17 | T02_03: Trade unions

Trade Unions in Europe: Connected or Isolated?

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Trade Unions have been losing their bargaining power over the last thirty years for two reasons. In all European countries, union density has declined by an average of 10 percentage points during the previous 20 years. In addition, trade unions' engagement in the broader organizational field is weakening due to the declining involvement of their members in other organizations. Unions are becoming weaker and more isolated in negotiating their agenda.

In this paper, I present the results of an analysis of four waves of the European Values Study covering the period 1990-2020 and all countries available. Using simple network analysis, I show how trade unions have gradually become isolated in European countries.

Performing a separate analysis for each country allows me to highlight the differences between Western, Central and Eastern Europe. Especially in the post-socialist countries, membership in trade unions and other organizations was often compulsory before 1990, when the communist regime collapsed. Resistance to official involvement can persist, especially if it is politicized, as in the case of trade unions.

Preliminary results of the analyses show that even 30 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, differences between new and old capitalist countries are evident. The post-socialist context still has its specificities, manifested in particular by lower membership in organizations of all kinds and stronger isolation of these organizations from each other. These results will be discussed using the conceptual framework from organizational and social movements literature and Putnam's organizational social capital point of view.

Varieties of Industrial Action: the Use of Blockades

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In most Western European countries, including Sweden, the number of strikes has declined since the 1980s, giving the appearance of peaceful industrial relations. There are, however, other forms of industrial actions than work stoppages, one such form is blockades. Blockades are the act of interrupting work processes without starting a work stoppage. For instance, workers can refuse to work overtime, they can prevent new hires, and they can perform physical blockades of workplaces ('circulation struggle'). Blockades can be used either as the primary conflict method or as a complement to strikes.

In this paper, we investigate the utilization of blockades by Swedish trade unions from 1980 to 2020. We use unique

data of all announced blockades during this period, explore which unions employ blockades, and analyze whether and how the trends have evolved over time. We expect that working-class unions (LO-affiliated unions) will employ blockades more frequently than the unions representing white-collar workers (TCO-affiliated unions) and academics (Saco-affiliated unions). Existing research on strikes and protests has shown that working-class unions tend to be more inclined toward contentious actions, and we anticipate that blockades will follow this pattern. Furthermore, we expect that public-sector unions will make more frequent use of blockades than private-sector unions. Given the more restricted right to strike in the public sector, we expect these unions to choose alternative, less contentious strategies. Lastly, we expect that export sector unions have increased their utilization of blockades over time. This shift is attributed to the globalization of the economy, the creation of global value chains, and the implementation of just-in-time manufacturing, rendering blockades of overtime work an increasingly efficient means of conflict.

How Have Trade Unions Developed Their Engagement in Training Governance?: Case of Five Nations

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In the context of rapid labour market changes, the role of trade unions in representing workers' interests in skills has become more important. In light of this, this study aimed to investigate how trade unions have engaged in training governance in five countries: Denmark, Germany, and France, which are broadly regarded as coordinated market economies; the United Kingdom and the United States, which are liberal market economies. While the five countries have free market system under a democratic political system in common, they have very different labour market characteristics, union characteristics, and union agenda in terms of skill development of workers. We can also see that each nation falls into certain typology of the union participation in the training governance.

First, we distinguished the type of 'embedded participation', where unions' participation in the training governance takes place within a dense and structural social dialogue between labour market stakeholders. On the other hand, the opposite concept is 'fragmented participation', where trade unions are engaged in fragmented and segmented participation. We also distinguished the type of 'practical participation' when unions are directly involved in the governance of vocational training in a more practical and functional way, beyond the means of social dialogue. On the other hand, the opposite concept is 'perfunctory participation' where the union's involvement in VET is more discursive than practical, focusing on discursive activities and distancing itself from actual VET interventions.

RN17 | T03_01: Trade unions and social change

Employment Relationships in Just Transitions

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People at risk of losing their jobs because of the transition towards a carbon neutral economy are considered 'vulnerable' and 'in need of protection' against the adverse socio-economic affects of said transition. Simultaneously, the need for technically skilled workers turns them into the ones 'to get the job done', as can been seen in Europe's 'Just Transition Mechanism' (JTM). This mechanism was set up under the European Green Deal and aims to ensure the realisation of a 'just transition' across Europe's most carbon-intensive regions. As such, the region of Groot-Rijnmond (NL) – home to the port of Rotterdam –developed a 'Just Transition Programme' to turn European ambitions into reality. That is, regional authorities – together with employers – set-up (re)training and (re)skilling projects for current and future employees. Nevertheless, these projects lack guaranteed employment and concerns are raised on whether promises made in project proposals will be realised in practice, thereby risking a perpetuation of precarity. Furthermore, the actor generally considered most apt in advocating for the interests of labourers, i.e., the labour union, resigned from their involvement in the implementation of the Just Transition programme as a whole.

This is in stark contrast with public debate on the 'just transition' and existing scholarship on the topic, which sprouted from labour movements aiming to protect the livelihoods of factory labourers in the 1980s USA and Canada (Goods, 2013; McCauley & Heffron, 2018; Morena et al., 2019; Rosemberg, 2010; Stevis & Felli, 2015, 2016). Unions and just transition scholars contended that transitions towards a more sustainable society should not negatively affect workers and their communities (Banerjee & Schuitema, 2022). Yet the presented case shows that questions can be raised in regards to the extent to which 'just transition' policies do actually succeed in the 'protection' of those considered to be 'vulnerable' and what we can understand as 'employment' in the just transition in the first place. To shed a light on these questions, this paper builds on over 50 interviews, document analysis and (participant) observations with public officials, employers and (future) employees who contributed to or participate(d) in (re)training projects.

European Trade Unions and Climate Change

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The effects of climate change on the world of work are both undeniable and multifaceted, over the past few decades (European) Trade Unions have openly embraced environmental issues into their broader mandate and have vocally called for a just transition and brought increased attention to the social dimension of energy transitions. While the policy preferences of the labour movement at both local, sectoral, and national levels towards environmental transitions are widely addressed in the literature, the role of the European Trade Union movement has been so far overlooked (Felli, 2014; Räthzel et al., 2021; Thomas and Doerflinger, 2020). The paper analyses how the European trade union movement – particularly the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the European sectoral federations – have embedded environmental concerns within their political priorities and have pushed for just transition measures within the EU policy sphere.

The paper is structured as follows, we first provide an overview of the existing literature, followed by an exploration of the emergence of the key concept of 'just transition' at the global scale, and then analyse the development of the position towards climate change of the European Trade Unions since the early 2000s and finally of sectoral federations.

Dealing With Green Transition Dilemma. Union Strategies In Food Industry In Three Italian Regions

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Within the scientific debate on green transition many studies highlight the risk that innovations implemented by companies may adversely affect work and working conditions, leading to tensions and conflicts. Against this backdrop, the 'just transition' concept is often considered very fruitful to overcome environmental-labour trade-offs. Within this debate, a stream of literature has called for the involvement of trade unions in shaping transitions. Different approaches, strategies, and outcomes have emerged, affected by multiple factors, including employment relations institutions, characteristics of the sectors, union identities, knowledge regimes. Some scholars have also emphasised the differences between national level and regional, local or company-level union action.

Our paper builds on this literature. It focuses on how unions deal with transitions 'on the ground': strategies, limits, tensions, outcomes. The paper draws on the findings of a research carried out within the project Vitality – Innovation, digitalisation and sustainability ecosystem for the widespread economy in central Italy, funded by PNRR. The paper makes two contributions. First it focuses on food industry, a sector of great relevance in many EU countries, but where much less research has been conducted. Secondly, moving from the national level, it concentrates on sub-national level, on three Italian regions (Abruzzo, Toscana and Veneto).

The paper uses a comparative case study approach based on analysis of union data and documents and semi-structured interviews with representatives of the main sectoral unions (at national level and in each region), representative of union research institute and experts. Fieldwork has begun in June 2023.

Varieties of Precarious Work and Labour Exploitation of Migrant Workers in the Nordics

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Nordic welfare states are commonly considered as having comparatively low levels of insecure, uncertain, and unstable employment or precarious work and strong protection against adverse labour market shocks such as sickness and unemployment. However, these protections are enjoyed mainly by permanent residents with access to residence-based welfare-state services. Other groups such as migrant workers with temporary residence permits, posted workers, and irregular migrants encounter many forms of precarity and are subject to various kinds of labour exploitation (Näre & Maury 2024). Moreover, non-standard employment, measured as the prevalence of fixed-term contracts, temporary agency work, marginal part-time work, and solo self-employment are more prevalent in Finland and Sweden than in Norway and Denmark (Rasmussen et al. 2019). Drawing on interviews with experts representing trade unions, researchers, NGOs, police and labour inspection officials in Finland (N=17) and Sweden (N=14) and policy and legislative data, we analyse how migration, welfare and employment regimes produce precarity for migrant workers in Finland and Sweden. Our analysis shows the varieties of precarious work and labour exploitation of migrant workers in these two countries.

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RN17 | T03_02: Technological change and work

Between Coercion and Consent: Insights from Dark Stores into Middle Managers' Roles and Organizational Dynamics in the Age of Algorithmic Management

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While workplace monitoring and assessment through performance metrics are not new, the inception of so-called algorithmic management represents a giant leap forward in this direction. In light of this, some scholars have explicitly or implicitly predicted a future where the role of human low – and middle-level managers will become insignificant compared to that of algorithms. However, other studies have argued that this is a too excessively deterministic take, as in contexts beyond gig work managers remain present in the labor process of organizations despite the deployment of algorithms.

This article aims to understand how algorithmic tools reshape the role of managers and how this, in turn, transforms the dynamics of managerial control in workplaces. Drawing on 51 semi-structured interviews with managers and shop-floor workers from dark stores, our findings show that, notwithstanding the automation of several coordination-related tasks, human management retains a crucial, two-fold role.

On the one hand, middle managers use algorithmic and AI-powered tools to continuously improve workflow efficiency through trial and error, as well in real time as retrospectively. Such fine-grained surveillance exhibits clear traces of direct and technological control, akin to digital Taylorism. Nevertheless, our study also emphasizes in this context the managers remain central. Through mentioned technologies, they enhance 'consent-manufacturing techniques' that keep workers docilly immersed in the labor process in a way that Burawoy already described in the late seventies. Hence, even in the era of algorithmic management, managers and their unautomatable cognitive and emotional skills thus emerge as irreplaceable – even if augmented – "producers of consent".

Beyond 'Technological Unemployment': the controversial Relationship between Human Work and Technology

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The relationship between technology and human work in a context of dematerialized economy is at the origin of contradictory phenomena. On the one hand, the amount of socially necessary human work is greatly reduced. On the other one, most dematerialized professions imply a growing use of cognitive skills. On one side emphasis is placed on the impact of flexibility to work in terms of professional and existential precariousness and new forms of exploitation of 'digital work' in machine learning processes, with the related phenomenon of the 'Great Resignations' by the 'working poors'. On the other hand, forms of profitable cooperation between technology and human work are manifesting themselves in the case of 'cobotics', as well as in the benefits brought by new technologies to work (especially through AI) in terms of productivity, environmental sustainability and improvement of work/life balance.

This paper aims to analyze the multifaceted relationship between technology and human work, focusing on the following topics:

– the personal and social consequences of productive models based on flexibility, both in terms of precariousness of people's professional and existential paths – with particular reference to the condition of young NEETs – and in terms of impact on social cohesion;

– the opportunity of updating traditional concers on 'technological unemployment' and 'crisis of societies based on labor', considering the role of technology also in terms of new forms of exploitation of human labor associated with machine learning processes, as well as new models of fruitful cooperation between technology and human labor itself (cobotics, smart working, etc.).

Occupational Transformations and Wage Inequality: A Comparative Analysis of Six European Countries

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This paper presents a comparative analysis of the role played by occupational changes in recent wage inequality trends in six European countries. In recent years, wage inequality has increased in most developed economies while there has been different occupational dynamics, such as job polarisation, upgrading and downgrading. This work

contributes to a better understanding of how within – and between-occupation differences have influenced wage inequality trends in Europe. The database used is the European Union Structure of Earnings Survey for the period 2002-2018. The variance and Theil decomposition analyses show two patterns in the share of wage inequality explained by between-occupation differentials: while the relative importance of between-occupation trends has grown in Finland and the UK, it has diminished in Spain, France, Poland and Romania. Although between-occupation differentials account for a great share of total wages' variance, changes in the occupational structure (in particular, the patterns of job polarisation and upgrading widely discussed in the literature) have not driven recent wage inequality trends in Europe, with the exception of Finland. Wage inequality, instead, has been mostly driven by changes in wage differentials within occupations. Consequently, we cannot reject the possibility that in certain cases, occupational change may have had an important effect on the evolution of wage inequality. What we can reject is that, in general, occupational dynamics explain recent wage inequality trends. Finally, we found that occupations effectively account for the distribution of wages, yet their explanatory significance markedly declines at the highest wage tiers.

No Turning Back: A Longitudinal Analysis of Remote Work Experiences Among Knowledge Workers in Italy During and After the Pandemic

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This study examines the evolving perspectives of knowledge workers on remote work in Italy from the initial Covid-19 lockdown to the summer of 2023. It is based on a longitudinal qualitative study conducted in Italy during two phases. The transition to remote work following the external shock of the pandemic represented a "vast social experiment" with profound implications for work organization. In particular, this contribution discusses whether and to what extent new forms of remote work management for employees may have influenced the sense of affiliation towards the company. Following Hirschman's (1970) perspective, when faced with deteriorating working conditions, workers have two options: defection or protest. Through a two-phase qualitative study involving 35 initial interviews in 2020 and 20 follow-up interviews in 2023, we demonstrate that, amidst a marked discovery phase of remote work during the initial lockdown, the more recent normalization of hybrid work has revealed new needs among interviewed knowledge workers. The second phase of interviews reveals a normalization of hybrid work routines. In certain cases, not transitioning to hybridization caused workplace conflicts and a crisis of trust, leading some to choose forms of voice (individual and collective requests) and others to choose exit strategies (voluntary resignations for better opportunities in the same sector in terms of salary, less rigidity, more remote work, proximity to home). Findings indicate a changing trade-off perception between salary and job characteristics versus distance, organizational rigidity, and control.

RN17 | T03_03: Populism and work

The Impact of Brexit on European Works Councils

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This paper examines how Brexit affects European Works Councils (EWCs). EWCs provide employees with consultation and information rights in multinational companies (MNCs) operating in the European Union (EU). The decision of the United Kingdom (UK) to leave the EU had implications for EWCs as it concerned two threshold conditions of the EWC legislation namely the existence of sites in at least two European countries with 150 employees and a required total European company size of 1,000 employees. Brexit meant that some MNCs with subsidiaries in the UK no longer met these conditions. The paper uses the lens of institutional theory to examine how EWCs are impacted after the regulatory underpinning changed in the wake of Brexit. We conducted case studies in the UK, France, and Germany, employing problem-centered and semi-structured interviews, along with document analysis using content analysis. This approach revealed four institutional outcomes: stability, innovation, demise, and extinction. In a significant number of cases, EWCs managed to negotiate follow-up agreements that allowed continuity in the functioning of the institutions. In other cases, Brexit resulted, somewhat counteractively, in the invention of new practices and forms of representation such as the inclusion of countries from non-EU countries. A third outcome was demise, whereby Brexit weakened the functioning and representation of EWCs. Finally, in a minority of cases, EWCs entirely disappeared after Brexit. We identify the key factors and mechanisms that explain the varied institutional outcomes and develop an explanatory argument.

The Making of Populism at the Workplace. Enterprise Organizations as a Site of Political Preference Formation

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The theory of losers of modernization holds those who are "left behind" in processes of socio-economic modernization are prone to mobilization by the populist radical right (Betz 1994). A large empirical literature has put this claim in question, showing that not the poor, but individuals with stable jobs and incomes are more likely to support the far right (e.g. Antonucci et al. 2017; Kurer 2018). This literature conceives of socioeconomic grievances either in terms of monetary income or of labor market risks.

This article leverages biographical interviews with 150 German and Austrian citizens, most of them blue-collar workers, to show that however, not only labor markets, but also workplaces have changed during modernization processes of the recent decades. People with stable jobs in pressured sectors can face manifest grievances everyday at work, namely, in management-employee relations within the enterprise. Where such situations persist and do not seem resolvable, a recurrent pattern among interviewees is the formation of a resentful identity of being particular "hard-working" oneself – combined with blame-shifting on outgroups who are ostensibly "lazy" and "do not want to work", what resonates plainly with narratives propagated by the populist radical right.

I test the external validity of this claim with ISSP 2015 data for 18 advanced democracies, finding a significant and strong correlation between low subjective quality of workplace relations and voting intentions for the far right, which is barely sensible to income, however partly explains the effect of occupational class on voting intention. These findings highlight the importance to understand specific channels of political feedback to socio-economic change and raise more general interest in the workplace as a site of political preference formation.

Left-wing Populism and De-Dualization: A Comparative Study of the Movimento Cinque Stelle (2018-2021) and Unidas Podemos (2020 – 2023)

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In the 2010s new left-wing populist parties emerged in Southern Europe. Little attention has so far been devoted to the concrete policy measures pursued by left-wing populism in government. Against this background, this paper comparatively investigates the social, labour and income policies implemented by the Movimento Cinque Stelle (M5S) in Italy and Unidas Podemos (UP) in Spain, during Conte (2018-2021) and Sanchez (2020-present) governments, respectively.

Through the analysis of policy documents and secondary sources, I demonstrate that the Movimento Cinque Stelle and Unidas Podemos share a commitment to 'de-dualize' the national labour market and welfare institutions, i.e. extending protection to precarious workers. This shared orientation is manifest in key policies, such as the regulation of temporary work, the substantial raise/introduction of a statutory minimum wage, and the introduction of minimum guaranteed income schemes.

Despite commonalities, I argue that Unidas Podemos has gone far beyond the Movimento Cinque Stelle in de-dualizing the national labour market and the welfare state. I claim that this difference can be traced back to party ideology

and how precarity is framed within it, as Unidas Podemos has a more radical and coherent ideology than the Five Star Movement, as largely discussed in the existing literature. Ideological specificities, also explain why some policies implemented by the M5S are exclusionary towards foreign nationals. This is contrasted with alternative and complementary explanations, such as government composition and the role of the industrial relation system.

From Neoliberalism to Paternalism? Right-wing Unionism in Israel

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Based on fieldwork during 2023-4, the lecture addresses the question of how The National Histadrut, a thus far marginal organization associated with the Israeli right wing, has become a main contributor to the national growth of union density.

The findings reveal that The National Histadrut presents itself as a nationalist, professionalist, and non-socialist labour organization. It does so by organising, on the one hand, security forces and other workplaces connected to the far right. On the other hand, it does so by successfully organizing a few prominent NGOs and business corporations. Thus, it is also attractive to mainstream workers. The National Histadrut leverages two other moves to gain cross-sectoral legitimacy: embracing Israeli soldiers, volunteers and victims of the war with Gaza and also developing welfare services for its members and families, pinpointing its non-conflictual activity over labour disputes.

Right-wing hegemony has been identified with the amalgamation of nationalism with neoliberalism. Yet, the right is not fully committed to market ideology, as it demonstrated, for example, in the rise of Populism during the last decade. The National Histdrut locates itself on almost every spot on the right-wing's map: ultra as well as moderate nationalism, mainstream workers who want a "soft" labour union as well as employers willing to accept organized labour as long as it abandons the idea of class conflict. It represents a paternalist ideology that embraces the collective without undermining social order and expresses solidarity with the nation instead of with class.

RN17 | T03_04: Changing labour market boundaries

The Power of the Powerless: Construction of Self-Employment in Czechia

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This paper examines the construction of self-employment in public policy debates focusing on how political actors define self-employment and the moral implications of these categorizations. Employing critical discourse analysis and social construction of target population, the authors examine verbatim transcripts of parliamentary debates in the Czech parliament between 2021 and 2023. These debates reveal how legislators perceive the value of self-employment as part of the economy. The study explores the moral consequences of categorizing self-employment and the ideological underpinnings of public policy debates. It contributes to understanding precarity in the context of neoliberal work relations. We assert that mobilized moral arguments render aspects of the self-employment experience invisible and thus leave precarity of self-employed unaddressed.

We argue that politicians, operating in their dual capacities as discursive and policy actors, construct moral expectations of self-employment which are used for justification of policy measures. The moral issues of deservingness and control conceal socio-economic aspects of the self-employment experience and foremost the precarity of this work regime. This discursive obfuscation raises a critical issue about the friction between the morally laden depictions of self-employed lives and their precarious reality.

Tensions and Transformations at the Heart of the Medical-Self Work Bargain

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Becoming a doctor involves socialisation into an all-encompassing self-identity: 'the medical self'. This cognitive institution enables doctors to do their job, understand medicine's shared norms and 'rules of self-sacrifice' (Gerada 2021), whilst also legitimising the medical-self work bargain – the work and employment conditions associated with being a doctor. However, the epidemic of psychological distress in medicine, intensified by COVID-19, indicates a deterioration in the legitimacy of this bargain. Using a post-industrial work bargain framework (effort, boundary, employment), we explore the tensions and transformations

at the heart of the medical-self work bargain. The paper draws on qualitative data from the Hospital Doctor Retention & Motivation (HDRM) project spanning pre-, during, and 'post-'COVID-19; including open-ended survey responses (N= 469, 2019), online semi-structured interviews (N= 48, 2020) and a remote ethnography (N= 28, 2021).

Preliminary analysis illustrates a swathe of negative feelings (apathy, guilt, fear, anger, exhaustion) shaping doctors' relationship with work. Doctors experience undervaluing and apathy rather than autonomy [effort], intensified and extensified temporal demands leading to a postponement of non-work-life, exhaustion and unsafety [boundary], and a profound sense of uncertainty regarding career sustainability [employment]. The legitimacy of the work bargain may be weakening as working conditions move beyond the idealised rules and resources of the medical-self – to the extent that the way medical work is organised a threat to doctors' physical, mental and emotional well-being, and therefore a threat to healthcare systems globally. Both conceptually and practically, a re-alignment of the rules and reality of the medical-self is required.

Values at Work: The Spillover of Trust and Social Capital in the Nordic-Baltic Region

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The positive effect of cross-border flows on technologies, innovation and skills has been well documented. In contrast, our study focuses on a rarely acknowledged, yet no less important intangible contribution of international migration to spreading new ideas, values, and attitudes important in the labour market. As the Nordic countries have long been known for their high levels of trust and social capital, we explore how closer integration of the Nordic-Baltic region may spread these values to the Baltic states, and why it matters for productivity and growth. Combining econometric analysis of the European Values Study data with in-depth interviews, we show that those having worked in Nordic countries and Nordic companies may learn new approaches to management, work culture and work organization, learn to trust, discuss disagreements in a democratic way, and defend their rights. Thus, returnees along with Nordic workers and companies have a potential to fundamentally change the labour market dynamics in the Baltic states and elsewhere. Furthermore, we find that to facilitate trust and trustworthiness factors that create insecurities such as such as insufficient education, socio-economic deprivation and childhood poverty need to be addressed.

Transnational Labour Regulation through Global Framework Agreements. Preconditions for a Successful Practice of Implementation

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Signed by company management and global trade union federations, global framework agreements (GFA) are the most important instrument of transnational labour regulation in multinational companies (MNC). After two decades of a rather steady increase in numbers, these agreements today seem to be at the crossroads. The dynamics of growth is slowing, and, at the same time, the practice of implementation is criticized in terms of its effectiveness. Against this background, the presentation discusses what a successful practice of implementation of GFA could look like, what the conditions for a successful practice might be and what can be learned from good practice cases.

The presentation is based on a research project financed by the German Hans-Böckler-Foundation in which 12 cases of GFA and their implementation in MNC from different industries have been analysed. It will be argued that there are three criteria for a successful implementation of GFA: firstly, that the procedural norms in the GFA support a strong practice of implementation; secondly, that they help to increase resources and capabilities of labour to act to influence implementation on the ground; and, thirdly, that in this way real improvements in labour standards and working conditions of workers are produced. A crucial precondition for a successful implementation of GFA has proven to be that global unions and headquarter unions make use of the institutional resources and their own organisational resources to form transnational arenas of action within the MNC and that they develop tight relationships with local trade unions. In some cases, this has triggered a dynamic of transnational institution building of labour regulation moving beyond the limits of the GFA.

RN17 | T04_01: Job quality and work satisfaction

Job Quality in the Age of Polycrisis: the Polish Experience

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Job quality is a multifaceted and relative concept regarding a job-worker relationship, which includes both subjective and objective dimensions (see: Green 2005; Munoz de Bustillo et al. 2011). Despite a myriad of definitions circulating, what they all seem to have in common is the assumption that job quality is related to any such capabilities of work that may either enhance or lessen workers' well-being (see: Smith et al. 2014).

Since 2020, following the arrival of Covid-19, a series of parallel, interconnected crises and various endo – and exogenous shocks (inflation crisis, energy crisis, war in Ukraine and migration/refugee crisis), have emerged, prompting frequent using of the 'polycrisis' (Tooze 2021) label denoting all those (as well as number of minor ones) phenomena en bloc.

There is a substantial body of evidence that polycrisis has been affecting job quality in various sectors of economy (e.g. Eurofound 2023), either directly, such as, for example, in case of pandemic-related changes in work organisation, or indirectly, such as, for instance, in case of inflation eroding real wages, which adds up to work-related stress. In the Polish context job quality (especially in the government-sector) has been significantly impacted by refugee crisis following the outbreak of war in 2022.

The paper follows the dynamics of job quality in Poland on two levels: first, providing the general assesment based on the original data collected in course of the panel survey study (nation-wide representative survey) completed in 2021 (the first wave) and 2023 (the second wave) as a part of the COV-WORK project, and second, more specifically, focusing on selected sectors where essential work is performed using qualitative data gathered in the same project.

Workplace Wellbeing As Depoliticised Labour Reform

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Workers' wellbeing is now an explicit and prominent concern in public and corporate policy. Yet many in critical management studies, industrial relations and sociology greet this trend with scepticism, claiming it is ineffective, instrumental, discriminatory, individualistic and coercive. Synthesising and advancing these critiques, this article articulates the hegemonic function of workplace wellbeing by recognising it as a macro-level process of depoliticised labour reform, beyond its place within managerial regimes. As a policy agenda, ideal strategies of workplace wellbeing advocate sincere management-led attempts to improve workers' experiences of employment, but through strategies that are limited by an avoidance of regulation, contestation and materialist critiques of workplace practices and social inequality. This position emerges inductively from an innovative mixed-methods discourse analysis of the UK government-backed resource hub mentalhealthatwork.org.uk. Analysis reveals five primary strategies – individualism, economisation, voluntarism, anti-stigma and diversity – which can all be understood through a depoliticisation lens, while also recognising the real and ideological effects of improved worker wellbeing. Following the empirical and theoretical account of dominant work wellbeing strategies, this article invites critical performativity and an advancement of the critical position for a route out of analytical paralysis.

A MANSA Scale Study of Job Satisfaction, Social Relationships and Economics in the Lives of Young Adults

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Life satisfaction may help determine overall happiness among young adults. As a demographic highly affected by social, economic and political changes, life satisfaction is a pertinent factor when examining those under 30 years of age since they are most prone to such shifts due to their transitioning through education and entering the labour market. Our research seeks to identify patterns and disparities between life satisfaction in relation to job satisfaction, social relationships and economic well-being among youth to pinpoint potential areas to strengthen life satisfaction among this demographic through targeted strategies. In the research, we employ a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data analysis using Mansa scale responses and qualitative insights through in-depth interviews. The Man-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests are used while a correlation analysis is employed to investigate relationships between variable interrelationships. The sample comprises 1,638 respondents 18 to 30 years of age, drawn from diverse educational, occupational and socioeconomic backgrounds and were recruited through a stratified sampling method to ensure representation across demographic categories. Understanding the intricate relationship between job satisfaction, social connections and economics among young adults holds significant implications for policymakers, educators and employers. Our conclusions may help improve the overall well-being of youth, contributing to the development of strategies that strengthen societal health and cohesion. Furthermore, the findings may serve future longitudinal studies and policy recommendations to foster more supportive environments for young adults in both work and education.

Workers' Satisfaction during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Central and Eastern Europe

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This article analyses the determinants of worker satisfaction in Central and Eastern European countries, focusing on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this purpose, the latest European Social Survey data was utilised in a multilevel framework, covering 5,681 workers from eight countries. The results suggest that both the general stringency of policies aimed at containing the spread of the COVID-19 contagion and the resulting disruptions to individuals' working lives significantly affected the well-being of workers. The worker satisfaction with their jobs was negatively affected mainly through decreases in work income, but the impact on their overall life satisfaction was more complex. While income reductions and workplace relocation negatively impacted life satisfaction, the opportunity and possible necessity to stay home more positively affected the life satisfaction of workers. Nevertheless, the overall stringency of governmental policies related to COVID-19 significantly reduced workers' life satisfaction.

RN17 | T04_02: Work and class

Producing Subjectivities: Social Mobilisation of Labour and Mediations of Gender, Class and Migration

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Engaging the concept of migrant productive subjectivities, we explore the problem of social mobilization of labour, through its differentiation and fragmentation via migration and class and gender mediations, as a process of reproduction of neoliberal social politics in contemporary Europe. Various analytical frameworks have explained these processes. Poststructuralist analyses have focused on the disciplinary power of normative constructions of migrants as 'others' and the biopower of markets to fragment the singular-class character of labour, accompanied by the divisive repertoires of the gender order, producing unique subjectivities. Critical political economy research has analysed migrant/local worker differentiation, including exploitations deriving from the gender order, as part of the global distribution of relative surplus value that forms social structures of accumulation. Marxist feminist scholarship has examined the complexity of the global gendered division of labour through the prism of social reproduction, which has been reshaped by relative changes in the role of states, markets and households in provisioning. We extend this approach drawing on our research on the marketisation of social reproduction across spheres of provisioning (food, housing, care), where globalisation and neoliberalisation have unevenly combined labour markets, contributing to a proliferation of a more exploitable mobile workforce and an articulation of historically distinct forms of productive subjectivities. Our extended case combines in-depth interviews with Polish and Ukrainian workers in the UK, Germany and Poland with secondary data of labour market and policy developments. Examining the gendered lived experiences of transnational migrant workers, we consider the ways in which differentiation and fragmentation are reproduced or challenged and assess how migrant workers' productive subjectivity formation perpetuates Europe's uneven and combined capitalism.

Un)Stratified Surveillance? Class-based Inequalities in Digital Workplace Monitoring

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Introduction

There has been a rapid growth in the use of employee surveillance technology. We examine to what extent digital workplace surveillance may diminish, sustain, or intensify social class-based inequalities.

Research Questions

1. To what extent are there differences across social classes in the extent that they subject to digital and human monitoring in the workplace?

2. To what extent are there differences across social classes in the effects of digital and human monitoring on work-related outcomes?

Theory and Hypotheses

The dominant logic in the social stratification literature dictates that the working class would be disproportionately subject to surveillance. Alternatively, we pose that variation in monitoring across social classes might have decreased with the rise of digital surveillance technologies. Subsequently, we theorize that even if being monitoring is a new reality for all workers, it may have different effects across social classes. We formulate hypotheses on four outcomes related to workplace relations commonly found in surveillance studies: worker well-being, worker voice, trust in colleagues, and anti-organizational behavior.

Data and Methodology

This study the first to use large-scale survey data (N= 3000+) on employee monitoring practices across social classes. Regression models are used to examine class-based differences in monitoring, and its effects. Interaction effects (monitoring X EGP-classes) are estimated to investigate whether monitoring has different outcomes for different classes.

Conclusions

We find stronger class differences regarding digital monitoring vis-à-vis human monitoring. Working class employees are more likely digitally monitored than any other social class. We also find that this has negative consequences for worker wellbeing, interpersonal trust and anti-organizational behavior. We do not find, however, that the adverse monitoring effects are stronger for working class employees.

A Middle-class Disease? Occupational Differences In Overemployment And Unpaid Overtime Among Remote And Non-remote Workers

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This article considers whether recent increased remote working has led to greater over-employment and unpaid overtime. Potential mechanisms for work extensification have been theorised through inducements to additional effort in the 'psychological contract', the effects of new forms of surveillance technology, or the additional duties associated with remote working and digital adoption. Whereas remote working research has focussed primarily on professional and managerial workers the expansion of such practices within other occupational groups such as clerical workers requires further exploration. Using the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) (2008-23), findings suggest that although remote working is linked to greater overemployment, such differences are primarily explained by the occupational composition of remote workers. A 'service' employment relationship within professional and managerial jobs means such occupations have higher levels of overemployment and unpaid overtime generally. In contrast, levels of overemployment and unpaid overtime are lower in occupations where a more transactional 'labour contract' or intermediate employment relationships is expected. Such differences however likely reflect formal and not just 'psychological contract' differences in the employment relationship. A recently growing social class divide in access to remote or hybrid working arrangements is also documented.

RN17 | T04_03: Mobility and outsourcing

'We have to be both Workers and our own Boss!' A Cross-Sector Exploratory Analysis of Work Projectification

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The literature on project work has shown that, from a specific mode of organising work in some economic sectors and professions (e.g. architecture), projects increasingly dominate both organizational frameworks and individual work experiences. Seeking to analyse concrete modes of projectification and their pervasive implications, this paper presents findings from ongoing research on work projectification, focused on four key sectors: the arts; social economy; consultancy and management; and research and development. The paper reports on data produced at a world café, a methodological tool aiming at gathering and putting in debate different perspectives on a specific theme, conducted during the exploratory stage of the research. It involved a diverse and heterogeneous group of stakeholders from those four sectors, along with experts versed in transversal issues related to project work. The content analysis of the world café data informs the discussion of this trend of shifting from jobs into projects and its multiple impacts, such has: the implication for employment relations and labour rights; the repercussions on people's lives, both concerning the boundaries between work and personal life and between worker and (self-)employer; and the effects the intermittency of project funding can have on work activities themselves, on knowledge and expertise, on team work and on resource management.

Resisting Outsourcing: Migrant Workers' Power-Building Strategies in the British Service Sector

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Based on the fundamental assumption that there is a structural antagonism between management and workers, labour process theory (LPT) has been examining processes through which employers organise production to extract maximum value from workers. An important dimension of this scholarship has focused on the response of the latter to these processes. However, until recently, the examination of workers' response has largely centred on workers' misbehaviour and undeclared forms of resistance, with limited coverage of workers' manifest contentious collective practices. This paper focuses on this understudied aspect in labour process theory, with special reference not only to how such collective agency can emerge but also to how it can be made effective. In particular, it considers how workers can build power and induce change in regimes of outsourcing, which are particularly exploitative. Using Schmalz et al.'s (2018) typology of powers as a heuristic device, the paper analytically describes how the outsourced migrant cleaners of British 'indie unions' have channelled their solidarity into collective actions and redressed some of the harshest conditions faced. Drawing on the power resources approach, the paper highlights the importance of no longer assuming the production site as the only crucial arena for precarious workers' power-building practices, as the relative autonomy of the workplace postulated in labour process theory would imply. Rather, this paper suggests extending the analytical gaze outside the workplace to comprise the 'community' and the public sphere where workers' contentious initiatives are also often staged and won.

Outsourcing as Institutionalised Racism: Trade Union Struggles in the Courts and in the Streets

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Our two main contributions in this paper are to: 1) highlight the (racialised) political economy of outsourcing as it operates in the UK – particularly London – and how it has emerged and developed historically towards its increasingly apparent role in constituting capital social relations that are racially segregated and highly unequal, facilitating and perpetuating institutionalised racism and structural disadvantage. 2) We add to the expanding literature on trade unions use of 'legal mobilisation,' using 'strategic litigation' alongside collective action and organising, drawing attention to the simultaneous and overlain nature of legal consciousness. We draw our analysis from a multiple method case-study of the independent trade union, the United Voices of the World's (UVW) campaign against outsourcing, dualistically framed as instances of indirect racial discrimination under The Equality Act (2010) at the same time as a wider social-political struggle more widely against outsourcing as an inherently unjust practice which tends to manifest in institutional racism. Outsourcing allows large organisations to treat encircled groups of workers as 2nd class citizens in the name of 'efficiency.' Specially, our research includes: socio-legal analysis of four legal cases supported by UVW that have addresses outsourcing as indirect discrimination; interviews with the key actors involved in the cases and wider campaigns, including the worker/members who acted as claimants, UVW staff as well as lawyers who acted as external counsel and representatives on the cases; further documentary analysis related to the cases and campaigns.

Lived Caesura And Role Discontinuity In Portuguese International Mobility Assignments.

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Work-related mobility has brought new conditions of action for individuals and organizations, as well as new managerial challenges for in and of organizations. This article analyzes the implications of business expatriations as contemporary global mobility setting, with the empirical support of 24 individual cases observed in the context of five international companies, born or present in Portugal, considered as a semi-peripherical economy. Results suggest that, as a lived experience, being or becoming an expatriate in a company can correspond to a work and life situation permeable to the experience of a sense of contradiction, diffluence and caesura, a circumstance that is associated with inherent objective attributes of an expatriation as contemporary global work arrangement. As research results suggest, this can be linked with short earlier international experience and employee exposure to international work settings, and somewhat aversive mobility-related attitudes, in what concerns job-related resource preservation dynamics. Three expatriate willingness profiles (conformist, protean, disrupted) and six attributes (e.g., permanent temporariness, multiple allegiances, role discontinuity, work-life imbalances, ill-managed return expectations) are described and discussed to this regard, as operators that contribute to differentiate worker agency and mobility subjective experiences.

RN17 | T05_01: Workers' power

Essential Workers in Poland: Unveiling Narratives and Power Dynamics in Industrial Relations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Drawing on the Power Resources Approach in our paper we analyze the potential and utilization of the "essential workers" category as a narrative resource by industrial relations actors in Poland during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic crisis provided trade unions with a discursive opportunity structure to introduce pro-worker narratives. In the Anglo-Saxon word the emphasis was placed on "essential work" and "essential workers", serving as an opportunity to strengthen work identities, mobilize, and gain public support in sectors like healthcare, social care, education, or logistics.

Taking into account the macro and micro-level of the ideational power in industrial relations (Carsten, Ibsen & Schmidt 2022), we scrutinize the narratives of trade unions, employer associations, and the government during the first two years of the pandemic. For this purpose we analyze press discourse, official communication on the social media channels of the IR actors, as well as interviews with unionized and non-unionized workers in sectors deemed essential. We analyze the facilitators and obstacles encountered by the narratives about essentiality in the process of identity rebuilding and mobilization.

We hypothesize that the potential of "essentiality" as a narrative resource was not realized, i.a due to cooptation of this narration by employers and silencing it by the state institutions. However, we point at the still existing resources in the direct narratives of workers.

The paper is part of the projects "COV-WORK: Socio-economic consciousness, work experiences and coping strategies of Poles in the context of the post-pandemic crisis" (no. 2020/37/B/HS6/00479) and "ENDURE: Inequalities, Community Resilience and New Governance Modalities in a Post-Pandemic World" (no. UMO-2021/03/Y/HS6/00167), both funded by the National Science Centre in Poland.

Essential, Yet Overlooked – Tensions and Transformations in Cleaning Work during the height of COVID-19 in Germany

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Since the global crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic cleanliness was redefined and became dramatically important. Understood as free of viruses and therefore 'safe', cleaning became an existential and conscious element of everyday life. In Germany, cleaning work was officially classified as 'essential', meaning e.g., that cleaning-workers could and should be exempt from lockdown measures, but cleaning remained barely visible, hardly recognized, and materially exploited rather than appreciated. Like many other essential fields of (care – and domestic) work, cleaning is a historically 'outsourced', i.e., intersectionally feminized, precarized and socially disregarded field, in which the proportion of migrant workers is extremely high.

Based on first empirical studies of the heterogeneous professional field of cleaning, my paper addresses the perspectives and experiences of cleaning companies, employers and trade unions during the height of the pandemic in Germany. The paper argues that cleaning is much more than (just) eliminating dirt and germs. Cleaning work often has an interpersonal and caring character, which played a major role especially during the peak phase of Covid-19, when cleaning and labor relationships changed (dramatically) for many.

My focus is on questions related to new forms of tensions and conflicts in a crisis that has especially precarized and massively affected the everyday handling of spaces, invisible actors (viruses, air, diseases, traces of other people's touch, breath, etc.) and one's own body and safety.

The article also explores the questions: How did the various actors experience cleaning work during the pandemic? How were the working conditions for cleaning professionals transformed during the pandemic? What further transformation do stakeholders in the cleaning industry see as necessary? And what lessons have been learned for the post-pandemic world?

Shortage of Skilled Nursing Staff in German Hospitals as Resource for Power and for Justification

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The paper deals with complex developments in the field of nursing work in German hospitals. What can be observed here is a case of a dynamic interrelation between welfare policy and industrial relations/action. There has been a shift in the political regulation of nursing work. After decades of economization in the hospital sector, recent years have been marked by various measures aimed at revaluing nursing work by improving working conditions and changing the remuneration system in the hospital sector. These measures have increased the demand for nurses and thus exacerbated the shortage of qualified nursing staff. These developments are at least partly due to the increase in industrial action in hospitals, which is not aimed at better pay but at reducing the workload of nurses (an other staff) and improving the nurse-to-patient ratio. This means that in some workplaces nurses already exercise structural and associational power to shape their working conditions and the new regulation has further strengthened the power resources of nurses, for example by setting minimum staffing levels.

However, despite all these developments, working conditions for ward nurses have not yet improved substantially and across the sector. The question is why? Findings from an ongoing qualitative research project suggest that, in addition to the low level of unionization, the shortage of qualified nursing staff is a crucial but ambivalent factor: while it potentially strengthens nurses' power resources, it also serves as a justification for the reproduction of unsatisfactory working conditions for both employers and employees.

Power Resources and Independent Trade Unionism in Portugal: the Case of the SNQTB (banking Sector)

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One of the frequent debates on the strength (and weakness) of trade unionism within the framework of industrial relations is the debate on "power resources" (Lévesque and Murray, 2010; Schmalz and Dörre, 2013; Lehndorff et al., 2017: Estanque et al, 2020). Such debate is also relevant as it is one of the paths towards the renewal of trade unionism.

This presentation analyses the role of the Sindicato Nacional dos Quadros e Técnicos Bancários (SNQTB), an independent trade union (not affiliated to either of the two main trade union confederations, CGTP and UGT) whose main mission is the support of bank employees with technical or managerial functions. The aim of this research was to find out (through surveys of the union's members and interviews with its leaders) which type of power (structural, associative, institutional and societal) is considered the main priority.

The conclusion is that, in terms of the predominant power resources in the SNQTB and the union revitalisation strategies that have been implemented, the union's main focus is on strengthening its associative power by providing services to members, especially in the area of health. Although the power of trade unions is currently limited at different levels, the SNQTB has managed to overcome these weaknesses with a constant growth in membership, in contrast to the banking sector (which is witnessing a reduction of workers). The other types of power are also analysed.

RN17 | T05_02: Care work

Shaping the Future: Insights From a Longitudinal Study On Women's Career Aspirations During Pregnancy And Postpartum

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This longitudinal study delves into the meanings of work for women during a transitional life stage. While the topics of opting out and opting in have garnered considerable attention, certain aspects of career development after childbirth remain underexplored. Existing literature often dichotomises women into two primary groups, and some theories propose a three-group classification. However, such divisions may be overly simplistic and not universally applicable to all women. The objective of this study is to enhance the understanding of women's career aspirations.To achieve this objective, two waves of individual semi-structured interviews with ten women at two specific time points were conducted: during pregnancy and four to six months postpartum [a third wave of the research – a couple of years postpartum – is underway and by the time of the conference will be 80 per cent completed!]. Although convenience sampling was employed for data collection, the research participants exhibited variation in marital status, educational level, number of children, breastfeeding practices, and other characteristics.The results of the study demonstrate that the meaning of work for the research participants varied both during pregnancy and after childbirth. Additionally, some participants unexpectedly adjusted their career aspirations after becoming mothers. The salience of the new identity as a mother is discussed as a precursor to temporarily stepping back from a career with aspirations to re-enter the labour market later on.

Work, Employment And Industrial Relations In Adult Social Care

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Drawing on empirical data the paper contributes to sociological theory, policy and practice by developing a new framework to examine and understand work, employment and worker voice in the adult social care sector in England.

We contribute to research on the adult social care sector highlighting significant concerns regarding low-pay, precarious contracts, training and progression (e.g., Heery et al., 2020; Rubery et al., 2015). However, much empirical research on the adult social care sector tends to focus on a specific organization or service. This paper adds to existing knowledge by examining the adult social care system more broadly.

Our research question is: How are the work and employment challenges in adult social care experienced by actors across the system?

To address the research question semi-structured interviews were conducted with 76 participants working in the adult social care sector. Additionally, 9 interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders including unions and charities. Respondents were asked about the work, employment and industrial relations challenges in the sector, the implications for different stakeholders and the institutional, economic and social changes required. The empirical data was supplemented with extensive secondary data.

The findings are organized under three themes which adopt a multi-level perspective to contextualise the empirical data. Worker, manager and stakeholder experiences of challenges in the social care sector are linked to individual, organizational and external factors. A framework is developed from the findings which contributes to sociological theory by providing a new perspective on the work, employment and voice issues in the adult social care sector. The analysis also contributes to policy and practice by suggesting how a more sustainable approach could be achieved in adult social care.

Role Conflicts in a Transformed Task Environment. Lessons from Research into Childcare Labour in Germany

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Regarding tensions around work and employment, human services can be seen as a very turbulent field in the 21st century. A case in point internationally is organised childcare, given strong policy commitments to develop a sector which had long been characterised by low public recognition and poor working conditions, in part because of its 'feminisation'. Engaging with the case of Germany, we explore implications of the sector facing a new task environment featuring ever more challenging expectations, among which high-end early education, the inclusive treatment of individual needs (including those of disabled children), and action against inequality and social marginalisation, also by developing co-parenting arrangements with families. Drawing on first findings from a research project started recently (together with colleagues from the Berlin School of Economics and Law), we examine the nature of this reconfiguration with a focus on labour-related role-sets arising from the evolving task environment. The paper is based on both a recent scoping review of studies in that sector and interviews with experts who have an overview over recent developments therein. We theorize about ramifications the above reconfiguration might have on the 'negotiated order' of work roles, also in the light of recent strike movements which, however, have widely concentrated on claims related to material working conditions (wages and staff ratios). The analysis suggests that, in the sector under study, the altered task environment elicits unresolved role conflicts susceptible to impede both loyalty-based employment relations and industrial action sensitive to the above reconfiguration and its problematic implications.

The Organizational Adaptation To Employees Who Combine Their Employment With Informal Care For Older Relatives

Andrin Altherr

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Topic

Demographic change in Europe is leading to an increasing percentage decline in the working-age population and an associated labor shortage. An increase of the employment of older population cohorts and women are means to counteract this development. However, some older employees have specific needs, one of which is the reconciliation of employment and caring for older relatives, which particularly affects women. This study focuses on the adaptation of organizations in Switzerland and Austria to employees who care for older relatives.

Research question

How do organizations adapt to employees who care for older relatives?

Theory

The organizational adaptation perspective is used as a template to follow the organizational five-step process from (1) "scanning" for employees who care for older relatives to (2) "noticing" the phenomenon to (3) its "interpretation". And from the interpretation to (4) "choosing" among the available options to reconcile employment and caring for older relatives to (5) evaluating the approach to employees who care for older relatives (this final step is called "learning").

Method

In the COMBECA research project (2021-2024) a cross-sectional representative company survey is conducted in Switzerland and Austria. A structural equation model is applied to test the research question. In accordance with the organizational adaptation model, it is assumed that scanning is a predictor of noticing, noticing is a predictor of interpretation, interpretation is a predictor of choosing and choosing is a predictor of learning.

Findings

The findings suggest that the organizational adaptation perspective provides a viable model to assess the relevant factors in how organizations adapt to employees who care for older relatives. Organizations with a higher awareness regarding this challenge are more likely to implement concrete measures.

RN17 | T05_03: Work transitions

Buffering Labor Markets and Jobs: a Note on the Competition over Professional Labor Power

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That employers' must compete with each other on labor markets to attract labor power could in principle entail an improvement of employment conditions as workers have the opportunity to deselect less attractive jobs. This paper examines Swedish pharmacy employers' strategies to attract pharmacists and, by that, what competition over – in this case – professional labor power means in practice. Swedish pharmacies are legally required to staff with licensed pharmacists who go through a 3-5 year professional university education, which means these employers in the short run will have to compete over a limited supply of workers. In addition, there is currently a shortage of licensed pharmacists, which makes this competition even more strategically relevant to these employers.

Based on an empirical material consisting of interviews (n=58) with pharmacy managers, recruiters and HR-managers, of observations of the employers' participation in labor market fairs, and of job ads, this paper presents results suggesting a partial decoupling between the labor market as an arena for employers' competition, and actual work conditions. The paper argues that the employers on the one hand attempt to differentiate and come across with unique job offers, but on the other hand do so without altering job content or remuneration. A theoretical implication is that the relation between jobs and labor markets may be rather contingent and that employers 'buffer' competition in labor markets from affecting the organization of work.

Job Searching in the Absence of Social Networks and Qualifications: Trying One's Luck on the Handshake Labour Markets

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The relational component of the job search has been extensively studied, in contrast to the so-called formal methods. In the wake of the seminal distinction between strong and weak ties (Granovetter, 1973, 1974), various studies have analysed the morphology of jobseekers' relational networks. Other have identified variations in the characteristics and effectiveness of relational networks: relational vulnerability of unemployed working-class people (Castel, 1994); specificity of networks in 'ethnic enclaves' (Wilson & Portes, 1980), variation in the respective weight of weak

and strong ties according to social position (Lin, 1982). The role of relational networks in getting a job is emphasised and recognised (Forret, 2018; Van Hoye, 2018).

Despite a few exceptions (Gowan, 2010; Lindsay, 2010) the relational dimension of job search of unskilled and/or long-term unemployed and consequently lack relational support, has been less studied. Based on in-depth biographical interviews, we analyse the ways in which they conduct their job search. We highlight three results: a) these unemployed people give priority to informal approaches after having experienced that formal approaches highlight the holes in their career paths and the weakness of their assets; b) lacking relational networks, they develop direct contacts with employers and thus seek to demonstrate moral or behavioural qualities that are difficult to attest to in writing; c) this job search only gives them access to subordinate positions on sectoral labour markets and traps them in degraded jobs and activities. We conclude by emphasising that they circulate in oral and handshake labour markets.

Critical Aspects of Digitalized Labour Market Research: Infrastructure, Instrumentation, and Parametrization of Job Vancacy Analysis

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Digitalization of labour market dynamics is one of the segments of the technological transformation of labour that are receiving less attention from social scientists. The use of job vacancies as a measure of statistical information about the labour market is not a novelty, but the reorganization resulting from the emergence of online job advertisements raises emerging questions. Preferred job search methods vary depending on qualifications. However, 90s' job portals maintain historical and situational relevance. The state of the art on online vacancy analysis is, notwithstanding, characterized by a strong contrast. While sociological research has favored the use of survey-based datasets, operational research in several engineering and management subareas has promoted (automatized) content analysis of online advertisements. Insofar the former tends to ignore the online job portal landscape, the latter tends to ignore limitations inherent to the national legal systems and to naturalize social categories. In this presentation we seek to overcome these difficulties discussing three critical aspects of digitalized labour market research. Within the scope of the first dimension, infrastructure, we map the aspects of digital transition involved in job vacancy analysis. The examination of the second dimension, instrumentation, focuses on the characterization of a set of labour market information instruments. The third dimension is parameterization and allows us to define the main categories used in this market. The synthesis of these dimensions feeds the definition of a sociologically informed strategy for the design of an online job vacancy analysis plataform and its respective methodology.

Employability And Contemporary Labour Subjectivities: Analysing Evolving Narratives On Unemployment

Clara Acuña Rodríguez

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Theoretical framework: Since the 1990s European labour policies and the epistemic framework of interpretation and intervention on unemployment have experienced a reconfiguration, within the "labour activation" paradigm. This shift has emphasised the psychological and personal aspects of unemployment, influenced by coaching and self-management approaches. Concurrently, the administration of labour activation programmes for unemployed individuals has been decentralised through private entities that depend on external funding.

Research question: This study aims to explore the impact of participation in these programmes on the development of the discourses and labour market insertion trajectories of participants, focusing on primary discursive tensions. Additionally, an analysis will be conducted on the role of outsourced career guidance staff, who promote the activation discourse while dealing with the precarious nature of their positions.

Methodology: The fieldwork involves a range of programme group session observations in selected locations in Spain, according to socio-economic factors. These observations have helped to identify aspects for further exploration through qualitative interviews with career guidance staff and participants vulnerable to unemployment (considering gender and age).

Preliminary findings/conclusions: Previous studies suggest that this intervention model encourages the generation and regulation of subjectivities aligned with market requirements, beyond labour market insertion. Each individual is responsible for their employment inclusion, turning the paradoxes of the intervention model into personal factors and leading to demotivation, and self-blame among participants.

Original contribution and significance: The nature and extent of the impacts of these labour activation programmes have been examined primarily from cost-benefit economic perspectives. There is a need to qualitatively explore the consequences of the underlying psychologisation and disciplinary logic as well as the forms of submission and resistance generated.

In a challenging and uncertain labour context with emerging segregation sources among vulnerable groups, it becomes essential to promote labour market insertion itineraries aligned with their needs and demands. This involves an imperative discussion on the implications of the unequal distribution of duties and responsibilities within the activation paradigm.

Notes: The author has never previously joined the ESA Summer School. Due to ongoing research fieldwork, conclusive analyses are pending.

RN17 | T05_04: Digital and energy transitions

Energy Transition As A Process Of Social Change: Employment, Energy Poverty And Fair Decarbonization

Madalena Duque Santos

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The response to the global climate crisis requires structural change in the current energy production and consumption system, and its planning must integrate the socio-economic conditions of the agents involved in the process, as to ensure a just transition that entails the reconciliation of climate action and social protection.

Throughout the year 2021 Portugal has permanently closed its two coal-fired power plants – in Sines and Abrantes, resulting in the extinction of hundreds of jobs (450 in Sines, representing 8% of its employed population; and 200 in Pego, 3% of the employed population of Abrantes), according to the European Commission (2020). At the same time, there is an increase in the presence of infrastructure to produce energy from renewable sources, in the context of the application of national, European and international policies for the decarbonization of energy production.

This presentation focuses on the analysis of the potential social impacts of energy transition on two interrelated dimensions of the just transition: employment dynamics and energy poverty, in the municipalities of Abrantes and Sines. The methodology to be applied to assess whether there are implications on employment and on energy poverty will also be presented. By understanding this context and key concepts, it will be possible to discuss relevant social outcomes of energy transition in literature review, and the preliminary results.

Opportunity or Constraint? Path Dependency in the Regulation of Work in the Just Transition

Vera Trappmann, Jo Cutter, Felix Schulz

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Considerable commentary has emerged on the positioning of trade unions towards the climate crisis and climate mitigation policies (María-Tomé Gil, 2012; Stevis et al., 2018) with organised labour often seen as caught between more regressive and progressive strategies towards climate change (Thomas and Doerflinger, 2020; Pulignano et al., 2023). Less is known about the union role in emerging forms of labour market institutions that regulate work and support those facing change to existing jobs and skills requirements in the green transition. Drawing on data from a comparative study of the role of organised labour in Just Transition in 13 countries, this paper focuses on three European nations with distinct employment models: Germany, Spain and the UK. The paper outlines the innovations taking place in the creation or re-focusing of labour market institutions taking place under the broad concept of just transition. In Spain, the creation of a Just Transition Institute has overseen the development of sectoral and territorial just transition agreements. In Germany, the policy of short-time working allowances, Kurzarbeitstransformationsgeld, has been adapted to the new challenges within the greening of work. In the UK, the lack of social dialogue or tripartite bargaining mechanisms has led to a variety of forms ad-hoc institution building, including successful lobbying for a more formal Just Transition Commission in Scotland and informal initiatives focused on collective responses in specific sectors such as steel, automotive and housing or at the workplace level. The paper examines how existing national systems of employment regulation have shaped the specific just transition responses, the role of labour movements and the implications for workers in the transition to net zero.

Navigating Autonomy: Unraveling the Dynamics of Remote Work and Digital Technologies in the Post-COVID Era

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This paper investigates the relationship between personal autonomy in terms of the time, place, and performance of work and the use of digital technologies (DT) to work remotely. Drawing from the multidisciplinary project, TIMED (TIMe experience in Europe's Digital age), we investigate post-COVID-19 digital practices in Czechia, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, and the UK, examining their implications for individuals' professional and personal lives. Our findings are based on semi-structured interviews (n=450). From our interviewees' perspectives, the COVID-19 era marked a pivotal moment when remote work, facilitated by DT, experienced a sudden surge. Subsequently, for many positions, this option of working remotely or in a hybrid mode has persisted. Despite the advantages of increased flexibility in choosing when, where, and how to work, we identified various challenges that paradoxically impact workers' autonomy. While remote work using DT has been embraced for improving work-life balance, issues such as constant accessibility, blurred boundaries between work and personal life, and a higher workload (ironically caused by more efficient task accomplishment, such as online meetings instead of in-person meetings) have emerged. Despite the continued appeal of the flexibility remote work offers, particularly for individuals with caregiving responsibilities, it introduces tensions and potential risks of exhaustion, isolation, and a loss of drive. In collaboration with trade unions, a key cooperation partner in the TIMED project, we emphasise the necessity for more effective regulation of remote work enabled by DT and a comprehensive understanding of its

implications within broader sociocultural contexts with a special focus on gender+ inequalities.

Digitalization: Boon or Bane for Fluid Workforce? A perspective from India

Vrinda Viswanath Nair, Diganta Chakrabarthi

RV University, Bengaluru, India

A VUCA business environment accompanied by a rapid revolution in digital technology caused radical changes in organizations' talent management processes. In the post-pandemic business environment (termed by some as BANI – Brittle, Anxious, Non-linear, Incomprehensible), hybrid work models have become a norm. Agility, Adaptability, and Flexibility have become synonyms for the new work regime. In India, the workforce consists of independent workers, freelancers, gigs, and crowd-sourced workers (apart from full time employees) who play a pivotal role in the dynamics and success of the organizations.

The fluid workforce has become an important part of the success stories of organizations in India to meet spikes in demand or respond to crises. AI and Automation have created new roles like drone operators, AI developers, etc, that fluid workers can easily deliver. The new normal of 'remote working' has also changed the perception of how employees want to work without being fixated on a physical space to meet and fulfill their work and other requirements. An emerging nation like India has adopted the novel revolution due to the sheer presence of a technologically savvy young workforce and the widespread usage of smartphones and other gadgets.

In our research, based on surveys and case studies in India, we look at the recent developments in talent management, particularly in the fluid workforce. We critically review the status of crucial workforce issues like workers' rights and recognition, compensation and benefits, skill development and career growth opportunities.

RN17 | T06_01: The inequality of job quality

"Have You Ever Been in Burnout? Maybe, But I Am Not Sure" – Preliminary Results of a Survey on Burnout Among Portuguese Public Servants

Teresa Pinho Ferreira

Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

Burnout, defined as an occupational phenomenon by the World Health Organization (2019), has been studied since the 1970s. Since then, most studies have focused on human care occupations, coming from the psychological field, and adopting a positivist approach, operationalized by psychometric scales to measure occupational burnout.

Although in countries such as Portugal human care jobs are mainly performed in the public sector, studies on burnout in public servants whose work is not dedicated to human care are scarce, and no studies based on a sociological perspective have been found.

In a post-pandemic work scenario, where changes have shed light on work-related suffering, it is crucial to find multilevel and interdisciplinary knowledge on occupational burnout, especially in the broad field of public servants.

In order to fill these gaps, the online survey "Burnout among central government employees" was designed and conducted, targeting civil servants working in central public administration services in Portugal. Inspired by the framework of strategic analysis and adopting a descriptive statistical approach, this paper provides an organizational profile based on: 1) individual experience of occupational burnout and 2) main causes of occupational burnout in public administration.

The survey was carried out between February and October 2023 in three public organizations from different areas of government and it gathered 214 employees.

Of the 199 participants who had heard of burnout, 59 said they had experienced it (in the past or in the present) and 50 participants indicated the answer "maybe, but I am not sure".

The primary causes for occupational burnout at public administration organizations picked out by the survey were: 1) "daily work based on the need to respond to urgent and one-off requests"; 2)"leadership profile and behavior"; 3) "the system of performance evaluation"; 4) "competitiveness and hostile behavior between colleagues/superiors"; 5) "use of spare time to respond to work demands", and 6) "intimidation/bullying".

The results highlight the importance of understanding how this social phenomenon is shaped by the work organization model that frames public administration organizations in terms of working conditions and relationships, but also work-life balance and work organization.

Moonlighting: Understanding The Quality And Consequences Of Working Multiple Jobs

Wieteke Séphier Conen

University of Amsterdam

The contribution will present the ERC Starting Grant 2023 research project MOONLIGHT (Moonlighting: Understanding the quality and consequences of working multiple jobs). The project is a transdisciplinary and multi-method study of the quality of work and wellbeing of contemporary multiple jobholders. Working in the new economy is increasingly of a flexible and fragmented nature. Moonlighters, or multiple jobholders [MJHs], can be considered emblematic of how work fragmentation and combinations affect the quality of work and total worker wellbeing. MOONLIGHT will research the quality of work in first, second and other jobs and how this translates into total worker wellbeing. I introduce this concept of 'total worker wellbeing' to refer to the complex interdependencies and co-existence of features. This is both conceptually and empirically ground-breaking, as conceptual research and the development of comprehensive scales on wellbeing at work is still in its infancy and its inclusion enables researchers to make meaningful comparisons between groups of workers – both single and multiple jobholders. MOONLIGHT will study the quality and wellbeing of MJHs through comparative research in seven advanced economies: Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In the presentation the literature review and analysis of international surveys on concepts and indicators of quality of work and wellbeing at work will be discussed.

The Distribution of Job Quality Within a Liberal Employment Regime: The Case of Ireland

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A great deal of international research on job quality is concerned with measuring and identifying inter-country variation (Davoine, 2008). There is also considerable research examining whether the distribution of high or low quality jobs is explained by countries' institutional and employment regimes (Gallie, 2007; Holman, 2013). While there is much to commend this research, the level and focus of its analysis tends to depreciate the variation in job quality within countries and the variable manner in which different job attributes combine to create discrete job types.

We address this weakness by examining whether distinct job types are identifiable within one particular liberal employment regime country, that of Ireland. After reviewing the evidence, we then problematise the usual manner in which Ireland's labour market and workers' job quality is typified in international comparative research.

The data used in this study are derived from the Working in Ireland Survey, 2021.

We identify five job type clusters. They are (their distribution in the labour market is indicated in parentheses):

1. demanding, highly controlled, precarious jobs (14.9%);

2. precarious, low-paid jobs (12.1%);

3. secure, moderately good, unionised jobs (26.3%);

4. secure, moderately good, jobs with strong employee-management relations

(25.7%);

5. secure, high-quality jobs (21%).

The paper's empirical analysis is complete but its placing in its theoretical frame needs further development and refinement. It is at this point work in progress.

Job Quality in Portugal: The Importance of Collective Interest Representation and Voice

Dora Fonseca, Pedro Estevão, Ana Ferreira Teixeira, Jorge Caleiras, Diogo Silva Cunha, Filipe Lamelas

CoLABOR, Portugal

The collective dimension of labour relations occupies a prominent place in Industrial Relations. Over the last few decades, a vast set of transformations, such as the advancement of new technologies and digitalization or the emergence of new corporate/management strategies, have boosted logics of individualization of labour relations and decollectivisation.

Collective organisation and representation of workers and the institutionalisation of their action are crucial aspects and influence variations in job quality (Gallie, 2013; Gevaert et al., 2018). Attention has been drawn to the existence of a significant relationship between the centralization of the collective bargaining system, coverage rate of collective agreements and union density and a series of job quality indicators, highlighting the importance of social dialogue, but also to the importance of the (direct) participation of workers, particularly in the workplace. Representation and collective bargaining are taken as central dimensions (ILO, 2015; Piasna, 2023; Gallie, 2013; Gevaert et al., 2018).

Starting from the idea emphasized in the literature that collective interest representation and voice – which includes employee consultation, trade union representation, employee involvement in decision-making and collective bargaining – is a determinant of job quality, both from the perspective of workers and employers, it is intended to characterize Portugal regarding this dimension of job quality. Statistical indicators as well as qualitative data will be mobilized for that effect. In addition, an account of the evolution of the Portuguese reality in that field will be presented and its implications discussed.

RN17 | T06_02: Work in logistics

The Re-Regulation Of Gig Work In Logistics: Labour Shortages, The Role of Unions And Workers Experiences Of Hybrid Statuses In An English Warehouse

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This paper draws from a workplace-based case study of a major warehousing and delivery company in the UK exploring the trade union role in the regulation of gig work amongst self-employed couriers. The evolution of the sector has been notable for the move towards less regulated work, typically through forms of self-employment in delivery and courier services (Rolf et al., 2022). Studies exploring workers' ability to counter work intensity and precarity generally conclude this to be a hostile terrain for union organising set in the context of deep transformation using algorithmic control and lean management principles (Mrozowicki and Pilch, 2021; Gautié et al., 2021)

In this case study, a union agreement with one of the UK's leading warehousing and delivery companies that offers self-employed workers an option to transfer to self-employed 'limb b' status is a rare example of the re-regulation of courier work. Set within a larger ongoing research study across four low-paid 'migrant-rich' sectors facing labour market shocks in the post-Brexit and post-pandemic era (Alberti et al 2021) this paper examines the conditions that led to the agreement, the ways in which workers experience and engage with the hybrid option and the motives and outcomes for the union in engaging in this form of the re-regulation of gig work. Qualitative data from the in-depth workplace case are complemented by analysis of data from an original survey of UK warehousing employers and stakeholder interviews. The paper develops an argument about union role in the stabilising warehousing work and examines the tensions this creates for union organisation.

Inter-union Conflict in the Logistic Sector: Outcomes for Unions and Workers

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The area of workers' mobilization and representation is currently populated by multiple actors such as not profit organizations or grassroot unionism adding to established unions. Relationships between different actors have been especially studied within Anglo-Saxon countries where alliances have been observed. We follow recent research concerning Western European countries to investigate the case of Italy and the relationships between established unions and grassroot unions. The latter have particularly developed in sectors where employment conditions are poor. Theoretically, we engage systematically with the social movement literature considering the concept of frame bridging, frame contestation and the political opportunity structure. We also investigate if collaborative or conflict-based relationships yield positive outcomes for unions (i.e. membership expansion across firms) and workers (i.e. employment conditions improvements). We focused on the logistic sectors Bologna area in Italy, one of the most important logistic hubs in Europe. Si Cobas, a grassroot unions, resulted prevalent followed by the established unions Filt-Cgil. Local union officers were asked to indicate firms they considered representative of their activities and to differentiate them on the grounds of gender, size (large and medium) and prevalence of each type of union. We interviewed 38 people among union officers and shops stewards. Our results show a situation of fierce frame contestation between Si Cobas and Filt-Cgil. At the same time, an involuntary division of labour emerges from unions limiting their expansion, while workers are successfully defended by one of the two unions according to the political opportunity structure of business models.

Content Creators And Logistics Workers: The Algorithmic Instability Of Labour

Arianna Petrosino, Camilla Volpe

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The literature emphasizes the ongoing psychological pressure on young adults due to global neoliberalism, leading them to internalize guilt for their perceived incapacity in an unjust system. Despite developing coping mechanisms, this generation accepts precarity as inevitable, hindering structural change efforts.

In this contribution, we intend to examine the inextricable link between precarity and algorithms. We will explore some crucial aspects of how automation affects work, such as the reshaping of the employee-employer relationship and the redefinition of the nature of labour itself.

We aim to observe these dynamics in action by examining two different case studies. Firstly, we will analyse the world of platform workers, specifically content creators in the second-hand economy. Secondly, we will investigate the relationship between algorithms and control by studying warehouse workers in a multinational e-commerce firm. We will draw on semi-structured interviews and ethnographic (traditional and digital) observation.

The interconnection between precarity and algorithms that we expect our case studies to confirm is one element that

highlights that the impact of automation on work is more widespread and broader than we expect. Firstly, we expect precarity to arise as a fundamental structural requirement for the use and operation of algorithms, creating the ideal conditions for their implementation. Secondly, it should be emphasised that precarity is not only a condition related to employment but also extends its influence on an individual's entire life, permeating it with dynamics of control, self-management, competitiveness, and insecurity.

RN17 | T06_03: Regulation of platform work

Platform Cooperativism In The Food Delivery Sector. The Case Of Coopcycle

David Pac Salas, Jaime Minguijón Pablo, José David Moral Martín

Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

The term platform cooperativism was coined by Scholz (2016), who sought to describe business initiatives with a social focus, different from platform capitalism. The aim of the paper is to present the results of a research carried out from a distributive perspective through a survey of the cooperatives associated with CoopCycle. CoopCycle is a federation of local cooperatives operating in 12 countries with 72 bicycle food delivery cooperatives that have a cooperative project and wish to work with social and ecological enterprises. To do so, we propose to operationalise the concept of 'creative resistance'. Specifically, we define 'creative resistance' as an opposition, whether collective or individual, to the market system that, in addition, is characterised by the search for social transformations through innovative and sustainable strategies within the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) (Moral-Martín, Pac and Minguijón, 2023). To carry out this process we have considered three basic dimensions of creative resistance: the governance of cooperatives, democratic algorithmic management, and working conditions and labour relations.

Protecting Platform Workers In Europe: What Can We Learn From The Differences Between Southern And Northern Countries?

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This paper seeks to explore how different European countries within the European Union have been tackling the challenge of granting social protection to platform workers.

Our contribution is threefold: to identify the barriers faced by platform workers in accessing social protection; to look at how different European countries have been protecting freelancers and self-employed, as this may suggest possible ways of extending social protection to platform workers; and, to provide evidence on what has been working and what needs to be improved, by analyzing the differences/similarities in the legislation on platform work in the few countries which have adopted it.

Document analysis will be used to compare the barriers to social protection faced by platform workers in countries

with different levels of generosity in their welfare state models and statutory employment laws. To do so we will create two clusters of analysis composed of southern and Scandinavian welfare states.

The mapping exercise of the measures taken to provide fair working conditions for all types of work and the subsequent analysis, by helping us to grasp the different level of compliance with EU guidelines between the countries, will help us to identify which welfare model has been most successful in protecting platform workers from precariousness and social exclusion. Analysis of the legislative acts and welfare reforms adopted following the creation of the EPSR action plan will make possible to compare the performance of the two welfare models, at a particularly crucial time when Europe is seeking to strengthen its social dimension.

Risks, Occupational Diseases and Possibility of Legal Regulations for Platform-Based Delivery Workers in Turkiye

İsa Demir

Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University, Turkiye

There are important debates on couriers' working conditions and occupational diseases in social science. In the last three years, at least 136 motor couriers have lost their lives due to work accidents in Turkiye. The number of couriers who are unable to work due to injuries and emerging occupational diseases is unknown both in Turkiye and Europe. Motor couriers are classified as self-employed and isolated from legal protections. This job is not categorized as dangerous work, despite being open to all kinds of risks. Having a motorcycle is considered sufficient to do this work, and there is no definition of occupational disease for couriers. Interviews with 20 couriers show that sitting on the motorcycle for long periods, being exposed to the wind, to extreme heat due to helmet use in summer and to the effect of extreme cold in winter, being deprived of breaks and rest areas, and working by straining the joint areas are situations that indicate possible diseases specific to this profession. Despite all these facts, the high-profit expectation of delivery platforms, being a new profession, including the young workforce, and the lack of unionization and organization are the main reasons for the lack of regulation. However, in many regions, there have been protests and movements by delivery workers. This study aims to reveal the new areas of tension created by delivery platforms, to open up a discussion on secure and healthy work arrangements, and to address the possibilities of transformation in working life. This is because the reduction of tensions, the creation of an environment of trust, and the possibility of transformation cannot be understood independently from the field of industrial relations.

The Future of Social Dialogue in the Platform Economy: The Case of Slovenia

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2Peace Institute, Slovenia

This paper presents results from the research project "The future of social dialogue in the platform economy: The case of Slovenia", funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency. Slovenia's political system has a long tradition of strong labour regulation with trade unions representing the core of workers' rights movements. The global digital platform economy brings important challenges to this labour system at the global periphery.

Through co-participatory research in partnership with The Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia we examine how platform management practices, strategies and actions of workers and government regulation of mostly precarious non-standard forms of employment interact to shape pay and working conditions, enable control of the work processes and influence the bargaining position of platform workers. Focusing on delivery workers of Wolt and Glovo, we collected data with discourse analysis of platform website and public statements, interviews with the platform workers and their union (set up in 2023), and analysis of national regulation. Inspired by the systems thinking approach, the data was used to build a system dynamics (SD) model aimed at providing insight into the platform labour market dynamics in Slovenia and causal relationships between the stakeholders. System dynamics is the methodological aspect of systems theory, allowing us to model and study the dynamic behavior of complex systems. A causal diagram was drawn up to identify the variables, their mutual influences, and recognize causal loops, then the relationships between variables were formalized and statistical data were used to construct the SD model.

RN17 | T06_04: The segmentation of work in the platform economy

This joint session looks at the segmentation of platform work, combining research on specific categories of platform workers such as temporary migrants and domestic workers, and at specific cases of regulation and mobilisation

Visa Categories in Platform Labour: The Working Holiday Visas fuelling Berlin's Gig Economy

Barbara Orth

Free University of Berlin, Germany

As studies from across the world have highlighted, gig work is predominantly carried out by migrants and racialised workers (ILO, 2021; Piasna et al. 2022). Yet, although migrants are overrepresented in place-based platform work, very few studies systematically incorporate the role of visa and immigration regimes in their analyses of platform labour. Yet, visa categories and legal statuses not only have a profound long-term impact on migrants' lives and work trajectories, they also segment and shape labour markets. To address this research gap, this study takes one visa category, the so called 'Working Holiday Visa' (WHV), as a starting point to answer the following research question: how do migrants experience the nexus between visa-related temporariness and the transient nature of platform work?

For its theoretical framework, it draws on the literature of place-based platform work and the concept of 'middling migration' (Conradson and Latham, 2005). It employed multi-sited ethnography to trace the trajectories of prospective migrants from their pre-departure plans in Chile to the realities of 'making ends meet' once they arrive in Germany and take on platform jobs. The biographically focused interviews shed light on the process of 'becoming' a platform worker, and highlights the importance of diaspora networks, without which most of the research participants would not have engaged in platform work. The preliminary findings suggest that the temporariness of the visa is what makes platform work bearable for the migrant workers despite the precarity of the working conditions.

This paper contributes a closer look at the role of government regulations, and specifically of visas in the functioning of the platform economy. Rather than assuming all migrant workers are by definition marginalized and disempowered vis-a-vis platforms, the study understands them as 'middling migrants'. By researching platform workers who fall into middling migration categories the paper contributes empirical evidence leading to a more nuanced understanding of what being a migrant platform worker means.

I have never attended an ESA conference or Phd Summer School.

Negotiating Agency in Domestic Platform Work in Turkey and Russia

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While platform work attracts a lot of attention in terms of delivery and ride-hailing works, domestic work offered through platforms is an under-studied sub-field, although with a recently rising scholarly interest due to personal nature of domestic work, implications for gender issues, as well as to invisibility and informality of workers inherent in all kinds of domestic work. The article is based on the implications of platform-based domestic work on labour control, where due to the personal nature of domestic work, the role of clients are significantly increased in the control of workers, at the expense of algorithmic control features present in other forms of platform work. In domestic platform work, despite being present and dominant in matching, evaluation or arbitration phases of intermediation, platforms are missing in the work phase, due to difficulties in the algorithmic control of such work. We studied the interplay of worker and client agencies and the resulting negotiations in the absence of algorithmic platform control. We relied on qualitative data gathered from workers in home repair work platforms in Turkey and Russia. We found that platforms aim to control worker behavior by ensuring client superiority through various platform mechanisms. How workers respond to such control is dependent on country contexts and platforms designs. In such, the study is a contribution to the understanding of varieties of platformization under different forms of work and in comparative national contexts

The Flexible Platform Firm – Segmentation of Working Time in the Gig Economy

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The re-organisation of work via digital labour platforms has introduced fully flexible work schedules in courier services such as food delivery. However, little is known about the working activity and related inequalities evolving on such platforms. This article examines the working time patterns of food couriers (N = 20,090), supplemented by demographic characteristics, on a leading Danish platform over six years (2017-2022). The article combines a longitudinal research design with the segmented labour market approach (SLM). It identifies three segments of platform workers: Dabblers (part-time and few hours over a few months), Temporaries (part-time over several months) and Regulars (long part-time and full-time for around a year). The discussion suggests that the platform's core workers (Regulars) relate to

labour market outsiders with few job opportunities,while the periphery workers (Dabblers) instead are labour market insiders with better job opportunities. This suggests a reverse dynamic within the workforce composition on these platforms compared to Atkinson's (1987) conceptualisation of the flexible firm.

There's More to Struggle. IR Dynamics in the Platform Economy: The Case of Poland

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This presentation examines the role of workers' and employers' power resources and the impact of the infrastructural power (Mann 1984) of GAFAM (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft) on the industrial relations (IR) landscape, with a particular focus on the case of Poland. The expansion of the platform business model challenges traditional IR: worker and employer are being redefined, traditional forms of employees' organising are changing. Traditional employers, struggling with the consequences of the influx of global capital, are seeking new avenues for business lobbying, and institutions are seeking new legislative solutions. In the paper, platformisation in Poland is analysed through the lens of theoretical debates on 'patchwork capitalism' (Gardawski, Rapacki 2021) and 'dependent market economy.' It is hypothesized that it adds to the heterogeneity of the institutional order and undermines the power of organised labour and domestic employers by magnifying the structural dependency of economy on foreign direct investments. Drawing from expert interviews with the IR actors supplemented by a variety of secondary sources, we analyse the strategies of different actors and the nuanced interaction that facilitates the entry and expansion of global actors, especially Big Tech, in Poland. Next, we present a case study of Amazon in Poland which has been an arena of diverse labour protests for years. Based on interviews with workers, managers and public administration, we explore the impact of the Amazon model of platformisation on conflicts between capital and labour and the transformation of interest representation. In conclusions, the contradictory implications of platformisation for the Polish variant of DME are discussed, including the emergence of new radical trade unions, new employer organisations and challenges for the established ones.

RN17 | T07_01: Employability

Strength and Activation of Job Relevant Social Networks among Persons with Mobility Disabilities

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The strength of social networks that may potentially assist persons with disabilities find a job is an underexplored field within sociology. This paper aims at shedding light over this topic based on a survey targeting a representative sample of the Danish population (N=5835), with an oversampling of persons with mobility disabilities. We find that persons with major mobility disabilities have fewer job relevant social contacts, especially among friends and acquaintances, compared to persons without disabilities. We also find that among persons with mobility disabilities, subjective health correlates positively with network size. Finally, we find that persons with minor mobility disabilities are more reluctant to reach out for help seeking to find a job from their networks ties. These results underscore the difficult situation of persons with mobility disabilities concerning access to employment relevant network resources and concerning activating these resources.

Rise of Remote Work Across Borders: Opportunities and Implications for Migrant-Sending Countries

Inese Supule

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Contact restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic have contributed to the rapid expansion of remote work. With the rise of remote work, new opportunities arise for the typical migrant-sending countries in Central and Eastern Europe to both i) remotely involve their diaspora in their labour market, and ii) to promote return migration, as more returnees have an opportunity to keep their employment abroad. The aim of this paper is, by using the case study of Latvia, to show the potential of cross-border remote work for alleviating human capital losses caused by emigration. The author evaluates the main obstacles and necessary adjustments in taxes, social benefits, labour market regulation and other areas to facilitate the labour market transition and show what incentives the country can use to become a place of choice for performing remote work for the diaspora and return migrants. Combining the perspectives of employers, employees, and the government, this study sheds new light on the challenges and opportunities related to the rise of remote work for countries suffering from emigration. The comprehensive analysis builds on triangulating

secondary data, analysis of policy documents, a survey of employers, as well as a survey and in-depth interviews with cross-border remote workers.

The paper in prepared in the project "Cutting-edge knowledge and solutions to study demographic and migration processes for the development of Latvian and European society" (VPP-LETONIKA-2021/4-0002).

Quitting The System: A Critical Investigation Of Quiet Quitting

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Quiet quitting has become widely known and researched since the Covid-19 pandemic. The phenomenon implies that employees only do the "required minimum" at work, not more than the contractual agreement (Lee et al., 2023). This trend goes seemingly against the tendencies of neoliberal societies, where the traditional boundaries of work and life have been increasingly blurred since the widespread accessibility of the internet (Voswinkel & Kocyba, 2005). Working from home changed the dynamics of work-life balance and brought new challenges to white-collar workers.

This research investigates quiet quitting from the perspective of the employees, and deals with it as a possible response to the advancement of neoliberal capitalism. In contrast to the mainstream approach of considering quiet quitting as a management issue (Johnson, 2023), this study argues that it is systemic and cannot be dealt with on the level of individual workplaces.

The novelty of our research is the qualitative investigation of quiet quitting, that gives place to the subjective interpretation of employees, providing an in-depth insight into the issue. The standpoint of quiet quitters will be highlighted through semi-structured interviews, connecting their feelings to the critical literature on neoliberalism, and the notion of alienation (Han, 2015; Honneth & Ash, 1982). The results suggest that employees at a workplace where the overall satisfaction with management is high, still quiet quit and disengage, as a result of their perceived meaninglessness of the job.

Take a Step Back to Make Two Forwards – Suplementig Labour Process Theory with Rental Theory of Ownership

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The relationship between labour process theory (LPT) and Marxist Political Economy has always been ambivalent. The theoretical school, originating from groundbreaking work of marxian scholar Harry Braverman obviously frequently draws inspiration from Marxism. However, as Rowlinson and Hassard (2000) argue Braverman's work was influenced mostly by Baran and Sweezy's Monopoly Capital which deviated from Marx's political economics by replacing the analysis based on the theory of value with the concept of economic surplus. Rowlinson and Hassard (2000) demonstrate that the emergence of LPT has resulted in significant disputes with Marxism, particularly regarding the differentiation between labour power and the labour process.

The presentation will aim to assert that the Labour Process Theory should reconsider its connection to Marxism. It does not imply a direct adoption of revolutionary Marxism as outlined by Rowlinson and Hassard (2000), but rather a notion that can strengthen certain overlooked elements of the LPT. Specifically, we are discussing a shift away from analysing ownership, which is significant in the theory of exploitation but less significant in terms of power relations. Conversely, in Marx's original writings, power relations are explained by ownership relations, rather than the reverse. Regardless, the implementation of the rental theory of ownership, as proposed by Polish sociologists Stanisław Kozyr-Kowalski and Jacek Tittenbrun, can greatly benefit LPT.

The presentation will aim to identify the specific areas where the rental theory of ownership can enhance the analysis within the framework of the LPT, with a specific focus on the challenges related to the ownership of labour power and the class positioning of managers (and consequently, the differentiation between ownership and control).

RN17 | T07_02: The nature of employment relations

Employment Relations Effects on Socio-Politically Regressive Beliefs: Cross-National Empirical Evidence from Europe

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While it is well-known that spillovers occur between workplace employment relations practices and wider civic society, examinations of these spillovers focus largely on individual and collective voice consequences for politically neutral civic participation acts like voting and signing petitions. The spillover from employment relations to other types of wider socio-political beliefs and attitudes is less established. Drawing from social capital theory, social identity theory/self-categorization, and the contact hypothesis, we theorize that positive employment relations (employee autonomy, voice, teamwork, collaboration, and support) may increase trust in others, norm compliance, and reciprocity. This is theorized to reduce individual-level socio-politically regressive beliefs, which we measure through conspiratorial thinking, climate change denial, support for authoritarianism, opposition to redistribution, and support for xenophobic and anti-LGBT policies. Using empirical ESS data from 31 European countries in 2020-2021 (Round 10), we find various spillovers between employment relations and socio-politically regressive beliefs. The effects hold after conditioning on numerous potential confounders, including the individual's own political ideology. Our findings have implications for the wider social and political consequences of workplace employment relations and suggest broadly that positive employment relations may help curb the development of socio-politically regressive beliefs.

Trustful Relationships in Local Employment Relationships

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Trust is a crucial component of effective local employment relations within firms. Research indicates that trustful relationships between employers/employer representatives, like managers and HR-professionals, and employee representatives, like trade unions, are essential for the functioning, efficacy, and performance of different institutions, organizations, and firms. However, less is known about the importance of personal relationships in building and maintaining trustful interactions and the dimensions of trust that exist in these relationships. Sweden is used as a case based on the long tradition of the "Swedish model" and the recent changes in this model and for its reliance on trust for negotiations.

This research aims to address these questions through qualitative interviews with managers, HR professionals, and trade union representatives from nine organizations in the metal, finance, and transport sectors. The interviews focus on how these groups collaborate and negotiate on issues concerning digitalization, the uptake of new technologies, skills and training, and work environment and occupational health and safety.

This paper presents the first analysis of trustful relationships between HR/managers and trade union representatives and deals with tensions in employment relations for the benefit of the firm or the employees.

Transformations and Challenges in Work and Employment Relations among Delivery Workers in Post-Pandemic Turkey

Akın Bakioğlu

Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University, Turkiye

This paper examines the transformations and challenges in work and employment relations among delivery workers, particularly motor couriers, in post-pandemic Turkey. Focusing on the period from March 2020 to the present, it investigates the evolving processes of labor commodification, working conditions, and the emergence of new organizational models among delivery workers who collaborate with platforms. The study draws on a diverse range of data sources, including newspaper articles, reports, and social media postings, to provide a comprehensive analysis of these dynamics.

By exploring the dynamics of work and employment relations, including strikes, labor actions, and worker demands, this research offers valuable insights into the post-pandemic labor landscape for delivery workers. The study highlights the impact of pandemic-induced changes in work models, disruptions in production, and shifts in consumer behavior on delivery workers' experiences. Through the analysis of diverse data sources, this paper contributes to a nuanced understanding of the experiences and transformations of delivery workers in post-pandemic Turkey. It acknowledges the multifaceted nature of their work, considering factors such as labor commodification, employment instability, and the impact of platform-based work arrangements. The findings underscore the importance of recognizing and engaging with the specific challenges faced by delivery workers and the necessity of creating supportive frameworks that safeguard their rights and well-being.

In conclusion, this research provides valuable insights into the transformations and challenges experienced by delivery workers, in post-pandemic Turkey. By examining the dynamics of work and employment relations, including strikes, labor actions, and organizational models, and drawing on empirical research, news reports, and social media postings, the study offers a comprehensive understanding

of the evolving labor landscape in the context of platform-based work.

How Much Sociology is in Industrial Relations and Labour Research?

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Researchers in the field of industrial relations and labour have often discussed the nature, characteristics, size and boundaries of their discipline. Many of these discussions concluded that disciplinary openness is usually seen as one characteristic of industrial relations and labour research even though the sociology of work and labour is often seen as central for the area. This paper provides an assessment and analysis of the disciplinary character and knowledge exchange of the research field by applying a scientometric analysis. The analysis is multi-layered and novel as it is based on a bibliometric analysis based on publications as well as on the analysis of the disciplinary educational background of authors in leading industrial relations and labour journals in the past 15 years. Findings reveal, first, that the sociology of work and labour is definitely important and central but other disciplines such as economics and management studies are almost equally important. Second, the disciplinary orientations and characteristics of journals differ substantially and there are differences in the field across different countries. However, even though the sociology of work and labour might "only" be equally important compared with other disciplines when looking at "simple" bibliometric indicators, a deeper look reveals that it is far more influential when looking at other information including the knowledge authors are integrating indirectly.

RN17 | T07_03: Workers' experiences and subjectivities

From Work Ability to Work Potential

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Work participation is crucial for individual and societal well-being. Increasing participation in work means both increasing employment and enhancing the input and productivity of those already employed. Central to this goal is the work ability of the working-age population. Traditional assessments of work ability focus on individual limitations and their negative correlation with employability.

We propose assessing work ability a) from a resource-oriented perspective, and b) as a phenomenon beyond the individual, influenced by various factors. We view work as a system and work ability as a dynamic and relational concept. These considerations lead us to introduce the term "work potential" to refer to the area of opportunities that an individual, workplace, or society can realistically utilize in the future. By employing the concept of work potential, the perspective on the relationship between work ability and work participation could be shifted and expanded towards a more systemic and resource-oriented approach to work and an individual's sustainable role within it. Elements such as work arrangements, work ability management at workplaces or changes in labor costs influence work potential and its realization.

We operationalize the concept in an EU-funded research project in which we offer aggregated population-level data from Finland on work ability and participation. Work ability is operationalized using proxy variables derived from comprehensive registry data. Working-age individuals are clustered based on their work ability, and the relation of each cluster to work participation is examined. Regional variations in work participation among clusters may indicate the work potential in that area.

From Workers to Victims: A Historical Shift in the Portrayal of Agricultural Workers in the Turkish Press

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Agricultural work in Turkey has changed profoundly in recent decades. Urbanisation and market forces have led to an increase in the share of seasonal migration and wage labour in the sector, which has begun to replace the unpaid work of rural families, especially women and children. This change has led to an increasing representation of ethnic minorities among seasonal workers, especially Kurds and

Arabs. Additionally, following the Syrian War, a significant number of refugees entered the agricultural workforce, further contributing to the ethnic diversity of the sector. Against this background, this study examines how these changes are reflected in national press coverage of agricultural workers. The analysis of newspaper articles, columns and pictures from Milliyet and Cumhuriyet since 1950 shows a clear change in reporting. Before the 1980s, agricultural workers were mainly portrayed as active citizens opposing their employers and demanding rights. News mainly focused on labour issues highlighting workers' agency and collective action. Today's news coverage paints a dramatically different picture. News stories frequently emphasise cultural/ethnic differences and worker poverty, often portraying the abusive relationship between middlemen and workers as a cultural problem rather than a symptom of a precarious labour market. This study critically analyses the shift in the representation of workers in the national press and argues that it obscures the larger political context. This context includes the post-coup restrictions on labour rights, the neoliberal restructuring, armed conflicts' impact on vulnerable groups, and the political processes themselves that perpetuate the precariousness of the agricultural labour market and workers' dependence on middlemen.

Socio-labour Profile of the Worker in the Chemical and Refining Sector in Spain. Data from Quantitative Research.

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This paper presents the methodological process as well as some of the results obtained in the research on the working conditions in the chemical and refining sectors developed in Spain (2022-23).

Particularly, it is a quantitative study whose target group is fixed around 230,000 workers, according to official data. Its main aim is to analyse the occupational health of the sectors to study the viability of requesting a reduction coefficient in the retirement age.

Due to the scarce of quantitative research in this issue, a survey emerges as the fundamental technic to approach not only the reality of both sectors but also to obtain accurate and representative data. The data collection was conducted through an on-line questionnaire, specifically designed to this research although having as a reference prior survey such as the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS). It was also distributed in collaboration with the trade union Sindicato de Trabajadores (STR).

The questionnaire is made up of 78 questions distributed in eight thematic sections: sociodemographic data, employment situation, occupational health, hazardous work, age, shift and night work, toxicity, and accidents at work.

The resulting sample size was of 2,060 questionnaires, establishing a sampling error of 2,15% at the 95% confidence level (assumption p=q=50%). Preliminary results show overwhelmingly masculine sector. Furthermore, workers point out the presence of toxic, dangerous and hazardous aspects in their working conditions that have a negative impact on their health. Consequently, most workers are in favour of the request for the reduction coefficient.

Workers' Experiences in Non-Profit and For-Profit Managed Asylum Systems: Insights from Italy and Ireland

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Asylum policy implementation varies considerably across Western countries; in all systems, however, a gap between the policy on paper and practice has been documented, with consequences for the lives of beneficiaries and the experiences of workers. This article examines understudied dimensions of asylum systems: asking whether the management of asylum systems by non-profit as opposed to for-profit organisations affects workers' experiences and job satisfaction. The study is based on interviews with workers and other stakeholders involved in the daily management of asylum systems in Italy and Ireland: Italy has a public system managed by civil society actors, whereas Ireland subcontracts management to for-profit actors. The findings show that despite generally high levels of job satisfaction and similar motivation and reward patterns, a non-profit system improves workers' experiences by providing value-based meaningfulness to their job and interconnectedness with other public services, whereas a for-profit system provides less support in terms of available networks, regulation, transparency and accountability.

RN17 | T07_04: Wages and work regimes

Losing Unequally: Financialisation, Productivity, & the Finance Wage Premium

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This paper provides an expanded framework for the analysis of the relationship between financialisation and the finance wage premium. Despite the aggregate income share of wage earners has been declining, not all workers have experienced an equal decline in their earnings. A well-documented stylised fact of contemporary labour markets is the persistent finance wage premium. While early work on the topic argued that this pay gap reflects productivity differentials, more recent research highlights how financial rent-sharing within this sector increases relative wages in finance. This paper builds on the aforementioned studies and argues that an important missing aspect is that financialisation also drives down wages in the rest of the economy. Two mechanisms contribute towards this outcome. First, non-financial firms face increasing financial payments which incentivise downsizing and wage reductions as a means of improving their balance sheets. Second, indebted households prioritise avoiding unemployment on the fear of defaulting on their debt, and become more conservative in their wage demands. Therefore, the conceptual framework presented in this paper claims that the rise of the finance wage premium is primarily driven by the dependency relationship between the financial and the non-financial sectors created through rising financial intermediation, rather than by financial liberalisation per se. Regression analysis using the case study of Greece between 1999Q1 and 2021Q3 provides robust evidence in favour of our argument that different components of private debt contribute to the growth of relative salaries in finance.

Social determinants of Low-Wage work in the Tourism Indsutry: Insights from Three Italian Case Studies

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This proposal delves into the social determinants shaping low-wage labour within the tourism industry. Regardless of geographical differences and the international division of labour, tourism jobs are commonly classified in the secondary segments of labour markets, characterized by low quality, low wages, challenging working conditions, short-term contracts, high informality, and high turnover rates. Conventional explanations link challenging working conditions to the economic and organizational characteristics of the sector, i.e., the redistributive defect is rooted in the "inherently and naturally poor and disorganized" nature of the industry. However, several studies have challenged the idea that the tourism industry is inherently poor, as well as the that low wages, and low status, are intrinsic features of these jobs.

Through empirical evidence collected through qualitative methods in three case studies in different Italian tourist contexts, this proposal argues that tourism labour has been socially constructed as poor. This "social construction" reflects the joint operation of 5 determinants: a) the vacuum of institutional labour regulation (including the presence and role of unions); b) the historical constitution of tourism jobs (continuity and contiguity with reproductive and servile labour); c) the composition of the tourism labour force and its gender and racial stratification; d) the transformation of the global political economy with its unequal power relations; and e) the discursive construction of tourist jobs as casual employment. The results show that the joint operation of these determinants and their variation on a local basis are crucial in shaping the social regulation of tourism labour.

Gig Economy And Belonging: Perspectives From Refugees In Norway

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A manifestation of the transformation of work and employment relations is evident in the increasing prevalence of gig economy employment. This occupational context is perceived by some as an opportunity for flexibility and tangible benefits. However, for others, it has led to a deterioration in the quality of employment. The latter perspective places gig economy within the longstanding discussions on precarious work.

Numerous studies across European countries indicate that migrants, particularly refugees, face increased vulnerability to precarious employment due to barriers hindering their acquisition of decent work. Despite gig work still being considered marginal in the Nordic countries, the pandemic prompted companies like Foodora (food-delivery platform) to double their turnover in 2021, with migrants forming a substantial portion of Foodora riders. Considering belonging as foundational to the development of social trust and cohesion, this paper employs gig work as a case in-point to investigate refugees' perceptions of how this specific occupational context shapes their sense of belonging.

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork among refugees in Norway, the findings suggest that structural and individual constraints significantly predispose refugees to precarious work. This deprivation of opportunities for work as a 'connective tissue' to the broader Norwegian community, which limits social cohesion. Additionally, being consigned to precarious work at the bottom end of the labor market acts as an imagined boundary line of exclusion, dichotomizing

'us' and 'them'. Thus, this paper contributes to understanding how belonging is not only influenced by general labor market participation but is particularly conditioned by the specific occupational context in which individuals are embedded.

Hybrid Regimes@work: a Case Study on Organizational Context

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In view of the COVID-19, telework was key supporting social distancing, with companies and workers transferring their activity to remote forms of work. Although workers and employers considered the extension of telework beyond the pandemic it remains a residual model. In face of the pandemic experience, workers hold claims for telework. The autonomy, the work discipline, the mitigation of travel time, the flexibility in time management, both workwise as well as in the articulation of work with personal needs, are some of the positive features of the telework experience. In this context, a growing number of corporates have adopted those hybrid regimes, where presential work co-exists with telework.

As teleworkability is unevenly distributed among workers, and predetermined by qualifications, there are clear impacts for labour markets, and questions of social benefits access as well as working conditions and labour process implications. Moreover, telework also fosters further organizational fragmentation, dispersion across space and time, routinization of tasks and dissolution of occupational identities, with potential risks to labour relations´ stability and the individual experience of worker. Extending labour markets cross-borders may also bring the weakening of the labour relation ties and contractual decisions.

Based on research in broad organizational context, this paper presents the findings of the impact evaluation that follow up a hybrid regime implementation, exploring the contradictions in the individual experience of telework, while discussing organizational implications and, more broadly future policies that respond to the risks and challenges the new modes of work pose for workers, employers and economy.

RN17 | T08_01: Careers

The Impact of Social Networks on the Early Career Paths of Secondary Technical School Graduates

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Our study examines the impact of social networks on the early career paths of vocational education graduates, focusing on the period of forming initial professional contacts with peers and employers. The analysis draws from a longitudinal panel survey of over 5,000 secondary technical school graduates at three distinct time points, which enabled us to follow their vocational and educational trajectories for a period of 18 months after graduation. We employed the personal ego networks method to analyse the students' social networks during their time at school.

The study employs Nan Lin's (2001, 2004, 2005) network definition of social capital, viewing it as resources accessible to an individual through their network of relationships. We concentrated on networks' aspects crucial for career development in chosen fields, observing how personal network resources are utilised professionally. Our findings reveal familial and professional contacts are vital for graduates, with gender-specific trends. The importance of these contacts also varies with the local labour market's performance. Our research underscores the complexity of social capital's role in the labour market, emphasising the importance of accurately operationalizing the concept and evaluating graduates' success based on their personal goals.

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Career Penalties for Flexible Working: How Work Culture Shapes Managerial Attitudes

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Research questions

– Are there career penalties for using work from home (WFH) in the current times?

– Are men and women penalised to the same extent?

– Do organisational factors moderate such effects?

Theoretical framework

Existing research underscores the role of workplace norms in shaping the professional experiences of those using flexible working arrangements (Thébaud&Pedulla, 2022). Flexible workers, including those who WFH, risk devaluation due to deviation from the prevailing work devotion schema (Golden&Eddleston, 2020). This deviation can lead to stigmatisation as less committed, lower-quality workers, impacting performance evaluations, wages, and promotions (Williams et al., 2013). In organisations with demanding cultures, career progression relies on continuous service and merit (Vinkenburg&Weber, 2012). Thus, the organisational context, especially ideal worker norms and work-family reconciliation policies, can play a crucial role in moderating WFH's impact on careers.

Methodology

We use data from an online survey experiment fielded between July and December 2022 among 1,000 managers in the UK.

Findings

The findings indicate that employees who WFH are less likely to be considered for promotion and salary increase, and more likely to be negatively evaluated than on-site workers. These results pertain only to organisations with more demanding organisational cultures, namely those with stronger ideal worker norms and fewer work-family reconciliation policies. Varying effects for different WFH frequencies are found, with workers who WFH more frequently experiencing worse outcomes. Importantly, both men and women who operate in firms with more demanding organisational cultures and engage in WFH experience career penalties, however, they are substantially larger for men. We argue that this is because men engaging in WFH deviate from both the workplace norm of an ideal employee and the socially prescribed gender roles which assume that men ought to prioritise work above personal life.

Contribution

This study is the first post-pandemic study that provides evidence of the moderating role of organisational settings in the impact of WFH on careers and the gendered nature of such career penalties. The study carries implications for the theory and practice as we document the differential treatment of men and women who participate in activities prioritising work-life balance/family life over work-centric approaches.

OSH Regulation and Governance – the Coexistence of Legal and Self-Regulation

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The social dialogue between social partners at the national and European levels can be seen as a new governance approach that relies on bargaining by private actors to set OSH norms, as opposed to the traditional legislative routes. To compare the efficiency of different institutions in regulating OSH at work, we draw on agency theory, concepts of corporatist policy formation, and devolution of policy making. The regulatory process constitutes a collective action problem with asymmetry between capital and labour. Improved regulation efficiency means access to information, dealing with agency problems, producing tailored standards, and implementing OSH policies. The analysis is based on secondary data about OSH legislation and policies in hospitals and elderly care in the UK. This data is complemented by primary data collected in interviews about strategic actors and their policy preferences and perceptions. Legally binding OSH regulations can be perceived as too strict. This can be the case when standards created by the law are so undesirable or too strict that regulated entities have strong incentives to opt out and self-regulate. To shed light on OSH governance, legal, and self-regulation, this paper investigates different sectoral settings and industrial relations systems and their ability to develop more flexible approaches and meet standards.

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The Effects of International Work Experience on Labor Market (Re)Integration: The Case of International Students

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The globalization of the labor market affects the mobility of the labor force now more than ever before. This trend is also evident in higher education, as students are increasingly being encouraged to gain experience in international contexts, through internships and other training mobility programs. Once abroad, they become temporarily integrated into a foreign labor market which exposes them to a different socio-cultural and institutional environment. Characteristics of the host environment—such as professional norms and values, work ethic and conditions, forms of trade union organization, etc.—can shape these students' attitudes towards their profession and consequentially affect their reintegration into their home labor market.

The main goal of this research is to understand how international work exposure affects (later) professional experience of migrant students who spend at least one year abroad. We apply a mixed methods approach based on an exploratory sequential design. In the first phase of research, 18 students were divided into three focus groups: Serbian migrant students abroad, foreign migrant students in Serbia, and migrant students from both groups who have returned to their home countries. The data obtained in this phase was utilized to construct the instrument used in the second phase of research, which consisted of an online survey with 224 respondents from all three categories of students. The results show that experience in more than one labor market reframes the students' professional identities and may generate changes in their working conditions and future work performance.

RN17 | T08_02: Multinationals and national employment systems

What Does Chinese Direct Investment Mean for Co-Determination? A Comparative Study of Acquisitions in the German Metal and Electronics Industry

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The German metal – and electronics industry has seen a wave of Chinese OFDI in the mid-2010s. These seemingly strategic acquisitions have not only led to industrial policy responses by the German government, but also influenced labor relations at the plant-level. Drawing on a sample of 15 company case studies in the metal – and electronics industry, we observe two important developments: 1) While Chinese state-owned investors tend to establish close relationships with the works councils, Chinese private investment tends to be more conflict-ridden at the company level, as in some cases Chinese employers terminate collective bargaining agreements or even support "yellow unions". 2) In many cases, Chinese investors undertook overpriced acquisitions of unprofitable companies which later led to financial distress and conflicts at the company level. This also contributed to a deterioration of cooperative relationships between the management and the works council. We discuss our findings by referring to labor process theory and comparative industrial relations, particularly to more recent discussions of the German model of industrial relations. We conclude that further research is needed on Chinese company sites (of both the investor and the acquired company) and on other European cases to have a full picture of the impact of Chinese brownfield investment on labor relations in the European industrial sector.

When Multinationals Relocate both Production and Workers: Employer Strategies and Union Responses in European Shipbuilding

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Studies of multinationals' impact on employment have focused on either relocation of production, or on worker mobility through posting and intra-corporate transfers. The two have different effects on employment levels and conditions and call for different kinds of union responses at local and transnational level. In some rare cases, however, both processes occur simultaenously, causing more complex pressures and implications for actors' strategies. The paper analyses the dual mobility of capital and labour in European shipbuilding through the case of Italy-based holding Fincantieri, one of the largest companies in the sector, and its operations in Italy, Norway and Romania. Through the purchase of Norwegian company Vard and its shipyards in Romania and other countries. Fincantieri has reorganised production in a complex vertical and horizontal segmentation, while also making a very large use of labour mobility, both within Europe and from outside Europe. The two processes are analysed in combination and in detail through documentary and interview data, in order to interrogate existing theories on international division of labour, multinationals' effects on employment, and institutional factors. Propositions are drawn on the coexisting patterns of competition, convergence and segmentation, and on the difficulties of national and transnational union answers.

Voluntarism – A Barrier to return to work with Chronic Illness in Ireland

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Ireland is a Liberal Market Economy with a Voluntarist system of industrial relations. The increasing numbers of people returning to work (RTW) after or with chronic illnesses is on the increase in the EU and Ireland. Key barriers and facilitators relating to RTW emerged from surveys, interviews with employers, unions and focus groups at company level. Underpinning those obstacles for RTW, is the institutional and structural features of voluntarism: a fragmented, localised sets of approaches to effective RTW for Irish workers.

Effective RTW procedures require a high level of workplace coordination and communication, as well as coordination with external services including medical services, rehabilitation providers, etc. Interactions with HR and the line manager emerged as important in return to work. Beatty and Joffe (2006) report that having an understanding and supportive supervisor is the most significant factor contributing to successful work experience. RTW coordination requires an understanding of both the worker with an illness and the work environment.

This paper is based on research conducted in Ireland in 2019-2021 as part of a wider EU project – "Negotiating Return to Work in the Age of Demographic Change through Industrial Relations (REWIR)" (Project No. VS/2019/0075). The conclusions of the report indicate that the lack of co-ordinated and integrated systems of benefits, education and supports across Irish society is mitigating against workers with Chronic illness being facilitated in RTW across Irish workplaces.

Labouring citizenship. Welfare state transformations between Italy and Poland

Luca Villaggi

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The interlinked contemporary crisis exacerbated the effects of a crisis of social reproduction. This signals a key contradiction of contemporary capitalism, which fails to guarantee decent working conditions for workers employed in the life-making sectors and the livelihoods for the most disadvantaged social groups. Welfare services are at the centre of this contradiction due to social provision cuts, retrenchment of the public sector and outsourcing to private and non-state providers and a general reorientation towards market logics. As a result, working conditions in the social sector are increasingly characterized by low wages, precarity, work intensification and a devalued status. Changing labour processes in the welfare services also affect the communities serviced and the configuration of their entitlements to social care and support. The paper analyses how the labour process of care and social workers affect the recognition of social citizenship rights to the recipients. From this perspective, citizenship is understood as the outcome of social processes and practices rather than a formal condition, and especially as the outcome of labour processes and practices, constantly shaped by work organization, subjectivities and dynamics of conflict and collective action. It first examines how the welfare services restructuring has affected the working conditions of the employees, second how it has influenced the recognition of the social rights to the recipients, and finally how these processes have been shaped by care and social workers' agency and patterns of resistance. The data have been collected during an extensive fieldwork conducted in Italy and Poland through interviews with representatives of labour unions and local institutions and care and social workers employed in public, private and NGOs-run facilities servicing different types of recipients.

RN17 | T08_03: Worker resistance

Between Consent And Resistance: Absenteeism And Resistance Strategies Against Work Intensification In Carmaker Factories.

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In Labor and Monopoly Capital. The Degradation of Work in the Twentieth Century, Harry Braverman contended that workers' absenteeism from the workplace was to be interpreted «as an indication of a new resistance to certain forms of work» (1974:22). Additionally, he argued, the car industry represented a prime location for dissatisfaction with work, leading workers to exhibit especially high levels of absenteeism. After 60 years, absenteeism remains an important issue when it comes to manufacturing work in the automotive sector. The introduction of lean manufacturing in the 1980s was paired with the progressive intensification of work rhythms, leading to the deterioration of working conditions on the shopfloor (Skorstad, 1994). Management has consistently sought to implement strategies aimed at minimising conflict and avoiding disruptions to production, chiefly through the fostering of lower levels of strike activity that result from the strategy of 'permanent restructuring' (Siemiatycki, 2012). In Italy, former FCA factories (now Stellantis) plants have been characterised by a decade-long phase of 'permanent restructuring' which has displayed precisely these trends. It has been argued that workers in factories implementing lean manufacturing resort less to absenteeism (Oliver et al., 1994; Vieria et al., 2012). Conversely, through in-depth interviews with workers and trade unionists from Stellantis plants in Pomigliano d'Arco and Atessa, this paper presents preliminary evidence suggesting that, faced with the exacerbation of work intensity and as an alternative strategy to conflict, workers have increasingly turned to absenteeism as a resistance strategy. This raises questions about how management copes with the costs of absence from the assembly line while implementing a work organisation model that employs a just-in-time method of production, which is particularly vulnerable to production stoppages. Adopting the framework of Labour Process Theory, this paper represents an opportunity for a novel contribution on a traditional form of workers' resistance. This research thus sheds light on how absenteeism is employed within the current stage of social relations of production in car factories of an advanced capitalist country, where working conditions in the automotive industry have progressively deteriorated over the past decades.

[I have never joined ESA Summer School before.]

Work Deviations At The Assembly Line: Workarounds As Responses To Inefficiencies And Contradictions

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Workers often deviate from prescribed routines at work because, as argued in the

sociology literature, they are primarily motivated by the opportunity for personal gains. However, our analysis of 68 semi-structured interviews with assembly-line workers in an Italian manufacturing company revealed the widespread occurrence of work deviations that primarily contributed to the achievement of organizational gains because they mitigated (short-term) inefficiencies in the organization of work. Our study extends existing sociology research by incorporating the concept of workarounds from the field of information systems into a new typology that analytically distinguishes them from other types of work deviations such as games, organizational misbehavior and job crafting. We also reconceptualize workarounds as the response to inefficiencies stemming from contradictions between control and cooperation in the workplace. By re-interpreting workarounds from a sociological perspective, we create an analytical tool that can be used by other (work) sociology scholars in future analyses of deviations in the workplace.

Negotiating Subjectivity: The Encounter of White-Collar Workers with Tensions and Gaps in "New World" and "New Persons" Discourses in the Israeli Labor Market.

Meirav Hillel-Lavan

Bar Ilan University, Israel

The existing literature regarding the world of work addresses new employment arrangements that undermine employees' occupational security as a byproduct of broader neoliberal processes. These processes delegate responsibility to the individual and produce a discourse that binds market processes together with constructing a new self. Moreover, most writings tend to treat subjectivity constituted through these discourses as a mirror image of the discourse and neoliberal arrangements.

In this paper, I focus on the tensions that arise in the encounter between white-collar participants in the Israeli labor market and what appears to be the contemporary incarnation of the entrepreneurial and self-fulfillment discourses in the field – the "New World" and "New Persons" discourses that are idealizing new work arrangements.

My study critically examines how these discourses resonate during the formation of participants' subjectivity as they move from traditional employment to the realm of self-employment. Drawing on 40 in-depth interviews, observations, and textual analysis reveals that the "New World" discourse does resonate in formulating a self-employed subjectivity, but it is not adopted uniformly or automatically in Israel. Instead, individuals exhibit a complex process of personal adaptation, integrating and reinterpreting the discourse to deal with its inherent tensions and gaps and to align with their self-perception.

The paper outlines participants' five positioning strategies when interacting with the discourses in the transition to self-employment: validation and confirmation, concession, compromise, disappointment, and resistance. Using personalization strategies rather than looking at general sociocultural issues sheds light on how neoliberal discourse is validated and expanded.

Transformations in South Africa's Coal Industry: Implications for Miners in a Global Context

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The coal industry in South Africa is undergoing a profound transformation driven by a confluence of factors, including global climate commitments and the surging demand for coal from European Union (EU) countries following the embargo on Russian coal. This research delves into the multifaceted impacts of these dynamics on the South African coal sector over the past years, with a particular focus on the implications for miners.

Drawing on a comprehensive series of interviews with industry representatives, the study reveals a significant restructuring of the coal mining landscape in South Africa. Large companies have exited the sector, leading to divestment and a subsequent void in investment. Consequently, smaller and minor mining enterprises have stepped into this vacuum, yet find themselves hindered by a lack of access to essential resources and technologies for safe and sustainable mining practices, owing to the overarching delegitimization of coal in the country.

The state's retreat from the coal mining sector further complicates matters. While South Africa witnesses a decline in state involvement, the escalating demand for coal from EU countries prompts an expansion of unsecured, low-technological coal mining activities. This raises critical questions about the necessity for state interventions to ensure the safety and technological proficiency of small local coal miners.

The study's findings contribute valuable insights into the challenges faced by South Africa's coal industry, shedding light on the complex interplay between global pressures, local transformations, and the well-being of coal miners. The research underscores the urgent need for strategic interventions to safeguard the interests of both the industry and its workforce, especially in the context of evolving global energy dynamics.

RN17 | T08_04: Management and work

The Management and Strategies of Worker Cooperatives in Finland

Ina Anni Johanna Kauranen, Taneli Vaskelainen, Matthijs Punt

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Worker cooperatives are democratic and fairer alternatives to organising work in a capitalist society. The potential in worker cooperatives is two-fold, on the one hand they provide a functioning alternative within the dominant capitalist structure of organising work and services , in which workers collectively owning the means of production is a rarity. On the other hand, they can function as places in which an alternative future is prefigured in the present. They can be a playground for practicing alternative ways of providing for societal needs. In other words, worker cooperatives can be viewed as alternatives within and alternatives to capitalist hegemony.

This qualitative study examines the strategies and management of worker cooperatives in Finland by interviewing their managers and board members. The study offers insight into the internal strategies and organisational structures with which cooperatives succeed and survive among competition.

Because cooperatives are often guided by more principles and aims than just efficiency and profitability – e.g., democracy and fair distribution – the management and strategies developed by worker cooperatives can serve a variety of purposes. Assuming that the aims also vary among the Finnish cooperatives, success in this study is not predefined, but rather for the interviewees to determine.

Initial findings show that being a cooperative bears significance for many of the interviewees, but this has few implications on how the cooperatives are managed. The Finnish worker cooperatives are managed much like conventional companies, even when their aims are supposedly different.

Changes in Mediation in the Management of Social Conflicts in Spain. The Transformation of the Mediator's Role.

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1Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain; 2Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Mediation in Spain has undergone a radical transformation with the implementation of Law 5/2012 and Royal Decree 980/2013. Both legislative changes have meant steps towards the professionalization of the sector, by consolidating institutions with a long historical trajectory and paying attention to the evolution of the figure of the mediator and his or her role in the resolution of conflicts, including those of labor etiology.

Thus, the figure of the mediator in the management of contemporary social conflicts is unquestionable and for this new scenario the mediator appears as a key figure. For this purpose, it is essential to have an adequate preparation, ranging from legal and social aspects to essential interpersonal skills. In this sense, we wondered about the level of compliance with the training among the body of mediators. This is why this paper aims to shed light on the effectiveness of the reforms implemented, especially with regard to the training and accreditation of mediators for their formalization and recognition.

Methodologically, an empirical study is carried out by means of a survey designed "ad hoc" that includes the use of digital tools such as Encuestafacil.com and that reflects an innovative approach to data collection. This has been distributed among the Professional Associations in agreement with the University of Zaragoza (for the training and design of mediation activities), as it seeks to evaluate compliance with the requirements of the Royal Decree in the practice of mediation.

This research not only has a theoretical value but is also crucial to understand the implementation and effectiveness of public policies in mediation.

Harmonizing the Dynamics of Employeeship, Motivation, Leadership, Management, and Ambassadorship: Insights from a Study in Swedish Public Workplaces

Mikael Nordenmark, Josefine Hansson, John Selander, Stig Vinberg, Erika Wall, Pär Löfstrand

Mid Sweden University, Sweden

This study explores the interconnected dynamics of employeeship, motivation, leadership, management, and ambassadorship within the contemporary public workplace. Employeeship, a concept embodying commitment, accountability, and proactive participation, forms the foundation of a thriving organizational culture. Motivation, a driving force behind individual and collective performance, emerges as a critical factor influencing employeeship. Effective leadership, characterized by inspiration, guidance, and a strategic vision, serves as a catalyst for fostering a culture of employeeship and motivation.

Ambassadorship extends beyond organizational boundaries, emphasizing employees as brand advocates, influencing external perceptions. Robust assessment mechanisms play a key role in gauging employees' contributions, identifying areas for improvement, and aligning organizational goals with individual aspirations.

This study underscores the symbiotic relationship among these elements, positing that a harmonious blend can

cultivate a resilient and high-performing workforce. As organizations navigate the evolving landscape of work dynamics, understanding and optimizing these facets contribute to a holistic approach that fosters employee engagement, work satisfaction, and sustained organizational success.

The study includes data from around 10000 employees and leaders in two Swedish municipalities. Preliminary results indicate that there is a strong correlation between the studied factors: motivation, leadership, management, and ambassadorship. However, the data also reveal differences according to factors such as gender and position (leader – employee). This study also raises theoretical questions and suggests improvements of the assessment methods often used to measure employee satisfaction in the Swedish public sector.

Who Should Be Sanctioned More Severely? Consequences Of Workplace Misconduct Across Corporate Hierarchy Levels

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Digital workplace monitoring increases the chances of detecting workplace misconduct, especially for employees working with digital devices. However, it is still unclear how this misbehaviour should be sanctioned, especially since digital monitoring can be applied to employees at different hierarchical levels within the firm. Consequently, we conducted an experimental factorial survey where we varied the level of misconduct as well as the hierarchical level of the employee. We theorize that supervisors will react to the bargaining power of the misbehaving employee whereas employees without personnel responsibilities will find fairness more important. Based on 500 employees with and 500 employees without personnel responsibilities in Germany, our results indicate that when evaluating the appropriateness of consequences on digitally detected misconduct, employees without personnel responsibilities take into account hierarchy levels (judging managers more harshly for deviant behaviour) whereas leaders' punishment evaluations are driven by tenure and replaceability of the deviant employee (being more lenient with long-term or/and hardly replaceable employees).

Thus, leaders evaluate punishment regarding bargaining power – in terms of tenure and/or degree of substitutability – whereas non-leaders focus rather on ascribed status (hierarchy/management level). These findings provide insights regarding relevant facets of digital monitoring technologies and their application regarding the consequences of misconduct at the workplace. Especially, the importance of defining the crucial elements for deriving consequences on digitally detected misconduct to ensure perceived justice at work.

RN17 | T09_01: Precariousness and proletarianisation

Working in Education at Crisis. Coping with the Challenges of Teaching in Pandemic and with Job Quality Turbulences in the Experiences of Primary School Teachers in Poland

Aleksandra Drabina-Różewicz

University of Wroclaw, Poland

The focus of this presentation is reconstruction and interpretation of work experiences and ways of coping with new challenges in the conditions of introducing online education on a large scale in pandemic times. I will consider education as one of the work environments that was particularly affected by the effects of the lockdown in pandemic conditions as well as the permanent crisis of public institiucions in Poland. The teachers' experiences in my considerations are to be a litmus test illustrating the effects of introducing quick changes and modifications at work in crisis conditions. The coping mechanisms are based on: community and work resources (also institutional trust) (Franken et al. 2021), personal experiences and relational factors (also interpersonal trust) (Donati et al. 2021) and technological resources (Shagiakhmetova et al. 2022).

In this presentation, I will focus on the results of the analysis of the collected data from autobiographical narrative interviews and interviews in focus groups with primary school teachers thematically focused on the consequences of functioning in a pandemic crisis situation. The conclusions and results will be: (1) attempt to organize the teachers strategies of coping with the challenges of remote education, (2) defining and describing job quality as particularly important due to the context of introducing remote work in emergency mode in public education without any institutional preparation, (3) underlining the problem of mechanisms of coping with permanent job quality crisis in education. The presentation is part of the research of the currently implemented research project COV-WORK.

Precarious Young Professionals? The Work and Employment Conditions of Young Workers in UK Higher Education In The Context Of Sectoral Deprofessionalisation

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This paper explores work and employment conditions of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) working in the UK higher education sector (UKHE). The paper aims to understand factors shaping job quality for ECRs and their subjective motivations for working in UKHE during a period characterised by erosion of working conditions. The paper presents findings from interviews with 35 ECRs from all academic disciplines, selected from two UK universities. Interview data is complemented with secondary data comprising descriptive statistical data from both universities and the UKHE sector, and employer HR document analysis. This topic is important due to the increased challenges facing young workers in the UK seeking to enter professional sectors and achieve decent working conditions.

This research is the first phase of a wider project exploring deprofessionalisation in the context of polarised labour markets and increasing Inequality. It uses the analytical framework of job quality and workplace power inequalities to theorise ECR work and employment conditions. The concept of job quality is used theorise and explain the wide range of ECR work and employment experiences; this theorisation is aided by drawing on concepts from political economy to explain changes to job quality resulting from increased managerialism and marketisation in UKHE.

The research reveals the importance of studying job quality and the specificities of work and employment at the individual workplace level to understand its effects on broader sectoral shifts. The research also finds broad concepts such as deprofessionalisation are of potentially limited use when analysing a sector characterised by multiple loose internal labour markets and markedly different career opportunities for ECRs, presenting challenges for those wishing to develop strategies to improve job quality in UKHE.

Precariousness and Proletarianization in Academia: Teachers' Working Conditions

Helena Antunes

Instituto de Sociologia da Universidade do Porto

This presentation is part of a doctoral project in Sociology that is being carried out at University of Porto. It focuses on the transformations in the working conditions and career paths of teachers in public higher education (HE) under the influence of managerial policies. For this presentation, the intention is to show the impact of the main transformations of HE on teachers' working conditions leading them to professional experiences similar to those experienced by industrial workers.

In recent years, we have witnessed a certain deterioration of the working conditions of HE teachers in Portugal. One of the main aspects is related to the weakening of employment relationships and bonds. We have been watching a scenario of depreciation and routinization of their work caused by the action of capitalist administrative power. Many HE teachers are subject to flexible hiring with temporary and part-time contracts.

Furthermore, teachers have to perform management tasks and knowledge extension tasks. There is now a rationalization of working time, a demand to increase productivity and efficiency and greater versatility of functions.

The precariousness of academic work derives from the pressure to reduce costs on higher education institutions (HEI). Those have responded by increasing the number of teachers hired to the detriment of placing them on career, and this reality is more evident in polytechnic institutes than in universities.

Based on the literature review and existing statistics on the working conditions and careers of HE teachers, some data will be highlighted.

RN17 | T09_02: Working lives and creative work

Qualitative Research Methods to Transform Work and Employment: Documentary Filmmaking Using Critical Realist Ontology

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The importance of filmmaking to generate and disseminate academic knowledge is growing (Rakić & Chambers, 2010), both to capture reality and for social persuasion (Nichols, 2016). While filmmaking enjoys a rich tradition within disciplines such as anthropology, it is increasingly being used within other fields, especially as part of participatory/ emancipatory research (Pink 2001, Parr 2007).

Nevertheless, documentary filmmaking remains limited as a research method, and form of dissemination, within the work and employment field, despite a rich history of fictionalised representations of workplace conflict and tensions. Using a research project on the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in the workplace as a case study, this paper explores how documentary filmmaking can be a transformative research method in our field. We address the ontological, epistemological and axiological underpinnings of documentary filmmaking as a method, arguing for the adoption of a critical realist (CR) ontology. A CR approach not only answers calls to increase the coherence and rigour of filmmaking as an inter-disciplinary research method (Belk, 2011), but also explicitly recognises axiology (e.g. political intent) and research projects' emancipatory potential (O'Mahoney and Vincent, 2014; Archer et al., 1998). This is because CR locates filmmaking in a layered social reality, allowing participants to elucidate tensions from their own perspectives, which can also help explain the reality of workplace phenomena and wider causal mechanisms at play (ibid). Dissemination then has a unique capacity to help address exclusionary labour market and workplace mechanisms through facilitating wider (public) corporate social agency (Archer, 2000), leading potentially to transformative and emancipatory change (or morphogenesis (Archer, 1995).

Questioning Working Life as a Unitary Concept and a Unifying Experience

Francesco Marcaletti

Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Ever since Richard Sennett introduced the notion of "character corrosion" (1998) to describe the "transformation of the social question" (R. Castel, 1995) in Western societies, what the precarisation of work has brought with it has been the loss of the unitary nature of working life. This has undermined and caused the very concept of working life, interpreted in historical time and in relation to individuals' life courses, to be neglected. Although its unified nature has been fading, the underlying assumption is that the diminishing subjective unifying character of working life marks the difference between cohorts of workers more than other personal characteristics do.

According to this assumption, the objective of the exploratory study is to question the unitary and unifying nature of the concept of working life by reconstructing its imagery across different population categories defined according to demographic cohorts and gender, i.e. individuals caught in different stages of their life course. The research, which is qualitative and in its early stages, is being carried out in Spain.

Based on literature review, a set of working life descriptors were identified and used as "reagents" for the construction of semantic maps of working life in the context of unstructured interviews conducted with a convenience sample of individuals. Preliminary results of this stage of the study return the picture of a working life that, although not unitary in its objective features, is interpreted as a unifying notion by those interviewed. The results of the interviews will also be used to operationalise the work life descriptors and semantic maps within a standardised questionnaire that will be administered to a larger sample of population in a second research stage.

Creative Workers at the Vulnerable Intersection of Flexibilization and Digitization

Wike Myriam Been

University of Groningen, Netherlands, The

The recent advancements in Generative Artificial Intelligence (hereafter referred to as 'AI') have revived classic debates reminiscent of those seen with all major technological developments in history. Questions arise about which jobs will be replaced or added, how tasks will evolve, and the implications for necessary skills, job quality, and inequalities in the labor market. Workers in the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) and their representatives are currently on the frontlines, expressing concerns about job displacement, ownership rights, and income levels. This is exemplified, for instance, by the Writers Guild of America strike in 2023. In the Netherlands, among the first to voice

concerns were freelance voice actors and animators. This highlights that their labor market position potentially renders them particularly vulnerable to the effects of AI on the workforce. Tying together the sociological research strands on the effects of technological developments on work and working conditions in the CCI, this contribution investigates whether and how the intersection of labor market flexibilization and digitization exposes workers in the cultural and creative industries to vulnerabilities in terms of job prospects and decent working conditions and how trade unions respond to this. Hereto it makes use of data collected through semi-structured interviews with voice-actors, animators and trade-union representatives in the Netherlands.

Organising Workers In BPO Industry And The Representation Of Tech Workers' Collective Interests in CEE. The Case Of Poland

Szymon Pilch

University of Wrocław, Poland

The paper aims to analyze the structural, cultural, economic and biographical determinants of tech workers' organisation in the BPO industry in Poland. I use the concepts of biographical and digital resources. I also use the workers' power resources approach, employing marketplace bargaining, associational, institutional and societal power resources. To research the marketplace bargaining power of workers, I use the concept of capitals (Bourdieu 1986).

Based on interviews with IT professionals, unionists, representatives of companies HR departments and regional labour offices, I examine what is the role of the marketplace, associational, institutional and societal power resources in organising of tech workers? What is the significance of workers' resources and capitals configuration as well as orientations towards work and life for organising?

Organising depends, firstly, on a high marketplace bargaining power of tech workers resulting from their structural position combined with varying working conditions in the industry. Secondly, it is determined by the slowly growing number of bottom-up cases of mobilisation in IT companies, an increasing interest of trade unions in the top-down organizing in the IT-related industries, and the limited number of collective agreements in IT sector. Thirdly, it is related to the flexibilization of employment, e.g., the ability to choose non-standard contracts influenced by the entrepreneurial discourse. Fourthly, it is linked with individualistic orientations in work and life. Finally, it is determined by global events, such as a pandemic, causing a reorganisation of work (shift to remote work).

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RN18 | Sociology of Communications and Media Research

RN18 | T01_01: Digital Platforms (I)

The Hidden Side of Digital Media: Finding a Theoretical Approach to non-public Digital Communication

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Compared to public communication on social media, non-public forms of communication such as messenger, direct messaging and email are used by significantly more people and continue to grow in popularity. Nevertheless, this is still an under-researched area despite its relevance for for issues of social radicalization, polarization and fragmentation. Communication channels away from public scrutiny carry more social context, emphasizing trust in the sender over media authority or journalist competence. There is an increasing tension between our lack of knowledge about the social logic of such communication channels and the amount of data available about social media communication, which may lead researchers as well as political actors to falsely believing that they understand the audience.

Non-public digital communication includes any type of digital communication that is limited in its scope by the technical basis of dissemination and concurrently requires a clear idea of the intended audience. In contrast to public communication, this is not an exchange between potential strangers, but its prerequisite is always a profound idea of who is a potential recipient.

This social component is decisive for the regularities to which the dissemination of information is subject. Firstly, boundary work is necessary in such groups to maintain the function of the group. Secondly, social relationships are stabilized by experiencing technical anchors that provide stability independent of space and time. Thirdly, this type of communication can be used to establish a public connection.

Platform Sovereignty. A Critical Reflection on Deplatforming and Deplatformization in the Context of Disinformation Governance

Sara Monaci

Politecnico di Torino, Italy

The essay argues the emergence of platform sovereignty observed through deplatforming and deplatformization practices (Rogers, 2020; Van Dijck, 2021a, 2021b) initiated by the dominant platforms (Google, META, X, Apple etc.), in the context of disinformation governance. Those content moderation measures have been implemented recently under exceptional circumstances such as the Ukraine war, targeting the main Russian media outlets online – Russian Tv and Sputnik – (Sisu et al. 2022), or in the aftermath of a coup d'etat such as the Capitol Hill assault in 2021 (Di Salvo, 2021) and, as the paper wants to highlight, they reveal the sovereign role of platforms in the social media ecosystem. Through the critical approaches of Shoshana Zuboff (2019) and Benjamin Bratton (2016), the contribution theoretically analyzes dominant platforms as socio-technical structures highlighting the complexities of the power relations among big tech, social media users and fringe environments (eg. GAB, 4chan, Rumble, Parler) in the social media ecosystem. Deplatforming and deplatformization are thus examined as pragmatic dimensions of dominant platform sovereignty that can illuminate the ambiguity and principles underlying its enactment.

In particular, the paper discusses the guiding principles of platform sovereignty, namely radical indifference to the communicative facts unfolding on social media, and the safeguard of the data stack, as the main objectives that allow platforms to preserve their sovereign role over the fringe environments in the social media ecosystem.

As a result, the essay emphasizes the heuristic importance of the concept of platform sovereignty to better understand the unfolding of power relations among dominant platforms, social media users, and fringe online environments, as well as the implicit principles that guide their enactment.

Sociological Analysis on TV Shows in Streaming Platforms: Theoretical and Methodological Contributions and Challenges

Tùlio Cunha Rossi

Universidade Federal de Uberlândia – UFU, Brazil

This paper aims to present some research insights on studies regarding audiovisual productions in sociology in the current context of mediatization. More specifically, it addresses theoretical and methodological questions on analyzing TV series on video-streaming platforms such as Netflix and HBO Max. This paper is based on my ongoing research into how notions of individuality are imagistically constructed in this type of show and how they relate to

contemporary processes of individualization (Martuccelli, 2014), which are deeply embedded with the everyday use of digital media. We believe that artistic and mediatic productions are much more than simple "representations" detached from reality, playing a role on how values, beliefs and ideologies are passed on, absorbed, and transformed through history, then, contributing to construct history and social reality itself. Thus, we start with the analytical contributions of Pierre Sorlin's (1987) film sociology, most remarkably, his approach to films related to ideology and the concept of relational systems. Then, we make the necessary adaptations and considerations for the analysis of series and rely on Jean-Pierre Esquenazi's (2014) study of television series, paying special attention to the affective attachment of viewers to characters and the close relation he points to viewers intimacy and daily routines. Finally, we use the concept of mediatization as presented by Couldry and Hepp (2020) to discuss the particularities of watching series on digital media platforms, considering the complex interconnections formed across different types of media and how these contribute to the formation of ways of perceiving the world, recognizing oneself and positioning oneself in relation to it.

Towards a Datafied Mindset: Conceptualising Digital Dynamics and Analogue Resilience

Rita Figueiras[1], Göran Bolin[2], Veronika Kalmus[3]

1Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal; 2Södertörn University, Sweden; 3Tartu University, Estonia

The paper uses the insights from an interview study of one younger and one older generation of media users in Estonia, Portugal and Sweden to understand how different generations, with varied experiences of analogue, digital or datafied media during their formative years, respond to the datafied logics of social media. By "datafied media" we refer to online media that have the technological capacity to extract, process and package user data at scale into a commodity mainly for economic profit. By "analogue media" we mean media built on the technologies and business models that preceded digitalization and datafication. Since we are testing whether the ways in which the pre-datafied media operated has set its mark on the mindsets and practices among those who have grown up with them to the extent that they may have difficulties in understanding and managing the operational features of datafied media, we find heuristic value in this distinction. We show that belonging to a media generation does not produce a homogeneous mindset or a uniform attitude towards media technologies. These mindsets, being ideal-typical constructs, are not bound to individuals: the same person can display features of the analogue and the datafied mindset in relation to different parts of the datafied world. One mindset does not replace the other, but rather adds another layer to the social action of the individuals. The mindsets are multi-dimensional and moulded by contrasting understandings indicating that the tenacious structures of the analogue world linger on in the datafied social space.

RN18 | T01_02: Journalism and the Media (I)

Meta Journalism Project in Europe: To Be, or Not to Be a Media Maecenas?

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In scholarly discourse, the Meta Journalism Project (MJP) is perceived as an instrument that captures journalism (Papaevangelou, 2022), reinforcing Facebook platform as an obligatory point of passage for journalism (Jurno & d'Andréa, 2020). This aspect is particularly pertinent in the context of Meta's responsibility in managing the MJP, especially given the digital advertising duopoly it shares with Google (UNESCO, 2022) and the effects it has on journalism as a modern institution. Moreover, the MJP is often referred to as a 'black box', for example in United States of America, due to the limited availability of information about its operational dynamics (Miller, 2023), compounded by the absence of comprehensive public reports from Meta Company on this initiative. This exploratory study delves into the execution of funding strategies for European media organizations by the Meta Journalism Project from 2017 to 2023. Our research corpus comprises content published by Meta and its beneficiaries, alongside articles from online media sources. By tracing these digital footprints, our aim is to construct a cartography that elucidates the criteria for grant allocation, the intermediaries in funding, the financial flows received by European media organizations, and the objectives of the projects awarded with grants. This analysis is intended to enhance understanding and foster critical discussions regarding the phenomena associated with the Meta Journalism Project and the construction of the Maecenas role of Meta Company in the informational environment.

The Importance of Working Conditions in Journalism. A Longitudinal Study of Slovenian Millennial Generation Precarious Journalists

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Decent working conditions in journalism are valuable for employees, organisations, as well as citizens and democracy. Based on in-depth interviews conducted in 2017 and 2021, we gained a longitudinal perspective on the working conditions of precarious journalists in Slovenia and its implications. We found that emotions shape journalists' career trajectories. Love for the profession led journalists

to accept precarious conditions. Over the years, a cynicism developed that influenced careers in two ways: some moved into public relations, others worked as freelance journalists. In line with their love of the profession, journalists in the early years of their careers preferred to integrate work–home boundaries by being journalists 24 hours a day. Over time, they developed a preference for the segmentation of work–home roles. However, it is often not possible to segment the boundaries, so they use several boundary work tactics (behavioural, temporal, physical, and communicational). In addition to the already established typology, a new psychological boundary work tactic was recognised among precarious journalists. According to their role, they recognised their role as context-specific watchdogs, helping the weak and enhancing democracy. However, journalists faced challenges to their autonomy that limited their ability to put this role into practice, leading to a gradual deterioration of their professional autonomy. Most journalists did not find it useful to unite collectively to improve working conditions. We propose the term 'boiled watchdogs', which compares their situation to a frog that slowly boils over time.

Digital Transformations And The Crisis Of Trust In Journalists. Tensions Within The Liberal Economic Model Of The Press

Antonio Momoc

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The (neo)liberal economic model of traditional media, fueled by advertising revenues tied to audience numbers, faces a financial crisis. In the digital platform age, competing for clicks and online traffic has forced journalistic content to compromise quality for higher ratings. The pursuit of audience on news websites has transformed many Romanian journalists into online influencers on social networks. While certain journalists became politicians and electoral candidates to capitalize on their image, others have embraced roles as activists or PR managers for civic or environmental causes.

The research questions: To what extent do Romanian journalists perceive that online activism, militancy and advocacy have led them to deviate from the classic values of traditional journalism, including accuracy, verification from multiple sources, impartiality, and honesty? To what extent do Romanian journalists believe that the dual role of being a journalist (on alternative investigative platforms or in traditional newsrooms) and an influencer on social media impacts public service journalism and the credibility of the journalism profession itself?

The research method: This preliminary study utilizes survey methodology, employing a 14-question questionnaire with closed-ended and open-ended questions, as well as multiple-choice questions to measure journalists' trust in the Romanian media. This qualitative research approach facilitated the gathering of a significant dataset to comprehend journalists' perceptions and their similar/dis-similar representations of traditional and alternative media. The sample, obtained through the snowball method, comprises 53 journalists, primarily located in Bucharest and major cities within Romanian media newsrooms and alternative investigative platforms.

Preliminary Conclusions: The lack of trust in traditional mass media has enabled the ascension of dubious information sources promoting populist agendas, disinformation and hate.

Careers in Journalism in Romania: A Critical Approach to the Professionalization of the Field

Alexandra Codău

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This research aims to analyze the media landscape in Romania to assess the extent to which being a journalist is considered an occupation or a profession. The paper raises the issue of institutionalizing the journalism profession, starting from the idea that, according to Peter Gross, "Romanian journalism has been considered a form of literature motivated more by talent than by a formation grounded in rules, techniques, and rigorous ethical norms" (Gross 2023: 119). Building on Bourdieu's considerations (2007), who argued that the media field is dependent on other fields for its legitimacy, Raluca Petre notes that the journalistic field in Romania is characterized by weak professionalization and low autonomy (Petre 2012: 53).

I will analyze ten journalistic careers to observe the entry rules into the field, the existence of self-regulation, and how these professional paths are defined. The hypotheses I start with are:

I1: If the field accepts practitioners without specialized studies, then professional self-definition is not uniform and convergent.

I2: If the field does not adhere to an unquestionable set of professional norms, then professional self-definition is not uniform and convergent.

RN18 | T01_03: Disinformation, Fake News and Conspiracy Theories 1

Tracing the Emergence of the Counter-Disinfo Field: The Rise of Disinformation Expertise in Europe's Eastern Periphery

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A counter-disinformation community consisting of policy-makers, think-tanks, NGOs and journalists is now well established in the Western world. This contribution argues the rise of a field of experts dedicated to fighting Russian disinformation in post-communist Europe was pivotal in allowing the topic of disinformation to gain wider, transnational resonance. Crucially, elements of this network were behind the creation of the East StratCom Task Force, an administrative body of the EU tasked with challenging disinformation campaigns by Russia specifically.

Based on in-depth interviews with journalists, disinformation experts and Russia scholars working on Hungary and the Czech Republic, the paper adopts a field theory approach to examine the emergence of a field of counter-disinfo. It locates this emergence in struggles over scientific legitimacy between expert networks. These networks exhibit radically different understandings of how disinformation should be framed and countered, as well as radically different abilities to access social, economic and symbolic capital from transnational sources.

In the counter-disinfo network we find journalists, Atlanticist think tanks, area scholars and state officials. Their narrative is consistent and matches journalistic accounts from across the Atlantic, depicting a centralized, Kremlin-lead disinformation effort aimed at sowing chaos and discord. A second and looser network comprises Russia-specialized scholars and journalists, media scholars and a less vociferous community of state officials. They depict Russian disinformation as less consequential, decentralized, symptomatic of more fundamental problems and often mistaken with domestic efforts.

The article concludes that, in spite of the higher scholarly pedigree of the second network, a combination of symbolic, social and economic capital has allowed the first network to frame perceptions of Russian disinformation and establish itself as a legitimate scientific field.

Structural and Cognitive Factors Shaping Diffusion of Political Conspiracy Theories

Paweł Matuszewski

Collegium Civitas, Poland

This presentation aims to identify factors that shape the diffusion of political conspiracy theories. Much social network research explains social diffusion by showing structural characteristics that facilitate (e.g. bridges) or inhibit (e.g. countervailing influences) the spread of ideas or behaviours. This study shows that the explanation of conspiracy theories diffusion requires the inclusion of not only structural but also cognitive factors. The hypothesis is that the factor responsible for the adoption of conspiracy beliefs is related to how well they are congruent with conventional knowledge, which is shared and generally accepted social beliefs in society at large. In other words, conspiracy theories that deviate more from conventional knowledge are less likely to be adopted, given the same structural conditions of communication.

This study uses Eviatar Zerubavel's concept of thought communities – social environments which socialise their members to process, collect, and recall information in a specific, transsubjective way. Consequently, in the social realm, different communities have belief systems that are less or more congruent with conspiracy theories. Therefore, Some of these communities are immune to conspiracy theories, even if they only slightly deviate from conventional beliefs, whereas others accept even extreme cases of such beliefs.

As a result of the qualitative content analysis, three levels of conspiracy theories were identified. They were then used to model the number of likes and retweets obtained by the political tweets. The research material was collected from Polish Twitter in 2022 and 2023, using the Twitter REST API. The original author's algorithm was used to identify the conspiracy narratives (F1 > 0.9). This research was funded by the National Science Center, Poland (Grant no.2020/39/I/HS5/00176).

Dealing With Distrust: How the Mainstream Media Respond to Conspiracy Theories

Jaron Harambam

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Many European citizens no longer trust their own societal institutions to work for the public good, but imagine those to be governed by a shadowy cabal with nefarious motives. One particularly dominant stream of conspiracy theories refers to the so-called "mainstream media". Following that logic, societally dominant media organizations (both public and private) do not (aim to) cover world events in sincere ways, but are seen as instruments of the powerful to manipulate the masses into obedience.

While there is an increasing amount of scholarship on (such) conspiracy theories, there is little academic knowledge on how public institutions such as the media deal with rising levels of conspiratorial distrust. As if they have no agency when their existence is challenged, nor any influence on how conspiracy theories develop. This research gap is all the more surprising given the central democratic role of the media to inform public debates truthfully.

In this article, I qualitatively study how media organizations respond to the distrust embodied in conspiracy theories. To do so, I analyse a collection of media contents (43 newspaper articles and 13 TV-shows) about conspiracy theories that got published in the last five years in the Netherlands. The analysis reveals four ideal-typical reactions: Ignore, Debunk, Explain and Engage. I show how these reactions empirically look like, and what (unintended) consequences they have. Based on these, I conclude with normative recommendations about what the media should do in an era where public knowledge is widely contested.

The Political Instrumentation of Fear Narratives in Electoral Campaigns and the Emergence of a New Wave of Euroscepticism

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Against the backdrop of the (post)Covid pandemic, regional conflicts, and global confrontations among major powers, amid discussions concerning food insecurity, population aging, migration, and climate change, Romania is slated to conduct five rounds of elections in the year 2024.

According to the World Values Survey, trust in governmental institutions is very low (trust in the government – 18.8%; trust in the party system – 9.7%, combining responses "a great deal" and "quite a lot"). Similarly, trust in traditional media is also low (27.5% – trust in print media; 29.6% – trust in television, the lowest level of trust across the four waves of research). At the same time, there is a growing inclination towards the idea of having a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament and elections (72.6% for responses "very good" and "fairly good").

In the context of this prevailing mistrust, populist parties leveraging narratives of fear are garnering increased support and votes. Starting from the premise that the tendency of conspiracy theories to spread rapidly, coupled with the imminent danger of exposure to contradictory information and the dissemination of fake news and disinformation, makes people more vulnerable and confused. We aim to analyze these discourses in a manner that combines qualitative and quantitative content analysis to identify the most influential narratives that will circulate in the Romanian online environment during the electoral campaign for the European Parliamentary elections. We will examine their dominant characteristics and assess user responses.

RN18 | T02_01: Digital Platforms 2

Digital Influencers: The New Symbolic-ideological Mediators of the Digital Age

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During the era of digitalization, the emergence of the Internet, online social networks and new forms of communication have given rise to new dynamics of interpersonal relationships. Each user begins to play a dual role, not only as a passive receiver/consumer of information but also as an active creator/producer, publishing content online in an independent and autonomous way.

Companies realise that digital ubiquity is a lucrative opportunity and bet on Digital Influencers (DIs) as individuals who post advertisements on social media to influence their followers' purchasing intentions and decisions.

However, the daily work practices of these 'new' protagonists of the digital age transcend simple commercial boundaries. Reaching a broad audience, DIs disseminate, in the content they produce and publish, a lot of opinions, perceptions, beliefs, values, and representations and shape the attitudes and behaviours of their audiences across multiple spheres. They also (re)produce a variety of ideologies of capitalist social dominance and representations of power with significant impacts/effects on followers.

In a multidisciplinary dialogue between sociology, communication sciences, management and marketing, this paper proposes a theoretical and empirical incursion into various international studies and provides some analytical clues related to these topics. Specifically, this communication focuses on some types of ideologies spread by IDs, mainly related to consumption, authenticity, entrepreneurship, self-empowerment, body, beauty, health, well-being and politics, and in the effects/impacts on their audiences.

Minors Moderating Minors: The Issues of Moderation on a Group-Based Internet

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As internet users shift towards group-based platforms new challenges arise in moderating problematic content. Moderation is often left to the users themselves – often minors, lacking the relevant skills. This study draws on six months of netnography in diverse online youth communities on Discord, Facebook and Signal, and ten interviews with moderators aged 16 to 20.

A central finding was that instead of adhering to defined rules, moderators tend to redirect problematic content to designated subforums as a means of balancing their social status with the platforms' terms of use – a process we term "sorting" as opposed to "moderating". When actually moderating content, moderators tend to rely on gut-feelings and instinctive reactions rather than clear rules. These practices displace issues rather than confronting them, allowing problematic content in forums visited by thousands of youths.

The consequences of this include the tolerance of e.g., neo-Nazi propaganda and potentially traumatizing content in youth communities moderated by inadequately skilled minors. We advocate for platforms to assume responsibility for content moderation by providing moderators with the necessary tools and knowledge to address and prevent malpractice.

Mastodon in Sociology: Theoretical and Methodological Reflections on Decentralized Communication

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University of Naples "Federico II", Italy

This research is centered on the transformative trends in communication patterns among citizens, prompted by an escalating distrust in traditional media, leading them to increasingly gravitate toward new decentralized modes of interaction. A focal point of this shift is the emergence of Mastodon, a decentralized microblogging platform founded on open-source software. It is characterized by a network of interconnected communities dispersed across distinct servers. It is noteworthy to emphasize that these servers do not operate in the prevalent conception of separate units, but rather as independent entities always ready to communicate with each other. Mastodon's decentralization is underscored by the notable absence of algorithms dictating user feeds, a pivotal consideration for social scientists keen on scrutinizing communication dynamics. The overarching objective of this article is to delineate the distinctive economic and communicative aspects of Mastodon and to explore its viability as an instrument for social research.

This study positions itself as a pilot investigation, integrating walkthrough and digital ethnography methodologies. The initial empirical phase engaged with 10 servers, facilitating an exploratory analysis of Mastodon's interface, encompassing an examination of its operational mechanisms and embedded cultural references. Subsequently, the second phase concentrated on 2 of the previously identified 10 servers. These sequential phases provided an introductory panorama of the platform's salient features. The principal aim of the article is to furnish a theoretical and pragmatic framework for comprehending how Mastodon can be effectively employed as a research instrument in social studies, accentuating its decentralized nature and its capacity to furnish decentralized online communication contexts.

The Platformisation of 'Family Doings' – How Digital Platforms Afford Intergenerational Family Practices such as Communication and Play across Generations

Kristinn Hegna, Maja Nordtug

University of Oslo, Norway

Today, families are conducted through a myriad of digital platforms. Families for instance communicate through platforms such as Snapchat, Whatsapp, and Messenger, and they play with each other through gaming platforms such as Roblox. However, across generations, the different platforms afford differently, and digital inequalities between generations pose a challenge to intergenerational relations in an age of platformisation of the family. To further understand tensions and transformations related to the platformisation of the family, we wish to explore how digital platforms afford intergenerational family practices.

In researching how something affords, we must 'ask not only how objects afford but also for whom and under what circumstances?' (Davis & Choinard 2016: 244). In this paper, we aim to understand how, for whom and to what extent digital platforms afford family practices such as intergenerational communication and play across three generations in various Norwegian families. Family – , three generation – and particularly grandparent relationships are under-researched in this context.

Our discussion rests on preliminary analyses of a dataset of qualitative in-depth interviews with a diverse set of children/youth aged 9-18 years, their parents and grandparents, from up to 20 three generation families in Norway. The analysis of this paper is informed by perspectives of platformisation (van Dijck et al, 2018), 'doing family'/family practices, a relational perspective of affordances as well as relational processes across generations and in families.

Davis, J. L., & Chouinard, J. B. (2016). Theorizing affordances: From request to refuse. Bulletin of science, technology & society, 36(4), 241-248.

Van Dijck, J., Poell, T., & De Waal, M. (2018). The platform society: Public values in a connective world. Oxford University Press.

RN18 | T02_02: Journalism and the Media 2

"One Cannot Remain Silent". Journalistic Reactions to the Social Media-Based Rule-Breaking Communicative Strategies of the Italian Radical Right.

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The political repertoires of radical right parties combine ethnocentric nationalism with gender conservativism. These illiberal motives, often conveyed in rule-breaking ways, constitute a hotspot of the dialectic between RRP and legacy journalism.

To examine this issue, I analyze a pivotal event of the 2022 Italian election campaign. Giorgia Meloni, leader of Fratelli d'Italia (far-right), shared on Twitter a video of a Ukrainian woman being raped by a Guinean asylum seeker in Piacenza, conveying an anti-immigrant message. The incident illustrates how the convergence between RRP's ideological discourse and social media alters the dynamics of political communication, affecting the broader mediated public sphere and questioning the socio-political role and professional practice of legacy journalism.

Indeed, the episode was widely covered by the Italian press. Journalists compactly exposed the illiberal nature of Meloni's action, reaffirming the boundary of the legitimate election debate. However, media narratives often ended up mainstreaming rather than debunking Meloni's rhetoric, by foregrounding the immigrant background of the perpetrator, exposing the rape victim by re-evocating the video, and personally attacking Meloni rather than reflecting on causes and implications of women's and migrant's social vulnerability.

Combining a qualitative analysis of controversy-related Twitter and news content and 20 interviews with Italian journalists, I document these outcomes and elucidate which factors hinder journalistic adherence to professional ethics. First, the blurring of journalists' editorial control and gatekeeping power in the digital age. Second, audience-driven considerations incentivizing journalists to sideline critical analysis in favor of sensationalism.

By documenting how legacy journalism may amplify illiberal discourses rather than serve as a safeguard against them, I contribute to understanding its evolving role in confronting the challenges posed by radical right politics.

Social and Political Shaping of Digitalisation: Implementing Digital Technologies in Turkish Journalistic Regime

Ezgi Kaya Hayatsever

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The claim that digitalization is a universal phenomenon that transcends social and geographic barriers and spreads regardless of distinctions or differences has grown prosaic. Variations in social and political environments shape the way people engage with and respond to digital technologies, leading to diverse paths of digitalization depending on the setting. This paper seeks to go beyond the apparent universality in digitalization by inquiring into how digitalisation is moulded by its engagement with social and political conditions in a specific setting. The present study centres on the journalistic regime in Turkey, a notion that is based on Michael Burawoy's concept of factory regimes. For the purposes of this study, this notion of journalistic regime forms the background through which the engagement with digital technologies is played out. Drawing on from the social shaping of technology thesis as a theoretical framework, the study delves into how the despotic journalistic regime that has been prevalent in Turkish mainstream media for the past ten years influenced the way digital technologies permeated Turkish media structures and journalistic practices. The analysis is based on data and insights from interviews with 19 journalists employed by digital news outlets in Turkey. The study focuses on how mechanisms for controlling journalistic labour in digital media interact with characteristics of journalistic labour supply. Through this inquiry, the study aims to gain insights into how the pathway of digitalization is altered in certain social and political contexts and delineate the groundwork for comparative thinking on digitalisation and journalism.

Continuity and Contrast: A Comparative Study of Romanian Journalism in the Worlds of Journalism Surveys 2012-2016 and 2021-2023

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University of Bucharest, Romania

This in-depth investigation explores the landscape of Romanian journalism through a meticulous comparative analysis of two periods: WJS2 (2012–2016) and WJS3 (2021–2023). WYS2 was particularly concerned with the cultural nuances of journalists, while WYS3 focused on the dynamic

dimensions of risks and uncertainties in the Romanian media milieu.

WJS3 broadens the perspective to examine the complicated facets of risks and uncertainties faced by journalists in Romania. This study meticulously examines editorial autonomy, external influences, journalistic roles, epistemology, professional ethics, security, resilience and working conditions. The aim is to decipher the comparative dimensions of these elements and to identify the patterns that persist or change across these different time periods.

In contrast, WJS2, with its focus on journalistic culture, has provided a basic understanding of professional norms, values, and identity within the Romanian journalistic community during the earlier period. By comparing these two phases, the study aims to provide a nuanced analysis of the continuity and contrast of journalistic perspectives over time.

The main research questions guide this comparative study. First, how do journalists adapt their practices and perceptions across these periods to respond to the changing landscape of risks and uncertainties? Second, what enduring patterns and shifts emerge in the broader landscape of journalism in Romania through this temporal perspective?

The research methodology involves a meticulous analysis of quantitative data, utilizing the theoretical frameworks established by WJS, to unravel the complex interplay between journalism and the evolving socio-cultural milieu in Romania.

Hegemonic, Counterhegemonic, or Pro-Women's Rights?: Meta-Journalistic Discourse on 'Women's Strike' in Poland

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Feminist scholarship views mainstream media as part of the 'hegemonic domain', implicated in justifying and reproducing oppression. However, meta-journalistic discourses in which journalists reflect on media representations of minoritised groups remain largely uninterrogated. This paper seeks to bridge this gap by studying how meta-journalistic discourse on media representations of the 2020-2021 'Women's Strike' in Poland perpetuated and challenged hegemonic power relations.

In October 2020, hundreds of thousands of Poles protested against the introduction of the virtual ban on abortion. The demonstrations brought together women's rights and queer activists, feminists, opposition politicians, and ordinary citizens. The diversity of participants entailed a wide spectrum of postulates, ranging from the return to the conservative 'abortion consensus' to the pro-choice calls for full abortion rights to the ousting of the government led by the ultraconservative Law and Justice (PiS) party. For journalism, this heterogeneity meant that certain demands were foregrounded at the expense of others.

This paper draws on literature on epistemic democracy and feminist-philosophical scholarship on epistemic exclusion to examine how journalists reflect on media representations of the demonstrations and their implications. Empirically, it studies the articles by pro-PiS government media outlets, oppositional outlets that explicitly align with the Civic Coalition party, and media that do not ally with any political party. Generally, the pro-government media cherry-picked the postulates of the movement to demonise it as causing social unrest; oppositional media highlighted the calls to oust PiS to forward their own political agenda; and the non-aligned media tended to focus on the struggle for women's rights. Both pro-government and oppositional media, then, acted as agents of the hegemonic domain, while the non-aligned outlets attempted to step outside it.

RN18 | T03_01: Labour, Precarity and Play

In and Against the Platform: Navigating Precarity for Instagram and Xiaohongshu (Red) Influencers

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This paper presents an "alternative interpretation" (Tavory and Timmermans, 2014) of the precarity experienced by social media influencers. Existing scholarly discussions of the influencer industry often take a critical stance, marked by a consistent theme of precariousness. However, this narrative falls short in explaining why influencers persist in the industry despite its inherent instability. In other words, there exists an "imaginative challenge" (Tsing, 2015) in exploring the empirical dynamics of precarity—how it is managed and ultimately lived. Based on in-depth interviews with 15 Instagram influencers and 12 from Xiaohongshu (Red), this article reveals that influencers strategically adopt a positionality I term "in and against the platform." This dual approach involves both collaboration with and resistance to platform rules and rituals, ultimately enabling influencers to establish a sustainable way of living amidst precarity. I argue that this "in and against" framework brings to light the active agency and creativity often overlooked by academic discussions, and also introduces complexity into our understanding of precarity in 'post-work society'.

Tracing the Precarity of Film Work: From Organizations of Associated Labour, through Semi-permanent Workgroups to Gig Jobs

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Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Croatia

In this presentation, I aim to show the trajectory of film work as precarious project work. Firstly, this will be done by examining the film policy instruments in the late Yugoslav period, where the market principles based on the project logic, nested themselves within the models of organising film work. This has been exacerbated by the entering of Yugoslav film industry in the global film industry through service productions. Decentralisation model of Yugoslav cinematography introduced in 1962 enabled different republics to have their own film policy trajectory. In 1976, the Law on Cinematography based film production on the self-management postulate that created the Self-Management Community for Cinematography of the Socialist Republic of Croatia (SIZ KIN). Thus, in 80ies Croatia, with film company/studio Jadran Film, organisation of funding of SIZ KIN through project applications on the one hand, and working on Hollywood and other market-based cinematographies', Yugoslav film workers have been among the first to experience the market project-to-project approach. Secondly, I will show how in the following years, the approach of semi-permanent work groups has been evident in organisation of film production in Croatia, especially with the introduction of the foreign film production incentive programme introduced by Croatian Audiovisual Centre. In conclusion, I show that the lack of tradition of unionisation of film labour from Yugoslavia to today, in the context of the small industry opens up possibilities of exploitation of film workers, especially considering the recent entry of the 'streamers' and their gig work policies for film labour.

Space, Place and Media Employment in Romania

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It is well-known that place and space matter (Johnston et al. 2019), and "without journalism, there is no democracy" (Carey 1999, 91). The main goal of our research is to take a closer look at the media employees' geographical concentration. There is a spatial divide between counties and cities where the media employees are over-concentrated – the case of the capital Bucharest and its metropolitan neighborhoods. Only in this place, more than 20,000 employees work in the media sector. By contrast, in many counties/cities less than 100 people are employed by media outlets.

Using the official statistical datasets provided by the National Statistics Institute, our research comes up with the first spatial analysis of employment in the media sector in Romania. The paper employs the theoretical contribution of "news deserts" (Abernathy, 2023; Gulyas et al., 2023), which identifies and describes the places that lack access to local news and information.

The descriptive statistics show that the discrepancy between "media-rich" and "media-poor" places tends to increase in the last 15 years. The gap in employment rates translates into reduced or nonexistent media content in economically underdeveloped regions, where local media has reduced audience rates and faces editorial pressures from ownership or political factors. Similarly, it leads to uneven access to information and knowledge between communities.

Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Gambling: Public Opinion and Regulation

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In recent years, gambling has become one of the most polarised public debates in Spain. This has not only remained a social issue, but has also reached the political level, which has led to the formation of public policies and regulations regarding gambling, both at local and state level. Within this framework, the Basque Country stands out as the first autonomous community to regulate online gambling and to create a specific observatory for this social reality, as well as being one of the communities where the most money is collected.

In this context, the aim was to understand public opinion by analysing a regional survey on the assessment and perception of gambling carried out in the Basque Country in 2022, which analyses different aspects such as the practice of gambling, the assessment of gambling, as well as practices related to its regulation. To do so, the ATGS scale was applied, which was first used in the United Kingdom and has subsequently been adapted in other countries such as Finland and Australia.

In general, in relation to the results, Basque society has a negative opinion of gambling, as 68.7% consider it to be a problem for Basque society. However, opinions are divided on other issues, such as the control of gambling or the location of premises and machines, and there is no consensus. The main differences are obtained according to age, level of education and ideology of the Basques.

RN18 | T03_02: Disinformation, Fake News and Conspiracy Theories 2

The Complex Tension Between Knowledge Disorder and Information Disorder in the Italian Hybrid Media System

Giovanni Ciofalo, Silvia Leonzi, Lorenzo Ugolini, Fabio Ciammella

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

The paper aims at proposing a reflection on the production, perception, and impact of information disorder, based on the results of a five-year academic research study titled "The Social Effects of Fake News" focused on the Italian context. The reflection is focused on investigating the social and cultural tensions that take shape regarding the relationship between media, information, and knowledge.

To this purpose, a distributed survey was developed on a non-probabilistic sample of the Italian population, representative for age and gender (N:399), and it was divided into three main thematic areas: media use, personal opinions, and socio-demographic data.

From the analysis of the findings emerges a crisis of the "quasi-statistical sense" (Noelle-Neumann 1974), resulted in the ability to create multiple truths, rather than recognizing the social and cultural limits of individuals' opinions as in the past. The paper argues that the main consequence of this crisis is an "appropriation of reality" by the audiences, that takes the shape of a redefinition of the information-knowledge relationship. It corresponds to an evolution from a macro to a micro perspective of the Foucauldian concept of alethurgy, which gives room to the construction of micro-regimes of likelihood.

The analysis of the collected data identifies four frames of interpretation of reality, which correspond to four models of propensity to believe in false contents:

– "Description" frame = ekphrastic model: the reality is described at all costs;

– "Denial" frame = ideological model: the reality is made up based on personal feelings;

– "Secret" frame = "know-it-all" model: the reality is explained through an overestimated personal competence;

– "Emphasis" frame = hypochondriac model: the reality is magnified in its fearful components.

From Impartiality to Partisanship. The Evolution of Media Bias in Poland (2015-2023)

Radosław Sojak, Andrzej Meler, Beata Królicka

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland

Both researchers and EU institutions consider media bias as one of the important factors reducing the quality of democracy. At the same time, it is recognised that media bias is an effective strategy for market adaptation of media entities. The presented study on Poland from 2015 to 2023 aims to describe the dynamics of increasing media bias and to examine its impact on the internal functioning of individual broadcasters.

We recognise that the most significant dimension of media bias is the gate-keeping strategy of selecting guests representing particular political parties. Based on daily monitoring of representatives of political parties invited to journalistic programmes in media covering 97% of the Polish media market, we test following hypotheses: (1) media bias has been increasing since 2015; (2) media bias increases as the market position of the broadcaster weakens; (3) public (politically controlled) media are more biased than private media; (4) as media bias increases, the diversity of guests decreases, also within particular political parties.

Preliminary analyses based on more than 60,000 media presences of politicians confirm our hypotheses. The results indicate that media bias has been increasing since 2015, to varying degrees for public and private media. The high point of bias for public media was the 2019 parliamentary election campaign and for private media the 2023 parliamentary election campaign. To an even greater extent, the dynamics of media bias depends on the market share of the broadcaster. There is a strong inverse correlation here, as lower market share favours an increase in the bias. The fourth hypothesis was also confirmed; the internal diversity of parties' representatives in the media decreases with the intensification of the bias.

The Social Reality of Fake News: A Study of Discourses on Problematic COVID-19 Information in Taiwan

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Fake news has been studied along four lines in existing literature: characterization, creation, circulation, and countering. However, false information is often treated as a social problem that can lead to conflict and harm. In this paper, I argue that fake news represents an alternative social reality for existing issues, as its content and style hybridize factual and false texts. Therefore, debunking fake news should focus on understanding the discourse fabricated within its content rather than simply discriminating between facts and mistakes.

Based on this perspective, the study collects nearly 700 fake news pieces confirmed by two fact-checking institutions in Taiwan during the COVID-19 outbreak to explore how the pandemic of the century is discursively represented and constructed. The corpus-assisted discourse method is adopted to investigate the linguistic features embedded in fake news and how these features are associated with the discourses of false information. Preliminary results suggest: (1) conspiracy theory is a frequent discourse strategy used in fake news, reflecting geopolitical tensions between Taiwan and China; (2) the discourse of folk medicine is also common within fake news stories. Folk medicine is discursively constructed as mild and harmless, rooted in Taiwan's general public's cognitive structure and food culture; (3) anchoring discourse with prior experiences is largely employed in fake news narratives, including experiences from SARS and H1N1 in Taiwan. Nevertheless, factual and fabricated information is mixed in fake news content, confusing collective memory and knowledge on public health.

White Victimhood and "Right Victimhood": Legitimating Racism and Mainstreaming the Far Right Online

Natalie-Anne Hall

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Social media are often implicated in growing social tensions and a crisis in institutional trust. These phenomena are entangled with the so-called "rise of populism", the mainstreaming of the far right, and the reinforcing of everyday racisms. Yet the computational turn in the social sciences has meant there is a dearth of qualitative, interpretive evidence around people's experiences engaging with this form of politics on social media, and consequently the real impact this has on people's attitudes and worldviews.

I take the issue of Brexit as a case study for examining the diffusion of transnational far and populist right politics on social media. Based on two waves of in-depth interviews and month-long observations with 15 avid pro-Brexit Facebook users, I examine the relationship between Facebook use, support for Brexit, and the transnational far and populist right. I reveal the importance of transnational White victimhood and what I term "Right victimhood", and how these connected Euroscepticism to more extreme forms of right-wing politics on Facebook. White and Right victimhood work together to promote discriminatory ideologies. The latter posits that progressive cultural and minority rights agendas constitute malevolent oppression of those with conservative views. The power of this discourse is in its circumvention of accusations of racism while simultaneously legitimating hostile attitudes towards racialised and minoritised individuals. The spread and appeal of these logics, facilitated by social media, have had reverberating consequences for recent transnational reactionary right mobilisations, including the UK Conservative Party's "war on woke".

RN18 | T03_03: Gender and the Media

Social affordances of SoMe platforms: New Steps in the Study of Interrelatedness of AI, Algorithms, and Gendered User Perspectives

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Affordance analyses are pivotal for examining the impact of social media. They scrutinize design choices, user interpretations, and likely outcomes, making them ideal for digital sociology and media science. The concept of affordance delineates the potential actions perceived by a subject when interacting with an object. However, this definition overlooks the fleeting affordances of contemporary social media. User experiences, and consequently affordances, vary due to AI-curated content based on demographic traits, search behavior, and social network.

By introducing 'social affordances', we aim to anchor affordance analysis in a specific social and behavioral context, considering the unique social makeup of individuals' profiles. In other words, we shift affordances from hypothetical user experiences to concrete, socialized perspectives. We Illustrate this with an analysis of illicit drug markets on social media, where we explore the impact of gender and social networks on buyers' access to drugs.

Based on online ethnography, we created male and female profiles on Snapchat to observe how available and suggested content is tailored according to gender, search behaviors and social network. Social media affordances prove highly specific to the social makeup of interacting profiles.

We propose a sociological approach to the affordance concept, including new methodological frameworks for online ethnography, providing researchers with a tool that accounts for specific social, demographic, and behavioral characteristics of profiles generating data. In conclusion, understanding and operationalizing social affordances is crucial for a nuanced analysis of the diverse ways individuals engage with and experience social media platforms.

The Use of the Internet by Portuguese Trade Unions: is There a Gender Effect?

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Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

After a period of great flourishing, the union movement saw the foundations of its power shaken from the mid-1970s onwards, entering a generalised crisis.

Some authors have emphasised that the rise of women to leadership positions has made a very important contribution to change the way unionism is done: in ideologies, programmes and agendas (Pasture, 1997); in union's practices, as women have a "different leadership style" (Cunnison & Stageman, 1995); in denouncing the rigidity, rituals, the accumulation of responsibilities, and in the adoption of collective working methods (Le Quentrec et al., 1999); and in creating a union's "friendly image" (Cockburn, 1991), what is strategic for reversing union decline (Kirton & Healy, 1999).

Moving from the real world to the virtual one, our aim is to analyse how the Internet is used by female-dominated and male-dominated unions. Do unions where there is a very high rate of feminisation of the leadership use the Internet differently from male-dominated ones? To what extent are there divergences or convergences in the way they use it?

We analysed the online content (website and social media) of four unions (two female-dominated and two male-dominated) in the education and health sectors. Our main conclusion is that there is no gender effect, but rather a broad convergence in the way unions communicate. On the other hand, the way the Internet is being used is not contributing to the emergence of new forms of action and politics, thus not allowing the revitalisation of trade unionism.

Women and Smart Working in Italy: Tension, Transformation, Polarisation of Voices

Tatiana Mazali

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The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified pre-existing forms of exclusion and highlighted how certain phenomena – e.g. smart working – can turn from desirable opportunities into forms of "existential peripheralization" (Ruzzeddu 2020; Bolisani et al. 2020). In this scenario, the media played the role of amplifiers of the drastic changes that individuals and societies experienced.

The contribution will present the results of the empirical research "SWITCH", co-led by the author in 2022-2023 and conducted with quanti-qualitative methods on the topic of female smart working. Starting from the map of narratives and 'dominant voices' identified on Twitter through digital methods (Monaci, Mazali, Persico 2023), the analysis of interviews conducted with 33 women (smart workers of different ages and Twitter female 'influencers') will be presented. The study aimed to understand whether smart working is, or can become, a new mechanism for (re)producing gender inequalities and what the critical issues and actions to mitigate them might be.

Among the main findings, particular attention will be paid to the polarisation of opinions. Indeed, in our study we have witnessed a polarization of opinions and a co-presence of positive and negative voices (both online and offline) emphasizing divergent impacts of smart working: on the one hand, the positive voices highlighted the prospect of saving money, saving time to dedicate to their families or themselves, and being more calm and productive; on the other hand, other women highlighted the increased

working hours and higher rhythms that lead them to physical and mental fatigue.

”I Would Rather be Eroticized Than be Seen as a Threat”

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Muslim women living in the West and beyond derive from a range of cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Despite reductive characterisations, particularly visible in anti-Muslim discourse, the rise of social media has given Muslim women a platform from which to be heard and seen in ways that were previously unattainable (Ryan, 2011). In this regard, Muslim women have discovered novel ways to break boundaries and challenge homogenized stereotypes by expressing themselves using the online space, particularly through the hijab and modest fashion (Lewis, 2013; 2015; 2017). Coinciding with an increasing online presence, global brands have recognised modest fashion as a niche market, marking the beginning of the hijabi influencer-brand collaboration relationship, further amplifying the online exposure of Muslim women. Drawing on original qualitative data from fieldwork conducted internationally with Muslim women as social media producers and consumers, alongside a semiotic visual analysis (Barthes, 1964; 1972; 1977), this paper examines how these hijabi influencers negotiate ‘new’, socially, and religiously constructed notions of Islamic modesty, while simultaneously trying to align with norms of what is currently deemed aesthetically attractive by Western standards. It discusses the impacts capitalist collaborations are having on Muslim women’s interpretations of religiously defined ‘Islamic’ notions of ‘modesty’ and performative Muslimness, asking whether these interpretations are challenging Western stereotypes or complicating Islamic notions of religiosity. This paper concludes with a discussion of the utilisation of hijab, by both influencers and brands, and whether this is to be regarded as regressive or progressive for Muslim women living in the West. Theoretically, this paper is grounded in the works of Erving Goffman (1959), Roland Barthes and Lila Abu-Lughod (2013). Empirically and theoretically, this research extends and enriches current scholarship on Muslim women’s self-representation and utilisation of social media, offering novel insights and contributions to the field.

RN18 | T04_01: Surveillance, Bureaucracy and Politics

Beyond Interest: Classed Dispositions and Political News-consumption in High Choice Media Environments

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News avoidance and public disconnection among ordinary citizens remains a crucial challenge for democracy in “high choice media environments”. This paper utilizes 46 in-depth semi-structured interviews with 23 individuals of different age and class positions to scrutinize how they use media to connect to the public sphere. We question how citizens of different social positions are integrated in the national political information environment to unequal degree. We conceptualize this “integration” as a relation between media repertoires which are unequally oriented towards the public sphere, and classed dispositions which to an unequally render this environment as politically meaningful. We empirically demonstrate that 1) there is a strong class gradient the political orientation of media repertoires which follows from differences in political interest. 2) Beyond differences in political interest, holders of cultural capital may demonstrate an ambivalent relationship to day-to-day news and political coverage, but also have dispositions which provide public connection beyond traditional news media. Finally, 3) Interviewees with a media repertoire primarily dominated by social media are found among the young working class. Lacking both a politically saturated media repertoire and dispositions to appreciate political content, their integration is fragile, and their “self-tailoring” of the media supply is dependent on contingent contextual factors such as unionization and having the right social network. These findings demonstrate the pitfalls of a too media-centred approach in political communication research, highlighting the increasing importance of cultural disposition and social networks in providing citizens with public connection in an information environment increasingly plagued by news avoidance.

Forms: The Fordization of Communication

Eran Fisher

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In the last couple of decades there has been a growing interest in studying the materiality and performativity of paper media in the context of modernity in general and modern bureaucracy in particular. Staples of modern bureaucracy, such as memorandums, files, documents, index cards, registrars, ledgers, calendars, business letters, etc. are seen primarily as registering and documenting an external reality. Mostly we treat them as vignettes through which we get

a glimpse into the reality they register, document, and communicate. An emerging body of research, though, attempts to shine a light on paper media and study them as devices, or technologies, which act on, and shape the content which is laid on them, thereby also exerting an effect on how we see the world and act upon it. My lecture offers a new understanding of forms as facilitating the Fordization of communication. The prominence of forms, and paper media in general, in modern society, and particularly in the context of state bureaucracy, has been understood in the literature via three theoretical frameworks: as means of rationalization, as creating subjectivities, and as performative devices. Building on these three (complementary) interpretations – from Weber, Foucault, and Science and Technology Studies, respectively – I offer a fourth, Marxist-inspired framework. Drawing on the homology between the production of goods and the production of communication, and on the Marxian critique of the assembly line, I wish to understand forms as the Fordization of communication between the sovereign and subjects, and as a key technology in rearranging communicative social relations through two key coordinates: informationalization and spatialization.

Manufacturing Consent for Surveillance Capitalism in Turkey: A Study on Younger People's VPN Use

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The rapid global rise in access to internet technologies facilitates quick access to information, communication, and products, while also demanding swift decision-making for efficient use. This shift in the political economy of the internet is theorized as "surveillance capitalism" (SC), characterized by the extraction and utilization of user behavioral data for insufficiently disclosed aims that eventually produce further revenue and profit. Explicit consent cannot be given without full disclosure or the option to refuse. Yet, user consent for data collection is presented as a requirement for using online facilities, rendering this initial consent null. The unequal power dynamics between producers and collectors of data are inherent in SC, and the systemic solution rather than structural regulations is in the form of privacy products like the VPN for the users to purchase. The political, economic, and cultural factors affecting the use of VPN services in Turkey offer a unique opportunity to examine how Turkish users view and manage their data privacy. Based on a theoretical comparison of Weber's social action theory with Chomsky & Herman's political economy theory on mass manufacturing of consent under Zuboff's framework of SC, this paper investigates how users perceive, decide on, and act upon privacy concerns during consensual processes. To do so, I focus on digitally literate undergraduates' VPN usage in Turkey by conducting in-depth interviews and qualitative data coding. This study aims to contribute to the literature by demonstrating SC's alternative manufacturing of consent under non-standardized political, economic, and social conditions, and discussing potential transformation.

Consumers' Fragile Relations with Privacy and Trust in a Surveillance Economy

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Public trust in digital data, algorithms and devices is under scrutiny as digital platforms, apps, and devices have increasingly become indispensable utilities for social interaction and communication in everyday life among European citizens. This paper aims to analyze how trust in and dependence on digital platforms for mediated communication digital consumption is configured and the kind of consequences this has for user agency and public values.

The paper draws on a mixed-methods study about Norwegian consumers' experiences and perspectives on everyday life in a surveillance economy. The data consist of focus group interviews with 13 participants aged between 18-57 years and a national web-based representative survey of 1000 respondents.

We demonstrate how these apps and platforms which are an essential part of consumers' social infrastructure have become entangled with a corporate-computational infrastructure. This leads to a situation where consumers felt compelled to appropriate these socially indispensable infrastructures in everyday life, making them dependent on their corporate control mechanisms. It was difficult for the participants to establish proper relations with – what they experienced to be – elusive and intangible data, while assigning proper value to their own data as a transactional currency. They simultaneously voiced a desire to gain more knowledge and control over the use of their personal data, to avoid resignation, but found this task overwhelming. Their reactions towards personal data surveillance and privacy issues varied with the extent of invasiveness and tangibility of data extraction processes.

Our analysis builds on insights from the domestication perspective and infrastructure studies to examine user agency and trust, revealed through understandings of their actions, and affective dimensions in situated contexts.

RN18 | T04_02: Climate Change, Sustainability and the Environment

Extreme Weather Events As Media Events In Climate Change Era. The Italian Case Of Emilia-Romagna Floods

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Several studies have shown the difficulties that the news media are facing in highlighting the link between climate change and extreme weather events either during or after the events. Despite the fact that previous literature is rather controversial on the possibilities provided by these events to change beliefs and perceptions of climate risks, the media, through their agenda setting effect, play an important role in influencing the discourses and imaginaries constructed around climate change and its link to extreme weather events. Adopting a holistic approach that combines media event theory and media ecosystem analysis, we investigate the discourses, frames, rituals and narratives that shape media representation of the floods that hit the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy in May 2023. We use a mixed methods design involving qualitative content and narrative analysis integrated by descriptive statistics and quantitative text analysis. The data consists of news from five national newspapers, seven prime-time news programmes and tweets, covering the month of May 2023. Preliminary findings show that the different media have a relatively consistent narrative structure, agenda and circulating discourses, with some variations in the framing of news stories and the representation of the climate change-extreme weather link. We also identified two factors that may have hindered the communication of the risks posed by climate change and its influence on extreme weather events. First, the emphasis on mourning and loss, reinforced by the portrayal of resilience shown by Emilia-Romagna residents, created a ritual of national solidarity that relegated to the margins critical viewpoints considering causes and preventive measures that could have been enacted. Secondly, mainstream journalism in Italy seems to lack a dedicated space and expertise for environmental and scientific issues, resulting in underrepresented and sometimes misleading coverage of the connection between climate change and extreme weather events.

Redefining Sustainable Food Consumption – An Analysis of Public Television Discourses on sustainable food in Hungary

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Centre for Social Science, Hungary

This paper examines how sustainable food consumption is portrayed on Hungarian public television, with a particular focus on the presentation of local food as a central element of sustainable food consumption. The study uses a content analysis methodology. 210 videos from the Hungarian public television archives from the years 2011-2022 are analysed. The analysis is based on domestication theory from media studies. This framework has been applied in various contexts such as war coverage, political events and migration studies (Alasuutari et al., 2013; Fengler et al., 2017; Ha and Shin, 2016; Sinalo, 2022; Achter, 2010).

In contrast to the global nature of sustainability narratives (Luederitz et al. 2017) around sustainable food consumption, our findings reveal a distinct divide in the Hungarian media. The representation of sustainable food consumption is clearly domesticated. It is detached from its global context and framed within a localised narrative. Despite the fact that issues such as zero waste and sustainable food are of global significance, their representation on Hungarian television lacks a direct link to the broader global discourse. Instead, the Hungarian media presents these global issues as parallel discourses that are transformed through processes such as re-narration and re-labelling (Olausson 2014). This paper highlights how the global trend of sustainable food consumption is reframed domestically on Hungarian public television, raising questions about how such framing affects public understanding and engagement with sustainable consumption challenges.

I had no previous application to the PhD Summer School.

Animal Care And New Media. An Exploratory Research On Imaginaries

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Pets have played, and continue to play, an increasingly important role in our lives, and communication around their care and welfare is increasingly varied, rich, pervasive. Not only has industry communication become increasingly relevant, but the presence of animals (both domestic and wild) has also become relevant within social networking platforms and in popular culture, reaching previously unthinkable numbers of people. Starting from a small literature review aimed at showing various research trends, this contribution aims at exploring different meanings of the phenomenon within the Italian context, approaching it from a mixed methods perspective in order to illuminate some of its main dimensions and perspectives. Following this intention, focus groups were conducted with petlovers, selected among the trainees of a specific training platform

for pet care professionals, and an online questionnaire was administered to the users of an e-commerce platform dedicated to pets. A netnographic research was also carried out to explore the content developed on the web, focusing on two fronts: on the one hand, online communities, a privileged place of comparison and discussion for more and more users, and on the other, profiles of animal influencers, sampled always within the Italian context. From the results of this exploratory study, some main polarisations of online discourses and several possible research frontiers for the animal care sector and its communication emerge.

Discursive Polarization in the Digital Media Ecosystem in Spain: The Case of 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Diego de Haro-Gázquez, Raúl Lucena-Martínez, Eladia Illescas-Estévez, Tristán Pertíñez-Blasco, Eva Cataño-García, Ana Rocío Andreu-Pérez, Rubén Martín-Gimeno

Center for Andalusian Studies, Spain

In December 2023, Spain concluded its six-month rotating presidency of the European Council, during which a European Summit was held in the city of Granada during the first week of October. The main objectives of this summit were to address issues related to Open Strategic Autonomy, immigration, accession of new member states, and especially the Ukraine war, with the presence of President Zelenski. Although there was no direct mention of topics related to the UN's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, they experienced the highest peak of media interest in Spain in the last five years, according to Google Trends data.

The 2030 Agenda (and the 17 associated Sustainable Development Goals) was unanimously approved by the United Nations in 2015 and has since become a polysemic concept within the Spanish digital media ecosystem. On the one hand, it has been conceptualized as a vector for humanizing public leadership (Romero-Martín et al., 2023), but it has also been linked, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, to a populist anti-elitism movement that, at times, has bordered on conspiracy beliefs.

The objective of this communication is to conduct an analysis of the digital media ecosystem (including online press and social media) in Spain related to 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and to identify the conversational communities that drive public debate on this topic. To achieve this, a digital content analysis was carried out using social listening and analytics tools, along with a segmentation of communities and polarization using a Social Network Analysis approach.

RN18 | T04_03: War, Invasion and the Media

The Trust to the Internet Activity and Information: Through the Ukrainian-Russian War Context

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The biggest military conflict in Europe since the Second World War began on 24 Feb 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has also accentuated problems related to Internet activity and trust on the Internet, in other words, the problems of obtaining reliable information online, consumption of fake and propaganda and its influence on the public opinion present one of the leading components either in digital-developed countries or countries at war. The excess of unreliable and fake information affects the change of Internet activity of the modern user and leads to a big loss of trust to the information transmitted through the Net. Therefore, the problem of trust to information disseminated through Internet becomes extremely acute for understanding modern information warfare.

The research objective is to study the peculiarities of Internet activity during the war and to fix the level of trust to the Internet information.

The problems are under investigation:

Has the activity of Ukrainians on the Internet during the war changed compared to the pre-war period?

Is there any dynamics of Internet activity during the war?

Have the sources of receiving information changed during the war and if yes in what way?

What are the indicators of trust in the Internet and how are they fixed and described?

What is the level of trust to various information sources in war conditions? And how can it influence the susceptibility to fake, and propaganda information?

The focused online interview is the main research tool.

Media, Vulnerability, and Civic Resistance: Unraveling Narratives on War and Hybrid Threats among Socially Vulnerable Groups in Lithuania

Dzina Donauskaite[1], Daiva Skučienė[1], Rūta Brazienė[1], Ieva Gajauskaitė[2], Viktor Denisenko[2]

1Vilnius University; 2General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

Media's portrayal of the Russian War in Ukraine has significantly impacted the previously occupied Baltic countries. Support for Ukraine's military efforts has been expressed at the highest levels of governments, translating into tangible military assistance. The war has led to a reassessment of defense strategies and societal reflection, prominently presented in the media.

Wars inflict profound impact on civilians, especially vulnerable groups, who have limited resources to escape as refugees when wars start. Simultaneously, these vulnerable individuals play a significant role in both active war participation and civic resistance during occupation.

Grounded in critical media theory, this research explores media usage by socially vulnerable groups in one of the Baltic countries – Lithuania – amid military tension, analyzing their narratives in response to mass and social media messages, and exploring their perceptions of potential roles and behaviors in case of a feared spillover of conflict.

Critical media theorists argue that mass media mobilizes citizens by providing narratives for war justification. Yet, global social media disrupts this, acting as a platform for hybrid warfare targeting vulnerable audiences, and impacting ideas of civic resistance.

This paper, part of the project "The Intersection of Social and Defense Policies in Lithuania: Resilience of Socially Vulnerable Groups to Hybrid Threats," investigates the media's role in shaping socially vulnerable groups during times of heightened tensions.

The study, funded by the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT, agreement No. S-VIS-23-17), employs qualitative interviews with 40 vulnerable Lithuanians. These interviews delve into questions about trust in the media, choice of media, and reactions to media messages about threats and civic resistance.

Russian Invasion into Ukraine and Lithuanian Public Agenda in 2022-2023: Victim and Persistent Issues

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Focusing events (Kingdon, 2014) have the power to become dominant issues on any agenda including public agenda. They may become "killer issues" (Brosius & Kepplinger, 1995) that either replace or restructure attention to issues on agendas. Therefore, some issues may become "victim issues" that may disappear completely from some agenda or may lose a lot of attention. Other issues may be identified as more persistent and lose only some attention (or none at all). Yet, other issues may receive facilitating support from attention to the focusing events and become more prominent on the agenda. In this paper we aim to show how Russia's war in Ukraine restructured attention to issues on the Lithuanian public agenda. Specifically, our objectives are to study issue priorities among Lithuanian public and reveal changes of issue attention on the Lithuanian public agenda between years 2022 and 2023 (at the beginning of the Russian invasion and a year after the invasion).

For the purpose of analysis, we use data from two nationally representative surveys conducted in Lithuania on March, 2022 and May, 2023. They included an open-ended question asking respondents to identify (up to three) national level problems that the Government should pay the most attention to during the year of the survey. The answers were registered and coded according to the topic classification developed in the Comparative Agendas Project. This scheme contains 21 major topics. In addition, every answer and identification of a problem was coded whether it was directly related to Ukraine. For the empirical analysis we employed descriptive and multivariate statistical analysis.

The Role of Telegram in the Russo-Ukrainian War: A New Propaganda Model

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The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war has witnessed the emergence of social media as a significant battleground for propaganda. This study focuses on the role of the messaging platform Telegram in disseminating propaganda during the conflict. By analyzing a corpus of Telegram channels related to the war, comprising over 14 million posts, this research aims to uncover the strategies employed by Russian and Ukrainian factions to influence public opinion. The study proves that Russia employs a new propaganda model to disseminate the narratives efficiently for the enemy's auditory. The study uses various machine learning methods to analyze the content and structure of the Telegram channels. Content analysis and clustering techniques, such as sentence embeddings and UMAP, identify similarities and

differences in the narratives shared by different channels. Graph analysis, including the PageRank algorithm and Louvain method, is employed to detect influential channels and community structures within the network. Preliminary findings suggest that both pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian channels actively engage with each other, challenging the notion of echo chambers. Mediating channels, including Russian liberal media outlets and anonymous channels disseminating "insider" information, play a significant role in facilitating interaction between the opposing factions. The study also reveals the presence of coordinated networks of channels which share similar characteristics and content. This research contributes to understanding the role of social media platforms, specifically Telegram, in disseminating propaganda during the Russo-Ukrainian war. The findings shed light on the strategies employed by both sides to shape public opinion.

RN18 | T05_02: Inequalities and the Media

Tangible Outcomes In The Real World: Measuring The Third-Level Digital Divide

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Digitalization affects more and more people all around the globe. For example, in 2022 in some developed countries, e.g. South Korea, Netherlands and Norway, the internet was accessible to virtually everyone. Internet access has gradually risen in Russia as well. According to Rosstat, in 2022 the share of households with Internet access has doubled (86.6%) compared to 2010 (48.4%). However, some groups remain excluded from the benefits that digitalization provides.

One of the most widely used approaches to the analysis of digital inequality is the digital divide perspective. It proposes a model of three digital divides. The third-level digital divide is associated with inequality that appears offline as a result of differences in internet usage. These differences are called tangible outcomes (van Deursen & Helsper, 2015).

This research not only aims to systematize methodological approaches to the third-level digital divide assessment, but also attempts to measure it on the data of «A Monitoring Study of the Economy and Society's Digital Transformation». Employed data was collected by the Institute of Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge (ISSEK HSE) in 2022. The overall sample consisted of more than 10 thousand respondents aged 14 and above from 69 Russian regions.

The results demonstrated that more than a half of Russian internet users achieved some tangible outcomes. These outcomes are mostly related to communication and broadening of social networks, e-commerce and career development. It was also determined that the level of digital skills is associated with number of internet use-related tangible outcomes.

Inequalities In Managing Hyperconnectivity: Findings From A Portuguese Survey

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Digital disconnection is an emergent practice in a mediatized, datafied and hyperconnected society (Couldry & Hepp, 2016; Van Dijck, 2013; Brubaker, 2023). Practices of opting out are socially embedded and stratified (Fast et al.,

2021; Treré, 2021), making the digital another arena where power relations and societal status are negotiated (Helsper, 2021).

This paper explores disconnection through (rather than from) digital media, asking how inequalities play out in digital users' management of hyperconnectivity online (Kaun, 2021; Light, 2014). We approach inequalities through an intersectional lens; and included questions about inhibiting factors to connect to the internet, pressures to be connected, as well as disconnection strategies and motivations (Nguyen et al., 2022). Our study consisted of an online survey, conducted in early 2023, with a quota sample with post-calibration to adjust to the characteristics (sex, age and education level) of the Portuguese population (n=1618).

This paper focuses on disconnection strategies. We found that self-preservation strategies (muting groups in messaging apps; turning off email, social media, news or messaging apps' notifications; and unfollow or block contacts or accounts) were taken up by highly educated, single/dependent or independent 35+ years old, and those who are part of the ethnic and/or religious majority. This indicates privileged digital users who can afford to refrain from social contacts if they find them overwhelming; in contrast with a technical savvy group that detains the abilities to modulate contacts but does not put them to practice, among which we find a greater portion of economically precarious women.

Left Behind? – An Empirical Analysis of Co-actions of Social and Digital Factors in Romania

Szidónia Rusu

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The digital divide has been conceptualized as a gap in terms of access between individuals, households and geographical areas(Van Dijk, 2020). With the rise of technology, the digital divide now applies to both access to ICT and actual use of the internet, access modes, autonomy and a wide range of activities, literacy and skills (Hüsing and Selhofer, 2004, Hargittai and Hinnant, 2008; Van Dijk, 2020). In this presentation, I will examine digital literacy, levels of access, and media usage patterns and profiles, based on Eurostat, OECD, PISA and Hungarian Youth Research (2000-2024) results among young people in Romania. By comparing and analyzing the data, I want to identify the role of socio-demographic, regional, habitus and values differences in several areas of digital literacy and media usage. I present the inequalities in an economic and social context, with a particular focus on comparisons between Central and Eastern European countries, using a set of economic and regional development indicators. Finally, I will also consider user habits and behavioral patterns among young people in Romania, using time-series data over the last twenty years. After all, studying the different dimensions of online interactions and internet usage can help us to understand what factors influence inequalities and access to information in the digital field. In my presentation, I will therefore seek to answer how basic demographic, attitudinal and value system indicators affect digital literacy, access, inequalities and media usage patterns. In the results, I will outline the challenges and opportunities in new technologies and digital innovations for reducing inequalities and exclusion.

Un-fracturing the Paradigm. Toward a New Framing Schema to Analyze Culture in Media, Social Problems and Policy Agenda: the Immigration-Problem Case.

Marco Binotto[1], Marco Bruno[2]

1Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; 2Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

The "struggles over meaning" are increasingly played out around framing processes, the ability to frame reality and define the situation (Castells 2009). However, the flourishing literature produces various definitions of framing and tools of framing analysis so varied that the paradigm of frame analysis prevalent in public discourse is still definable as "fractured" (Entman 1993). Over time the numerous researches on news frames have proposed different definitions and analytical patterns, in an attempt to address this fragmentation, the contribution (from empirical material collected over the years within the Italian case) tries to propose an approach to refine the description of dominant narratives, the analysis of frames and its "interpretive packages" (Gamson, Modigliani 1989) and its connections with the collective imaginary. The authors propose a heuristic tool to define structure, cultural resonances, and metaphors, with two aims: a) to suggest a new schemata to define and identify the main narratives and its relation to the different framing levels (key metaphor, general frames, policy and news frames ordered by level of generality); b) a taxonomy to describe the relationship between existing narratives, those that have been constructed over time to counteract them (counterframing), those that propose to reframe them (reframing), and those that propose to be new or different (alternative narratives). The theoretical attempt here is to bring order and construct a set of definitions of actions to counter the dominant frames, useful also for activists and minority voices. he more than 30-year history of the media coverage of migrations offers a vast array of research and case studies of great and enduring effectiveness to be used as examples of the scheme's use.

RN18 | T06_01: Health and Communication

Investigate Mental Health in Digital Spaces as Political Issue: #su1c1de, #sh.

Nicoletta Guglielmelli

University of Genoa, Italy

Within the social sciences, it is now widely recognised that mental health is a political and social issue. Starting from this observation, my contribution aims to critically analyse digital contexts of socialisation in order to reflect on the relationship between these and mental health. Furthermore, it attempts to investigate whether, even within digital platforms, processes of empowerment and individualisation of people with regard to their own mental health take place. The socio-technical structures of the platforms prevent both sharing and searching for mental health-related content and, as a result, users identify and implement 'resistance' strategies (through the skillful use of hashtags).

Drawing on Fisher's, Ehrenberg's and Fernando's reflections on the relationship between mental health and advanced capitalist societies, on the one hand, and on Ahmed's concept of lived experience related to critical phenomenology, on the other, I propose to analyse the case of TikTok in order to understand whether the regulation of content sharing within it reflects the processes of individualisation and empowerment specific to Western societies.

Research questions:

• What are (and how do they operate) the affordances by which the TikTok platform shapes the narratives inherent to mental suffering?

• In the practices of sharing one's mental health experiences on Tiktok, can strategies to circumvent the platform's affordances and forms of individualisation of one's mental health be recognised?

Methodology:

Digital methods (content and narratives analysis, walk-through analysis).

(I HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN AN ESA Summer School.)

Disregarding Social Hazards. Advertising of Pseudo-Medicine in Legacy Media

Fátima Gómez Buil, Ana García Arranz, Salvador Perelló Oliver

Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain

The economic and credibility pressures on news organizations have influenced editorial decisions, and their integration with commercial content has become increasingly common. In this context, so-called pseudo-medicine (Hellmuth et al., 2019) is reaching astronomical figures globally with an estimated CAGR of 8.9% by 2030 (Euromonitor International, 2023). Advertisers, aware of the highly lucrative nature of these products, place their messages in legacy media, often with the backing of reputable journalists, in order to transfer their credibility and increase persuasive effectiveness, and disregarding the ultimate aim of the profession: to operate in the public interest and adopt practices to serve the needs of society as opposed to private interests.

The aim of this proposal is to explore the degree of implementation of editorial-commercial collaboration of these products in insertions in the legacy media, between 2018 and 2022. For this purpose, a content analysis of 4,078 advertisements was conducted. The crossing of all analyzed variables was submitted to prescriptive tests of significance ($\chi 2$) and the reliability of the coding process was verified by Cohen's kappa.

Preliminary results show that 1 in 5 internet advertisements (20.8%) for supplements appear on generalist news media websites, 3.6% on TV, 16.3% in the press, and 0.9% on radio. On the other hand, in specialized media, their appearance on TV rises to 5.5%, in the press to 27.5%, and on radio, it stands at 1.0%. The significant weight of direct or sponsored advertising in these spaces evidences how the media, dependent on advertising revenue, becomes complicit in the publicizing of products which can pose serious health risks to society.

Werther vs. Papageno – Tensions Around Media Coverage of Suicide

Izabela Korbiel

University of Vienna, Austria

This paper discusses different positions in scholarship regarding content governance in case of media reporting on suicide. It is a dilemma how to report suicide in the media due to the evidence for copy – cat effect, called Werther – effect, occurring after media reports of suicide. In reference to the work of Goethe "Sorrows of young Werther" (1774) people after not sensible media coverage might be inspired to harm themselves.

On the one hand the study reviews voices advocating for certain media coverage collected in media guidelines for "accurate, responsible and appropriate"(World Health Organisation 2002, 2017, 2023) media reporting. Positive media effect is visible in preventive impact on the audience after certain content, for instance publication of help sources such as crisis centres or helplines for persons in suicidal/psychological crisis. The potential of media in suicide prevention is called Papageno – effect as a tribute to the character from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute (1791), who overcame his suicidal crisis after talking to three boys.

On the other hand this paper presents a critical view of media guidelines for reporting of suicide as mean of medicalisation via reduction of the social phenomenon – suicide – to mental disorder. The main criticism claims the will of the individual and the agency of the person who chooses to fulfil this ultimate act are neglected.

The aim is to review and systematise arguments collected by both positions and discuss their applicability in the current situation of multiple crises and changed conditions.

Contentious Politics in Pandemic Times. The Italian case during the first year of the pandemic crisis

Mattia Zunino, Emiliana De Blasio

Luiss Guido Carli, Italy

Since the declaration of a pandemic emergency by the World Health Organisation in March 2020, we have witnessed a critical event of global proportions. Governments around the world, in an attempt to manage a health emergency unprecedented in recent history, have adopted measures that severely restrict individual freedoms. Restrictions on physical access to public space and expatriation, lockdowns, quarantines, and and prohibitions on associating outside the family nucleus have been collective experiences that have shaped the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Given the unprecedented restrictions on physical access to public space and the numerous bans on association, one might have expected a stagnation of practices attributable to the dimension of so-called Contentious Politics. On the contrary, according to early published studies (Della Porta, 2022), it was an extremely dense period of contestations, protests and claims. A general tension, sometimes accompanied by a distrust of health institutions, characterised by the use of alternative practices, especially in terms of communication and presence within digital communication ecosystems. This paper present and analyse the practices of contention against the emergency measures adopted by the Italian authorities in response to the peaks of contagion in the first year of the pandemic emergency, 2020. Given the restrictive measures of physical access to public space that characterised the period under study, particular attention will be paid to analysing the communicative tactics and strategies of protest through the lens of some of the leading national newspapers and within digital communicative ecosystems.

Della Porta, D., 2022. Contentios Politics in Emergency Critical Junctures. In: D. Mayer & S. Staggenborg, a cura di Elements in Contentious Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

RN18 | T05_01: Special Issue Launch 1

Launch of the Symposium: 'Critical Sociology of Media and Communication: Theoretical Contributions to a Disconnected Field' (Critical Sociology, Volume 50, Issue 4-5), edited by Paško Bilić and Thomas Allmer

Spectres of Marx in Critical Media and Communication Studies

Sašo Slaček Brlek, Boris Mance

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

The presentation builds on our previous research (Slaček Brlek and Mance, 2023), which tracked citations of Marxist authors and the use of Marxist concepts in mainstream scholarly publications from the field of media and communication studies. While our previously published study uses co-citation analysis to identify patterns of co-occurrence of citations and keywords, it is limited by not taking into account the context in which authors and ideas are cited. We will complement these findings by examining which of Marx's ideas are taken up in communication studies and how. We will use the existing dataset of 7007 works from the WoS category Communication, selected on the basis of relevant Marxian keywords in the titles, abstracts and keywords, to identify which works of Marx are cited and how citation patterns differ between paradigms and over time. Second, we will analyze the full texts of publications in which Marxist authors are cited to determine the context in which they are cited and which ideas are specifically referred to. The study follows a mixed methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. Using fully digitized texts, we conduct a comprehensive search to extract passages that refer to Marx. While qualitative coding distinguishes between accuracy/abstraction (direct quotation, paraphrase/summary) and sentiments towards cited ideas (positive or negative citation), quantitative analysis constructs conceptual models from the words in the text that denote concepts. These are linked by varying degrees of strength (frequency of co-occurrence in the cited text) and their significance (centrality) within the network. By using community detection algorithms, different clusters of word collocations will be identified, representing different conceptual models.

Frankfurt School Legacy and the Critical Sociology of Media: Lifeworld in Digital Capitalism

Pasko Bilic

Institute for Development and International Relations, Croatia

Just as the Frankfurt School responded to the radicalisation of the working class in Germany and the rise of post-war consumerism in the United States, today, we are confronted by platform monopolies, automated hyper-consumption and technological control. Critical approaches to digital media have exposed the structural coupling of Internet use and capital accumulation for almost two decades. However, many authors building on this tradition can struggle to understand how online social interaction is controlled beyond the worn-out critique of false consciousness or beyond conceptualising all digital activity mediated by data as labour. This paper will attempt to theoretically untangle the Marxian ontology of labour and the Frankfurt School-inspired critique of everyday life. This is not just theoretical nit-picking. Society becomes completely dominated if we accept no difference between wage labour and lifeworld activities. Each contains its internal struggles. The value form regulates both in different ways.

Aesthetic Approach for Critical Sociology of Contemporary Communication Technology

Balca Arda

Kadir Has University, Turkiye

Critical theory has already marked that technology often threatens civil liberties, personal autonomy, and rights. Heidegger, later Marcuse, emphasized how technology is not value-free in its own revealing power of the surrounding environment, external and inner nature. Throughout this paper, I explore how the aesthetic approach engages with critical theory and contributes to the sociology of media and communication. For this, I will theoretically survey the terms of sociality under the forces of immediate communication, ubiquitous surveillance, and the compression of time and space that Baudrillard and Virilio once problematized through the lens of critical technology theory to adapt it to media and communication studies. I contend that techno-aesthetics that converge with Rancière's dissensus can provide practical suggestions on an updated vocation of critical sociology. This article discusses the potential of aesthetic and social criticism of media for democratizing technology that Feenberg inserted. It is urgent to acknowledge the changing spatio-temporal aesthetic regimes that affect the societal imagination and limits of sociality and action to determine the next steps for achieving a commons-based society.

Communicative Activity: Social Theoretical Foundations for Critical Materialist Media and Communication Sociology in the Digital Age

Sebastian Sevignani

Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

This paper contributes to the social theoretical foundations of a critical materialist sociology of media and communication by making use of the cultural-historical school in psychology (e.g., Vygotsky and Leontev). Such a perspective gains relevance under the conditions of digital capitalism and phenomena of the blurring of production and Internet usage. The paper proceeds in three steps, it first revisits Habermas's influential notion of communicative action and agency. It secondly uses activity theory as an alternative, more promising way of theorising communication and media because it links them closer to work. This tradition starts with a humanist notion of concrete species being but pays particular attention to the use of cultural tools for human development. The paper then provides an activity theory-inspired model of communicative action and conceptually links media to human tool use. Building on this, the paper, thirdly, elaborates on the notion of activity in the digital world and posits that digitalisation can be understood as a 'machinisation' of mental and communicative-coordinative work. The developed perspective, the paper concludes, allows critical materialist media and communication sociology to operate with meaningful concepts of communicative expropriation, exploitation, and alienation.

RN18 | T07_01: Special Issue Launch 2

Launch of the Symposium: 'Critical Sociology of Media and Communication: Theoretical Contributions to a Disconnected Field' (Critical Sociology, Volume 50, Issue 4-5), edited by Paško Bilić and Thomas Allmer

Ibn Khaldûn and the Political Economy of Communication in the Age of Digital Capitalism

Christian Fuchs

Paderborn University, Germany

Ibn Khaldûn (was a philosopher, historian, and sociologist. This presentation asks: What elements of the Political Economy of Communication are there in Ibn Khaldûn's work and how do they matter in digital capitalism?

A paper that is based on this talk is part of the Critical Sociology special issue on "Critical Sociology of Media and Communication: Theoretical Contributions to a Disconnected Field":

https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205231206488

It has resulted in a debate between Graham Murdock and Christian Fuchs:

https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205231201050

https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205231201382

There are parallels between Khaldûn's main work "The Muqaddimah" and works in Political Economy, especially Karl Marx's approach of the Critique of Political Economy. Several scholars have pointed out parallels between Khaldûn and Marx. It, therefore, makes sense to also compare Khaldûn and Marx in the context of the Political Economy of Communication.

The presentation shows the relevance of Khaldûn's ideas in digital capitalism. Khaldûn's works are situated in the context of media and communication theory, digital automation, Facebook, Google, labour in informational and digital capitalism, Amazon, the tabloid press, fake news, and post-truth culture.

Khaldûn's "Muqaddimah" is an early work in Political Economy that can and should inform our contemporary critical analysis of communication in society, communication in capitalism and class society, ideology, and digital capitalism.

Marx and Khaldûn both were critical scholars who although living at different times in different parts of the world saw the importance of the analysis of class and communication. Their works can and should inform the Political Economy of Communication and the analysis of digital capitalism.

News Sources in the Sociology of the Media: A Political Economy of Communication Approach

Jernej Amon Prodnik, Igor Vobič

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Journalism and Social Communication Research Centre, Slovenia

Sourcing practices are among the central research topics within the sociology of the media. Empirical studies have analysed what and who are the major journalistic sources, demonstrating that the selections journalists make not only depend on their subjective choices, but are connected to the norms and routines established in the profession. The major findings of the studies include journalists' excessive reliance on elite sources and the growing tendency for news homogenization and the recycling of ready-made information. However, while invaluable, these studies are primarily media-centric and focused on small-scale investigations, meaning they regularly ignore the social totality in which sourcing is inevitably embedded. They consequently encounter difficulties explaining why such sourcing practices exist and why they have evidently been intensifying, while paying too little attention to the external actors that provide 'information subsidies' to journalists. By employing the framework of the public sphere, we show that news sources should be viewed as a topic of central social relevance that touches on wider power relations within society. Sociological approaches should thus be complemented with other critical traditions, for instance political economy of communication (PEC), which can provide valuable theoretical support when uncovering some of the internal and external processes influencing sourcing practices. It can help explain the crucial fault lines of journalism-as-labour and the tendencies of commercial media at the present historical conjuncture, while also explicating general patterns of communication inequalities and hierarchies in capitalist society, which in many ways are connected to the growing dominance of information subsidies in public communication as such. The value of PEC is revealed in brief sketches that point to the possibilities of achieving deeper understanding of the topic.

Examining the Hybrid Media System Model from the Perspective of Critical Communication Research

Rok Smrdelj[1], Mojca Pajnik[2,3]

1University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Slovenia; 2University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Slovenia; 3Peace Institute, Slovenia

In this paper, we start from the assumption that the hybrid media system model is a relevant starting point for any media analysis, as no phenomena or processes in the current media sphere occur outside the intertwining "older" and "newer" media institutions, practices, discourses, and content. However, we argue that while the hybrid media

system model effectively captures the technological developments in the current media sphere, it does not provide a sufficient theoretical and epistemological background for comprehending the social aspects of the digital media environment, namely social relations of power and subordination in neoliberal capitalist economy. Therefore, we propose a theoretical reconceptualization of the hybrid media system model by introducing structural and material conditions of contemporary media sphere with reference to critical theory. Utilizing the principle of historicization and the concept of social relations we demonstrate that those who wield dominant power within the neoliberal capitalist economy also have influence over the logic of the hybrid media system. Following the premise that the "agency" is bounded by hierarchical social relations, we enhance the hybrid media system model to explicate not only cases where digital media have enabled successful civic activism leading to social change, but also cases where new digital technologies reinforce pre-existing social relations of power and subordination. In this manner we expound that the main epistemological shortcoming of the hybrid media system model is not its emphasis on "agency", but its inability to acknowledge the structural circumstances that "defeat" or give rise to the "agency." The main contribution of our paper is to show that critical theory strengthens the explanatory power of the current eclectic-empirical media models without profoundly undermining their foundations.

Digital Labour and Precarisation

Thomas Allmer

Paderborn University, Germany

This talk will address questions focused on digital labour and precarisation.

The term precarious comes from the Latin 'precarius' (obtained by entreaty). It is associated with the lending of a thing that provides the giver the possibility to revoke its use at any time. It describes an insecure and unstable relationship granted on revocation involving a taker-giver dependency.

While there exist many forms of temporalities in digital capitalism, including fixed-term, part-time and hourly-paid, the question of how far digital labour relationships can be considered precarious is open to debate. The overall aim of my talk is to theorise and conceptualise precarisation and apply it to the realm of digital labour.

RN18 | T08_01: Public Sphere

Cancel Culture in Italy: Transformations of the Online Public Debate After Covid-19

Martina Masullo, Emiliana Mangone

University of Salerno

In Italy, cancel culture finds fertile ground in restricted social circles. With the health, economic and social crisis resulting from the covid-19 pandemic, however, the phenomenon of cancel culture has also exploded in Italy. This happened mainly through social networking platforms which, through their polarising power, define themes and topics that become priorities within the public debate. In view of this, we want to investigate the outcomes, consequences and products generated by cancel culture through social media and how the spread of covid-19 has accelerated the evolutionary process.

Considering the 'convergent culture' theorised by Jenkins, which later became one of the cornerstones of media studies, as the macro-area within which to move, and drawing on some fundamental theoretical concepts such as polarisation, homophily and trust, it is possible to observe how social networks give rise to a condition of ideological isolation of the user, amplifying debates and conveying opinions. It is in this context that the phenomenon of cancel culture adapts and revives in contemporary times. Following a qualitative methodology, through content analysis and netnography, the aim is to analyse some case studies in which those collateral phenomena occur which represent the preliminary actions to the act of cancellation: call-out (the act of unmasking), shitstorm (the media pillory), review bombing (the mass negative reviews), deplatforming (the boycott through the denial of access to platforms).

On the basis of preliminary results, it emerges that it is possible to draw the boundaries within which cancel culture can go and to analyse how (and under which influences) people's way of communicating is transforming and towards which perspectives it is turning.

Decolonization Of The European Public Sphere: Can Narratives And Representations Of Migration Be The Way Forward?

Subas Amjad, Sara Pane

La Sapienza University Rome

The public sphere serves as a platform for rational discourse, idea-sharing, and shaping public opinion. Despite its Eurocentric orientation, criticized for excluding women, workers, and minorities, language reinforces these disparities,

marginalizing diverse cultures. The debate extends to the European Union, questioning the existence and characteristics of a European public sphere.

Our contribution posits that a European public sphere exists, shaped by Europeanization but plagued by Eurocentrism. Migration emerges as a potential catalyst for decolonizing this sphere, aiming to challenge dominant narratives and promote inclusivity. Social media has empowered marginalized groups, yet resistance persists.

Decolonization involves dismantling biases and fostering narratives that reflect migrant realities. While efforts toward inclusivity persist, resistance from privileged groups complicates the issue. Dismantling oppressive structures, revising policies, and adopting inclusive practices can establish a just and democratic European public space.

Our study, combining critical literature review, an EU-wide online survey, and ethnographic studies, aims to deepen understanding and pave the way for further research. Structured in three parts—reconstructing the theoretical framework, data collection, and discussion—our contribution seeks to enrich the discourse on the European public sphere, acknowledging challenges and proposing avenues for progress.

Communicating Europe In The Post-Pandemic Scenario: Towards A European Post-Digital Public Sphere?

Sara Pane

Sapienza, University of Rome, Italy

The EU is striving to become more sustainable and equitable in the post-pandemic scenario through a twin transition towards environmentally and digitally livable environments. This transition requires successful management and communication of related public policies. Nonetheless, European public institutional communication has been often neglected and lacks proper accessibility and effectiveness. This deficit in communication has led to criticism of the EU for being distant from its popular base, leading to the rise of populist, Eurosceptic, and eurocritical narratives.

The development of digital technologies offers new perspectives for addressing these challenges. The platformed and networked societies, along with the rapid spread of generative AI, have caught the attention of European institutions. They recognize the potential as well as the risks associated with these new frontiers for renewing their communication strategies. The evolving nature of European public institutional communication is gradually shifting towards a citizen-oriented, multi-level, and user-friendly model centered around digital communication.

Recent measures taken by the EU in information, communication, and participation indicate that the digital realm is no longer just a possibility but a reality that must be harnessed while being mindful of its limitations and opportunities. The interaction between online and offline practices becomes explicit in this context. The transition from the Web 1.0 to the Web 4.0, which emphasizes interactions between humans, platforms, and algorithms, highlights the hybridization of communication practices. This framework sets the stage for a new hypothesis: that of a European post-digital public sphere, which goes beyond traditional notions, poses new challenges and might find in the post-pandemic scenario a potential ground for development.

The Researcher Becomes The Researched: Accessing & Navigating A Public Institution

Sylvie Carlos

King's College London, United Kingdom

In recent years, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has faced scrutiny for controversies such as the sanctioning of Gary Lineker (a British sports broadcaster who critiqued the government's migrant policies) discontinuation of regional radio programs affecting Black and Asian communities, defence of a racial slur, and mislabelling of Black MPs during broadcasts.

This proposal delves into broader inquiries, exploring access, power dynamics, and accountability in researching public institutions. My PhD research specifically focuses on how British podcasts and radio platforms serve Black audiences and conducting an ethnography in one of the BBC's radio production teams had been proposed as a large part of the fieldwork. This proposal uncovers some of the challenges that have occurred when the researcher becomes the researched, even though they were originally viewed as an insider. Alongside being a researcher I am multi-award-winning audio producer.

Themes addressed include:

Researcher Vulnerability: Drawing on personal experiences accessing the BBC and an independent production company, the paper highlights researcher vulnerability and its impact on outcomes.

Access to Public Institutions: Examining access to public institutions, especially the BBC, it questions whether these entities can restrict research on public interest topics.

Accountability and Transparency: Emphasizing accountability and transparency, the proposal questions the responsibility of public institutions in maintaining openness and collaboration during scrutiny.

The paper provides a contemporary perspective on dynamics in researching public institutions amid controversy. Using personal experiences, it contributes to understanding power structures, fostering dialogue on institutional responsibilities, and advocating for transparency and equitable access in public institution research. The insights have implications for researchers, institutions, and policymakers in the media, power, and accountability intersection.

RN18 | T09_01: Action, Struggles and Resistance

Communication and Education as Tools of Resistance in Neoliberal Cities. Problems and Perspectives for Action

Michele Sorice[1], Volterrani Andrea[2]

1Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; 2University of Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

The paper analyses the potential protagonism of vulnerable subjects (Castel 1995; Karwacki, Volterrani 2024) within liminal and marginal communities (Blokland 2017), deeply reshaped and permeated by social tensions after the Covid19 pandemic. Focusing on the interaction between digital communication ecosystems and urban spaces, particularly those identified as 'liminal', the research highlights the central role of communicative processes in civic engagement and broader citizen participation. The analysis of participatory practices considers the potentially inclusive uses of digital communication technologies, while acknowledging the risk that neoliberal rationality also absorbs practices of resistance.

The paper explores whether and how media can serve as a subspace for empowerment and mobilisation. The research is based on an empirical analysis (in-depth interviews and participant observation) conducted in liminal spaces in southern Italy as the first step of a larger study in six other European countries, which is currently underway.

The main – but not the only – aim of the research was to understand the complex relationship between liminal spaces and civic participation through communicative ecosystems.

Emphasising the theme of vulnerability, the paper argues for the incorporation of edu-communication principles into participatory processes, highlighting the potential of media not only as a tool for empowerment, but also as an environment where inclusive practices can be promoted, even within liminal and marginalised communities. This paper contributes to research on the relationship between civic resilience and communication, highlighting the transformative potential of hybrid participation and edu-communication in addressing individual vulnerabilities in urban contexts.

Distrust, Anti-politics and Social Media: Discursive Struggles Over Population Census In Serbia

Tamara Petrović Trifunović, Dunja Poleti Ćosić

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia

Our presentation aims to explore the social media discourses surrounding the opposition to and advocacy for boycotting the 2022 Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings conducted in Serbia. The census serves as a vital source of national population data and holds significant importance for empirical studies and public policies, given the absence of a population register and prolonged reliance on outdated 2011 census data. The analysis delves into the contextual frames shaping the social and discursive dynamics surrounding the census, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, which catalyzed political disaffection, uncertainty, distrust in conventional media, and the proliferation of conspiracy theories. The census itself can be seen as a political phenomenon and an act of power – the state's power over citizens and citizens' power of representation – and therefore provides fertile ground for anti-political contestations on social media platforms, nurtured by a fundamentally distrusting and suspicious vision of political life and media landscape. Our data sources include Facebook posts and comments, Reddit discussions, YouTube interviews, and comments on various media outlets and portals. We will examine strategies of delegitimization, interdiscursive connections, and ideological foundations of the anti-census discourse, as well as identify its prominent themes and topoi (i.e. the privacy abuse, suppression of the nation, theory of experimental totalitarianism, a call to a counter-action).

Democratisation from Above? Governance practices from the European Broadcasting Union to the Romanian Public Service Media (SRR & SRTV)

Raluca Petre

Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania

Public Service Media in Central and Eastern Europe have emerged out of a complicated authoritarian state legacy. More often than not, they have been considered state rather than public institutions; instruments of power and propaganda, a legacy of the ancient regime in the region. At the same time, PSM in Western and especially Northern Europe have traditionally enjoyed a respectable tradition and high trust at the level of their respective societies. Nevertheless, things have been changing in the recent years and the most recent Eurobarometer on Media & News Survey (2023) show no significant difference between Eastern and Western Europe when it comes to the distribution of trust

in PSM. In this contribution, I explore one of the explanatory reasons of this convergence.

The main focus of analysis is on governance practices and their potential of democratization from above. I take a view from top down and map the democratic governance practices of the largest association of public service media providers in Europe, the European Broadcasting Union. I address the way EBU democratic governance works and observe the criteria or representativity in its governing bodies. Further on, I analyze the transfer of governance practices from EBU to the Romanian PSM providers, namely the public radio (SRR), and public television (SRTV). I proceed with a neo-institutional analysis coupled with analysis of the contributions of current and former representatives of the two institutions in the EBU committees. The theoretical framework that underpins the analysis is neo-institutionalism and its focus on sector based practices.

RN18 | T09_02: Advertising, Promotion and the Media

The Role of CSR Activities in Preserving Brand Reputation – a Critical Perspective in Advertising Industry

Madalina Buga-Moraru

University of Bucharest, Romania

This study aims to highlight the dual role of a CSR campaign in shaping brand's reputation: addressing unpleasant aspects and advocating for causes related to product features themselves. Brand capital emerges from loyalty to the brand, its recognition, perceived quality, associations, and its name (Aaker, 1991). Brand equity is deeply connected to brand value, with two different perspectives rooted in economics and cognitive psychology. Brand reputation encompasses notoriety, brand memorability, market heritage and assets in comparison to competitors. Brands may encounter situations where their products have negative influences on diverse fields such as environment, education, pollution, health, and addiction. Consequently, CSR activities are designed to transform product/service disadvantages into advantages by engaging consumers/users in specific activities related to the brand's profile. As Garberg and Fombrun (2006) assert, CSR activities enhance brand reputation in the minds of customers, making it a strategically valuable investment that can be seen as a form of reputation building. This study aims to underscore the main themes of CSR activities and campaigns used by top 10 Romanian brands (2022 – 2023). The research design involves framing and thematic analysis applied to 50 CSR campaigns covering diverse topics, considering that brands belong to different categories of products or services such as finance, furniture, pharma, electronics, and soft drinks.

Hence, CSR activities conceal brand weaknesses, transforming them into strategic tactics to enhance consumers' critical perception and improve brand reputation.

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"#alwaysbethere": Polizia di Stato in the Digital Era Between Promotion and Professional (self)representation

Elisa Begnis, Simone Tuzza

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Over the past twenty years, the utilisation of social media by Police forces has captured the attention of scholars from different part of the world. This heightened interest can largely be attributed to the sociopolitical transformations that have transpired within this era and the upsurge in pervasive populism. However, literature shows an overall gap in the Italian police studies, which sees a noticeable deficiency in terms of social media analysis.

We employed a theoretical framework encompassing concepts such as image work, police presentational strategies and encounter theory in our endeavor to investigate the utilization of digital tools by the Italian Polizia di Stato (State Police). Our aim is to address the existing gap in literature and discuss how the PS utilises its official website along with social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as a medium for conveying a positive image of police work to the citizens.

To accomplish this objective, we will analyse both the structure of the PS' official website and 250 posts from PS' official profile for each social media, attempting to describe how the organisation uses the new medias as instruments to portrait themselves. The study aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the predominant digital platforms through thematic and textual/hashtag examination, evidencing the significant narratives and recurrent themes presented by the PS to appeal to a diverse audience and garner recognition.

Virtual Alchemy: Transforming Social Constructs into Compelling Place Brand through Communication – The Case Study of Șirnea Village

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In response to the decline of villages against metropolitan dominance, this research investigates the digital communication involved in crafting a compelling place brand, using the case study of Șirnea Village. As the first tourist village in Romania, Șirnea provides important insights into stakeholder's contribution to shaping the village's image.

Image is the result of a social construct, so every voice involved is important. As such, the study analysed the collective digital communication of diverse stakeholders associated to the transformation of the village into a distinct place brand. Our primary objectives were to identify the main stakeholders involved in the digital communication, the main channels of communication used, the main themes approached and the key characteristics of the village communicated by each stakeholder.

We analyzed the online content disseminated between January 1st and December 30th, 2023, focusing on news channels and blog posts. Content analysis was applied as the research method, chosen for its systematic approach and the ability to facilitate both quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

The research findings reveal dominant themes and stakeholder perceptions and provide insights into the potential for sustainable development. Moreover, it added to the existing body of knowledge regarding the creation of place brand images for small and less recognized destinations by underlining the transformative impact of digital interaction.

Commercial Television as blind spot in emerging media systems. Romania and Bulgaria's Cases

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The study explores the audiovisual in Romania and Bulgaria considered "emerging" media systems in post-communist studies (Sparks, 1995). It uses Hallin and Mancini's framework (2004) to analyze central aspects of the commercial television configurations. The study offers an institutional perspective on television by exploring the licensing frame and the general television offer. The interaction between commercial television, politics, and state underlines the intricate relations through powerful and influential networks, involving various interests of individuals and groups. The study fills in the blind spot of research on commercial television in both countries, aiming to contribute to the understanding of Romanian and Bulgarian media landscape. It offers a critical perspective on television systems in relation with Polarized Pluralist model of Hallin and Mancini (2004) considering its explanatory function within Eastern European media systems' analysis. In present, the commercial television is the most developed category of media in both countries. The research is explorative and descriptive, based on the secondary analysis that used similar categories of data series from both countries. Situated at the crossroads of post-communist regimes and EU modernization directions, The Romanian and Bulgarian commercial televisions contributed to the progressive and the irreversible replacement of the monopole of public television, being considered dynamic televisions' markets in CEE, reportedly pluralist and based on free competition. However, the commercial television is exposed in many ways to political factors and economic pressures (the limits of the national advertising markets).

RN19 | Sociology of Professions

RN19 | T01_01: Professionalism and social care

Beyond Registration & Regulation: The Challenges Of Integrating Sociological Approaches Into Social Care Practice In Ireland's New Regulatory Regimes.

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The dynamic landscape of Irish social care work has arrived at a consolidatory threshold. The Irish state has made the term 'Social Care Worker' a protected title, with 'standards of proficiency' that hold a legal status; adherence mandated by legislation. However, the ways these standards are interpreted varies greatly, evidenced by the wide array of undergraduate programme content delivered across the state post-regulation. Our concern is that a critical sociological perspective, might be undermined, which would be a significant diminution of social care work undergraduate training.

Sociology can empower social care professionals to look beyond individual pathology, providing a holistic view that considers micro contexts and macro structures. The Irish state (CORU 2019) mandates that it is an ethical duty of professional social care workers to "…promote social justice in your practice through: challenging negative discrimination and unjust policies and practices; respecting diversity, different cultures and values… and working towards social inclusion" (p27). The risk for social care is that it becomes focused on proximate issues around individual need and fails to see the wider structural issues reproducing and exacerbating our clients' vulnerabilities.

This paper situates sociological analysis as a bedrock attribute for social care work; that an applied sociological approach amplifies the potential of social care work, to make empirically informed and meaningful interventions in the lives of their clients, in partnership with clients. This paper is a call to action and encourages partnerships and engagement between sociology and the entirety of the profession: frontline workers to policy makers.

Social Care And Social Work: Professional Status And Processes Of Legitimisation

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The profession of Social Care (residential care of vulnerable children) in Ireland has struggled to achieve full professional status. This is evident in the profession's relationship with that of Social Work (statutory child protection casework). While contemporary forms of both professions emerged in the early 1970s, the profession of Social Work had been established since the beginning of the 20th century in iterations such as the Hospital Almoner (medical social worker). Despite a recognition of Social Workers as predominant functionaries in the child protection figuration, little is known about their rise to dominance in relation to the allied profession of Social Care. Addressing this dearth of knowledge, this paper analyses historical documents, exploring the genesis of both professions in terms of conflicts and tensions, as well as the development of unequal power relations. Ireland provides a rich and potentially fruitful research context given its complex child protection history. The sociology of Norbert Elias, specifically his work on the genesis of the naval profession and his established-outsider theory, while underutilised in the sociology of professions, provides a useful framework for this analysis. This paper argues that the extent to which cultural alignment between these professions and State agencies existed, as well as the phase of development during which these relationships intensified, are significant as they inform the conditions under which legitimacy claims arise. The attainment of professional status over time is shown here as one aspect of a legitimisation process, and part of a broader developing professional care habitus.

Frontline Professionalism in between Specialisation, Hierarchies and Interdependencies

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Young people outside education and employment have for long been a cause of serious worry for politicians and parents. Adding to that, young people have been among the hardest hit by the consequences of COVID-19.

Despite or because of the worries of politicians and parents, these young people end up at the offices and in the files and hands of frontline workers whose individual traditional professionalism leaves them ill-equipped to meet their complex challenges arising from difficult upbringings, mental problems, drug abuse, early school leaving and incomplete learning outcomes. Situated at the lowest levels of service hierarchies, in one of multiple services within a division of labour, with a mandate to manage only a single aspect of the young people's complex challenges, they find themselves in precarious interdependencies with other

organizations and professionals. Their conceptualisation of youth at risk must be considered fundamentally shaped by this organisational positioning.

A professionalism adapted to the situation of frontline professionals seems inadequately understood and theorised. The purpose of this paper is to discuss what professionalism mean in a street-level context. Our discussion is based on an analysis of Norwegian frontline professionals' conceptualisation of young people at risk of being marginalized from education and employment, i.e. how the professionals perceive and describe the young people and their problems.

A central point in our discussion is that to understand frontline professionals' conceptions of their clients and of their work we must understand not only how these conceptions are shaped by their professional background and the organizations within which they work but also by these organizations' locations in the system of services and the interdependencies between them.

Transformations of Caseworkers' Child Welfare Assessments Over Time: A Replication Study Using Vignettes to Track Changes in Practice

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This study investigates changes in caseworkers' assessment in child welfare cases over time. Drawing on a replication of a 2002 Danish study on caseworkers' assessments in child welfare, we examine if and how there are changes in caseworkers' assessments 20 years later. The 2002-study found that the responsibility for assessments were individualized and that the assessments lacked systematic and professional knowledge, resulting in inconsistent assessments. The new study apply the same methods as the 2002-study: focus group interviews with 30 caseworkers in total from seven municipalities assessing six vignettes with fictional descriptions of cases. Preliminary findings reveal three significant changes: 1) the level of collective deliberation has increased, 2) practices of assessments are more systematic, and 3) the deliberations and assessments are to a higher degree founded on professional knowledge and expertise compared to deliberations and assessments in the original study. These changes in practice reflect broader changes in social work, such as increased professionalization, changes in the view on children as well as structural changes and legal changes in the Danish child welfare system.

RN19 | T01_02: Health care professionalism

Scripting Work the Boundaries of Dying – Organizing Palliative and Oncological Expertise at the End of Life

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How do healthcare professionals from different traditions respond to new ideas about what constitutes a good end of life? The Covid 19 pandemic and the resource crisis facing many European health systems have accentuated the challenges of delivering coherent patient trajectories when dying approaches. This paper reports from a Danish study of professional efforts of doing good when cancer patients' approach the point of medical futility, where further cancer treatment is unlikely to provide further clinical benefit. Drawing on the sociology of expertise and professions, the paper identifies three scripts of doing good: The evidence-based approach, the conversation approach and the integrative approach. Each script emphasizes a particular skillset, knowledge and professional virtue. The paper shows how during the last 20 years, the hierarchy between these scripts have shifted, calling for new forms of expertise and posing new dilemmas for the professionals involved. The analysis draws on a sociocultural knowledge analysis discourse (SKAD) approach and involves documents and interviews.

Clinical Decision Support System and the Formation of Clinical Reasoning among Swedish Amulance Nurses

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The question of Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) is highly relevant in the healthcare sector, where technological innovations increasingly intervene with clinical reasoning and decision-making. The idea behind CDSS is to contribute to safer and better healthcare by assisting clinical reasoning with relevant patient information and medical knowledge to facilitate decision-making.

The purpose of the article is to illustrate how clinical reasoning in practice is shaped based on CDSS in emergency healthcare. The guiding questions of the study are (1) how CDSS in emergency medical services is integrated into work processes, and (2) how CDSS affects the professional action

and judgment of registered nurses (RNs) working in emergency medical services.

The empirical material is based on observations and interviews with RNs collected within the framework of a simulation project aimed at developing and evaluating CDSS for prehospital assessment of sepsis risk.

The results of the study illustrate how the clinical reasoning preceding decision-making is largely a collective process among colleagues and how emotions and tacit knowledge constitute central elements for professional judgment. Although RNs express confidence that various technical systems can assist the clinical reasoning preceding decisions, they are skeptical about the reliability of technology. This skepticism becomes evident, especially when RNs need to override their professional values based on what the systems indicate, leading to a conflict between the system and judgment.

For CDSS to be integrated, a harmonization process is needed between technology, work organization, and professionals. This involves creating a community of practice where the CDSS can be embedded with professional logic to enhance clinical reasoning.

Political Tensions And Challenges In The Work Of Health Professionals In Russia

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This project has started with the interest in grass-root initiatives launched by maternity care providers in order to challenge the existing status quo of resource and power allocation in the field of Russian healthcare (Temkina et al. 2022). This field in general is dominated by the managerial and market (neoliberal) logics of regulation, rather than professionalism (Rivkin-Fish, 2005; Saks, 2015). However, health providers in Russia do not give up struggling for their professional autonomy, and such a struggle with both neoliberal and statist tendencies concerns not only organizational, but civic and political issues as well.

With the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine our research continued with addressing the anti-war migration of medical professionals who opted to leave Russia, as they were no longer willing to align with the "aggressor state." We identified these professionals as challengers of the System, as they strategically used to criticize and transform the healthcare landscape. Basing on the data of in-depth interviews with healthcare providers who used to challenge the Russian healthcare System and emigrated after the start of the war, we argue that professionals appear to be involved in power struggles and are not politically neutral. With additional data of interviews with those health professionals, who remain in Russia, we intend to analyze how strategies for challenging health system and different political positions are intertwined and result in multiple tensions and challenges for their work.

Exploring Barriers To Certification Of Fit Notes By Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, And Pharmacists: The Impact On Professional Roles And Identities

Diane Trusson[1], Stephen Timmons[1], Denise Kendrick[1], Kate Radford[1], Avril Drummond[1], Jain Holmes[1], Claire Anderson[1], Nick Pahl[2], Gill Phillips[3], Shan Martin[4], Jade Kettlewell[1]

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Since 1948, UK doctors have legitimised work absence due to illness/injury using 'sick notes'. These were replaced by 'fit notes' in 2010, which include an option of 'may be fit for work' with appropriate adjustments to hours/duties that might facilitate remaining in, or returning to, work. This is important because of concerns over rising numbers of 'economically inactive' people, mainly due to long-term sickness. However, just 6.1% of fit notes issued in general practice between 2019 and 2023 included 'may be fit for work' advice. Possible reasons include insufficient time to explore patients' job roles and lack of expertise to advise on workplace adjustments.

Transformative legislation introduced in 2022 allows nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and pharmacists (NOPPs) to certify fit notes. Potential benefits include easing the pressure on GPs and utilising NOPPs' expertise in supporting patients to return-to-work.

Our mixed-methods study found only 47/198 NOPP survey respondents were certifying fit notes. Barriers include limited communication about legislation change, no opportunity to do training, poor managerial support, and insufficient resources (e.g. time). However, data from free-text survey responses and 17 interviews suggest that NOPPs believe fit note completion is appropriate for their role, and they are keen to undertake training and enhance their professional identities.

Organisational-level barriers (e.g. lack of policies/guidelines) to implementing the new fit note legislation seem to be hindering NOPPs expanding their professional boundaries and contributing to tackling the societal problem of long-term sickness. Addressing these barriers would optimise benefits for health services, patient care, and wider society.

References: Coole, et al (2015); Office for National Statistics; HM Government;

NHS Digital; Nouri et al. (2021); Shemtob et al (2022); Fournier, V.(2002).

RN19 | T02: Professionalization in education

Between Innovation And Challenge: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on University Teaching – Opportunities for Professionalization and Risks of Deprofessionalization

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The rapid progress of artificial intelligence has a significant impact on educational institutions, es-pecially on university teaching (HFD 2023). The introduction of AI technologies not only promises to increase efficiency, but also brings with it a critical reflection on the professionalization of teaching at universities (Weimann-Sandig 2023a; KI-Campus 2023). This paper examines the effects of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) on university teaching and analyses the resulting implications for the professionalization and deprofessionalization of teachers. Professionalization is discussed on two levels: firstly, on the level of the definition of professionalization as a predominantly individual development of professionalism (Cramer, 2012; Evetts, 2014). Secondly, on the definition of criteria of professionalism. Starting with an introduction to the changes in university teaching as a result of AI, central criteria of professional research are examined. It then explains why university teaching as an academic activity is classified as a profession. The focus here is on specialization, the applica-tion of abstract knowledge, autonomy in decision-making and commitment to the common good. Following Parsons (1968) and Oevermann (1996), a structural-theoretical understanding of profes-sionalism in higher education teaching is discussed as well as a more competence-based approach (Cramer 2016). In a next step, the paper is dedicated to the opportunities for professionalizing teaching activities at universities through the use of AI. Furthermore a separate section takes a critical look at how automated processes could compromise the autonomy of teachers and what impact this could have on the professional self-image and quality of teaching, particularly against the backdrop of central professional theories. The conclusion emphasizes the need for a balanced approach to the integration of AI into university teaching.

Reform Processes In The Norwegian ECEC Sector: Challenges For The ECEC Teacher Profession

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This paper regards the unclear professional authority of Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) teachers in policy processes. State regulation gives children aged 1-5 the right to attend ECEC services provided by public and private owners and combine play, care, and learning. Qualified ECEC – teachers lead the institutions but depend on unskilled assistants in the day-to-day work. Enhanced governmental ambitions for ECEC quality are reflected in reforms of ECEC curriculum and teacher education aiming at clarified standards, strengthened staff competence, and professionalization of ECEC teachers (Børhaug og Bøe, 2021).

In this paper, we aim to study two different reform processes in the Norwegian ECEC sector, specifically the role and the possibilities for impact for the ECEC teachers in these processes. Our analysis is inspired by studies pointing out new forms of education policy design with broadening stakeholder representation that may alter actors' roles (Vukasovic et al., 2021). Building on empirical studies of framework plan policies in ECEC teacher education (2012) and ECEC services (2017), we find that teachers gained clearer roles and responsibilities through professionalization from above (Evetts, 2011). However, the reforms defining the framework for teacher education and practice were created as compromises activating a broad range of stakeholders. Thus, broader mobilization for ECEC policy processes may lead to weakened influence for the profession when it comes to shaping the frames for their work (Ludvigsen & Homme, 2020; Borgund, 2022).

Unveiling Grading Principles, Processes and Decision-making in the Swedish Teaching Profession

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Deciding on grades holds significant authority in the Swedish teaching profession. Grading teachers must be certified and have decision-making power not possible to override by any authority or client. However, the professional autonomy is circumscribed by the obligation to ensure national consistency in grading by making decisions based on generally expressed grading criteria formulated by the Swedish National Agency for Education. Additionally, teachers are required to "specifically considering" national test results in several subjects in secondary school. In addition, comprehensible and formative expressed transparency in assessment and grading, communicated through digital

portals that teachers often are obligated to use, is expected by employers and pupils/parents.

This study, based on semi-structured interviews with secondary school teachers combined with analysis of informal and formal assessment documentation, explores how professional discretion takes shape in grading decisions given demands for national consistency in grading and external communication about the basis for assessment and decisions. More explicitly, the professional principles grading teachers adhere to in making their decisions, how they are communicated and how this generates decision-making processes, and final decisions is in the focus of this study.

Preliminary results identify three levels of professional principles: firstly, formal principles closely aligned with national regulations; secondly, local principles shaped by school-specific approaches of how to organize the work at the school where the teacher is employed, and thirdly, individual principles unique to each teacher. Depending on these principles, diverse various approaches to assessment and communication emerge, governing the teacher's professional space between discretion and automatization.

Intensification, Outsourcing and Crumbling of Teaching Work: The Effects of School Policies on Teaching Work

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Today's school institution faces a number of challenges, such as inclusive education and managing heterogeneous pupils. These challenges are driven in particular by school policies which, over the last twenty years or so, have transformed the teaching profession.

We show that these major educational transformations are also making the work of teachers more onerous and complex, without giving them the tools to tackle the underlying educational challenges. In this way, we could say that the main challenge facing teachers is how to respond to all the injunctions that weigh on their day-to-day work.

We use a collective ethnographic survey of teachers' informal work to show how these educational changes affect the activities they carry out, the time they spend at work and the ways in which they engage with their work. In other words, we find that the public policies that have been accumulating since the 2000s are helping to transform certain professional standards. The research is based on a study of timetables and lengthy interviews with primary and secondary school teachers. More specifically, we show that

– that the way in which tasks and working time are managed depends on family configurations, gender, level of experience and the context of the school, which produces differentiated standards.

– that these variations reflect different ways of engaging in work (of relating to work), which contribute to producing social inequalities between teachers.

RN19 | T03: Professions, Academization and Gender

From Laboratory Assistant to Biomedical Scientist: Academization and the lab

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What happens to an aspiring profession as it is subject to rapid, pervasive academisation? How does it shape the professional group, their education and work tasks, their conditions and position in the labour market? In 1977, the professional formation of Swedish laboratory assistants was transferred to the higher education sector. They were part of a wider set of education programs, including nurses, occupational therapists, teachers, preschool teachers, and leisure time pedagogues – all of which had previously been trained in separate institutions outside of academia. Yet, the laboratory assistants stand out in other respects. First, laboratory assistant had long been a female dominated technical specialty, and it continued to be so. Second, their entrance into academia marked the beginning of a sharper academic turn than in most professions – evident in the surge of the number of biomedical scientists with a doctor's degree. A very modest trickle of seven PhDs in the 1980s was followed by hundreds in the decades to follow, so that their total number currently equals every fifteenth practitioner. In the same period, the professional group secured an occupational monopoly, first in the guise of a protected title and then as a professional license. In this paper, we draw on survey and interview materials, as wells as historical documents and trade press, to analyze whether and in what respects this has brought changes in terms of work content, work conditions and career trajectories for the group.

Engaging in "Third Mission" Otherwise: The Academic Profession in the Social Sciences and Humanities

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Professional groups face external pressures due to societal macro changes; notably in academe the rise of the knowledge society, leading academics to increase third mission activities. However, academics are not passive recipients of commercial rationalities imposed on universities. They grapple with pressures like the "third mission," encompassing knowledge transfer, community engagement and innovation. The growing acknowledgment of social sciences and

humanities in fulfilling this mission prompts reflection on how academics in these fields traditionally and currently engage with society. Yet, there is scant empirical evidence illustrating the specific engagement of academics from these areas and its implications for societal impact.

By using three examples that have attracted public attention in the Portuguese society over the past few years, we aim to illustrate how social science and humanities scholars engage intensively in public debates (i.e., in favour or against social movements), which depicts the multifaceted impact of such disciplines on communities, public policy, cultural understanding and ethical considerations.

In illustrating these cases, we argue that academics in social science and humanities play an active role in shaping external environments, influencing policies, and challenging dominant discourses about science and university. An awareness about their ability to shape the public opinion seems key in this process, while this requires facing demands for particular perspectives or the avoidance of controversial topics. This suggests that the extent to which academics resist these pressures may depend on their individual commitment to academic freedom as well as the perceived importance of their message.

Internationalization and Diversity in the Academic Field: A Study of Brazilian Professors' Recruitment in European Universities

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This presentation discusses the preliminary results of an ongoing doctoral research on the professional integration of Brazilian professors in European universities, particularly in France, England, and Germany. While the traditional pattern of intellectual exchanges between Brazil and Europe once entailed academic training in the latter abroad followed by a return to Brazil, recent transformations in higher education—marked by a heightened emphasis on internationalization and diversity—have created more favorable conditions for Brazilian researchers to access and secure academic positions in Europe. However, recruitment procedures and strategies differ in every country, as the specificities of each national higher education system give rise to unique challenges in international academic mobility.

Furthermore, professional integration does not occur independently of existing power dynamics within universities and disciplines. Bearing that in mind, this study resorts to interviews and the examination of CVs of those recruited in France, England, and Germany to explore their personal and professional trajectories. The initial results indicate that their institutional affiliation is often limited to departments and centers of literature and cultural areas (Latin American or Brazilian centers), and their work tends to concentrate on exoticized topics closely related to their home country. It also interrogates how the articulation between transnational trends and national traditions shapes the access of foreign researchers through diverse teaching career models. As a result, it unveils strategies of integration, differentiation, and concession employed by Brazilians, ultimately leading them to their current positions in the academic milieu.

Devotion in Growth: Female Scholars' Professional Career and Work Ethic in New China Generation

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The tension and intersection between professionalism and other social systems has always been a crucial issue in sociology of professions. While pioneer studies on Anglo-societies accentuated the exclusivity feature of professionalism, subsequent research on European and other societies revealed its intricate connections with nationalism and colonialism in historical context, as well as its new forms with commercialization and globalization nowadays. However, how professionalism functions as moral facts within a context of social transformation has been understudied. This paper focuses on the case of Chinese female scholars in New China generation to answer this question.

Using life history interview and biographical data, the author takes a processual theoretical approach to examine scholars' work ethic throughout their professional careers. The analysis shows that, in the Mao-era, female scholars' work ethic was shaped by their devotion to the nation and self-independence based on gender consciousness. The social transformation after 1980s brought new social meaning system, allowing scholars in New China generation take academic work per se as their aspirations and interests in their middle and late careers. Additionally, family relationships played a role in coordinating emotional aspects with female scholars' work ethic, thereby creating the integrative life-world and providing further incentives for career development. Ultimately, this study suggests that professionalism, as professionals' moral action, is embedded in multiple social relations and exhibits resilience in the face of social transformations.

Entrusting women. Gender, Professionals and Mafia.

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The paper addresses the relationship between female professionals and Italian Mafias by analysing two case studies related to two women professionals charged with mafia association. The cases concern the professions of lawyers and accountants, that have been increasingly affected by criminal cases; two traditional mafia organizations in Italy, including Cosa Nostra and 'Ndrangheta; and two different Italian regions, Sicily – in Southern Italy –, in which Cosa nostra is rooted, and Emilia-Romagna – in Northern Italy –, in which 'Ndrangheta has been deeply embedded in recent times.

Framed within the literature dealing with gendered trust (Song, Vernet, Pryke, 2022), professional misconducts (Muzio, 2016), and Mafias' infiltration into economy (Sciarrone, 2019; Catino, 2019), the study is based on court files and interviews with public prosecutors and law enforcement agencies who carried out the two investigations. The paper will discuss the study's outcome, according to which when mafia actors choose professionals, the variable influencing their selection are not related to gender stereotypes, rather than to professionals' trustworthiness, competence, and availability of carrying out unethical and/or criminal acts.

The paper intends to bring an innovative contribution to the literature on professionals' misconducts, by adopting a gender perspective, and by increasing the knowledge about the relationship between mafia actors and professionals, a new and promising research area.

Professional integration and identity in a multi-professional organization. The case of Norwegian Intelligence Service

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The world is facing several serious crises – wars, civil wars, climate catastrophes. One group of professionals have a special responsibility for monitoring these crises and warn public authorities about the threats they represent for national security and interests – intelligence professionals. They work in intelligence services which are government agencies.

Intelligence services comprise a large and varied number of tasks which are assembled into a set of different occupations organized in different departments and sections. A main distinction is between 'collectors' an 'analysts'. Collectors are professionals who collect data about potential enemies and threats. Analysts analyze the data and transform them into meaningful information which are useful for national decisions-makers. The intelligence professionals have different educational background: engineers, computer specialists, physicists, political scientists, sociologists, economists, language specialists. In other words, intelligence services are multi-professional organizations.

Sociologists of professions have demonstrated that multi-professional organizations may have problems with getting the employees to pull in the same direction. Different professional identifications may for instance represent challenges to attain effective collaboration between the different professional groups. To what extent are problems of professional integration and unity prevalent in the Norwegian Intelligence Service? We will answer this question using data from a survey of employees in the intelligence Service.

We suggest that unity among intelligence professionals is about cooperation and shared values and understandings. We will therefore empirically focus upon: (a) The degree of collaboration between professionals in different departments and with different professional backgrounds. (b) The degree of similarity in attitudes to work and to the intelligence service across various groups of professionals.

RN19 | T04: Changing welfare state professionalism

Conceptualising Wellbeing through the Lens of Homelessness Services Staff in Ireland: Relationships, Trust and Transformations to Work during COVID-19.

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Despite their societal importance, the wellbeing narratives of service providers working in homelessness services are frequently overlooked in research and policy. This paper addresses that gap, presenting evidence from interviews with homelessness service workers in Cork, Ireland during COVID-19 lockdowns. We explore the multidimensional character of services staff members' wellbeing narratives, highlighting their connections to relationships, commitment to service users, trust, fears about COVID-19, and the motivation to fulfil the social mission of their work: to support homeless people who frequently present with multiple and complex needs, including stigma. We subsequently present a sociologically-informed theoretical framework to capture these narratives.

Our data reveals that stressors encountered in pre-COVID times, including burnout, emotional labour, and issues with inter-agency working were aggravated due to restrictions and novel challenges encountered by services users and services providers during pandemic times. We focus on the period covering COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, considering how homelessness services providers coped with transformations to work, including the importance of trust, and the value of informal and formal supports. Significantly, our analysis also reflects upon the longer-term implications of these findings, contextualised against the present Irish housing crisis, changing demographics of persons accessing homelessness services, and broader currents of social and economic change.

Inclusive Societal Frameworks for the Hard of Hearing: Professional Discretion in Danish Welfare Services

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Hearing technology is a major scientific breakthrough as it restores hearing for people with hearing loss around the globe, thus offering opportunities to partake communicative in everyday life. However, social scientific research finds challenges in group relations. Problems such as social exclusion and loss of energy are prevalent. This paper's thesis is that the current professional field is characterised by a knowledge gap between individualized treatment and the ongoing social implications of usage of hearing technologies in everyday life situations.

The Danish welfare state serves citizens with hearing loss and offers guidance to rehabilitate them back to 'normal'. We investigate situations of professionals' discretions (diagnosis, inference, and treatment) when they handle citizens' challenges in balancing hearing loss and school (children and adolescents) or working life (adults). Drawing on in-depth qualitative interviews with a broad spectrum of professionals in public service within the field of hearing impairment in addition to survey findings and documents as background material, we investigate how professional groups approach issues of social inclusion for people with hearing loss – or not. The analysis demonstrates how technologies meant to standardize guidance of people with hearing loss make new types and mechanisms of discretionary responses necessary. The findings are discussed to synthesize multidisciplinary expert knowledge about social challenges used in rehabilitation service to people with hearing loss. The paper concludes by comparing professional knowledge forms and procedures concerning social inclusion with the possible tension between individual strategies and activities in social domains of school, education and work.

Navigating the Two-Party Decision: Asylum Claim Processing at the Swedish Migration Agency

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The decision-making process in asylum claims at the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) is a 'two-party decision', involving two distinct professional roles – the case worker who processes the case, and the decision-maker who is ultimately responsible for approving or rejecting the claim. While research on decision-making in asylum claims suggests that professionals have a relatively generous discretionary space, the work is shaped by uncertainty, ethical dilemmas, and ongoing legal and organizational changes. Adding to that list, the SMA has intensified its emphasis on digitalization measures to increase administrative effectiveness, shorten the time of admission processes and enhance legal certainty in case administration. This study explores the welfare professional decision-making balancing act between discretion and 'programming' through a qualitative study with SMA case workers and decision-makers. The study draws upon semi-structured interviews, central work-related documents and contextual inquiry, i.e., case workers showcase their work processes by interacting with digital system interfaces. Preliminary findings reveal that, with very few exceptions, consensus predominantly shapes asylum case outcomes. This indicates firstly that discretion in asylum decision-making is not an individual endeavor, as assumed in much literature on street-level bureaucracy but must be understood as produced in professional interaction and negotiation. Secondly, this also directs attention to the

regularities in professional decision-making, rather than the divergences. The analysis unveils how the daily work of welfare professional decision-making is organized, and how it is shaped by collegial negotiations, legal principles, and digital systems, thus contributing with a nuanced account of welfare professional discretionary practices.

The Well-being Of Migrant Professionals: Capturing Experiences In Changing Professional And Personal Environments

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Growing global migration will continue to be a central factor marking the future of sociology of professions. In particular, high-skilled migration is increasing both in absolute terms and as a relative share of international migration. The larger numbers of migrant professionals raise questions about the consequences of their migration – for themselves, for society and for employing companies. While the well-being of different professional groups is well researched, the well-being of migrant professionals has yet to become a central topic in sociology. In particular, the sociology of professions has not yet grasped the implications of highly skilled migrant professionals' well-being. We theorize an understanding of well-being that integrates both professional (workplace) and personal dimensions (family and out-of-work socialization). Following Veenhoven's conceptualisation of subjective well-being as a cognitive comparison with standards of the good life (contentment), and also as how one feels most of the time (hedonic level of affect), we answer the question of how and what affects the well-being of migrant in knowledge-intensive professions and in their personal lives. We show how the professional-personal interface is defined in the context of professional mobility. To do this, we can draw on our unique sample of 60 in-depth interviews with 30 migrants hired from abroad to occupy highly ranked positions in Denmark-based companies. In a two-stage interviewing, we capture both their professional and life experiences in the context of cross-national labour mobility. Our work will further the understanding of the complexity of well-being of migrant professionals and consequences for their professional activity.

Tensions, Challenges and Transformation of the Professions Related to the Provision of Medical Services in the Field of Psychotherapy and Psychiatry in Poland.

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The aim of this paper is to present the results of empirical research on the contemporary tensions and challenges of psychotherapists' and psychiatrists' work in Poland.

Psychotherapy and psychiatry are professions of particular social importance since their goal is to provide professional support to people experiencing mental distress and mental disorders. The contemporary increase in global and local crises, referred to as poly-crisis, such as the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of far right-wing political parties and their introduction of extremely restrictive legal regulations, and the outbreak of the war in Ukraine contributed to a sudden increase feelings of uncertainty and rise of mental distress among various social groups – especially among youth and children (WHO 2022, CBOS 2023). Poly-crisis increased the demand for professional mental health support, which resulted in various tensions, challenges and transformations in the professions performed by these specialists.

The paper is based on qualitative research which was initiated in 2023 and field research (individual in-depth interviews with psychiatrists and psychotherapists) is scheduled for February-May 2024 in Poland. The research is based on the perspective of sociology of professions and sociology of work. It is comparative in nature between the two professions and includes issues such as work history, everyday professional experiences, emotional labour, job quality and transformation of work, adaptation to changes, challenges, and coping strategies with tensions and difficulties.

Alternative Paths of Professionalism at the Margins of the Healthcare System – The Case of Spiritual Caregivers in Israel

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Much of the research on professions in the field of healthcare focuses on standard bodies of knowledge, jurisdictional claims, state regulations, and professional closure, which are characteristics of professions like medicine. However, new notions such as client-based professionalization, professional fluidity, and connective professionalism, have recently emerged in the sociology of professions literature. The present lecture suggests a new perspective on

alternative paths of professionalism at the margins of the healthcare system, drawing on the case of spiritual caregivers. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with 15 Israeli spiritual caregivers. The interviewees presented themselves as professionals by describing characteristics resembling the new notions of professionalism: the centrality of the patient, the fluid nature of the practice of spiritual care, and their connectivity with other healthcare practitioners. New notions in the sociological study of professions can help us to understand alternative paths of professionalism at the margins of the healthcare system and to characterize the practitioners in these margins. This could lead to a better integration between marginal and medical professions to the benefit of patients, medical practitioners, other staff members, and medical institutions at large.

RN19 | T05: Knowledge-power nexus revisited

Beyond Paternalism and Neoliberalism? On Contemporary Professionalism and Future Perspectives

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Based on a brief reconstruction of the sociology of professions discourse and current tendencies in the area of professional work, the paper is led by the argument that the development throughout the last two to three decades has been characterized by reinforced liberalization of an anachronistic understanding and institutionalization of established professionalism. Professional work has therefore been exemplary of the ambivalence of liberalization and the new constraints of economization within the era of neoliberalism. If and how professions survive this transformation has been questioned now and then. At the same time, professional problem-solving is demanded but also discredited in the face of societal polycrisis. How to integrate these tensions into an understanding of contemporary professionalism will be discussed with reference to empirical research in different empirical fields.

Discourses of Professional and Enterprising Agency Revisited: Tensions and Transformations in Public Service Organizations

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The cultural ideal of enterprising agency is gaining ground in contemporary societies. Generally, enterprising agents are conceived as innovative, proactive, reflexive, self-governing, and target-oriented agents who develop themselves, solve problems in their environments, and make things happen. Individuals in various settings – from business organizations to schools – are expected to act in enterprising ways. Professional actors and organizations in the context of for example medicine, nursing, education and social work, make no exception. On the one hand, the enterprising values sit relatively well with conventional values of professionalism. Professional organizations, as well, highlight employees' self-development, reflexivity, and ability to make things happen, among other enterprising attributes. On the other hand, enterprising ideals also highlight flexibility, including actors' ability to overcome traditional and cultural structures and boundaries. Such boundaries

can include conventional divisions of labor and established fields of knowledge and expertise, often conceived as pivotal to professional collectives. Furthermore, while enterprising agency can imply constant self-development in line with the ideals of professionalism, it can also imply an individualistic and consumerist orientation to work and employment that may engender tensions between enterprising and professional values. In sum, enterprising discourses can create tensions in professional organizations in qualitatively diverse ways that have, thus far, been insufficiently articulated in the sociology of professions. This paper has two aims. First, it aims to articulate the general overlaps and tensions between the cultural discourses of professional and enterprising agency. Second, it empirically examines these overlaps and tensions in public service and welfare provision in Finland.

Tensions Between Traditional and New Professional Knowledge? An Insight into the Transformation of the Planning Profession in the AEC Industry

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This conference proposal explores the socio-technical transformation of planning practices in the AEC (Architecture, Engineering, and Construction) industry which is driven by the digital planning method BIM (Building Information Modelling). In particular, the effects on the change in professional knowledge and the resulting tensions between the traditional knowledge of the planner and the additional knowledge of the BIM manager are analysed. The BIM method is increasingly being used in planning projects throughout Europe and is transforming the profession of planning. The introduction of BIM requires not only the conversion from 2D or CAD models into 3D models, but also changes in the frequency of information exchange, the transparency of work steps, and the verification of issues in the model. It includes requirements for the entire project team that are intended to streamline the flow of information during the planning phase of a project. In order to facilitate the fulfilment of these requirements, i.e. to accompany the projects, the BIM management function was introduced. Based on my empirical findings from qualitative interviews and ethnographic observations, I want to show how professional knowledge and communicative practices change using the example of actions and interactions between digital planners and BIM managers. Even though the tasks of a BIM manager are strategic corporate planning, BIM project control activities and specific technical developments, knowledge about the use of BIM is by no means standardized. It is rather a process in the field of tension between individual appropriation and organizational institutionalization.

The Professionalization of Security Management in Humanitarian Action as an Expression and a Driver of Neoliberal Hierarchies of Knowledge: an Informational Basis Approach Perspective

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Abstractions have been acknowledged as central social forms of Capitalism's Neoliberal expression. Among the main attributes of this social configuration, indeed, is to be mentioned the complementarity between the generalization of the field of application of norms arising from the logic of market action and the private nature of the contexts of production of these norms. What can be traced back precisely to this aspect are the process of legitimacy acquisition of quantitative knowledge, as well as the primacy ascribed to the general-abstract dimension of knowledge over the practical-experiential one, which both characterize Neoliberalism. This development of hierarchies of knowledge has affected the realm of professions by way of a progressive emergence of new professional domains, expression of the institutionalization of specific areas of working action as cognitive domains ascribed to "experts". An excellent interpretative frame to investigate this dynamic in action can be identified in the Informational Basis Approach. Giving specific attention to the process of transformation of knowledge into "informational basis", i.e. the information that defines the "factual territory" over which normative evaluations are elaborated, is fruitful for investigating both the socio-professional differentiation process fostered by neoliberal orders of legitimacy and the effects of this same dynamic of socio-professional differentiation in terms of knowledge production. In this paper, I argue that the recent establishment of security management in humanitarian action as a matter of professional expertise is an emblematic example of professionalization both as an expression and a driver of the institutionalization of new hierarchies of knowledge.

RN19 | T06: Professionalism in health care

Lean Expertise as Situated Knowledge: Lean Translations in Healthcare

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This presentation introduces results from a research project concerning the introduction of Lean, a management doctrine that has spread from manufacturing to human services over the recent decades. The qualitative data for the study includes 11 interviews from Lean consultants, 28 interviews from healthcare workers and ethnographic fieldnotes from Lean training events carried out in Finland. Here, the analysis focuses on the consultants' interviews and their role as facilitators of Lean transformation in healthcare organisations. The backdrop for the study is in the debates concerning reordering and transformation of expertise during organisational change. The contemporary management and production of expertise depict the ideal professional as an entrepreneurial individual equipped to adapt to multiprofessional teamwork and assume responsibility for their own work, challenging the idea of professional expertise as the position of individuals alone. The presentation takes off from a notion that that acknowledging persistent professional hierarchies and different 'ways of knowing' is crucial for successful implementation of Lean. The study asks how situated knowledges are generated when Lean is introduced to healthcare organisations, and what kind of boundary work this involves. The findings suggest that efforts to improve organisational work performance together as a shared initiative, in the spirit of Lean, easily understates the different ways of knowing involved in healthcare. Despite the attractiveness of the value-for-patient rhetoric as a means of boundary work, Lean implementation does not necessarily support professional values in healthcare and can reaffirm old hierarchies and create new ones.

Knowing Without Knowing – Integrating Narrative Medicine for Coping with Uncertainty

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Narrative Medicine (NaMe) emerges as a potential tool within the healthcare system for transforming the boundaries of medical knowledge and the knowledge-power nexus related to professional work. NaMe is an interdisciplinary approach that emphasizes the importance of storytelling, reflective writing, and both the professional's and patient's narratives. In medical encounters that are fraught with uncertainty, NaMe provides a framework for both, professionals and patients to express and manage diverse knowledge – a complementary approach aiming at enhancing evidence-based knowledge by appreciating narrative knowledge. Embedded within an interdisciplinary Israeli-German project on knowledge boundaries, this study employs writing-arts, sociological, and psychological methodologies to investigate how medical students and experienced doctors integrate NaMe into their epistemological framework and practice. The research question focuses on the potential of NaMe for dealing with the uncertainty inherent in medical encounters, and on understanding how professionals experience different ways of (not-) knowing when first getting in touch with the method. Using qualitative content analysis, the narratives of five medical students and six experienced physicians were categorized. Findings illuminate varied emotional reactions, including anxiety and fear of failure. After a phase of insecurity, participants explored their competencies in dealing with uncertainty by appreciating the open, non-directive approach in comparison to conventional approaches taught in mainstream medical curricula. Some participants addressed NaMe's sustainability and its potential to offer safer spaces for both doctors and patients. The boundary work of expansion, by allowing the integration of narrative knowledge into evidence-based knowledge, holds the potential to alter power dynamics in medical interactions, shifting from the traditional practice of maintaining distance to fostering a sense of safety in uncertain situations, and even encouraging a greater willingness to listen.

Regaining Epistemic Legitimacy: Medical Heroism as Rhetoric and Bodily Performance of Professionalism

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The heroism of healthcare professionals has played a significant role, alongside techno-scientific advancements, in the establishment of medicine and its social role (Brown 2010; Fell and Sternberg 2018), but over time has become a residual trait limited to wars/disasters or strongly deprived contexts. Alongside changing contextual conditions, both Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) and managerialization processes, contrasted the heroic narrative with one of progress based on standardized, rationalized, collective process of knowledge production and validation.

Heroism has re-emerged as a feature of care practices during the early waves of the pandemic (Skog and Lundström 2022; Mohammed et al. 2021) in line with the adoption of metaphors related to the semantic field of war (Giorgis,

Semenets, and Todorova 2023; Piredda 2023; Pangborn et al. 2023).

Alongside the widely discussed issue of self-sacrifice, on a less explored ground, we question the role of the heroic narrative in building legitimacy for action, starting from the empirical case of spontaneous networks of physicians formed during the early stages of the pandemic, providing early home care (Lusardi, Bronzini, and Piras 2023).

The narrative analysis of semi-structured interviews with participants in these networks and document analysis highlight that heroism is a rhetorically mobilized element to assert a right/duty to provide patient care and to redefine their place in the network of care and knowledge production. Beyond putting their health at stake, they claim a sort of 'epistemic courage' involving partial autonomy from institutional strategies and taking the risk of producing new knowledge, moving by trial and error.

As such, heroism is mobilized here as a rhetorical tool to regain spaces of agency and legitimacy in knowledge production and to reconfigure their professional role.

The Entrepreneurial Nurse? Professional Tensions on Digital Platforms

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Digital work platforms (e.g. Uber) have entered the field of licensed nursing. In the Netherlands and other countries, nurses increasingly use these 'nursing platforms' to find on-demand 'gigs'. Nursing platforms can exacerbate existing professional tensions because they interfere with established values and control mechanisms. Instead of reiterating self-sacrifice and communalism, they support individual entrepreneurialism and detachment.

We ask how nurses in 'gig work' engage with nursing platforms and social media to negotiate these professional tensions. Our focus is the flexibilised work context of the Netherlands, where many nurses are leaving salaried work for self-employment. In public debates they are criticised for supposed commercialism and individualism. Based on interviews, an online ethnography on LinkedIn and TikTok, and a multimodal analysis, we suggest that we need to integrate the concepts of socio-technical affordances and performativity in analyses of professions.

Unveiling the Dynamics of eHealth Implementation: A Qualitative Exploration of Nurses' Perspectives in Swedish Home Health Care

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This study delves into the landscape of eHealth intervention implementation in home healthcare and primary healthcare centers in Sweden, with a specific emphasis on unraveling the perspectives and insights of nurses. Anchored in the relational character of data, where rationality hinges upon data creation and interpretation (Winthereik, 2023), the research endeavors to untangle the complexities of data utilization in healthcare settings. The study delves into the concept of data within the realm of nursing work, probing whether the aspiration for data-informed practices resonates with nurses' perspectives. The research scrutinizes the nuanced realities of technology adoption by nurses, thereby contributing to a profound understanding of their professional practices.

Semistructured interviews were conducted with 20 nurses within two municipalities in Sweden, providing a qualitative exploration of their experiences with eHealth interventions.

Theoretically, the presentation develops literature on nursing work and the relation between knowledge and professionalism using Mol's concept of 'good care' as a local and situation-specific practice (Mol, 2006). Mol's framework underscores the necessity for sensitivity and creative calibration in nursing, spotlighting the dynamic nature of professional practice where elements are finely tuned until they harmonize within a given situation.

The presentation attempts to yield practical insights into the challenges and opportunities entwined with the integration of eHealth interventions into nursing practice. By exploring the multifaceted realities of technology use in healthcare, the presentation contributes valuable perspectives to the ongoing development of data-informed nursing care.

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RN19 | T07: Motivation, Identity and Practices in professionalism

Administrative Lawyers in Turbulent Times. Motivations in Professional Development in the Face of the Judicial Crisis in Poland

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The speech is devoted to describing self-definition and the biographical understanding of the professional development path of administrative lawyers. Administrative law is a specific law regulating relations between citizens and state, governmental and local institutions. Although it constitutes the majority of written law in Poland, most lawyers deal with more typical types of professional activity: civil or criminal law. dministrative lawyers are often people who defend citizens against unjustified government influence or defend the common good against NIMBY-type phenomena.

The speech aims to show administrative lawyers' motivations in choosing this type of activity. An additional context is the judicial crisis that has been ongoing in Poland since 2015, caused by politicians' attempts to directly influence it. Therefore, European institutions, some Polish politicians, and citizens question the legality of judges elected after this year, professional promotions in this professional group, and the composition of the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Tribunal, the National Council of the Judiciary, etc.

The speech is based on data from 45 IDIs conducted in 2023-2024 with judges of administrative courts and representatives of the parties in the proceedings (representing both citizens and state institutions).

Burn(out) of Judges and Prosecutors: professional risks of working at Portuguese courts

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Judges and public prosecutors are characterised as professionals with high demands in terms of workload and intensity. These have consequences for their health and well-being and may impact their professional performance, impairing the quality and swiftness of justice. Recent studies highlighted the existence of professionals working in courts with several health limitations, especially related with mental health (stress and burnout).

This paper aims to present the main findings of two researches focusing on the identification and characterisation of the occupational risks of judges and public prosecutors working in Portuguese courts. The application of an online survey and in-depth interviews allowed to collect relevant information on the causes for the emergence of occupational risks, mainly referred to work organisation, time and intensity of work and career evaluation and progression that influences the level of professional stress and the risk of burnout.

The percentages of professionals registering high levels of professional stress and risk of burnout, with direct impact on their working capacities and health, raises deep concerns. Furthermore, the results show that the work demands, in terms of workload, working time and work intensity, are normalised and seen, or experienced, as inevitable and even normal. These results contribute to the existence of judges and public prosecutors at risk and, even, working without the necessary mental and physical conditions to provide a quality work.

These results must be considered for a comprehensive approach to court management, with the aim of improving the performance of courts, safeguarding the respect for the rights of professionals and their health. The results sustains the necessity to adopt and implement several mechanisms to prevent, detect and support the professionals in need.

Workplace & Change Consultants: Navigating challenges in Profesionnal Identity and Workplace Consulting

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In France, and particularly in Paris, since 2020, the vast majority of companies are looking to reduce their office space, while promoting collaboration between their employees. They do this through the architectural and managerial concept of desk sharing. The number of desks is smaller than the number of employees for whom they are intended, to ensure that the space is occupied on a rotational basis.

Company redevelopment projects are large-scale projects involving many different players with multiple, sometimes contradictory logics. However, the sector has opened up to consulting. So-called workplace & change consultants are involved to ensure the managerial dimension of the project.

The proposed paper aims to document this population by showing the tensions in their professional identity. It will be based on a survey carried out as part of a PhD in progress since the end of 2022, including interviews with consultants.

These consultants, 9 women and 5 men aged between 30 and 59, are either humanities graduates or architects or engineers by training. Depending on their educational background, they have different views of what constitutes "dirty work" (Hughes 1999). However, all of them see their possibilities reduced by the real estate and financial framework given to the project.

Finally, the aim is to question the possibilities available to workplace & change consultants throughout the project towards the desk sharing, in order to grasp the dimension of their professional identity that is thwarted or, on the contrary, strengthened as a function of their social trajectories.

Stress is Self-inflicted – On the Influence of Digital and AI-supported Work on Job Autonomy of Employees in Outpatient Care

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The care sector is caught between economic and legal restrictions, a persistent shortage of skilled workers and the demand for high quality care in increasingly complex care situations. Faced with this challenging constellation, the care sector was nevertheless regarded for many years as an area in which technical support was neither necessary nor desirable.

This contribution employs semi-structured interviews to shed light on the influence of digital work tools and algorithmic decision support on employees' job autonomy and collaboration and the conditions under which this comes to fruition from an occupational sociology perspective. The present company example uses a highly integrated software solution that transfers personnel scheduling as well as working time and performance recording to the digital space. Route planning is AI-driven. On tour, care documentation is recorded using AI-voice input, handovers and service and time recording on networked tablets.

This technical system complex allows in particular to observe the change in digitalization-related paradigms, which are closely linked to autonomy-related elements of care work: The employees' comments paint a picture of increased work autonomy. They report more self-determined work situations due to the reduction of time spent on documentation and service recording, the increase in flexibility with regard to place of work and more efficient routing plans. The absence of using performance-related employee data as a control instrument and the visible prioritization of client requirements and wishes in all phases of the working day are conditions for these beneficial aspects of digital work.

Overall, technological support in planning and administrative work is perceived as clearly promoting autonomy in outpatient care – however, it hardly interferes the interaction work with people in need of care.

From Tension to Transformation: Influence of Mindfulness and Areas of Work lLfe on Burnout in the Social Work Profession.

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In recent years, tension in the dynamics of social work has increased, leading to increased burnout in the profession (Pastor et al., 2019). Social workers, traditionally considered at risk of burnout (Crowder and Sears, 2017), are increasingly recognising the need to develop caring tools to manage stress and prevent burnout (McGarrigle and Walsh, 2011).

These caring tools gained significance during the COVID-19, where social workers made substantial technological adaptations (European Social Network, 2020), faced and intensified workload without adequate protection or recognition (Fantova, 2020). As one of these caring practices, mindfulness is progressively common, showing benefits in health and quality of life (Hick, 2009).

This study aims to explore the relationship between burnout and mindfulness in social work, recognizing mindfulness as a transformative tool for professional care and potentially enhancing intervention quality.

Conducted among 271 social workers in Aragón, Spain, the qualitative study assesses three variables: Burnout (emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, low personal achievement), Areas of work life (manageable workload, control, reward, community, justice, values), and Mindfulness.

A descriptive analysis, significant relationships between variables, and multiple linear regression was carried out. Lastly, a Structural Equation Model (SEM) was formulated to assess the impact of mindfulness and areas of work life on burnout prevention.

The SEM reveals that elevated mindfulness levels, coupled with congruence in work life areas, predict and effectively prevent burnout. The study underscores the positive impact of mindfulness and work life congruence on social workers' burnout levels, suggesting mindfulness as a preventive measure against burnout in social work.

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Creative Dynamics of Social Interaction in the Culinary Industry: A Comparative Study of New Orleans and Tel Aviv

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This study offers a novel exploration into how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the culinary industry in New Orleans and Tel Aviv, not only as a business sector but as a vital part of the creative industries (Harper, 2019). Recognizing the culinary field as an integral component of the creative economy (Ibid.), the research examines over 60 interviews with industry professionals to understand the pandemic's profound effects on social interactions, which are pivotal in these culturally rich, culinary-centric cities.

In both New Orleans and Tel Aviv, known for their unique culinary heritage and vibrant social atmospheres, COVID-19 restrictions have not only affected business operations but also the very essence of creative and social engagement that defines the industry. The study investigates how these changes have influenced the dynamic between employees and customers, as well as between employees themselves. With a focus on how these altered interactions impact creativity and job satisfaction, the research reveals a significant shift in staff morale and creative expression.

Delving deeper, the study situates these transformations within the sociology of creative industries, applying theoretical frameworks like Symbolic Interactionism (Blumer, 1969) and Social Exchange Theory (Homans, 1958). These perspectives shed light on the changing nature of social interaction in the culinary industry, emphasizing the exchange of symbols, meanings, and creative energies. The findings underscore the pandemic's disruptive effect on the social and creative fabric of the culinary world, posing challenges and opportunities for reimagining the industry's future.

RN19 | T08: Professionalism and technological transformation

Professional decision making and digital support systems in the Swedish Enforcement Authority

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Welfare professional decision-making has been at the centre of two debates over the past decade in Sweden. On the one hand, the balance between NPM and trust/discretion has been debated in relation to the so called "trust reform". On the other, both hopes and fears have been discussed regarding the possibility to replace professionals with automated AI-based decision-making. This paper presents one of several case studies from a project studying the actual balance in practical welfare professional work between discretion and "programming" of decisions in terms of rules and instructions, process maps and software programs. The case in focus is the execution/foreclosure (verkställighet/utmätning) process at the Swedish Enforcement Authority (Kronofogden). The study is based on interviews with staff working on the cases, documents guiding the work, and instances of contextual inquiry – in which case officers show their work process through interfaces with digital systems. Besides describing the context for case handling, this paper will try to theorize how decisions are taken (individually vs. collectively; at one point in time vs. in processes), to what extent principles (e.g. law and rules) and programs (e.g. software and information systems) delimit different aspects of discretion, and how digitalization is performed from both above and below (i.e., the extent to which input and "appification" of digital help systems trickle down from the central organisational management vs. to what extent they are initiated and adjusted at local levels).

R2: Digital Risk Assessment in Dentist Decision-making

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R2 is a digital risk assessment tool helping dentists and dental hygienists within the Swedish public dental health, Folktandvården, to assess and make decisions on risk classifications and treatment plans of patients. R2, as a computer program, is thus an example of how professional discretion and decision-making are being circumscribed by digital solutions.

A previous study on dental care professionals identified some preliminary approaches to R2: that they were fairly free to depart from the classifications proposed by R2, and could upgrade or downgrade depending on their

professional expertise on the patient's overall dental health, and that R2 could function as a pedagogical tool to motivate the treatment plans and risk classifications to patients, as some patients were more convinced by the computerized classification than the professional judgement (Ulfsdotter Eriksson et al 2017).

This paper returns to the relationship between dentists' professional discretion and the usage of R2 for risk assessment and risk classification, to explore and understand the relationship between discretion and programs in the decision-making processes. Drawing on qualitative interviews with dentists (approx. 20-22, collected 2015 and 2023/24), the study addresses the following research questions: 1) In what ways do R2, and other administrative tools, infold professional discretion and how do the dentists use and relate to them? The interviews are thematically analysed, and empirical themes are developed through iterative processes making use of core concepts such as structural and epistemic discretion.

Theories Professionalism Today: Conceptual Challenges, New Analytical Horizons

Roman Abramov

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Sociology of professions is discipline with theoretical core, to which classical sociologists such as G. Spencer, M. Weber, E. Durkheim, T. Parsons, E. Hughes, and others have contributed. The sociology of professions has its own famous theorists: E. Abbott, G. Becker, E. Freidson, M. Saks, M. Larson, K. MacDonald, R. Dingwall, M. Noordegraaf. D. Sciulli conducted a comprehensive review of the theories of professionalism that had developed by the beginning of the 21st century. Currently, there is an active revision of concepts of professionalism and new theories that explain changes in the professional world.

Rapid social and technological changes challenge established theories of professionalism. New digital media technologies have blurred "old" professional identities in journalism, many creative professions, and show business. Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a new tool for creative professionals such as designers, artists, writers, and some programmers. The transition to platform capitalism (Nick Srnicek) initially affected relatively unskilled labor (couriers, taxi drivers, workers on marketplaces), but it also created a huge international market for professional work, including tutoring services, programmers, lawyers, and even medical consultants.

New social tensions arise related to the demand for decolonizing social theories, global changes in countries, painful processes of building national states in the territories of the former USSR create new variants of professionalism that require theoretical analysis.

In my presentation, I propose to conduct an analytical revision of established analytical approaches to professionalism and directions for new theoretical constructions and models of the sociology of professions.

Digital Influencers, Work And Acceleration: Experiences On Creative Independent Digital Labor

Marina Chiari

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Digital influencers and content creators propagate products, ideas, and lifestyles through content production on social media. Their activity generates income, influence, and also a new work experience in the digital context. This article attempts to answer what the conception of work is for digital content producers and how they reinterpret their relationship with work routines based on this experience. The article aims to relate the theoretical contributions of the German sociologist Hartmut Rosa on the social acceleration of time to the field of labor sociology and its application in understanding the development of new professional practices in a digital context. The author's thinking, discussed here, is applied to the hypothesis that the ongoing acceleration of content production on digital social media platforms is out of sync with the productive capacity of individuals who identify themselves as "digital content creators" or "digital influencers", the subjects of analysis in this study. Assuming that the exponential production of content on social networks fragments the meaning of the consumed and produced content, even in specific thematic niches, and stimulates a race for audience attention and satisfaction of metrics that feed platform algorithms, we analyze semi-structured interviews conducted with digital influencers who describe this experience in the face of a complex, accelerated world and the exploitation of individual subjective potential. To reduce digital influencers to mere advertising tools is a moral judgment of consumption (Barbosa and Campbell, 2006), and avoids a deeper reflection on the power structure in this field of digital work. Reducing these individuals to a superficial communicational practice means refraining from questioning the role they play in a chain of labor exploitation based on the attention and entertainment industry and the commodification of audiences.

The Judge And Artificial Intelligence

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The digitisation confronts us with a transformation of economic, social, and cultural patterns that is defining a new contemporary era.

This is also true in the judiciary, where AI is making its entrance by claiming a power to make the system more efficient, with concrete consequences on the work of judges.

The paper proposes an empirical study focuses on the consequences of judges' use of a database of case law applying artificial intelligence.

First of all, it focus on how the database may impact on the judge's interpretive function: in fact, the judicial discretion will depend on the relationship of trust, or mistrust, that will be established between the judging body and the

machine. Moreover, the judges' action will have to reckon with the verifiability of their performance.

Secondly, IA also impacts on the organization of judicial offices: in fact, the implementation of the digital database fosters new practices of sharing and discussion to such an extent that it has an impact on the working methods of the office towards the strengthening of team work and towards the standardisation of a common model for drafting judgments.

As can easily be guessed, all these aspects will be institutional-ised changing the overall design of the justice system. Therefore, in conclusion, this paper aim to describe some dimension of social interac-tion affected by the AI and intends to give an overview of its conse-quences to the work of the judge by declining a new professional model.

RN20 | Qualitative Methods

RN20 | T01_01: Visual and Digital Data in Qualitative Research

Visual Data of Violence: Visibilities and Non-Visibilities

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With the increasing availability of bodycams, CCTV or smartphone cameras, street violence currently becomes subject of monitoring and evaluation through public as well as private entities. These specific forms of visual data make it possible to identify violence not only in the interaction itself, but also long after the event. The author will ask which physical or verbal assaults are considered legitimate violence and which interpretation and procedural rules are referred to. She will examine how the visual data of bodycams, CCTV or smartphone cameras can be used to frame the emergence of violence in order to develop a specific understanding of the event. In a first step, current publications will be presented that place the emphasis on how violence is contextualized by participants during the interaction. As these publications usually neglect how the data are stored, processed and handled by the users, the author will give evidence, in a second step, how data infrastructures and data practices contribute to contextualize violence long after its emergence in interaction. She will introduce empirical findings that show how the selection as well as the processing of visual data transform knowledge and create new phenomena. It will be argued that it is highly relevant to utilize methods and methodologies that make visible how visual data produce new worlds.

How to Site Ethnographies in High-Opportunity Neighbourhoods

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Many ethnographers in Europe have analysed how neighbourhoods restrict opportunities for low-income, racially marginalized young people. These studies are important for understanding how social transformation is stunted. However, some are calling on ethnographers to systematically study the daily experiences and mechanisms by which some neighbourhoods promote opportunities for these young people. Ethnographers tend to use a mixture of theoretical and convenience case selection methods to screen, and ultimately study, low-opportunity neighbourhoods. But the mapping of neighbourhoods with Big Data has provided avenues to theoretical and systematically locate high-opportunity cases.

In this presentation, I outline the case selection method I used to site my current project, a youth ethnography consisting of over 1,000 hours of participant observation and 250 in-depth interviews. I propose a three-step method for situating our ethnographies in high-opportunity neighbourhoods: First, utilise large datasets, such as the Opportunity Atlas (OA), to identify potential high-opportunity cases. Second, use these datasets to develop a criteria-based, composite index of high-opportunity neighbourhoods. Finally, evaluate potential high-opportunity cases online and offline.

Qualitative sociologists who want to transform European society can immensely benefit from case selection methods that enhance the study of high-opportunity places. Studying these cases could bolster the theoretical transferability of our studies. While the Opportunity Atlas and the dataset underpinning my site selection method are based on U.S. data, the principles and methodologies can be adapted in Europe. This adaptation would involve identifying and utilizing comparable European datasets to replicate the site selection process and to enhance cross-national theories of how high-opportunity neighbourhoods transform the lives of young people.

Visualising Place: Relationality and Intimacy in Virtual Mapping Methods

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Mapping exercises can enrich qualitative insights across disciplinary perspectives, advancing both political economy and phenomenological understandings of place. In care home contexts, mapping workshops combined with experiential tours, have shifted power relations with facilitators, exposed contexts of inequalities, and deepened tacit understandings of lived experiences (Wagner, 2022; see also, Fang et al., 2016).

This paper develops insights into the tensions and opportunities mapping exercises present within virtual research, reflecting on lessons learned from qualitative research conducted at four long-term care sites on Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada in 2022-2023. Research methods included digital storytelling (n=12), collaborative reflection meetings (n=22), in-depth interviews including communicative ecology mapping (n=39), and asset mapping workshops (n=10). Research was conducted entirely online, facilitated by video calls and audio calls. The methods were designed to develop insights into the interrelations of individual and institutional factors that shape care home residents' sense of social agency, while presenting opportunities to work with residents to develop actionable recommendations for services and practices. This paper explores the tactics that were developed by both researchers and participants to create intimacy and trust within virtual environments. The paper reflects on the role of individual relationships with media in shaping facilitator-participant relationships and the ways that visual aids can regulate, disrupt or enhance reflective experiences of place.

Open Science in Qualitative Studies: Transitioning from Quantitative Replication to Ethical Considerations and Democratic Data Sharing

Jakob Demant

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The open science movement has exerted a profound influence across various scientific disciplines. While the discourse surrounding open science has gained momentum in quantitative studies, particularly in fostering data sharing to counter questionable research practices and facilitate replications, the fields of qualitative sociology have been relatively tardy in their engagement. This passivity has allowed others to dictate the extent and manner of involvement in open science.

This paper contends that qualitative sociology should embrace the notion of data sharing. However, the emphasis should not solely be on replications; rather, the focus should center on ethical considerations, ensuring a more judicious utilization of data obtained from often hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations. Such openness not only democratizes access to data for fellow researchers and students but also amplifies the voices of these populations in societal discussions.

Building on this stance within the open science discourse, the paper addresses the challenges inherent in practicing data sharing, particularly when dealing with a dataset from a hidden group, and hard-to-reach groups. Drawing on a qualitative semistructured interview dataset comprising 107 participants involved in drug buying and selling across the Nordic countries, the study reflects on the complexities associated with data sharing. Recognizing that not all qualitative data materials can be shared, the paper highlights challenges related to participant protection and GDPR, emphasizing that online data collection offers some avenues to mitigate these challenges.

In conclusion, the paper advocates that qualitative researchers stand to benefit significantly from the open science movement. It underscores the potential advantages, especially in the realm of digital qualitative data, and suggests that technical solutions can be pursued to align with the ethos of open science.

RN20 | T01_02: Biographies and Narratives

Capturing Temporal Experiences in Narratives of Everyday Life

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This abstract address using life mode interviews in a qualitative longitudinal research to capture temporal experiences and agency presented in narratives of young people in vulnerable positions. Life Course theoretically, Flaherty and Hitlin & Elder enhance that agency can be exercised through the control and management of temporal experiences. Flaherty (2003) presents the concept of 'time work' to highlight how the individual is not only determined by temporal structures but can modify time e.g. by extending time or letting time pass.

My findings emphasize that temporal experiences expressed through narratives of everyday life not only concern organizing the everyday life, but also are related to experiences of life circumstances and options. The empirical data are based on a qualitative longitudinal study conducted through a period of two years with interviews approximately every six months with eight young care leavers age 20 to 33. The interviews were inspired by life mode interviews focusing on the organization, experiences and sense-making of everyday life.

In their narratives the young people tell of mundane situations, such as eating breakfast or watching television, which intersects with experiences of temporality. These narratives reflect the young people's self-image and self-evaluated level of normality. By following the narratives of the young people through time the findings give insight into the negotiated processes that characterize the young people's experiences of life circumstances and their comparison to what they consider normality. In particular, the longitudinal approach emphasizes that processes are not progressive and linear, but rather nonlinear and changeable.

"They Were Not My Memories, But They Became My Story": A Reflexive Analysis Of The Narrative Construction Of Diasporic Identities During In-Depth Qualitative Interviews With Italian Migrant Women In Ireland.

Carla De Tona

University of Bologna, Italy

This paper focuses on the researcher's positionality and the practices of identification of Italian migrant women in

Ireland, which are reflected upon but also manifested during the very process of in-depth life story interviews (group and individual). This specific method of data collection is entangled in forms of social interaction that replicate, albeit with significant differences, migrants' experiences of socialisation in their encounters with other Italian migrants.

The paper is based on a longitudinal qualitative study with Italian women in Ireland, belonging both to older village-based chain migrations from central Italy, and to more recent waves of migration characterised by increased social and cultural diversification. The data was collected in two phases, before 2010 and after 2020, in which the researcher was positioned first as an 'insider' migrant and then as a 'returnee' migrant.

The analysis proposed in this paper follows Yuval-Davis's notion that identity construction does not only involve personal identities but also narratives of collective identity, which ensure collective sense of meaning making process (Yuval-Davis, 2010). Focusing on the narratives produced in interaction between the researcher and the participants during the interviews, the analysis shows how narratives are not just a mode for understanding and sharing experiences, but also for constructing a shared sense of belonging. As evinced starting from the very interviews' dynamics, migrant women's narrative practices link together disparate memories, locales and life stages, and ultimately contribute to the shaping of a fluid yet bounded diasporic collective identity. Limitations about the process occurring during the interviews (interviews' locations and participants' time and availability) are also reflected upon.

Re-doing Ethnography: Documenting Silence As A Methodological Tool Of Performing Research

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Documenting an experience is both a liminal and subliminal task the limitations of which are entrenched in the methodological implications especially when the experience is premised upon a conflicted and mistrusted sociality. Scott suggests what counts as experience is neither self-evident nor straightforward; it is always contested, and always, therefore, political. Thus , 'experience' as an analytical category constitutes a genuinely explanatory power to build a foundation for configuring the narrative of subjects in their own space of construction. The question of inquiry, then, is how does the documentation of experiences in a field setting native to the researcher comes into dialogue with the modes of performing research. Using ethnographic insights and interventions employed to study Ahmadi Muslims, a persecuted minority in South Asia, the paper tries to articulate their experience through anthropological descriptions and the dilemma of the ethnographer as an insider in the setting.

The omnipotence of an ethnographic narrativization relies on the thoughtful moulding of voices to represent the realities. Through the comparative analysis made in the paper using ethnographies of hearing and violence, another important understanding that emerges is that of remembrance and reinstatement. It becomes crucially emphatic to denounce what is it that the narrator wants to remember. The healing and reparation expected out of the textualized bodies of pain and suffering ,then, becomes a signifier of the unspeakable and unhearable zone' of the imaginaries possessed by the subjects of these writings. Through the paper, the silences of the narrations are brough to life through the implicitness of their experiences and lay bare the limitations that make narrators a perennial witness of the loss borne in past.

'A Look Inside the Black Box' – Ethical Aspects of the Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM) Panels: A Critical Commentary

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This paper provides a critical commentary of extant lacunae in international research on the Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM). Developed by Tom Wengraf and the Quatext group, BNIM constitutes a distinctive approach to biographical data collection, analysis and interpretation using panels comprised of persons from diverse backgrounds, ethnic groups, and occupational statuses who work collaboratively, extrapolating new meanings and highlighting researchers' 'blind spots'. Hitherto, there has been scant research on BNIM panels and specifically ethical dimensions of panel analysis, which this paper addresses. Our research question is: 'what are the principal ethical considerations which need to be considered specifically in relation to BNIM panels?'

Drawing on insights from two sociologists and an educational socio-technologist engaged in biographical research (e.g. post COVID-19 realities, cosmopolitanism, education for sustainability and AI), we present a critical commentary on ethical aspects of BNIM panels, which are under-researched. Currently, most existing BNIM literature (generally) and research documenting panel analysis is descriptive, lacking in a unified research agenda on ethical aspects of the methodology per se. We focus on the value of interdisciplinarity in capturing the various ethical conundrums in using BNIM, whilst advocating and presenting a research agenda founded in sociologically-informed ethical frameworks on panel analysis.

RN20 | T02_01: Beyond Chicago School

Exploring Possibilities of Doing Situational Analysis in Interdisciplinary Inquiry on Sustainability Transitions

Anna-Lisa Klages

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The recent crises such as the Covid-pandemic, the human-made climate change or the rise of populism across the globe alongside new and protracted national as well as international conflicts pose significant methodological challenges for contemporary qualitative inquiry to conceptually understand individuals, their behavior and attitudes in reciprocity with their environment (Or, 2024). As a theory-methods package (Clarke, Friese and Washburn, 2018), Situational Analysis (SitA) seeks to embrace complexity in inquiry in order to "engage in the sticky, multilayered messiness of life itself" (ibid, 2018: 364). Originally proposed by Adele Clarke (2005) as an extension of Grounded Theory, SitA offers analytical tools and instruments that allow to analytically reconstruct all relevant elements co-constitutive of a situation of inquiry (Gauditz et al., 2023). This includes a turn towards relationalities between and among human and non-human elements, discourses, (contested) issues as well as social worlds in what John Dewey, referred to as a "contextual whole" (1938:66) that make a situation.

SitA has been used in various fields of research and across academic disciplines (e.g. Clarke, Washburn and Friese, 2022; Friese, Schwertel and Tietje, 2023; Kalenda, 2016). In drawing theoretically on those experiences, this paper explores some practical implications on doing interdisciplinary Situational Analyses on sustainability transitions (Schneidewind et al., 2016).

Research on Discrimination: A Methodological Intersection of Discourse Analysis, Situational Analysis and Vignette based Research

Elisabeth Tuider[1], Tina Spies[2], Hazal Budak-Kim[2], Tom Fixemer[1], Manja Kotsas[2]

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In our lecture, we present an innovative combination of methods by which structural discrimination and inequalities in the post-migrant society can be examined in their intersectional interweaving.

So far, discrimination research has relied on a.) the collection of experiences of discrimination from a subjective perspective, or b.) survey-based datasets and statistics on discrimination risks and experiences of discrimination (see Makkonen 2016: European Handbook on Equality Data). Our question is a different one: How can the tensions, contradictions and persistences of structural inequalities be captured with a further development of established qualitative methods?

The focus of our presentation is on an intersectional methodological linking of discourse and situational analysis, expert interviews and vignette-based focus groups in order to adequately capture multidimensional structural discriminations and social inequality. We use the theoretical concept of „articulation" (by Stuart Hall 1996) as a hinge to suture discursive invocations and positionings (along ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, class, ability) in hegemonic structures of power and inequalities.

Methodological Developments of the Case Study Approach: What Remains of the Chicago School's Case Method Today?

Barbara Sena

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The case study as empirical method in sociology derives from the case history of U.S. social workers and their employment as the primary source of information for the first sociological studies on deviance at the Chicago School. In the 1930s and 1940s the "case study" label was extended to all the research managed by the Chicago School's sociologists and associated with tools such as participant observation, unstructured interviews, or personal document analysis (Platt, 1988, 1992). Although in sociology it has become a catchword which generically refers to qualitative research, since the 1980s it has been developed in different disciplines and research fields for the empirical study of innovations and complex problems in order to produce analytical explanations, evaluations or practical solutions (e.g. Swanborn, 2010; Tight, 2017; Yin, 2018).

Starting from this premise, this paper aims to focus on: 1) how case study method has overcome the epistemological and methodological misunderstandings of the interpretivist approaches of the Chicago School, through its pragmatic, multi-method, and holistic nature; and 2) how it has been applied and transformed as compared to its original use in the Chicago School's research, by analysing relevant changes that it has undergone over the years in interdisciplinary methodological literature.

Particularly, the paper will highlight some differences in relation to other qualitative approaches with which it has often associated, such as life history and ethnography, through the support of recent applications of the case study in significant contexts characterized by social tensions in our societies.

Audial Grounded Theory. Sound as a Specific Carrier of Meanings.

Rafał Wiśniewski, Izabela Bukalska

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

The use of audio materials is obvious to social researchers because they've been using audio-recordings of interviews, talks from participant observations or historical materials for a long time. However, we will focus on non-verbal sound data and their value in social research.

Interest in non-verbal sounds, in relation to grounded theory, appears most often among soundscape researchers, where sounds appear as one of many types of used data: (Kim Foale; „A listener-centered approach to soundscape analysis", Semiha Yilmazer „A grounded theory approach (...): a case study on Hacı Bayram Mosque"). Audiologists showed interest in GTM in research on social aspect of hearing diseases (one article – Christine Meston, "A Grounded Theory Primer for Audiology"). Achievements of ethnomusicologists were collected by Ignacio Soto or Barbara Śnieżek. Studies in aforementioned areas are not numerous.

Our presentation will be based on the research project "Contemporary radio reportage in the light of symbolic interactionism theory" as part of the grant of Ministry of Education and Science in Poland (NdS/536812/2021/2022). We conducted, listening sessions, observations, focus group interview and 30 in-depth interviews with creators of radio reportage (artistic genre). Respondents are experts on using sound material to convey intended meanings and trigger states and reactions. We learned principles of "sound plans" creation, importance of music and silence, remembered situational sounds, and, above all, information contained in prosody – timbre and volume of voice, rhythm and dynamics of speech. We can perceive it as "paralanguage".

To conclude: non-verbal sound is valuable material for sociologists in research and theory building. Specific examples will be provided (GTM methods: triangulation, theoretical sampling and constant comparison are crucial).

We will play fragments of audio reportages to illustrate conclusions.

RN20 | T03_01: Analyzing Interviews

Interviewing Financially Precarious But Culturally Elite Workers: Power, Positionality, Poetics

Timo Louis Koren

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

Sociologists have scrutinized the unique features of labour conditions in the cultural industries, the methodological implications for researching in this sector have not been given much attention (McRobbie 2016). Cultural sector workers are characterised by high cultural capital but relatively low economic capital: while (senior) employees in the cultural industries have considerable cultural influence as key gatekeepers, their financial situation often does not always reflect an elite status (Brook et al. 2020). Cultural sector workers navigate an industry 'in crisis' with limited space and resources available (Hesmondhalgh and Baker 2011), while gatekeeping practices reproduce or legitimise social inequalities (Negus 1999). Based on two qualitative research projects (nightclub promoters and literary professionals), this paper explores how qualitative interviews could attune better to the specific conditions of the cultural industries.

First, methodological literature often conceptualises the power in interview setting through the relationship between interviewer and interviewee (Ellersgaard et al. 2022). However, engaging with literature on whiteness (Ahlstedt 2015), the paper argues that researchers share their social position with interviewees, a 'sameness' that obscures the workings of power during interviews. Second, the informal work culture of the cultural industries adds to complexities around gaining access to elites: researchers need to navigate a particular 'elite informality'. Third, artistic and aesthetic discourses (poetics) are contingent on economic, social, field and career position – showing how power shapes cultural ideals. The paper adds to recent methodological debates in qualitative sociology that understand power as fluid and context-dependent rather than static (Lancaster 2017; Ellersgaard et al. 2022).

Erving Goffman And The Framing Of Meaning – Frame Analysis As A Sociological Analysis Approach

Maike Pötschulat

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This paper is dedicated to Erving Goffman's least understood work: Frame Analysis (1974); a phenomenological piece on the structure of experience. Goffman considered it his most important publication and while the book has been responded to widely, it has either received criticism

or has been adapted to a degree that bears little resemblance to Goffman's original writings. In this paper, I establish the potential of Frame Analysis to provide a methodologically-grounded analysis tool for qualitative data and an alternative to other approaches such as themed or content analysis. In the book, Goffman unpicks the structure that underlies the (social) process of assigning meaning to occurrences and he explores how these meanings can be solidified, changed, manipulated and studied. Frame Analysis thus explores the complex processes that are involved in rendering everyday happenings meaningful. By now, frame analysis is a common occurrence in media studies and social movement research but besides the adoption of the term 'frame' these applications have little correspondence with the book. In adopting Goffman's concepts of strips, primary frameworks, keyings and fabrications, I develop an analysis approach that is sensitive to what people do, think or experience and how layers of meanings are built around these occurrences. Focusing on interview transcripts, I demonstrate, frame by frame, how frame analysis can be applied to develop concise conclusions from a qualitative research project. I present frame analysis as an approach that can be embedded in the methodological considerations that underpin the choice of research methods and an analysis type that highlights the role of the researcher in the generation of situated knowledge.

Framing Paid and Unpaid Parenthood – Identifying Telling Nuances in Interview Transcripts on Foster Care

David Wästerfors

Lund University, Sweden

Erving Goffman's frame analysis has been widely used to conceptualize a range of topics, from social movements to mass communication. This presentation closely examines how frame analysis can be applied in the analysis of local rhetoric production within interview studies, specifically exploring how interviewees shift between arguments during interactions with the interviewer. The focus is on foster care and questions related to payments and reimbursements. In an ongoing project, interviewed parents occasionally frame their foster care responsibilities as "work," advocating for payment legitimacy and improved conditions. Conversely, they also frame it as "family life" and "care" at other times, emphasizing different values. Similarly, social service officials interviewed tend to alternate between frames, discussing foster parents' "job" and negotiating skills on one hand, and idealized altruistic parenthood on the other. The inclusion of children with special difficulties or disabilities further complicates the application of these frames. The presentation aims to develop a methodological vocabulary and theoretical purpose for this type of analysis.

Reflexivity in the Study of Young Immigrant descendants: Overcoming the Ethnic Lens

Veronica Riniolo

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

While a reflexive turn is taking place in many studies on migrants, a critical theoretical and methodological reflection on categories to be used when referring specifically to youth with immigrant parents is slowly emerging. Italy – a country where the recognition of immigrant descendants as an integral part of society is still far – is characterized by a non-reflexive use of labels to refer to immigrant descendants both in the public and sometimes also in the academic debate, with the risk to reinforce the processes of racialization and exclusion of those who have immigrant parents.

The present study – on the basis of 30 qualitative interviews conducted in 2023 in two main Italian cities (Milan and Brescia) with graduate and post-graduate students both natives and with parents born abroad – shows the necessity to overcome an exclusive ethnic lens when studying young immigrant descendants, benefitting instead of an intersectional and transnational perspective. The selection of research participants (with and without immigrant parents) and the explored topics were guided by the effort to overcome 'methodological ethnicity" (Glick Schiller 2008), avoiding the risk of producing and reproducing categories (of exclusion) also during interaction with interviewees. The research – benefiting from a process of reflexivity with those involved – also proposes possible alternative categories able to avoid making ethnicity the only criterion in the study of immigrant descendants, grasping their multiple identities and intercultural competencies.

RN20 | T04_01: Emotions in Ethnographic Methodologies

Emotional Connections: Observing Young People's Encounter with Criminal Court

Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson[1], Theresa Dyrvig Henriksen[2], Rikke Klarskov Hermansen[2], Josefine Frøslev-Thomsen[2]

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Observation serves as an important methodological tool for examining complex social settings and encounters. In this paper, we use observations within the regulated setting of the criminal court to demonstrate how emotional dynamics influence the encounters of young defendants, aged 16 and 17, with the court. We do so by drawing on collective experiences and reflections from a four-member research team following young defendants through their court hearings and subsequently interviewing them about their experiences. The reflexive and social nature of the observations demonstrate a shared emotional response and connection between the young defendants and the researchers. The connections were formed under the strict formality of the courtroom and often communicated through subtle gestures and unspoken cues during the hearings. We analyse these emotional connections along three dimensions: 1. Confusion – limited understanding of judicial behavior in the courtroom; 2. Disempowerment – no room for correction and displaying emotions; 3. Resentment – unawareness of age-related considerations and absence of child friendliness. These dimensions show how emotional connections are an important methodological tool and provide unique insight into the emotional demanding situation of being a young person having to navigate in the highly formalised courtroom setting.

Emotions In The Field: How To Analyze Relationships Through Strong Reflexivity

Ingmar Zalewski

University of Kassel, Germany

The "reflexive turn" that the ethnographic method underwent in the 1980s and early 1990s must be considered incomplete. Critics emphasize the epistemic significance of researchers' emotions in the field, which has not yet been sufficiently addressed (Davies & Spencer 2010). However, traditions such as Zurich ethnopsychoanalysis (Nadig 1986; Parin et al. 1963, 1971) had already shown before the debates on Writing Culture how ethnography can also capture the pre – and unconscious practices and structures of a field by systematically following the emotions of researchers. The special issue "European Contributions to Strong Reflexivity" published in Qualitative Inquiry (Kühner, Ploder & Langer 2016) represents another recent advance. It is based on the prominent insight of Hungarian-French ethnopsychoanalyst Georges Devereux (1967) who stated that there is a significant "overlap between subject and observer" in the field which can be read in the emotions of the observer.

In my talk I will elaborate on this insight. Instead of a strict separation and fixation of researcher and researched, I follow a path to the processuality of interpersonal negotiations. Underpinned by the empirical example of my dissertation "Mirror, Play and Gift: An Ethnopsychoanalytic Study of Relationships with Unaccompanied Refugees," I will show how relationships can be systematically analyzed: Referring to the work of authors as diverse as Homi K. Bhabha, Donald Winnicott and Donna Harraway, I propose to understand relationships as situated in-between and transitional spaces, that can be explored through strong reflexivity towards the emotions of researchers in the field.

The method developed touches on both ethical aspects of ethnographic relationships and joins current debates on the status of subjectivity and situated knowledge in qualitative research.

Understanding Research Ethics Beyond Principles: Trust, Transformation, and Tensions As Ethical Dimensions

Carla Scheytt

University of Innsbruck, Institute of Sociology, Austria

Tension, trust, and transformation are not only essential research topics for qualitative researchers but also affect the relationship between researchers and participants. How this relationship is shaped, is the core question of research ethics. Traditionally, research ethics are understood as a set of guiding principles, like no harm, informed consent, anonymization, and confidentiality, that researchers have to follow. In this presentation, I will discuss that qualitative sociologists do not limit their understanding of research ethics to these principles. For this, I will present the preliminary results of my PhD project, where I conducted qualitative semi-structured interviews about research ethics with qualitative sociologists (PhD students, post-docs, professors) in Austria and Germany. My findings indicate, that qualitative sociologists consider ethical research as a broader concept that concerns the relationship between researchers, field, and participants. Based on these findings, I will explore how tension, trust, and transformation are interlinked with their understanding, and answer the following questions: Which role plays trust for ethical research, and how it is established? Which tensions do the interviewees face in the relationship with their participants, for example, due to different positions (class, ethnicity, gender)? And finally, which expectations do they have regarding the transformative potential of their findings, for example by supporting the social struggles in the field? In answering

these questions, the presentation shows empirically, what sociologists understand as good ethical research, and how tension, trust, and transformation are connected to this understanding.

Troubling Power Asymmetries and Empirical Knowledge Creation Limitations Through Research Subject Inter-viewing: Exploring the Field of Possibilities

Megan Marie Rådesjö

Gothenburg University, Sweden

Interviewing is a commonly used qualitative method in social scientific research. However, power asymmetries and knowledge creation limitations can be problematic. Power asymmetries lead to the research subject being more restricted than the researcher in how the interview is carried out and later interpreted, leading to limitations in knowledge creation. To trouble these problems, this article introduces research subject inter-viewing (RSI), which is an interview guide facilitated audio or video-recorded interview between at least two research subjects. In this form of interviewing the researcher is the organiser and coordinator, but not present during the interview. Instead, research subjects carry out researcher-defined questions, topics, or vignettes either in person or via video-conferencing. This article contributes to feminist critiques of social science and offers alternative frameworks for understanding and practicing knowledge production. Through the lens of situated knowledges and facilitated by the concepts of discursive practice and field of possibilities, this research attends to the power relations at play while doing RSI for empirical knowledge creation through the question: How does RSI create or limit possibilities for power asymmetries and knowledge creation? Through seven RSIs including fourteen research participants, this research shows shifted power asymmetries from the researcher to the research subjects during the interview process. In relation to this shift, RSI broadened the scope of knowledge creation through the research subjects' initiatives. Therefore, this interview method contributes an alternative type of interviewing that facilitates the transformative shift of power asymmetries and opens new ways of co-creating sensitive or cultural knowledge in an interview setting.

RN20 | T04_02: Organizations, Labor and the Military

Trust Me, I Know What I'm Doing: Can A Structured Heuristic On Micro-Narratives Impact The Methodological And Transformative Tensions Of Action Research?

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Action research is a multimethod design centred in the protagonists' voices, to build its meaning and value. Encompassing multiple tensions (such as theory-practice, functional-emancipatory, qualitative-quantitative, formal-informal), at its core lies a recurring cycle of reflexivity, that many times lacks in dealing critically with these tensions, and to which resolution trust emerges as a central competence.

This presentation focus on a structured, relational and dynamic heuristic about social actions, with the aim ofto visualizing the participants' micro-narratives about their dynamics of competence building and its conditioning factors. Such an heuristic attempts to reveal the meaning as interpretability (both understanding-explaining, and personifying-(re)producing), and the value as usability (both appropriability and actionability) of organizational actors' micro-narratives to discuss the above tensions within the dimensions of control, change and communication.

The heuristic of social action is also considered an heuristic of conflict towards three possibilities: of emancipation, of common intentions and of valid knowledge. In this presentation the methodological triangulation, as in the set proposed by Denzin, is placed against these three possibilities, gaining a political dimension.

The presentation will conclude by using Pettigrew's Social Dramas and Adele Clark's Situational Analysis to test the creativity, methodological strength, and also the effectiveness of the proposed heuristics to solve the above tensions and to empower both researchers and protagonists by applying it to two action-research case studies (in an organizational setting and on the evaluation of public policies), in comparison with other tools of research.

Participatory Workshops as a Research Method to Identify Consensus and Dissent Around Key Research Themes

Ana Ferreira Teixeira, Jorge Caleiras, Dora Fonseca, Diogo Silva Cunha

CoLABOR, Collaborative Laboratory for Labor, Employment and Social Protection

Participatory workshops can be used as a research technique aiming at eliciting information on dissent, consensus, and innovative ideas around key research themes. The present paper describes the process of designing and implementing participatory workshops organized within the context of a collaborative research project on work, employment, and labour market(s) in Portugal. Additionally, the paper presents analytic strategies employed to analyze the data collected from the workshops and the processes through which these data contributed to the project´s research aims.

Researchers were interested in examining employment and labour market(s) dynamics around three main themes: skills, expectations, and quality of work; migrations and labour markets; and fiscal systems and employment. In order to achieve the objectives of examining and identifying diverse stakeholders' perspectives, as well as possible nodes of consensus and conflict among stakeholders, participatory workshops were organized on each of the research themes.

The workshop methodology was based on a specific set of criteria comprising: a) the identification of key stakeholder groups in each arena, including workers' representatives, businesses' representatives, state agencies, academics, and civil society organizations; and b) a context report distributed to all participants and providing common grounds for discussion. The participatory workshops were divided into three distinct moments: the first moment included the presentation of the context report; the second moment consisted in intra-stakeholder debate groups, and the third moment entailed inter-stakeholder debate groups. Intra-stakeholder groups aimed at building consensus around specific topics, while inter-stakeholder groups were expected to identify points of dissent and consensus among the problems at stake.

Researching The Military From Bottom To Top

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In recent years more and more researchers recognize the importance of micro research and focus on agents' performance and their subjective experience and understanding the military and its connection to society.

The aim of this paper is to examine the part of individuals in constructing, maintaining and even challenging perceptions, images, practices, and processes within the military. Focusing on the agent's viewpoint and performance reveals the probability of challenging military conceptions and images. Doing so discloses the fluidity and the potential of change in the structure, mechanisms, and social conceptions through individuals' performance.

Based on interviews with male and female who served in combat roles and in intelligence roles, I examine the way soldiers perceive their military service and the capitals they acquired during military service. Furthermore, I examine how these perceptions influence the potential of converting these capitals into civilian society and labor market. Emphasizing the active part of agents in creating and challenging meaning and perceptions, underlines the connection between micro and macro research and the importance of micro perspective analysis to military sociology.

Tension in Research Settings in Times of Societal Polarization: A Conceptual Analysis of Finnish Conscripts' Group Interviews

Elina Paju

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Research is always situated in a wider social situation. This affects which research aims and questions seem topical and what kind of data is generated in the research process. In my presentation I focus on the interaction in group interviews and ask how does societal polarization affect knowledge generation in qualitative research.

My presentation is a conceptual analysis of group interviews I have conducted with Finnish conscripts completing their military service. The interviews covered such topics as home, homeland, will to defend, killing and dying. As military service for males is mandatory in Finland, the conscripts represent the Finnish (male) population in their – at times – polarized views.

I analyse the situations of the interviews through the concepts of pluriverse and diplomacy. Pluriverse is a concept coined by William James (1909) and refers to the plurality in existence. Discomforts, difficulties and tensions are, for James, part of the existence. To account for the tensions emerging on the societal level and affecting the situations of data generation is qualitative research, I propose Isabelle Stengers' (2010-11) figure of the diplomat. For Stengers, diplomats are practioners that emerge – or can emerge – in situations of conflict or crisis. Diplomats help to maintain the possibility of plurality. In practice, the opposing and polarized views presented and emotions expressed in an interview situation pose ethical challenges for the researcher. By combining James' concept of pluriverse with Stengers' figure of the diplomat I propose a way to know in a tense research setting.

RN20 | T05_01: Mixed Methods

Co-creation in Mental Health Promotion Research: Anticipating Risks and Tensions, Nurturing Trust and Cultivating Transformative Change

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Growing societal tensions deriving from climate change, digitalisation, epidemiological-economic crises, rising migration, and population aging are pushing at-risk groups to the edges of good mental wellbeing. While mental health promotion interventions are praised for their enhanced value and sustainability, acting before concerns become full-blown problems requires vulnerable groups to trust practitioners and researchers. However, persistent mental health-related stigma can cause people to experience difficulties in accessing accurate information about mental health, not recognise the benefits of research participation and become sceptical and distrustful of researchers, thus compromising recruitment and the validity of research. Based on a sociological understanding of vulnerability, we reflect on how using a participatory multi-methods approach to capture relevant stakeholders' perspectives may encourage power-sharing and contribute to align research design and implementation with end-users' needs and expectations. Our multisite study draws on a co-creation process entailing desk reviews and online Delphi surveys co-developed with locally-set Society Advisory Groups, and scenario-based workshops held with stakeholders in the six participating countries: Denmark, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Switzerland (ADVANCE project). We discuss research teams' epistemic standings about participatory research and how they impact research planning, resource allocation and the unravelling of co-option risks and tensions during implementation. We also explore emerging stakeholders' interactions and the value of specific methods in inspiring transparency, promoting stakeholder empowerment and nurturing research trustworthiness. We argue that research co-creation adds pressure onto research teams' agenda and performance, but also provides avenues to improve research relevance and acceptability by cultivating the co-design of fit-for-purpose, transformative interventions.

Multimethod Sampling as a way of Slow Research

Adriana Eixarch Alejos, Pablo Bariego Carricajo, Laia Nualart Moratalla, Alejandro González Heras

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In recent years, the scientific community has been discussing the need to rethink the ways in which scientific knowledge is developed. Approaches such as slow research put on the table the need to approach the research process from the perspective of reflexivity, proposing a form of research that prioritizes slow knowledge over the values of speed and productivity that seem to rule scientific work today. In the context of this debate, we support the development of slow multimethod research, understood as an integrated combination of different methods that allows researchers to address the complexity of the objects of study with the appropriate time. This necessarily implies a critique of the hegemonic conception of mixed methodology, that reproduces the logic of separation of the methods and fails to separate from the essentialist association between method and paradigm.

Taking as an example a research project based on case studies of three Barcelona's neighborhoods, we present a practice of multimethod and multilevel sampling which, by integrating quantitative and qualitative methods (cluster analysis, interviews and focused observation) to obtain a single sample, manages to develop an intrinsically mixed sampling and overcome the supposed immiscibility of methods. This results in a practice of slow research, which takes the appropriate time to address the complexity of the object of study from the very beginning of the research, in the sampling phase.

The Importance of Knowing a Language for Conducting Qualitative Research

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This paper demonstrates the inherent potential of detailed semantic analysis to the study of identity work. We draw on a mixed-methods study on feminine self-identity in Israel, focusing on the answers of 623 Jewish female respondents to the open-ended question, 'In my opinion, a feminine woman is...'. Responses revealed a recurring rhetorical structure, which directed us to apply a semantic analysis that proved key to understanding the respondents' worldview. We paid careful attention to the words used, and to the structure of using connecting words to include what the respondents perceived as contradictory gender traits: a feminine woman can be smart but still [sic] feminine, have opinions and also be graceful and sexy, launch a successful career but at the same time be a caring mother. Respondents, in other words, expressed a strong sense of

entitlement to gender equality yet retained an essentialized perception of gender differences.

There is an ongoing methodological debate about the level of familiarity with the language and the culture under study that is necessary in order to conduct qualitative research. Traditionally, in anthropology, language proficiency was a requirement. However, this changed with the growing popularity of qualitative research in sister disciplines, such as sociology, as researchers moved increasingly to rely on external translators. We argue that, while verbatim translations may indeed suffice for information gathering, they leave important layers of significance lost, which cannot be attained without a nuanced understanding of the local language

Photovoice, Empowerment And Drug Use Among Hard-to-reach Populations: A Case Study In Hong Kong

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Photovoice is increasingly viewed within sociology and the public health fields as an innovative and useful methodology to illuminate the social and personal context of individuals' lives in a range of settings, but particularly in relation to health and risk-taking behaviours. Studies of drug use in various communities have integrated photovoice as part of community based participatory action research with the objectives of not only engagement and empowerment, but bringing to the foreground, the invisibility and inequalities faced by drug use and marginalized populations. Drawing upon our preliminary experience of engaging three groups of hard-to-reach populations who use drugs (e.g., women, MSM, and ethnic minorities) in participant photography (N=12) in Hong Kong, we found this approach adds depth to their qualitative interviews by providing insights on their everyday life; understanding of how and why some people who use drugs (PWUD) are hidden, and whether and how stigma may impact their use and ability to seek services. Like other studies, participants have found the process empowering and increasing their sense of trust and communication. At the same time, these benefits must be understood in the context of challenges faced, particularly around ethics and safety. We conclude with a consideration of the potential of this methodology as a form of empowerment and as a strategy for frontline workers to engage hard-to-reach populations, and address access gaps in service provision. We also reflect on the theoretical implications of this approach for moving forward our understanding of stigma and marginalization in different cultural contexts.

RN20 | T05_02: Participatory Methodologies

Working Toward Inclusive Research Methodology: The Role Of Trust Between Researcher And Subject

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Netherlands Institute for Social Research, Netherlands, The

The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, an autonomous research institute committed to enhancing Dutch government policy through interdisciplinary scientific knowledge, recognizes the crucial role of inclusive research methodology. We feel responsible for conducting research that doesn't systematically overlook specific groups nor produce findings they can't identify with. Acknowledging that certain social minorities remain underrepresented due to limitations in conventional research methods, we have initiated a methodological investigation into the root causes of this underrepresentation.

Beyond apparent barriers like language or digital skills, our findings reveal that research participation fundamentally hinges on trust. This encompasses trust in the interviewer's persona, the careful and secure processing of data, and confidence in the research project's objectives. Moreover, trust extends to encompass faith in government, public institutions, and scientific research at large. In this presentation, we delve into the multifaceted ways in which a deficiency in trust on the part of potential research participants impedes their engagement in research. We will also discuss ways in which trust can be established or strengthened. We will go into the positionality of the researcher and the research institute, the importance of reflexivity and the incorporation of the perspective of the research subjects, as well as, to some extent, considering their interests in the research. This appears to be in tension with the objectivity or neutrality that is also demanded of our researchers. Does inclusive research and the trust of social minorities in research presuppose that researchers advocate for social justice?

Rethinking Methods In Indigenous Contexts. A Postcolonial Critique On Field Access And Participatory Research

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During the last decades the sociological debate especially in the post-colonial and decolonial studies (Quijano, 2000), has problematized the ways in which social science researchers think about methodologies and approaches in so-called "indigenous contexts" (Smith 1999; Cunneen C.,

Rowe S., Tauri J., 2017), highlighting how research has often reproduced Eurocentric extractivist dynamics, through the formal rules of scientific paradigms (Santos 2008). However, how the knowledge is collected by researchers during their field research activity, is a crucial methodological problem, because marginalized contexts have long experienced oppression by Western researchers (Datta 2018), where Western modernity has created a dominant scientific and north-centric knowledge that is generally recognized as valid, and outside of this there are usually little credible alternative (Fatigato 2023). The epistemological and methodological challenges consist in proposing a decolonial perspective in the field of methodology in indigenous contexts, through participatory and collaborative ways of research in community, "restoring participants voice in a show of respect, reciprocity and responsibility" (Datta 2018, p.21). In this perspective a transformation is required in the way in which the researchers enter in the community, who should build a trusting relationship through which enhancing the knowledge of community members, to realize research that can benefit both the academy and the community (Pellegrino, Ricotta, 2023). This has a very real impact on how we think about and design research tools. The paper aims to address these issues from a case study of the work of traditional "parteiras" in the state of Amazonas (Brazil): women who have expertise in delivering babies, based on "ancestral" knowledge, but also cooperating with the Brazilian public health system in several Amazonian contexts.

To Explict The Knowledge With Social Workers: A Methodological Reflection

Tiziana Tarsia

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My abstract presents a participatory and collaborative methodology in a research project whose main topic is to understand and to analyze how the knowledge is co-produced by social workers in the territorial services. In this research, which is started in 2018, I have used different qualitative tools: world café, delphi method, storytelling, interviews, theater of opressed, ethnographic notes.

An important methodological aspect in this field work has been the building of setting: the characteristics of this dialogic but also conflictual space are interesting. These settings are the "participatory teaching and research boards". In the years, they have become permanent dialogue and training spaces and are a link between Academic world and voluntary organizations (or similar). Now four boards exist: 1) regarding refugee persons; regarding mental health; regarding poverty; regarding drug addiction. Finally, the way participants are engaged is also interesting.

I would like to discuss the strenght and the weaknesses of the use of these tools and the reasons that are under the choises of tools to explicit the tacit knowledge that is embodied in social worker's practices. The "participatory teaching and research boards" consist of with different types of social actors: students, social workers, users, academic researches but in this paper I want to give attention to how I (and the research team) have used different methodological tools to facilitate the co-production of the knowledge with social operators.

Using Arts-based Research Methods in Forced Migration Studies: A Comparison of Photo Voice and Image Theatre in a Participatory Research Project with Young Refugees

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Due to the wars in Syria and Ukraine, the number of refugees in Germany rose sharply in 2015/2016 and 2022. It is mainly young people under the age of 30 who have immigrated to Germany. Providing them with access to the education system and the labour market challenge many social and educational stakeholders and increases various tensions in society. The social sciences are also called upon to contribute to these challenges. In a transdisciplinary and participatory research project, we are intensively investigating the educational conditions of young refugees in vocational education and training system (VET) in Germany. The aim is to identify and overcome the educational barriers that young refugees face. In a peer research project with young refugees, we used two established arts-based research methods to do so: photo voice (Wang & Burris 1997) and image theatre (Boal 1993). First, we will illustrate and reflect on the specifics and the potential of arts-based research methods in the context of participatory research to investigate and transform social inequalities using the example of our research project. Second, we will compare the two arts-based research methods of photo voice and image theatre and relate them to classic qualitative research methods such as narrative interviews and group discussions.

Beyond Classical Qualitative Research: Opportunities and Tensions in Developing Participatory Research with Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities

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ODDH and CIEG, ISCSP-Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Persons with disabilities have been traditionally excluded from research processes. For persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, exclusion and disempowerment in research processes is compounded by the invisible nature

of their impairments, and pervasive negative social representations. Addressing these inequalities implies seeking ways to foster meaningful participation in research production. Qualitative research methods can play a leading role in this transformation, through inclusive and flexible research designs that expand 'classical' qualitative techniques and tools to 'give voice' and visibility to the experience of groups often excluded from research production.

This presentation explores this issue, through the experience of a project that assessed the implementation of the law on legal capacity in Portugal, relying on a participatory qualitative approach, where co-researchers with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities worked alongside academic researchers to design and apply qualitative data collection and analysis tools, such as photovoice, interviews, focus groups and content analysis. We will present this experience, discussing issues pertaining to participatory qualitative research designs, advantages and shortcomings of qualitative techniques and tools, as well as the ethical, methodological and practical challenges that were faced and opportunities that were found.

We will discuss the advantages of combining 'classical' qualitative research methods, with visual and creative tools to stimulate participation, adjusting to different levels of need, while sustaining the relevance of qualitative inclusive research in empowering groups traditionally excluded from research production. We will also discuss the challenges, tensions, and lessons drawn from this experience and their implications for qualitative research methods and inclusive research.

RN20 | T06: Ethnographic Methodologies

Intersections of Identity: Navigating 'Halfie' Dynamics in Algerian Ethnography

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Conducting ethnographic research in Algeria as a woman with both Algerian and Swedish heritage places me at the intersection of 'outsider' and 'insider,' embracing the term 'halfie' conceptualized by Lila Abu-Lughod. This term encapsulates the complex negotiations part of my dual 'identity', further reinforced by my appearance and strong Algerian accent, setting me apart from the stereotypical Swedish image.

Despite my Swedish upbringing, participants often perceive me as an 'insider' during fieldwork, challenging conventional expectations. This presentation investigates the nuanced facets of my 'halfie' positionality, exploring its impact on participants' interactions and perceptions throughout the research process. 'Halfies,' like myself, grapple with a nuanced identity, carefully navigating the socio-political landscape of their communities.

This multifaceted identity significantly contributes to the complexity of my 'halfie' positionality, shaping participant narratives and interactions during fieldwork. The talk reflects on the challenges and privileges in my positionality as a 'halfie', drawing from diverse fieldwork instances in Algeria—engaging with various social categories during the Hirak protests, political elections, and interactions with the Algerian elite.

The presentation aims to highlight the intricacies of my 'halfie' positionality in Algeria's patriarchal and authoritarian context, offering insights into the broader dynamics of identity, negotiations, and 'othering' within ethnographic research. As a 'halfie' ethnographer, the investigation unfolds at the intersection of identities, revealing nuanced threads that connect together a narrative of identity grounded in ethnographic fieldwork in different socio-political spaces in Algeria with individuals of different social categories and intersections.

Navigating Gender In Male-dominated Research Contexts: Positionality, Reflexivity, And Feminist Methodologies

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What can we learn about positionality, reflexivity, and reciprocity from examining ethnographies by female researchers in male-dominated environments? The implications of negotiating gender relations in the research are often ignored or framed in terms of safety questions; doing fieldwork 'in a male-dominated environment' is, in this sense, considered problematic. Female ethnographers often focus on how their gender affected the research process, describing the various risks, challenges and ethical dilemmas they faced, for example, whilst gaining access and building rapport. However, such descriptions often remain specific to the case study in question and offer limited insights into the relationship between gender and the research process in general.

This paper examines gender relations and the use of feminist methodologies, specifically the notion of reciprocity, during ethnography. We take a holistic approach to the role of positionality, rapport, and gender during fieldwork to argue for a more open and inclusive reflection of its effects on the research process. Empirically, we combine insights from two long-term ethnographic studies conducted in male-dominated contexts: irregular migrant social movements in Italy and the Netherlands and the Dutch police. Focusing on the role of gendered negotiations during fieldwork access, and the building of rapport and trust, we show both challenges and advantages of minority gender ethnographies.

Brave Spaces of Art and Research: Co-creating Knowledge About Independent Trade Unions in the UK.

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This research-art project combines art making with participatory action research (PAR) to explore the organisation of largely migrant workers in the UK in cleaning, security, care work and hospitality alongside those in the 'gig economy' within independent, grass roots trade unions. Such work is characterised by insecurity, limited employment rights, uncertain hours, low pay and unpaid labour. The new independent unions are small in size but have gained wide academic and public attention for their 'significant high profile wins', of 'David and Goliath' battles (Hardy 2021; Pero 2020).

This project draws on the methodologies of popular education and participatory action research (PAR), developed by Brazilian sociologist Paulo Frere and Colombian sociologist Orlando Fals Borda's to create knowledge that is useful for low paid workers, trade unionists and activists. The aim of PAR is to break down the distinction between researchers and researched, and to (re)write history from below through participatory methods. The project develops an inter-disciplinary and multi-method approach combining semi structured interviews and art making focus groups that include reflective artmaking with different groups of workers and union staff; testimony story telling portrait sittings. This enables a process of collective knowledge creation by sensitively tapping into the lived experiences of low paid work and the struggle against it. Artmaking allows for the creation of a "safe space" that encourages "a certain license to speak and act freely" (Kenney 2001:24) as well as a "brave space" in which voices that fight to be heard can be amplified (Scott Bey Jones n.d.).

RN20 | T07_01: Qualitative Research Ethics

Dealing With The Dilemma Of Being A Distressed Researcher (When Doing Research On Sensitive Issues)

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The demands on the ethical and professional conduct of researchers have long been a subject of growing interest within the scientific community. They are of particular importance in research projects that involve an increased risk of stress for participants. Examples include research on violence, trauma, stressful life events or research with so-called vulnerable groups. Discourses focus on the protection and rights of research participants. In contrast, the psychosocial impact that the research process can have on researchers is insufficiently reflected upon. That is why this contribution deals with researchers being distressed, referring to emotional reactions or psychosocial stress that researchers experience because of dealing with their research topic. By drawing on key experiences in qualitative research projects on sexualized violence in childhood and adolescence, we illustrate the dilemmas that the researchers' distress may lead to and the impact they have on the entire research process. The direct contact with victims of sexualized violence in a participatory research setting, for example, presented our project team with countless questions about how to deal with personal suffering(s) in terms of research ethics, which were expressed in exemplary moments of stress during data collection and analysis, feelings of guilt, fears of failure, questions of closeness and distance. How do I deal with the fact that I am affected by stories of sexual abuse? How do I react appropriately when I encounter (re-)traumatization? How do I deal with entrusted information that would be criminally relevant in other settings? In the absence of a well-founded professional discourse on answers to all these questions, we would like to encourage a discourse with our contribution and provide impulses for adequate research ethics guidelines.

Accessing Closed Groups: Ethical And Methodological Limitations Of Studying Incel Groups

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The issue of undercover research is a practice well known to the social sciences. Sometimes it appears to be the only way to penetrate marginal or closed groups and to know invisible (discriminated, violent, illegal) social worlds. However, it can lead the researcher to several ethical questions. This paper aims to investigate the methodological and ethical limits of the study of the Incel community (online groups of "involuntarily celibate" men united by feelings of hatred towards women) and the qualitative methods of undercover analysis with which they can be studied. Violence against women is a global urgency and deepening its roots is a priority calling for new reflection on the tools and ethical limits of research. The current debate focuses on the question: if entering a closed community without declaring that members are being studied is an illegal practice, does it mean giving up the research on these topics? Are there other elements to be considered in this choice? Are there other qualitative research methods more suitable for these new models of social interaction?

Starting from a literature review of the empirical and theoretical research on this subject, we propose an updated critical reflection on the pros and cons of the dilemma relating to this specific object of study, in order to critically compare the various online ethnography approaches that allow us to grasp the transformative nuances of this community and the understanding of a social reality that exists, but which is still difficult to penetrate.

Surveilling The Surveilled: Ethical Implications Of Conducting Research With Activist Groups Exposed To Surveillance

Iga Gumulinska

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This paper draws on the initial stages of the PhD project that explores activist groups' understanding of digital surveillance. The aim of the paper is to explore the questions of vulnerability of activist groups in the context of research ethics, discuss the challenges that have been encountered while designing the research, negotiating access, and building relationships with participating groups, and suggest possible ways of approaching research ethics. Activist groups, particularly ones that are openly anti-establishment, face threats of surveillance and repression, putting them in a vulnerable position as research participants. Despite a wide range of available scholarship detailing the ethical approaches to research with vulnerable groups and activist groups, there is still limited consideration given to ethics of research with groups whose vulnerability stems from a strained relationship with the state. While researchers acknowledge the risks, and approaches such as co-production offer frameworks that allow to develop research that mitigates some of the dangers, the scholarship largely lacks practical suggestions on how to conduct research with groups that are at risk of repression because of participation, especially when co-production is not viable.

The paper is guided by two research questions: a) How does the strained relationship with the government impact on the vulnerability of activist groups participating in academic research; b) What steps should be taken to mitigate the risks of further surveillance and repression. The paper emphasises the importance of participant inclusion throughout various stages of the research process. It considers the

strengths and weaknesses of researching from an 'insider' position and argues for a reconsideration of the category of vulnerability in bureaucratic forms to acknowledge the risks activists are likely to be exposed to. Importantly, while the paper suggests possible solutions to some ethical concerns, the goal is not to provide definite answers to how research with such groups should be approached but to advance the research ethics scholarship and share reflections that might support other researchers with similar issues.

The Balancing Act of Establishing Rapport with Participants and Ensuring Researcher Protection Within Qualitative Studies Involving Online Semi-participatory Netnographic Methods

Alessandro Moretti, Kristoffer Aagesen, Jonatan Mizrahi-Werner, Jakob Demant

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The increase in various types of harmful content on social media including sexual violence, ideological hate, or the facilitation of both on – and offline crimes through illicit networks, raises important questions as to the methodological options available to researchers exploring such online environments. Of particular concern are the abundant risks that scholars expose themselves to, and the limited range of protections that they may or may not be able to rely on. This is especially important in the context of qualitative research and of semi-participatory netnographic research in particular.

Based on cases from two specific research projects – one exploring the sharing of hateful memes on social media and the other the selling of illicit nicotine products through smartphone apps – the use of forms of covert methodologies as not only justifiable but indeed as necessary to ensure sufficient levels of research protection is advocated for. While the cases show that the use of anonymous or neutral researcher profiles may limit the ability to establish rapport with research participants, it is also evident that the approach has simultaneously curbed potentially hateful attacks and attempts at doxing aimed at the researchers. Specifically, the creation and use of neutral accounts may be one of the few ways to gain access to what Artieri (2021) calls the "new geography of unsearchable small conversations" without compromising researcher safety.

This presentation offers empirical examples of researchers from both projects navigating this delicate balancing act through the establishment of structured protocols promoting ethical data collection and ensuring simultaneous researcher protection.

RN20 | T08: Visual Research

Challenges from Researching with Disabled Children

Maria Pires

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Research with disabled children – with complex and multiple disabilities, is still recent. In the quest to reach these children voices researchers have turned to participatory research via the mosaic approach facing the many challenges of research tools design.

The advantages of exploring the Mosaic approach grant researchers with the possibility of using multiple flexible tools intentionally designed to enhance children agency and voice but at the same time presenting researchers with additional challenges of pursuing inclusiveness and tool adaptation.

The discussion will engage into the concrete research examples and some of its ethnographic episodes showing the process of tool co creation during ethnographic research the challenges associated with this practice and how vulnerability and reflexivity came to be a lens into different dimensions of disability interpretation.

The Ethnographic research took place in four school settings involving a total of 48 children aged 9 to 16 years old we will bring the empirical data produced over a nine-month period, in the context of an Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) program designed to offer therapeutical and educational skills to children with multiple and complex disabilities.

It is suggested that a better understanding on the process and procedures of co researching with children with multiple and complex disabilities in contexts of mix (dis)abilities should consider the different dimensions of vulnerability enacted by the situated encounter and process of co researching.

Filmmaking As A Sociological Genre

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This paper explores different uses of film as a method within qualitative sociology. We argue that the relationship between film and sociology is so broad that it could be considered its own genre of thinking-doing sociology. To make this argument, we theorise the diverse ways in which sociological and filmic views of our worlds are interconnected and gather literatures on sociology and film that are currently in tension. First, we consider the methodological implications of the sociologist taking on the role of filmmaker. We do so by drawing on classic and contemporary examples, from Edgar Morin to Nick Mai, to explore how the camera mediates and transforms sociological views of the world. We argue that this often makes aesthetics a methodological issue. Secondly, we consider methods in which the sociologist collaborates with a filmmaker. What are the tensions between academic and filmmaking practices, and how can

novel standpoints be generated through these tensions? Finally, we zoom out to explore the entanglement between sociology and the history of the moving image. We argue that the history of moving image furnishes us with an archive for qualitative reassessments of sociological transformations over time—starting with the Lumière brothers' early experiments in filming workers leaving their factory in 1895. Taken together, these three discussions raise methodological, aesthetic, and disciplinary questions all of which speak to film as both method and genre of sociological thinking.

The Synchronicity of Bodies in Therapeutic Riding: Potentials of Video Hermeneutics for Investigating Non-Verbal Forms of Communication

Katja Richter

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Animal-assisted interventions are increasing significantly in recent years (Wesenberg 2020, p. 12). Therapeutic riding is one of the most professionalised areas among these interventions and builds on a special way of communication between horse and rider: It relies on the tension and relaxation of muscles (Despret 2004, p. 115).

In my talk, I will discuss the meaning of this muscular exchange as an important form of (non-verbal) communication in the corresponding therapeutic treatment. I will refer to the results of my PhD project on care work in the triangle of patient, therapy animal and professional. They showed the development of a synchronicity between the horse's and the patient's body, which became apparent in the relaxation of both bodies during the patient's therapeutic exercises. Using the example of a video sequence from therapeutic riding, I will illustrate how the synchronicity is taken up and utilised by the actors of the therapeutic treatment.

Methodologically, I will discuss my use of video hermeneutics for the investigation of (non-)verbalised embodied sports skills as well as the transmission of practical and theoretical knowledge in therapeutic riding. The distinction between practical and theoretical knowledge is a fundamental component of video hermeneutics, which is based on Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology of the subjective body. I will conclude my talk by discussing how this reference to Merleau-Ponty and his distinction between two forms of sociality – intercorporeity and dialogue – enables the exploration of the animals' autonomous contributions in animal-assisted interventions.

The role of Linguistic Anthropology in understanding the social meaning of language: presenting the Linguistic Audiovisual Multisited Ethnography (ELAM) methodology in the Dutch Caribbean.

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Linguists and sociolinguists have increasingly been using qualitative methods in their research in order to better understand the social functioning of language use in everyday life. Linguistic Anthropology offers a qualitative framework that can deepen into the social meaning of language use through in depth interviews with participants. In this research I developed a methodology that draws from Linguistic Anthropology and Visual Anthropology called Linguistic Audiovisual Multisited Ethnography (ELAM). The aim of this methodology is to deepen into the life stories of New Papiamento Speakers, people who have migrated to the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire or Curaçao and have learnt the local language Papiamento. The result will be a multimodal product, a written thesis and a documentary that want to portray what does it mean to be a New Speaker of Papiamento in different parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The audiovisual product will show the great diversity of profiles with different nationalities and native languages that have decided to learn this creole language, and will explore the challenges, difficulties and rewards that they experience while trying to put this newly learnt language into practice. This research wants to point out the usefulness of Linguistic Anthropology in this field, and how productive transdisciplinarity can become in this type of research if Linguists, Sociologists, Sociolinguists and Anthropologists work hand to hand combining their fields of knowledge.

RN20 | T09_01: Visuality and Interview Methods

The Use of Photostories in a Youth Mobility Study.

Giulia Marchetti

University of Florence (Italy)

My contribution is based on a methodological description of Photostories, a photo-based interview which was recently systematised by Gomez (2020). This is one of the visual research techniques that I used in my PhD research on young Italians moving/migrating to Australia. The aim of my study was to assess how transnational mobility impacts young people's transitions to adulthood and Photostories contributed greatly to the emersion of data and to my analysis.

After outlining the main differences between Photostories and other two well-known photo-based interviews (namely Photovoice and Photo Elicitation), I will discuss how I used Photostories in my research: the preparatory work, the interview intercation, the participation rate among my research participants, the nature of data collected, problems related to double coding (one by images and one by text), positive and challenging aspects of this visual method and its link to the first, main semi-structured interview. By showing some examples, my presentation highlights the nature of Photostories not only as a visual but also as an emotional link to the first ethnographic interview, in the sense that it proved to be a deepening of meanings, a mnemonic support of aspects that during the first interview had not emerged, and a symbolic reference of their overall mobile trajectories.

Crafting Innovative Research Methods In Phenomenography With A Sociological Perspective

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The central theme of this paper is to introduce novel, innovative research methods when exploring mature male students' experiences of higher education funding structures within a cost-of-living crisis in England. Employing a phenomenographic research methodology with a sociological perspective, allows understanding of current financial tensions in English universities from male students' perspective, bringing forth their experiences of engaging with this reality. In exploring any phenomenon, the focus tends to be either on sociological factors or on individual experiences explored through a phenomenological lens. This study substantiates the importance of both, where sociological factors play out in varying ways owing to individual intersecting complexities, occurring in specific contexts of temporally and situationally bounded spaces. Also, research evidence males reluctance in sharing viewpoints and experiences, which requires going beyond the classical method of interviewing, normally employed in phenomenography and incorporating visual and modular illustrations, to capture a more nuanced understanding of these students intensified educational complexities. These creative methods expand the possibilities of eliciting enhanced responses in a safe environment, allowing a wider range of forms of expression of these students' educational experiences occurring within current financial tensions. Visual timelines help in the recollection and sequencing of life events, where educational trajectories are informed not only through current institutional processes but also through past experiences and future possibilities. Lego modelling through hand-mind coordination provides the platform for slow thinking, leading to richness of information. These innovative methods capture underlying meanings and intentional attitudes, drawing meaningful connections between students' educational experiences and institutional processes occurring within the wider social and political structures.

RN20 | T09_02: Space and Materialities

Beyond the Pale: Qualitatively Studying Unique Populations in the Absence of Direct Access

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Qualitative researchers seeking to understand the lives of marginalized groups can sometimes find it difficult to collect data from within due to physical or administrative obstacles, or due to social boundaries based on religion, norms, and lifestyles This article examines how researchers can cope with difficulties at gaining access, especially due to physical or administrative bordering practices. Drawing on the authors' own research of asylum seekers who reside in camps in Greece and in Germany, the article develops a theoretical and practical approach to studying hidden or concealed communities in the absence of direct access to the field of research. We conceptualize two actors and one region that can facilitate access and research of such concealed communities: 1. Border straddlers – actors from within the community, who have access – both physically and socially – to external spaces 2. Border commuters – actors who come into the bordered spaces on a regular basis to perform a professional task, and return to their lives outside the bordered zones at the end of the work day, and 3. Liminal border zones – geographical areas that are peripheral to the communities' residencies, and are positioned at the border – both within the designated enclaves, as well as outside of these spaces and their social and bureaucratic surveillance. The study examines what is gained by applying these strategies, and what are the limitation of each approach.

Research through Design: Performative Research Beyond Representation

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This presentation aims to question the implications of using design as a tool in sociological research. Researching through design involves engaging in the creation of objects or products within a specific context, using knowledge and skills from other disciplines. This is a quite common sociological professional practice, but rarely receives academic or methodological reflection. The basis of this discussion comes from experimental research conducted by sociology students who applied design tools from fields like performing arts, gastronomy, basketwork, architecture, and IT. Through integrating design, these students explored objects and processes, displaying the potential of transdisciplinary research and broadening sociological inquiry.

The focus here is on how design-based research can offer a broader perspective on qualitative methods. Inspired by Judith Butler's concept of gender performativity, we can view research performativity as a material, embodied activity that shapes the social. Sociology, in this light, becomes the narrative enacted through these performances. The presentation first addresses the often-neglected performative dimension of research, challenging the prevalent view of sociology as primarily representational. Then, by placing design at the heart of research, it shows how sociology can break traditional boundaries by including new actors (transhuman), perspectives (transdisciplinary), and methods (transduction). Drawing from the above mentioned experimental research, the presentation queries the legitimacy of design-based methods in sociology and considers the possibility of turning from representational to performative research practices.

Transformative Methods or Methods Transformed? Following the Social Life of a Participatory Method

Jacob A. E. Nielsen, Kostas Stavrianakis, Zoe Morrison

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In this paper, we will argue that following the social life of participatory methods is useful to both trace out their transformative potentials across different social contexts and to deepen our understanding of social dynamics. There has been increasing political and sociological interest in the potential of participatory methods to facilitate societal transformations and empower people. However, approaches to the social life of methods highlight how methods are both constituted by and constitute social worlds (Law et al., 2011; Savage, 2013) and there is much uncertainty about the implications of using these methods. We seek to understand how methods can travel and transform to contribute to our understanding of participatory methods by engaging with multi-sited ethnographic methods that follow materials, concepts and relationships to trace out connections and transformations across temporal, spatial, and social constellations (Marcus, 1995; Tsing, 2005).

We will examine the potential of following the social life of methods by drawing on findings from a project on social acceptance of carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS). We will illustrate how a conversation game method that sought to empower and understand community members perspectives transformed and took on different meanings as it travelled across different organisational, cultural, and social contexts in four different European countries (Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom). We will argue that these transformations both tell us something about the method and the social, temporal, and spatial dynamics it travelled through.

Qualitative Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a Link in the Methodological Integration of Interviews and Qualitative Observation

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The incorporation in recent years of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Computer-Aided Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS) has allowed the integration of geographic data and qualitative data, thus opening a range of possibilities for a qualitative approach to socio-spatial reality. This communication explains the role played by qualitative GIS as a junction point in the methodological integration if interviews and qualitative observation in a study interested on the influence of urban space on the development of individual social networks. In the initial research design, the interview and observation methods were only indirectly connected, since they provided information on different dimensions of the object of study. However, the use of qualitative GIS allowed a much more direct and immediate link between both methods.

This communication will explain the way the use of CAQDAS, in particular Atlas.ti, and its integrated GIS, helped us to synthesise and contrast the data derived from the interviews, develop its spatial dimension, and visualise and identify relevant information for the achievement of our research goals. The results obtained guided the next stage of fieldwork, qualitative observation, enriching the understanding of urban space's impact on individual social networks.

This communication highlights the methodological innovation of using qualitative GIS as a link in the integration of two different sources of data, interviews and qualitative observation, providing a valuable contribution to the connection between geographical and qualitative aspects in network analysis.

RN21 | Quantitative Methods

RN21 | T01_01: Longitudinal studies in quantitative research

Do Friends Make Us Thrive? A Panel Study On The Causal Effect Of Social Capital On Subjective Wellbeing Across Three European Countries (CH, DE, UK)

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The vast majority of studies on the effect of social capital on subjective wellbeing confirms that friends make us happier and healthier. However, there is scarce causal evidence exploiting individual-level national panel data and utilizing rigorous modeling approaches. More precisely, to the best of our knowledge, there is only one study on the effect of network resources on life satisfaction using general population panel data (Swiss Household Panel – SHP) and applying fixed effects regression (Lucchini et al. 2015). For the effect of social capital on self-reported health there is a multitude of such studies (e.g. Rodgers et al. 2019, Xue et al. 2020), some of them exploiting panel data using fixed effects models, too (e.g. Oshio 2016). Yet, the previous literature lacks thorough modelling as it essentially follows a "kitchen sink" approach and not a rigorous x-centered approach that only controls for potentially confounding factors. Moreover, the existing studies do not adequately account for potential bias introduced by selection on growth or by feedback processes.

Hence, in a first step, we replicate the findings of the previous literature applying fixed effects models to three major European panel datasets (SHP, GSOEP, and BHPS-UKHLS). Secondly, we enhance the literature by following a rigorous x-centered modelling approach. Third, we account for the potential influence of unobserved individual time-varying heterogeneity and feedback by using random trend models (fixed effects individual slopes (FEIS) and second-difference (SD) models).

Who Worries About What, when Dealing with the Impacts of the Current Polycrisis? An Analysis Based on the Most Recent Waves of the Social Survey Austria (SSÖ)

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In contemporary Western societies many citizens share the opinion that we are living in a state of a polycrisis, which goes hand in hand with an increase in future pessimism. Nevertheless, this trend is not evenly distributed among all members of society: Recently, case studies in Austria highlighted that future pessimism was observed particularly among vulnerable groups who anticipated a deterioration in their own and the general living conditions in Austria.

However, insights drawn from surveys often rely on single item measurements focusing on general worries concerning the future. Our contribution wants to expand on this and takes a detailed look at specific recent global crises (such as military conflicts or the climate crisis) (so called macro-worries) which might have long-term and transnational consequences, as well as on developments that may influence the daily lives of people in a more direct way, such as loss of prosperity in the face of rapidly increasing living costs (so-called micro-worries).

Using data from the two most recent waves of the Social Survey Austria 2023 and 2024 (n=1200), we highlight (1) differences in macro – and micro-worries over time, we test empirically (2) if both facets of worries can be distinguished among the population and we analyse (3) which antecedents specifically contribute to a higher extent of macro – and micro-worries among the population. Using the method of Structural Equation Modelling we intend to empirically prove the distinction of two different factors and to detect the main explanatory factors influencing the extent of those perceived worries. We can also confirm that future worries are rather stable over time but dependent on the salience of the crisis discourse in the Austrian population.

In the Right Mode? Assigning the Preferred Mode Based on Administrative Data to Maximize the Response-Rate in a Household Panel

Patrick Lazarevic, Marc Plate

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Choosing the survey mode is influenced by both quality considerations and budgetary constraints. Accordingly, reliance on self-administered modes, especially web surveys (CAWI), increased in recent decades. Additionally, personal interviews (CAPI) – formerly the gold standard of data

collection – has been increasingly called into question, at least for certain population groups. Yet, recruiting population surveys using CAWI alone might result in systematic biases. Thus, many survey employ mixed-mode designs, which offer several modes concurrently or sequentially.

In the Austrian Socio-Economic Panel, a household panel of the Austrian population, we tested a tailored mode-design using administrative data to assigning half of the sample's households to their presumably preferred mode (CAPI/CAWI). Further, both mode-designs used sequential mixed-mode-designs, as households were offered the other mode after persistent non-response. The other households were randomly assigned to one of the sequential mode-designs (CAPI-First/CAWI-First) as control groups.

To evaluate the tailored mode-design, we compare various data quality indicators between mode-designs, e.g., response-rates, the resulting non-response bias, proxy-rates, drop-outs, item non-response, or the number of mode-changes. We also investigate the influence of the systematic mode-allocation on mode effects. As of the date of submission, the survey was still in the field (until the end of 01/2024). Preliminary results are promising regarding the tailored mode-design as, e.g., response-rates were consistently higher than in the random mode-designs, while proxy rates were consistently lower.

With the tailored mode-design, we present an interesting and promising alternative to established mode-designs which could prove helpful in reducing both non-response bias and survey costs.

Investigating the Causal Impact of Changing Environmental Attitudes on Behaviour in Germany: A Replication, Reanalysis, and Extension

Henrik Kenneth Andersen, Jochen Mayerl

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From a rational choice perspective, environmental behaviour can be seen as a function of individual preferences and constraints. We ask whether a change in preferences, holding constraints constant, can result in a change in environmental behaviour. In other words, if one's environmental attitudes become more positive, does their behaviour follow suit?

Andersen & Mayerl (2022) investigated this question using data from the German GESIS Panel Study and found that after controlling for time-invariant individual characteristics, environmental attitudes had no effect on environmental behaviour. Intentions to accept environmentally conscious policies were, however, affected by attitudes becoming more positive. The study concluded that interventions designed to make individuals more environmentally conscious (e.g., information campaigns) may not lead to more proactive environmentally friendly behaviour. But as environmental attitudes become more positive, individuals may be more willing to accept policy measures focused on protecting the environment and slowing climate change.

In order to increase the credibility of sociological work, empirical findings should be critically re-investigated. This paper will attempt to replicate the previous findings using the most recent data from the GESIS Panel Study. It will reanalyze and extend the previous work by looking at new model specifications with the existing and new data. Doing so will contribute to establishing the credibility of the previous findings and help provide the foundation for effective policy considerations.

RN21 | T02_01: Survey research

Reducing questionnaire length through the application of Item Response Theory (IRT) and Montecarlo Simulations.

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In sociology, and more generally in social research, the length of a survey is one of the limiting factors in questionnaire design. This problem has been exacerbated by the popularisation of methods such as structural equation modelling, which require complex latent variables to be measured with at least two or more manifest variables. As a result, this complexity leads to long surveys which, combined with a population with shorter attention spans, increases the risk of bias and non-response. To address this issue, we propose the use of Item Response Theory (IRT), a paradigm in psychometrics traditionally used in psychology and education that has not yet gained much traction in sociology. IRT is a model-based measurement that can be used to minimise the number of variables of a latent construct. IRT has invariant parameters allowing the contribution of items to be assessed as they are added to or omitted from the questionnaires, thus ensuring comparability across different groups. In addition, IRT is based on the idea that the probability of a certain response to an item is a mathematical function of the latent variable and the item parameters, making the results unaffected by the type of sample used, whether probabilistic or non-probabilistic. In this case, we used IRT in combination with Monte Carlo simulations in the design of a questionnaire measuring conservative ideology, conspiracy beliefs, institutional trust, cultural capital, scientific culture and social class, with the aim of creating a tight-knit instrument for measuring multiple latent traits in a short format.

Respondents' Perception Of The Interview Situation And Their Future Participation In Panel Studies

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The German National Educational Panel Study NEPS collects longitudinal data on educational processes, competence development, educational decisions and returns to education. Like probably all longitudinal studies, NEPS is also confronted with the problem of panel attrition. Identifying reasons for dropout may help to reduce panel attrition. We therefore want to research whether the respondents' perception of the interview situation has an impact on participation in future survey waves.

To answer this research question, we analyse, in a first step, two consecutive survey waves of the NEPS starting cohort of adults. We estimate logistic regressions with participation in the subsequent wave as the dependent variable. Explanatory variables are, besides basic control variables (e.g., age, gender), the respondents' perception and additionally the interviewers' perception of the interview situation. We therefore include both the perspective of the respondents and the perspective of the interviewers.

The respondents' perception of the interview situation is measured using five variables: how much the respondent enjoyed the interview situation, satisfaction with the interviewer and assessment of the interviewers' appearance as professional, friendly, and interested. The interviewer's perspective consists of their assessment of the respondents' comprehension, reliability, and fatigue.

Preliminary results indicate that the participation in future survey waves corresponds with the respondents' enjoyment of the interview situation in the current survey wave. In order to put these first results on a broader foundation, we will consider more survey waves in our analyses in the next steps. This will allow us to increase the reliability of our findings.

Surveying the Elderly: The Impact of Age on Data Quality

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The question of data quality arises in every type of survey. However, surveying elderly people may come with additional challenges: With increasing age, cognitive and physical performance declines. What does this mean for data quality and the conduct of studies targeting older respondents?

Initial analyses on the relationship between data quality and respondent age give clear indications of quality losses in survey data, especially among respondents who are 80 years old or older. This is true for item nonresponse, extreme response behavior, and the reliability of biographical information. Using longitudinal data from the German Ageing Survey (DEAS), we examine the reliability of responses that should be stable over time and focus on the role of panel conditioning. We also examine item-non-response and extreme responses and disentangle the age effect of the interviewees from the age effect of the interviewers.

We conclude with an assessment of data quality among older DEAS respondents and present some practical suggestions for survey design and for analyses of surveys of elderly people.

We are using data of the German Ageing Survey (DEAS), a representative longitudinal study of the German population aged 40 years and older, which has been conducted since 1996. The DEAS is an important source of information on age-related topics such as intergenerational relations, health, social relationships, leisure behavior, care and dependency, and many topics more. DEAS data is surveyed

via personal interviews supplemented by additional written questionnaires (since 2017 also as CAWI). Data for this presentation is based on survey waves 2014-2021.

Effects of Survey Methodology on the Inferred Prevalence of Minority Experiences Among Young People in Finland

Konsta Happonen

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The way in which people use information technology is in flux, pushing survey researchers to develop their methodologies. Smartphones are decreasingly used for voice calls, which contributes to falling response rates in phone surveys globally, especially among young people.

Researchers need to be broadly informed about the advantages and trade-offs of different methods, especially when planning changes to long-running surveys. Alternative methods might offer increased response rates and decreased costs, but advantages do not happen in isolation of changes to the composition of reached respondents and survey biases. For example, it is well known that decreased interviewer presence accompanying a switch from telephone to self-administered interviews is associated with decreased social desirability bias. This in turn can lead to large changes in answers to so-called "sensitive questions", such as experiences of belonging to sexual or other minorities.

In my presentation I compare the inferred prevalences of young people's minority experiences between two survey methods: a traditional phone survey and a "post-to-web" survey, which involves sending invitations to answer an online survey via conventional mail. In addition to method effects on minority experiences, I discuss broader effects on response rates, costs and possible biases. My aim is to contribute to the ongoing discourse regarding the future and viability of telephone surveys in an increasingly digital world.

RN21 | T03_01: Quantitative methodology and data quality

Fuzzy Logic, Logistic Regression, and Big Surveys for Testing the Operationalisation of Concepts

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This presentation deals with the use of fuzzy-truth and fuzzy logic for analysing the content validity of indicators. It is based on the assumption that the truth of the representation of a concept by an indicator is on a continuum between true and false. Between these two poles there is a sigmoid fuzzy truth-function that can be determined by logistic regression of big survey data, which explains the presence or absence of the concept by the mentioned indicator. The resulting logistic function has three areas: One near the pole 0, where the indicator values stand for the absence of the concept, a second near the pole 1, where the indicator values point with high certainty to the presence of the concept, and a third uncertain area in between. The first two areas with fuzzy-truths close to 0 or 1 should be as large as possible and limit this way the area of indicator values with indeterminate truth. Thus, when comparing alternative indicators, the geometries of the logistic functions are as important as the r-squares of the related regressions. In order to improve these geometric properties, the fuzzy-truth of different indicators can be combined by fuzzy logic operators like AND, OR, etc. For illustrative purposes, the author explores the popular views of the concept of religiosity in the EVS-2008 surveys. The frequencies of church-going and private prayers are compared with regard to their validity as operationalisations of the mentioned concept.

Fully-labeled Scales Are More Cognitively Demanding: A Multimodal Cognitive Load Approach

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The paper investigates cognitive load in fully-labeled and end-labeled Likert-type scales. We compared cognitive load between two conditions using different methods of measuring cognitive load such as pupillometry, completion times,

and subjective evaluation of mental effort. We conducted a laboratory experiment (N = 170) among undergraduate students in which we employed eye-tracking technology and measured pupil dilation while respondents completed a web survey. Although some researchers have suggested that survey burden should be lower with fully-labeled scales because respondents are not required to generate a verbal definition for each scale point, we found the opposite. The mean pupil diameter was larger in the fully-labeled than in the end-labeled condition. Since more information is given in the fully-labeled scales and the respondents are required to read labels for all scale values, it increases neurophysiological load compared to the end-lables scales. Though the effect was small (Cohen's d varied from 0.25 to 0.32), it was consistent. At the same time we found no difference in completion time and subjective rating of mental effort between the conditions. Despite higher cognitive load in the fully-labeled condition, data quality benefits from the provision of clear verbal labels in the scale. Since there is an inconsistency between the results of the different measures of cognitive load, we suggest that one measure of cognitive load may not be sufficient to assess survey burden and there is a need for multimodal assessments of respondents' cognitive load and its impact on data quality.

Memes and Emoji-Scales in Web Surveys: Experimental Investigation of Multimodal Cognitive Effort and Data Quality

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As web survey participation rates decline, strategies to enhance respondent motivation gain significance. Gamification emerges as a potential solution, yet its impact on cognitive load remains unclear. This study investigates whether gamification mitigates cognitive load among 18-25-year-old respondents.

To adress this research question we conducted a laboratory experiment involving 128 randomly assigned students exposed to either a non-gamified or gamified web survey format. Gamification elements included emojis for ordinal scales and motivating memes interspersed between question sets. Cognitive load was assessed using paradata, subjective evaluation, and neurophysiological indicators (pupil diameter dynamics).

Contrary to expectations, the gamified group exhibited heightened cognitive effort based on pupil diameter dynamics, while the non-gamified group showed increased cognitive effort in subjective evaluations, mouse movements, and completion times. However, attention levels were higher in the gamified condition, with no discernible difference in data quality between groups.

This study sheds light on the complex relationship between gamification, cognitive load, and respondent engagement in web surveys. While gamification may elevate cognitive effort, it concurrently enhances motivation and attention, yielding comparable data quality to non-gamified surveys. These findings contribute methodologically to understanding the efficacy of gamification strategies in survey research, informing future survey design endeavors within the sociological context.

The Story After Mobility: Debates and Critiques on Methods for Estimating Social Mobility Effects

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Social mobility is one of the core research topics in sociology, and its implications have garnered increasing attention. However, accurately measuring the effects of social mobility has been challenging due to issues related to model identification. Over the years, significant advancements have been made in methods for measuring social mobility effects, progressing from Duncan's Square Additive (SA) model to Hope's Diamond Additive (DA) model, and subsequently to Sobel's Diagonal Reference Model (DRM). The DRM, in particular, has been widely utilized and considered the "gold standard" for estimating social mobility effects. Nevertheless, scholars have recently criticized the DRM and proposed alternative methods for measuring mobility effects, such as the Mobility Contrast Model (MCM). This study critically examines the debates surrounding these methods, systematically comparing them in terms of theoretical assumptions and methodological settings, with a specific focus on the widely employed DRM and the newly introduced MCM. Through model derivation, analyses on simulated and real-world data, this paper highlights the significant misconceptions in the criticism of the Mobility Contrast Model against traditional methods. The primary distinctions between these methods lie in their underlying theoretical assumptions and capacity to address diverse theoretical concerns, rather than the statistical superiority or inferiority of the techniques themselves. Consequently, the suitability of theoretical assumptions in practical contexts should be taken into consideration when selecting a method. Lastly, this study identifies key considerations in applying these methods and suggests approaches for conducting robustness tests.

RN21 | T04_01: Protests, populism and ethnocentrism in quantitative research

Between Gaze and History. Requirements And Strategies For Data Analysis Of Protest Events.

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Protest Event Analysis is fundamental in Social Movement Studies. However, the specificities of the data analysis required in these investigations have been neglected. Protests are temporally situated, display serial dependency, and must be studied over time. If these circumstances are not considered, one may conclude that certain variables have an effect for which there is no evidence, decontextualize the protests historically, insufficiently analyze the temporal dimension of this phenomenon, or obtain unrepresentative results. In addition, the data in these studies often suffer from selection and description biases. To face these challenges, we offer a theoretical-methodological reflection and an analysis strategy for count time series, controlling for serial dependence and bias.

While we highlight the need for longitudinal and historically contextualized studies, the theoretical assumptions of the methods employed from Sociology and Social Movement Studies are examined. We review the state of the art of Protest Event Analysis to address the challenges identified. Furthermore, we discuss different theories in Social Sciences on serial dependence and the influence of the past on the present. These are then translated into the terms of a linear model. We sought a proposal that maximizes coherence and precision between theory and method. This is applied to a sample of protests in Spain between 2000 and 2020. First, we offer a general model of the protests in Spain that controls for serial dependence. Then, we study the influence of different variables, such as unemployment. Finally, we assess the impact of specific events on the number of protests.

Sociodemographic "Profile" of Feelings of Safety and Attitudes Towards Immigration in Southern Europe

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The present research investigates the sociodemographic "profile" of feelings of safety walking alone in local area after dark, a standard National Crime survey self-perceived question, based on the European Social Survey (ESS) data for Southern Europe. Moreover, the relation of attitudes towards immigration and previous victimization to feelings of safety are explored. The analysis was based on the 2020 (Round 10) ESS datasets of Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Univariate and bivariate analyses were performed cross-nationally. Preparing the data for analyses involved transforming several variables by recoding their values according to the relevant variables incorporated in the World Values Survey (WVS) questionnaire and applying a clustering methodology. In most countries, the same sociodemographic "profile" of feelings of unsafety was detected showing that stronger feelings of unsafety were exhibited by women, the old (50+), those having completed primary education, the separated, divorced or widowed respondents, the economically inactive, those residing in the suburbs or outskirts of a big city and low-income respondents. Also, strong feelings of unsafety were displayed by the respondents with xenophobic attitude towards immigrants. Finally, respondents who had been previously victimized were feeling less safe than those who had not been victims. This work could be extended to cover other attitudes and human values in all participating countries of this and any other Round of the ESS.

Modeling Opinions Towards Immigration On Social Class Perceptions: A Mediation Analysis

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In the literature, social class is considered important in all aspects of life. However, its relation to opinions towards immigration on a country's development has not been adequately researched. In this respect, the purpose of this study is to explore the mediating role of evaluating the impact of immigrants on a country's development in the relationship between opinions on the effects of immigration on this country's development and social class perceptions as measured in the World Values Survey (WVS) questionnaire that classifies respondents into five class categories: upper, upper middle, lower middle, working and lower class. The analysis was based on the 2017-2020 7th Wave WVS datasets for four countries: Germany, Greece, the Russian Federation and the United States. In all four countries, the

separate path analysis models provided adequate model fit. In all countries, social class perceptions were negatively predicted by the evaluation of the impact of immigrants on a country's development. Weak negative total effect of the immigrants' impact on a country's development on subjective social class was observed in all countries. In all countries but the Russian Federation, the findings showed significant but weak mediation effects of opinions on the effects of immigration on the country's development and subjective social class by the evaluation of the impact of immigrants on this country's development. These results indicate that this study could be extended to cover all participating countries of this and any other Wave of the WVS.

Shifting Trust in a Populist Era: Exploring the Nexus Between Institutional, Social Confidence and Conspiracy Theories

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This study investigates the impact of individuals' populist attitudes on trust in national and international institutions and social trust, and their influence on belief in conspiracy theories. It aims to understand how societal changes and technological advancements affect people's trust and views on global events, particularly focusing on how the rise of populist attitudes alters trust in institutions and belief in conspiracy theories. The hypotheses suggest that increased populist attitudes are positively associated with a higher belief in conspiracy theories, and this effect is amplified when social trust decreases. Additionally, the study posits that high trust in national or international institutions can be either positively or negatively associated with belief in conspiracy theories, depending on the level of populist attitudes. Utilizing data from the Comparative Conspiracy Research Survey (CCRS) collected on individual level across eight countries, the study employs a multilevel ordinal model to analyze the separate impacts of social, national institutional, and international institutional trust on belief in both global and country-specific conspiracy theories. This approach enables an examination of the effects both within specific contexts and more generally, capturing the nuanced interplay of trust and belief systems. This research seeks to contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of trust and conspiracy theories in the modern information age, with implications for social psychology, political sociology, and communication studies.

RN21 | T06: Quantitative methods for social media analysis

Identifying the (re)claims of identity and politics: An analysis of the discourses and the discursive networks within the Twitter debate on Scotland's Gender Recognition Reform Bill

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The objective of this paper is to examine the discourses within the Twitter debate concerning Scotland's Gender Recognition Reform Bill. This is achieved through a novel approach that harnesses the intricate interplay between social networking and semantic spaces. The research incorporates network measures such as homophily and applies a node embedding algorithm to both the hashtag co-occurrence graph and the retweet network. The vector representations of the users generated from this algorithm are subsequently combined as user features to validate the existence of two distinct semantic clusters within the online discussion of the Bill. With its synthesis of different methods validated by other researchers, this paper's methods contribute to the state-of-the-art understanding of how to establish stance detection both through and beyond networks. Subsequent to their identification, these two distinct clusters in the online discussion of the Bill are comparatively analysed for their language use and engagement trends within the discussion. Through these analyses, the paper aims to explore how the different groups in the debate signal or otherwise differentiate themselves. For this purpose, the methods make extensive use of hashtags and latent semantic spaces to understand such signalling within an ongoing contentious discussion where the dispute is not only through language and expression but also for the very expressions and definitions such as that of "womanhood". This makes the context of this discussion an even more intriguing and potentially fruitful case study.

Google Trends Data on Different Search Terms: A Potential Reliability-Frequency Continuum

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Google Trends makes aggregated search engine data available, which enable researchers to investigate trends of

search term usage on Google Search. The data obtained via Google Trends are relative search volumes (RSVs) for a selected search term across a predefined period of time and location. Recent research has questioned the reliability of these data when it comes to low-frequency ("rare") search terms—the distributions of RSVs varied between GT data obtained at different points of time. It remains an open question whether similar reliability issues exist for high-frequency search terms (e.g., on major societal events or prominent persons). In our study, we investigate reliability across different high and low-frequency search terms. Thus, our research question is: Does a reliability-frequency continuum exist for Google Trends data?

To answer our research question, we collected Google Trends data for 10 high-frequency and 2 low-frequency search terms. We collected up to 60 samples of Google Trends data for each search term, one each day. To assess reliability, (i) we compared data between all samples of a respective search term, (ii) we compared each sample to a high-granular Google Trends dataset that we obtained as benchmark distribution. In each comparison between samples, we tested whether RSV distributions and maxima of these distributions differed. We then compared these findings between search terms, focusing especially on comparing high – to low-frequency search terms.

Unveiling Online Sentiment and Hate Speech. An Analysis of the Effects of Platform Features and Content Creators' Social Characteristics Using a Representative Sample of YouTube Channels from German-speaking Countries

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Recent years have seen an increase in public debate about the spreading of hate and toxicity on online platforms. While the communicative features of these platforms allow for community building (Sweet et al. 2019), greater visibility of minorities (Green et al. 2015), and different forms of solidarity (Hosterman et al. 2018), they also seem to increase hate, bullying and misinformation. Thus, negative sentiment, or even "hate" comments, and different forms of discrimination are daily occurrences for some users, but especially for content creators (CCs) – our focus – who work on the platform (Döring & Mohseni, 2019).

Existing studies on this topic, do not consider account platform characteristics as a whole and do not systematically include possible at-risk determinants of CCs based on age, race, gender, education (Xin, 2023) and social media-specific variables like popularity on YouTube (number of subscribers, views count), and channel topic. Our paper deals with this research gap.

Empirically, we use a random sample of N=5,000 CCs from a total survey of N=115,975 YouTube channels registered in German speaking countries. To fill the lack of missing sociodemographic characteristics we first annotate variables such as age, race, gender, and education using a standardized classification survey (Seewann et al. 2022). In a second step we websraped all comments and all videos of these 5,000 channels (N=38 Mio. comments, N=430,000 videos).

First results show that hate speech can only be observed in extremely rare cases and that 75% of channel comments have a positive sentiment. Regression results indicate that both sociodemographic variables and platform-specific characteristics appear to structure communication patterns in terms of hate and sentiment; among those gender and channel topic are especially relevant.

Mapping The COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring The Regional Dynamics In Infection Activity, Attitudes And Social Media Discourse

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This study explores the complex relationships between COVID-19 infection rates, political and health attitudes during the pandemic, and social media discourses. By including regional characteristics such as unemployment rates, population density, right-wing voter turnout and county-specific hospital bed availability; the study aims to identify patterns within the socio-economic and political context that influence the interplay between infection rates, attitudes (trust in government and fear of infection) and social media discourse. Using a comprehensive approach, the study integrates conventional survey panel data (GESIS panel, SOEP panel), epidemiological data (Robert Koch Institute), macro-level socioeconomic data, and social media content from platforms such as Twitter and Telegram channels. The findings of this study have important implications for both methodology and public policy. Methodologically, issues of data harmonization are crucial, especially as data fusion and linkage become increasingly common in social research. Understanding how regional characteristics contribute to shaping public discourse during a pandemic is essential for policy makers and the public alike. This knowledge will help to guide policy responses effectively in times of crisis and provide valuable guidance for informed decision-making.

RN21 | T07: Country-comparative studies in quantitative research

Depends on Whom You Ask: Discrepancies in Reporting Spousal Care Between Women and Men Across European Welfare States

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Quantitative analysis of gender inequalities in caregiving for older adults hinges on survey instruments being able to appropriately measure care and identify informal carers. We investigate whether there are systematic differences across Europe in the reporting of informal care between caregivers and cared-for persons, within co-residing spousal care dyads, using a pooled sample of observations aged 50 and older from the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Among spousal care dyads, a potential large share of informal care is underreported, since only 53.9% of dyads report care that is confirmed by both spouses. Multinomial regressions show that misidentification of spousal care is associated with gender. Men are more likely to underreport either providing or receiving personal care from their spouse, while conversely, agreement on care being provided/received most commonly occurs when women are caregivers. Prevalence rates of spousal care across Europe are sensitive to who reports care as is the association of care with health outcomes, although only for poor self-reported health. Relying on self-identification of carers, the most common method used in surveys, may underestimate their numbers, particularly along sex lines. Current prevalence rates of informal care across regions may also be affected, impacting our understanding of the distribution of care by care regimes. Discrepancies in the reporting of informal care are not random and they affect broader implications for the study of the impact of informal care, namely on health. We discuss the effect of differing social norms dictating gender roles in care and acceptability of men as carers, particularly across different strands of familialism, as well as policy implications.

Green Momentum? An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of Support for the Environmental Movement in 24 Countries

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Over the past decade, the climate movement and especially action groups like Fridays for Future have been effective in raising awareness of environmental issues and mobilizing protesters, especially among younger cohorts. However, it remains unclear whether this recent surge in activism reflects a broader societal shift or if this trend is primarily driven by younger generations. Using data from 24 countries that participated in waves three and four of the International Social Survey Programme Environment Module, this presentation applies an age-period-cohort (APC) analysis of active support for the environmental movement for the first time in an international comparative setting. Based on Bayesian negative binominal multilevel models, the results provide empirical evidence for a period effect: active support has indeed increased across generational cohorts and age groups. Notably, the effect of age has intensified in the most recent wave, consistent with the contemporary characterization of a youth-led movement. However, exploratory analysis also shows that the period effect varies considerably and depends strongly on the national context. Possible mechanisms underlying these trends are discussed and avenues for further research are suggested. Based on this substantive results the presentation critically reflects on methodological issues and opportunities when estimating APC effects in international comparative studies. opportunities when estimating APC effects in international comparative studies.

Exploring the Impact of Social Networks on Cognitive Decline Among the Elderly: Insights from SHARE Data through Structural Equation Modeling.

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This study examines the impact of social networks on cognitive decline among the elderly, drawing on data from the Survey on Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and employing advanced statistical techniques, specifically Structural Equation Modelling (SEM). The research addresses the imperative to understand the relationship between social networks and cognitive decline, recognizing the elderly as a distinct demographic vulnerable to cognitive challenges.

By extracting valuable insights from both the 6 and 8 waves of the SHARE dataset, our analysis focuses on a sample of 31,060 healthy elderly individuals (57.74% female, mean age 64.66 ± 13.68). We explore an extensive array of variables encompassing socioeconomics, health, social life, and cognitive functioning over time. The aim is to disentangle the complex factors contributing to cognitive decline, investigating how various dimensions of social networks, such as the frequency and quality of social interactions, emotional support, and community involvement, influence cognitive well-being.

Utilizing SEM enables us to model and quantify these relationships, providing a comprehensive understanding of the direct and indirect pathways through which mental and physical health conditions influence social interactions and subsequently impact cognitive well-being. In conclusion, our exploration of the interconnection between social networks and cognitive decline among the elderly, using SHARE data and SEM, offers a holistic perspective on this critical issue, providing valuable insights for both academic and practical purposes. This work suggests that a socially active and participatory lifestyle may mitigate the effects of the physiological process of brain aging.

A new transnational measure to beyond GDP: The World Love Index

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This study is based on the concept of social love which can be defined as “an action, relationship or social interaction in which subjects exceed (in giving, in receiving, in not giving or not to do, in neglecting) all its antecedents, and therefore, offers more than the situation requires in order to make benefits”. Based on this definition, were identified four dimensions of Social Love: Overabounding, Care, Universalism and Recognition. This paper presents the construction process and the results of the second wave of the World Love Index. This is an index based on secondary data that aims to measure the concept of Social Love on a transnational level. The concept of Social Love refers to the social dimension of love, and can be defined as “an action, relationship or social interaction in which subjects exceed (in giving, in receiving, in not giving or not to do, in neglecting) all its antecedents, and therefore, offers more than the situation requires in order to make benefits”.

RN21 | T08: Measurement instruments in quantitative research

Indexes As An Instrument For Measuring Social Inequalities In Higher Education

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The aim of this paper is threefold: 1) to explore the potential of indexes as an instrument for measuring inequalities in higher education; 2) to discuss challenges related to the use of these indexes; 3) to highlight how indexes could be used in policy-making for inequality reduction. Building on the view that higher education is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, this paper presents three indexes: index for inclusion in higher education, index of fairness in higher education and index for higher education as a common good. The data used for their calculation are taken from large-scale representative and cross-national surveys, such as EUROSTUDENT and the European Social Survey, and from official statistics.

Drawing on data for respectively 14, 22 and 15 European countries for these three indexes and by using different statistical methods (e.g. logistic regression) for indexes’ construction, this paper demonstrates the advantages of indexes, such as allowing comparisons across countries and applying a dynamic perspective. A special focus is put on the challenges stemming from lack of data for certain dimensions or for some countries, or related to the fact that international surveys rely on self-reporting data. Other challenges are the non-equivalence of the cross-national survey data and the need to deal with the so-called “imperialism” of international surveys, which may “impose” concrete definitions and ways of thinking through the surveys’ core questionnaires. Taking into account both their heuristic potential and the arising challenges, this paper discusses how indexes can be used as a tool for evidence-based policy-making.

The Subjectivisation of Labour. Development and Cross-Validation of a New Scale Using Confirmatory Factor Analysis

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The subjectivisation of labour and the associated dissolution of boundaries of the workspace and enhanced flexibility are becoming increasingly important (Fritz et al. 2011b). Pongratz and Voß (2003) describe a quantitative and qualitative change in the relationship between companies and

their employees in new forms of work. The resulting shift of the transformation problem to employees has consequences for employment and could also lead to a change in the general constitution of labour capacity in our society (Pongratz & Voß 2003).

Measurement instruments for this construct have mainly been developed primarily qualitatively. For instance, Fritz et al. developed the first quantitative Workforce Entrepreneur Scale (16-items) based on e.g. Pongratz & Voß (2003), Nievergelt (2004), and Schmitz & Schwarzer (1999).

In our paper, we present the results of the development and validation of a subjectivisation of labour scale based on the Workforce Entrepreneur scale. Our research design involves a mixed mode (online, postal survey, N= 788) sample. The sample for the survey (3,000 people) was randomly selected from the residents' registration office of the city of Chemnitz, Saxony in Germany. Questionnaires were sent to parents with children aged 13-18 in Chemnitz. A response rate of 27.8 percent was achieved. We use confirmatory factor analysis with random split data to cross-validate the subjectivisation of labour scale. Our findings can help to understand the strengths and weaknesses of both approaches and provide insights into the latent construct of the subjectivisation of labour.

Comparing Item – and Image-based Measurements in Online Surveys: A Systematic Analysis Using the Example of Acceptance for a Virtual Caregiver Avatar

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Visual stimuli are increasingly utilized in online surveys to measure judgments, attitudes, or decisions, while it is often assumed that they provide more valid results compared to conventional item-based measurements. Images may help mitigate systematic measurement errors due to the standardized presentation of information supporting respondents' consistent retrieval of relevant information from memory.

In our study, we challenge this assumption by systematically comparing responses to image and text stimuli using the example of the acceptance for an avatar as a virtual caregiver. Data come from an online access panel survey on technology acceptance in healthcare in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (D-A-CH region) in 2023. Using a split-ballot experiment, 5,538 adult respondents were randomly assigned to different conditions and evaluated the quality of various avatar environments operationalized either through pictures or conventional items.

Results from multiple regression analysis including interactions effects substantiate the assumption of distinct cognitive processing. On average, the surroundings are perceived better in image-based as compared to item-based presentation. A robust interaction with response time was evident: while acceptance remains similar in the image-based presentation, it decreases with respondents' higher response time in the item-based format. If respondents tend to answer spontaneously (in the form of satisficing), both presentation formats deliver comparable results. In a more reflective response processing mode (in the form of optimizing), however, different cognitive adaptation processes may be initiated. In addition to these findings, prospects for future methodological research are discussed.

Comparing Modularity Scores across Different Social Networks: Cautions, Illustrations, and Suggestions

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In the thriving field of computational social sciences, scholars often employ techniques and methods developed by natural or computer scientists to model social phenomena. One salient example is the recently rising practice of social scientists to compare modularity scores across different social networks to evaluate the variation of network-module-related substantive concepts such as the levels of consensus, polarization, or community boundary rigidity. Although the rationale of this practice is comprehensible, we caution that it may suffer various conceptual and empirical issues. Conceptually, modularity scores may misalign with the substantive concepts that social scientists are interested in. Empirically, the commonly used modularity metrics are highly sensitive to various network characteristics that are irrelevant to those substantive concepts. We illustrate these conceptual and analytical problems with toy examples and systematic simulations. We demonstrate the practical significance of these lessons by re-examining an empirical study that uses modularity scores to evaluate the evolution of the rigidity of job mobility in the US labor market. We conclude with a summary of all these lessons and a list of suggestions for future applications.

RN21 | T09: New digital and graphical methods in quantitative research

Graphs of Marginal Effects Tables from Regressions

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Graphs have been widely used to represent social structures and to study relationships between variables. In this paper, we present a novel approach to enhance the analytical potential of graphs by incorporating interactivity. Our proposed method focuses on solving multiple regressions and selecting coefficients with a significant positive relationship using weighted mean contrasts.

Using this approach, we generate graphs that highlight categories with predicted proportions or means significantly greater than those of the population, providing valuable insights into the elements being analyzed. To further enhance their analytical power, our graphs also offer interactive features, allowing users to filter elements based on their size or attributes, and to explore the most central and strongest links within the network.

We will also present both an advanced R package and a Stata ado program that enable the creation of these interactive graphs and provide a variety of examples to illustrate their applications. We will provide practical knowledge on how to implement this methodology and use its capabilities to visualize and analyze complex networks.

Using Motion Capture To Quantify Bodily Movement : An Experimental Study In The Sociology Of Embodiment With Walking Styles

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This study is based on an experimental methodology employed as part of a Ph.D. research project, studying how the social world shapes the way we walk, with a focus on the class variable (Bourdieu, 2000). The investigation begins with Mauss's seminal work on body techniques (Mauss, 1936). Notably, the methodology involves observation within a movement analysis laboratory (biomechanics laboratory). Two groups, each consisting of thirty men aged between 18 and 25, with distinct social characteristics (in terms of capital-volume) walked 20 loops of 50 meters each in a gymnasium. The first group comprised students from prominent French universities ("Grandes écoles"), while the second group consisted of workers, both skilled and unskilled, in the blue-collar sector. Motion capture of their gait was conducted using cameras and markers placed on their bodies. A questionnaire was administered in the midst of this observation, covering individual social and bodily characteristics (such as social background, origin, sports practices, daily commuting patterns, working conditions, height, and weight).

Quantitative data were generated for each individual's gait, including amplitudes and spatio-temporal information. These data can be processed by statistical analyses, particularly factorial analysis (PCA) and linear regression, to identify variations in gait patterns based on social groups. The objective of this study is to introduce a novel methodological approach to the analysis of embodied products, contrasting with the predominant focus on qualitatively observing bodily movements (Mohr et al., 2020).

Institutional Trust and Crisis: the Use of Computationally Intensive Methods to Model Social Phenomena

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University of Catania

There is no doubt that the last twenty years have brought radical changes to the use of computers in social research (Heise and Simmons 1985; Bianchi and Squazzoni 2019). In the past (and even today), social scientists used computers to provide analytic solutions to complicated equation systems that represented a given system's structure, or more generally to estimate statistical models for data. From the 1990s onward, they started to use advanced computational techniques in an innovative way to simulate and analyse implications of agent interaction in social structures (Epstein 2012; Klein et. al., 2018).

In this study, we use NetLogo (Wilensky, 1999) to create an Agent-Based Modelling (ABM) to simulate individual behaviour in terms of trust in institutions when faced with emergency phenomena such as the outbreak of war, the start of a pandemic and the impact of inflation on the economy. Our analysis is based on data from renowned research infrastructures, such as CESSDA or RISIS, and authoritative national and European research institutes, like ISTAT, NIE, and EUROSTAT.

Our simulation aims to identify the main factors that affect individual perceptions of institutions during crisis situations and how trust in these institutions changes at different stages of an emergency. The study proposes a research tool that can help in understanding complex social phenomena through predictive models of individual behaviour. This tool can be used to support decision-making at the political level to implement policies that contribute towards building institutional trust.

Bianchi, F., & Squazzoni, F. (2019). Modelling and social science: Problems and promises. In Modelling Transitions (pp. 60-74). Routledge.

Epstein, J. M. (2012). Generative social science: Studies in agent-based computational modeling. Princeton University Press.

Critical Evaluation of Large Language Models as Survey Respondents

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The emergence of large language models (LLMs) has created a new opportunity for social scientific research methods. For all research where language mediates empiricism, it has become a realistic possibility to generate responses using virtual respondents simulated by LLMs as data providers.

The potential impact of LLM-generated data necessitates its critical methodological analysis. In a positivist perspective, if the methodology of virtual data collection can be developed, the time and resources needed for real data collection can be drastically reduced, which could mean the democratisation and decentralisation of social research. In addition, the procedure could also address the problem of decreasing validity of survey data due to low response rates.

Using LLMs (GPT-variants and Llama-2), we generated virtual answers for politics and democracy related attitude questions of the European Social Survey (10th wave) and statistically compared the results of the simulated responses to the real ones. We explored different prompting techniques (e.g. zero-shot, few-shot, chain-of-thought) and the effect of different types and richness of contextual information provided to the models.

Our results suggest that the tested LLMs generate highly realistic answers and are good at invoking the needed patterns from limited contextual information given to them if a couple of examples are provided, but struggle in a zero-shot setting.

A critical perspective is essential to ensure that the effects of known biases of LLMs do not remain unexplored in these applications, and even more so to consciously consider the social reality that is not represented in the linguistic space of the Internet.

Our research explores the tensions generated by AI in scientific research, trust in science and technology, and the transformation of social science methodologies.

RN22 | Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

RN22 | T01_01: Risk Communication

Shifting Vulnerabilities in Mixed Methods Research on Risk Communication

Minna Lundgren

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Effective communication is paramount in preparing citizens to handle various risks and crises. This research addresses the intricate challenges of risk communication in heterogeneous societies, where diverse cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic factors influence both the understanding of information and the perception of and response to hazards. In such dynamic contexts, a one-size-fits-all approach is often inadequate, necessitating an exploration of tailored communication strategies to enhance community resilience.

This presentation synthesizes the results of two research projects focusing risk communication in the Swedish heterogeneous society. In these two studies multiple data sources have been used. The synthesis of nationwide survey data is complemented by qualitative insights derived from focus groups and interviews, offering a nuanced exploration of group-specific needs, cultural considerations, along with communication preferences. The qualitative methodologies not only elucidate underlying factors shaping risk perceptions, but also uncover community-driven solutions to enhance preparedness. Furthermore, simulation experiments were conducted to simulate realistic crisis scenarios – a long-term power failure and a shooting incident at a nightclub – allowing for the observation and analysis of human responses in controlled environments. Integrating simulation data with qualitative and survey findings enables the identification of critical gaps in preparedness and facilitates the refinement of communication strategies tailored to diverse populations.

The results indicate shifting vulnerabilities, where some of the least advantaged socio-economic groups may be hard to reach with information, they may have everyday life strategies better adapted to preparedness for long-term crisis. However, the findings of the research illuminate the necessity of nuanced, context-specific risk communication strategies to bridge societal divides of urbal/rural residency, age, migrant/non-migrant background, along with socioeconomic situation and digital competence.

The Construction of Risks in Medical Research Proposals and Reviews

Daniel Stein

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In my paper, I am exploring how risks in medical research are presented, managed and evaluated. What is risky about medical research and how are those risks assessed? I investigate this question by analyzing documents submitted in the framework of the Reinhart Koselleck Program (DFG) – a funding program which invites "exceptionally innovative or higher-risk projects". Since this program explicitly expects research proposals to be risky, it is particularly suited for the investigation of risk in research. Furthermore, I am also analyzing the corresponding reviews, which leads to a total of 140 documents (35 Proposals, 70 reviews and 35 votes of the review board).

Due to this data basis, it is possible to not only investigate the presentation of risks, but also to show how those risks are interpreted in the reviews. I will pay special attention to the subject of risk-attribution and accordingly elaborate on the semantics of trust. Risky research proposals are not only evaluated by their inherent risks but also by the reputation of the applicant. Referring to the applicant as an (excellent) researcher is a common form of risk evaluation and rhetorical failure management.

My research contributes to the understanding of the processes of construction, negotiation and assessment of risks in medical research and will deliver insights into how risks are assessed in risk-affine funding contexts.

Conspiracy Theories, Social Media Use and Institutional Trust in the Countries of the Visegrad Group

Marianna Mrva

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The dangers of conspiracy theories for society have long been known: they can negatively affect the functioning of democratic institutions, social cohesion, and even state security or public health. Social media platforms are seen by many as a hotbed of conspiracy theories, whose algorithms allow them to spread rapidly. Others argue that social media are primarily responsible for the visibility of conspiracy theories, rather than for their mass adoption. They argue that the primary reasons for the spread of conspiracy theories are lack of trust in institutions, social insecurity or a sense of alienation from public affairs.

International comparative studies show that in Europe, the Visegrad Group countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland) are among the countries with the highest levels of conspiracy theories. In this presentation, I will show that the popularity of conspiracy theories is not primarily driven by the use of social media, but by a lack of trust in mainstream media and political institutions, as well as by a sense of personal exclusion, alienation and political ineffectiveness. The data analysis is based on a

questionnaire-based online sample survey conducted by the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the V4 countries with 8,000 respondents. It allows us to better understand the social mechanisms that contribute to the spread of conspiracy theories in our societies.

Feed The Public With Reasonable Uncertainty. A Pilot Study On Trust Delegation In Science-Society Communication

Roberto Carradore, Alessia Papale

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In the public discourse, science is historically depicted and conceived as neutral and objective. In recent years, the rise of the so-called post-truth era has broken this stereotypical representation, highlighting the crucial roles of uncertainty in the production of scientific knowledge and trust delegation in science-society communication. Learning how to communicate scientific uncertainty to laypeople effectively is increasingly essential in scientists' work, although a good top-down communication strategy does not guarantee citizens' trust.

Our contribution focuses on the relationship between uncertainty and trust, aiming to build a theoretical model based on qualitative research. In 2023, we conducted semi-structured interviews with twenty non-experts from Milan (Italy) as a pilot exploration. We used the vignette method to observe reactions facing a fictional uncertain situation (a gas explosion happened nearby) and the subsequent scientific communication in a press conference setting.

The results show different patterns of response and preference concerning the deemed legitimate/illegitimate communicative outcomes (i.e. guidelines, personal opinion, talk show fights between experts), which strengthen/weaken trust. At first glance, these patterns seem to be related to personal features (i.e. age, gender and knowledge capital), communicational expectations (i.e. reassuring, informing, sharing data and previsions), and experiences. In this contribution, we present a dynamic model which connects public behaviours towards uncertainty communication and conditions for trust delegation. For its flexibility and scalability, it can be tested in risk management and emergency communication.

Despite the inherent limitations of this pilot research, the results collected so far open up a broad prospect for future in-depth explorations to refine the theoretical model here discussed also in a comparative perspective (i.e. different scientific fields and social groups).

RN22 | T01_02: Disaster Management Policies and Practices

Women's Informal Voluntary Work After Disasters

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Disasters are gendered events that greatly exacerbate pre-existing inequalities for women, however the volunteer emergency management systems currently in place to help women in affected communities are heavily male dominated and in steady decline. There has been significant research which has found that women-led organizing and informal volunteering during and after disasters can alleviate hardship during recovery in affected communities. However, the ways in which this responsibility impacts the lives of women already enduring exacerbated hardship is under researched in the Australian context. Importantly, the informal voluntary practices led by women that contribute to sustained and more inclusive recovery periods have been seldom investigated in the Australian context despite possible learning opportunities for the male-dominated formal volunteer workforce.

To address this gap, this presentation aims to explore the gender dynamics of voluntary practices that occurred after a major flooding event in a regional town in New South Wales, Australia. Ethnographic and photovoice-led qualitative methods were used to investigate the gendered experience of volunteering for recovery. An ecofeminist citizenship framework was employed to politicise the role of women and challenge essentialist understandings of women's volunteering after disasters. Preliminary findings suggest that women's experience of volunteering after disasters burdened women with the responsibility of sustaining community life, with little recognition or help from the formal voluntary sector and government institutions. More gendered analyses of voluntary work for recovery in disaster affected communities are needed to contribute to more equitable recovery services and to redress the gender-neutral approach to emergency management in Australia.

Unveiling an Emergent Community: Examining the Long-Term Impact of Catastrophic Experiences on Disaster Mitigation Behaviors

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This study delved into the disaster mitigation behaviors of survivors a decade after a catastrophic Typhoon event in 2009 by comparing two sets of survey data collected in 2019. One dataset represents the general Taiwanese population, while the other focuses on survivors of the catastrophic event. Employing hierarchical regression analysis, the study revealed that individual-level factors such as demographics and psychological factors exerted more substantial influences on the general public compared to survivors. Among all variables, education emerged as the most impactful for the general public. Notably, a group-level factor—social network—proved insignificant for the general public. Conversely, group-level factors, specifically family structure and social network, played more pronounced roles in shaping the mitigation behaviors of survivors, overshadowing individual-level factors. The psychological factor (at the individual level) was found to be insignificant for the survivors. Additionally, the results highlighted that family structure, particularly the presence of elders, significantly influenced disaster mitigation behaviors in both datasets, albeit with divergent directions. For the general public, families with elders exhibited less preparedness, while survived families with elders demonstrated heightened preparedness. These findings suggested that the lasting impact of the catastrophic experience gave rise to an emergent community where group-level factors took precedence over individual-level factors in influencing disaster mitigation behaviors. Moreover, the emergent community demonstrated increased awareness of disaster vulnerability associated with family structures, prompting families with elders to be more proactive in their preparedness efforts.

Flood Policies in the Italian Context: the Emilia-Romagna case study

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In May 2023, two flooding episodes hit the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna, killing 17 people and displacing thousands. The flooding of 23 rivers in the territory of the regional plain and the dozens of landslides that occurred in the mountainous-Apennine territory made it an event of exceptional magnitude for the Italian context.

This paper intends to present the preliminary results of the research in fieri that is part of the RETURN (Multi Risk Science for Resilient Communities under a Changing Climate) project, conducted through fieldwork, interview collection from the very early emergency phase and, finally, policy analysis. The objective of the project lies in understanding the multiscalar and multilevel functioning of emergency governance related to flood and hydrogeological risks in the Emilia-Romagna region, with emphasis placed on emergencial policies at each stage of the disaster cycle. The complex structure of emergency governance is being challenged today by the multiplication of extreme events and the intensification of their magnitude.

The case study of the May 2023 floods in Emilia-Romagna constitutes an important context in which to (a) observe the application of emergency policies in their local, regional and national stratification, (b) monitor the functioning and effectiveness of their implementation on the territory and affected population, and finally (c) propose a policy evaluation and a policy proposal on contemporary disaster management in Italy. Alongside the focus devoted particularly to policy analysis is attention placed on the role assumed by volunteering in all its forms (third sector, associations, informal networks, etc.) in managing and overcoming the very first emergency phase, which in Emilia-Romagna took on connotations of an exceptional order.

Integrating Social Impacts And Social Capacities In Flood Risk Management: A Network Analysis Application

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University of Alicante, Spain

The rising frequency and intensity of flood-related disasters due to climate change place vulnerable populations at high risk of experiencing severe impacts on their living conditions. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes the need for detailed attention to the social consequences of disasters, as well as the development of capacity-building strategies in local communities. In line with this demand, a primary aim of the AQUASOC project – funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation – is to contribute with the expertise of social sciences in analyzing the social impacts of disasters to the identification of strategic lines of action for building resilient communities. This communication highlights the project's progress in exhaustively identifying and categorizing social impacts and linking them to necessary social capacities for impacts' prevention, mitigation, and recovery. Employing extensive qualitative fieldwork, including 115 qualitative interviews with key stakeholders across four case studies, and utilizing Social Network Analysis (assisted by Gephi software), the project has successfully mapped a network of social impacts and their connection to social capacities. This network facilitates the identification of critical nodes and, consequently, priority capacitation areas for effective social planning and management of flood risk. This network will be a key informational input for the SCABA (Social Capacity Building Appraisal) online tool, aimed at local risk managers, which is currently under development.

RN22 | T02: Theorizing Risk and Uncertainty

The Relevance of Fortuna in Late Modernity: Chance, Uncertainty and Social Change

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The social changes tied to late modernity and an increasingly precarious labour market have facilitated the emergence of fortune as a potentially significant element for understanding contemporary society. This presentation approaches this contingent, individualised, secularised, and uncertain panorama from the perspective of the individuals tasked with navigating these societal transformations and the effects of a prolonged economic crisis. Based on a discourse analysis of 20 in-depth interviews and three focus groups with vulnerable young adults in Spain we examine how these individuals employ luck/chance highlighting four different relationships with fortune. In the participants' narratives we find a meritocratic approach, which involves an understanding that good luck is attained through individual initiative, but also relationships less concerned with human agentic power where it can be conceived as an interpretive device, as a threat or as an element tied to hope. Consequently, in this paper we seek to address a gap in sociological research, which has tended to overlook the analytical significance of chance/fortune/luck, arguing that it constitutes a central element to the symbolic frameworks of these young adults as they make their way through a changing world. Furthermore, we contend that the recognition of the sociological relevance of fortuna involves a shift in our apprehension of human reality and that by studying the impact of chance, alongside other elements such as social conditions/structures and agency, we might be able to analyse more assiduously the risks, unpredictability and indeterminacy of our late modern world.

Risk, Crisis, Disaster – Different Concepts and Different Types of Uncertainty?

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We are living in times of dynamic uncertainty. Financial and economic crises, the problematisation of refugee and migration movements, the rise of nationalism and right-wing populism, climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation and the return of war: The present is characterised by multiple, overlapping and mutually reinforcing extremes. Disorder, insecurity, uncertainty, upheaval, transformation, and contingency seem to be the sign of our time. In our paper, we address these phenomena from the theoretical perspectives of risk, crisis, and disaster. Firstly, we will look at existing concepts. Risk generally refers to the possibility of the occurrence of future events with negative effects. Crisis classically denotes a moment of decision-making under conditions of threat, urgency, and uncertainty. Disaster, or catastrophe, refers to serious events with devastating consequences. Secondly, we analyse similarities and differences between these concepts and put their exclusivity to the test. All three concepts revolve around uncertainty as they indicate danger and signify potentially dramatic social developments. However, they differ in their temporal structure and represent specific notions of normality and exception. Thirdly, we will examine whether risk, crisis, and disaster address different types of uncertainty. The paper concludes with a call for a combination of all three concepts to analyse the dynamic nature of the uncertainty society is confronted with today.

Crisis, Catastrophe and Emancipation

Maria Grazia Galantino

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In recent years, several far-reaching crises have led to global instability, economic challenges, humanitarian disasters and political conflicts, contributing to a period of widespread uncertainty. In an era of unprecedented challenges, the neologism 'permacrisis' – Collins' Word of the Year 2022 – has become the terminological label to capture the meaning and novelty of experiencing a 'prolonged period of instability and uncertainty, mainly caused by a series of catastrophic events'.

As early as the second half of the 1980s, and without resorting to any particular neologisms, the social sciences had identified risk and uncertainty as distinctive features of contemporary societies. Drawing on this debate, we first situate the concepts of crisis and catastrophe within the sociological perspective of risk and uncertainty in order to understand whether they retain a capacity to interpret current changes. We then show how risks, crises and catastrophes can open up different ways of imagining the future in the present, which are not alternative but coexist and overlap, giving rise to different combinations of expectations and practices. Some insights from recent empirical research on young people in the pandemic and post-pandemic period will help to elucidate these reflections and, in the concluding section, to question the ambivalent trajectories opened up by crises and catastrophes and, at the same time, by new beginnings.

Conceptualising Trust in the Face of Risk. New Directions for a Contested Concept

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The concept of trust has been debated in a range of disciplines characterising it as a rational (Coleman 1990), non-rational (Luhmann, 1988) or emotionally based construct (Barbalet, 2008). Also, the quality of trust as a conscious, reflexive, decision based concept (Luhmann, 1988; Giddens, 1990) in contrast to trust as routine preconscious behaviour (Lagerspetz, 1998) has caused controversial debate. Instead, the presentation suggests that trust is neither rational nor non-rational but has an own quality in-between, similar to the suggestion of Løgstrup (1997). Setting trust in the context of the "in-between" framework of modes of engaging with risk and uncertainty (Zinn, 2008, 2016) recent developments using neo-phenomenology (Schulz & Zinn, 2023) allows to integrate many of the different perspectives in a more conclusive framework of trusting as an in-between mode of reasoning, which also considers tendencies of rationalising or enchanting trust. The presentation discusses the conditions which foster different forms of trusting and the ways how trusting may be institutionally exploited.

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RN22 | T03: Risk, Crisis and Resilience

A Challenged Society: Constructions of vulnerable and resilient subjects in Swedish total defence policies

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This article engages in a critical debate on the dichotomy between vulnerable and resilient subjects and how these are constructed in Swedish total defence policies aimed at preventing and managing crisis, disasters and war. Taking our point of departure in Carol Bacchi's post structural policy analysis, also known as What is the problem represented to be? (WPR) the purpose of this article is to critical examine how desirable, and non-desirable, subjects are constructed in current Swedish total defence policies. Our analysis finds that desirable subjects are positioned as 'the resilient' while the non-desirable subjects are positioned as 'the vulnerable'. These subject positions are constructed in relation to three specific threats: security policy threats, climate change and a challenged democracy. In relation to these threats vulnerability (both societal and individual) is positioned as the problem represented to be in the policies analysed for this article. Resilience, personified as the resilient subjects, is suggested as the solution to this problem: where capable, active, and responsible citizens are expected to come to the rescue of a society challenged by the crisis, disasters, and wars of the 21st century. Such a solution to contemporary security problems is not only reminiscent of the individualism and responsibilisation associated with the ideal of the resilient citizen, but also a vivid example of how societal problems and welfare state challenges are securitized as they are presented as problems to be solved by resilient citizens and the forces of total defence rather than by investments in public welfare or climate policy.

Never Safe, but Sorry – the Precautionary Principle Between Risk Control, Adaption and Politicization of Ignorance

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The precautionary principle is an essential component of international environmental policy, although it has been criticized as unscientific, paralyzing and irrational. While it frames a normative obligation (better safe, than sorry), it struggles to provide explicit decision-making rules in situations of uncertainty (Empty Label Challenge). The paper discusses political applications of the precautionary principle in Germany in the context of radioactive waste, raising the question of how precaution can express both motives

of control and adaption. The aim is to further evaluate the precautionary principle against the social theoretical background of a transformation of late modern societies to societies of adaption.

While criticism of the precautionary principle is often based on concepts of risk and knowledge, this paper choses an interdisciplinary approach and provides literature review in the field of sociology of ignorance to highlight ignorance as key concept for critical environmental sociology.

Initially, the paper introduces different categories to analyze the social constitution of the phenomenon of "not knowing". Based on theories of scientification and technologization of the political, it is argued how controversies about knowledge dominate the political sphere today, while disputes over values shift to areas of the unknown, leading to a politicization of ignorance. By comparing strategies of handling the issue of final disposal for radioactive waste since the introduction of nuclear power in Germany, the author reconstructs the role of control-oriented and complex-oriented cultures of non-knowledge for justifying very different, even conflicting, precautionary actions.

The results illustrate cultures of non-knowledge that lead to motives of control (risk management and prevention) and motives of adaptation (self-preservation and mitigation). Thus, the paper goes beyond the argument of irrationality and emphazises a political performativity of ignorance that contributes a further understanding of paradoxes in terms of the precautionary principle. The conclusion leads to a discussion about the role of the precautionary principle in the transition from risk society to society of adaptation and its relationship to developments such as (climate) adaptation policies.

Conceptualizing Risk, Resilience, and Crisis Management through the Lens of Sociotechnical Systems

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Research on civil security is interdisciplinary, engaging varied perspectives on societal risk perception and the prerequisites of crisis management. The BeLIFE project, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, analyzes how five regional civil-security projects are implementing new approaches to crisis management and what lessons can be learned from their processes. Using the analytical lens of sociotechnical systems, BeLIFE examines how social groups interact with technological tools intended to mitigate civil security risks and bolster resilience. By focusing on the specific promises and challenges produced by the interaction between human actors and technological instruments, BeLIFE addresses a number of questions: How can a systemic perspective on sociotechnical interactions help conceptualize resilience as a way to deal with the uncertainty of the future? How may sociotechnical systems help foster broad societal engagement with anticipated risks? How do the five projects under examination outline the relationship between social actors and technological tools as an answer to expected needs in crisis management? Our contribution will address these questions by focusing on how (implicit) views on future developments shape the five projects' approaches to developing resilience. We will examine how these projects present resilience as an essential way of coping with certain risks to civil security, such as flooding, which are expected to increase in scope and frequency in the future. In the process, we seek to show how the relationship between psychosocial and technological elements plays a vital role in shaping strategic preparation for the future needs of crisis management.

Preparing for the Previous Pandemic: Resilience and Risk Translation in Governing Healthcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Netherlands

Bert de Graaff, Sabrina Huizenga, Roland Bal

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, The

In this paper we focus on risk translation in the governing of Dutch healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. We do so to explore crisis resilience in healthcare governance as a concrete practice. We built in this paper on a multi-sited ethnography of the Dutch crisis-organization in healthcare between March 2020 and August 2022. We zoom-in on regional networks of acute care delivery (ROAZ) during the second year of the pandemic in the Netherlands (from August 2021 to August 2022). During this period our participants sought to learn from previous experiences during the first 'waves' of the pandemic and started to look forward to a post-pandemic situation.

Our analysis underscores how the COVID-19 pandemic in healthcare is enacted through a multitude of relations of risk. These relations are translated between layers of crisis-governance through relation-building, data-infrastructures, modelling and scenario-building, (re)writing guidelines and protocols next to formal political practices. We argue that risk translation during crises allows for creating time-spaces and infrastructures, enacting crucial objects of governance such as care (acute/'non-COVID'), geographies ('the region') and beds ('an ICU-bed'). Risk translation appears as a crucial practice for resilient health care systems; showing the ad hoc, informal and manual risk work that mediates knowledge and values about how to act during crisis between layers of healthcare governance and emerging collective(s) (in) action. These practices are also inherently political, leading to the in – or exclusion of (alternative) concerns and their representatives in governing healthcare during crisis.

RN22 | T04_01: Risk Preparedness and Response

Crisis Biographies: Making Sense of Wildfires and Climate Change Temporalities

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1Mid sweden university; 2Risk and crisis research centre

The following article is based on interviews with volunteers and evacuees from the wildfires that affected the northern parts of Sweden during the summer of 2018. The purpose of the article is to explore if and how people relate their experiences of a climate change-related crisis to the more extensive, and constantly ongoing, climate crisis. Through this article, the concept of crisis biography is developed, theoretically and methodologically, to illustrate how people's experiences of crises can be understood in the light of their personal biographies. The results show that the climate crisis, and its extent in time and space, is of central importance for both people's sense making of forest fires and for their personal crisis biographies.

A Safe Place For Preparedness

Erna Danielsson, Linda Kvarnlöf

Mid Sweden University, Sweden

This interview study explores how the home, and its characteristics influence an individual's thoughts on evacuation. It raises questions about what constitutes a secure and safe place and how material preparedness and the perception of home as a safe place impact our thoughts on evacuation in the event of a major societal crisis. The study is based on meaning-making and materiality, viewing the home as an integrated part of a person's identity. The results indicate that an individual's home preparedness and planning for crisis management generate a sense of security and safety, increasing the reluctance to abandon the home in the event of a crisis. For those residing in rural areas, everyday household planning is integrated as a form of crisis preparedness, motivated by the distance to societal functions in the rural environment. For urban dwellers, the home represents security, with proximity to conveniences such as the grocery store. Family, relatives, or friends are perceived as a secure place in the event of an evacuation. However, most prominent is the interpretation of the rural environment as a secure and safe place, such as "the cottage in the countryside," and wilderness, that provide warmth, food, and shelter – particularly to those present themself as outdoor person. For individuals who do not actively contemplate evacuation or engage in home preparedness, a more fatalistic perspective tends to prevail.

Exploring the Fire culture(s) in Europe

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Wildfires are a common event in Southern Europe but in the last decade several events have occurred in countries where this risk is not common. Research shows that European countries should be more prepared and communities should re-learn to live with fires. However, since the 20th century there was an abandonment of fire in rural practices and in the daily life. The ancient experience and knowledge remains in some small groups, particularly farmers and foresters, but it almost disappeared in the society.

In order to re-learn to live with fire, it's important that fire risk increases and for that, society needs to be aware of it, understand it, and accept it. To address this gap, an online tool called Fire Education Platform is being developed. This multimedia tool gathers information and explores the fire culture concept and scope in Europe, analysing topics such as fire ecology, fire risk, and its social dimension like oral and artistic practices, traditions and fire use by local rural communities. The platform is being developed under the scope of FIRE RES EU project. It has a common core with fire culture and arts, and three sections: to teach, targeted at educators; to learn, targeted at the general public; and to apply, targeted to professionals. For the collaborative design of the platform, a survey with 24 questions was launched in13 country aiming to assess the real needs of future users. The presentation will discuss the results of this survey, tales and oral traditions, analysing the different fire culture(s) in Europe.

Coping with Wildfires:Inquiry to a Rural Community in Inner Southern Portugal

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Portugal has one of the highest rates of wildfires in Mediterranean Europe (Turco et al., 2016). Analysis of this problem stills dominated by forest and event-based approaches, downsizing the perspective of those who live in fire-prone communities. How do these inhabitants integrate wildfire threat into their daily lives? How do they respond to fires and recover from them? These questionings still much understudied in Portugal. To address this gap, a study (financed by Foundation for Science and Technology, PCIF/

AGT/0072/2019) was carried out in a rural community of inner Southern Portugal. The study aimed to describe inhabitants' cyclical wildfire experience and patterns of coping with it. Methodologically, the study followed a case study design, focused on Alferce (Monchique). As part of the fieldwork, 60 semi-directed interviews were undertaken and subject to content analysis.

Research findings indicate that fire trends in inner Southern Portugal reflect demographic, land-use and environmental transformations. Alferce inhabitants revealed to be aware of these root causes of vulnerability. They also revealed high levels of risk perception; experiential knowledge about fire dynamics and ways of responding to it; awareness of the importance of protecting their property. The transposition of such beliefs into protective action is, nevertheless, endangered by a set of attitudes and contextual factors such as: salient beliefs on wildfire recurrence; disbelief on physical capacity to implement certain protective measures; low expectations of returns on forest investment; difficulties in finding manpower and high costs of labor. Based on these findings, we will outline the main implications of such patterns of coping with risk both in terms of vulnerability and disaster risk management.

RN22 | T04_02: Risk Perceptions and Understandings

The Impact Of Individual Risk Perception On Community Resilience: A Case Study Of Polish Border Communities' Response To Humanitarian And Refugee Crisis Caused By Russian Invasion Of Ukraine.

Natalia Bełdyga

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Russia's military aggression against Ukraine which escalated into a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has caused an unprecedented refugee and humanitarian crisis to which Poland, EU and other host countries have been responding and has greatly heightened a sense of tension and concern about the impact of an ongoing Russia's war in Ukraine on among others European security architecture. Within this risk and uncertainty context the aim of this research is to analyze the impact of individual risk perception on community resilience to crises and uncertainty by studying cases of responses to a humanitarian and refugee crisis caused by Russia's attack on Ukraine made by Polish border communities from two corners of Poland, one in Biecz, a town ca 100 km from the border with Ukraine and second in Suwałki, in the Suwałki Gap region which separates Russia's exclave of Kaliningrad from Belarus, also referred to as NATO's Eastern Europe weak spot. Theoretical framework encompassing a theory of riskscapes – orientation maps navigating complex risks (Müller-Mahn et. al, 2018) and relational theory of risk about individual interpretative nature of risk (Boholm and Corvellec, 2011) was developed to conceptualize a social phenomenon of individual perception and construction of risk. The results of qualitative analysis of empirical data collected during on site, in person interviews with community members from Suwałki and Biecz who were involved in response to refugee and humanitarian crisis, namely a sudden and massive arrival of refugees from Ukraine to Poland, will demonstrate how individuals perceived, interpreted and navigated risk as well as reveal the impact of individual risk perceptions on community resilience to crisis and uncertainty in this unprecedented context.

Navigating Uncertainty: An Analysis of Future Perceptions and Feelings of Uncertainty in Contemporary Russia

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Risk studies, from the very beginning, have emphasized the idea that the ability and need to control the future are central to modernity (Giddens, 1991). Simultaneously, at the individual level, people are compelled to make risky decisions in cases where outcomes are uncertain, and they lack reliable data and trust in others and institutions. Additionally, global events may influence the perception of the future: as studies on COVID-19 have shown, a pandemic can compress individuals' perceptions of future time horizons (Newton et al., 2023; Fynes-Clinton, Addis, 2023). We believe that the ongoing "special military operation" (SMO) of Russia in Ukraine, accompanied by the mobilization of men, may also contribute to this feeling of uncertainty, although not equally across different groups of the population.

In our online survey conducted in September 2023 (n=1254), we included indicators related to the perception of the future, such as feelings about the future and the self-estimation of the ability to plan one's own life. The key idea was to search for crucial factors that influence this perception of the future, including sociodemographic factors (especially age and gender), media consumption, attitudes toward the SMO, and the specificity of risk perception.

In this paper, we not only present the empirical findings based on regression analysis but also discuss methodological issues, such as the possibility to assess attitudes toward the SMO (we utilized a "list experiment" for this purpose, but it gives only an estimation within a subsample) and the possibility to use the "psychometric paradigm" methodology (Slovic, 1987; 2000) to infer individual measures of risk perception.

Disinformation and risk perception in Sweden

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The role of disinformation in the digital society is gaining more and more attention in societal debates and research. On an institutional level, disinformation is framed as a risk and a threat to democratic values by experts and researchers. Furthermore, disinformation is viewed as a measure of increasing polarization while it also destabilizes a society by decreasing trust. However, few studies focus on how individuals understand and perceive disinformation. This lack of knowledge is problematic as it not only entails an incomplete understanding of how the perception of disinformation may differ in relation to different power orders such as gender, ethnicity and age, but also how this differing perception may affect people's behaviors and attitudes.

Studies on risk perception have a long history of gathering information about what people perceive as a risk or risky.

In this study, we are taking a similar approach to disinformation, analyzing understandings of disinformation through the lens of intersectional risk theory, informing the field of risk perception as well as contributing with new perspectives on the role of disinformation in Swedish society. Using data from a national survey (n=2480) conducted in Sweden during 2023 as a part of the project People, measures and Resilience: new ways to study risk communication, responsibility and preparedness, this study explores how the perception of disinformation differ between different groups and how this may relate to different intersecting power orders.

Covid-19 and Uncertainty in Italy. Exposure to High Mortality and Fertility, the Case Study on the City of Bergamo

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The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on various aspects of daily life, including reproductive behavior. Women's fertility dynamics have been particularly affected, with many facing uncertainties and disruptions to their plans for having a child(ren).

However, it is important to note that the impact of the pandemic on fertility is multifaceted and varies between and within countries. In the academic debate, these variations in fertility dynamics can be attributed to several factors, including differences in government policies, cultural attitudes toward childbearing, and economic conditions. However few studies consider the role played by the perception of uncertainty (e.g. Guetto et al., 2022; Gatta et al., 2022). The goal of this paper is to fill this gap in the literature by studying the association between COVID-19, lockdowns, and exposure to death (two of the main sources of uncertainty) on the birth outcomes in Bergamo. We considered this city because it was one of the most impacted by the virus in the Western world. We used data from the national statistical agency to evaluate the relationship between the different components and birth outcomes, comparing the number of monthly births in the year before the pandemic and the second year of Covid-19. Preliminary results show that during the months of lockdown and high mortality, the number of conceptions decreases, and, conversely, during periods of re-opening and stabilization of deaths the number of conceptions increases. Our results seem to corroborate the argument that the perception of uncertainty has an important impact on the fertility dynamic, especially during a pandemic (and in general during catastrophic events).

RN22 | T05_01: Trust in Times of Crises

How Does Political Trust Associate with Economic and Environmental Policy Prioritization? A longitudinal analysis between 2017–2022

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Crises wield a considerable impact on individual's perceptions and attitudes. Thus, researchers have worked to unravel how attitudes towards ongoing long-term crises might be shaped by new significant adverse societal events. In our article, we examine the longitudinal development of economy-over-environment policy priorities during a period marked by several crises in Europe, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the escalation of Russo-Ukrainian war, which have contributed to the recent polycrisis. Furthermore, we explore the influence of political trust on policy priorities over time. We utilize a five-round panel dataset comprising 2,155 observations (N = 431) to examine both within and between individual variations from late 2017 to early 2023. Our findings reveal a significant increase in the prioritization of the economy across each observation period following the COVID-19 outbreak. However, this impact is not observed among individuals who possess high levels of trust in political institutions. The within-individual analysis indicates that high political trust tends to moderate rather than cause higher economy-over-environment policy prioritization. Our study highlights the significance of political trust as a deterrent to the deprioritization of environmental policies, particularly when societies confront significant risks and uncertainty.

Navigating Conflict and Building Trust: Resilience Strategies in a Culturally Diverse Academic Setting

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Our campus's cultural diversity provides a microcosm for investigating the dynamics of risk, conflict, and transition in a socio-politically charged context. The beginning of the war on October 7th exploded into uncertainty, stress, and deteriorating trust, dramatically affecting Jewish-Palestinian intergroup interactions. This study investigates the aftermath and consequences of these events, based on Nasraf's (2023) research, which emphasizes the critical significance of preserving a sense of normalcy in such volatile circumstances.

Our research investigates how shared academic activities, such as collaborative studies, joint projects, and mutual support, might help to alleviate concerns, perceived dangers, and profound mistrust between Jewish and Arab students. These interactions reflect a complex topography of risk assessment and coping methods inside the academic arena.

To build resilience and convert the college into a sanctuary of safety and inclusion, a dedicated emergency team comprised of Jewish and Palestinian personnel (including the writers) was formed in response to the crisis. We examine a unique approach established for this goal that is based on the ideals of respect, tolerance, and empathy. Staff seminars on supportive communication and visual exhibitions exhibiting Jewish-Arab partnerships, signifying unity and coexistence, were key initiatives.

This case study adds to the sociology of risk and uncertainty by demonstrating how educational institutions may act as crucibles for trust-building and solidarity during times of crisis. It lays forth a plan for institutional resilience and readiness in the face of sociopolitical upheavals, emphasizing the importance of education in bridging differences and building a culture of mutual understanding and respect.

COVID-19 and Governmental Trust in Turkey: Economic Determinants within a Heightened Risk Landscape

Altay Bayraktar, Barış Türkdoğan

Boğaziçi University, Türkiye

Throughout the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a precarious environment of substantial socio-economic risk and uncertainty that has greatly impacted the relationship between citizens and their governments. Accordingly, we center our study on the following question: "How has the change in people's economic status during the COVID-19 pandemic affected their level of trust in the government?". Studies investigating governmental trust during the pandemic have predominantly examined European countries, leaving other contexts in need of exploration. Furthermore, the literature has largely focused on the immediate aftermath of the pandemic while the economic consequences required a longer time frame for analysis.

As a country grappling with a severe economic crisis since 2018, Turkey presents a unique case to analyze the enduring economic impacts of the pandemic in a distinct context. During the early stages of the pandemic, the Turkish government distinguished itself from its European counterparts by not imposing a lockdown until April 2021 and keeping many businesses open. Nevertheless, many people were put on compulsory unpaid leave.

To determine the impacts of the economic changes on individuals' trust levels in the government, we employ data from Turkish Covid-19 Values Study (N=1500) from April-May 2022. Our main finding is that negative change in families' economic status since the start of the pandemic is strongly associated with lower trust in the government.

More generally, we suggest the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing economic bottleneck and highlighted the interdependence between the economy and trust in public institutions in times of crisis.

Social Determinants of Trust in Science: An Analysis Based on European Social Survey (ESS) Data

Francisco Javier Jiménez-Loaisa, Diana Jareño-Ruiz

Universidad de Alicante, Spain

The still recent pandemic crisis of COVID-19 has underscored the importance of social trust in science. Scientific literature has particularly emphasized the positive effects of trust in science on the acceptance and adherence to health experts' recommendations. Therefore, in this contribution, we inquire into 1) the general levels of trust in science and 2) its social determinants. Utilizing data provided by the European Social Survey (ESS), we conduct 1) a descriptive analysis of general levels of trust in science, disaggregated by countries, and 2) a regression analysis to identify the social determinants of trust in science. The results reveal that the average levels of trust in science are high. Trust in science is notably high in Northern European countries and notably low in Eastern European countries. Regarding social determinants, ideological self-positioning is the only variable with significant effects on trust in science. Right-leaning positions are associated with lower trust, while left-leaning positions are associated with higher trust. In conclusion, regional and ideological differences in trust levels in science may jeopardize decision-making processes both at the community and national levels, in the context of health crises or any other kind.

RN22 | T05_02: Digital Risk

Digital Risks as Experienced by Mental Health Rehabilitees and Social Care Work Professionals

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The intensification of digital society has generated new risks for individuals. Digitalization of public services has created situation in which the use of digital services involves risks that could lead to unpredictable and undesirable results for the individual and organization in question. Drawing on concepts from Beck's critical theory of the risk society, this study examines what kind of risks digitalization of society, and more precisely digitalization of public services cause for the clients of mental health rehabilitation services and the professionals working with them. The research data (7 focus group interviews, total 36 participants) was analyzed using both deductive and inductive content analysis. The results show that digitalization of public services cause risks which materialize in personal and organizational practices. The clients are excluded from digital society since they do not have access to digital public services due to various reasons. In addition, they encounter personal digital risks when using digital devices for example in recreational purposes (FB etc). Moreover, the professionals working with the clients find themselves in challenging professional and ethical situations when providing the clients digital support they need. They are forced to negotiate to whom the risks due to digitalization of public services are more harmful, to themselves or for the clients. Therefore, the strategy to implement digitalization in everyday practicalities on the organizational level challenges the professionalism of social care work and individual autonomy of the respective clients.

Sharenting – Distinguishing High and Low(er) Risk Practices

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The COVID-Pandemic has accelerated the digital communication on social media to maintain personal and professional relationships. Sharenting involves the sharing of identifying and sensitive information of minors, including photographs, information about health issues, birthdays, and the involvement in school and sporting events on social media. Disclosing personal data of minors can result in a wide range of data harms including surveillance and the contamination of digital and online identities of minors. In contrast to cybercrimes such as data theft, in the case of sharenting, child-centric personal data are shared

voluntarily. Data harms might result in cyber-crimes and both criminalised and non-criminalised online activities might affect minors in various, long-lasting, and irreversible ways. We consider sharenting a 'socio-technical practice' (Ugwudike et al. 2023) which is shaped by social expectations and the affordances of platform technologies. In this paper, we examine to what extent sharenters are aware of the risks of sharenting and how this shapes their practices, including their efforts to mitigate data harms and cybercrimes. Sharenters are not necessarily aware that their precautions are limited or can be undermined by other users. We draw on data from a from the ongoing multi-method research project, ProTechThem – Building Awareness for Safer and Technology-Savvy Sharenting which examines risky sharenting practices in both British and Italian social media contexts. While we are considering all forms of sharenting as risky, based on the analysis of semi-structured interviews we distinguish different forms of sharenting which vary concerning the risks (high, medium, low) they pose.

Systemic Risks and Organizational Challenges in Transformative Processes: 'Cybersecurity' in the Food Field

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1FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany; 2German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

This contribution will use the example of the food field to show how 'grand transformations', such as digital transformation(s) – often framed as (technical) solutions to existing 'grand challenges' – can give rise to (follow-up) systemic risks, such as cybersecurity. Drawing upon a review of organization, risk, labor, science and technology as well as communication studies literature, it will help to understand how organizations can react to and shape these complex transformations. In particular, it will discuss how dealing with systemic risks addresses individual behavior as well as technical-organizational structures and that society needs to go beyond purely technical problem solving towards a more substantial change in the way organizations deal with (systemic) risks. Mobilizing empirical insights from the food field it will show that, as problem solving extends to several levels, all actors and their communication with each other need to be considered. This means that in addition to questions of interfaces and inter-organizational value creation structures, questions at the process level – and hence the 'risk work' on the frontline – are central to the challenge of cybersecurity and arguably also other systemic risks. The contribution aligns with authors who call for more participatory architectures and distributed experimentation to address the complexity, uncertainty, ambiguity and rippling effects of systemic risks and overall transformations. Conceptually, it develops multi-disciplinary perspectives on the complex relationship between risk, communication and organizing.

Understanding Or Underestimating The Risk? Stigma Perception And Fear Of Online Identity Theft In Expert Users

Annalisa Plava, Veronica Moretti, Antonio Maturo

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Contemporary risks take on new characteristics and their effects are potentially unlimited. Progress and the digital transformation of society have provided criminals with new opportunities to obtain and misuse personal identity information. The emergence and spread of Online IDentity Theft (OIDT) is an example of this. Our data profiles in detail habits, tastes, purchases. What we often forget is that as users, we generate this content (and data).

These are risks that we assume in a way that is not always conscious.

Very little is known about the profile, needs and experiences of people whose identity information has been compromised or misused.

European victims of OIDT often do not report the crime, believing that the harm suffered is not significant enough.

With the aim of analysing the impact of OIDT in different European countries, but also to profile victims, the aim of this proposal is to understand what social determinants online identity theft is connected to.

Regarding the methodology we carried out 23 semi-structured interviews with experts and 43 structured interviews with victims. Preliminary results showing that:

(1) OIDT also affects expert users; (2) expert users often underestimate their perception of risk; (3) the higher the degree of trust and digital literacy, the lower the ability to report for fear of stigma-related secondary victimisation.

RN22 | T06: Trust and Expertise

Why People Listen To Expertise. Citizens' Uncertainty And Reasons For Accepting Expert Knowledge And Advice

Lars Thorup Larsen

Aarhus University, Denmark

Discussions about 'post-truth' or science skepticism often seem to imply that lay citizens are either for or against scientific rationality as a whole, as if being on either side of this divide would in itself clarify for people what they should do about different kinds of knowledge claims presented to them. This underlines that we know too little about expertise as seen from the lay citizens' perspective, especially how they assess the different cues presented to them by various knowledge authorities in society and how they act on their assessments. A previous survey study found that citizens follow advice from professional authorities whose expertise they see as unsafe to ignore due to its 'legitimate complexity' (Harrits & Larsen 2021). This paper digs deeper into why people listen to expertise and how they balance making their own decisions about life matters such as health against their other motivations to accept or reject various kinds of knowledge authorities. The paper is based on a large data set of 150 in-depth qualitative interviews collected among both skeptics and admirers of science in five countries. The aim is to develop a better theory of when, why and how lay citizens perceived expertise either as authoritative, or in some fashion as optional, whether it concerns their own everyday life decisions or it concerns political authorities who may follow or distance themselves from experts. Which resources do people feel they – or political authorities – need to sidestep professional advice, and what constitutes, in their mind, expert advice that cannot safely be ignored? And do people's own education, experience and social networks feed into their decision process about listening to expertise?

Making Up My Own Mind: Epistemological Autonomy and Expert Authority

Luis Vila-Henninger

Aarhus University, Denmark

With a rise in skepticism and distrust in the United States and Europe, we see a tension between people driven to accept science while rejections of scientific findings also prosper (Mann and Schleifer 2020). Recent research investigates how conservative Americans navigate this tension through 'epistemological individualism' and 'othering' (Carlson and Ramo 2022), e.g. when conspiracists openly replace expertise with their own alternative research. This research project stems from an interest in achieving a broader understanding of the thought processes lay people use decide to accept or question expert knowledge. In contrast to the conspiracists' individualism, this paper identifies a more generic form of 'epistemological autonomy' among a broader group of citizens ranging from skeptics to people who appreciate science. The core of epistemological autonomy is not about trusting experts but rather about individual autonomy and having control of one's own thought process. In doing so, individuals accept or reject advice from experts based on their understanding of themselves as being a credible judge of information. In this sense, epistemological autonomy is not adversarial, but rather is a way for people to equate themselves with experts. Thus, people who use this logic comply with knowledge authority not out of a sense of duty, but rather through a process of making up their own mind about what the expertise says. This finding contributes to research and theory of knowledge authority and political sociology. To investigate this question, we conducted 150 semi-structured interviews with people across five countries spanning Europe and the United States about why people follow the advice of experts.

Ambivalent Motivations in Authority Resistance: Unravelling the Discursive Fabric of Czech Conspiracy Positions

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Post-communist countries experience long-standing worse public health response than Western countries. It is associated with distrust in authorities, which raises questions about the implications of authority resistance for the legitimacy of public health regulation. In the Czech Republic, the understanding of authority resistance is underscored by the bipolarity of disinformation and facts and the interplay between the freedom of speech and public distrust in state institutions. Contrary to the prevailing approach that emphasises factual counter-argumentation, we contend that understanding the broader discourse of conspiracy positions is crucial for addressing the resistance to authority in science, politics, and media.

Employing a qualitative methodology, we conducted an interpretive analysis of 30 semi-structured interviews to unravel Czech citizens' motivations for resisting political, scientific, and media authorities. The study challenges the narrative, revealing a nuanced perspective that goes beyond a generalised opposition to experts embraced by 'post-truth' scholarship. While emphasising the importance of discursive framing in studying resistance and citizen response to risks, we explore how perceptions of individual autonomy, redistribution, merit, and social status relevant in a post-communist context construct a sense of control over individuals' decision-making and approaches to authority.

Our findings suggest that resistance to authorities is not a simple rejection but stems from complex interactions with

attitudes opposing the authorities. The analysis uncovers ambivalent motivations within the domains of science, politics, and media, highlighting references to "alternative" science or "common sense." These references serve not as support for authority but as reasons for disagreement. Specifically, citizens employ positivist and mainstream arguments, creating a discursive framework that allows them to oppose or challenge dominant scientific explanations, which are also involved in arguments legitimising public health regulation.

Trusting And/or Distrusting In Scientific Expertise: Exploring Continuities And Reasonableness

Patrick Brown

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

Mainstream approaches in the social sciences, medicine and public health have often moved to problematise various individuals or communities who are wary or distrustful of science and medicine. A tendency to want to 'correct' mistaken or misguided views through a 'deficit model' approach has remained surprisingly robust in public health and related policy approaches, as seemingly undergirded by disparaging discourses in mainstream media and politics around those who doubt science. Amid this wider context, we explore narratives of public understandings, (dis)trust and use of science and medicine, drawing upon data from 150 in-depth interviews with a range of citizens – from science advocates to those who would often be labelled anti-science – collected across five countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and the United States). Following work by Ruha Benjamin and Jaron Harambam, among others, we draw attention to continuities between trusting and ostensibly distrusting positions narratives regarding scientific and medical expertise. Virtually all our participants described themselves as being supporters of science, though what they understood as scientific evidence differed. More critical perspectives often echoed some common perspectives expressed by academics in medicine and social sciences. Moreover, all participants noted reservations about some features of medicine and science. In this sense our findings lead us to be critical of discourses implying two 'camps' (one pro-science, one anti-) or that we live in a post-truth / post-trust era. In emphasising the reasoned and reasonableness of more critical perspectives, we draw attention to the ways in which institutions (science, medicine, politics, media) have ignored, failed and/or harmed communities, rather than problematising these communities themselves.

RN22 | T07_01: Methods in Risk Research

Risk Storylines: a Methodological Proposal.

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In the field of risk management, the use of storylines has gradually become established as a method of describing the possible impact of emerging phenomena with a high degree of uncertainty that is only partially captured by the use of probabilistic models. The use of narrative techniques, which are based on research methods developed in the social sciences, is indeed considered increasingly effective for understanding the impacts of multi-hazard events, and for a deeper understanding of new socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Although Risk Storylines were first institutionalised by the IPCC and are increasingly discussed and used in the international policy arena, there is still little systematisation of them and little evaluation of how effective they are and how they can be used in combination with other social and strategic foresight tools.

The purpose of this presentation is to present a model for developing storylines in natural, environmental and climate risk management in cities. This model has been developed and tested as part of the project "RETURN – Multi-Risk Science for Resilient Communities Under a Changing Climate", supported by the Italian government with the aim of improving risk policies in urban contexts.

The first part of the paper presents the model for the construction of storylines, focusing in particular on two phases: an exploratory one, aimed at understanding the impact of multi-events, and a normative one, aimed at identifying good practices. The second part reports on the results of its application in the case of heat waves and extreme rainfall in two Italian urban contexts, different in size and complexity, but also in socio-economic vulnerability and exposure.

Dynamics of a Risk Regulation Regime: the Case of Head injuries in Swedish Ice Hockey

Olov Mikael Hemmingsson

Mid Sweden University, Sweden

This thesis explored the risk regulation regime related to head injuries in Swedish ice hockey, primarily by utilizing a corpus linguistic methodology. More specifically, three empirical studies were conducted for this purpose. The first one aimed to cover the media narratives through corpus-assisted discourse analysis. The second study aimed to map the information from the Swedish ice hockey community regarding long-term effects on athletes' health related to head trauma, including possible changes over time. The third empirical study aimed to map the contexts of local-political proceedings through collocation network analysis.

The thesis came with the ambition to contribute methodologically by applying corpus linguistics to a given risk regulation regime as well as theoretically by supplying a study to the bulk of such related to said type of regimes.

Results from the three empirical studies were analyzed using a theoretical framework where risk regulation regimes constituted the central analytical concept, while organizational legitimacy was used as a supporting framework.

The findings included an increased coverage of the risk in Swedish media and an increased tendency to promote positive societal effects from ice hockey among its community. Additionally, the political contexts in which the game of ice hockey was mentioned were mostly economically related. It was also found to be a crucial part of a general context of sports and other leisure activities in which benefits are emphasized. This was analyzed thoroughly by means of the theoretical framework.

Resilience Experience Index – Development of a new sociological tool to measure resilience

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The epidemic situation caused by the coronavirus has also severely affected European societies, with curfews and other restrictive measures changing people's daily lives. In the last phase of the epidemic, Századvég Foundation conducted a questionnaire survey in Hungary in the summer of 2021. Based on the data, it became clear that the psychological approach widely used to study resilience is only partially suitable for sociological studies based on the concept of resilience through survey data collection methods. Following some theoretical and some methodological insights, our new research in 2023 sought to develop a set of questions that could be used in cross-sectional research, focusing on sociological aspects and taking greater account of the individual's social relations. In designing the index, which is based on 20 statements, we took into account the theoretical literature that underpins the concept of resilience, as well as our own and others' empirical research. Each item sought to measure different aspects of resilience, for example agency and coping, abilities of being able to contact with others and to redesign, stress tolerance and creativity. The questions of the Experience of Resilience Index will be assessed on the basis of a large sample questionnaire survey that is representative of the Hungarian adult population according to the main socio-demographic criteria. In this presentation we will present the results of the testing of the instrument – based partly on quantitative data (the survey included additional standard question sets like individual and social resilience, stress, social support) and partly on complementary qualitative research (eighteen focus group discussions).

A Bibliometric Analysis of Articles Published on Risk Society and Uncertainties Between 2000-2023

Kayhan Delibas, Berivan Binay

Aydın Adnan Menderes University, Aydın – Turkiye

In the modern world, scientific knowledge production is increasing day by day. This situation makes it even more necessary to examine the knowledge produced about this world as well as the reality of the actual social world. Bibliometric analysis is a macro-focused analysis that measures and correlates the output of scientific items (author, journals, keywords, citation, institutions, countries, etc.) in a specific field. With bibliometric analysis, hundreds of studies belonging to a certain field can be analysed and the structure of the field and its course over the years can be obtained. Considering the social character of scientific knowledge, bibliometric analysis provides strategic data to understand the intellectual and social structure of the field under study.

The study aims to identify the reflections of risk society and uncertainties, which have become characteristic features of late modern societies, in the social science literature. The bibliometric method was used to evaluate the scientific production on risk society research between 2000 and 2023. Data were obtained from the online version of Web of Science. Scanning "sociology of risk and uncertainty", "trust, risk and social change", "media representations of risk" "risks and health", "risk and environmental", "resilience, disaster preparedness and risk", "reflexive modernity", It was made with the keywords "risk society" and "sociology of risk". The study will be discussed from a sociological perspective around the themes of (i) the frequency of discussing the subject over the years, (ii) keyword distributions of the authors (network analysis), (iii) research trends. Thus, the panorama of scientific production in the field of risk sociology will be revealed and will help determine the direction/course of future research.

Explaining Socio-spatial Dimension of Vulnerability and Resilience of Local Communities: Systematic Literature Review

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Space is an important dimension in addressing and governing multiple risks. The susceptibility of local communities to multiple risks and the capacity for resilience vary depending on geographical location and spatial attributes. Moreover, the term 'socio-spatial' has been utilized in recent research to describe the interconnectedness of social and spatial dimensions. Studies have shown, that space related factors such as level of urbanization, access to resources, and exposure to hazards (among others) significantly contribute to strengthening (or undermining) the resilience of local communities. Despite numerous studies exploring socio-spatial vulnerabilities and resilience of communities, there is a lack of effort to systematically review the available evidence in this field. The aim of this presentation is to explore what socio-spatial vulnerability related factors are relevant to the resilience of local communities. We employ systematic literature review and quantitative content analysis methodologies to study the academic publications from Web of Science and Scopus databases. Our research follows the PRISMA-P standards (Moher et al., 2015) for developing and reporting the results of the systematic literature review. The results of this analysis allow classifying the socio-spatial factors that have already been empirically proven to significantly explain vulnerability and resilience at local community level. The results also contribute to the conceptual discussions on socio-spatial dimension of vulnerability and resilience.

This presentation is based on the project „Socio-spatial determinants of societal vulnerability and resilience to crises and strengthening the crisis response potential of communities" (SERENITY), funded by the Research Council of Lithuania, no. S-VIS-23-21

RN22 | T07_02: Younger Generations and Risk

Urgent situation: Building Resilience through Interactive Learning in Risk and Crisis Management Education

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This paper explores the significant role of serious games in the realm of risk and crisis management education for building resilient societies. Games as educational tools in higher education can be used to facilitate active and interactive learning activities, which have particularly strong potential for development of collaborative and functional knowledge among students, such as communication skills, resourcefulness, adaptability, and other action competences. The presented serious game, Urgent Situation, is a board game designed to facilitate discussion and transformative learning on resilience among students studying risk and crisis management. The players navigate diverse roles within the broader societal context of the game, gaining insights into negotiation strategies and decision-making processes. The game's overarching goal is to present players with various scenarios, prompting them to gather information, negotiate measures, and coordinate tasks to enhance societal resilience. Urgent Situation employs realistic scenarios, offering players a high degree of decision-making freedom within the game environment. Throughout the game, hazardous events strike the society at random, promoting the students to collaboratively seek to advance resilience to a broad range of possible scenarios. The findings suggest that the game effectively stimulates discussion on diverse perspectives regarding societal resilience, emphasizing the collaborative investment and decision-making necessary for synergistic benefits across the entire society.

Set up to Fail – When System Responses to Juvenile Crime Mirror Distrust and Counteract Desistance

Ann-Karina Henriksen, Britt Ø Larsen

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This presentation centers on children's experiences of system responses to crime and how they can be counterproductive in desistance processes. In 2019, Denmark enacted a new policy reform, which introduced a new system of court-like proceedings and Youth probation service to children aged 10-17. Juveniles who commit violent or serious crimes are now adjudicated to so called 'Improvement programs' lasting 1-2 years with mandatory participation in interventions and supervision by Youth probation service. Based on interviews with 37 children who have been

enrolled in the new system, we analyze how the new system (de-)motivates desistance from crime. Drawing on desistance theory we argue that trust is a central perquisite in the desistance process, which punitive control elements can counteract. The lengthy 'Improvement programs' with monthly probation meetings and bi-weekly controls of compliance with all the program interventions sustain a deviant label and self-image and signal distrust in the child.

Despite the intentions with the reform to ensure timely interventions and support to children at risk of crime, children experience a system which centers on punishment, control and 'problem' solving. The system is inherently problem/failure centered, and it fails to recognize children's gradual transformation towards desistance. Children experience being trapped in a system centering on potential crime and deviant behaviour. For the most vulnerable children with adverse disadvantages, the new system is experienced as they are being set up to fail.

The Risk of Precatiate Among Young Graduates

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Our presentation describes the characteristics of precatiate among young graduates as well as the factors influencing it. It aims to map whether how regular the precar phenomena are among the young people who are in a favourdble labour market position. Thus, whether the risk of precariate is posed among them.

Precariate is defined as social and labour market uncertainity in which such unfavourable working conditions are concentrated as uncertain, short-term employment or temporary employment contracts (LaVaque-Manty 2009, Standing 2011).

Among other groups endangered by precariate, the presentation focuses on young graduates, and thus, it also analyses the theories dealing with their situation. In addition to the above mentioned factors, the empiric study also examines the risks for instance, unemployment or the horizontal and vertical match of professional skills and the work performed. The empiric secondary analysis is based on the 2018 database of Graduate Tracking System according to the answers of 15 102 recent graduates.

Results show that the risk of precariousness is made up of the following factors: type of contract (temporary), application of skills (not able to apply) type of work (does not require a degree), level of qualification (BA, BSc), place in the company hierarchy (subordinate). The risk of precariate is high in the case of 7.1 % of recent graduates, which indicates that Hungarian young graduates rather belong to the 'salariat' or 'proficians' groups defined by Standing. In this sense, a degree provides a certain protection against precariate (Standing 2011, 2014, 2018).

Reframing Risk And Uncertainty. An Analysis Based On The Everyday Rituals Of Young Adults Living In Milan In The Aftermath Of The Covid State Of Emergency.

Sonia Bergamo

Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Italy

My proposed contribution is rooted in a qualitative study that entailed the analysis of 42 interviews conducted in Milan between 2022 and 2023. Specifically, I investigated how young adults aged between 15 and 34 years have redefined risk in their daily routines following the end of the COVID-19 emergency, which lasted from January 31st, 2020, to March 31, 2022. The analysis I conducted incorporates Mary Douglas's theories of ritual and emotion, along with Beck's concept of cosmopolitics generation. The contribution will offer insights into how young adults perceive and deal with risks and demonstrate how they redefined the COVID-19 risk through their interactions with bodies, places, and materials that they considered risky or protective. Moreover, I have identified how social and cultural factors influenced their changing risk perception. By analyzing their representations and behaviours towards risk, I will show the factors that influence their decision-making processes. The insights provided by this study can be useful for policymakers, public health professionals, and individuals alike who are looking for ways to mitigate risks associated with future crises.

RN22 | T08_02: Risk Management

Balancing Innovation and Risk Management: The Role of Leadership in Performing Arts Organisations

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This paper investigates the role of strategic risk management in performing arts organisations (PAOs) such as theatre and dance companies and performing arts festivals. These organisations, and the cultural and creative sectors of which they are a part, face a number of inherent risks. Caves (2002), for instance, famously identified several distinctive characteristics of the cultural and creative sectors that point to major risk and uncertainty about the economic outcomes of creative activities. This paper looks at the role risk plays in performing arts organisations through an empirical study on its leadership. PAOs often, though not exclusively, work with a dual leadership structure based on structural ambidexterity consisting of an artistic and managing director (Järvinen, Ansio & Houni 2015). The paper investigates how risk is being perceived and operationalized by leaders in such institutions. How do artistic and managing directors influence risk culture and risk behaviour? Specifically, it analyses how leaders in PAOs balance risk management with innovation and risk-taking activities. Risk management and innovation are frequently seen as opposites: risk management and risk averse behaviour are considered to discourage and inhibit innovation (e.g. Gurd & Helliar 2017). We will also study responses to balance this tension between risk management and innovation, such as deletion, compartmentalisation, aggregation or integration (Mometti & Van Bommel 2021). This paper is part of a larger research project aiming to develop a risk management instrument for the performing arts sector, which helps managers make decisions on risk taking and mitigation, as well as on communicating about risks.

Challenging Numbers, Graphs and Decision Making – the Role of Digital Dashboards for Risk and Crisis Communication

Till Bueser, Thomas Kox

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Dashboards are increasingly important as medium for communicating complex issues to both experts and the general public. In addition to being used in professional environments, dashboards have become established as a public communication format for many different applications, in data journalism, as information platforms for public institutions or in the healthcare sector. The recent pandemic has further demonstrated how dashboards enable the visualization of important key figures and data in real time for risk and crisis communication purposes, enabling critical procedures and processes to be communicated amongst decision-makers and experts as well as to the general public.

Despite its frequent use, there is still a certain lack of clarity as to what is meant by a dashboard. Risk and crisis communication faces particular challenges, where dashboard-related information serves as a seemingly objective basis for control, decision support and risk-based decision-making. However, critical decisions can have a significant impact on the environment, social order, and technical processes, as the effects of these decisions are often unclear and can cause unknown cascading effects. Therefore, it is crucial to take into account the issues of uncertainty, ambiguity and illusion of control when making decisions based on digital dashboard applications as these applications may give rise to hidden communicative ruptures.

In our talk we would like to introduce a definitional framework on the topic of digital dashboards and discuss the challenges of using them in the field of risk and crisis communication, based on the results of a scientific workshop and ongoing empirical research.

Between Crisis and Recovery: a Multidimensional Framework for Understanding Organizational Restructuring and Media Discourse

Francesco Nespoli

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In recent years, the global economy has experienced several downturns leading organisations to implement restructuring strategies, often resulting in job cuts to regain lost competitiveness (De Meuse 2023). However, literature has observed that as the economy recovers, firms keep managing market uncertainties through temporary or permanent redundancies (Capelli & Bidwell 2016).

In this context, Industrial Relations has become a battleground for ideological debate, leading to a renewed public exposure of trade unions. Their aim is to present reported crises as a pretext for efficiency gains (Nespoli, 2018; Martin, 2019).

The recognised convergence of crisis and risk management communication (Reynolds & Seeger 2007, Hardy et al. 2018) is then crucial in organisational restructuring as companies must address the potential reputational damage from media coverage (Millar & Heath 2003, Stäbler et al., 2023).

Drawing on rhetorical arena theory, I emphasise that trade unions are not only collective intermediaries (Frandsen & Johansen 2016), but also have their own organisational goals (such as building trust and fostering solidarity) and

influence within the gatekeeping process (Schmitter & Streeck 1985, Shoemaker & Vos 2009).

This research then presents a theoretical model that identifies multidimensional, context-specific factors that influence the media coverage of organisational restructuring. The model highlights the interplay of socio-cultural, industrial, market, and company-specific elements yet not explicitly linked to media exposure.

The aim of this study is to create a comprehensive framework for interpreting how media portrays business crises in democratic capitalist systems.

It is recommended that future studies empirically test the validity of this framework.

Supporting or Preventing Change? Risk In Inmates' Self-narratives

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In the criminal justice system today, risk assessments have evolved over the last decades to support a diverse set of institutional goals and processes. They play an integral role in shaping how practitioners understand and intervene in the lives of offenders in the service of lowering future crime rates. However, our knowledge about how inmates perceive and respond to their own perceived risks remains limited. This paper examines how inmates' talk about risk and how the concept of risk shape their self-narratives and expectations for the future. The study draws on qualitative interviews conducted with 40 inmates in 12 Danish prisons. A thematic content analysis of the data identified three overarching categories: 1) The initial encounter with the risk gaze, 2) When risk assessments fail to attend correctly, 3) A lesson learned for their future. By focusing on how inmates give meaning to risk, we can gain valuable insights into the often fragile experiences of self as reported by the interviewees. The discussion interprets these categories as contributing to narratives of personal transformation. The paper argues that risk assessments paradoxically generate uncertainty and mistrust, which is apparent when the inmates reflect on the present and their future. The paper demonstrates that risk as a discursive category, can hardly capture subjective understandings, the ambiguities of identity, narrative progression or the social context in which personhood is enacted.

RN22 | T09: Risk and Public Safety

Building cities, building capacity: Mixed methods to identify Good Practices

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According to recent estimates by the U. N., 4.4 billion people currently live in urban areas, and it is expected they will rise to 5.1 billion by 2050. Due to the population, activities and services density, metropolitan areas have developed high vulnerability and exposure to risks, increasing the need of tools and strategies for risk reduction, emphasizing prevention and resilience building.

Various national and international programs have been initiated to manage the new elements of risk and to promote resilient communities. Among these, the U.N., through the Hyogo Framework 2005-2015, established a paradigm recognizing multi-risk in urban areas, emphasizing the need to consider multiple factors of exposure and vulnerability in risk management. The Sendai Framework 2015-2030 defines four priorities to identify risk mitigation strategies; within this framework, the program dedicated to local contexts is the "Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient."

Within this scenario, this contribution aims to suggests a methodology for approaching the operationalization of risk governance, which is currently under development in the PNRR project titled "RETURN – Multi-Risk Science for Resilient Communities Under a Changing Climate."

By analysing the dimensions and indicators of the Senday Framework, through the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities, and matching them with other programs (such as: Australian Disaster Resilience Index, City Resilience Index, and Baltimore DP3), we highlight similarities and differences among the visions underlying these frameworks, providing a critical comparison of the different approaches. The main aim of the research is to identify the key elements and the socio-structural indicators for generating capacity building and resilience in metropolitan cities, which are exposed to natural risks and increasingly aggressive extreme events induced by global warming.

Environmental Risks through the Eyes of the Citizens: Participatory Mapping in Klaipėda

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Participatory mapping is a tool with extensive application possibilities, which could help to assess the current situation, provide insights into geographical and physical conditions, and indicate opportunities and challenges. That is why it is considered as a valuable addition to the city planning toolkit. As cities gain more and more power due to the concentration of human resources and economic opportunities, cities also aim to empower their citizens to be responsible and contribute to the development of their neighbourhood or entire city. During the empirical investigation, participatory mapping activities were carried out in Klaipeda, the third-biggest city in Lithuania. It is also a seaport city close to the Lithuanian-Russian border with vast industrial ambition. Since the main focus of this investigation was public risk perception, participatory mapping allowed to accumulate data and explore what, how and why citizens described certain elements as risks to them directly or causing the risk. Such data served to create a visual representation of public perception of their neighbourhoods and city. Additionally, the comparison between such visualizations and different risk maps of the city prepared by the experts discloses the gaps of public perception and could be used as a foundation for communication strategies, awareness campaigns and general society education.

Acknowledgement: This Post-doctoral research has received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT), agreement No. S-PD-22-20.

Experiences of Public Safety: An Intersectional Analysis of Unsafety in Public Space

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Safety is often oversimplified as the absence of crime, neglecting the intricate interplay between our bodies, social positions, experiences, and societal power structures that shape individuals' perceptions of public spaces and what is deemed unsafe. While existing critical (often qualitative) research acknowledges this complexity, the current study introduces an exploratory statistical method grounded in an intersectional perspective to deepen our understanding. The primary argument is that unequal power relations among social groups should be integral to safety analyses. This study aims to combine the strengths of intersectional theory, emphasizing diverse social experiences, with the generalizability and analytical capabilities of quantitative methods.

The study employs an intersectionally grounded exploratory quantitative analysis of safety, utilizing Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) to unravel the intricate interactions between structural oppressions, privileges, and subjective experiences of risk and safety in public spaces. Empirically, the study uses survey data from The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) focusing on a local police district in northern Sweden. The theoretical foundation draws on intersectional theory. By integrating intersectional theory with quantitative methods, the study unveils the tangible impact of power structures on individuals' lives and societal dynamics.

Conclusively, the study reveals that feelings of (un)safety in public spaces are inseparable from power dynamics and individuals' opportunities to claim and appropriate public space. Thereto, the study contributes to how quantitative studies of risk and (un)safety can be further deepened.

Impact of Geopolitical Threats on Subjective Perception of Security in Lithuania

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Due to Russia's war in Ukraine the geopolitical situation of Lithuania has changed. Inevitably, the changed situation affected subjective perceptions of security of the people. This paper examines subjective perception of security and public safety regarding a risk of becoming a victim of crime. In addition, this paper looks at behavioural strategies that people develop in response to the threats.

This paper is based on empirical data from numerous representative surveys that were conducted in the period of 2006-2023 at the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. As the research data shows, there is a positive tendency in peoples' attitudes regarding their safety. Data shows a significant increase in the number of people who feel safe in their immediate environment, have a positive assessment of the criminogenic situation and believe that a risk of becoming a victim of crime is low. However, the study reveals as well that the unfavourable geopolitical situation and Russia's war in Ukraine affected people's attitudes and adjusted perception of risks. The number of people who consider Lithuania a safe country decreased from 76% in 2021 to 69% in 2023, while illegal migration, violent crimes, cybercrimes and crimes related to drugs, as well as corruption, remain important public security issues for the people.

RN23 | Sexuality

RN23 | T01_01: Sexuality, Belonging, Inequalities

Taxing Sex Work in Europe: Citizenship, Belonging and Recognition

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To address the overlooked link between taxation and sex work, in this paper we explore how sex workers in three European countries with different legal and fiscal approaches to prostitution, Italy, Portugal and Switzerland, understand and negotiate tax policies and practices. We approach the taxation of prostitution as a vehicle for exploring the conditions under which sex workers are, or are not, legible to themselves and others as citizens with full rights. We bridge three bodies of scholarship: sex industry studies, critical taxation studies, and citizenship studies to address these interrelated questions: How can we advance our understanding of citizenship by looking at the tax experiences of sex workers? How can we further our understanding of taxation as a marker and maker of citizenship by looking at the experiences of sex workers? Empirically, we present one of the few studies to explore sex workers' perspectives on the tax regimes they operate within and how they negotiate the challenges they face in their quest for full citizenship. Drawing on interviews conducted in the three countries, we show how our participants make sense of and negotiate very different fiscal policies and practices, how these affect their sense of self and belonging, and the challenges they face on a daily basis in their confrontation with economic, housing and social exclusion.

To Defy Is To Belong: WLW Identities In The Israeli Military

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Sexual practices and gender performances are well-studied aspects of queer citizenship, both as objects of state surveillance and control and as differentiating aspects of different models of queer identity. I look into how WLW Jewish Israeli soldiers perform sexuality and gender as part of their relationship with the military as a state institution.

Studies of homonational politics often focus on state institutions or LGBTQ political organizations, deemphasizing queer homonational subjectivity. This paper focuses on the experiences of WLW individuals as they contend with a state institution that is identified with homonational politics, militarism, and hyper-masculinity. This focus allows for an analysis of sexual and gender practices as tools to mitigate moral ambivalence and as a tenet of emergent homonational identities.

This paper is based on a qualitative, narrative analysis of in-depth, semi-structured interviews with Jewish Israeli WLW former soldiers. The informants described the military as a paradoxical site of belonging and othering. The hyper-masculine gender regimes exacerbated homophobia and misogyny while creating rare opportunities for sexual experimentation and performing female masculinity. These women channeled sexual and gendered expression to highlight distinctions between them and their male counterparts and maintain a sense of belonging to the military unit and the state.

This analysis innovates our current understanding of how bargaining with state institutions interweaves the formation of queer subjectivities. Furthermore, it sheds new light on attempts to harness and reinvent liberal or militarist feminism as narratives and tactics for opposing male dominance in settings shaped by powers that devalue women and femininity.

Women Who Pay for Sexual Services: A Study on Motivations and Empowerment Through Commercial Enactments of Female Sexuality

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This dissertation study examines the commercial sex from the experiences of female-identified clients and the sexual service providers catering to women in Finland. Female clients have been overlooked in academic research due to prevailing assumptions that sex workers are exclusively women serving heterosexual men. Guided by the ethics of care as a theoretical framework, this study explores the motivations driving women to pay for and offer sex, examining how these transactions contribute care through sexual exploration and empowerment. The study delves into sexual service providers' perceptions of their role and the demand from female clients. Emphasizing participant-driven insights through in-depth interviews, this research recognizes participants as experts in their experiences and uses Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) in the analysis. The initial findings reveal that women engage in these transactions for sexual exploration, empowerment, and the fulfillment of intimacy and pleasure, challenging established norms and stereotypes, and providing nuanced insights into female sexuality and the sex industry. Amplifying the voices of female clients and service providers, it aims to generate fresh knowledge about behaviours, practices, and experiences within the industry. The research further explores female sexual pleasure, desire, and agency, contributing to the development of novel theories of sexuality. In addition to destigmatizing sex work, this research holds potential implications for positive shifts in policy and gender relations. Building on more nuanced understanding

human sexuality within the context of commercial sex and ethics of care is vital to the gender emancipation in the economy.

Silence and Wait: Systematic Inequality On Trans People's Access To Reproductive Health In Portugal

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Since 2018, Portugal has had one of the most progressive legislations on gender identity recognition, achieved after years of struggles and activism from the LGBTI+ movement. Nevertheless, there is silence on public policies to materialize trans people's access to reproductive healthcare, prejudice from healthcare professionals in providing those services, and long waiting lines to access proper reproductive health services. Using the Reproductive Justice framework, this paper conducts a systematic review of the literature on reproductive health in Portugal to question the discourses on trans people's access to reproductive healthcare, examining how this can be more comprehensively addressed. Drawing upon archival research spanning national legislation and healthcare guidelines from 2018 to 2023, along with insights gleaned from interviews with healthcare professionals catering to the trans community, this study constructs a critical analysis of the reproductive challenges encountered by trans individuals. The focus is on their symbolic sterilization and the subtle implications of passive eugenics. The examination delves into the discourse surrounding trans people's reproductive healthcare, scrutinizing the perspectives upheld by Portuguese normative standards and healthcare professionals. This work contributes to comprehending the social dynamics of reproductive health among trans people in Portugal so that it can be improved, and their human rights can be realized. Trans people are not sterile by default, and it is their right to have the opportunity to make informed choices at the proper time about their reproductive life, as well as to access proper reproductive healthcare to materialize those choices.

RN23 | T01_02: Pornography, Consumption and Representation

The Ethical Porn Consumer

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Stakeholders such as police, NGO's, and therapists suspect that the people who report material to child sexual abuse hotlines often have sexual thoughts about children themselves, but research into this type of reporting is extremely scarce. This mixed-methods study draws on both quantitative reporting data from the Danish and Belgian hotlines and qualitative interviews with Danes, who have reported or considered reporting child sexual abuse material. We use descriptive and narrative analysis to explore how, when, and what people report. Quantitatively we find that – despite very different reporting rates and sexual cultures – the two hotlines from Belgium and Denmark have similar reporting quality in terms of how often the reported material warrants reporting according to national law. About a quarter of the reported images qualify as CSAM and can be investigated criminally in the two countries. We also find significant covariation in reporting times but different characteristics of the reported images themselves. Qualitatively we find that (potential) reporters explain to have stumbled upon the images while browsing online – in some cases for porn – and that they experienced a moral and ethical imperative to help the depicted child. These emotions are, however, mixed with shock reactions as well as shame, fear, and frustration. We argue that knowledge about the complexities of finding sexually abusive images online are currently poorly understood. Reporters' helping behavior is unacknowledged in the professional field of child protection – as well as in public discourse – which can negatively impact reporting rates because it stigmatizes reporters.

"Lesbian Porn Ticks That Box": Sexual Subjectivity and the Category of Lesbian Porn

Rotem Avgar

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In recent years, the growing number of women who watch porn received attention from scholars in various fields of research. Furthermore, Pornhub Insights, the statistical blog of "the world's biggest porn site," suggests that one-third of its dozens of millions of entries a day are of women, analyzing this demographic category with regard to preferences and habits.

A notable phenomenon within this demographic is the consistent popularity of the Lesbian category, challenging established assumptions concerning the category's intended

audience, i.e., men, and the role sexual identity plays in pornographic content choice.

In my talk, I will delve into the motivations underlying the engagement of heterosexual women with lesbian pornography. The methodology used encompasses an exploration of online articles written by and about straight viewers, seeking to unveil the multifaceted factors contributing to their habitual consumption of lesbian porn. This study posits lesbian pornography, even the highly criticized mainstream one, as a platform for straight women to explore and articulate their desires, thereby shaping a new sexual subjectivity.

In addition to this, I will present an analysis of a sample of popular lesbian pornos available on Pornhub, pointing to the ways in which characteristics of this mainstream category may, in fact, be advantageous for its straight women viewers.

Pornline: New Spaces Mean New Representations? Bodies, Gender and Sexual Practices Through the Lens of Pornhub, Xnxx and Xvideos Video Previews

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Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

If sexuality is perceived as a marginal topic in sociology, this seems truer for pornography, whose field of study seems to be considered a dirty work (Irvine 2014). But it is unquestionable that nowadays sexual contents are available more than ever (Paasonen 2019). This visibility is possible thanks to pornographic

platforms, which are the main containers of pornographic offer. The multiplication of sexual contents and the easy access open up new interrogatives related to new sexual practices and to the changes of morality.

The idea of this research is that the unprecedented number of representations of bodies and sexual practices offered by porn platforms today could be a useful opportunity – far away from censorship – to investigate sexual desires, by exploring the content offering. In addition, sociological studies around the topic of online pornographic contents are prevalent unexplored by literature.

For this reason, we are presenting a research that focuses the attention on representations of bodies in porn platforms. We have collected in six months – using the technique of the analysis of content – 850 previews of the videos categorized as Top of the day in Italy in the three most visited platforms in Italy and in the world: Pornhub, Xvideos, Xnxx. We have selected 386 previews from Pornhub, 284 from Xvideos and 180 from Xnxx.

The aim is to explore how bodies are represented in this kind of platforms: what are the effects of technological transformation of porn in bodies' representations? What the representations of sexual practices can tell us about sexual preferences and tastes in the contemporary era? Are there any differences related to gender roles in representation of bodies?

RN23 | T02_01: Sexuality, Digital Perspectives and Experiences

Beyond Consent: Navigating Digital Intimacy and Legal Discrepancies Among Danish Youth

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Until recently, research focusing on the production and sharing of intimate images non-consensually has primarily examined the phenomenon within the scope of sexual violation, abuse, and risky behaviour. Yet, little is known about how young people define and negotiate boundaries when non-consensually sharing intimate images. In Denmark, the concept of digital violence has similarly gained footing within the past few years in describing digital violations such as sextortion, hurtcore, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. Despite legal efforts to address these crimes, an increasing share of young people in Denmark is exposed to (and often simultaneously guilty of) digital sexually transgressive behaviour. This paper presents research suggesting that there is a discrepancy between how young people perceive these violations and how they are prosecuted and sentenced within the Danish criminal justice system. Drawing upon focus groups and interviews with young people (15-25 years old), the paper provides insights into how socio-technological dynamics, sexuality, and legal boundaries form part of a complex practice, to some extent legitimising actions of sharing intimate images without consent.

Dicking Around: Choreographing Dick Pics in Public Sexual Digital Interactions

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The phenomenon of the "dick pic" has attracted much scholarly and popular attention. Most discussions around the topic focus on private one-on-one digital interactions, and studies that regard the public aspects of dick pics focus on issues of consent and harassment or subversive responses and reinterpretations of dick pics. While the affective force of the dick pic is recognized, the focus on private exchanges creates a monolithic view of how they are used in sexual interaction.

Studies of public digital sexual interactions are often examined through the theoretical prisms of community building, identity construction, and subjectification. Recent research

has considered how public digital sexual interactions create specific collective affects, yet there is still a paucity of studies examining how collective affective environments shape digital sexual interactions.

Based on ongoing mixed methods research, this paper analyzes the public exchanges of dick picks among Israeli gay and bisexual men on Twitter (X). Combining a symbolic interactionist perspective and theories of intimate digital publics, we examine how a sexual environment created on a public digital platform shapes different utilizations of dick pics within sexual interactions.

By studying textual, meta-textual, and visual elements of dick pic posts, we show how within an affective environment of constant collective arousal, dick pics become a form of participation and contribution to an ever-ongoing mass erotic conversation as the paradigmatic sign of male sexual arousal. More broadly, this case study allows us to better understand how digital affordances and collective affective spaces shape interactive dimensions of digital sexuality.

Navigating Digital Intimacies: Italian Teenagers' Insights into Their Everyday Digital Practices

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The relationship between digital practices, gender, and intimacy in teenagers' everyday life is gaining growing attention. Current research has explored digital media as environments that offer young people agency and spaces where they can construct and perform their identity, with specific regard to gender and intimacy.

In our paper we investigate how Italian teenagers (aged 16-18) (re)define their understanding of gender and intimacy by engaging with digital media and incorporating it into their daily lives. We adopt a media practice paradigm in order to analyse what young people do with and through digital media, examining how teenagers (re)negotiate their gender identities and intimate life in their everyday use of digital media.

We are conducting six focus groups with students aged 16-18 from secondary schools in six cities in three Italian regions. Focus groups employ mood boards as visual elicitation methods to prompt participant discussion and enable participants to express themselves and reflect about sensitive topics such as sexuality, intimacy, and gender identities. The empirical material collected from the focus groups will be analysed using critical discourse analysis (focus group transcripts) and visual content analysis (moodboards).

Our results are expected to cover a wide set of digital practices, including the management of teenagers' self-representations on social media, their use and views on dating apps, the exchange of intimate content via mobile phones and/or the Internet, as well as the practices of sharing information regarding gender or sexual issues with specific networked publics.

RN23 | T02_02: Doing LGBTQI+ History: between Memory and Future

The Importance Of Collecting LGBTI Historical Memory In Dictatorships: The Portuguese Case

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The History learned at schools is the history of winners, directly related to the official memories of States, although another "history", or "stories", are written in the margins. These other stories are constituted of weak memories (as Enzo Traverso calls them) associated with subordinate and oppressed groups. When the concern with the collection of memories of subordinated people began to emerge in the mid-1980s, stories were collected about the oppression and resistance of people called "without history": workers, political dissidents, women, indigenous peoples, ethnic and racialized minorities. Following the path other European countries have taken, Portugal has witnessed a process whose goal is to make sexual and gender diversity visible. The academic world has launched several publications related to these themes, from the emergence of the LGBTI movement to the achievement of civil rights. However, these works only address a part of the history, that begins in the democratic period.

On the 50th anniversary of the end of the dictatorship, what has been done to recover these weak memories? This communication aims to take a journey through investigations and other initiatives whose objective was to recover LGBTI historical memory, particularly during the dictatorial period, which prevailed in Portugal between 1926 and 1974.

Daniela Ferrández Pérez, Mapping the Recovery and Dissemination of Memories of Sexual Dissidence in Spain: Status, Initiatives, and Future Perspectives

Daniela Ferrández

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[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel Doing LGBTQI+ History: between Memory and Future organized by the research project REMEMBER at CES-UC]

In recent years, there has been an international upsurge of memorialist movements calling for the inclusion of sexual dissidence in the memory policies developed by public administrations.

These demands point out that the LGBT collective, as we understand it today, remains

excluded from the public transmission of democratic memory. Therefore, recovering their

stories and memories becomes a necessary element for advancing social justice and civic values. Based on this premise, the objective of this communication is to compile and position the main academic, institutional, and activist initiatives that have been developed in Spain to recover the memory of sexual dissidence. Through this qualitative review, the interrelation and dialogue between academia, activism, and institutions in the development of these initiatives will be analysed. Similarly, the mapping will enable the identification of the territorial distribution of memory recovery projects, as well as the main contents and themes of interest from which they draw, and the primary means used for their dissemination.

The results of this mapping are not only useful for understanding the current state of the public recovery of memories of sexual dissidence in Spain but also for reflecting on potential future perspectives.

From Embodied Experiences To Future Intervention: Creating A Toolkit On LGBTQ+ Ageing People's Needs

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[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel Doing LGBTQI+ History: between Memory and Future organized by the research project REMEMBER at CES-UC]

LGBTQ+ people in later life tend to have poorer health and often harder experiences in healthcare than the rest of the population. Also, they show higher risks of chronic illnesses, dementia and/or mental health issues, as the effect of cumulative discrimination in life. The paper analyses the process of creation of the first toolkit on LGBTQ+ health in later life, created for healthcare providers in Portugal in 2024. The toolkit followed the inputs collected during the project "REMEMBER – Experiences of older LGBTQ+ in Democratic Portugal (1974-2020)". In the first phase, through biographical interviews with LGBTQ+ ageing people, we identified key issues to be addressed with healthcare providers and suggestions stemming from lived experiences. Second, we analysed examples of guidelines, toolkits and learning frameworks from different countries and identified additional topics of interest. Third, we constructed a toolkit in which personal experiences generate guidelines. The toolkit uses an accessible language and is available both online and on paper. In the paper, we advance that the process that led to the creation of the toolkit is an example of co-constructed scientific knowledge in healthcare. The interdisciplinary triangulation between academia, healthcare providers and LGBTQ+ people is fundamental to generating a positive impact on the practices of healthcare and can lead the way to shape a different future for LGBTQ+ ageing people.

Between Invisibility And Authenticity – LGBTQ+ Ageing In Contemporary Portugal

Ana Lúcia Santos

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[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel Doing LGBTQI+ History: between Memory and Future organized by the research project REMEMBER at CES-UC]

Ageing as an LGBTQ+ person in contemporary Portugal occurs over an era marked by the accomplishment of numerous legal rights, juxtaposed with a historical backdrop of prolonged dictatorial and social oppression. This historical context may have a profound influence on how older individuals perceive their later years concerning non-normative sexual orientation or gender identity. The dual stigma faced by this population, as both older citizens and members of a sexual minority, underscores the imperative of disclosing their unique experiences. This presentation centres on biographical interviews with LGBTQ+ people who have experienced significant life transitions, focusing on ageing in contemporary Portugal after experiencing youth and adulthood during a dictatorship. The presentation aims to highlight the life narratives of both transgender and cisgender individuals, evidencing the need for inclusive approaches, including creating inclusive social spaces and ensuring access to health services. By sharing life stories, this study seeks to unveil narratives of resilience, resistance, authenticity, and the ongoing advocacy for rights within the LGBTQ+ community.

RN23 | T03_01: LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe

Ain't I a Queer? Getting Old at the Crossroads of Queer Pride and Ageist Pain

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[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe organized by the research project TRACE at CES-UC]

Abstract:

Portugal has been considered one of the safest destinations for LGBTQI+ people, raking highly according to the ILGA Europe's Rainbow Map 2023 and other prestigious indicators in the past decade. However, such acknowledgement of diversity does not take into account the full spectre of the life course, leaving older queers in a situation of extended vulnerability.

More specifically, there is a tension expressed by older LGBTQI+ people over 60: the idea of feeling torn between self-identity as sexual and/or gender diverse, on the one hand, and social expectations related to age and ageing, on the other. Such juncture of LGBTQIphobia and ageism is often a motif of unspoken pain at a moment when political resources are not (yet?) available to protect this population both within the LGBTQI+ community and the realm of legal and social policies. The complexity of queer ageing experiences is enhanced under the current climate of populism, anti-gender backlash and the resurgence of extreme-right wing ideals.

Drawing on biographic narrative interviews conducted in Portugal in the context of the REMEMBER and TRACE research projects, the paper will evolve around the experiences of ageing with pride and ageing with pain, focusing on the embodied knowledge offered by older LGBTQI+ people towards more inclusive and democratic societies.

A Queer Metamorphosis: Exploring the Evolution of LGBTQ People's Rights and Ageing in the Maltese Archipelago

Joana Brilhante

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[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe organized by the research project TRACE at CES-UC]

In the span of approximately a decade, the Mediterranean microstate archipelago of Malta underwent a profound transformation. From being a nation where divorce was prohibited until 2011 and receiving a 0% score on the 2012 ILGA Rainbow Europe Index, Malta has metamorphosed into an exemplary country regarding LGBTQ legal protection among European counterparts and the world. Even though it is regarded as a bastion of queer rights, the existing literature still reveals a gap in what concerns the human rights of older LGBTQ individuals. This paper presents preliminary findings from a qualitative, multi-methods ongoing investigation in Malta. By examining the intersection of LGBTQ rights and ageing, the study delves into the complex interplay between the legal framework, stakeholders' opinions, and the lived experiences of the older LGBTQ individuals interviewed. These preliminary findings contribute to a nuanced understanding of the distinctive needs within this particularly vulnerable population, thus bridging the gap not only in the literature but also between law and practice.

Introductory remarks on LGBTQI+ Ageing in Greece

Pako Chalkidis

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[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe

organized by the research project TRACE at CES-UC]

Although sexual practices between adult men were decriminalised in Greece in 1951 and the first homosexual groups were already formed since the late 70s following the fall of the seven-year military junta regime, it was not until 2014, amidst the Greek financial debt crisis, that Greece''s legislation regarding LGBTQI+ rights began to shift from a negative stance to a more inclusive one. This change was mainly due to pressure deriving from European guidelines, and the European Court of Human Rights. In the decade that follows, from 2014 to today, Greece according to ILGA-Europe (2023), has made significant improvements in the legal and policy situation of LGBT people, and now ranks among the highest of the 49 countries evaluated. This paper focuses on a society that is ageing at one of the fastest rates in the European Union, with people over 65 years old accounting for 22.82% of the total population (Statista, 2023), and seeks to unfold some preliminary remarks revolving around a yet-to-open question: How do people over 60 who have lived and aged as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or intersex (LGBTQ+) in Greece recount the traces, if any, generated in their life course by this tremendous legislative transition from the criminalized figure of the homosexual residing in the Penal Code (back in the 1950s) to the multicoloured statistics classifying the European Rainbow Map and Index of LGBTI equality rights, laws, and policies?

LGBTQ+ And Ageing In Italy: An Intersectional Perspective

Irene Massa

CES / Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

[I wish this paper to be considered within the panel LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe organized by the research project TRACE at CES-UC]

The history of LGBTQI+ rights in Italy is characterised by what is called "repressive tolerance": no openly hostile laws, but only as long as homosexual behaviour was kept in the shadows.

From the 1950s to the birth of the first associations in the 1970s there is evidence of

systematic persecution of LGBTQI+ people, who now fall within the age group considered "elderly". The condition of LGBTQI+ older people, known in the literature as "queer unwanted", can be placed within a framework of intersectional discrimination, as they are discriminated against by LGBTQI+ younger people due to ageism, by heterosexual older people due to homonegativity and by care services due to heteronormative culture. The current generation of older people is also the first to grow old with HIV, so they are also pioneers in this aspect. The increase in life expectancy in fact leads people to be confronted with polypharmacy, of which there are not enough studies due to the absence, so far, of a sample of older people. The current research is limited in number and does not provide enough information to understand the population in its entirety, which is made up of different economic and social conditions. The aim of this presentation is to understand the current experiences of LGBTQI+ people over 60 regarding intimate citizenship in a Southern European context such as Italy, where there are no laws protecting the quality of life of this population and where the threats of the extreme-right are becoming more tangible.

RN23 | T03_02: Sexuality and Trust: Critical Perspectives

On the Role of Trust in Sexting as Boundary Work

Rikke Amundsen

King's College London, United Kingdom

Focusing on the concept of 'boundaries', this presentation will examine how trust is used to navigate boundaries in the context of adult male sexting practices with women. 'Sexting' will here be understood as the creating, sending, and receiving of private sexual texts and images (still or moving), usually through the use of digital technology. The presentation will draw on interviews conducted between May 2022 and May 2023 with adult self-identifying men based in London and Cambridgeshire, UK, about their use of digital technology when sexting with women. Some of the 15 participants taking part in this study expressed high levels of concern about the worry that – in sending sexting material to women – they might inadvertently cross the receiver's boundaries. This concern was generally linked to worries about acting without consent and, consequentially, associated with some of the harmful sexual activities discussed in public and media discourse in relation to, for instance, #MeToo. At the same time, whilst these participants were concerned about crossing the boundaries of their receiver when sexting, sexting was also cast as an opportunity to rid themselves of limiting personal boundaries with regards to the expression of their sexuality. Indeed, these participants also discussed sexting as an activity that provided a space to cast aside restrictive factors and ideas – particularly with regards to male sexuality – thus enabling a less inhibited expression of desire. To navigate potential conflicts between the different boundaries involved in their male-to-female sexting practices, several of the interviewees taking part in this study turned to and relied on understandings of interpersonal trust between them and their sexting partner.

To Trust Or Not To Trust: Trust Dynamics In The Czech And Slovak BDSM Community

Steven Saxonberg, Lucie Drdová, Lucie Krivankova

University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic

This contribution explores the nuanced relationship between the existing political landscape and the level of trust towards the mainstream population within the Czech Republic and Slovakia BDSM community. The political situation in both countries has a common history as one country. However, in recent years, the political context in both countries has undergone significant transformations in different directions, impacting various aspects of social life, including the life of sexual minorities.

Drawing on ethnographic interviews and participant observations within the BDSM subculture of both countries, this research examines the evolving trust issues of BDSM practitioners towards the mainstream population. Key factors include the political discourse about sexual minorities, legislative changes, media representation, and broader socio-political shifts that may contribute to feelings of trust or distrust. Furthermore, the study delves into the strategies employed by BDSM practitioners to navigate through particular societal attitudes in the evolving political climate. By focusing on the BDSM community in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the study offers valuable insights into the ways political developments shape interpersonal relationships, foster community cohesion, or create tensions between minority groups and the broader population. The implications of this contribution extend beyond the BDSM context, providing a framework for understanding the impact of political dynamics on trust within diverse social communities.

Untangling Tension between Social Services and LGBTIQ+ Children and Minors in Italy. The Employment of Anti-Oppressive Practices to Build Trust Towards a More Inclusive Society.

Marco Bacio, Cirus Rinaldi, Riccardo Caldarera, Christian Di Carlo, Francesco Macaluso, Maria Urso

University of Palermo, Italy

This paper provides an analysis of the material collected for the EU project “Colourful Childhoods. Empowering LGBTIQ children in vulnerable contexts to combat gender-based violence across Europe”, for which we were responsible for Italy. Alongside a quantitative survey dedicated to teenagers (aged 12 to 18), most of the data collected are qualitative, coming from interviews with professionals that work with children (psychologists, endocrinologists, training counsellors, educators, social workers, and LGBTIQ+ ONG national and local volunteers); focus groups with adolescents; a workshop and a series of events with children; an evaluation of services dedicated to LGBTIQ+ children and minors; and a training module and a series of events for professionals, in particular dedicated to social workers.

These data clearly show the needs of young LGBTIQ+ people for recognition within the family, at school, and in access to social services. Unfortunately, gender-based violence, sexual orientation, and gender diversity lack intervention from the State and other public actors. Moreover, young LGBTIQ+ have no space for confrontation where they can communicate and define themselves. It does not come as a surprise since Italy has a tightened history with conservative values, mainly driven by the Catholic Church.

The social and welfare workers who participated in the project acknowledge the need for children and minors to be recognised and are willing to take steps towards a more inclusive society. However, they need better instruments and tools to contribute to their growth effectively. For this reason, we suggest the employment of anti-oppressive practices. Indeed, achieving social justice through social change is the only successful mechanism for LGBTIQ+ children and minors to become members for all intents and purposes of our society.

The Motif of Heterosexuality: An Element of Tension and Trust in Constructing Sexist Violence. An Analysis of Anti-Violence Campaigns.

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Sociological violence research suggests that the sanctioning of illegitimate violence fosters trust in modernity. Applied to sexist forms of violence, this thesis becomes shaky. Ubiquitous sexist violent behavior is not only comparatively less sanctioned, but it is normalized or even socially rewarded. Unexpectedly, the extent of these forms of violence doesn’t lead to a fundamental crisis of trust in modernity.

Hence, I raise the question of what function sexist violence serves within this relationship of trust and modernity. Methodologically grounded in Fleck’s »Denkstilanalyse«, I argue that the idea of heterosexuality is crucial to the »Denkstil« of sexist forms of violence as a trust-stabilizing praxis of an order that can be described as a modern colonial gender system.

Empirically I will show this on the largely unexplored format of the anti-violence campaign. Initial analyses show that the motif of heterosexuality unfolds a transformative tension: 1. sexist violence is portrayed as a norm violation of romanticized and idealized heterosexuality. By naturalizing heterosexuality as private sexist violence is 2. conceptualized as belonging to the sphere of the apolitical. Thereby 3. heterosexuality functions as a motif that enables to mark sexist violence as a battlefield of homosocial relations that are foundational linked to the societal-sexual contract. While 4. victims of violence remaining invisible, marking them as dependent on the validation of their experiences and protection by diverse masculinities.

These preliminary findings suggest that sexist violence is not thought as a fundamental breach of trust; on the contrary, it serves as a trust-stabilizing motif. This innovative approach enables an understanding of the persistence of sexist forms of violence as crucially functional for a modern societal order.

RN23 | T04_01: Contested Intimacies, Kinship and Sexual Practices

Reimagining Kinship Through Lala Families in Transitional China

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This study examines the transformative dynamics of kinship within the context of Lala families in transitional China. "Lala" is commonly used for the self-identification of non-heterosexual women in China and serves as an umbrella category for female same-sex sexuality within urban settings in the country. Since the Reform and Opening-Up, traditional social structures in China have undergone tremendous changes. This transformation, occurring within the economic and cultural systems, reflects a vibrant coexistence and fusion of modernity and tradition. Concepts of family, marriage, and gender roles have evolved compared to before. In this process, families formed by same-sex female partners challenge and reshape traditional kinship concepts.

Through participants' narratives, three distinct forms of Lala families emerge: extra-marital families practised by Lalas trapped in traditional marriage families; contract marriage families based on traditional family norms which require understanding within the context of Chinese culture; and planned Lala families benefiting from advancements in reproductive technologies to fulfil their dreams of parenthood, creating new practices in kinship, parenting, and intergenerational interactions. Unlike previous kinship research focusing on mainstream family structures, this study prioritizes daily life practices, employing thick description to highlight the diversity and resilience of Lala families. This exploration contributes to a broader understanding of queer kinship in mainland China, unveiling the inherent complexity and possibilities of family transformations during societal shifts. It also aids in reimagining diverse concepts of family for the future.

Casual Sex Among Bulgarian Young People – Attitudes, Practices and Social Determinants

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Following the fall of the socialist regime, the Bulgarian society became more prone to discourses on sexual freedom and gender equality. In the last decades rapid digitalization provided unlimited access to the increasingly sexualized global Internet culture which exacerbated this process. At the same time, the recent anti-gender mobilizations relying on the discourse of a revival of 'the traditional family' has questioned the morality of "Western" norms of sexuality.

In the context of these socio-cultural changes and conflicting discourses, the paper explores the prevalence and approval of casual sex among Bulgarian young people by analyzing qualitative and quantative data. Based on 33 in-depth interviews with young people aged from 16 to 27 we conclude that a belief that casual sex is widespread is paradoxically combined with reluctance to engage in it. To better understand this phenomena we analyze empirical data collected through a nationally representative survey with 2461 young people aged 18-24. Items from the revised Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI-R) are used to measure the behaviors and attitudes towards casual sex. We explore the influence of factors like gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, type of settlement, etc. The results show that young adults who are students or have graduated, those who live in the capital and big cities and those who work are more inclined to engage in casual sex behaviors and to express tolerant attitudes towards it. Significant gender differences have not been found on the scale. The main conclusions are related to the role of digital technologies in destabilizing the traditional sexual scripts (prescribing sex within relationships) and the erosion of the gendered norms of sexual attitudes and behaviors.

Bisexual Masculinities in the Context of Intimacy, Prejudice and Identity Negotiation

Samuel John Lawton

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Bisexual men stand at the intersection of competing heteronormative, masculinist and homonormative discourses. Prejudices arising from media discourses of the AIDS crisis have an enduring impact on bisexual men's relationships today: stereotyping bisexual men as promiscuous, hypersexual and necessarily nonmonogamous. Large scale attitudinal studies have shown that bisexual men tended to be rated worse than most other sexual minorities, including bisexual women, gay men and lesbians. This paper draws on 17 qualitative semi-structured interviews with bisexual men and their partners, analysed using interpretative phenomenological analysis, allowing for the interplay between participants and researcher. Bisexual men's intimate relationships are examined, including how relationships are formed under heteronormative constraints, in the face of double discrimination from both straight and queer social spheres, as well as how identities are formed and negotiated within relationships. Additionally, this paper examines how bisexual individuals and their partners negotiate the family and the couple norm, whilst negotiating ethical non-monogamy, sometimes for the first time. Results from this qualitative study show that there are general lacunas of understanding that persist about bisexuality, and that bisexual identities emerge in contested spaces. Bisexual men's

intimate relationships were sites of safety, transformation and experimentation, whereas familial relationships were often fraught with tension. The author also distinguishes between homophobic prejudice that bisexual men face, which were often perpetrated by unknown people in public spaces, with binegative prejudice which was often faced in more intimate settings, and founded less on violence than epistemic injustices. The author concludes by situating bisexual men's masculinities in the broader landscape of sexual politics in the 21st century, complicating claims of uncritical 'inclusive masculinity' and against rising social conservatism towards LGBTQ+ people.

Unveiling Queer Aging Realities: Preliminary Findings from "Imagining Queer Aging Futures"

Joanna Mizielińska[1], Agata Stasińska[2], Linn Sandberg[3], Rebecca Poldsam[4]

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The international project, "Imagining Queer Aging Futures," (PI: Linn Sandberg, Co-Is: Joanna Mizielińska, Agata Stasińska, Rebecca Põldsam) delves into the nuanced experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals aged 50+ in Poland, Estonia, and Sweden. The Baltic Sea region, facing one of Europe's swiftest ageing populations, represents a vital yet underexplored terrain for ageing research. Within this demographic landscape, the experiences of sexual and gender minorities, grappling with persistent discrimination and stigma, remain conspicuously overlooked. Previous studies, predominantly situated in Anglo-American contexts, underscore the vulnerabilities confronting ageing LGBTQ+ individuals. However, these vulnerabilities are intricately linked to the unique sociocultural contexts of the region, marked by variations in eldercare provisions, civil rights, and attitudes towards minorities.

This project aims to bridge the gap in knowledge by focusing on the ageing trajectories of LGBTQ+ individuals aged 50 and older in Poland, Estonia, and Sweden. Participants are encouraged to articulate their visions of liveable later lives by employing a qualitative mixed-methods approach—encompassing focus groups, individual interviews, and innovative visualisation methods. The study seeks to unravel the everyday practices and adaptive strategies LGBTQ seniors employ as they navigate ageing.

Drawing upon our preliminary findings, this presentation offers early insights gleaned from workshops and interviews with LGBTQ+ 50+ informants in Poland. Our discussion extends to methodological intricacies and recruitment challenges encountered in diverse Baltic Sea localities where the study is conducted. Inspired by queer and ageing methodologies, alongside the principles of public sociology, our study aims to contribute valuable perspectives on the needs and aspirations of ageing LGBTQ individuals in the Baltic Sea region, thereby informing strategies to enhance their wellbeing.

RN23 | T04_02: Sexuality, Aging, Health and Vulnerabilities

Young Women's Sexual Expression and Vulnerability: Analysis of the Affective Atmosphere of "Attacking" Youth Leisure Spaces

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Bar Ilan University, Israel

This paper analyzes the Israeli case study of "attacking" to reveal different affective relations that inform both young women's intensified vulnerability and sexual expression. "Attacking" is slang to describe a common Israeli heterosexual script for casual interactions in youth nightclubs. Based on the theory of vulnerability and the theory of affect, it establishes a relational standpoint to offer the ambiguity of the affective atmosphere as a path to rethinking young women's sexual expression, challenging neoliberal perceptions that distinguish vulnerability and risks from the possibility to act. Data was collected through 39 semi-structured interviews with young women (aged 18-23). This research affective methodology relates to different affective responses as epistemic resources that open up alternative research questions and insights. The findings show how the affective atmosphere in "attacking" spaces reflects blurred social boundaries, intensified vulnerability, and affective relations that all inform young women's sexual expression. They demonstrate the tensions and conflicts arising from gender role division and objectifying heterosexual practices. Nevertheless, disputing the dichotomies that distinguish objectification from subjectification, they also show how young women's vulnerability emerges as an affective resource for subjectification. The paper contributes to theorizing young women's vulnerability as ambiguous, reflecting the tensions and complexities in young women's sexual expression. It reveals how the leisure space offers different affective experiences – some deconstruct the subject, while others allow relational subjectification.

Dealing With Sexual Health As A Gynecological Professional: Trajectories Of Specialization and Their Moral Costs

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In a context of politicization and healthization of sexual issues, my paper aims to grasp how sexuality is constructed as a "professional problem" (Abbott) in gynecological care practices in France. Even though gynecology is a medical

discipline focused on women's reproductive health, sexuality (considered in terms of desire and pleasure) remains marginal or subordinated to procreative and contraceptive concerns. Dealing with sexuality for health professionals implies to take care of a stigmatized professional object (Goffman) and it questions the boundaries of their professional mandate. Therefore, the gynecological care professionals who accept to deal with sexual disorders are a minority in France.

My papers aims to understand how gynecological professionals (e.g. gynecologists, midwives and general practitioners) include sexual concerns in their care practices.

Based on 25 in-depth interviews with health professionals, I analyze their trajectories in order to unveil the conditions under which they became likely to specialize in sexual health.

Findings reveal that specializing in sexual health has a moral cost for practitioners. In France, sexology is an additional formation to standardized cursus that distances health professionals from the most prestigious specializations in medicine. While it exposes professionals to intimacy and accounts of violence, it contaminates the professional. I have identified three pathways to sexual health professions: some were socialized to sexual health issues by liberal families; others were converted by patients' requests concerning sexuality, but these requests are only audible in a specific context (#MeToo…); others had professional opportunities, particularly if they specialize in andrology rather than female sexual health.

Medicalized Female Genital Cutting: Exploring Decision-Making Evolutions, Dynamics, and Cultural Variances among Maasai and Abagusii Ethnic Groups

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Female genital cutting (FGC) refers to various practices involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. In Kenya, where the current study is situated, the practice is progressively more medicalized, meaning that FGC is increasingly being performed by medical health professionals rather than traditional practitioners. However, performing FGC is prohibited by law in Kenya, regardless of who performs it. Research informing FGC abandonment strategies often focuses on coordinating change in norms and behavior among people interacting with one another, starting by identifying key actors in the decision-making process concerning FGC. However, how this information unfolds within the newly emerging evolution in the practice has not yet been identified. The current research entangles how the trend towards medicalization influences the decision-making process concerning a girl's cut, by looking at how the decision is made, who influences it, and how this differs between people born in different birth cohorts. We conducted 60 in-depth interviews with mothers with at least one living daughter within the Maasai ethnic group, located in Narok County, and among the Abagusii ethnic group in Kisii County. Preliminary results show several important findings contributing to a better understanding of FGC medicalization and its evolutions. We found crucial insights into the agency for Maasai young women concerning medical decision-making, the normative framework surrounding medicalization among Abagusii mothers, and how its evolutions, underlying reasons for medicalization, and key actors in the decision-making differ between these ethnic groups.

RN23 | T05_01: Sexuality, Power and Norms

Navigating Place through a Gendered Lens: Young Women's Experiences of 'Risk' and Sexual Violence in a Deprived Coastal Town in the UK

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Although deprivation is a persistent feature of many UK coastal towns, research on transitions to adulthood in such settings is limited and homogenises young people's experiences. Where gender is addressed the focus is on masculinities, for example how young men navigate precarity within local labour markets. However, international place-based research highlights how marginalised young women experience distinct 'risks' and dilemmas throughout their trajectory into adulthood which are strongly related to spatialised features, relationships, resources and barriers.

This paper foregrounds the voices of young women in a deprived UK coastal setting to explore how the intersection of place, gender and marginalisation shapes their experiences of 'risk' and sexual violence. The paper draws on qualitative research undertaken with 18 young women to illustrate: (1) young women's navigation of 'risk' through the everyday realities of the locale (2) how experiences of sexual violence relate to sociality, particularities of place, and private/public domains (3) the correspondence between normative depictions of 'risky behaviour' and young women's accounts of situated (sexual) agency.

The findings elucidate the complexity of young women's agency within spatial, social and structural bounds, resonating with the notion of young women as 'suffering actors' (Harris and Dobson, 2015) who confound binary conceptualisations of agency. By analysing place-based inequalities through a gendered lens, the findings also illuminate the relationship between structural context and regulation of gender and sexuality. In doing so, the paper provides an alternative policy agenda for supporting young women who experience sexual violence within the context of place-based marginalisation.

Sexual Consent Amongst Young Men Who Have Sex With Women: How It Can Be Conceptualised, Practiced And Influenced.

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Explicit, affirmative consent is taught in sex education lessons and campaigns as the "gold-standard" of consent communication, however, it is often taught abstractly. Most adults understand and value explicit consent theoretically, but this conflicts with their real consent practice due to pervasive sexual scripts for normative consent practice, which vary according to gender roles, expectations in relationships and type of sexual behaviour. Pornography can be a useful source of sexual knowledge, because it is not abstract, it is explicit. Some pornography is designed to educate as well as arouse, and has done so successfully, showcasing topics such as technique, condom use/safe sex measures and communication.

The present study firstly sought to understand how a group of young men who have sex with women, aged 18-25, typically conceptualise and practice consent with an initial interview. Consistent with previous research, the young men largely relied on non-verbal cues, and assumptions about gender roles and the heteronormative "stages" of sexual experiences to navigate consent. They were then given a sample set of pornography which showcased explicit consent, and completed diary entries and a second interview. The qualitative data was analysed using interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA).

The process prompted the young men to reflect deeply on their conceptualisation of consent, and the explicit nature of the pornography made it a useful a tool to aid discussion and comparison. However, the young men with longer term, regular sexual partners, had created an interpersonal sexual script, a routine for consent with that partner over time. This consent script was unique to the relationship and not malleable, so their reflections did not impact their current consent practices with their partners.

Sexual Education In Portugal: The Experiences Of Women With Functional Diversity

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Portuguese law no. 60/2009 (of 6 August) enforces formal sexual education to promote gender equality and respect for sexual diversity, as well as training to prevent risky sexual behaviour. However, that is not always reflected in its implementations.

In sexist and ableist societies, women with functional diversity are perceived as innocent, vulnerable, and physically and/or intellectually incapable of being sexual. Such justifies their exclusion from sexual health education, as their families, caregivers, school educators and health professionals believe it to be unnecessary and dangerous to raise this topic with them. The "invisibility" of their sexuality is even more prominent for non-heterosexual and/or non-cisgender women with functional diversity, condescendingly framed as lacking the cognitive ability to understand concepts such as sexuality and gender identity.

When sexual education information is available, it is typically limited to normative bodies and penetrative intercourse, failing to address their characteristics and needs. Thus, these women are denied essential clarifications to make sexual health decisions regarding the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies, identifying sexual abuse, and discovering sexual practices suited to their bodies.

In this contribution, we explore the preliminary results from the thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews with adult women with functional diversity about their sexual education experiences in Portugal. The participants share common worries and doubts still unaddressed in sexuality discussions and uphold that avoiding normative generalizations and including their experiences in sexual health programs would be beneficial for everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or functional diversity.

Sexuality and Power Dynamics in Precarious Youth Milieus. Exploring Traditional Norms, Double Standards, and the Impact on Marginalized Adolescents

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Contemporary youth sexuality research reveals a prevailing trend marked by the sexual and relationship behaviors of today's youth, cutting across social classes. These behaviors are described as egalitarian and permissive, emphasizing partnerships, departing from traditional norms like double standards and virginity in favor of love. However, the experiences of marginalized adolescents in precarious circumstances often go unnoticed. What significance does sex hold for them and how is it experienced and lived?

The study involves 16 in-depth interviews with individuals aged 15 to 21 in Berlin-Brandenburg, encompassing various settings like youth detention centers, probation facilities, and the streets. Many participants have economically unstable backgrounds, increasing their risk of future poverty. The data were analyzed using multiple methods, including the documentary method and grounded theory.

Findings reveal that within precarious youth milieus, gender-sexual relationships remain bound by traditional norms influenced by heteronormativity. This norm persists unchallenged, perpetuating a double standard: boys prioritize sexual conquests, while girls seek love and stable partnerships, particularly during early to middle adolescence. The research uncovers practices within boys' cliques in these milieus, such as "sharing" girls for sexual activities, involving social and sexual manipulation and exploitation. Girls labeled as "easy" or "sluts" are used for group sexual activities. The severity varies by boys' social status.

These practices of "sharing girls" are part of a discourse on power and the preservation of male dominance within these youth milieus. They contribute to a disturbing trend of retraditionalization and an increase in violence as precarious circumstances intensify. This research highlights the absence of sexual liberalization in these contexts.

RN23 | T05_02: Reproductive Rights and Contraception

Abortion Timing, Access, and Trajectory Study (ATAS): Study Protocol

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This study explores the trajectories of women presenting for abortion in Flanders, Belgium. It has two primary objectives. First, it aims to map the duration of the various stages of the abortion trajectory for women presenting for abortion. Second, barriers that cause delays within these stages will be identified. Data were used from the ATAS project, which collected data among all women seeking abortion care at one of the Flemish abortion centers; specifically, the LUNA centers, which are located in Ostend, Ghent, Antwerp, and Hasselt, as well as the VUB-Dilemma center in Brussels during the fall and winter of 2023-2024. Preliminary results show that a considerable number of women experience difficulties suspecting an unplanned pregnancy. This can be due to various reasons such as not immediately linking the symptoms to a possible pregnancy, mistakenly believing it is hard or impossible to get pregnant in their particular situation. Additionally, over one-third of women who completed the questionnaire up to now first had a consultation with a GP before they contacted the abortion center, which lengthens the trajectory. We also found that around 40% of the respondents indicated feeling ashamed or disappointed in themselves when deciding about the pregnancy. However, 94% indicated that their decision was set at the time they completed the questionnaire. Around 46% experienced fear of the procedure and associated pain. To our knowledge, this is the first study within the Flemish context to investigate abortion timing, access, and trajectories. Furthermore, this study is highly topical given the ongoing public and political debates on Belgian abortion legislation.

Correlates Of Pregnancies Ending In Induced Abortions: A Population-Based Analysis From The Life-Stage Perspective

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Induced abortions (IAs) constitute a fundamental element contributing to women's reproductive sexual health by granting them control over their motherhood, allowing them to decide whether they wish to avoid, postpone, space, or conclude their motherhood. The objective of this study was to analyze the sociodemographic variables influencing women's decisions to opt for an IA based on their life stage

For this research, records of IA, births, and late fetal deaths were combined, providing comprehensive information on all pregnancies and their respective outcomes. Binary logistic regression models applied to each age group (15-19, 20-29, 30 – 39 and 40-44 years) revealed that in the early reproductive stages, the probability of opting for IA was higher in women who did not have a partner than in those who had one. In contrast, in the later years of the reproductive cycle, women with more than 2 or 3 children are more likely to undergo an IA.

In conclusion, delineating women according to their age groups and other sociodemographic characteristics that make them particularly susceptible to unwanted pregnancies, combined with a detailed analysis of the personal motivations influencing the decision to opt for an IA, could guide the formulation of specific public policies aimed at these specific strata of the female population.

What Drives Couples' Contraceptive Choices? Within-Couple Predictors Of The Division Of Fertility Work

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The ability to make informed decisions about fertility is a fundamental human right, yet gendered expectations and biomedical constraints often influence these choices. Despite both partner's interest in preventing unwanted pregnancies, women shoulder the primary responsibility for contraception, a task that can involve high costs and time commitments – aptly termed 'fertility work.' This adds to the responsibilities like housework and childcare that women typically bear.

In a parallel project, we propose a multidimensional index to assess the balance between the benefits and drawbacks of various contraceptive methods. Using this index, we investigate whether factors related to the gendered division of labor – relative resources and gender ideology – are associated with contraceptive choices and the extent to which women and men in heterosexual relationships engage in fertility work. We hypothesize that individuals with greater resources (income, education, and occupational status) seek to minimize their involvement in fertility work, while traditional gender ideologies lead to women shouldering a disproportionate share of fertility work. We analyze these associations by using data from the German Family Demography Panel Survey (FReDA).

Our study expands existing research on contraceptive choices and reproductive justice by examining the potential constraints on couples' contraceptive decisions arising from the interplay of within-couple decision-making processes and gendered expectations.

Our work sheds light on the intricate dynamics that shape fertility choices and the distribution of reproductive labor within heterosexual relationships. By understanding these factors, we can work towards a more equitable and informed approach to family planning, fostering greater reproductive autonomy for all.

Bridging The Relationship Between Sexual Pleasure And Contraceptive Counseling: A Scoping Review and Qualitative Research Study

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Sexual pleasure is recognized as a critical aspect of sexual health and a fundamental sexual right by the World Association for Sexual Health. Yet, it receives insufficient attention in healthcare despite its relevance to topics such as contraception. Many contraceptive methods influence users' pleasure and during contraceptive decision making, users often consider this relationship, initiating, changing, or stopping using a method based on their perceived impact on how a method will influence their own or a partner's sexual pleasure. However, this consideration is often internalized and not communicated with providers, creating gaps in personalized care and possible unmet need, as choices might not be ideally suited to one's needs and therefore discontinued. Gaps exist regarding how contraceptive counseling can bridge the relationship between sexual pleasure and contraceptive decision making. There is limited execution of pleasure-based approaches in health care, particularly within contraceptive counseling, likely due to a lack of consensus across structural and provider-focused recommendations. This scoping review, focused on high income countries, will explore how literature linking sexual pleasure and contraception situates contraceptive counseling, and analyze different approaches bridging these factors. Complementing the literature, interviews with experts in sexual health and contraception will be conducted, exploring how to bridge the connection between contraceptive counseling and sexual pleasure, why recommendations vary widely, and why implementation significantly lags. Findings will provide strong foundations for future research on incorporating sexual pleasure based approaches in contraceptive counseling, identifying gaps in conceptualizations and developing a stronger consensus that can influence policy and recommendations.

RN23 | T06_01: Sexuality, Embodiment and Emotions

Emotional Capital and Encounters with/against Heteronormativity and Cisnormativity: Negotiating Embodied Difference in Istanbul's Urban Neighbourhoods of Precarity

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This paper offers an autoethnographic account of my lived experiences of heteronormativity and cisnormativity in urban spaces marked by a high degree of precarity around diverse expressions of sexual and gender difference. In the socially conservative context of Turkey, Istanbul almost uniquely contains neighbourhoods, where sexual – and gender-identity minorities can prise out spaces to express difference openly and publicly. Yet, these spaces operate in a highly fluid mode, vacillating between hospitability one moment and hostility the next, with fluctuating and unpredictable levels of social tolerance. In precarious urban spaces, such as Cihangir, Tarlabasi, etc., freedoms afforded to sexual – and gender-identity minorities can be momentary and conditional, as well as deeply vulnerable to abrupt foreclosures. The normative structures of the neighbourhoods are conflictual, as the social identities that they cater to are highly variegated, and the spaces evoke emotions of trust as well as distrust simultaneously for a variety of minority groups. Utilising Bourdieu's notion of capitals to theorise my emotional resources as emotional capital, my study offers a first-person account of embodied emotions as a means of navigating complex urban contexts inscribed by both tensions and transformative possibilities. While emotional capital is an accumulated reservoir of personal resources, it also operates dynamically with the inclusionary/exclusionary norms in precarious neighbourhoods, and the opportunities and constraints they involve. Linking emotional resources with social struggles in urban spaces of precarity, my autoethnography sheds light on dis/belonging as well as resistance and change in the city. Here, the autoethnography reveals emotional capital not only as a coping mechanism for survival, but also as a way of invoking freedom, when mobilised in solidarity with the emotional capital of disadvantaged 'others'.

Male Embodiment and Digital Technologies

Katariina Mäkinen

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This paper traces the ways in which male embodiment is made and unmade with digital technologies in the context of social media. Based on qualitative empirical research,

the paper investigates the embodied narratives and experiences of men who produce content on social media on the themes of sexuality and/or embodiment. The aim of the paper is to first account for the ways in which diverse men live embodied lives and inhabit bodies in multiple, ambiguous, ambivalent ways, and how they make embodiment with and against normative imaginaries and with digital and material technologies. Second, the aim is to find novel theoretical gateways into thinking male bodies, male embodiment and sexuality as narrated, lived, ambivalent and fraught with tensions. Theoretically, then, the paper departs from the conceptual framework of thinking in terms of hegemonic masculinities and seeks to understand male embodiment in a way that takes seriously how embodiment and corporeality is theorized elsewhere, for instance in critical disability studies and in phenomenologically inspired research. The overall aim is to create theoretical space for understanding the workings of subjectivity and power in a way that is sensitive to the multiplicity of men's life worlds and bodily encounters.

Relational Embodiment In The Context of Gender Transitions

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Critical queer and feminist scholarship has criticised previous

conceptualisations of bodies as singular and independent and instead puts forward notions of interdependence and relationality. Drawing on trans studies, critical disability and crip studies, intersex studies, new materialist and posthumanist perspectives, this paper seeks to develop a conceptualisation of relational embodiment in the context of gender transitions.

Based on ethnographic research with trans people in Germany and Scotland, I explore

what could a relational perspective on embodiment could look like and how we can think beyond transitions as individual processes through relationality. Further, this paper focuses on transitioning as a relational and embodied practice and seeks to acknowledge the multiplicity of trans embodiments within more-than-human worlds. In tension with medical models of gender transition, transitioning is loosely understood without assuming linearity, coherence, stable gender identities or a prescribed set of practices as constitutive of transitions. Preliminary findings suggest that trans people achieve transitioning in manifold ways, e.g. through practices that expand the physical body, through the (momentary) incorporation of inanimate things, and through social and relational means, among others.

This paper seeks to contribute to the small body of literature on non-normative embodiments in theories of the body. I have not joined an ESA summer school before and would relish the opportunity to do so.

The Vulva Dialogues: The Sexual-Bodily Experience of Portuguese Cisgender Women

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The female body is often subjected to prejudice, stigma, and misconceptions, driving women into genital alienation: they either have never seen their vulva nor can name its parts, or pursue infantile aesthetic ideals of the vulva, resorting to permanent hair removal, bleaching and labiaplasty, a surgery analogous to Female Genital Mutilation according to World Health Organization standards.

There is plenty of misinformation on the vulva and the clitoris, even within the scientific community: several Social Sciences papers use 'vagina' in reference to the vulva, and renowned anatomy books do not provide the correct physiology of the clitoris. This contributes to women's unawareness of their own bodies and puts their health at risk in the hands of poorly trained surgeons. The sexual-bodily experience of cisgender women is commonly observed from a phallocentric perspective, which tends to override and neglect women's agency.

The vulva and the clitoris play a central role in woman's sexuality but are surrounded by controversies. I seek to analyse the most relevant aspects of the sexual-bodily experience of Portuguese cisgender women, focusing on their relationship with their vulva, their clitoris, and their sexual pleasure, in addition to identifying the role of medicine and health professionals in such relationship, within the Western medicine perspective of the female body. The fieldwork is being carried out by qualitative methods, with semi-structured interviews with health professionals from various specialties, biographical interviews with cisgender women, and a study of the representation of the clitoris in the main anatomy manuals used in Portugal, to discuss how centuries of control over women's bodies have impacted their sexual-bodily experience, offering an in-depth debate to these subjects in Sociology.

RN23 | T06_02: Sexuality and Political Mobilizations

The Changing Landscape of Sex Work (Feminist) Policies. A Netnographic Exploration of the Antiabolitionist Field in Italy.

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In Italy feminists have been central in elaborating an approach to prostitution and sex work that kept together in original ways an attention to the diversity of women's experiences in prostitution, an epistemic centrality of the collective elaborations produced by women in prostitution, and a radical critique of prostitution as a patriarchal institution. This conceptualization was closely linked to a practice of large alliances – within and beyond feminism – oriented to the development of effective tools – at the policy level and through projects of direct action – to fight institutional abuse and to concretely support women (and then men and trans people) in situation of heavy exploitation and trafficking.

However, in the present scenario, this 'feminist alliance' is jeopardized and new landscape of alliances, and corresponding new forms of collective identities and discourses are emerging. This paper will look in particular at the developments in the neo-abolitionist field through a netnography (Kozinets 2019) of the social media interactions during the process leading to the law proposal Maiorino (Senate n. 2537, 6 April 2022) that has at its center the adoption of the Nordic model. Indeed, we claim that social media represented a privileged space for the constitution of the neo-abolitionist field during the two years of public consultation that led to the Maiorino law proposal. By looking at the Instragram and Facebook profiles and pages, our paper proposes an analysis of the recent evolution of the neo-abolitionist field, including the actors in the field (within and beyond feminism), their practices of alliances, the construction of their collective identity, as well their main claims and discursive strategies.

Distrust and Discomfort: Talking About LGBT Issues Amidst Anti-Gender Mobilizations

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One of successes of anti-gender mobilizations in Croatia and especially of the 2013 constitutional referendum on the protection of heterosexual marriage was a construction of a new perception that the country was internally divided on gender and sexuality issues. In this new social climate, gender and sexuality – most often a shorthand for LGBT issues – became a new marker between the "conservatives" and the "liberals" that was now, unlike in previous years, played out in the formal political arena as well. Against this backdrop, I ask the question of how this perceived social climate plays into how the ordinary citizens think and talk about LGBT issues. To answer this question, this study uses the data from two rounds of focus groups (12 total) with 32 parents of school-aged children in Croatia. These data are further complemented with 6 focus groups with younger (under 30) and older (above 60) Croatian citizens (and selected follow-up interviews) and also contrasted with the data from 7 focus groups of Flemish parents of school-aged children in Belgium, the latter being a country in which anti-gender mobilizations failed to achieve any notable success. In the analysis, I pay special attention to the way 'we' and the 'Other' is constructed in relation to talking about LGBT issues and to the elements of distrust and discomfort among Croatian citizens, that became particularly visible through the comparison with the Flemish data. I use this analysis to reflect on the effects of anti-gender mobilizations on social climate on the LGBT issues.

Gender Justice and Sexual Liberation Struggles: Exploring the Transformative Potential of Counter-Trafficking Feminism in Portugal

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Over the course of the last two decades, the fight against human trafficking has gradually consolidated in a significant number of countries, with feminist organizations and activists playing a prominent role in shaping trafficking discourses. Counter-trafficking has also produced a significant number of material effects. Trafficking and, in particular, sex-trafficking debate has often been expressed via racist and colonialist stereotypes, alongside conservative moral fears about the sexual and economic independence of migrant working class women. More broadly speaking, counter-trafficking has often recast feminist struggles for gender justice and sexual liberation in terms of criminal justice, focusing on the punishment of traffickers, the stiffening of migration policies, increased controls at borders as well as in the sex market, practices of "cure" for "trafficking victims" in semi-carceral institutions of "protection". Focusing on the Portuguese case, this paper interrogates feminism's ability and its limitations in challenging or reinforcing some of the most controversial counter-trafficking outcomes. The paper draws on interviews with feminist and women's organisations as well as the analysis of policy documents and feminist materials and fieldnotes. The paper argues that, due to a structural weakness within feminism itself and the profound institutionalisation of counter-trafficking, any possibility of challenging dominant discourses on trafficking remains a distant dream. Rather, counter-trafficking attempts ultimately help create a controversial neoliberal

space that strains feminism's transformative potential while simultaneously strengthening bureaucratic state feminism.

Making of a Controversial Law: Population Planning, Sexuality, and the Cold War in Turkey

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In April 1965, the Turkish parliament enacted the Law on Population Planning that introduced a series of policies regarding reproductive rights, marking a new era in the biopolitics of the state. Having foregone the pro-natalist agenda of earlier decades, the state introduced birth control while granting permission to abortion and sterilization under certain conditions. Within the political landscape of the Cold War, the law was designed by a left-leaning political body with an emphasis on building a competitive economy through the creation of a nation based on "quality" rather than "quantity." Although it took the legislative body just under five months to adopt the law after it was scheduled for the first meeting, opposing views led to fierce debates during the process in both the Parliament and the Senate. Drawing on archival research, this paper focuses on the narratives that circulated on the legislative floor, either supporting or challenging the adoption of new technologies for population control. How did political actors across the spectrum envision Turkish modernity through the governance of the collective body at the time? How did they perceive the use of contraceptive technologies such as birth control pills and intrauterine devices (IUD) in Turkey? In light of these questions, this paper argues that while economic considerations took center stage in the debates, opposition was also rooted in concerns over female sexuality which, liberated from the fear of unwanted pregnancies, would supposedly get unleashed from its societal chains.

RN23 | T07_01: Expanding Perspectives on Sex Work

Sex Worker Vulnerabilities And Solidarities Under Conditions Of War In Ukraine

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The launch of the large-scale armed attack by the Russian Federation on Ukraine on February 24th 2022 has heavily impacted the safety and security of Ukrainian citizens, and the overall economic situation in the country. It has also significantly exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities faced by people providing sexual services in Ukraine, already before the war subjected to criminalisation, policing, and multi-layered social exclusion. Building on the collaborative research project conducted with the Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN) and sex worker-led organisation Legalife-Ukraine, my presentation explores the impact of the war on different sex workers communities in Ukraine. It documented how the war affected the living and working conditions of sex workers in Ukraine. Firstly, this presentation looks, specifically, at sex workers' economic and work-related precarities, and their access to healthcare and other basic services, including adequate housing and social protections. It also asks about continuities and shifts in policing and law enforcements strategies. Secondly, centring sex workers' needs and vulnerabilities in the context of the war, it looks into sex worker community-driven responses to the humanitarian, economic and socio – political crises caused by the war. And, finally, it explores challenges faced by sex worker organisations in supporting their communities in the times of war.

Transformations Of Sex Work In The Postsocialist Context – Framing Sex Work And (Mis)recognition

Anna Ratecka

Södertörn University, Sweden

This presentation discusses the transformation of sex work in the post-socialist context from the from the perspective of civil society initiatives. Problematising the temporality of post-socialism, I will explore the transformations of sex work and the different ways in which the neoliberal order and late modernity have affected both the vulnerabilities and strengths of workers through the lens of the struggle for sex workers' rights. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with sex worker support and advocacy groups support and advocacy groups and NGOs, this article explores how these actors have framed sex work. I will trace the transformations of framing of sex work across the economic and social changes that occurred as a result of the dismantling of state socialism and the introduction of the neoliberal economic

order, as well as shifting geographical and political boundaries of Poland's position as a 'second world' country, a new EU member state and, more recently, democratic backsliding.

This presentation is based on three case studies of civil society actors, an anti-trafficking foundation, a harm reduction NGO and a sex workers' rights collective. I will introduce the concept of regimes of recognition to explore how these actors have framed sex work and how these frames correspond to historical processes of transformation and post-transformation. I will show how the specific timeframes created particular framings of sex work and how they constructed sex workers as particular subjects – victims, marginalised communities, perverts, workers or digital entrepreneurs.

Who Sells Sex in a Welfare State?

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The question of who sells sex continues to attract attention in both public and scientific debates. Are sex sellers primarily victims of unequal social and economic structures, a group of strong independent women, or something in between? Combining police records from the Danish National Police Database with comprehensive life course data from the administrative records of Statistics Denmark, we present novel insights into the social background and life trajectory of female sex sellers. We use latent class analysis to analyze the prevalence of social problems during childhood, youth, and adulthood among women who sell sex (N = 2,532). Our findings reveal substantial variation within the population of sex sellers. Compared to our two control groups, each consisting of women from the same birth cohorts, of 10,000 randomly selected women and 5,000 women with similar parental background characteristics, sex sellers face a higher risk of experiencing social problems throughout their life course. While most sex sellers do not experience social problems, a small but significant proportion experiences mental health issues, criminal records, substance misuse, or homelessness. Intergenerational analyses further demonstrate that those sex sellers facing the most complex problems often come from families with limited socioeconomic resources and a history of criminal convictions among the parents.

Unveiling Precarious Working Conditions in Sex Work and Its Implications for Occupational Risks

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In contemporary post-capitalist societies, employment trends are marked by the rise of non-standard forms of labour, flexible markets and deregulated labour standards. This paper delves into the effects of precariousness on occupational risks in sex work in Slovenia, starting from the premise that sex work corresponds in many ways to what is theorised as precarious labour. Employing a multidimensional definition of precariousness, we argue that precarity is not only defined by considerations of job security, control over labour processes, pay and working conditions, but is also shaped by the social context, including formal regulations of the labour market, minimum labour standards, and stigma. We aim to examine how different employment statuses and other indicators of precarity affect working conditions, job satisfaction and occupational risks in sex work, including physical and mental health outcomes, and sex workers' private lives. The analysis draws upon mixed-methods study in which empirical data was obtained through an online survey and focus group discussions with sex workers. Preliminary findings show that various forms of sex work are distinctively characterized by precarious working conditions. The vast majority of sex work is performed in the informal economy, but sex workers report various employment statuses that may stem from other forms of employment outside the sex industry. Respondents are generally satisfied with their working conditions, showing that the precariousness of sex work is not always comparable to other parts of the economy in some respects, however, precarious working conditions have been shown to have a significant impact on occupational risks.

RN23 | T07_02: Sexuality, Norms and Practices

Covering, Concealing, Passing? Private Shame, Public Performance.

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Male sex workers experience significant, often multiple stigma. Much of this stigma is the result of discourses (understandings) that have been associated with male sex work. Selling sex has been conflated with homosexuality, which was seen as deviated and/or subordinated masculinity. Male sex work was also seen as an activity undertaken by psychologically maladjusted young men, opportunists and social misfits. The male sex worker has also been situated in research as a 'vector of disease', a risk discourse which presents them as men who take risks during sexual intercourse (through practices like barebacking, and sexual activity while under the influence of drugs and substances), significantly contributing to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS.

This experience of stigma is presented as sociological or psychological. Sociological stigma includes structural stigma, stereotyping, discrimination, status loss, social/societal exclusion (unfair treatment, exclusion or rejection experienced during social interaction and/or within a group). Psychological stigma includes symbolic, internalised, and felt experiences (individualised, internalised shame and isolation from fear of judgement).

Drawing on data from my PhD study with a group of male sex workers in Manchester, UK, I argue for a psycho-social understanding of stigma, to produce a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of male sex workers. I will challenge the sociology-psychology split, making the case that stigma is simultaneously psychological (psychic) and sociological (social) psycho-social; existing in the liminal space between the micro and macro, personal and social, inner and outer worlds.

Boost Your Brand: Self-promotion in Grindr Profiles and the Globalization of MSM Sexual Culture

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Despite growing numbers of studies on MSM (men who have sex with men) usage of location-based mobile dating apps (LBMDAs), little is known about how local and global sexual culture shape strategic self-presentation and impression management—a practice that I refer to as self-promotion, since few scholars have taken a cross-cultural approach to studying MSM online communication. This study explores similarities and differences in how MSM deploy profile pics and text on dating apps like Grindr to increase their sexual capital, a strategic practice of self-presentation and impression management that I refer to as self-promotion. While most studies have investigated MSM self-promotion locally, relying primarily on qualitative data, this study explores MSM self-promotion internationally, providing a unique cross-national quantitative examination to generalize about a global MSM sexual culture and its associated expectations. The measures, analysis, and findings from 4800 user profiles in New York City, London, Vienna, and Tel Aviv revealed that in all cities users who had a toned/muscular body, were seeking sex, and were single, engaged the most in self-promotion. Regarding differences, London users exhibited the highest degrees of self-promotion that can be explained by a local culture emphasizing social class and the perceived pressure for social conformity. Overall, this study triangulates the axes of sexuality, technology, and globalization to map the extent to which globalization flattens difference at the same time it creates possibilities for the assertion of local variation. Understanding these significant differences among Western countries is particularly relevant today, as the world moves both closer and becomes more tribal.

Sex Toys and The Politics of Pleasure: The Case of Italy's First Feminist Sex Shop

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From the 1970s, Northwestern countries have witnessed an exponential growth of the sex toy market. Since the rise of feminist and women-driven sex shops, the interplay between political instances and commercial branding became stronger. As it is often the case with commodification-related processes, this soaring market has given rise to a complex multifaceted cultural scenario: on the one hand, it has paved the way for the emergence of plural understandings of sexuality, broadening the emancipatory reach of feminist discourses on sexuality; on the other hand, it has 'domesticated' sexuality within capitalised forms of sexual representation and identification.

In this tangled affair, this paper aims to explore the practices of Sexy Shock, a political group born in 2001 in Bologna, Italy, which turned sex toys into a political medium. By conceiving them as means to speak about sex, pleasure, health, consensus, and violence, this group transcended the classical definitions of both political collective and commercial activity. Through the analysis of this case study, this article aims to discuss the urgent question of whether the interpenetration of the political and commercial spheres can be a site of transformation and to what extent. It will further question whether, in a moment in which feminism and sex-positivity are profitable brands, sex toys could still be considered as political objects and symbols able to be agents of change.

RN23 | T08_01: Sexuality, Subjectivity and Gendered Perspetives

'I'm Not Surprised': The Emerging Sexual Subjects And Emotional Communities in Taiwan's #MeToo Movement

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Sexual harassment is one of the highly institutionalized issues among gender equality policies in Taiwan. However, it is the belated #MeToo movement which started in Jun 2023 sparks the countrywide debates regarding sexual harassment. Echoing Sarah Ahemd's (2004) idea that emotion serves to produce active subjects, the paper aims to theorize how the #MeToo movement, by posting, reading, and sharing those detailed sexual stories, creates an intimate emotional community that ties female subjects together and motivates them to take collective actions.

Based on interview data with 40 Taiwanese women, we found that many participants reported that 'I'm not surprised' when the #MeToo movement mushroomed across Taiwan. The phrase 'I'm not surprised' not only indicates that women have been taught to tolerate sexual harassment daily but also refers to how the workplaces, schools, and even the courts ignore and mistreat women's complaints of sexual harassment. Furthermore, the unique writing style of Taiwan's #MeToo posts, always detailed the sexual misconducts of the perpetrators, and how victims were shocked and failed to move their bodies, also let women who read the posts could revisit the memories and emotions (e.g. anger, anxiety, fear, pain, and shame) surrounding sexual harassments, and thus strongly felt that they 'have to do something' for themselves and for helping other women. In this sense, the #MeToo movement serves to build up an emotional community in which women not only speak for themselves but also take collective actions to make the perpetrators accountable.

Is Self-centered Sexuality Accessible For Everyone? The Space Of Students' Sexuality Styles After Metoo

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Originally focused on sexual and sexist violence, the MeToo movement has created a platform for the expression of feminist ideas, thereby contributing to problematizing a series of issues related to sexuality: consent, pleasure, heteronormativity, etc. While these social and political transformations are widely discussed in the media, their effects on individual practices remains relatively underexplored. Based on a questionnaire survey (n = 764) and interviews (n = 18) with students from diverse social backgrounds enrolled in four distinct higher education courses, this paper analyses how sexual norms and practices of young adults are being reconfigured compared to those of previous generations. Firstly, the questionnaire highlights a relative weakening of the gender division of sexuality styles, which previously opposed, on the one hand, an individual-centered model associated with men, and on the other hand, a conjugal model associated with women. Nevertheless, despite the growing symmetry in the sexual repertoires of men and women, differences persist in the sexual behaviours of students. Notably, women's access to sexuality for its own sake remains limited compared to men, and mainly concerns those who are highly endowed with cultural capitals and/or who deviate from heterosexuality. Secondly, based on interviews with students from an Institute of Political Studies, the paper examines how sexuality styles are embedded within social trajectories shaped by gender and class. More specifically, it details how the appropriation of feminist ideas supports a transformation of students' dispositions to sexuality, and how the claim to a "feminist" sexuality updates the boundaries between social classes.

Transsexuality, Liminal Representation and Health: Understanding the experience/s of hijras in India

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Transsexuality, Liminal Representation and Health: Understanding the experience/s of hijras in India

The hijra community has its roots in the mythical, historical, and religious accounts of India. There has been a 'liminal representation' of the community of the hijras in post independent India. The penal code of 377 which was introduced by the British to criminalise homosexuality and queerness was not repealed in post Independent India till 2018. The hijra community received partial visibility during the wake of the spread of the pandemic HIV/AIDS in India. As Bhaskaran argues that the hijras were brought under the category of MSM (men having sex with men) and a supervision by the state was only carried out to prevent further spread of HIV. Apart from being only a limited approach to improve the health conditions, the category of MSM only grouped hijra community based on sexual orientation whereas it had much deeper cultural connotations. This failed to provide a holistic representation of the hijras and in addition to that the hijras got targeted as the bodies carrying the disease. In my paper I concentrate on how hijras in India are and have been discriminated in health sectors. I want to elucidate the role played by NGOs in both assembling and integrating the homosexuals and queer population but simultaneously

widening the gap between western categories of sexual identity and indigenous categories of sexual representation ('hijra' being one) enabling under-representation and dissociation from the avenues to access better health facilities in the context of India.

Beyond Traditional Gender Roles: Exploring the Division of Paid and Unpaid Labour in Italian Same-sex Couples

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The objective of this paper is to explore how the division of paid and unpaid labour is carried out in same-sex couples living in Italy. Revolving around the previous research conducted on this topic, and around the specialisation theory and the doing gender approach, we explored how partners in male and female same-sex couples divide their working hours, domestic labour and childcare. The existing literature highlighted an overall equal division of paid and unpaid labour between partners of same-sex couples. The necessary data was collected via an online survey distributed through mailing lists and websites of Italian associations concerned with LGBTQ+ experiences. The non-representative sample consists of 190 respondents in male (n=52) and female (n=138) cohabiting same-sex couples and it was analysed with descriptive methods and regression analysis. The results are in line with those of previous research, since they highlight on average a pattern of equal division of paid and unpaid labour in the majority of the couples analysed, although some small differences emerge between male and female same-sex couples. Regarding childcare, even though in the majority of cases couples equally divide childcare tasks, some patterns of specialisation of tasks emerge when tasks are unbalanced within the couple. Nonetheless, rather than being unbalanced towards the birth/biological parent, as highlighted by previous research, tasks are unbalanced towards the respondent regardless of the tie they have with the child.

RN23 | T08_02: Sexuality and Normativities

Religious Experience and the Reconstitution of the Queer Self

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Asylum decision making in the UK, reifies the stereotype that religious belief and queer subjectivity are in tension with one another. It is expected by asylum-decision makers that people seeking asylum who are LGBTQI+ and have experienced religiously inspired harm should have rejected their religion. This is a simplistic standpoint and does not reflect the complex realities of individual experience. The research from which this paper is based, explored how those with queer subjectivities, who were claiming asylum, experience religion in the UK. Most of the 24 interlocutors I conducted life history interviews with had experienced religiously inspired harm in their country of origin (CoO), where queer subjectivity was often framed as a sin or an abomination. Despite these encounters, religion remained of great importance to most interlocutors, but their religious beliefs remained in tension with, and caused negative emotions for them regarding their queer subjectivity due to their CoO experiences. This research explored how religious individuals and communities responded to those with queer subjectivities in the asylum process and how those in the asylum process experienced this response. A key finding was that the responses from religious inspired individuals and communities helped individuals to reconfigure their understandings of their own queer selfhood and religious belief system. As a result, people released negative tensions and emotions and reconceptualised their religious belief system to navigate away from past homonegative understandings. This papers aim is to facilitates a more nuanced understanding of the part religion plays in the lives of those with queer subjectivities. These findings can also be used to challenge the stereotype in asylum decision making that religion and queer subjectivity are incompatible.

Homing Desires: Transnational Queer Migrants Negotiating Homes And Homelands In Scotland

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This paper draws on the findings of an ESRC-funded project (2015-17), and explores the cognitive and emotional aspects queer migrants ascribe to the notion of 'home'. The project focussed on LGBT-identified migrants from Central Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union living in Scotland, and used qualitative methods to explore migration

trajectories, experiences of migration and settlement, and migrants' sense of belonging.

The paper draws on interviews and visual data from a subset of 18 migrants; all of them took part in a biographical interview and submitted a collection of personal photographs on the theme of 'home', whose meanings were further elaborated on in a follow-up interview. 'Home' was variously understood as a process of 'home-making', a physical space, a location where meaningful social relations are formed or maintained, and a place of memory.

In unpacking meanings of home, the paper brings into conversation insights from migration and sexuality studies. In migration studies, 'home' is often a heuristic device providing a window into migrants' identity and belonging by exploring attachments to multiple places across national borders (Boccagni 2017). While migration is often posited as estrangement from an original home, and its positive associations with familiarity, authenticity and security, Brah (1996) has pointed out that migrants' 'homing desire' is not necessarily a 'desire for the homeland', but rather a process of 'home-making'. Meanwhile, queer migration is often posited as 'homecoming', a journey from homophobic or heteronormative domesticity to another site to be called home, embodying queer authenticity and belonging (Fortier 2001).

A Fairytale for Everyone? A Case Study of the Printed Media Portrayal of a Hungarian Children's Book

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"We have to judge A Fairytale for Everyone book as pedophilia, and Labrisz Lesbian Association as a pedophile organisation. Because after all, that's what they are." (Német 2020). This sentence accentuates the controversy surrounding a children's book addressing social and human rights issues in Hungary.

Barát argues that "hate-speech has become the mundane practice of communication by government propaganda" (Barát 2022, 173) regarding the concept of "gender ideology" (Kováts–Pető 2017). Printed media outlets play a relevant role in the diffusion of anti-gender and anti-LGBTQI+ messages, allowing the government's centralized message to reach diverse social groups. The Labrisz Lesbian Association case, involving the publishing of said children's book exemplifies the impact of moral panic, social categorization, and othering on LGBTQI+ organizations and activists (Svatonova 2021, Gera 2022).

The paper analyses the Hungarian media representation of the book A Fairytale for Everyone (Meseország mindenkié). The corpus contains 173 articles from printed media sources from September 2020 (the publication date of said book) until February 2022 (the Curia's verdict on Labrisz Lesbian Association's right to good reputation). The corpus is based on a keyword search conducted at a large Hungarian online database of printed sources (Arcanum Digitheca). The searched keywords are "Meseország mindenkié", "Meseország", "LGBT*" and "Labrisz".

Initial findings show how the printed media portrayal of A Fairytale for Everyone mostly highlights the negative effects of said book, relying on pictures and messages "dangerous" for children. This portrayal seems to align with the government's rhetoric of fear while reinforcing hetero – and cisnormativity.

RN23 | T09: Sexuality, Research and Discourse

Close Encounters Of The NoFap Type: Navigating The Challenges Of A Feminist Digital Ethnography Within An Online Masturbation And Pornography Abstinence Subreddit.

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The present research aims to explore the methodological challenges and positionality issues of conducting a digital ethnography in a male-dominated Reddit channel that seeks and promotes abstinence from masturbation and pornography and in which the literature has detected heterosexist, patriarchal and misogynistic discourses (Taylor and Jackson, 2018; Hartmann, 2020; Burnett, 2021; Smith et al., 2022). The research is based on a digital ethnography in the main channel r/NoFap of 1.1 million members on Reddit, which seeks and promotes the practice of abstention from pornography and masturbation as a means to overcome porn addiction and compulsive sexual behaviours. This NoFap community is mainly attended by heterosexual men aggregated by the belief that the NoFap practice can massively improve health and quality of life as well as work productivity and sexual life. The related conversations are dominated by "strongly heterosexual male tenor" tropes such as evolutionary narratives on gender and masculinity where men's sexual entitlement to women is an asset and the heteronormative coital an imperative. On my ethnographic journey in the r/NoFap subreddit, I had to deal with challenges that solicited mutable choices and questioned my research design, academic posture, political stance, gender identity, sexuality and desire. My lifeline was the distinctly feminist practices of self-reflexivity and the emancipatory use of writing poetry (Dorion, 2021; Lorde, 2017) that helped me to assuage epistemological anxieties, participatory doubts, ethical dilemmas, and personal and institutional shortcomings. While the results are drawn from a subjective experience, I believe this project speaks of more general difficulties in sexuality scholarship. My final hope is to unveil some tricks to equip the ethnographers better in this "dirty work" (Keene, 2021).

The Meaning Of The Research Interview For Men With Experiences Of Purchasing Sex

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The purchase of sex is criminalized In Sweden, and it is a phenomenon associated with shame and stigma. Sex buyers are a hidden population that can be difficult to recruit for research interviews, and conducting interviews with men purchasing sex can be a challenge. Based on interviews with 30 Swedish men who purchased sex, this paper explores the motivations for men participating in research interviews to talk about their experiences of purchasing sex. The focus of this paper is to explore their different motives for participating in a research study, how this is associated to their self-presentation and their perception of their experiences. The thematization of the material shows two major motives for participation, as a confession or as a political action. Participation as a form of confession can be understood as an expression of the shame and stigma associated with the purchase of sex, which makes it difficult for sex buyers to talk about their experiences. The motive to participate in a research interview as a form of political action can be understood in relation to the dominant political understanding of the purchase of sex in Sweden, which depicts it as a form of men's violence against women where men purchasing sex are viewed as perpetrators. To participate in an interview can be seen as a way to present a different story of the sex buyer and to distance oneself from the stigmatized view of the sex buyer as a perpetrator and as a deviant.

"What if I Will Not Have Sex Anymore?": Discourses on Sexuality and Aging in Women's Stories about dating apps.

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The sexual life of older women, and especially the active search for partners, remains stigmatized and largely invisible. However, there is also evidence that a cultural shift in relation to discourses about aging and sex is occurring in Western societies, influenced by gains in life expectancy, higher rates of divorce and repartnering, changing gender norms and consumerization of intimacy. The aim of this research is to explore available discourses on gender, aging and sexuality in women's stories about their experiences on dating apps. We present findings from analysis of 62 semi-structured interviews with women over 50 years old from Russian, Finland and Israel who use dating apps to look for romantic or sexual partners. The analysis shows

three dominant discourses about aging and sexuality: 1. Medical discourse – sexuality as a biological process related to reproduction and penetration. Seeing any changes in sexuality as an individual problem that can be fixed by medicine or therapy. 2. Sex belong to young people – refers to normative sexuality and sexual attractiveness as linked mainly to young people. Seeing sex drive as naturally reduced with age and older people (especially women) as less attractive. 3. Sexuality as a generative project – discussing sexuality and sexual experiences as shaped by accumulation of experience, knowledge, self-awareness and major events in the life course. Our findings make contribution to contextual understanding of discourses on aging female sexuality in different cases.

RN24 | Science and Technology

RN24 | T01_01: Trust, Regulation, and Participation in the Age of AI

Unraveling the Trust Spectrum: Insights into the Preferential Trust in AI Over Human Judgment from a UK Study

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In an era where artificial intelligence (AI) increasingly intersects with human lives, understanding the dimensions of trust in AI is pivotal. Inspired by previous research on societal perceptions on AI, this study, conducted in the UK explores why a notable majority of participants exhibit greater trust in AI over humans. Garnering 894 responses, with 451 valid completions, the research utilized a mixed-methods approach, combining a 6-step Likert scale survey with open-ended questions. The questionnaire probed psychological, sociocultural, and technological aspects of trust, underpinned by Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) and correlation analysis.

Preliminary findings indicate a predominant inclination towards trusting AI, attributed to perceptions of AI's neutrality and accuracy, akin to traditional computing systems. This trust contrasts starkly with the scepticism towards human integrity, stemming from beliefs in human self-interest and dishonesty, compounded by a distrust in media narratives. Intriguingly, a marked correlation emerges between distrust in AI and an absolute trust in human judgment, underscoring a dichotomy in trust orientation.

This study illuminates the nuanced dynamics of trust in the digital age, revealing a complex interplay between technology and human psychology. It contributes significantly to the discourse on AI integration in society, highlighting critical considerations for future AI development and policy-making.

Chatbots as Mediators of Migrant Integration in Finland

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This presentation looks at the rise and role of chatbots as mediators and technologies of integration in the public sector. Taking the case of the City of Helsinki and its various implementations of chatbots in its services, we explore challenges and possibilities that chatbots are seen to have in terms of operating as a service channel for different customer groups.

Chatbots have emerged during the past five years as ubiquitous channels for providing customer service and support, yet there are many caveats that relate to their implementation and operation. In public services, these relate for example to ensuring that people's rights are not violated and that the information bots provide is accurate. We argue that chatbot use and deployment in public services for people with different backgrounds call for new ways of service development that consider user needs in more concrete terms.

The presentation is based on the ongoing (2022–2025) multidisciplinary project "Trust-M – Designing Inclusive & Trustworthy Digital Public Services for Migrants in Finland" (https://trustmproject.aalto.fi/) conducted in collaboration at Aalto University, University of Helsinki, Tampere University, and the city of Espoo. The project examines and develops digital (AI-assisted) tools for public services in order to make them more inclusive, and accessible.

AI Futures: Participatory Perspectives For Citizens Engagement In AI Development And Narratives

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In recent years, the ethical, political, and social impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have driven a growing demand for AI systems that not only reflect citizens' needs and perspectives but also encourage their active participation in AI development. This emergence of participatory AI raises several critical questions: How can public participation be ensured in a future increasingly shaped by these technologies? What opportunities for citizen engagement and agency exist when current narratives about the future societal impacts AI are often overstated? To date, participatory AI has primarily focused on methods that integrate citizen perspectives into the AI system design process and emphasized the need for democratic processes that allow citizen involvement in decisions about AI's governance. However, it is equally important to examine how current AI narratives shape our expectations about our common future(s) and to explore ways to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives in the discussion of AI's role in society. This presentation will discuss the potential of citizen engagement and co-creation in our AI futures from a sociological perspective. Using specific examples and bridging contributions from the sociology of science, environment, and expectations, the presentation will focus on the potential and limitation of participatory methodologies to effectively improve understanding, empower communities, and identify new areas for participation and co-production that could lead to more equitable and effective AI futures.

RN24 | T01_02: Gender Dynamics in Academic Career Trajectories

Unraveling the Gender Productivity Paradox: A study of the Impact of Sick and Parental Leaves on Scientific Careers

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Numerous studies examining gender and research productivity consistently show that, overall, men tend to have a significantly higher publication output than women. While various explanations have been proposed for why these gender disparities exist, the issue remains complex and inconclusive.

In this study we focus on the role of sick and parental leaves and scientific career. More specifically we analyse how much of the gender gap in scientific productivity that can be attributed to unequal time spent at work, and to discern potential variations in this relationship across diverse scientific fields and academic positions.

We couple the publication records of 17000 Norwegian university staff members (from doctoral candidates to full-time professors) in the years 2011-2016 with data about the same researchers' leaves of absence in the period 2010-2015, and with information about their gender, age, academic position, and scientific field. This comprehensive dataset enables us to explore the association between absenteeism from work in a year and subsequent scientific productivity in the following year.

The study reveals that sick and parental leaves affect men and women differently. These disparities explain most of the gender gap in publication productivity observed in Norway. While the productivity gap may have a simpler explanation than commonly assumed, it remains a fact that gender disparity exists when not taking absence into account. Women are in a less advantageous position when publications serve as performance metrics, given that they tend to have shorter CVs and require more time to establish a comparable publication record as men.

The Academic Career Paths in the Context of Various Organizational Contexts: A Holistic Approach

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Many studies show that women's academic careers tend to be slower than men's, and many women academics end up in dead-end positions. The inequality regimes approach (Acker, 2006, 2009) points out that the organizational context plays a crucial role in the possibility of career growth for women and gender inequalities in the workplace. Although many studies have mapped the influence of different organizational contexts on women's careers, these mainly focus on a particular academic environment or type of organization. Studies systematically comparing various organizational contexts and domains of study and their effects on the long-term course of academic careers are scarce. Our paper focuses on mapping the course of gender inequalities in academic careers from a holistic perspective. Unlike comparing the academic career stage at one particular moment, we focus on the previous career course up to the present. The use of sequence analysis allows us to follow the timing of critical events in the work and life path of individuals in mutual contexts. We ask i) how the course of an academic career and the differences between men and women vary by field of study (SSH, STEM) and by type of organization (HEI, public research institutes) and ii) how the course of academic careers and gender inequalities changed between generations. The paper is based on a representative questionnaire survey of 2067 respondents conducted in 2017/2018, which mapped the Czech academic population employed at public research and higher education institutions.

Does Merit Matter in Research Promotion? A Comparison by Gender

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We study factors affecting probabilities of promotion to top rank positions in research careers, with especial attention to gender differences. Promotion, the professional advancement of researchers to a higher category or scale, is a main career reward, even if there are differences about the criteria used to assess the candidates or the factors that influence their probabilities.

Scientific contributions and merit have been accepted as the main criteria for distributing rewards and peer review has been the traditional method for determining merit. However other ascriptive factors of candidates or the relationship with evaluators have been suggested as influential, as inbreeding dynamics demonstrate.

We analyse 90 different promotion events, including the attributes of 2,358 candidates and the 397 members of evaluation committees, at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in a recent five-year period.

We create two different data sets: one of applicants, combining administrative records with scientific performance data (publications, citations, impact, projects, contracts, patents, PhD supervision, etc) and another one of Evaluation Panel members. We integrate the two data sets for each of the evaluation panels.

We find that gender is not relevant to explain individual promotion outcomes, while merit (specially research funding and impact) is an important predictor of the probability

of promotion, controlling for gender. We also find that the institutional proximity between applicants and evaluators has a positive and significant effect on promotion, and the degree of competitive pressure at promotion events is also relevant, independently of gender. We discuss these findings and some organisational policy implications.

Mapping Knowledge Transfer Trajectories in a Research System: a Matter of Gender?

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Knowledge transfer (KT) is a fundamental mission of universities and public research organizations. A diversified set of channels for KT, from patenting and contract research to public policy outreach and dissemination, facilitate the transmission of useful resources to business, government and civil society, while helping to feed fundamental research with additional resources, promote cognitive proximity and increase the legitimacy of institutions.

As in other aspects of knowledge production, there are notable differences between areas, research profiles and social characteristics. In particular, in an exploration of a massive registry of applicants to a public program aimed to provide incentives to academics and researchers for engaging in KT (The Spanish 'sexenio' for KT: 17.000 persons, 85.000 activities) we have found a big gender gap. Women participate significantly less in most kind of KT and concentrate these works on some phases of their careers.

The frameworks that try to explain the gender differences in knowledge production (ie. 'deficit model' vs 'difference model') provides scarce evidence about the specific configurations that contribute to such major gap.

In this paper we study both 'vertical' and 'horizontal' discrimination in different forms of KT. We use the mentioned data set as a strategic research site to investigate the gender dynamics of KT in relation to other social, economic and institutional factors for a population of academics and researchers in a whole research system.

RN24 | T01_03: Innovation Ecosystems and Socio-cultural Dynamics

Innovation in the Era of The 4th Industrial Revolution – A Socio-cultural Perspective.

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Innovation is a special category of analysis. It is known as the explanans and explanandum of social change. On the one hand, it is a concept that describes social change; on the other hand, it is itself subject to diagnosis. Currently, the context of innovation is defined by the 4th industrial revolution (4IR). This is a spontaneous change that seems to have its own economic culture. This culture consists of three interrelated categories: material, social and symbolic. Each of these categories is associated with a different transgression, meaning crossing the boundaries using the 4IR instruments. These transgressions define innovation. The aim of this speech is to identify transgressions leading to the redefinition of innovation. The result of the analysis will be the presentation of innovation as a basic component of the 4th revolution. In the world of the 4IR, three dichotomies are broken: virtual and real; material and dematerialized, institutional and codified. Innovation seems to be the best way to implement this process.The presented analysis will be theoretical in nature and will end with a semantic reconstruction of the category of innovation. This means defining the ontology of innovation by examining its structure and the forms of its implementation. The theoretical background of this analysis is the sociological theory of development and innovation. As a result, innovation can be recognized as a model(pattern) of the economic culture of the 4IR and its basic social imaginary, in the meaning given to this concept by Charles Tylor. This, in turn, will make it possible to identify two basic cultural types of innovation in the modern world.

Territory and Technological Innovation: the case-study of the wood Industry in Campania region (Italy)

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This study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current opportunities in the reuse, recycling, and upcycling of waste wood within the furniture industry, incorporating both a territorial study and a focus on technological innovation. To achieve this goal, we will showcase the collaborative

efforts of the "MICS-Made in Italy Circular and Sustainable" project, which is funded by NextGenerationEU.

The ongoing findings from the Forward sub-project will be presented, offering insights into a case study on the wood industry in the Campania Region, located in the southern part of Italy. The fundamental concept is to establish circular supply chains in the furniture sector, especially in regions characterized by numerous small enterprises that face challenges in independently pursuing innovation.

Consequently, this work will contribute by reconstructing a comprehensive map of the wood industries in the Campania Region. Following this, we will delve into the socio-demographic characteristics surrounding these small wood enterprises. Lastly, we will develop a mapping of the sector's needs, particularly in relation to technological innovation processes, drawing from the experiences of various stakeholders.

As will be highlighted, the influence on innovation processes is intricately connected to territorial resources and relational skills within companies. Several studies underscore the significance of business networks as the focal point where the innovative process unfolds. These studies identify a mutually influential relationship between the structure of the network and its ability to generate innovation within the territory, emphasizing its proactive evolution over time (Tidd, 2005). This underscores the importance of understanding the interplay between network structure and its capacity to foster innovation within the region while adapting proactively over time.

Business Incubation As A Means To Achieve Innovation: Policies and Discourses

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In a framework of late capitalism (Jameson, 1991) characterized by intense competition in a global market between companies and between countries, innovation emerges as a key variable to achieve competitive advantages and economic growth.

Public policy wise, innovation enjoys a wide umbrella of instruments to help enhance innovative enterprise practices. One of those instruments is the business incubator (Leblebici, Nina, 2011), an organisational format that has disseminated worldwide during the last decades.

Often approached separately, this presentation aims to study and assess the interconnections and interdependencies between innovation and business incubation as policy instruments for the economic development of countries.

Our methodological approach is twofold. A first component is generated by content analysis of public policies around both innovation and incubation, at a European and national level. A second component is generated through interviews with business incubation managers.

The resulting analysis generated the following key conclusions:

– Innovation is far more rooted in EU and Portuguese political institutions, while business incubators are mostly absent at a European level and connected to innovation strategies at a Portuguese level;

– Innovation is positioned as a strategic goal and incubation emerges as an instrument to achieve an end, in a framework of institutional and systemic subordination;

– While not exclusively, innovation is often considered a key criterion by business incubation managers when recruiting and selecting new businesses for their programmes.

Bibliographic references:

Jameson, Fredric (1991), "Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism", Duke University Press.

Leblebici, Huseyin; Shah, Nina (2011), "The Birth, Transformation and Regeneration of Business Incubators as New Organisational Forms: Understanding the Interplay between Organisational History and Organisational Theory", Business History, 46:3, 353-380.

Scientific Partnerships and Knowledge Transfer On DNA Recombinant

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Biosensors have become indispensable devices in our daily lives, from wearable devices to smartphones that citizens carry in their pockets. The BioAssembler Horizon project has been dedicated to seeking sustainable solutions to build multiplex biosensors through DNA recombinant technology. The project's research until now shows that scientific partnerships with industries have been fundamental to the development of innovation research on biosensors and the animal-to-recombinant transformation associated with it.

This paper aims to map scientific-industry partnerships producing expertise in DNA engineering applied to biosensor technology and unravel the knowledge transfer mechanisms between universities and the private sector. Various factors might contribute to the opportunities for expertise exchange, from the regional clusters of science-universities synergies to the pursuit of applying science management models to consortium research teams.

The methodology involves modelling a structural social network encompassing knowledge transfer between universities and industries/enterprises. Data for this study was collected by scrutinising significant projects funded by international organisations, analysing co-authorship dynamics, examining authors' affiliations in publications within the field, and investigating collaborative efforts in patent creation.

The outcomes of this research aim to construct a comprehensive map of scientific-industry partnerships in the realm of recombinant engineering for biosensors. The mechanisms used to move knowledge from one sector to another are crucial to comprehending how science develops with economic, social and political impacts on biosensing innovation.

RN24 | T02_01: AI in Society: Ethical Implications, and Future Visions

Towards A Socio-Technical View Of Fairness In AI Systems: A Process Of Negotiation From The MAMMOth Project

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Discourses on fairness of artificial intelligence (AI) systems are often framed in terms of technical solutions to fix algorithmic biases, thus promoting a computer science view of the problem. However, this approach often fails on the one hand to address the social context in which these systems are built and on the other to recognise the variety of opinions on what constitutes fairness when different stakeholders are involved in the discussion. As part of the EU-funded MAMMOth project, we investigated a) how the problem of fairness in AI is approached by different disciplines through 29 interviews with experts from either computer sciences or social sciences, and b) how fairness is perceived by those groups who are often discriminated and marginalised by AI systems through 6 co-creation workshops and a survey which collected 171 responses. The research focused on AI systems used in finance, for identity verification and in academic citations and collaborations. While the results show different approaches to fairness across disciplines, they also help to identify a common ground on which to build socio-technical views on the issue. On the other hand, the opinions and concerns of vulnerable groups show that fairness is a context-dependent perceived category, which has consequences on deciding when and how AI systems should be built. The presentation will show how these diverging approaches and opinions have been reconciled in the MAMMOth project, and how fairness has been negotiated both between disciplines and in order to translate the concerns of vulnerable groups into technical requirements.

The Rise of The Algorithmic Authors: Blurring the Boundaries of Human and Machine Knowledge Production

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Algorithms are now integral to academic life, promising benefits like cost-savings and personalized services while raising ethical challenges related to surveillance, commodification, and algorithmic governance (Komljenovic & Robertson, 2016; Williamson, 2018). However, the emergence of large language models (LLMs) that produce human-like text has raised new questions. These LLMs exceed mere assistance by autonomously generating content, blurring the boundaries between human-authored work and machine-generated outputs. This research examines the destabilization of traditional perceptions regarding knowledge production as an exclusive domain of human intellect, examining the complex relationships forming in light of the emergence of an "Algorithmic Author".

While existing research mainly addresses LLMs' outputs and their implications, this study adopts the social construction of technology framework (Pinch and Bijker, 1984; Van Baalen, 2016), to examine how the Algorithmic Author is constructed, enacted, and interpreted by various academic actors.

Drawing from a 10-month ethnographic study at a public research university and 20 in-depth interviews with faculty and graduate students, this research reveals two key discourse levels regarding ChatGPT. The first examines the AIgorithmic Author's political status in academic knowledge production, identifying two prevailing narratives: senior management viewed ChatGPT as a potential threat to academic integrity, while the R&D unit praises it as an innovative educational and research tool. These debates highlight the Algorithmic Author's contrasting roles in different academic sectors and its political function in framing epistemic views on knowledge production.

The second level focuses on academics' daily interactions with LLMs, identifying anthropomorphic and technomorphic perspectives. Together, these levels demonstrate how varied narratives within academia affect perceptions of the Algorithmic Author and human-machine interactions, influencing new conceptions of knowledge production and academic identity.

The Brave New World of AI: Exploring Scientists' Vsions of the Future

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Artificial intelligence (AI) has been studied for many decades and is now one of the main pillars of society's future. This is how it has been legitimized by science and technology and presented to the public. The last two years have been prodigal in reflections and considerations on the problems raised by its development in very broad areas, from culture to labour, science, health, and mobility.

Given the various forms of AI reification, questions about AI and its relationship with today's society and in the future can be raised, notably: What drives research on AI? What room do scientists give to the choices of social actors and governments? Are scientists' visions of AI deterministic? What are the implications of this determinism? To what extent do scientists feel responsible for the implications of AI? The answers are complex and take us back to the problems of technological determinism about the future, the neutrality of technology in highly complex societies, or the interests and values that rule the selection of technologies.

This presentation is based on an exploratory qualitative methodological approach that favours scientists' views, seeking to understand their positions on the central issues of AI innovation. This does not necessarily entail to find out how scientists think about the future and the role of technology in shaping it. Instead, it aims to understand what scientists' visions mean and how they can shape political and legal decisions with the capacity to structurally affect social life.

A New Team Member in Research: Artificial Intelligence

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The broad set of technologies called artificial intelligence is projected to affect white-collar workers, including the profession of researcher. Algorithms are already used during the research process beyond the analysis phase. Increasingly, generative artificial intelligence tools like large language models (LLM) appear efficient in helping researchers refine their administrative communication and manuscripts. The literature review, a fundamental task in research, is another promising application area as algorithms help condense a vast amount of scientific knowledge into a brief state-of-the-art.

Our work presents an example where an LLM algorithm was employed alongside researchers as a complementary team member coding a set of scientific publications for closer inspection during a literature review on sustainable consumption behavior. We argue that this simple one-purpose artificial intelligence was accepted as a peer in the geographically dispersed team as its developer harnessed it and embodied the algorithm's "intelligent" abilities as a real-life person. Our example thus highlights that the algorithm does not replace the human in research. Instead, its employment moves the need for highly educated professional knowledge and effort into a different discipline. In this fashion, our experiment presents a practical confirmation of the suggestion that artificial intelligence, like LLM, may replace human work in some corners of society while simultaneously introducing a need for new skills and professions elsewhere. However, our experiment also illustrates how artificial intelligence algorithms thus embodied can step out of their black box and be trained to work alongside humans during such multidisciplinary collaborations, where the old and the possible ways of working are also negotiated between different human professions. We invite a discussion and criticism of the consequences.

RN24 | T02_02: Precarity, Institutional Dynamics, and Career Mobility in Academia

Reproducing the Neoliberalized Academia through Precarity in Science

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Over the last couple of decades, the Portuguese higher education and science sector has been going through deep transformations that progressively resulted in a neoliberalized academia, characterized by hierarchical organizational settings, instrumentalized scientific practices and a culture of performativity. In this context, more than 90% of all Ph.D researchers hired after 2016 in Portugal, are precarious. Despite this scenario, no recent research has characterised this population, their work or their subjective experiences of precariousness.

Based on a questionnaire integrating quantitative and qualitative techniques, this paper characterises researchers on fixed-term contracts working in Portugal (n= 1026), their working practices, scientific trajectories and individual reflexivity processes, understood as the moments when individuals interpret their lives and consider future projects taking into account their social circumstances.

The results reveal long trajectories of precarity and a transversal reproduction of instrumentalized research practices. Concomitantly, a heterogeneity of critical discourses regarding their scientific practices and trajectories, as well as the scientific and technological system, is present. These discourses, configure moments of individual resistance and, in most cases, are not aligned with a collective agenda. As such, they are are not instigators of a transformative agency, but rather ways of managing tensions researchers experience through their working lives. Between guaranteeing their survival in academia, in the present, and enabling it, in the future, precarious researchers reproduce the neoliberalized academia and thus, the conditions that promote their maintenance in the disadvantageous structural position in which they are at.

"Institutional Inbreeding in Academia: A Critical Analysis of Meritocracy and Professional Orientation"

Wilfrid Martínez-Sánchez[1], Manuel Fernández-Esquinas[1], Jaime Aja Valle[2]

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'Institutional inbreeding' in academia is one of the most sensitive issues in talent management in research and higher education. It is usually understood as the recruitment of staff trained at the same institution and their subsequent internal promotion, where thet eventually achieve tenure. Traditionally the term inbreeding has been used to critically describe the social closure in recruitment and promotion, but recent research underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of its context-specific implications. This proposal focuses on organizational dynamics in order to provide a nuanced and contextualized exploration of practices that promote or prevent institutional inbreeding. We use two sets of concepts: meritocracy and professional orientations. Meritocracy values contributions based on knowledge and achievements. In contrast, particularism focuses on the influence of social ties and relationships. 'Cosmopolitan' and 'local' orientations further segment meritocracy, highlighting the tension between global academic standards and organizational needs. This study operationalizes these concepts through a survey of the Spanish research system. Preliminary results suggest that the interrelation between meritocracy and professional orientation plays an important role in the configuration of labour markets, generating different models for hiring and promotion. This research therefore situates academic inbreeding within a broader institutional context, stressing the importance of understanding it as a phenomenon intertwined with institutional values, norms, and networks. In addition, the study identifies patterns of recruitment and promotion that are useful for constructing indicators capable of capturing different forms of inbreeding and mobility. Although still at a preliminary stage, the study suggests how the evidence can be used to inform university management and research policies that are sensitive to different contexts.

Digitalization, Internationalization and the Immobility Turn in Researchers' Careers in Portugal

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This paper looks at recent developments in digitalization and internationalization in Portuguese universities, focusing on researchers' careers. Using evidence from 100 interviews conducted at 28 research units in 2022 and 2023, the discussion presents a cross-sectional view of engagement with these issues, covering the early-, mid – and late-career stages. The more experienced interviewees illustrate how in the past, they were able to undertake substantial amounts of geographical mobility, particularly during the formative stages of their careers, a development reflecting the expansion of global interconnectedness at this time, theorized as a mobility turn in the social sciences. However, the evidence also suggests that the popularity of corporeal mobility may be declining among early career stage researchers, at a time when many aspects of research work have migrated to the digital realm. This position is interpreted as part of an immobility turn that became visible during the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained prominent. In the Portuguese context, other factors such a housing crisis and rising cost of living have also made many cities unattractive destinations for researchers, some of whom have adopted hybrid working modes to cope with precarity. In conclusion, it is argued that researchers' careers in Portugal may now be entering a de-internationalization phase in respect of corporeal mobilities, accompanied by greater use of digitalization in research work, including working modes combining physical and virtual mobilities.

Who Benefits from Job Security? Job Satisfaction and Performance in Academia

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Working conditions in the science system have long been complained about as insecure and lacking in perspective. It is an open question who could benefit from more secure employment. While a widespread rhetoric in political debates and some economic approaches suspect that greater job security undermines scientist's motivation, efforts and performance, psychological approaches on work and motivation see increasing satisfaction on the part of scientists as a driver for the development of higher performance potential. We are investigating the relationship between contract situation, satisfaction and performance in science on the basis of a representative sample of 4,134 postdocs from all universities in Germany. The results show positive effects of secure employment on both satisfaction and output. However, the output effect is only partly mediated by satisfaction. In contrast to earlier studies, relevant contextual characteristics of the work situation are controlled for, so that the effect of the secure employment is more clearly carved out. The study refutes negative attributions of permanent positions on work results and thus the hammock argument. Thus, all parties, scientists and organizations as well, may benefit from stable jobs for researchers.

RN24 | T03_01: Agency, Trust, Responsibility, and Participatory Research for AI

Thinking on 'Thinking Machines': On the Question of Agency Capacity of AI

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The rise of AI and algorithms in recent history has made sociology turn its gaze on these new technologies. The 'learning' and a quasi-autonomous acting capacity of AI makes it unique for sociology. Sociological studies on AI can be grouped in two perspectives. Studies in subject-oriented sociology are widely concerned with the use and effects of AI and algorithms in various social fields, focusing mainly on the the agency of human beings. Through object-oriented sociology and the idea of 'agency of things', the agency capacity of AI and algorithms can be understood. Although making significant contributions, these perspectives have their limitations. Subject-oriented sociology of AI has a limitation of reducing AI and algorithms to a means in human-human interaction, thus, making it impossible to fully understand 'machine agency'. Object-oriented sociology, through the idea of 'agency of things' provides ab opportunity to understand the agency capacity of these technologies, but at the cost of obstructing the difference between human and machine agency as well as structural power relations that shape society. This study aims to provide a theoretical contribution to the understanding of AI in sociology through a collation of Actor-Network Theory (ANT), Marxist Political Economy and Bourdieusian understanding of habitus. While ANT lays the ground for AI to be understood as an agent, habitus contributes to understanding the human, who writes and codes it. Through this, human and machine can be understood as the foundational parts of a new, hybrid form of sociality. Lastly, as it is not possible to imagine high-tech technologies such as AI and algorithms without global capitalism, it is crucial to integrate political economy into debates on AI and agency question.

Trust In Artifical Intelligence. A Survey Experiment to Measure Attitudes Towards AI In Hungary.

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With AI increasingly embedded in daily life, understanding public sentiments becomes pivotal. Investigating public attitudes towards AI is crucial because it informs developers and policymakers about societal concerns and expectations, enabling the creation of more ethical, acceptable, and beneficial AI technologies. In our research, we attempt to investigate attitudes toward AI via survey experiments, and measure how much people trust AI, and to what extent trust in AI is moderated by different social factors, such as gender, age, the level of education, institutional trust, political ideology or religiosity.

In our experiment, we created hypothetical situations in 4 different domains (public healthcare, hiring, financial advise, self-driving car) split into a control group, and a treatment group. The control group received a neutral situation, whilst the treatment group received the same situations but supplemented with AI assistance. Trust in the process was measured after the treatment. The survey is conducted on a representative sample of the Hungarian adult population (aged 18 or over) using a CAWI method (n=2100). In our analysis we show main effects as well as interaction effects to test treatment heterogenity.

Our results will be presented in the conference.

Between Responsibility and Self-Subjugation – The Framing of AI Development in Media Discourse

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Social attitudes towards artificial intelligence (AI) are fed to a relevant extent by the media discourses on the topic. It is therefore worth taking an empirical look at the question of how the development of AI is negotiated in the media. An initial examination of the topic of AI in the news media reveals that the focus lies often on society's social responsibility and its ability to intervene regarding the control of AI development. The narratives vary and range from calls for political intervention to technology-deterministic self-subjugation to supposedly uncontrollable developments. These different framings of AI development differ between individual media channels. Depending on the political orientation of different media, varying aspects such as economic development, human rights or ideas of freedom are brought together with the question of intervention in AI development.

The workshop-lecture presents the results of a discourse analysis on the negotiation of the mentioned topic in the newspapers Süddeutsche Zeitung, Zeit and FAZ. The newspapers represent the center-left – to center-right-spectrum of the major German newspapers. Thus, they provide a basis for reconstructing the different framings of AI development in terms of responsibility and ability. The analysis founds on 28 articles that appeared in the context of the publication of ChatGPT and the months after. Method of choice was the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD). SKAD is particularly suitable for examining competing media patterns regarding the interpretation of social issues. The results of the discourse analysis promote an understanding of the question of why certain

interventions with regard to AI development are supported or rejected in politics and society.

Supporting the Development of AI through Participatory Action Research: A Case Study on Social Services in Catalonia

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In exploring the application of artificial intelligence (AI) within social services in Catalonia, a region pioneering Spain's first AI strategy, our study employs a grassroots ethical approach through Participatory Action Research (PAR). This approach brings together a diverse group of participants including social workers, policymakers, technologists, developers, and social scientists, to critically evaluate AI's integration into social services in the region. Within the framework of the AI FORA project, two significant gatherings were instrumental in shaping the dialogue, emphasizing the need for ongoing, inclusive assessments to ensure the initiatives remain aligned with community values and ethical standards. Our research methodology included the use of focus groups to delve into the benefits and challenges of employing AI in social services, complemented by a World Cafe format to facilitate in-depth discussions on four pivotal topics: 1) leveraging data in social services for efficient resource distribution, 2) utilizing predictive analytics for preemptive actions, 3) fostering a culture of continuous evaluation and enhancement, and 4) enhancing cooperation among all stakeholders involved. The findings highlight the dual nature of AI in social services—while it offers innovative solutions and opportunities for advancement, it also raises significant ethical and practical concerns, particularly for those in marginalized or vulnerable positions, underscoring the critical need for cautious and informed implementation.

RN24 | T03_02: Competition,Institutions, and Aesthetics in Scientific Knowledge

Orientation and Role Strain: On Neglected Functions of Academic Competition Among Postdocs

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The postdoc career stage is increasing in frequency and duration. At the same time, the postdoc role is complex, open, and uncertain: The tasks postdocs are confronted with are more diverse and complex compared to the Ph.D. stage. Yet, there is less guidance. This paper addresses the question how postdocs learn what it means to 'be a postdoc'. Bridging the literatures on the socialization of postdocs and on academic competition, we reveal a neglected function of academic competition: Competition is not only a mechanism for allocating scarce resources, it also has a socializing function because it conveys expectations and values to postdocs. Drawing on qualitative interviews with 60 postdocs in history and physics in Germany, we show that postdocs distinguish competitions for publications, funding, and jobs.Contrasting individual narratives from two most dissimilar research fields, we found evidence regarding the sometimes conflicting norms and demands articulated in each discipline. Although our study contributes a comparative perspective to the study of so-called early career researchers, we were surprised by the degree of commonalities in our findings – especially regarding the coping mechanisms of our interviewees. Doubts, stress, and identity conflicts, we argue, are not particular to disciplinary communities or specific types of competition. Rather, they emanate from the multiplicity of role expectations, value frameworks, and time horizons articulated in the different types of competition early career researchers engage in simultaneously. Thus, precarity is not only an inherent feature of the academic career path but also actively (re-)produced through the conflicting demands of competitive configurations in and through which researchers learn about their role as postdocs.

The Role of Science in the Eyes of Croatian Academics – Generational Differences in Attitudes and Behaviors

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This paper focuses on generational differences in perception and practice of social responsibility in four academic disciplines (natural, technical, social and biomedical sciences). It is based on a survey of N=800 researchers from different universities in Croatia and explores various aspects of academic ethics, research integrity, perceptions of relationship between science and society, as well as attitudes and behaviors related to open science. Drawing insights from past research and contemporary literature, we examine generational differences against the backdrop of evolving trends in the professionalization of science. This includes phenomena like the 'publish or perish' culture, 'new public management,' and the metric logic of evaluation. We analyze how these changes influence the perceived and practiced social role and responsibility of science. Broadening this inquiry by including more than only STEM fields, and using multivariate statistical analyses with the focus on generational differences, this paper aims to better understand the present and find a shape of future developments in the relationship between science and society.

What Do Academics Think About Their Institutions?: An Exploration Of Professional Trajectories, Institutional Quality And Commitment

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The goal of this paper is to explore the institutional quality of universities and research centers from the perspectives of the people who work for them.

Literature on the social configurations of systems of knowledge production usually states that "institutions count". It is assumed that the character of institutions shape their internal dynamics and outcomes, although these issues are difficult to capture empirically. The construct of "institutional quality" has been used to observe some sociological dimensions: the existence of meritocracy, equal opportunities, immunity to particularistic interests, absence of island of power and lack of bureaucracy, in addition to the organizational climate, innovation and proactivity.

In this paper, we hypothesize that the trajectories and working conditions inside institutions are interlinked with the experiences and perceptions of institutional quality, and shape the commitment of workers with their employing institutions.

We have operationalized aspects of institutional quality in an extensive survey to professors and researchers of the Spanish research system. In addition, we have built a typology of academic careers combining age of entrance (early or late) and institutional mobility (internal or external career), resulting in five types: early-mobile, early-internal, late-mobile, late-internal and mixed.

Our analysis observes how academic careers influence the assessment of institutional quality, and extends to other aspects of institutions, including the legitimacy of the institutional missions and the contributions to society at large. The conclusions suggest the convenience of using an integral conceptualization and research design of relevant sociological dimensions of institutions, while paying special attention to the working conditions and trajectories of researchers.

Aesthetics and the Social Construction of Scientific Knowledge: Evidence from a Cross-National Study on Biologists and Physicists' View on the Relation between Beauty and Science.

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As Science and Technology Studies shows, scientific knowledge production is a social practice that embodies epistemological claims and ontological orderings, including aesthetic judgments and imputations. However, the role of aesthetics in scientific knowledge production has yet to be systematically covered by research, and the field encourages further investigation.

This presentation contributes to the field by addressing the role of aesthetic judgments and imputations in scientific work, as per the perception of scientists. Data derives from the "Work and Well-Being in Science (WWB)" international study, which is as of today the largest cross-national research initiative to understand key factors that affect the work and well-being of scientists. The study focused on scientists in physics and biology departments in four countries (India, Italy, the UK, and the US) covering, among other themes, the role of aesthetics in scientific work, and it consisted of a nationally representative survey (N=3442) and a set of 205 semi-structured interviews.

Our analysis focuses on images that scientists selected when asked to provide examples of what they consider beauty in science and their accounts of the choice. Beauty and related aesthetic judgments appear as significant at three different layers: an ontological layer, where scientists encounter beauty in the objects of science; a praxis layer, where scientists see beauty as part of the scientific research

process; an epistemic layer, where scientists weigh beauty as an epistemological tool. The presentation concludes. by discussing the relevance of the three layers in scientific knowledge production.

RN24 | T03_03: Knowledge, controversies and trust in Healhtcare and Food Systems

Efficient Ethics? Enacting Ethicality in Everyday Practices of Handling Donated Blood in Finland

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Blood can be considered as a classical topic—as a metaphor and as an actual human biological material—in social sciences studying phenomena of the medical world, kinship, and donation practices. However, since Titmuss's famous book published in 1970, the world of blood and its donation have come a long way—or have they? In this paper, I examine how the ethics and moral properties of donated human blood are enacted in the context of the Finnish Blood Service's everyday blood-related work.

This paper stems from ethnographic fieldwork and expert interviews collected in 2023–2024 at the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service (FRCBS), that has been responsible for the Finnish blood supply since 1948. The fieldwork was conducted at the main FRCBS site in Vantaa, as well as in two blood donation sites. The premise in Vantaa is an extraordinary place: all blood donated in Finland gets transported there, where it is separated and processed into various blood products, tested for infectious diseases as well as for blood groups, and eventually sent to hospitals. During my fieldwork, I observed the journeys of donated blood from its donation through the testing and handling processes until the blood products were sent to hospitals.

This paper if part of my doctoral research project, in which I study the everyday ethics of donated tissues in Finland, analysing egg, blood and corneal donation practices in parallel. In my project I am particularly interested in the role and meanings of genetics in these ethical practices.

Experiential Knowledge And Scientific Controversies Over Health: A Symmetrical Approach

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Personal experiences are accentuated today in health care in many ways, driven by major social changes. The neo-liberal restructuring of the health services has promised individualized services and personalized medicine, expecting from citizens an entrepreneurial attitude towards their health. The inclusion of non-experts to increase the legitimacy of decision-making has introduced to the medical domain experts-by-experience to build awareness, guide patients and clients, and develop services. Structural changes

in both medicine and medical problems have foregrounded patient experiences, which give important information on various aspects of the treatment process, be it diagnostics, service utilization, or coping with a chronic condition.

Alongside these positive accentuations, personal experiences also have a central role in contemporary scientific controversies over health. Struggles over, for example, healthy eating or vaccinations are not only about epistemic propositions, but increasingly about the status of personal experiences with knowledge claims. Whereas critical individuals value their experiences over generalized expert advice, established experts reject them as false, claiming ignorance or misinformation.

In previous research, accepted and rejected forms experiential knowledge have been treated separately, utilizing different explanatory models. In this paper, I suggest that both types should be viewed symmetrically: why are epistemic claims related to personal experiences accepted in certain contexts and rejected in others? Putting the question in this way leads us to look at the structural features of such contexts. I will illustrate the idea by discussing one example, current mainstream nutritional thinking and dietary advice. The strict separation and clear hierarchy between food and nutrients that nutrition establishes leaves little room for experiential knowledge, which fuels the confrontation between official and alternative views.

Medical Gaze on Reproductive Bodies and Reproductive Decision-Making: Women's Experiences and Selection of IVF Protocols in Japan, UK and Taiwan

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Of countries where In vitro fertilisation (IVF) has been widely implemented, Japan is distinct, given the prominence of mild-stimulation IVF. Mild IVF involves less ovarian stimulation and physical stress at a reduced cost. It is framed as a "patient-friendly" protocol. Research has debated its efficacy for over 20 years. However, how this technology intersects with reproductive decisions and embodied experiences in IVF is never examined. This paper asks why Japanese patients choose mild IVF more frequently than in other countries and compares IVF decision-making between Japan, the UK and Taiwan to contextualise women's perceptions when facing diverse treatment choices in different cultural, social and medical contexts.

This paper builds on one-year qualitative data collection and an online survey of over 1500 respondents, unpacking intertwined social constructions of bio-knowledge and reproductive bodies. The paper inquires how women perceive diverse ovarian stimulation methods and their impacts on treatment experiences and results, from the theoretical lens of reproductive governance and the complexity of care in Science and Technology Studies. The aim is to uncover the social configurations underpinning the medical rhetoric surrounding milder stimulation being beneficial for women undertaking IVF and to examine how the concept of care is localised and framed as moral and political strategies for treating involuntary infertility.

Through comparison, this paper finds that having choices in ovarian stimulation methods enhances patients' engagement in treatment decision-making. Mild IVF's emphasis on the "closer to nature" framework, which collaborates with "caring for women" rhetoric, renders IVF more approachable and reduces the barrier between medical professionals and patients. On the other hand, this paper reveals that patients regard the treatment cycles required before success as a neglected aspect of mild IVF. Mild IVF traps women with repeated, unsuccessful IVF cycles more than the standard IVF protocol, questioning the "patient-friendly" framework. In sociological research, IVF has been considered a unified technology. How nuanced treatment approach selections lead to different IVF experiences has never been explored. This paper demonstrates that not only patients' social conditions and identities influence their reproductive decisions and that the diversity in IVF technology significantly shapes different IVF experiences and decisions.

No Matter of Trust? – Understanding Trust in The Context of Blockchain in the Food Supply Chain

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Food safety and food fraud are global issues that have led to a decrease in consumer trust in food systems and products. To tackle this issue, digital technologies are emerging, with blockchain being one of the most prominent. Blockchain is said to offer a decentralised approach that improves transparency, traceability and a verified, tamper-proof record, which increases trust. However, the relationship between trust and blockchain is a topic of intense debate in the literature. Based on the conducted literature review, economics provides the most dominant understanding of trust in relation to blockchain. They define trust based on the blockchain's characteristics. Some economists even argue that blockchain can be considered a trust-free or trustless-trust system due to its architecture and attributes. However, the concept of trust can be misunderstood due to the lack of a clear operational definition of trust, including its dimensions and objectives. From a sociological perspective, trust in relation to blockchain is a complex concept that goes beyond its architecture and attributes. It involves the (changing) roles and perceptions of multiple actors, including elite actors such as blockchain-as-a-service (BaaS) providers and users, mainly producers and retailers. Therefore, this presentation provides initial empirical findings from elite interviews and documentary analysis on how blockchain has changed interactions between food supply chain actors and how the use of blockchain has affected food supply chain actors' perceptions of trust. In doing so, it raises questions about the impact of blockchain on traditional understandings of trust and the relationships and roles of trustors, trustees and trust objects.

RN24 | T04_01: The multiple senses of space

The Adventures Of Organoids: Cerebroids In Space

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On November 10, 2023, the Dragon capsule took off for the International Space Station (ISS) carrying cerebroids. Cerebroids, or cerebral organoids, are derived from human cells that have been restored to pluripotency in vitro. By mimicking certain aspects of human organs, they enable us to better understand how they function. People who have sent cerebroids into space are taking part in the Cerebral aging mission, whose aim is to analyze neurodegenerative diseases by modeling them using these cerebroids. This paper will present the mission and propose an initial mapping of the human and non-human involved (donors, cerebroids, researchers, industrialists, astronauts, etc.). It will then address some of the tensions linked to these emerging entities that are organoids (production, conservation, links to industry, public-private positioning...) and more specifically discuss the question of the moral status of cerebroids. A thread running through this paper will be the consideration of emotions as a central element during these activities.

Bioregenerative Life Support Systems as Hybrid Assemblages of Human and Non-human Actors

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A multidisciplinary enterprise is currently engaging space scientists in exploring renewed possibilities of extending human and non-human existence beyond old and new frontiers. Although already achieved more than fifty years ago, the goal of bringing humans to the Moon is becoming central again to the projects of space faring and discovery of new worlds. The Moon is, indeed, the limit beyond which to go in near future, with Mars being among the destinations to reach one day. To face these challenges, scientists have to find feasible solutions to ensure the survival of space crews during longer travels (e.g. towards Mars) and to safely operate in orbit or on planetary surfaces, far from Earth. One key solution is to rely on bioregenerative life support systems (BLSSs), that is, closed ecological systems where different agents (human beings, plants, micro-organisms, and technological devices) coexist to function as producers and consumers of food, oxygen, water, and waste. Although inspired by earthly ecosystems, BLSSs are unprecedented forms of multispecies systems that have been studied for decades (from the early space age in the Sixties onwards). The present paper aims at situating research on BLSSs in a theoretical framework that redefines the bonds between society, technology, and environmental issues by relying upon multispecies narratives and conceptualisations of hybrid assemblages of heterogeneous actors. The key argument is that, to study BLSSs, scientists rely on the intricacies of the relationships between human and non-human agents, hence offering to social scientists an invaluable occasion to study new hybrids that could transform life and the idea we have of it from a terrestrial point of view.

Digital Knowledge Production and Un/Even Data Geograghaphies

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This paper presents results of a comparative research on digital urban planning communities drawing on case studies in the US, Nigeria, and Germany. Through ethnographic workplace studies on urban planning offices, the construction of (spatial) knowledge through digital tools such as computer assisted design software, geographic information systems, and others were observed.

Local cultural differences and similarities between different planning communities in the use and handling of technology allow conclusions to be drawn about the conditions of digital planning processes and the techno-spatial contexts of situated planning practices of knowledge production across different scales.

Drawing on concrete observations the research demonstrates how spatio-temporal arrangements of planning processes correlate with uneven data geographies and power structures. Indicating towards the spatiality of digitally organized processes. Geodata are a central means of organising and constructing planning processes. These data practices are organized in a spatial division of labor. This implicates spatial inequalities in the control of and access to data on different levels. Competitive global and regional inequalities are reproduced and reshaped through digital planning processes.

Observations from different planning communities show how different techno-spatial preconditions correlate with the existence and emergence of planning and technological cultures. Global asymmetries between planning offices, between center and periphery on various scales materialize and emerge through digital infrastructures.

The findings of this research form the basis for a new research project that explores power – and technology-sensitive collaborative practices for the construction of spatial knowledge in a city-to-city project as part of a dialogue between global South and global North.

Building Certifications as Sustainability Devices. The Construction of a New Sociotechnical Imaginary in Architecture

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The knowledge of how to design buildings and what characterizes good architecture today can no longer be taken for granted. Nor can it be treated as something immutable, even if it has the status of a scientific fact. As STS points out, scientific facts, too, are social constructs, and the path from establishing a fact about the world to its application in everyday practices is a winding one, requiring many complex knowledge-making processes and tinkering.

A similar approach has also been applied to architecture and urban studies. More evidence of the building industry's negative impact on the climate is forcing architects, planners and investors to reconsider their design and business strategies. A deeper understanding of the complex socio-technical relations in which architecture and designers are situated is required to find their way in a world of climate transformation, where every design decision or regarding materials and technologies used can carry unforeseen consequences.

The aim of the presentation is to analyze the building certification system as a "sustainability device" establishing and spreading the sustainability paradigm and developing a new "sociotechnical imaginary" in architecture. In my talk, I will draw on preliminary findings from doctoral research project in which I focus on discourse analysis around sustainable architecture and ethnographic research in design studios. The presentation will also reflect on theoretical questions, including the possibility of combining STS with Niklas Luhmann's theory of autopoietic social systems and the convergence of the concepts of translation with structural coupling and sociotechnical imaginary with sense structure.

RN24 | T04_02: Exploring Knowledge Transfer, Open Science, and Science Policy

Between Academic Requirements and Societal Impact: Inquiring Disciplinary Differences in Scientists' Navigation of Knowledge Transfer

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In the evolving academic landscape, researchers are increasingly tasked with demonstrating the societal impact of their work – besides conducting research and teaching. Our contribution explores potential tensions arising from these diverse responsibilities and how they are carried out in different disciplines.

Engaging in knowledge transfer is one way of achieving and demonstrating societal impact and thus legitimizing scientific work. Knowledge transfer has been integrated into science policy and research evaluation at various levels, making it a relevant term for all academics. However, there may be differing understandings of the term 'knowledge transfer' and its integration into research practice among scientists. To ensure a thorough understanding of science's contribution to society, it is essential to identify potential conflicts that may arise when navigating academic and knowledge transfer requirements, particularly in relation to disciplinary affiliation.

In the fall of 2023, we conducted a survey involving over 3,000 researchers in Germany as the quantitative part of an ongoing mixed-methods research project. Our aim was to provide a comprehensive empirical basis to develop a typology of knowledge transfer practice across disciplines. Consequently, the survey captured data on scientists' disciplinary backgrounds, their perspectives on the discourse surrounding knowledge transfer, and their involvement in knowledge transfer activities.

On this basis, we explore the perceived tensions between academic demands and knowledge transfer, and their manifestation in different disciplines. Our data showcases diverging understandings and practices of knowledge transfer and connects these to disciplinary differences, emphasizing the significance of comparative perspectives in the ongoing discourse on science-society relations.

Open Science – Can (And Should) It Be for Everyone? A Comparative Analysis of 2 Researcher Surveys in the Biggest Research Network in Hungary

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In recent years Open Science initiatives, practices and regulations have been gaining momentum. Funding bodies and publishers have been increasing their expectations regarding making research publications and research data accessible. Researchers are faced with an ever-growing demand for planning, documenting and executing the collection, archiving and publishing of research data. There seems to be a general understanding and unison within the scientific community concerning the importance of free and accessible scientific communication, which has been recently highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the pressing matter of the climate crisis.

However, Open Science practices and regulations come with their own set of challenges: unfortunately, both Open Access publishing and accessing publications from many reputed journals comes at a high cost that many researchers and institutions cannot afford. Another type of challenges lies within the existing practices, motivations, and doubts – in other words, the current culture – among researchers regarding management of research data, which proves to be an understudied subject. Some reservations and existing practices – which may differ by scientific discipline – might be more substantial than others (e.g. the worry about having research proposals plagiarised).

In 2022, the biggest survey (51 interviews; 129 questionnaire respondents) to date was conducted on researchers' research data management practices, needs, and difficulties in Hungary within the framework of a large project set out to construct a large, "user-beneficial" data repository for the 18 institutions of the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN). The repository has been tested by select researchers before opening and we are conducting a more inclusive follow-up survey to look at overall satisfaction as well as further needs for development to support the culture of open research data in Hungary.

Tension or Transformation? Interrelation Between Gender (equality) and Open Science in Context of Responsible Research & Innovation

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Responsible research and innovation (RRI) is still rather young concept in both political and academic discourses, but as covering such realms as governance, ethics, gender (equality) (G(E)), open science (OS), science education, and public engagement, significantly contributes to shaping of research practices and cultures as well as science as social institution in general.

In this paper, first, we focus on G(E) in RRI context considering gender (in addition to other intersecting features) as lurking in all domains of both personal and socio-political life; thus, gender prevails in any realm of RRI. Second, we consider numerous practices, principles and pillars of the OS in the context of claiming "most analysis and policy documents related to OS&OI adopt a gender blind approach". More specifically, we aim to explore an interrelation between G(E) and OS in light of scarce previous research findings, which suggest that (a) OS and, in particular, open access can be regarded as a means to "facilitate greater diversity and inclusiveness" and can be treated as predictor for gender equality developments; however, (b) gender equality achievements also can be considered as predictor of OS indicators; furthermore, (c) there are reportings on negative interrelation between gender equality in academic contexts and OS; as well as (d) there are reportings on absence of interrelation between the OS and gender equality.

From empirical perspective, we look at the interrelation trough available ES statistical data (She Figures) reporting on levels of gender distributions in research in general as well as in mobility, publication, and other R&I related activities in several research sectors in the 27 EU countries by employing such statistical analysis methods as correlation and regression analysis.

The Political Economy Of Science Policy Concepts

Martin Reinhart, Authorship Collective Merton Center

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There seems to be a proliferation of concepts that are used to describe and prescribe what science is or should be. They are generally understood as ideals that the practice and governance of science should move towards – more openness, more responsibility, more impact. As such they imply that both scientists and the general public view them,

in principle, as desirable, not the least because their opposites are clearly nondesirable. The multitude and idealism of these concepts has been noticed and problematized already in the literature and in public. We claim that we are witnessing the establishment of a global arena for discourse on science policy, in which these concepts are key elements. The multitude of concepts opens up an arena in which actors in science policy, both old and new, can address the governance of science, both internally and externally. That arena for discourse is global in two ways: These concepts allow to abstract from the specificities of national science systems and from the differences between scientific disciplines to, in turn, keep the questions pertinent of how these concepts can be applied to national and disciplinary contexts. As such, these concepts open up an arena for global science policy discourse and drive a need for further explication and application of said concepts. The arena for global science policy concepts can be conceptualized as a symbolic market in which attention is invested in concepts. It is through these investments that the discourse around these concepts flows and through which some fall in and out of fashion or through which some become compatible or conflicting with each other.

RN24 | T04_03: Mapping Dynamics in Higher Education

Exploring the Rise of 'Research Culture Work' in UK Academia

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In the past decade, there has been growing attention to the importance of research culture for the wellbeing of researchers and the conduct of research (e.g., Noorden 2018; Science Europe 2021; Danish National Research Foundation 2021). This attention has been particularly pronounced in the UK higher education sector, where issues such as heightened competition, the prevalence of metrics, job insecurity, inflexible career pathways, and problematic workplace behaviours have raised concerns (see Moran et al. 2020). Responding to these challenges, prominent funding and science organisations like the Wellcome Trust (2020) and the Royal Society (2022) have emphasised the need for fostering a healthy research culture. Moreover, in 2021-22, Research England created a £30 million fund that was distributed among universities in England to enhance their research culture (see Research England 2021; this fund has since been renewed in the following two academic years). In response to these developments, most research-intensive universities in the UK have initiated activities to support the development of a positive research culture, ranging from surveys and events to the establishment of new positions, teams, and even entire sections dedicated to this cause.

This study is interested in what these initiatives look like across different universities, exploring their organisation, implementation, and the underlying agendas and values driving their development. To gain insights, qualitative interviews have been conducted with high-level university employees, whose position involves a specific focus on improving and/or examining the research culture of their institutions.

In the talk I will share findings from these interviews, and what they suggest about future work in this emerging field. Additionally, I will seek to situate 'research culture work' within related sociological and STS literatures.

Mergers in Norwegian Higher Education: Is There an Effect on Research Productivity?

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Higher education institutions (HEI) across Europe are confronted with diminished public spending, and thus less resources to fulfill teaching and research activities. This has raised wide-spread concerns about HEI's effectiveness and efficiency. In response, governments implemented mergers to reduce costs and to increase HEI's research productivity. Yet, few studies have empirically investigated the impact of mergers on research productivity. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to explore whether merging impacts faculty research productivity. The few existing studies have often made the trade-off between large-scale bibliometric data but little demographic and/or attitudinal information, or small-scale bibliometric data but more extensive demographic and/or attitudinal information. By contrast, we use data of the Norwegian Re-Structure Project which includes a large-scale dataset of 3753 faculty members across 21 HEI's and contains a unique combination of detailed bibliometric data, information on academic positions and activities, attitudes and opinions regarding organizational change, leadership, and commitment. Preliminary results of bivariate analyses demonstrated that faculty in merged institutions reported having fewer research resources, lower organizational commitment, and were more negative in their assessment of transformational and transactional leadership of their leaders, yet no differences were found in terms of research productivity. Preliminary multivariate regression analyses confirm that research productivity is not affected by merger processes in the two years following the merge. Whereas previous research indicated a growth for all, but especially for merged institutions, our results indicate that there is no such increase in research publications at the individual level.

The Digital Technologies integration process in higher education

Stefania Capogna

Link Campus University, Italy

In the last 25 years, higher education institutions have undergone a series of waves of reform, driven by the need to adapt traditional organisational models to radical changes in global and local contexts, characterised by a loss of borders, turbulence, instability, a progressive lack of resources and epochal challenges. Within a triple polarity system, driven on one side by supranational regulatory pressures, on another by the rapidly obsolescent labour market and on the third side by a three-pointed transition (digital, ecological and social), universities are at the centre of complex processes of change that increasingly characterise them as complex organisations. For these reasons, the paper explores the transition that involves HEIs in the effort to introduce digital technologies in their organisational and teaching practises.

The paper will present the main results of the research work led by the D-challengHE Erasmus project, which strives to improve the quality of higher education at the European level by sharing best learning and teaching practices through a network of Higher Education systems that explore digital transformation and innovation.

Through the lens of the translation theory, the paper illustrates how the European recommendations, concerning university digitisation and the building of a digital university, have been translated into practice, also reflecting around the "naturalization" process of digital technologies in daily practices. The presentation will focus on the results of comparative research (mixed methods) conducted between 2020-2023 on 6 case studies of European HEIs, to reconstruct the actor network and the process of thematization of digital technology in the university.

Digitalization and Science: Prosumer Practices

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The development of the Internet and digital technologies has enabled non-professionals to participate on a larger scale in some activities that were previously only carried out by professionals. However, the impact of digitalization on the (perhaps changing) understanding of authority, professionalism, and authorship in society is not obvious and entirely clear. Participation (along with collaboration) is one of the essential features that characterizes user activities on the so-called social Internet. This feature is covered by the concept of prosumption (production+consumption), which captures the changing relations between producers and consumers of the material and intellectual products. Internet and digital technologies and platforms direct users' activities in such a way that they simultaneously become (or are able to become) producers or creators of the product and content that they themselves use. The concept of prosumption predates the Internet or digital era and it is not exceptionally a digital phenomenon, but it is supposed that the Internet and digital technologies, encouraging user participation, stimulates and facilitates the general trend towards participation in different areas of social life, including science. The aim of this presentation is to invoke the concept of prosumption (i.e. user's productive practices) to conceptualize the participation of non-professionals in scientific and knowledge dissemination activities and to explore how these practices manifest outside the institutional science. My objective is to evaluate the concept and practices of citizen science accordingly, and to provide with the analysis of Lithuanian case of prosumers' science-related projects on the Internet.

RN24 | T05_01: Trust and Engagement for Energy Innovations

Exploring The Trust-participation Nexus – Towards A Relational Concept Of Trust In Energy System Transformations

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Trust is considered as a crucial factor for sustainability transformations in the energy sector (and beyond). It has been argued that building trust is strongly linked to processes of communication, deliberation and participation. In this presentation, we investigate this link by looking at the issue of trust in large energy infrastructure projects. We analyse how studies on energy technologies conceptualize trust and approach the relation of trust and participation.

To do so, we study how trust has been conceptualized in research on two energy technologies – carbon capture and storage (CCS) and wind energy – and if a relation between participation processes and trust building is established.

We find that trust has mainly been approached with a narrow theoretical lens and as a key factor for acceptance of specific technology projects. In this instrumental framing, participation serves as a means to gain trust or overcome distrust. How trust emerges, transforms or erodes, therefore, remains unclear beyond rationalistic assumptions on the role of actors, information provision or participation. We propose a new theoretical framework for trust (networks of trust) and its connection to participation based on sociological theory and relational perspectives in science and technology studies to enable a broader understanding of the trust-participation nexus.

A Socio-technical Approach to Support the Transition Towards a New Energy System. The Case of Hydrogen in South Tyrol

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The energy transition process involves the territory in a multifaceted spatial, social, and energy system, where the choices made by the local population regarding technologies and energy utilization play a pivotal role. Applying the Actor-Network Theory (ANT) approach, our current investigation delves into the interaction and interdependence among various participants within the energy landscape in South Tyrol (located at the border with Austria, Switzerland, and Italy): we explore the sociotechnical system within the autonomous province of South Tyrol, according to its Climate Plan 2040, whose aim is to guide sustainable management of the territory through various measures, including energy production and efficiency, increase in renewable energy production and supply, development of an energy mix thanks to technological innovations, transnational collaborations, and research partnerships.

This process is facilitated by historical, organizational, and technological factors that render South Tyrol particularly intriguing in terms of advancements in the field of renewables. This interest extends to the direct involvement of citizens. One notable example is the territorial concentration of a high number of 'historical energy cooperatives,' which exemplify a well-established practice of community management of renewables (hydroelectric plants), in mountainous areas.

The ANT-driven exploratory analysis encompasses the cutting-edge technological framework of storing renewable energy, specifically focusing on the role of the Hydrogen Centre in Bozen South, a public-private partnership between Brennerautobahn AG, the operator of the local motorway, and funding from the European Regional Development Fund. Establishing a hydrogen economy necessitates collaborative endeavors in research, development, and investment to render hydrogen a practical and efficient element within local energy strategies. This emphasis is particularly crucial for advancing zero-emission mobility and holds future potential for broader domestic applications.

The Emergence of the Promise of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the Leading Finnish and Swedish Daily Newspapers

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In both Finland and Sweden, nuclear new-build has gathered growing support from policymakers and citizens. In particular, the promise of the small modular reactors (SMRs) is rapidly gaining visibility. While both countries are consensual Nordic high-trust welfare societies, with close collaboration between authorities and industry in the nuclear sector, earlier research has also highlighted significant differences between the two countries, including those concerning the role of the media. For example in the reporting on nuclear waste policies, Sweden's active media debates that give high visibility to a variety of voices and perspectives contrasts with the Finnish media's tendency to echo government and industry views. Similar differences between the dialogical Swedish and more straightforward, even authoritarian, Finnish approaches have been observed also in other policy areas.

This paper explores the ways in which the promise of SMRs is being constructed in Finland and Sweden. It does so by examining the print media reporting on SMRs, in two leading daily newspapers in each country, in 2000-2022. While the trends in the degree of media attention are highly similar – demonstrating rapidly growing hype from 2021 onwards – the analysis indicates that the media discussion, and in extension the promise construction, is firmly embedded in the societal contexts of their respective countries, and corroborates the above-mentioned earlier research, highlighting the differences between the media and policy cultures in the two countries. The analysis reveals a contrast between the near absence of counternarratives in Finland and the relatively lively debate between SMR promoters and critics in Sweden.

RN24 | T05_02: Social media, community and creativity

Online Bridges, Offline Bonds: Unraveling the Effect of Virtual Social Capital on Physical Community Engagement in two Facebook Neighborhood Groups in Zagreb, Croatia

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Institute of social sciences Ivo Pilar

Social capital is a complex and multidimensional concept that can be explored from various standpoints. If we consider social capital as a public good, as suggested by Putnam and Goss (2002), then Internet social networks and the norms of reciprocity that arise from them can be seen as a way of enhancing social capital. According to a recent study by You and Hon (2019), people in online groups with weaker ties are more inclined to engage in collective activities. Valenzuela et al. (2009) also found that Facebook can strengthen weak ties and encourage collective action. This paper takes a unique approach by examining the impact of social capital formed within the virtual dimension of the community on engagement in its physical dimension. This paper presents data from an online survey conducted in 2022 among 496 respondents from two Facebook neighborhood groups in Zagreb, Croatia. Results have revealed that social ties have a significant role in fostering emotional belonging and encouraging participation within the physical boundaries of neighborhoods. Trust, in particular, has been found to have a significant influence on both the perceived level of informal social control and functional belonging to the neighborhood. Furthermore, trust has a notable impact on perceived neighborhood safety but only in one group. Overall, the results suggest that social capital formed in the virtual dimension of the neighborhood has a favorable effect on certain aspects of community engagement.

Queer Feminist Perspectives on TikTok: A Critical Analysis of Platform Governance

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As digitalization progresses, social media platforms like TikTok increasingly impact our daily lives, prompting critical analysis of how they perpetuate social hierarchies and injustices. TikTok, as a site of visibility, plays a pivotal role in what is seen and unseen, following regimes of visibility

(Foucault 2007; Foucault 2000; Bucher 2012; Beer 2016). This is particularly relevant in discussions of gender, sexuality, and intersectional discrimination, making TikTok a significant field for study, especially from queer feminist (Butler 2016 [1991]) and platform governance perspectives (Duguay et al. 2020; Tarvin and Stanfill 2022).

TikTok, popular among young girls*, women*, and queer users (Boffone 2021, 27), faces criticism for perpetuating patriarchal structures, leading to discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation (Caldeira et al. 2021, 37). The platform's moderation practices, particularly in relation to queer content, are scrutinized for censorship and marginalization (Zeng/Kaye 2022, 83).

An analysis of TikTok's Community Guidelines and newsroom articles from 2018 to 2022 reveals increasing visibility of sexism, but structural discrimination often remains unaddressed. The discourse tends to be individualized and depoliticized, with TikTok adopting Western, neoliberal narratives. The platform uses accounts of queer and oppressed users* to project progressiveness, while substantive protection and systemic changes are overlooked.

This study contributes to queer feminist research by examining TikTok's governance practices and its approach to social inequalities, particularly sexism. It underscores the importance of critically assessing digital systems from a queer feminist viewpoint. Platform actions and structures often reflect dominant and oppressive gender and sexuality norms, with platform governance functioning as a "sexist assemblage (Gerrard and Thornham 2020)." This work provides a basis for a queer feminist critique, integrating inter – and transdisciplinary perspectives.

Humour as Coping: A Multimodal Analysis of TikTok Comedy Content Before, During, and After Covid-19

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This research examines how humour on the social media platform TikTok has shifted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a form of entertainment that provides relief during difficult times, humour plays an important role in resilience and coping at both the individual and societal level. However, little research has investigated how major societal disruptions like Covid-19 impact trends in humour.

This study conducts a multimodal analysis of popular TikTok comedy content in China, the UK, and the US created between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2022. Changes are identified in topics, language, presentation style, and format of videos before, during, and after the onset of the pandemic. In addition, the analysis considers how the political, cultural, and social context in each country may contribute to differences observed.

Findings provide insight into how humour adapts and transforms during times of tragedy. Results also further understanding of TikTok's emerging cultural influence and impact on online communication. By examining TikTok as a site of meaning-making during crisis, this research identifies opportunities for using social media platforms to promote resilience and positive coping strategies collectively in the face of future societal challenges

"How to Became an Online Creator? On the Example of Polish Digital Creators"

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In the paper, I present the formation of people called "online creators" – individuals engaged in the production of original content posted on social media, websites, etc. The considerations is based on six autobiographical narrative interviews with Polish digital creators representing diverse areas of interest (e.g. political and social issues, lifestyle, circular economy, games). The narrators were born in the 1980s and 1990s so I discuss the differences between their experiences of being online creators by examining individual and socio-cultural conditions. In the first part, I analyse the role of technology and media in narrators adolescence, and I also pay attention to the context of their family life. In the second part, I analyse how their professional careers had evolved before they started the online activities, how they perceive the status of digital creator in contemporary society and what kind of challenges and benefits this career entails.

RN24 | T06_01: Gender and Sociotechnical Imaginaries for Domestic Technologies

What Makes a Store Smart and Autonomous? A Media Analysis of Sociotechnical Imaginaries

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'Autonomous stores' are often characterized in the media as the future of shopping: smart physical environments augmented through digital technologies that can process data automatically, seamlessly, and without the need for workers, identifying both consumers and their actions. References to autonomy and automation conjure a set of imaginaries of technology in the service of innovation, progress and convenience.

Despite being hailed as autonomous, these spaces are vast digital assemblages that rely on infrastructures composed of people, knowledges, and numerous technological entities (such as, AI, sensors, cameras, among others). Portugal is one of the leaders in this future-making endeavor: it is home to Continente Labs, a Lisbon autonomous store powered by SENSEI and owned by SONAE.

This paper draws upon a thematic analysis of data generated from a media analysis of Portuguese and international newspaper articles from 2016 until 2023, as well as interviews with SENSEI and SONAE, to examine the sociotechnical imaginaries that are mobilized in the media to both drive and justify the development of these digital infrastructures. We pay particular attention to the discourses through which they are built: Who is pushing for them? Why? What are the main issues that are being discussed both in terms of advantages and problems? Who is included/excluded? And, finally, what futures are being built? This will then allow us to shed light on the concepts that underlie these spaces – What are "autonomy" and "smartness" in autonomous stores?

Digital Technologies and the Gendered Configuration of Care in Smart Homes

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Trends in home automation and the increasing use of digital technologies for diverse purposes have led to the emergence of what is referred to as connected, networked, augmented, intelligent, or smart home. Smart Homes come with the promise of a better living, including a relief from domestic care work which is mostly done by women. As the socio-spatial living conditions in the home, neighbourhood and the entire environment are important supporting or hindering framework for gender equality, we argue that the digital transformation of housing cannot be viewed in isolation, but should be analyzed in the context of other developments, especially family and gender relations. Based on our own empirical data from our ongoing ethnographic research project on smart homes and gender (SMARTUP) we discuss the transformation of gender-housing-relations.

In the theoretical part of our contribution, we develop a conceptualisation of care in relation to gender and housing, considering the emergence of 'digital housekeeping' and discussing whether the 'digital work' involved in the purchase, maintenance and use of smart devices can also be understood as a form of care work. In the empirical part of the paper, we illustrate the current spread of smart home technologies in Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland. For each country, a case study is presented. The aim is to show connections between gender, care and housing and to gain a deeper understanding of digital home transformation in relation to everyday processes of doing gender and doing care.

Simply Convenient? Valuing Smart Speakers In The Domestic

Lukas Schmitz

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The integration of smart technologies, in particular IoT devices like smart speakers, is reshaping domestic environments into connected smart homes. A key justification for smartification is convenience, be it in the marketing strategies of the consumer goods industry or even in the results of classic (often quantitative) appropriation and utilisation surveys. This talk aims to subject this vague term of convenience, which is all too often used to legitimise technical innovation, to a sociological analysis. Therefore, this talk explores the motivations behind integrating smart speakers, focusing on the perceived convenience they bring to everyday life in the domestic. Using a pragmatist theoretical framework and drawing on ethnographic research involving sixteen household visits and in-depth interviews, the talk examines these notions of convenience as valuation

processes. These processes are contextualised within the framework of different attachments (Antoine Hennion) and are made plausible through various justifications (Luc Boltanski/ Laurent Thévenot). From this perspective, the individual understanding of convenience is modelled based on the integration into specific material and discursive constellations and is linked to a specific dynamic of justification. By delving into the micro-sociological perspective, the talk reveals the complexities of the negotiation process people undergo when adopting smart speakers, shedding light on the nuanced experiences of convenience and inconvenience. Concrete examples from the ethnographic data will illustrate these findings, providing a additional perspective on the gradual smartification of domestic environments and contributing to a broader understanding of this societal shift.

How Do Conversational Interfaces Become Gendered? Gendered Patterns (Re)produced In The Conversational Artificial Intelligence Design Process

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This study examines gender patterns (re)production in designing conversational interfaces. Conversational interfaces are computer programs that imitate human speech, such as Alexa, Siri, or Google Assistant (McTear et al. 2016). Previous research has explored the processes of anthropomorphizing conversational interfaces by users (e.g. Obinali 2019; Lima & Furtado 2019). Also, other studies have addressed technology-gender relations (Faulkner 2001; Wajcman 2004; Adams 2006) but they have not focused on gender patterns and practices during the design phase, especially in terms of conversational Artificial Intelligence. This study aims to uncover gendered patterns and practices by conducting a multi-sited ethnography based on 25 in-depth interviews with designers and participatory observations. Gendered patterns identified are inspired by integrative gender theories, which place practices at the center of analysis (Connell, 2009; Risman 2008). The research provides insights into how gender is constructed in the technology design process and identifies conditions that could lead to gender bias or inequality in new technologies. Initial findings revealed that gender in the design process is contextually dependent. I identified some conditions (e.g., technical limitations, business strategy, or labour order) that create a context for gendering practices. Many designers' practices assign gender intentionally, but many with liminal awareness of practising gender. However, both reflective and unreflective gendering activities lead to reproducing heteronormative gender patterns in the project outcome. Preliminary findings of this study as part of my PhD thesis and research project financed by the Polish National Science Centre (UMO-2022/45/N/HS6/02725) will be presented.

RN24 | T06_02: Evaluation and academic collaborations

Strategic Coauthorship: Prior Coauthorship Predicts Successful Funding In Kazakhstani Academia

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Public funding for scientific projects is a common topic of research in the sociology of science. While intended to be merit-based, the actual selection process reveals—studies document—a variety of biases including the effects of prior collaboration and institutional proximity and brokerage. This paper builds on this line of research to analyze the system of public funding for scientific projects in Kazakhstan. Our data comes from two waves of grant competitions in 2015 and 2018 and covers more than 8000 applications. We augment the data with detailed information on projects' principal investigators, including the content of their proposals, institutional affiliations, publication activities, and prior collaborations. We show that net of previous publishing activity, success significantly depends on co-authoring academic papers with the selection committee members. Studies of grant funding usually relied on descriptive analysis and/or regression methods using observational data without a random assignment that created certain limitations. We employ a different type of identification strategy – a difference-in-difference estimator (DiD) and social network analysis – that overcomes many challenges of common regression methods that fail to account for the fact that, for example, more frequent awards of selection committee members might reflect their greater talent (academic excellence), activity, or nepotism. Applying experimental methods with observational data pushes up internal validity (causal links). Thus, the contribution of this research is to exploit novel, but widely recognized methods to investigate the causal effect of nepotism on the grant selection process.

From Impact Evaluation to Transformative Evaluation: Context and Institutional Constraints when Analysing the Impact of Public Support to Private R&D in Spain

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The paper aims to analyse the effects of public subsidies to private R&D in Spain and to reflect on the contextual and institutional factors that limit innovative agencies to apply more transformative-oriented policies and evaluation practices. We focus on the evaluation experience of the main innovation agency of Spain the Centre for the Development for Industrial Technology (CDTI). The evaluation culture in Spain is dominated by a control function, reducing its distributive and learning functions (Molas-Gallart, 2012). It is also been argued that the country lacks of experience in evaluation practice (Bustelo, 2006). The impact of the CDTI's grants schemes to the private R&D have received previous attention (e.g. Molero and Buesa, 1995; Fontela et al., 1992; Huego et al., 2009). In addition, the centre has also received attention within the reviews of the Spanish R&I system (e.g. Sanz-Menéndez, 1997; Muñoz, 2001). However, the organisational and institutional aspects of CDTI have received less attention. These institutional and organisational aspects of innovation agencies (e.g. Arundel et al., 2015; Breznit et al., 2018) appear to be essential to successfully design and implement more ambitious innovation policies.

We use information coming from the evaluation assessment of the program aid of the Centre for the Development for Industrial Technology (CDTI) from 2015 to 2020 that is complemented with other organisational information coming from semi-structured interviews with employees and former employees of the centre at different organizational level following (Portes, 2006, 2017). We find that the context and organisational structure of R&I constrain the transformative potential of the centre.

Comparative Analysis of Academic Engagement and Knowledge Production in Germany, Portugal, and Sweden

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Academic engagement with society can significantly impact the way knowledge is produced. This engagement takes various forms, including citizen science, community-based participatory research, and even commercial research, which involves the emergence of spin-offs and patents. Any of these forms imply the creation of continuous interaction between community members and academics.

In Europe, taking the political relevance of the idea of the Knowledge society, academics have been encouraged to collaborate with society. Nevertheless, it is still unclear if and how academic engagement with society plays a crucial role in shaping the nature, dissemination, and commercialization of knowledge.

To contribute to this discussion, this paper analyzes the relationship between academic engagement and the way knowledge is produced and disseminated in three European countries with distinct levels of academic engagement, namely Germany, Portugal, and Sweden.

The study is based on a quantitative approach. The survey used for this study was part of the Academic Profession in the Knowledge-Based Society (APIKS) project. A representative sample of academics employed by doctorate-granting universities was given access to the online survey. By using the publicly accessible official statistics of the HE sector, the representativeness of the sample was guaranteed by taking into account the academic rank, gender, and discipline in the case nations.

The results analysis shows that there are significant national variations in academics' assessments of the significance of ASE activities, as well as significant variations in the creation and dissemination of information according to the engagement activities that academics participate in.

RN24 | T07_01: Trust in science, disinformation, controversies

Italians' Trust in Scientists: Changes over Time and Determinants

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The concept of trust has been given a multitude of definitions within the literature. Trust is a relationship that exists between individuals, and between individuals and a system, in which one party accepts a vulnerable position, assuming that the other party has better interests and skills. In the context of technoscience, one party chooses to trust another to help it make a decision based on risks and benefits about which it has incomplete information.

The Observa Science in Society Monitor measures trust in scientists through various indicators; since 2007 it has been carrying out an annual sample survey on the Italian population aged over 15 years. The survey is carried out nationwide and involves a sample of 1000 cases, proportional and representative by gender, age, area of residence and educational qualification, through a questionnaire administered via web or telephone.

The report for the ESA Conference will present time series on data collected from 2007 to 2024 and multivariate regression models. Changes in the levels of trust of Italian citizens towards scientists and the determinants of trust will be discussed, considering as independent variables the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, levels of education, scientific literacy and exposure to science in the media, participation in protests or mobilisations on scientific-technological issues.

Mobile Masts, 5G Technology and Trust in Science

Kinga Sekerdej

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The recent decades have been marked by populist movements, gaining power in European countries and beyond. The bedrock of populism lies in constructing an antagonistic division of the social world into the ordinary, powerless people and the corrupt, powerful elite. Among other traits, the anti-establishment discourse of populist actors questions mainstream knowledge production, grouping science and technological experts into the untrustworthy "elite" category.

The populist denialist movements amplify concerns and perceived risks associated with policies, such as climate change mitigation and public health measures, including vaccines, as well as the implementation of new technologies. One of the contentious topics revolves around the deployment of 5G technology, which has garnered attention due to protests against the installation of mobile phone masts.

The often-used arguments against 5G technology relate to risk perception of electromagnetic waves from base stations and frequently recount the precautionary principle. However, those fears have been used by populist actors mongering doubt and spreading misinformation, including conspiracy theories. Although scientists may form part of the distrusted elites in the populist worldview, the role of science credibility in 5G fears is not obviously related. Here, I show that negative attitudes towards 5G technology are related to lesser trust in science credibility. Following a qualitative analysis of online petitions, a questionnaire on attitudes towards 5G was developed. Specifically, I juxtaposed prevailing arguments in online petitions protesting base stations with credibility in science and demonstrated that concerns about 5G are indeed associated with attitudes towards science and connected to political ideology identifications. The results show that 5G fears can be seen in a broader context of distrust in science.

Scientific disinformation and Ingenuous Trust in Science: Engagement and reception of scientific (dis)information in Italian High schools.

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This intervention focuses the high-school classroom as a social group to investigate its role in mediating access, reception, and circulation of scientific (dis)information. It is based on a two year long mixed-method research that involved twelve high school classrooms selected from six schools proposing different curricula. Methods used included interviews with students, teachers and parents; focus groups with students and parents; qualitative media diaries; virtual ethnography; data donationon.

Especially when compared with the family, the classroom as a social group has by and large emerged as a weak mediator for the access and reception of scientific (dis)information: a role that is almost entirely fulfilled by the guidance provided by teachers within their educational programs. Beyond that, scientific information is rarely shared or discussed among classmates, with the exception of information delivered through infotainment formats on social media, or strictly related to common concerns for everyday life (in particular regarding health and nutrition). By far more relevant are smaller groups of friends, within and across classroom, who share the same interest or passions, like astrophysics.

Notwithstanding this role of the classroom, our observations suggested how students share the same criteria to distinguish between scientific information and disinformation

– generally based on stylistic features on the message and on the refusal of scientific populist or conspirative frames – and above all a similar – and somehow ingenuously unrealistic – idea of science, based on an unerring capacity of the scientific method to ascertain definitive truths, grating unanimous consensus in the scientific community.

This ingenuous trust in science can represent a vulnerability when probed by personal or social crises (like a disease or the pandemic).

The impact of science: A Comparative Analysis of Trust, Media Discourse, and Political Dynamics in Slovenia and Croatia

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While it is clear that the authority and legitimacy for decision-making lie with the government, contemporary societies are too complex for governments to be able to make decisions without expert help and scientific input. The recent global pandemic showed that the relationship between science, politics and society is much more complicated than previously assumed. On the one hand, calls have been made to trust the science, or even leave political decisions directly to experts and scientists, while on the other, groups emerged thacrot distrusted or even denied science and expert advice. How can we navigate these complex relationships in light of the coming crises that require a long-term strategic approach and systematic cooperation between governments, experts, and wider society?

This contribution investigates the multifaceted interplay between science and society, with a specific focus on the nuanced dimensions of trust, media discourse, and political dynamics in Slovenia and Croatia. This comparative study is conducted through a mixed-methods approach corresponding with the mentioned dimensions. A critical discourse analysis is conducted to address the dimension of media discourse, investigating prevalence, framing, and biases, and delving into the media's role in shaping public perceptions. and a combination of secondary data analysis and policy examination is used to address the dimensions of trust and political dynamics, providing valuable insights into the broader discourse on science communication, trust-building, and the impact of political dynamics on public perceptions of scientific knowledge.

RN24 | T07_02: Engagements with science and technology

Citizen Engagement With Geoengineering Technologies: Geological Carbon Storage In Portugal

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Carbon Capture and Storage is identified by the IPPC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) as one of the key technologies needed to mitigate climate change and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. In line with this recognition, the European Union (EU) has made significant investments in projects related to the development of CCS technology and provided funding for a range of CCS projects, including pilot plants, research, and development initiatives. While survey data shows that the public generally holds a positive view of the potential of CCS technology to mitigate climate change, it remains a controversial and contentious issue. The European Commission's attempt to encourage the development of CCS in several European countries in particular has been received with varying degrees of skepticism and acceptance/opposition from different stakeholders, sectors and citizens. While some express optimism about the potential for reducing emissions, others are concerned about the costs of the technology and its environmental impacts.

Citizen engagement has become an indispensable tool for assessing the acceptance of new technologies and to ensure that citizens' views and concerns are incorporated in projects. But is also yields relevant information on how citizens envision emerging technologies, how they conceptualise their advantages and drawbacks, how their perceptions are coloured by factors such as social demographics, place attachment, or values.

This presentation is based on of fieldwork with citizens of municipalities where geological storage is under study in Portugal (offshore) and Spain (onshore). It is supported by the EU-funded project CO2 Geological Pilots in Strategic Territories – PilotSTRATEGY (GA 101022664).

Everyone at the Table: Intersectional Inclusion for Democratic Food Transformation in Germany

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Democratic participation is essential for fostering food system transformation. Citizen assemblies, also known as deliberative mini-publics, are increasingly adopted in democratic systems to generate inclusive contributions, combining scientific and tacit knowledge. However, empirical research indicates that the stratified random selection method used in mini-publics does not effectively address the overrepresentation of white and well-educated citizens (Dean et al., 2022; Dendler, 2021; Faas and Huesmann, 2017). With efforts on mini-publics since the 1970s, Germany has recently experimented with recruitment criteria and interaction methods in two national assemblies on food. These assemblies—the Citizen Assembly on Food in Transition by the German Parliament and the Citizens' Dialogue on Sustainable Food by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment—aim to integrate citizen contributions based on scientific inputs into legislative and policy processes. Exploring inclusion complexities requires a nuanced approach that considers multiple forms of oppression.

Drawing on visual ethnography research and biographical interviews, this study explores how social and spatial elements interact in these assemblies, affecting the participation of individuals with diverse ethnic and educational backgrounds. Introducing a theoretical framework that combines participatory democracy, spatial theory, and intersectionality, the research examines participation along three dimensions: placement, embodiment, and design of interaction. Findings reveal the impact of spatial arrangements, materiality of objects, and moderation on reinforcing/overcoming symbolic hierarchies, influencing participants' perceptions of sameness, difference, and belonging, for instance. The research challenges normative approaches to deliberative participation by offering nuanced perspectives on inclusion embedded in participants' experiences. It contributes to current debates on participatory governance, especially in complex issues such as food system transformation.

Beyond Deliberation: What Else Can Science (Dis)Engagement Be?

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This presentation focuses on exploring forms and ramifications of public (dis)engagement with science and its consequences for research and policy making. Public engagement with science has a key role in improving science access, promoting acceptance, as well as diversifying and expanding science itself. While deliberative engagement is set to meet similar goals of innovation and inclusion, an intersectional diverse audience is crucial. Studies have shown that this is still far from being achieved, as engagement is still more likely among middle aged, middle class, educated, white males. To go beyond elaborations on barriers of engagement, I explore perceptions and experiences of established and alternative forms of public engagement with science through 25 semi-structured interviews with England-based participants from demographic groups traditionally associated with low engagement. The interviews show that when considering established ways to engage with science, informants do not identify themselves as engaged and provide pragmatic reasons for their disengagement. However, as they elaborate on their personal experiences with science, they realize that science is more woven into their lives through casual, practical, or relational ways than initially acknowledged. Results underscore the pivotal role of personal perceptions and experiences in shaping engagement, emphasize the interplay between these perceptions and science institutions and challenge the conventional framework. This presentation aims at starting a debate in the room on the conceptualizations of science (dis)engagement and their consequences, but also on the participation opportunities that people encounter in their daily lives, the role of institutions, and the methodological challenges of measuring them.

Democratizing Science: An Investigation of the Innovative Process of Citizen Science with the Mixed Methods Approach.

Noemi Crescentini

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In contemporary society, scientific and technological disciplines are configured as interconnected domains with the everyday life of each individual. These disciplines shape social dynamics, habits, lifestyles, and work activities, exerting a particular influence on public opinion. This conjunction requires a closer interaction between the scientific community and the general population, proving decisive in ensuring an evolution of the relationship between science and society that adequately reflects current social needs and values (Leshner, 2003). In this context, Citizen Science emerges as a promising means of ensuring public involvement in various scientific disciplines, assuming a significant role in the formulation of public policies in a variety of fields. Citizen Science initiatives and practices are currently growing at the European, national and local levels (Vohland, 2021). Basing the analysis on these theoretical assumptions and adopting a Mixed Methods approach, the present research aims to explore the phenomenon of Citizen Science in Italy in order to understand the motivations that guide and sustain participation, as well as the contribution that the actors involved can make to the relationship/interaction between science and society. In addition, the research investigates the ways in which participants, whether expert scientists or citizen volunteers, interact with each other and how Citizen Science can be configured as a useful tool for progress in science communication and policy formulation.

RN24 | T07_03: Platforms in the public and private sectors

Entering the Age of Interoperability? The Rise of Data Integration and Analysis Platforms

Simon Egbert

Bielefeld University, Germany

Many organizations are increasingly faced with the challenge of making a seemingly unmanageable mass of data processable to derive actionable information. In this context, digital platforms play a prominent role not only as the major creators of this flood of data but also as the currently most prominently discussed tools with which this flood of data is to be made manageable. It is above all data integration and analysis platforms, such as those currently most frequently used by the US software company Palantir Technologies, that have established themselves as a promising data research and analysis technology. Before this backdrop, in my paper I will introduce data integration and analysis platforms as a special sub-type of digital platforms, discussing their major commonalities and differences to the more commonly discussed internet platforms (Facebook, Uber, etc.), highlighting the generative role they should play: by connecting third parties (their clients) with data, as well as data (banks) among each other, they aim to enhance interoperability. That is, their main goal is desilosation, which means transgressing data boundaries and breaking up data silos. And even if there are many points of criticism associated with these platforms, the criticism of automation that is otherwise often expressed with regard to algorithmic decision-making systems is largely ineffective here. Because these platforms are characterized by a special socio-technical interaction, in the context of which algorithms and analysts together generate new knowledge. As I will show, this makes it particularly difficult to analyze what is being done with these platforms and what risks arise from this.

Platform Companies On The Internet As A New Organizational Form. A Sociological Perspective

Ulrich Dolata

University of Stuttgart, Germany

Today's consumption – and communication-based internet is characterized by a great variety of mostly commercially operated platforms, such as search, networking, messaging, media, trading, service, crowdsourcing or crowdfunding platforms that not only organize economic processes but also coordinate and regulate broader societal contexts.

Against this background, the presentation develops a sociological concept of platform companies and the platforms they operate as a new type of enterprise that consists not only of economic features (business and revenue models, exploitation patterns, market relations) but also of action-orienting rules, institutional infrastructures and social relations between a great variety of individual, corporate and collective actors that clearly reach beyond economic contexts and far into society.

To this end, I specify the often fuzzy talk of "the platforms" by drawing an analytical distinction between (1) platform-operating companies as organizing cores whose goal is to operate a profitable business; (2) the platforms belonging to them as technically mediated markets and social action spaces that provide the basis for not only economic but also genuine social activities on today's internet; and (3) institutionalized coordination, control and exploitation mechanisms implemented by the platform operators, linking these two constitutive levels of the platform architecture.

In this configuration, the platform companies have a high degree of structure-giving, rule-making and controlling power. Paradoxically, for all the supposed freedom of access and movement of the users, this exhibits a remarkable renaissance of hierarchically designed regulation and control mechanisms in which elements of orchestrated participation of the participants are merely embedded—for example, in the form of decentrally distributed rating and control systems through which both evaluation and monitoring activities are delegated to the platform participants.

Duct-Tape Solutionism: Automation as Panacea and Stopgap in the Swedish Public Sector

Martin Berg

Malmö University, Sweden

This paper explores the Swedish public sector's response to an impending demographic crisis, particularly the challenges posed by an ageing population. It scrutinises the paradoxical perception of automation, especially Robotic Process Automation (RPA), as both a panacea and a stopgap measure. The paper identifies two main themes: the pressing need to rejuvenate the public sector through automation to avert potential collapse, and the reshaping of current work practices to suit an automated, albeit uncertain, future.

At the core of this analysis is the idea of automation as a continual journey, not a final solution. This journey is akin to a form of repair work, where automation technologies act as provisional, duct-tape solutions, perpetually pushing the boundaries of the future. The paper argues that the role of automation extends beyond the mere elimination of human labour; it is about its transformation. Automation emerges as a catalyst for organisational change, enforcing uniformity and challenging traditional, individualised work methods.

In summary, this paper highlights the nuanced use of metaphors of breakage and repair in steering the public sector's organisational transformation. It positions automation as a pivotal yet elusive concept, emphasising the complexity

and temporality of solutionism in the face of uncertain futures.

Ethical Dilemmas in Navigating the Dark Sides of Technology Adoption in Scottish Social Enterprises

Han-Ju Yang

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This research delves into the intricate dimensions of information technologies (IT) in organisational studies, emphasising their entanglement with social practices to elucidate the shared moral responsibility of actors in the IT adoption process. The empirical focus is on Scottish Social Enterprises (SEs), organisations renowned for their ethical orientation but susceptibility to policy changes.

SEs grapple with persistent tensions arising from misaligned interests between the state and the marginalised individuals they serve, giving rise to an ethical dilemma when prioritising interests diverges between the institutional state and the organisational mission of empowering marginalised individuals. This ethical complexity intensifies when IT is integrated into the service delivery process, forcing SEs to navigate the delicate balance between ethical obligations to marginalised individuals and adherence to state policies. This balancing act significantly influences the extent to which marginalised individuals are subjected to datafication.

Grounded in Mumford's (1934) technology theory, the study views IT adoption as a morally charged practice necessitating constant negotiations within the neoliberal power structure. Consequently, the outcomes of IT adoption are seen as a manifestation of power struggles Methodologically, a qualitative approach is employed, involving two Scottish SEs using Augmented Reality (AR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to integrate disabled and homeless individuals. Preliminary findings reveal nuanced oscillation between empowerment and regimentation models in IT adoption outcomes, contingent upon the degree of datafication influenced by institutional policies. By shedding light on institutional forces shaping IT adoption decisions, this study advocates for systematic solutions to ethical dilemmas, exposes power dynamics, and calls for a reconsideration of normative visions of inclusion in the era of exponential technologies.

RN24 | T08_01: Intersections of Knowledge Production and Public Engagement

Fragmentations, Connections and Reflexivities of the Epistemic Community of Science and Technology Studies in and about Portugal

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This paper reflects into the past and present configurations of Science and Technology Studies (STS) in and about Portugal, and critically engages with and imagines its possible futures. Following an approach inspired by critical feminist STS scholars, we, firstly, provide a brief overview of what research has been conducted under the wide umbrella of STS. We do so by building upon previous studies mapping the different thematic domains and reflecting on different institutional settings of the STS field and the bordering fields of sociology, history and philosophy of science and technology in Portugal (Duarte 2009; Delicado 2013; Simões 2016; Delicado et al. 2018; Machado 2020, 2022). Secondly, based on semi-structured interviews with self-identifying STS scholars, we analyze how this epistemic community understands the regularities and singularities of STS research in and about Portugal; and its relations with STS scholarship in the Global North and Global South. We identify fragmentations along disciplinary lines and empirical research fields, as well as deriving from academic working conditions under precarity. Furthermore, we observe senses of belonging to epistemic communities along historical trajectories of community building, institutional structures and particular collective research practices and collaborations. Finally, we discuss how reflexive engagements about STS knowledge production facilitate imaginaries of possible futures of STS research in and about Portugal. We conclude with a reflection about the particularities of ethical and political 'epistemic response-ability' (Haraway 2008), taking the locations, social hierarchies, political economy and processes of marginalizations of epistemic agents in knowledge production into account.

Positioning the Social Sciences – between Academic Knowledge Production, Public Sociology and Democratic Deliberation

Cornelia Schendzielorz

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This contribution deals with the relationship between science and the public in democratic societies. Science is confronted with diverse internal as well as extra-academic demands and challenges. Whereas scientific findings and knowledge production are of considerable public interest and thus socially relevant, they are also embedded in heterogeneous objectives. These can be located in the tense relationship between scientific insight and knowledge production as well as the scientific nature of its findings in terms of quality, systematicity, rigor, robustness etc. on the one hand and the benefit to society as a whole, e.g. for political, economic, legal and other application contexts, on the other (Weingart 1999; Pielke 2007, Kaldewey 2013, Gauchat 2023, Durant 2023). As researchers and teachers, social scientists often simultaneously serve heterogeneous objectives and act in several roles. In sociology, these questions are central to the debates on public science and the positionality of science. Against this background, the contribution outlines the struggle for a positioning of the social sciences by contextualizing it in the debates about a public sociology (Burawoy 2005, Selke 2022, Hoppe 2023) and about contested sciences (Vogelmann 2023). I then elaborate on central points of reference that characterize current reflections on the legitimacy and the positioning of social scientists vis-à-vis the public. Finally, I examine the extent to which the positioning of social scientists is based on fundamental principles of the democratic societies in which they are embedded.

Researchers' Strategic Usages of Public Communication

Tobias Tönsfeuerborn

Bielefeld University, Germany

This paper examines the role of individual researchers' public communication practices in the academic field. I argue that researchers direct their public communication not only to external audiences, but also to different actors within the academic field. On the one hand, individual researchers might use public communication strategically to fulfil visibility expectations of different (organizational) stakeholders. Secondly, initial data indicates a strategic usage in order to increase researchers' own visibility among peers.

Given these different forms of strategic use, Bourdieu's concept of the academic field frames this research. It not only incorporates two forms of symbolic capital within the field it also opens up a perspective on public communication for negotiating competitive structures of the field. In this respect, the study addresses researchers' communication practices both at the individual level and also with regard to the concurrence of scientific and medial rationalities in the field. The latter refers to Weingart's concept on medialization of science.

The main research question is how individual researchers use their public communication strategically in the competitive academic field. I investigate this issue employing qualitative problem-centered interviews to explore researchers' implicit knowledge and self-descriptions. Adding qualitative media analysis, I examine how researchers communicate in the public sphere. My investigation is set in the field of sociologists. As this study is work in progress, I will introduce and discuss the conceptualization of researchers' strategic usages of public communication in the academic field according to preliminary results.

What Makes Sociology Meaningful and How is it Achieved?

Oliwia Mandrela

Jagiellonian University, Poland

Since Michael Burawoy introduced the idea of Public Sociology, there have been many debates within the sociological community about its nature, boundaries and necessity. The challenges of Anthropocene such as climate change, human rights violations or recurrent social crises, make the relevance and application of sociological knowledge to real-world problems even more important. This paper aims to discuss the idea of Public Sociology as a guide for sociology graduates planning their further careers within Academia (and thus having the possibility to shape it).

Neoliberalism has impacted Academia profoundly. It is transforming the way scientific knowledge is produced and the status of scientific experts in the public sphere. In this general context I analyze the particular case of Poland, where science and higher education has been reformed in recent years. I present the results of 12 individual in-depth interviews with Polish scholars practicing public engagement. The purpose of analyzing their stories is to understand their perspectives on the role of a sociologist in contemporary societies, motives for social engagement and experienced tensions, dilemmas or deficiencies.

I aim to emphasize the present relevance of the discussion on the possibility and the need of Public Sociology, highlighting the key role of the way universities operate. By examining the scholars' voices I contribute to the discussion, considering its actuality and usefulness for constructing the role of a sociologist. Using a literature review, data from the field research, and my personal insight as a doctoral student, I argue that Public Sociology needs to be given more visibility and recognition in the formal evaluation of scholars. Moreover, institutional support in learning necessary skills is needed to facilitate practicing Public Sociology.

Finally, I propose to define Public Sociology through empirically observed 'public moments' (Burawoy) of one's sociological practice instead of focusing exclusively on 'big impact' sociologists. I believe this approach not only allows to involve more actions and thus to let more people to identify with the idea, but it also promotes a better theoretical recognition of important characteristics of Public Sociology. I believe that this frame may develop a deeper future understanding of Public Sociology.

RN24 | T08_02: Measuring attitudes towards science

A World Apart? Young People And The Spread Of Techno-Scientific Information In Everyday Life

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The crucial role that the scientific and technological apparatus has gradually assumed in modern societies, along with the crisis of legitimacy that science has undergone since the middle of the last century, have fuelled a growing interest in the study of the relationship between young people and science. The need to mitigate the risk of generalised disaffection from the techno-scientific apparatus and to promote greater critical awareness of the limits of science and the risks associated with it, has prompted numerous studies to focus on young people's attitudes towards science, their interest in techno-scientific subjects, the level of knowledge they have acquired and their propensity to pursue a scientific career. However, less attention was given about how scientific knowledge is processed and stabilised among young people: how scientific information and misinformation circulates, how it is received and used in their daily lives.

Starting from the results of a qualitative research conducted in high schools in northern Italy, the contribution highlights how techno-scientific information becomes part of young people's everyday practices and discourses. Although immersed in a technologically dense life, they seem to pay attention to techno-scientific information mainly in two contexts: when it takes on a character of extraordinariness, or when it concerns personal problems. Moreover, youth relationship with science appears to be highly individualised and characterised by a high degree of trust mediated by institutions (family, school) – which, however, do not always seem able to respond adequately to the risk of generalised disaffection.

Societal Affluence and Girls' and Boys' Aspirations for STEM: A Reassessment

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A surprising and troubling finding from the social science literature is that the gender gap in aspirations for and choices of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathemathics (STEM) studies and occupations is larger in more affluent societies. This societal affluence effect has been shown in cross-national comparative studies and (more appropriate) longitudinal assessments. However, despite some good arguments favoring the affluence effect, a causal interpretation can be doubted for methodological and theoretical reasons. In this paper, we, in particular, reassess and extend Charles's (2017) finding that societal affluence raises the gender gap in students' STEM aspirations. Using fixed effects regressions on several waves from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMMS), we observe that after including 'gender by country' – and 'gender by year' fixed effects (which Charles did not do), the societal affluence on the gender gap is considerably smaller. In addition, we find variation in the societal affluence effect for developing and developed countries (the effect being absent for the latter group), find that the societal affluence effect on the gender gap is attenuated by a country's math achievement, and find that societal affluence does not increase boys' math-job aspirations (contrary to the presumed greater opportunities for gendered self-indulgence). Our findings indicate that societal affluence affects gendered STEM aspirations less than previously assumed.

Measuring Attitudes Toward Science and Technology: a Synthetic Indicator for European Citizens and Countries

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In times of global challenges and transformations, such as climate change debates, many researchers have strived to improve the laypeople-experts relationship to address science and technology (S&T) issues. Much research has been done on the attitudes that people have towards S&T. However, the results are often contrasting. One of the main questions is how to study attitude towards S&T. This concept is multidimensional and different aspects influence their definition and, consequently, have to be considered in its investigation.

This paper intends to construct a synthetic index of attitudes towards S&T for the EU countries and citizens. Starting from data from Eurobarometer 95.2, we use three ordinal variables to define a index with a value for each individual in the sample. Given the nature of the variables used, we construct the synthetic index by using the Partially Ordered Set (poset) method, a non-aggregative techniques allowing to define a synthetic measure without any aggregation of the basic indicators. At this point, we analyse the effects of potential factors affecting the attitude towards S&T, according to the literature: a number of sociodemographic factors and the level of scientific knowledge.

Once the indicator has been constructed for each individual in the sample, we will go on to define an index of "positive attitude toward SeT" for each European country, considering the percentage of people with a positive attitude in each country.

Measuring Interest in Science: Development of a New Scale Through Item Response Theory

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Interest, as a dispositional and motivational element, is a fundamental factor in the relationship between science and society, playing a decisive role in shaping scientific culture and fostering positive attitudes toward science. Typically, the measurement of interest in social perception of science surveys has relied on single-item measures, offering limited insights that fail to capture the complexity of interest in science. In response to these limitations, we developed a global scale that took into account the multidimensional nature of interest as a theoretical construct. For the development of the instrument, a survey was conducted with a sample of the Spanish population (n=630). Starting from an initial pool of 50 items designed to measure the epistemic, emotional and valorative dimensions of interest in science, a nuanced and more precise scale is constructed to provide a comprehensive view of what it really means to be interested in science. In order to reduce the number of items that compose the scale and improve the quality of the questionnaire responses, the Item Response Theory (IRT) is employed. Applying a polytomous IRT-based model, and through the analysis of item response curves, we assess the psychometric characteristics of each item individually, obtaining information about the position and discrimination of the items. In conclusion, the development of this instrument addresses the limitations of single-item measures, providing a solid framework for future research and contributing to the advancement of our understanding of the interaction between interest, science and society.

RN24 | T08_03: Literacy, Inequality, and Identity in the Information Age

The Features of Digital Literacy in Russia

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The first part of the thesis revises the existing approaches to the theoretical understanding of digital literacy in order to provide a conceptual basis for the new Eurostat methodology for assessing the level of digital literacy. Four types of theoretical approaches are distinguished in the text: technical, cognitive, social and synthetic. On their basis, an extended understanding of digital literacy is constructed as a set of applied competencies of handling computer or smartphone software (including specific skills) substantiated by previous experience which allow an individual, group or community to solve emerging problems based on critical search, analysis as well as subsequent synthesis of data placed on the network. The second part of the thesis is devoted to approbation of the new Eurostat methodology for evaluating digital literacy on a Russian sample. The conclusion is made that the updated Eurostat approach does not quite adequately describe the level of Russians' digital literacy due to the specific realities of Russia: the special structure of the labor market and the distinctive «market of digital threats».

Information about the sample in Russia:

Size: 10021 respondents

Type: representative, stratified by sex and age (over 14 years old)

Time of data collection: August-September 2022

Main methodology: conceptual – DigComp framework; empirical: Digital Skills Indicator 2.0

Unveiling (new) Dimensions of Digital Inequality: A Comprehensive Analysis

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With this presentation, we intend to contribute to a more in-depth analysis on digital inequality by reflecting on the new dimensions that involve it. To this purpose, we will, firstly, approach the state of the art on the subject. Secondly, we will carry out an analysis, at three levels, of the

results of an empirical research on digital inequalities surrounding internet access and use, in which a qualitative methodology was used that encompasses interviews and document analysis.

On one hand, this analysis is done through a multidimensional concept of access. On the other hand, we introduce two more analysis dimensions: how reading habits and literacy influences people's use of the internet. The different literacy levels of the interviewees allow a more precise analysis of digital inequalities rather than just considering educational qualifications.

The different literacy levels also pose questions, to a certain extent, the role of schools in reducing digital inequalities. Moreover, new inequalities arise from the challenges linked to the design and requirements imposed by the big tech companies, namely the algorithms, which allow us to propose the designation of a Fourth Digital Divide.

The analysis of the data allows us to identify different types of inequalities in access and use of ICT by the interviewees, which is in line with the results of previous studies, and also inequalities in relation to the new dimensions worked on.

The outcomes of this research post a challenge upon technologically deterministic perspectives and some preconceived ideas that arise from them.

Defining Gendered Digital Identity Divide and its impacts

Lídia Arroyo

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This work aims to understand to capture the digital identity divide and its impacts from a gender perspective, which refers to the symbolic distance of their self-representation in relation to technologies. The theoretical perspective guiding the research is a combination of the intersectional feminist perspective that considers both structural inequalities and those that explore the normatization of subjectivities in women.

The methodological development, based on a qualitative approach, consisted of two phases. A first exploratory phase considered the field of analysis, specifically the framework of digital inclusion programs, and a second phase of field work involving 49 women was carried out using episodic socio-biographical interviews and discussion groups. The interview sample consisted of 35 participating women and was based on a typological theoretical sampling considering social class, employment situation, and family responsibilities. Likewise, three discussion groups were held: one with a group of unemployed working-class women, another with immigrant women, and a third with inactive middle-class women.

The results shows that digital identity divide as affecting women of all social classes, and found that it is marked by gender socialization, as pointed out by the feminist STS perspective. With the acquisition of digital skills, and specifically with the key role of participation in digital inclusion courses, insecurity and the perception of technologies as something to fear was reduced. However, older middle-class women continue to point out the digital identity gap more often than their younger peers in the labor market.

Is the EU Accessibility Directive At The Forefront Of The World?

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The fact that Europe is facing a demographic transition that will increase the ageing of the population will have an impact on the number of people with disabilities. In addition, the penetration of the Internet and the use of ICT in our society are making new technologies more and more important in our daily lives. And this has an impact on persons with disabilities. That is why a regulation at the international level plays a key role.

Thus, the European Union, in its attempt to improve and harmonise its legislation on accessibility, developed the Web Accessibility Directive, under the umbrella of the European Disability Strategies.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse whether the European Union's Web Accessibility Directive is at the forefront of accessibility in the world.

This directive clearly sets out the main minimum standards in this area at EU level and is playing an important role in encouraging Member States to develop their own legislation based on key principles, as well as to develop training, awareness raising actions and share best practices.

For the study of this directive we will use documentary analysis (Lumivero, 2023), in order to review the main aspects of the directive, the examination of the different legislations of the countries at the forefront of accessibility and the research work on accessibility for people with disabilities, using the comparative methodology (Kaluza, J. 2023) with the aim of finding out if the directive really improves the conditions of users.

RN24 | T09_02: Issues of language and technology

A French-German Dialogue on Theorizing Space

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How is space conceptualized within the distinct national traditions of sociology?

Spatial theories in France and Germany have reciprocally influenced each other, drawing from prominent authors such as Henri Lefebvre and Martina Löw. However. When exploring the historical interpretations and implied theories associated with the terms “Raum” (German for “space”) and “espace” (French for “space”), as well as the ongoing research on this subject, substantial differences between the two countries emerge.

This paper delves into the discourse surrounding the emergence of a ‘spatial turn’ (Soja, 1989) in human and social sciences during the 1980s-90s in both France and Germany. It references the increasing attention devoted to space and spatial phenomena in these disciplines, proposing an interdisciplinary circulation of spatial concepts.

To empirically substantiate this observation, we conduct a systematic analysis of space related definitions found in French and German sociology dictionaries spanning the past eight decades. Additionally, we incorporate insights from interviews with relevant experts from various disciplines in both countries. This comprehensive approach provides valuable perspectives on the current status of the conceptualization of space and it’s traveling within the realm of sociology in France and Germany.

Our findings reveal a limited application of spatial concepts in contemporary general sociology in both, France and Germany. Moreover, when employed, these concepts often shed their material dimensions and, especially in the French case, lean towards symbolic approaches to social space (Bourdieu, 1979). The research underscores the diverse and multi-dimensional nature of coexisting theories and definitions of space, which draw from various disciplinary backgrounds.

Challenges of Neural Translations in Language-Community Operations and Representations

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The aim of this communication is to present some results of a research project focused on the tensions, adaptations, and innovations introduced by the use of neural translators in the context of Basque language revitalization. This research involved various agents – including language instruction, secondary education, universities, health institutions, media, public administration, and private companies – with whom we co-designed an intervention to explore the broader implications of using neural translators in their activity systems. This context offers an intriguing insight, especially since the Basque language exists within a minoritized language community context, accompanied by the strong development of neural translators, such as elia.eus developed by the Elhuyar Foundation.

The presentation will focus on one aspect concerning how Natural Language Processing (NLP) is not only challenging the way minoritized languages should approach their prospective use, but also altering the operation and representation of language and community themselves. To this end, the presentation will compare the operations and representations of the language-community in the context of Basque language revitalization during the 60s and 70s with the current context, which is characterized by the growing implementation of neural translators across an increasing number of activity systems.

Exploring the implications of using Natural Language Processing technologies on the way we operate and represent language-communities will provide orientation for future scenarios. This is particularly relevant given that NLP is one of the key pillars in the development of Artificial Intelligence.

Thematic Mapping of Oral History Interviews – by Phrases and Beyond: How far can NLP be stretched?

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Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary

Pressed by demands of increased transparency, our staff at the Research Documentation Center has engaged in a project of metadata uplifting. In introducing thematic categories to describe the contents of thousands of interviews reposited in our 2 archives, we employed NLP tools for the analysis of texts. Assisted by IT experts, our team undertook the manual and automated indexing of our collections. For

this purpose, we first translated the ELSST, which is now the only available social science thesaurus in Hungarian. Second, on this basis we developed our own thesaurus covering the main topics of our archives. Third, we elaborated a system of annotation for manual coding, digging into the texts at the level of sections. Fourth, we tested various machine algorithms and selected the most efficient one. And fifth, we validated the results by a second round of manual coding.

The presentation discusses the lessons and main challenges of the project: What does it mean to map the contents of historically and methodologically contextualized and thematically versatile collections of texts by a web of concepts? How far can NLP be stretched in the search for meaning? In so doing, it asks if these tools alter how qualitative research is conducted. Finally, as a ramification of the project, it explores ways to allow a better grasp on the narratives contained in interviews by employing semi-automated discourse analysis to consider the relational aspects of texts, such as semantics, syntactics and pragmatics, beyond understanding interviews as a 'bag of words'.

The Future of Work as Imagined by Human Translators Facing Machine Translation

Azer Kilic

Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkiye

This talk aims to contribute to the debates on the future of work and the labor-market implications of artificial intelligence (AI), with a case study of human translators facing machine translation. New automation technologies are being introduced to the economic life, thanks to advances in AI, with neural machine translation being one example based on the use of neural network models and deep learning techniques. While AI-driven automation promises benefits such as increased productivity, it also leads to concerns about the future of work. Scholars predict problems such as job and wage loss, increased income inequality, deskilling, and unemployability across different sectors and occupations due to the workplace automation of varied tasks. While such predictions are important, it is impossible to foresee the future with certainty. But it is possible to imagine it. Drawing on the literature on future imaginaries, this talk aims to discuss what kind of imaginaries translators have of the future within the context of machine translation and automation technologies in general, including their possible effects on work and life under and beyond capitalism. The findings show that translators imaginaries are significantly shaped by their political values. The talk draws on 50 semi-structured interviews conducted in Turkey with translators, professional associations' spokespersons, translation company owners and executives, and experts in natural language processing and translation studies. The research was funded by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey.

RN24 | T09_01: Technological Innovations in Legal Systems and Cybersecurity

The Co-production of the Future of Big Data in Law Enforcement Through Imaginaries and Narratives

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In 2014, the Executive Office of the President (US) claimed that "Big Data can be a powerful tool for law enforcement" and that it "holds the potential to substantially strengthen national security". Since then, these technologies have emerged in public discourse as a narrative of the extraordinary law enforcement revolution. This vision has been institutionalized and publicly performed in various countries as a sociotechnical imaginary of a promising and desirable future. Drawing on STS and the sociology of expectations, and based on document analysis of European and Portuguese regulatory papers, policy discourses, police reports, and fieldwork in two police departments in Portugal this presentation will explore the frames of Big Data and their impact on the development and implementation of these technologies in the present and future. I will analyze the narratives and expectations surrounding these technologies that promote an imaginary of a fixed and scripted, even inevitable, future that may be desirable. I will ask: How do the imagination and definition of Big Data technologies in law enforcement co-produce its trajectory? I will show how the co-production of shared visions may contribute to the expansion of these technologies and is problematic as it obscures alternative futures for law enforcement systems by limiting their evolution to the adoption of Big Data. This presentation will contribute to understanding the dynamics shaping the present and future of Big Data in law enforcement. It will also critically analyze the hardening of the socio-technical structures supporting it, reflecting on their societal implications.

Projected Futures For The Use of Electronic Monitoring in the Criminal Justice System

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Electronic monitoring is a technology used to monitor the location, movement and specific behavior of people involved with the criminal justice system. Its use has increased

in scale, reach, and scope in several Western countries over the last few decades.

Electronic monitoring is a highly versatile technology because it can be used at all stages of involvement with the criminal justice system, namely as a pre-trial detention measure, as a condition for the suspension or enforcement of a prison sentence, and as a pre-release measure for prisoners.

The existing literature on electronic monitoring tends to focus on the use of either radio frequency, which monitors the presence of a person in a particular location, or GPS, which tracks the mobility of offenders (and victims). However, there are currently other possibilities for electronic monitoring that could ultimately determine its future direction, which remain completely unexplored, such as the use of smartphones and facial recognition systems. Another uncharted area is how electronic monitoring is increasingly being integrated with artificial intelligence in ways that could shift the use of this technology towards a predictive, rather than reactive, approach to crime. Electronic monitoring is, therefore, an issue of pressing political and public concern that is undergoing significant technological developments, yet remains underexplored. In this paper, I explore the projected futures of electronic monitoring by focusing on the technological developments that are being tested, developed, and implemented in different jurisdictions across Europe, and the associated societal, cultural, regulatory, and political implications.

From AI to Eternity: Navigating the Crossroads of Artistic Authenticity and Transparency in the Age of AI Generated Music

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How we produce and consume music in an age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) sits at the nexus of issues of tension, transformation and trust. As musicians and gig-goers grapple with tensions relating to techno pessimism and optimism, AI and digital environments can transform the ways we consume and produce music while challenging notions of trust related to the integration and acceptance of AI-generated works. Such generative technologies expand the boundaries of music with AI personalisation tools tailoring listening experiences and immersive XR experiences featuring in music festivals. However, their impact has sparked a debate across the creative industries. This paper aims to address this debate by exploring different perspectives from both music production and consumption. Whilst there is research into how listeners and musicians perceive artificially created music and the effects of AI consumption on societies, musician and gig-goer attitudes towards the disruption and innovation in music-making, performing and gig-going are only peripherally explored. Hence, this paper reflects on 46 responses from UK gig-goers and musicians about their attitudes towards AI in music and digital live experiences based on a qualitative survey executed between April 2023 – August 2023. Common themes emerging after preliminary coding are the relative acceptance of AI providing its use is made transparent and under certain conditions of co-creation. An overall resistance towards AI's ability to 'mimic affect' or reflect (let alone replace) the role of the human in art and music creation and live expression also questions human connections, authenticity and relatability in an age of AI music-making. As such AI's transformative potential is framed considering issues of trust and transparency based on the tensions it creates.

RN25 | Social Movements

RN25 | T01_01: Anti-gender movements

The Rise of Anti-gender Politics in Spain: Frames, campaigns and political alignments

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Anti-gender and anti-feminist movements have remained largely unnoticed by Spanish scholars until the recent past, mainly due to their significant institutionalization and concentration within the Spanish church, coupled with the relatively limited visibility of feminist activism. Notably, Spain stood as an exceptional case during a period when the repercussions of the Great Economic Recession and austerity measures engendered the rise or consolidation of far-right anti-gender and anti-feminist actors in numerous European countries, particularly those most affected by the austerity agenda, predominantly in the Mediterranean region. However, Spain witnessed the emergence of the 15M movement and a

new political cycle characterized by the rise of progressive political parties, setting it apart from its counterparts (Turnbull-Dugarte, 2019).

Consequently, it was only in the late 2010s that anti-gender and anti-feminist movements gained prominence in Spain, prompting intensified academic inquiry and marking a significant shift in scholarly attention, primarily catalyzed by the ascent of the far-right political party Vox (since approximately 2018).

This paper draws upon the fieldwork of the European project FIERCE (Feminist Movements Revitalising Democracy in Europe), which aimed at mapping the diverse constellation of anti-gender actors in Spain and the campaigns, repertoires of actions and discursive frames that they have developed since 2010, putting a special focus on their impact on party politics and on the policy process. Thus, our paper will offer an analysis of the results of this fieldwork, which has consisted in an analysis of hundreds of press news, 10 gender related policy debates, 20 anti-gender movement campaign documents, 5 interviews with activists, and 5 interviews with party representatives or policy makers.

How are Women, Femininity, and Motherhood Conceptualized in Scholarship on Anti-gender Movements? Results from a Systematic Literature Review

Isabel Köhler

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I am going to present my findings on how female anti-gender actors, femininity, and motherhood are conceptualized in the literature on anti-gender movements. The first anti-gender campaigns that specifically organized protests in opposition to "gender ideology" were observed a little more than ten years ago. As the protests spread and took on different issues in different places, scholars from various social sciences quickly began to study, describe, and theorize the phenomenon. Today, there exists a variety of empirical and theoretical work on anti-gender movements.

As a part of my dissertation project on anti-gender motherhood, I conduct a systematic review of the scholarship on anti-gender movements in order to identify different theoretical approaches, research patterns, and gaps. I focus on female actors, because there is a tendency to associate movements on the right with men and masculinity and to neglect women as active and willing participants. My review sheds light on whether studies of anti-gender movements repeat these assumptions. Furthermore, I investigate whether and how femininity and motherhood are conceptualized or taken for granted in the literature.

Strategizing Against Equality

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Targeting sexual and gender diversity as well as equality and anti-discrimination policies anti-gender campaigns have gained prominence in recent years. Developed from a specific Christian discourse, which was invented by the Vatican in the 1990s this modernized anti-feminism spread transnationally and is today articulated in similar, yet always contextually specific form in political contestations all over the world. Examples range from the BJP's hindu-nationalist and anti-muslim agitation, to Trump's election campaigns and Russian agitation against "Western decadence". Even though by far not all of these instances are directly connected by means of common (networks of) actors, similarities in terms of contents as well as political means are striking in many cases leading to the question of how to make sense of these transnational resemblances.

While it would certainly be an overstatement to construct these similar yet disparate policies and campaigns as one single social movement, our paper shows, that on the European scale we might see an emergent social movement or at least a coalition of actors consciously trying to build one. Starting from an examination of the ultra-conservative Christian network Agenda Europe and a frame analysis of its discussion paper Restoring the Natural Order we explore,

how this network aims to put into place a multi-tier strategy, including the establishment of grass-root mobilisations, strategies to gain hegemony in discourse and power-games in order to transform these into policies on national and international levels. Far from being just a counter-movement to recent social and political liberalisation efforts these actors aim to establish their vision of a supposedly "natural" order.

The Shape and Evolution of Anti-Genderism as a Transnational Discourse Alliance: Evidence from Twitter

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In recent years, anti-gender movements opposing women's and LGBTIQ+ rights have been on the rise, often using a distinct rhetoric that defames these rights as "gender ideology" (Kuhar/Paternotte 2017). This phenomenon has been conceptualized as a "discourse alliance" (Roth/Sauer 2022), effectively bringing together diverse far-right, religious fundamentalist, and social conservative actors, transcending national boundaries. This study explores the empirical manifestations of this theoretical conceptualization. To accomplish this, I examine ten years of Twitter communication from 148 organizations associated with the anti-gender movement in five European countries: Croatia, Germany, France, Italy, and Poland. Mutual hashtag usage serves as a proxy for identifying shared discourses within this transnational alliance. Employing discourse network analysis, I unveil the similarities among these actors and demonstrate the discourses that connect them, while also tracking how this connectivity has evolved over time. This study sheds light on the interconnectedness and evolution of anti-gender discourse across borders, providing valuable insights into the mechanisms driving this global phenomenon.

RN25 | T01_02: Anti-racist movements

Balancing on a Double-Edged Sword: Resources and the Norwegian Antiracist Movement

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This paper explores the role financial resources play in defining strategies and goals for the Norwegian antiracist movement. Resources, variously conceived, have long been held as a key determinant in shaping social movements. While much attention has been given to the role of resources and mobilization in general, few studies have examined how the distribution of material resources impact Norwegian social movements. Norway presents a unique case for study with its institutional setting characterized by a close integration between civil society groups and the way the state allocates financial support to movement actors, including antiracist activists. Moreover, the Norwegian antiracist movement has received little scholarly attention, particularly from the standpoint of how institutional constraints and opportunities impacts its mobilization. Drawing on extensive interviews conducted with Norwegian antiracist activists, two interrelated issues are explored. First, how the understanding of strategic choices on the part of movement activists are conditioned, in part, by the Norwegian model of resource support to movement groups. Second, how these same resources serve as determinants of how activists come to perceive opportunities and constraints when developing and defining movement objectives. The study extends the literature in several ways. It aims to add to an understanding of how specific institutional configurations shape strategies and envisioned outcomes of social movements, assesses the analytic utility or resource-mobilization theory on current social movements, and contributes to knowledge on antiracist movements in Norway more generally.

Agenda setting and selective resonance – Black Lives Matter and media debates on racism in Germany

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In this article, we explore how the 2020 wave of BLM mobilisations has impacted the media debates on racism in Germany. We analyse overall shifts in the salience of racism and the resonance of key frames articulated by BLM protesters. Drawing from a mix of quantitative content analysis and semi-structured interviews, we find evidence that the

BLM protests have changed the public debate on racism in Germany through agenda setting and reframing. Firstly, our data documents that the salience of racism in public debates increased after the protests. Secondly, specific movement frames, especially the distinction of anti-Black racism as one particular form of racism, became increasingly visible. Yet, resonance of frames has remained selective with some being hardly picked up in media debates. The article bridges insights from social movements, media, race and ethnicity studies to advance interdisciplinary scholarship on social and cultural change induced by collective action

Unveiling the Potential of Community and Union Organizing for Lived Solidarity in Addressing Racism and Fostering Social Cohesion

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In the midst of persistent crises, calls for heightened solidarity echo across societies. While often confined to symbolic gestures, aiming to reconcile the fractured fabric of our communities, we take a practical approach to explore the untapped potential of lived solidarity that transcends societal divisions. A pivotal mechanism within social movements fostering this practice is the method of strategic organizing, particularly used in labor and housing movements.

Our study employs reconstructive social research methods such as qualitative interviews, ethnography, and activist research. By engaging directly with the lived experiences of organized workers and tenants, we seek to unravel the interpretative frameworks that individuals utilize to make sense of their precarious work and living situations.

Organizing, while not always inherently anti-racist, emerges as a powerful force capable of unveiling the contradictions inherent in common-sense thinking, including the pervasive influence of everyday racism. Instead of sticking to logical arguments or educational efforts, organizing efforts allow for a holistic approach that targets the social contexts nurturing racism, while concurrently empowering those subjected to discrimination.

Our contribution draws on empirical data conducted in four organizing endeavors surrounding union and housing struggles, located in West and East German cities. The findings reveal patterns in which workers and tenants link their notions of injustice with cultural stereotypes; they show opportunities for experiencing solidarity and questioning said stereotypes provided by the organizing approach; they give reason to scrutinize the interplay between social movements aiming at economic production and social reproduction.

The Making of Antiracist Identity. Boundaries and Identity Dilemmas in Norwegian Antiracism.

Mette Andersson

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This paper explores how the collective identity “antiracist” is figured and contested inside and outside of Norwegian antiracist networks. Seeing antiracist networks and organizations as representing a broader antiracist movement, the paper asks what unites and disunites social movement organizations and individuals identifying as antiracist. The paper is based on 54 in-depth interviews with representatives of social movement organizations, independent antiracist writers and debaters, media representatives and politicians, and on fieldwork related to anti-racist demonstrations and seminars on – and offline. Theoretical discussions about collective identities and identity dilemmas in social movements, and moral boundaries, inform the analysis. A concluding discussion concerns whether identity dilemmas and the configuring of a collective identity, challenges for all social movements, differs between anti-racism and other social movements.

RN25 | T01_03: Socio-economic mobilization

Socio-economic Protest in the Czech Republic on the Background of Tripartite Negotiations

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The rise of socio-economic collective action and protest often indicates a failure of social dialogue and negotiations among influential interest groups or their restricted access to the decision-making process. In the Czech Republic, this process is represented by the tripartite body, including representatives of the trade unions, employers, and government officials, initially instituted in the 1990s to prevent social conflict during the "transformation period" after the collapse of the Communist regime. In this paper, I present an analysis of communication patterns in a unique corpus of approx. 200 structured records and textual materials from plenary sessions of The Council of Economic and Social Agreement of the Czech Republic. By applying theoretical framework and concepts from social movement studies, the research assesses communication patterns utilizing Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to explore the main topics, framings, and grievances discussed by the representatives in specific periods (2000–2022). Particular emphasis is given to how the structure of the dialogue and its content have been affected by the economic crises and changes in the government. The research also aims to compare the analysis with data from a dataset of protest events in the Czech Republic between 1989 and 2022 to examine if and how Tripartite negotiations are reflected in the quantity, character, and thematic content of the Czech socio-economic protest. Since public protest is perceived as the last form of repertoire to exert influence, this paper aims to address the communication patterns that precede its organization to explore their mutual dynamics.

Social Classes, Protest and Welfare Attitudes in Portugal (2008-2016)

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Portugal presents one of the highest levels of income inequality in Europe with studies underscoring the significance of social class. In this paper, we analyze the changing relationship between class, protest, and position-taking concerning the welfare state in Portugal between 2008 and 2016. We begin by discussing the repercussions of austerity in the restructuring of the political space in Portugal. We will show how the external intervention by the IMF-ECB-EU troika provoked a wave of contestation and a sustained increase in protest levels. Using data from the European Social Survey and resorting to Multiple Correspondence Analysis, we compare the structure of the space of political practices along class lines in 2008 and 2016. Our findings reveal an important transformation – in 2008, protests were an exception and linked with leftist positions, whereas, by 2016, they had become a prevalent repertoire/practice of those with center-left and egalitarian welfare positions. Intriguingly, while a consensus existed in 2008 among individuals in the center-left and center-right regarding the welfare state, by 2016, they had diverged into opposite positions, indicating a polarization process within the political space. Finally, examining how these changes relate to class, we will show that in 2008 the overall volume of capital mattered, while in 2016 the nature of capital differentiates the type of action taken, with individuals with higher cultural capital engaging in protest, while those with economic capital engaging in institutional action. This paper helps to show the changes in the social basis of conflict and mobilization in Portugal.

Social Movements and Political Protests in Portugal during and after the Austerity Crisis

Cristina Nunes

Lusofona University, Portugal

Over the last decade, Portugal, like other southern European countries, has experienced high levels of social and political mobilisation against austerity measures agreed between the Portuguese government and the so-called troika: new groups of protesters and large-scale events have contributed to a reconfiguration of social movements.

However, since 2015 the parliamentary governance agreement between left-wing parties, along with the pandemic context, have produced a significant decrease in the activity of social movements. During this post-troika period, a return to micro-scale protests events based on a more diffused thematic agenda was observed. This includes grassroots movements, such as the youth mobilisations calling for climate justice, anti-racist campaigns against police violence and demands for the right to housing in urban areas.

Following a qualitative approach based on in-depth interviews and document analysis, we focus on social movements during and after the austerity crisis. We also seek to demonstrate that while mobilisation issues follow an international agenda, the national structures of political opportunity continue to have a strong influence on the organisation of protest groups in Portuguese society.

Social Movement Participation and Electoral Behaviour: Evidence from (post-)crisis Greece.

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The Greek Indignados movement played a determining role in the unfolding of the Greek crisis as it turned widespread social discontent against austerity into a full-blown legitimacy crisis of the established power bloc. At the macro-level this was manifested in the disintegration of the bipartisan system in 2012, the meteoric rise of SYRIZA and the proliferation of social struggles up until the 2015 Greek bail-out referendum. On this backdrop, our research focuses on the micro-dynamics at play and particularly on the long-term impact of social movement participation on people's political attitudes (institutional trust, levels of radicalization etc) and electoral behaviour. To that end we rely primarily, although not exclusively, on qualitative data consisting of 95 in-depth interviews with participants and non-participants in the Indignados movement and 10 focus groups of seven participants each (6 of them with people that vote regularly and 4 with people that abstain). Out of the 95 individual interviews 20 are with people that have been interviewed twice: on the immediate aftermath of the 2015 referendum and again in 2023. This allows us to follow the trajectory of certain dynamics over time and delve deeper into critical questions regarding a) the character and process of radicalization/de-radicalization in the aftermath of contentious cycles, b) the affective and identity parameters at play (e.g. empowerment/disillusionment, self-understanding, changing levels of political efficacy) and c) the way these dynamics shape not only people's voting behaviour but their overall engagement with politics.

RN25 | T02_01: LGBTQIA* movements

Can we Talk About Homonationalism in Italy? Italian LGBT+ Intersectional Activism and Homonationalism

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This contribution dissects the nuanced landscape of homonationalism in Italy, starting from the point of view of LGBT+ activists that operates in associations with an intersectional focus. The contribution presents the results of a year long ethnography in a LGBT+ association with a focus on the intersection between sexuality, race and religion and of 8 semi-structured interviews with activists from this and other associations with a similar focus. In Italy the absence of a strong political support for LGBT+ at the institutional level, together with the erasure of race from public discourse, makes it difficult to use the concept of homonationalism to describe its context. However, the interviews and the ethnography showed that there is both an assimilationist stance in mainstream LGBT+ associations that creates hierarchies of race typical of homonationalism and a homonationalist stance in the institutions evaluating asylum requests on the ground of sexuality. This stance has consequences on the work of the LGBT+ intersectional movements as it forces activists to deal with a Eurocentric definition of homosexuality to help Queer migrants to obtain the refugee status and the residence permit. Activists, thus while acknowledging systemic injustices have to find creative ways to resist this system in which they don't believe. Through the word of activists and the observations carried out during the ethnography, the contribution showcases the possibility of defining Italian homonationalism as enrooted in institutional practices that influences the work of LGBT+ intersectional movements. In front of hegemony the activists interviewed chose to resist without fighting the system head on: in doing so they oppose the system while also playing a role in it.

Food Practices and Political Solidarity in Spaces of LGBTQ Activism

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This paper examines food practices as an example of solidarity in transnational LGBTQ activism. We suggest that focusing on food can help us understand how care underpins the politics of solidarity within transnational LGBTQ activism. We examine how queer bonds of solidarity are nurtured and sustained through food practices as an example of practice of care among groups of activists engaged in LGBTQ political struggles. Our argument draws on data from two multi-site qualitative research projects

on transnational activism around LGBTQ cultural and political events in Poland and a comparative study of queer film festivals as activism in different geopolitical contexts in Europe. We argue that a focus on food practices within LGBTQ activism can help us understand the role of pleasure in sustaining queer solidarities and provide a more holistic critical understanding of solidarity beyond the wider political imaginary of militancy, while recognising how they can also become an explicit focus of contestation and conflict within spaces of LGBTQ activism.

Online And Offline Collective Action Against "Left-wing Collectivism": Analyzing The Plurality Of Right-wing LGBTQIA+ Activism in Brazil

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Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

This work aims to contribute to the sociological debate on contemporary right-wing movements and online activism. Drawing upon online ethnographic work, documentary research and interviews with right-wing LGBTQIA+ activists in Brazil, I mainly emphasize the theoretical and analytical challenges that emerge when groups under study reject more conventional forms of organization and collective identity. How do we analyze online/offline activist groups that are, at the same time, highly active and considerably visible online, but refuse to embrace "traditional" or "coherent" organizational forms and collective identity due to an alleged rejection of the "left-wing collectivism" attributed to LGBTQIA+ movements and communities? How do we theoretically approach a form of collective action that challenges the need for identity-based LGBTQIA+ political organizations? And how can we analyze the many (and often fluid) styles of activism that emerge from fieldwork without falling into rigid categorizations? Combining theoretical contributions from the sociology of social movements, particularly studies on radical right-wing movements and online activism, I seek to discuss conceptual approaches to understanding the complexity of contemporary right-wing movements, taking as main focus how the internet and social media complicate the analysis of their identities and organizational plurality.

The Unexpected Success of the Gay and Lesbian Movement in Israel, 1975-1992: Lessons for Social Movements

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University of Haifa, Israel

With some significant reservations, one may say that since about 2000 Israeli society is one of the most welcoming societies for LGBTQ people. The emergence of Israel as an LGBTQ-friendly state is a surprising development given that deep into the 1980s, gays and lesbians' rights were hardly discussed, and LGBTQ issues were considered esoteric and irrelevant to Israel.

Based on interviews with veterans of the gay community, this paper seeks to shed light on the early activities of the first gay and lesbian organization and its role in preparing the ground for later developments. Three preliminary factors are offered:

A. Lesbian and gay refugees from Nazi Germany during the 1930s played an essential role in the creation of an underground sub-culture of gay men and lesbian. This sub-culture served as a bedrock for later organized activities.

B. The arrival during the 1970s of immigrants from North America and Western Europe and the exposure of Israeli Sabras who studied and worked in those countries created a cadre of women and men who were already familiar with the rhetoric and action of gay and lesbian movements.

C. Israeli activists were bitterly divided over the question whether the organization should fight for political rights or focus on strengthening the gay and lesbian community. It seems that eventually the two types of activity supported each other and led together to the achievements of the 1990s.

The success of the Israeli GL movement thus shows the important of social networks as well as the role of international models in developing a successful local movement.

RN25 | T02_02: Decoloniality and privilege

A Global Sociology after the Decolonial Turn

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Is the project of global sociology still legitimate after this intense wave of criticism? Or is "global sociology" intrinsically bound to the Eurocentric modern project and worldview? Should sociology renounce this project to do justice to knowledge rooted in local experiences, struggles, and specific cultures?

In this contribution, I argue that the decolonial turn does not invalidate the project of global sociology. However, to rebuild global sociology after (and through) the decolonial turn, criticism of Eurocentrism and the visibilizing of alternative knowledge must be complemented by a third and indispensable step: intercultural dialogue. This requires researchers to acknowledge their position and be open to learning from others. The posture is at once sociological, cultural, and personal. Without this call for an open and intercultural global dialogue, the renewal of critical stances and theories runs three risks: fragmentation, isolation (through difficulties in reaching out beyond the most activist fringes of movements and critical scholars), and homogenization of Western social sciences and knowledge as dominant and Southern social sciences and knowledge as emancipatory.

The rising influence of actors and worldviews from the Global South calls for renewed approach, method and epistemology. It raises practical, theoretical, methodological and epistemological challenges. How to study actors in a global world without ceding to the pitfalls of methodological globalism and epistemic extractivism? Drawing on personal experience, explorations and mistakes in research on global movements as well as concrete implementation in the International Sociological Association, the contribution will explore possible paths drawing on multi-site research, transnational analytical tools, dialogues with local actors and researchers, and an ethic oriented towards intercultural dialogues.

Interconnected Resurgence: Global Anti-Colonial and Anti-Racist Movements Since 2014

Erik Ludvig Sunnemark

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This contribution explores the global surge of anti-colonial and anti-racist social movements since 2014, encompassing Black Lives Matter, Rhodes Must Fall, Land Back, anticolonial and Indigenous climate activism, Palestinian solidarity protests and resistance against Israeli settler colonialism, and protests against neo-colonialism in the Caribbeans and West Africa. In contrast to conventional research treating these movements as separate, bound entities, whose individual characteristics and strategies are to be described and explained with conventional social movement theories on political opportunities and strategic actions contra the national state, this presentation employs a critical, globalization-focused conjunctural analysis. It interprets these formations as interconnected instances of a globally dispersed movement, united by their opposition to racialized accumulation by dispossession in response to recent crises in global capitalism. Examining the interconnections, communications, solidarities, and shared characteristics of these movements, and drawing on literature on racial capitalism, accumulation by dispossession, South-South dialogue, and critical and Marxist social movement approaches, this presentation offers a relevant empirical intervention into a growing field of social movement activity. It also contributes theoretically and methodologically, proposing an analysis of social movements based on their positioning in global structural conflicts regarding the reproduction of historicity, as well as their related relations to hegemony and domination.

(Dis)comfortable Activist Experiences: Intersectional Reflections on Social Movements Participation

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Participating in social movements and activist spaces implies individuals' agency to collectively challenge, contest, and oppose prevailing unequal societal norms and structures. Within contentious fields, claims and demands are numerous and varied, usually advocating for the rights of marginalized communities and proposing broader systemic changes. Despite the transformative capacity of the different movements, activist spaces are also embedded in complex power relations that condition who has a legitimate (political) voice and who can plenty participate.

In this presentation, we argue that attending to intersectional experiences from spatial and emotional lenses enables understanding oppression-privilege tensions within social movements participation. Building on the idea that (dis)comforts can be interpreted as spatial markers of inequalities (Ahmed, 2004), we apply the Relief Maps model (Rodó-Zárate, 2014) to a large sample of residents in Catalonia (Spain). This theoretical-methodological tool helps collect, analyze, and visualize intersectional inequalities by bringing together three dimensions: the social (axes of privilege-oppression, e.g., gender, age, ...), the geographical (places), and the psychological (emotions). It focuses on everyday subjective experiences while acknowledging their social and spatial embeddedness.

Through this approach, we explore the principal axes of (dis) comfort within activist spaces. Furthermore, we delve into the role of these emotions as barriers to engagement in social movements or, conversely, as the catalysts for building bonds of solidarity. This analysis highlights the significance of considering intersectional positions and experiences for a more comprehensive understanding of contemporary activism.

RN25 | T02_03: Mobilizing identities and emotions

The Last Straw of Democratization? Understanding the Gezi Protests in Turkey through Participants' Narratives

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The 2011 general election was a significant event in Turkey's political and democratic trajectory. Having won three consecutive elections, the AKP ((Justice and Development Party) initially continued its governance with a liberal political stance. However, in 2011, the party shifted towards implementing conservative policies and legal changes in Turkish society. This shift predominantly affected the secular segments of the population, who quickly began to challenge and oppose the party's undemocratic political maneuvers. Secular citizens protested the AKP's aggressive capitalist and conservative strategies, evident in construction projects, urban redevelopment initiatives, and interference in personal freedoms such as restrictions on abortion, limitations on women's attire, and constraints on alcohol sales.

This growing discontent culminated in a small-scale protest on May 28, 2013, in Istanbul's Gezi Park, sparked by opposition to the government's plan to demolish green spaces for a shopping mall. The 2013 Gezi movement, a series of significant anti-government social protests in Turkey, stands as a defining moment in Turkish history. Initially catalyzed by environmentalist concerns, the movement rapidly evolved, drawing participation from diverse societal groups and culminating in approximately 5,000 related demonstrations nationwide.

Despite the widespread academic interest in the Gezi protests, a noticeable void exists in exploring participants' perspectives before, during, and aftermath of the movement. By employing narrative analysis and the sociology of emotions in social movements, the research investigates the emotional dimensions of the Gezi protests and their impact on Turkish society. This approach provides valuable insights into the emotions, narratives, and collective experiences that influenced the protests' development and aftermath.

"Nique la France": Islamic Civil Society Organizations and the mobilization of French Muslims in contentious times

Enrico Maria la Forgia

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Ethnic and religious minorities mobilize to achieve or defend cultural rights whenever they perceive attacks on their identity (Alicino, 2016). French Muslims make no exception. In times of crisis, indeed, authorities multiply their attempts to regulate Islamic religious practices (Roy, 2007, 2018; Barras, 2010; Arslan, 2015; Parvez, 2017), triggering among Muslims a shared sense of discrimination that may turn into collective action (May & Moodood, 2011; Silverstein, 2018). As a matter of fact, religious affiliation is a valid source for the organization and expression of collective claims (Olzak, 1983; Diop & Kastoryano, 1991; Mandelbaum, 2000; Kastoryano, 2002; Della Porta & Diani, 2006; Pingaud, 2012; Peace, 2015; Talpin, 2017).

However, such a process could not take place without the participation of the Islamic Civil Society Organizations (here abbreviated ICSOs): Civil Society actors strengthening the role of the Muslim communities as policy-makers in counteracting the State invasion of private areas of life – in this case, religion – (Castells, 1983; Habermas, 1998; Cinalli, 2013), and negotiating with authorities the role of Islam as an integral part of French modernity (Kastoryano, 2004; Bowen, 2013; Faure, 2021).

The proposed paper – which is based on a set of qualitative interviews held with heads and members of ICSOs – aims to analyze, on the one hand, the historical development of ICSOs in France; on the other, the repertoire of action chosen by such actors in representing a highly stigmatized and visible community (Fregosi, 2020). The outcomes show an interesting frame of ICSOs' strategies in their relations with the State and potential partners within the political arena, partially answering questions related to French Muslims' political participation and the Social Movements representing them.

Do You Practice What You Preach? The Case of Brazilian Unionists' Mental Health

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Brazilian unionism played a fundamental role in the construction of what is understood legally as occupational mental illnesses in Brazil but, paradoxically, mental illness seems to remain stigmatized among unionists. In our research, we turn to Brazilian unionists' mental health – a neglected topic. We explore the contributions of Brazilian literature on the topic to develop a research agenda. We conducted a systematic literature review. The final selection included

seventeen works published between 2006 and 2022. We identified four themes: occupational mental health in unions' agenda, how unions conceptualize occupational mental health, what unions do when it comes to occupational mental health, and suffering within the union. While the three first themes evidence unions' discourse on work as a social determinant of mental health/illness, the last theme reveals unionists' negative experiences not only in the union activity but also within the union context, leading to the deterioration of unionists' mental health. Gender and class also shaped these experiences. Our findings point out the contradictions between unions' discourse on the relations between work and mental health and unionists' experiences of how work-related mental illness in union members is handled. Further research on mental health within unions may benefit from interdisciplinary dialogues between sociological studies on activism and occupational mental health studies. A consequence of this theoretical shift is the reframing of union activism as a form of work, which can contribute to examining the organizational conditions of unions and their influence on unionists' mental health.

Ruptures in Conscience: The Distinctive Chapters of the Conscientious Objection Movement in Turkey

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In Turkey, anti-militarist movements and demands for peace follow a historical and political course that is more easily articulated in certain periods and, in this sense, is dependent on public opinion. Although the foundation of conscientious objection dates back to long before the establishment of modern states, the relationship between the state and conscientious objectors turned into a significant problem in the period after military service became compulsory. In Turkey's case, the conscientious objection debate is particularly troubling due to the sacred role assigned to compulsory military service and the militaristic attitudes that have formed the bedrock of Turkey since its foundation. The focus of the research will be a discussion of the periods of intensified violence and dissent in Turkey and its relationship with the authoritarian regime. In this work, the statements of conscientious objectors who have declared their refusal through various media platforms and shared it with the publicly open in video or written texts will be used. By analyzing the statements of refusal through a critical discourse analysis from a historical perspective, the conscientious objection movement will be discussed in the context of historical ruptures and the changing political climate in Turkey.

RN25 | T03_01: Movement strategies in and through time

Conceptualising Strategy: Fields, Practices and Projectivity in Collective Action

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Strategy is invoked centrally in theories of collective action describing how actors coordinate tactics, make and debate choices and most commonly as a qualifier, as in strategic action, protest or frames. Strategic action is, today, frequently explained via the fields or arenas in which it takes place (Fligstein and McAdam, 2012; Jasper, 2006). Despite the useful features of such theories, we argue that they leave 'the strategic' as something of a black box. Exploring 'the strategic' invites theoretical development in two directions. Firstly, inspired by theories of practice (Schatzki, 1996), we highlight the need to understand the ways in which the accessibility and persuasiveness of different strategic practices varies across different social spaces or fields. Strategizing is a key strategic practice in itself and an area in which existing knowledge is particularly limited. Practice theory helps explain the patterning of strategic choice in different socio-political environments without unduly diminishing attention to agency or viewing agency through narrow forms of rational calculation. Secondly, we draw on sociological accounts of the future to portray strategies as instances of projectivity (Mische, 2014). This enables the specification of the features of strategies that differentiate them from other social orientations to the future, such as utopias, predictions, dreams or fears. Bringing the concepts of practices and projectivity into theories of strategic action enables a theoretical specification of analytical dimensions of strategy, which we offer as a framework for the measurement and comparison of concrete strategies for social change. The framework highlights a number of empirically testable propositions that together might inform a reinvigorated agenda for research into collective strategies, strategizing and strategic action.

Temporal activist repertoires and the cases of 'Fridays for the Future', '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence', and 'Thursdays' Demonstrations'

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This talk will present the basic components of the novel concept of 'temporal activist repertoires' (TAR), which is envisaged for the study of political aspects and uses of temporality. Building on the literatures on repertoires of contention on the one hand, and on time and temporality on the other, TAR are defined as the intentional and meaningful selection and use of temporal elements such as time frame, timing, tempo, duration, and temporality in the tactics and frames of collective action. In doing so, groups' draw on culturally resonant temporal references to interweave the symbolic and strategic choices while making their demands, organizing political action, and/or sustaining commitment to the political cause. To answer the question of how social movements use TAR and how these are positioned alongside other repertoires of contention, the talk will draw on empirical findings from the study of 'Fridays for the Future', '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' and 'It's Thursday Again!' ('Thursdays' Demonstrations'). The talk will first present some of the findings, such as that the innovative potential of TAR is linked to the use of technologically advanced media tools for coordination, pressure, recruitment, mobilization and visibility. Second, the talk will open a discussion on the potential and limitations of TAR to travel and be applied to other examples of collective action.

Shifting Currents: An In-depth Examination of the Contemporary Landscape of the New Wave in Climate Activism

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In 2018, a new and global wave of climate activism emerged. Within this wave, Extinction Rebellion (XR) played, and still plays, a key role. Through acts of civil disobedience and different forms of artivism, XR aimed to compel world leaders to acknowledge the severity of the issue of global warming, adhere to scientific recommendations, and establish a citizen's assembly on climate and ecological justice. In 2021, several new branches started to emerge from XR, signalling a desire for strategic change in climate activism. Groups like Insulate Britain, Just Stop Oil, and The Last Generation, collectively organized under the umbrella of the A22 network have since become a major force within this cycle of contention.

Based on data from in-depth interviews, and non-participant observations from XR chapters in Sweden and the Netherlands, and the Swedish A22 group Återställ Våtmarker, this paper explores the causes for strategic sedimentation and innovation within new climate movement groups. Employing the strategic interaction approach, it aims to untangle the dynamics of strategy within these groups by highlighting central mechanisms in the strategic processes. Specifically, it will delve into how different configurations of organization, and central pillars of mobilization such as trust in science and the non-political approach, have contributed to the sedimentation of strategy within these groups. Additionally, seeking explanations for strategic change, it will also analyze how changing political opportunities and continuously increasing emission curves and global temperatures have worked to influence new strategic paths.

"That's the Bet": Frames, Strategies and Theories of Change in Climate Justice Action

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The explosion of youth climate protest since 2018 has sparked a renewed interest on the issue of climate-centred collective action. What has been happening in the last four years, with massive numbers of young people showing their concern and engagement with the issue of climate change in different venues, including the streets and squares of several countries around the world, has little precedent in history. Such a significant and widespread movement, of international characteristics, with a specific generational characterisation and a clear focus on the issue of climate change, represents an exceptional and exciting case for scholars interested in collective action. This movement was not born out of nothing; rather, it is rooted in a long trajectory of mobilisation. Research has been focusing for a long time on the emergence of the "climate justice" frame within this trajectory as a way out of post-political understanding of climate action. Furthermore, research has been pointing out internal tensions on the "radical" vs. "reformist" axis. Still, recent cases of climate action such as FFF, XR and A22 seem to call for a deeper analysis: while the climate justice framework is ubiquitous, internal tensions within the movement are far from over. This paper aims at addressing this issue focusing on the strategic choices of movement actors, and in particular on the ideational component of strategy, trying to shed light on the "theories of change", i.e. the meta-strategic visions/logics on which actors base their strategic choices, in the context of climate action. The paper draws on qualitative interviews of FFF, XR and A22 activists in Italy and on the analysis of social media material.

RN25 | T03_02: Feminist mobilizing

Resource Mobilization In The Argentinian Women's Movement

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The activity and visibility of the Argentinian women's movement increased significantly since the emergence of the Ni Una Menos collective in 2015. Since then, the Argentinian society voiced its concerns through mass protests about different issues concerning gender discrimination, including femicide, sexual education, reproductive rights, economic rights and many more. Importantly, the Argentinian women's movement is an example of a successful social movement, as it led to the legalization of pregnancy termination in 2020. Moreover, the inclusivity of the movement could be observed, for example, in its incorporation of an intersectional approach to gender discrimination and a horizontal organizational structure.

In the present paper, I propose an analysis of factors contributing to the Argentinian women's movement's success by referring to resource mobilization theory. Specifically, the research question formed in this project was how women's organizations mobilized different types of resources (moral, cultural, socio-organizational, human, and material) to support the women's movement. Moreover, I also focused on the way specific resources were mobilized (self-production, aggregation, co-optation/appropriation, and patronage), also considering the type of organization in question (autonomous, associative, and directed). To answer these questions, I draw on results from ethnographic research conducted between 2015 and 2020 – ethnographic observations, 21 semi-structured interviews with leaders of 9 different women's organizations, 9 interviews with local informants, and an analysis of manifestos and statistical data about the situation of women in Argentina. By emphasising the role of women's organizations, the present findings offer a new perspective on the process of achieving social movements' goals.

Towards Intersectional Social Justice One Post at the Time. A Multisite Network Analysis of Feminist Mobilizations Across Europe

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Over the last years, feminist mobilizations have taken back once again the streets and digital spaces in a wave of protest that speaks not only to the growing transnational opposition to gender and sexuality, but also to the increasing interconnectedness of multiple marginalizations and inequalities grounded in interlocking systems of discrimination. The extent to which feminist mobilisations act as a pivot for collectively fighting social injustice across fields through an intersectional perspective remains a crucial point of analysis and political concern. This paper contributes to ongoing reflections on the development of intersectional feminist solidarities within and across movement sites by looking at multiple types of networks that emerge from mobilization events and online conversations taking place in seven European countries (i.e., Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the UK). Starting from events promoted on Facebook by feminist actors in these seven countries in the period between 2021 and 2022 as well as from Twitter discussions on themes relevant to feminist agendas in this same period, we map three sets of networks: semantic networks that emerge from discussing different themes in mobilization events; socio-semantic networks linking multiple feminist and non-feminist organizations that co-organize on different themes; and online social networks discussing feminist issues within the broader public space. Our analysis uncovers similarities and differences in social and semantic (dis)connections reflecting, in a comparative fashion, on the structure and the contents that lay at the core and at the margins of intersectional feminist collective actions.

Symbols of feminist movements for abortion rights: Insights from Colombia and Poland

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This paper delves into the symbols, representations, and discourses shaping the feminist fight for abortion rights in Colombia and Poland, emphasizing the transnational dynamics of feminist mobilization. The study identifies shared symbols, such as the green scarf associated with Latin America, and discourses related to abortion decriminalization. It seeks to unravel how these symbols transcend borders, acquire new meanings, and contribute to the creation of common spaces of significance across diverse collectives.

Examining the Latin American context, where movements in countries like Colombia, Chile, Argentina, and México have spearheaded the struggle for reproductive rights, the study highlights the solidarity of feminist activism beyond linguistic and geographical boundaries. Similarly, in Poland, the feminist movement gained prominence in 2016 and 2020 through massive demonstrations marked by symbols such as dressing in black, incorporating asterisks as a critique of the conservative Law and Justice party (PIS), and adopting the lightning bolt as a symbol demanding the decriminalization of abortion. In recent protests (Manifas), this symbol has started to be used with the green scarf, influenced by Latin American countries.

The study employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating critical discourse analysis and social media mapping. This research aims to contribute to gender studies

by revealing how symbols and performative expressions strengthen feminist mobilization and shape collective identities in transnational contexts.

Gendered Forms of Nonviolent Resistance in Israel's Pro-Democracy Protests : How Women's Movements Creatively Engage in Intersectional Activism

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Triggered by the planned judicial overhaul of the current (far) right-wing government, a massive nonviolent protest movement emerged in December 2022 to fight for Israel's democracy and repair the broken trust between the state and its citizens. Women's groups seeking social transformation have reached unprecedented visibility in light of their creative practices and embodied performances, most notably through the performative adaptation of the dystopian "Handmaid's" imagery. Through a variety of practices, they managed to highlight the government's explicit attack on women's rights. Women in Israel have historically both participated in social activism and developed their own, women-led/-only practices, thereby often finding a way to voice their interests while mostly being sidelined from official decision-making processes and leadership positions. Our research comparatively investigates gendered, embodied, intersectional and symbolic expressions of resistance of five women's groups, namely Building an alternative [Bonot alternativa], Mothers On Guard [Imahot al hamishmar], Breaking Walls [Shovrot kirot], Mothers Against Violence [Imahot neged alimut] – as well as the peace movement Women Wage Peace [Nashim osot shalom]. The paper draws on qualitative methodologies, namely feminist ethnographic research (in person and digital) and interviews conducted from January to October 2023. It answers current calls in social movement research for more nuanced intersectional analyses and contributes to countering a "gender bias" in the study of nonviolent resistance and social movements. Our paper also highlights various creative practices of nonviolent resistance used by women's groups within the complex power structures of a democracy in decline and a society riddled with tensions.

RN25 | T04_01: Activism and digital technologies

The New Era of Hacktivism: Blurring the Line between Online Activism and Cyberwarfare

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In the social movement literature, scholars have conceptually delineated "hacktivism" from "cyberterrorism" or "cyberwarfare." The former is typified by acts of computer hacking which temporarily disrupt digital infrastructure without causing permanent damage (such as a DDoS attack on a website), while the latter involve computer hacking which causes real damage to physical infrastructure or people (like causing a city's power grid to fail). Historically, hacktivism has typically involved non-violent symbolic acts of protest, which some activists claim are analogous to traditional forms of civil disobedience. But since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, there has been an unprecedented rise in both hacktivism and cyberwarfare in this conflict, not only digitally disrupting institutional infrastructures, but also sabotaging physical ones. Ukraine's besieged government has called upon volunteer hacktivists worldwide to join them in what might be thought of as the first ever crowdsourced cyberwar. This spells a new era in which the line between cyberwarfare and online activism, digital violence and non-violence, is becoming dangerously blurred. Through a historical analysis mapping the development and trajectory of hacktivism as a sociopolitical phenomenon, this study identifies four major phases: (1) Emergence, (2) Popularization, (3) Cooptation, and (4) Evolution. While previous studies have discussed the first two phases, this study identifies the latter two illustrated by examples from cutting-edge cybersecurity research. These stages represent a significant shift in the tactics of state power with major implications for the future of online activism. This paper seeks to bring attention to this social change and its implications for society.

Mapping The Discursive Landscape Of Data Activism: Articulations And Actors In An Emerging Movement

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In recent years, civil society is becoming more engaged in addressing the social and political implications of datafication.This article aims to examine the discourse surrounding data activism. Using a combination of methods, we analyse how new forms of civil society action related to data justice express their goals and ideas in relation to other types of activism, political conflicts, and political problems. We also identify different kinds of social actors involved in these

articulations. Our analysis reveals a difference between bottom-up and top-down approaches in the discourse on data activism. The former involves grassroots actors, such as community organizations and individual citizens, who challenge existing power structures and advocate for social change. The latter, on the other hand, is practised by academics, capitalists, and policymakers who already hold positions of power and influence. This asymmetry aligns with previous in this field. We encourage future research to further explore this typology and expand on it through additional methods and case studies. This will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of data activism within the context of civil society.

Challenges and Opportunities of Transnational Anti-Corruption Activism: Insights from I Paid a Bribe and its (Attempted) Diffusion Across Countries.

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In 2010, the Indian NGO Janaagraha launched the crowdsourced anti-corruption platform 'I Paid a Bribe' (IPAB), which allows citizens to anonymously report cases of bribery. Hailed as a successful innovation in the global fight against corruption, IPAB attracted significant international attention and was replicated worldwide, with 14 official members and 14 potential partners, and inspired the launch of several unaffiliated initiatives. A heterogeneous network of NGOs, social movement organisations, and concerned citizens had thus mobilised around this Anti-Corruption Technology (ACT) to expose corruption from below. However, many national IPAB chapters were closed within a few years, while potential partners often failed to implement their platform. IPAB is, therefore, a relevant case study for understanding the dynamics of transnational anti-corruption activism and, within this framework, the diffusion of grassroots ACTs from one national context to another. The paper draws on qualitative interviews with initiators, early adopters, late adopters, non-adopters, and secondary data. The resulting dataset is analysed using inductive thematic analysis to describe how IPAB has (or has not) diffused across countries and to explain why diffusion has (or has not) occurred in the way it has around the world. The analysis highlights the exogenous and endogenous factors that helped or hindered the diffusion of IPAB and its transnationalisation, discusses the sustainability challenges facing anti-corruption activism at the transnational level, and calls for a situated approach to the study of the diffusion of ACTs. In doing so, the paper enriches discussions on ACT diffusion by examining the divergent outcomes of IPAB at the transnational level and then advances the understanding of the transnational diffusion of activist initiatives by moving beyond binary categorisations of success/failure.

RN25 | T04_02: Repression and resistance

Becoming Politically Aware: Involvement and Disengagement in Rioting

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In the intersection of social movement studies and political violence, research has aimed to understand the involvement in collective action by activists within their life trajectories. The Northern Irish case has notably captured attention of researchers interested in understanding the paths leading to involvement in armed organisations. Yet, little is known about the processes of involvement in forms of action that although high-risk may not necessarily entail membership in armed groups. Drawing on 19 in-depth biographical interviews with rioters, in this paper, I explore the process of engagement in and disengagement from riots as part of the provisional republican cause during the period known as 'the troubles' in Northern Ireland. Embedded in a context where violence was part of the quotidian, rioting very often took place during the formative years of participants. Consequently, rather than being the outcome of a long trajectory, their involvement in riots was one of the first contentious political actions participants employed, which had an impact in their later political involvement and dispositions. The argument I will present is that the frequent practice of rioting allowed rioters to become 'good players' (Bourdieu, 1990), developing a remarkable dexterity in the use of this form of action, an ability that helped a very quick and effective organisation of riots.

The Role of Memories in Individual Responses to Police Violence: an Exploration of the 'Chile Woke Up' Movement

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Repression is a crucial factor in understanding cycles of collective action and barriers to participation in protests of excluded groups. However, its impact on social movements continues to be disputed in the literature, since there is no agreement on how repressive episodes affect protests by increasing or decreasing their intensity. As has been recently discussed, the different individual responses to repression and the tactics carried out by protesters to confront police violence could be an important piece in solving this puzzle. From a perspective that emphasises the realities of the 'global south', this research proposes that memories of past struggles are a crucial dimension of social movements that influence responses to repression. Specifically,

this study seeks to address this gap by exploring the case of the "Chile woke up" movement, which emerged in 2019 and radicalised in a context of brutal repression and human rights violations. Considering all, this particular paper develops a novel theoretical model to address the impacts of two types of memory – communicative and cultural – on the responses to repression of three agents – dominant class, organisations and families, individuals-. It also presents a preliminary exploration of the qualitative results of the study based on interviews with participants of this movement.

Religious Figures and Lawyers as Brokers, Mediators, and Shock Absorbers in the Contemporary Social Movements in South Korea.

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How do social movements expand? How can the violent atmosphere and intense tension between police and demonstrators be alleviated during social movements? A social movement is a moment of collective interaction between various actors (Favre, 1990). For example, "brokers" link between different groups and disseminate social movements (Tilly and Tarrow, 2015). In the space of social movements (Mathieu, 2012) in South Korea, religious figures and lawyers particularly play the role of brokers in social movements due to their special status as priests and sages.

They serve not only as brokers, but also as shock absorbers and mediators during social movements. Religious figures play the role of the "last resort" to protect the movements, relying on the sanctity of religion, while lawyers leverage their legal expertise to limit the use of violence by the authorities.

By examining the roles of the clergy and lawyers, we can better understand the roles of the different actors involved in a social movement and the interactions between them. This serves as a reminder that social movements need to be considered from multiple perspectives.

For this purpose, based on about twenty semi-structured interviews with activists, clerics, and lawyers, as well as an analysis of documentary materials, this presentation focuses on two social movements related to the sinking of the Sewol ferry in 2014, and the Halloween crowd crush in Itaewon in 2022.

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Changing the Debate? The NoG20 Protests in Hamburg and their Effect(s) on Parliamentary Debates About Police Reform

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Scholars have connected particular policy reforms to instances of collective action by drawing on concepts such as "focusing" or "transformative" events. Although these studies often argue that such events establish new parameters for action, they rarely specify why certain opportunities result in policy action, whereas others do not. This article demonstrates how a framing approach may help to bridge this gap by assessing whether and how opportunities for policy change are—or are not—perceived as such. By means of a frame and discourse analysis, it examines the evolution of parliamentary debate on a police reform that was introduced after the NoG20 protests 2017 in Hamburg. It compares core diagnostic, motivational, and prognostic frames deployed in debates in 2008, 2014, and 2018. In so doing, the paper demonstrates how the framing of this debate changed after the NoG20 protests, and how the protests were made sense of in ways that allowed seizing them discursively as an opportunity to both rationalize the policy change and challenge its ethical appropriateness. In particular, opponents of police reform successfully deployed a framing to constrain the debates. The results are discussed as a shift in "discursive opportunity structure", supported by a change in "feeling rules". The study demonstrates how focusing events may a) be used to direct attention to a variety of problems, rather than automatically focusing policymakers' attention on a single problem, b) both enable and constrain policy debates, and as such, c) both open and preclude opportunities for change. It contributes to a better understanding of the various ways in which focusing events may impact policy processes, if the event allows for multiple, potentially conflicting interpretations.

RN25 | T04_03: Gender in movements

From Fathers' Rights to Seahorse Dads: Five Shades of Fatherhood Activism in Europe

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Fatherhood activism is a type of social mobilization where collective identity is focused around (differently defined) father figures and plays an important role in creating politics and discourses on men, masculinities, fatherhood, and gender (in)equality. Despite its gradual growth, the father-oriented networks, NGOs, and informal groups are still underresearched, which results in a superficial understanding of this type of mobilization, usually limiting it to the antifeminist activism aimed at fighting for custody rights. Hence, my paper aims to present the variety of fatherhood activism that has been identified in contemporary Europe. Out of a larger data corpus consisting of a pan-European survey, individual interviews with 70+ activists from Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the UK, and focus group interviews with transnational actors, I present five cases that offer insight into diverse forms of goals, ideologies, grievances, and forms of activism that have been identified among European actors. The study is informed by theories developed within critical studies on men and masculinities and social movements scholarship.

Between Tradition and Reaction: Redpill Realities and Evolving Narratives in the Italian Manosphere

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Recent years have seen substantial advancements in the study of the "Manosphere" across media studies, gender studies, and social psychology. This research advocates in-tegrating social movement theory and social phenomenology into Manosphere-related studies, responding to Ging and Murphy's (2021) call for a nuanced understanding of its dynamics, genealogy, and the production and diffusion of knowledge. The paper address-es these aspects through an empirical case study focused on the Italian Manosphere, par-ticularly exploring Incels (Involuntary Celibates) and Redpill blogging. Drawing from a year-long netnographic fieldwork in their major hubs, it presents the first timeline and internal morphology study of the Italian Manosphere. The analysis scrutinizes the Redpill community as a countermovement rooted in sentiments of aggrieved entitlement and relative deprivation. This examination observes how Redpill frames bestow empirical credibility upon the experiences of men aligned with conservative perspectives against gender equality movements. Traditional patriarchal norms act as foundational assump-tions, gaining prominence amid mounting challenges coming from gender equality movements. This approach helps understand how Redpill's frames lend empirical credi-bility, consistency, and experiential commensurability to the experiences of men suscep-tible to conservative views against gender equality movements and critiques of the patri-archal system. Through a genealogical approach, the article traces the diffusion of Redpill norms in the pre-existing Italian "brutti" (ugly) community. The resultant constant rene-gotiation within the broader Italian anti-feminist conservatism creates frames conducive to more institutional reactionary effectiveness, and the continual discursive re-evaluation calls for a shift from the singular 'Manosphere' to plural 'Manospheres', influenced by ge-ographic, linguistic, cultural criteria, and internal structuring.

"When Women Take the Lead: Exploring the Intersection Between Gender Equality and Women's Environmental Political Engagement from a Comparative Perspective"

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Research on gender differences in environmental behavior has long claimed that women engage less than men in environmental political participation (EPP) (protests, petitions), despite their higher levels of environmental concern and vulnerability. Using recent data from the ISSP's 2020 Environment module including 28 countries around the world, we revisit the gender gap in EPP. Firstly, we ask: Are there consistent gender differences across different forms of environmental political participation? By creating a typology which distinguishes individual from collective, and non-confrontational from confrontational engagement forms, this study offers an encompassing understanding of gendered patterns of participation. Secondly, we ask: Does a country's level of gender equality matter more for women's environmental political participation than for men's? Arguing that increasing gender equality and socio-economic development can create gendered opportunity structures which allow women to voice their environmental grievances, we use multi-level models with random slopes for gender to examine the effects of macro-level gender equality on gender differences in environmental protests, petitions, and boycotts. In line with our hypotheses informed by gender socialization theory, our results show that women do participate more than men, but mainly in more individual and non-confrontational EPP forms (boycotts, petitions), and are on par with men in collective and confrontational forms (protests) – with substantial variation across countries. Moreover, considering how women have historically been restrained from participating in politics, we argue that structural gender inequality remains an important limitation to women's engagement. Cross-level interactions indicate that in more egalitarian countries, women are indeed more likely to engage in several types of EPP than men. The study contributes to the literature by showcasing new

angles and findings on gender differences in EPP, in particular highlighting the impact of structural gender inequality on women's participation.

A Contentious Convention: Frames and Actor Constellations around the Istanbul Convention in Turkey and Croatia

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The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention (IC), has become an object of contention in recent years. The Convention was highly politicized, even in countries with vastly different contexts, with various religious and political actors mobilizing in its opposition, while using similar discourses. How did similar patterns of opposition to the Istanbul Convention emerge in Turkey and Croatia, despite different actor constellations and highly dissimilar political contexts? To answer this question, we first use Contentious Episode Analysis to investigate the variation in the strategies and action sequences performed by supporters, challengers, and third parties, as actors engaged in contention. We also qualitatively analyze their discourses, focusing on exclusionary frames (i.e., opposing "gender ideology", advocating heteronormative family values), thus investigating (dis)similar patterns of discourses and actions. Our original dataset consists of articles mentioning the "Istanbul Convention", sampled from daily national newspapers, namely Sözcü and Sabah for Turkey (N=~400), and Večernji list and Jutarnji list (N=~420) for Croatia. Hence, by using an innovative interactional approach, we capture the complexity of (dis) similar radical right actor constellations, strategies, and discursive patterns in Croatia and Turkey, used in opposition to the IC. Consequently, we aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the illiberal turn, focusing on backsliding on gender equality, anti-gender mobilization, and violence against women.

RN25 | T05_01: Analytical and methodological innovation in social movement studies

Navigating the Protest Data Archipelago: Digital archives, Datasets and Collections

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Contemporary protest activities are being meticulously documented, collected, and disseminated on an unprecedented scale (Canella 2017, d'Urbano 2020). Archives, collections, data sets, and text repositories employ a diverse array of forms (centralized and crowd-based, digital, and paper-based), procedures (methods and regulations), and operating actors (both institutional and non-institutional). We refer to those theoretical approaches in which archiving is a form of political activism (Fleming 2018; Zamponi et al. 2018; Wallace et al. 2020, Hoyer, Almeida 2021), with a significant role in shaping a claims agenda, defining radicalism, and establishing criteria for truthfulness and authenticity.

Our presentation aims to provide an overview of the state-of-the-art research on protest data landscape and present as well as an analysis of the uses, purposes, and challenges associated with self-archiving and sharing protest data. We argue that currently we are experiencing "too much data" and therefore raise questions about the possible consequences of protest information overload. Drawing amongst other on initial research from our project on activism and knowledge production, we will discuss how this overload is potentially transforming both archival practices and access to protest data.

Collective Actions' Dynamics Of Social Change: A Processual Perspective

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Debates on how and when collective action shapes social change have progressively taken a processual turn over the last decades. Processual approaches do not aim to test hypotheses or seek decisive external and internal factors, nor do they search for single grand theories. Instead, they aim to provide plausible analytical explanations of how the interactions of multiple actors shift, unfold and change over time, producing particular outcomes or patterns of transformation. This analytical move entails a process tracing

backwards from the diverse outcomes under investigation (e.g., a policy change) and reconstructing sequences of interactions between different collective actors over time in a different context. It also involves investigating how collective actors change in this process. Building on our previous empirical studies in diverse empirical contexts and regarding different forms of collective action, this chapter aims to describe and trace sequences that explain variation in how and when collective actors shape social change. Following these trajectories allows us to show how the processual perspective improves our understanding of collective action's role in social change and propose future avenues for new empirical studies, allowing scholars to ask questions they might not otherwise ask.

Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Moral Dimensions of Prolife Feminism in the Irish Prolife Movement

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This paper utilises Boltanski and Thévenot's pragmatic sociology's justifications model to reorient social movement theory towards a focus on moral justifications and actions and contributes to the emerging discussion on the insufficient attention given to morality in movements, having been considered only fragmentally since its marginalisation and then in sometimes abstract and ad hoc ways albeit with a couple of notable exceptions. The proposed model facilitates an opportunity to critically evaluate theoretical assumptions within social movement studies and critical sociology.

Foregrounding the critical capacities of actors themselves and taking critiques at face value as opposed to critical sociology which sees actors as unreflexive 'cultural dopes', ensnared in historically reproduced structures of domination, pragmatic sociology's justifications model offers an innovative methodological tool which allows for a departure from understanding movements such as the prolife movement in terms of countermovement dynamics and locates such sociological objects as analytical in their own right.

The study that informs this paper involved in-depth qualitative interviews with self-identified prolife feminists in Ireland coupled with a justificatory analysis of prolife movement media content. Justifications analysis expands approaches to content analysis and frame analysis in response to the neglect of 'the moral dimension of public deliberation' and political claims in the public sphere and the relational dynamics originally associated with framing theory.

The study analysed the broad meanings of ethics, care, and justice generated by those who challenge what it means to be feminist.

RN25 | T05_02: Environmental protest strategies and experiences

A Legal Turn In The Swedish Climate Movement

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In recent years, an increasing number of climate activists across the world have sued states, municipalities, oil companies, and other fossil industry actors – and an increasing number have won. Nevertheless, lawsuits are but one of multiple ways climate activists use legal means to fight for climate justice. In this paper, I examine how Swedish climate movement actors make use of these means. Based on ethnographic fieldwork, I primarily look at three examples: 1) the case of Auroramålet, a group of young activists suing the Swedish state, 2) the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty campaign and 3) the legal aftermaths of climate direct actions. Though different in both their tactics and intended outcomes, I argue that these can be interpreted as turns towards legal means among climate activists. I show the ways in which activists make use of the legal system and connect these to their theories of change. While I show the possibilities of these strategies, I also show the limitations of relying on existing modes of juridical justice and representative democracy for climate activism, drawing on Vergara's concept of 'systemic corruption'. However, with Fraser's notion of 'abnormal justice', I discuss alternative forms of addressing justice claims and consider in what ways the sketched examples challenge and expand existing conceptions of justice.

Between Legitimacy And Effectiveness: A Comparative Analysis Of Antispeciesist Movements In France And Quebec

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This paper is part of a political science research project on the anti-speciesist movement in France and Quebec. This movement, which rejects the domination of animals by humans, has legitimacy issues and struggles to find its place in the "space of social movements" (Mathieu, 2007). Indeed, it is not recognized as a fully legitimate movement, which leads actors to engage in "strategic legitimization" (Dubreuil, 2013). From this perspective, the movement has followed various, sometimes contradictory, inflections aimed at better inserting antispeciesism into the vein of these legitimate struggles. Actors and organizations are indeed trying to achieve this, while optimizing the outcome of their mobilization (which aims to undo all forms of animal

exploitation). So, what strategies has this struggle for legitimacy devised to succeed in imposing the animal question on public debate? And what difficulties does it face?

Using the case studies of the French and Quebec antispecies movements as a starting point, we will examine the strategies that actors and organizations can employ to achieve effective results. To answer these questions, the paper will draw on material gathered as part of an ethnographic survey carried out in France and Quebec, as well as on a corpus of around 100 interviews conducted with movement actors.

Online And Offline Activism As A Mutually Reinforcing Process – A Case Study Of The Hungarian Fridays For Future Movement

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In the last decade, several studies were conducted concerning the relationship between online and offline activism, which was intensified by the outbreak of COVID-19, when, due to the global lockdowns, mass demonstrations organized by environmental movements were forced to take online form. Nowadays, social movements can mobilize people and create a unique self-representation online using social media, which requires specific knowledge and skills. In our research conducted among the members of the Hungarian Fridays for Future movement for three years, we aimed to describe these skills gained through online activism. We focused on mapping the connection between offline and online activism using various qualitative methods such as participant observation, interviews, focus groups, and digital ethnography. In order to get a clear image, we put heavy emphasis on the Hungarian context, namely the structure of the public sphere, the politicization of environmental issues, and the general approach toward activism and social movements. Our results show a mutually reinforcing process between online and offline activism in which numerous learned skills exist in parallel, in the frontstage and the backstage. The most essential skills are building the image of a strong online and offline community with explicit values and objectives as the most effective way of attracting youth to be activists, and skills to keep boundaries between personal life and activism similarly to adult experiences of keeping work-life balance.

RN25 | T06_01: Far-right and anti-immigrant mobilization

Far-Right Contentious Politics in Hostile Environments: a Local Comparative Perspective

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In recent years, besides an eye-catching rise in electoral support, the upsurge of the far right has also materialized in an increasing and enduring activity in contentious politics. Yet, how this contention is articulated in the streets and how it is affected by contextual factors is still largely overlooked, especially in regions historically hostile to nativist claims.

By joining the literature on contentious politics with that on the far right, the paper aims to address these concerns with a comparative and longitudinal investigation of local dynamics of mobilization supporting far-right politics. While previous studies have mostly focused on protests promoted by pre-selected actors, the paper innovatively integrates this predominant actor-centered perspective with an issue-related one. The aim is to better catch the blurring and dynamic nature of the far right.

To do so, the empirical study examines contentious events that happened in two southern European regions: Andalusia in Spain and Emilia-Romagna in Italy. They share a leftist electoral tradition and a recent rise of radical right-wing parties, although with different magnitudes. Following the PEA approach, data was collected through quality local newspapers. The original dataset covers 546 contentious events from 2015 up to 2022.

The investigation follows a twofold direction. Firstly, it explores event-specific characteristics, such as the actors partaking in this far-right mobilization, the issues raised, and the tactics adopted. Then, it shows how the contention is affected by different electoral and societal contexts.

‘Us’ Vs ‘The Others’: Discursive Events, Collective Identities, And Far-Right Mobilisation

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The broad and successful mobilisation of protesters by, or in cooperation with, far-right actors in Chemnitz, Germany (2018) and to Querdenken demonstrations during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond (2020 ongoing) was largely achieved by addressing the supporters as “us” vs. “the others”. At first glance, extreme right-wing organizers have used familiar enemy constructions – refugees, Muslims, and groups identified as political opponents – for mobilisation. However, a closer analysis shows that the enemy

images used are hierarchically organised via conspiracy myths against "us", or, 'the people', and point to a deeply antisemitic core, rooted in a collectively shared knowledge. In both case studies, the application of enemy images has culminated in questioning 'the system'. Simultaneously, collective actors make references to various symbols of (peaceful) collective resistance and national symbols to create a collective identity of the participants. Applying a discourse approach to the material, I analyzed online communication in public groups on Facebook, the actors' main public, i.e., open, social network. I will present empirical results from a comparative analysis of the two case studies of 'Chemnitz' and 'Querdenken' about how collective identities have been created in both social movements, and which adaptations and updates made by far-right actors can be traced from one discursive event to another.

Mapping Far-Right Contention Within Civil Society

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In recent years, the far right has expanded its structures and activities not only within political institutions but also in civil societies across Europe. However, existing research on far-right contention has focused primarily on protest behavior and neglected the associational side of civil society. Civil society research, on the other hand, has tended to ignore its dark side and focus on positive examples of civic action. This is surprising given that far-right actors and issues frequently challenge individual volunteers, civil society organizations, and entire fields of civic action. Our paper addresses the blind spots in these literatures by theorizing and mapping far-right contention within civil society. We build on the contentious-politics paradigm in social movement studies to conceptualize far-right contention as episodic actions that emanate from far-right actors and/or make far-right claims and thereby break the routines of civil society fields, actors, or their members. We develop a mixed-methods approach combining expert interviews with qualitative and quantitative content analyses of far-right media, newspaper reports, and watchdog documents. We apply this method to map far-right contention in Germany from 2018-2023. Our analysis demonstrates how far-right actors and claims politicize various civil society fields.

The Diversification Of Contentious Performances In Anti-Migrant Violence

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This paper investigates how changes in the composition of movement actors and repertoires of action interplay during a period of shifting political and discursive contexts. To capture this, we study the diversification over time of anti-migrant violence in Sweden. By applying the concept of contentious performances to a continuous dataset of violent attacks in Sweden from 2007 to 2017, we argue that the ongoing mainstreaming of far-right politics, and specifically the heightened focus on migration issues around 2015, led to the emergence of a new and recurring mode of violence. Prior to this period, the typical incidents involved small – to medium-sized groups of youths openly confronting individual migrants and inhabited properties, engaging in minor acts of property damage and assault. Around 2015, this pattern was supplemented by a dramatic rise of actions in which individuals or small groups employed highly destructive violence against uninhabited properties, often without prior warning or subsequent claims of responsibility. These actors appear to be generally older than those engaged in larger scale but less severe violence. A provisional comparison of the local contexts surrounding both types of violence reveals that the highly destructive small-group violence is more commonly linked to preceding local nonviolent protest campaigns against migration. In contrast, the larger scale, yet less severe, violence appears to stem from group dynamics within subcultural settings.

RN25 | T06_02: Movements and their trajectories

The Role of Background, Education, and Value Orientations in Affinity for Fridays for Future and Black Lives Matter: A Study among Italian Secondary School Students

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Today's younger generations are characterized by particularly fluid forms of engagement: environmental issues and the fight against structural forms of racism are two of the issues that can mobilize them more than others. Based on the results of a survey sent to secondary school students in Italy, which yielded 12,658 responses, the contribution proposes to examine the dimension of proximity to an environmental movement (Fridays for Future) and to a movement against racism (Black Lives Matter) on the basis of students' socio-educational background, considered a possible predictor of youth activism. If the forms of student activism depend on the capital that young people have, what role do educational institutions play in encouraging or discouraging them? Given the heterogeneity of youth, the paper asks whether belonging to a lower social class and having followed a short-term educational path (such as vocational training) can be a barrier to youth activism, or whether, on the contrary, mass access to secondary education has blurred these possible differences. The question of how social class and educational background – but also gender, origin and values – structure youth engagement is relevant to defining the ways in which this engagement is articulated and the dimensions it addresses. To what extent do these variables influence their engagement? What is the impact of students' immigrant backgrounds, given that one of the movements analyzed is characterized by the defense of minority rights? And again, how widespread and interrelated are the affinities with these different movements?

Network Alliances between Fridays for Future local groups in Italy: an homophily mechanism investigation

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Between November 2018 and March 2019, different local groups had been created to coordinate the local protest events of the Fridays for Future mobilization in Italy. A peculiarity characterizes this diffusion process: the organization of two National Assemblies. No other country saw such an effort to formalize a national coordination level. The paper aims at investigating the interplay of alliance and ideological congruence adopting a relational approach to the study of collective action, and a mixed-method research design. I hypothesize that the alliance construction process has been influenced by the collective action frames through the activation of an homophily mechanism. The data were gathered combining the survey instrument for the relational data and the participant observation technique to observe the "speech-in-action". Through the implementation of social selection exponential random graph models, the effect of the collective action frames (nodal attributes) on the alliance network (social structure) have been tested. It emerged that on average FFF local groups have a propensity to build alliance ties with nodes adopting their same CAF. The reformist-rejectionist line of division reported that rejectionist type of FFF local groups appeared to have more chances to build ties with similar others than reformist. This evidence can be interpreted as an increased polarization among FFF local groups which has been also observed in the solutions elaborated. The reformist FFF local groups, in general, proposed a set of demands regarding the ecological transition, while the rejectionist FFF local groups proposed the adoption of radical tactics and of an anticapitalistic ideological position.

Constructing Collective Action For Digital Rights In Europe: Addressing The Relevance Of Events In Collective Action Processes

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Over the years, the study of events has acquired considerable relevance in sociological investigation, as well as, more specifically, in the study of collective action and social movements.

The political process tradition, introducing the protest event analysis method, has given greater importance to the temporal dimension of these phenomena, using events as the main unit of analysis. Often, however, it underestimated – or omitted altogether – the relational dimension underlying these phenomena, preferring an explanation based on an aggregative perspective. More recently, stronger emphasis has been placed on so-called 'critical events', adapting eventful temporality theory to the field of social movement studies. Although this perspective has shed light on fundamental issues, it excluded from the picture all those social situations of which collective action is composed and is organized around, especially in the latency phases that are argued to characterize it. Following the footsteps of the Networks and Social Movements research programme, this study is aimed at discussing these gaps and contributing to the field by widening the perspective on the relevance of time and events for collective action. In particular, the main questions it proposes to investigate are: how do co-participation at and co-organization of events contribute to processes of collective actor construction? How do interpretation of critical events by social actors influence such processes? To empirically address these questions, I investigate the development of the digital rights field in Europe

within the last two decades, selecting the trajectory of the European Digital Rights (EDRi) Network as case study.

Patterns of Diversification and Institutionalisation: The Development of the Swedish Climate Movement 2018-2023

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When Greta Thunberg's climate strikes spread globally in 2018 and contributed to the revival of the climate movement, Sweden became strongly associated with climate activism. This new wave of climate activism was rapidly associated with school students demanding politicians to follow climate scientists' recommendations, recurring global mass demonstrations, and an increased use of civil disobedience in the climate movement. Six years later, the momentum of the climate movement seems to have waned; partly due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also due to changes within the movement in terms of strategies, forms of protest, and organisational forms. This paper traces the development of the Swedish climate movement from 2018 to 2023, to examine how the composition and activities of the movement have changed over a protest cycle. Different types of data are analysed to shed light on the movement's activities, participants and organisations in Sweden. First, protest event data is used to show how the movement's protests have evolved over time, in terms of intensity, claims and geographical diffusion. Second, we use protest survey data (from 2019 and 2023) to investigate how the socio-demographic characteristics and organisational affiliations of the movement's individual participants has evolved over time. Third, an organisational survey is used to describe the organisations within the movement, their centrality and organisational strength, as well as how their interrelationships and contacts have evolved. The preliminary results suggest, among other things, a simultaneous diversification and institutionalisation of the movement, its participants and organisations.

RN25 | T07_01: Social movements, volunteering, and civil society

Who Gets to Care?: Relational Possibilities and Neoliberal Captures in Pro-Migrant Community Organisations

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As numbers of organisations providing life-saving care and support for the displaced groups grow in the Global North, focusing on good intentions often obscures racialised/gendered hierarchies experienced by those who are at the receiving end of care. Drawing on data gathered through participant observations in 2 of the major community organisations supporting asylum-seeking and refugee (ASR) groups in Glasgow which is the largest migrant resettlement site in the UK, and in-depth interviews with administrators, service users and volunteers of those organisations, the analysis contrasts different visions of "community" these organisations hold to interrogate relational impacts of organisational decisions around who gets to care, when, how and linked practices of representation. It illuminates volunteering as a key site for ASR to reclaim dignity and a social place against the idleness, "unworthiness", or "dangerousness" inflicted upon them through the hostile administration of the policy, and focuses on questions of subject and subjectivity to address shifting positions of the subject and the object of care through the advancement of corporate volunteering schemes in one of the organisations at focus. This paper's contribution is to discuss the possibility of and raise the political thinking around embodied relationality that spaces of care might enable, yet often remain constrained in the face of the neoliberal pressures that increasingly characterise care work with the displaced.

Beyond Choice? Civil Society Actors Making Sense Of The Structural Conditions Of (In)Voluntary Work

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The significance of civil society and social movements has long been recognized in crisis and disaster research (Solnit, 2010), where voluntarism has been described as filling a void when official resources are scarce. While volunteers often frame their actions as a "way of living", exclusively emphasizing positive aspects neglects the complexities surrounding voluntary work within civil society. To emphasize the complexity surrounding voluntary work in crisis,

this article analyses how civil society actors make sense of spatial-political structures to motivate their"choice" to perform voluntary work and engage in collective action.

Constructing a theoretical concept of involuntary work, we argue that we need to view volunteerism in both voluntary and involuntary terms and as a result of structural conditions such as financial cuts in official service, changing political ideology, and the changed organizing of society. Drawing on 53 semi-structured interviews with individuals active in Swedish civil society, both affiliated and unaffiliated with Civil Society Organizations, from rural and urban areas and who have been active in refugee support or voluntary work during wildfires, we identify various types of voluntary and involuntary work and collective action. The collective action and (in)voluntary work respondents perform is often intertwined with political ideology and societal critique. Therefore, the article demonstrates that (in)voluntary work extends beyond altruism, encompassing internal and external struggles marked by politicization, power dynamics, positioning, and the collective pursuit of societal improvement.

Collective Action in Crisis: Unveiling the Power of Crowdfunding in Ukraine's War Response

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This paper presents a comprehensive exploration of collective action in crowdfunding initiatives during the ongoing war in Ukraine. Since the full-scale Russian invasion, Ukraine has faced significant challenges, prompting a remarkable response from its civil society. To explore this phenomenon, we posit the following research question: what factors contribute to the success of a crowdfunding collective action in shaping social and political landscapes during times of war? Theoretically, we apply the collective action framework that reveals the modified role of cooperative and collaborative efforts among community members in influencing sociopolitical reality and the delivery of public services. Methodologically, this study employs a qualitative case study approach. As a result, it proposes a synthesized approach to framing the "success formula" of effective crowdfunding campaigns, based on interviews with managers of top crowdfunding initiatives in Ukraine. By providing a nuanced understanding of how civil society actors utilize crowdfunding in times of crises like war, this paper offers insights into the empowering role of collective action. It highlights innovative approaches to addressing urgent needs, supporting humanitarian causes, and maintaining resilience. The study showcases the extraordinary capacity of civil society actors, organizations, and their networks to unite and persevere in adversity through innovative means of crowdfunding, emphasizing the phenomenon of civil society uniting. Also, it serves as a practical guide for policymakers, NGOs, and civic activists on organizing successful crowdfunding campaigns. It underscores the potential of crowdfunding as a tool for collective action, offering lessons applicable to crises worldwide.

Professionalization And Movementization – Civil Society Organisation's Internal Coping Mechanism With De-democratization

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In the last decade, one of the main questions in the research on civil society was how civil society organizations respond to de-democratzation. The question arises especially in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, although, the shrinking space tendencies were also discovered in old democracies of Western Europe and North America. The majority of this research focused on the changing strategies of independent and critical civil society organisations (CSOs). Besides de-scaling their activities, one important response is "movementization", i.e. CSOs applying a more participatory repertoire. Another response to de-democratization is professionalization, i.e. the increasing differentiation of the organizational structure and specialized distribution of work. While movementization mainly refers to the changes of repertoire, professionalization is an internal change of the organization. How do these two tendencies relate to each other? How does movementization of CSOs affect the internal structure of the organization? What is the impact of professionalization on other activities?

Our paper addresses these questions by examining Hungarian civil society organizations through a new online survey. The survey is conducted among 2000 Hungarian CSOs, in the field of human rights, environmental protection, and welfare-oriented organizations, examining professionalization, organizational activities with a special focus on lobbying and interest-representation, as well as basic patterns of funding and fundraising activities, and the mobilization of volunteers and members.

RN25 | T07_02: Movements and change

Climate Movements, Young Generations and Their Critical Approach to the Ecological Transition, Between Distrust and Aspirations for Change

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Climate change is one of the main issues behind the polycrisis in contemporary societies, and the ineffectiveness of intergovernmental measures to combat global warming has triggered growing tensions between the approaches taken by global climate governance and the critical stance of climate movements struggling for climate justice: in other words, between the institutional, political and economic, and actors who pursue an "ecological transition from above", and civil society actors who propose counter-hegemonic perspectives for an "ecological transition from below". This tension can be analyzed both in terms of distrust towards governments and intergenerational conflict, since young climate activists feel their future has been stolen from them, recognising the reluctance and Inability of political actors to deal with the environmental emergency. Influential scholars have recently highlighted how the younger generations, who make up the vast majority of climate movements, hold the older generations responsible for the shortcomings and pitfalls of current climate crisis management policies, a point which also emerged from our research fieldwork. The empirical basis of the research work includes 50 interviews with climate activists and direct observations at their assemblies and mobilisations, such as the pre-COP26 in Milan, the COP26 in Glasgow (2021), the Climate Social Camp (Turin 2022), the global climate strike in Naples and the World Congress For Climate Justice (Milan 2023), together with 50 interviews during ethnographic observations and 10 online interviews with students belonging to student organizations active within the Italian Fridays for Future movement (2019-2023).

Climate Visions and Their Dimensions

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One of the challenges for the climate movement is arguably to articulate its visions, broadly conceived as possible and desirable climate futures. This paper discusses the concept of movement vision as a distinct analytical concept and applies it to the empirical case of the Swedish climate movement, elaborating on empirically identifiable and salient visions, their elements, and dimensions, as well as the sites where more elaborated visions are found. The visionary content in the movement's discourse is structured around a number of key themes: democracy/governance, distributive justice, technology, environmental conditions, and welfare. Although an analytical focus on visions implies an emphasis on goals/ends, the latter need to be made sense of in the context of explicit or implicit narratives of how to reach them, that is, the means/strategies and the hurdles that these strategies are constructed as responses to. Hence, the paper identifies the main narratives of change associated with the visions and the central dilemmas that are embedded in visions of a just and sustainable society. The dilemmas are discussed with reference to variation of the visions in terms of temporal reach, breadth of alternative paths, and volition, that is, agency and influence over the envisioned outcome.

Exploring Climate Activism in a Workplace Context: How Institutional Insiders Adapt in a Large Firm

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Research on social movements in workplace contexts has highlighted the need to better understand how employees who are sympathetic to a social movement mobilize to transform their organization from within, in line with their convictions. I explore the question: How do institutional insiders adapt their climate activism tactics to the organizational context? This paper is grounded on field data collected as part of my ongoing PhD, in a large firm in France, and in a French coalition of environmental grassroots groups of employees. Using interviews with members and former members of one grassroots group, this paper empirically explores the complexity of insider activism. I have found evidence that support the perspective that the availability of cultural and political opportunities for grassroots groups, within and outside their firm, is relevant to support their creation and development. Data also shows that although grassroots groups adopt persuasive tactics to influence their company, its members have multiple affiliations. I argue that affiliations to different groups, including outside the firm, give individuals access to skills, information, networks, and even legitimacy, which are fundamental to promote organizational change. I have identified two additional forms of activism which individuals combine with their engagement in a grassroots group: disruptive activism by setting up ad-hoc groups to challenge the firm on controversial topics, and embedded activism by importing to their workplace external resources from social movement organizations. My research aims to contribute to better understand the organizational insider-outsider spectrum, and it complements prior research on collaborative forms of activism.

In search of a definition: A Systematic Literature Review of the Relational Consequences of Collective Action

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This paper proposes a systematic literature review of the existing studies on social movements and collective action, focusing on identifying and delineating a distinct category of collective action consequences—relational outcomes. While biographical, political, and cultural outcomes have been extensively studied and established in the literature, our research aims to shed light on the nuanced nature of relational outcomes, exploring their unique characteristics.

Drawing on a consistent sample of peer-reviewed articles published in leading sociology and political science journals over the last 30 years, our study seeks to systematically analyze and synthesize findings related to relational outcomes within the context of social movements. Relational outcomes encompass the social bonds, networks, and interconnections forged as a consequence of collective action. We hypothesize that these outcomes play a crucial role in shaping the trajectory and impact of social movements. Yet, they have not been explicitly delineated as an independent category.

The implications of our findings extend beyond academic discourse, offering valuable insights for activists, community organizers, and researchers alike. Understanding the unique impact of relational outcomes can inform strategies for fostering social cohesion, community resilience, and sustainable collective action. This work contributes to the evolution of social movement theory by expanding the conceptual landscape, defining a specific set of collective action outcomes, and encouraging a more nuanced understanding of the diverse outcomes that emerge from collective social endeavors.

RN25 | T08_01: Countermovements and economic contention

Prefigurative Politics Through Commoning: The Experiment and Experience of Fatsa in 1970s

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This study examines the link between prefigurative politics and commoning in the mobilization process of social movements. I shall employ a conceptualization of prefigurative politics that conceives representative politics with the nuances of representation as acting for and representation as standing for. The subjectivization process that changes the existing order necessitates utilizing the frame alignment conceptualization to explain the development of the social movement. I shall present that link with a relational methodological approach by emphasizing commoning as a process rather than focusing on commons as static things. The sociopolitical experience in the 1970s Fatsa province of Turkey, a critical event in the history of Turkish social and civic movements, is the case in this research. The eradication of trust in formal politics and its institutions amid the underlying tensions was the escalation of political violence and economic hardship at the country scale. Thus, on the local scale, tensions could be named as the exploitation in hazelnut production (a primary source of livelihood), usury, indebtedness, dispossessions, infrastructure failures, and the enclosure of the market resulting in inaccessibility of necessities due to black market and stockpiling. Derived from that, the main research question is how prefigurative politics worked in 1970s Fatsa through communing practices. Based on a literature review of theoretical works, archived data of the historical accounts, and of interview data, this study depicts how the emergence of The Revolutionary Path, a left-wing social movement organization, became an alternative that mobilized people and transformed the sociopolitical environment through their commoning practices.

The Unconscious Countermovement and Conscious Polanyian Movement in Rural China's Transformation

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This presentation brings together a published reassessment of Karl Polanyi's countermovement concept with empirical evidence and political analysis of social movements in China from a paper currently under review. It is especially relevant to the RN25 theme of the interplay between movements and their political/discursive/legal context as well as bringing original theoretical perspectives

from Polanyi to the social movement field. Polanyi's countermovement theory demonstrates how social movements protect society from the negative effects of marketisation. However, this paper argues the countermovement concept has been mis-interpreted and mis-applied. It argues countermovements are not fully-fledged ideological movements but 'unconscious' atomised moves to protect society from market threats. Polanyi's definition demonstrates countermovements are neither progressive or regressive but unconsciously undermine the market system with no inherent ability to create new ideological solutions. The paper uses this Polanyian dynamic to interrogate rural China. Rural China is chosen due to its recent, but incomplete, transformation from a less to a more marketised society. Through surveys and participant observation I demonstrate there is an unconscious countermovement that places peasant agriculture as a sphere of safety in contrast to large-scale marketised agriculture. Using Polanyian insights I link this 'unconscious' countermovement to 'conscious' Polanyian movements for safe food and the protection of the political/social category of the peasant. These conscious Polanyian movements articulate an anti-market ideology that is absent in the unconscious countermovements. However, both movements are linked through their implicit or explicit reach towards the peasant for protection from the industrialised and marketised food system.

Fields of Economic Contention: Cross-Country Perspective

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Several decades of neoliberal restructuring led to inquiries related to the societal responses to economic transformations, notoriously captured by K. Polanyi´s concept of societal countermovement (Polanyi 1944; Almeida, Pérez Martín 2022). Various protest cycles challenging the logic of neoliberal policies arise and are coordinated by labour, civil society organizations or political parties. Despite their differences in organizing structures, repertoires, or political ideologies, these actors become part of the specific field of economic contention (Melucci 1996, Crossley 2002). These are relational arenas or meso-level orders of collective action (Diani, Mische 2017) where different actors have topical (sometimes contradictory) stakes, strategies, and targets. Over time, new structures of coordination of collective action occur, are reproduced, or transformed: depending on the change of short-term political-economic opportunities or threats, some actors engage in contention and participate in protest alliances while others withdraw and isolate. This paper aims at further conceptualization and empirical mapping of fields of economic contention using the relational perspective in the study of collective action (Emirbayer 1997; Diani 2015). More specifically, it compares fields of economic contention in two post-socialist countries with the history of rapid re-instalment of capitalism after 1989 – Czechia and Slovakia. The cultural and institutional proximity of these countries enables longitudinal comparison of how short-term political-economic contexts (main type of conflict, access to the institutions, economic and welfare policies) relate to the structure of the field of economic contention: Who engages? Who cooperates with whom? Who crosses sector boundaries? And how is it related to the change of political-economic context? I rely on the dataset of economic protest events (1989-2021) in Czechia (N= 2042) and Slovakia (N=2077) and apply network-analytic approach.

RN25 | T08_02: Populist and anti-populist contention

Discursive Coherence and Framing Strategies in the Rejoin Movement: A Post-Brexit Analysis

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Recent scholarly literature has suggested that the failure of pro-European mobilisation in the UK has, in part, resulted from the absence of a coherent strategy of how the case for EU membership was made. Existing research focusses on the period following the Brexit referendum up until the UK's departure from the EU in January 2020. Examining the post-Brexit landscape that followed, this paper investigates the extent to which this issue persists among the embryonic UK-based Rejoin movement.

Contributing to the existing literature on framing tasks, this study delineates diagnostic and prognostic framing concepts and systematically unpacks their relationship by separating them further into 'issue' (diagnostic grievances and prognostic solutions) and 'agent' (diagnostic perpetrators and prognostic strategy) components. This allows for a systematic assessment of concomitant processes of development between framing tasks that are crucial for a movement's capacity to foster consensus mobilisation.

To investigate these framing components, the study employs a discourse network analysis of social media posts on Twitter (now X) made by key activists within the Rejoin movement following the National Rejoin March on October 22nd, 2022. This analysis reveals several themes of strategic importance, in particular economic arguments, within Rejoin's framing approach and expands existing knowledge of the mechanisms by which framing tasks are intrinsically connected. In doing so, this paper contributes to the literature on the politicisation of Europe in the UK post-Brexit and enhances our comprehension of the relationship between framing tasks.

Populist Narratives, Imagery And Strategies: The Online Political Actions Of Portuguese Youth Groups

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Social media are currently unavoidable platforms in the lives of young people. The political role of these contexts includes their potential to express demands and articulate claims, but also their effects in conveying populist discourses and increasing polarisation. While the literature highlights these double-edge consequences for social movements and democracy, there is a lack of Portuguese studies exploring how social media constitutes a battleground for performing, disseminating and contesting populism by institutional political actors and activist groups.

This communication will discuss the relationship between social media and populism based on two main research questions: i) what populist narratives are expressed and contested by different political groups? and ii) which visual-digital strategies are mobilised to compose those narratives? We will present the results of a 6-month observation of the social media activity of Portuguese youth parties and youth activist collectives, encompassing the period before, during and after the Portuguese parliamentary elections of 2024.

We will draw on an analytical grid developed to analyse populist posts, examining: i) anti-system narratives (anti-elite populism), challenging institutional political actors, as well as other economic and social elites; ii) discriminatory narratives (exclusionary populism), blaming external and minority groups for the problems of "the people"; and iii) narratives extolling the virtuousness of the national people and the defence of their sovereignty (nationalist populism). We will explore the interplay of these narratives and the visual strategies employed by youth activists and institutional political actors, including protests' visualities (e.g., protest posters, eventful pictures) and satirical contents (e.g., memes, cartoons).

A European Antipopulist Movement? The Emergence And Diffusion Of The Italian Sardines And Finnish Herrings

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This research investigates the emergence and diffusion of antipopulist mobilizations. Resembling the iconic image depicting a school of small fish chasing a big one, the Italian "6000 Sardine" (Sardines) and the Finnish "Silakkaliike" (Herrings) emerged as two movements with antipopulist claims. Although the scholarship on populism is abundant, antipopulism remains mostly neglected, especially its mobilization from below. Drawing on extensive fieldwork including a grounded-theory approach applied to twenty-seven interviews with activists from these two movements, plus the analysis of offline and online organizational documents, this study shows the mechanisms—cognitive, affective and relational—of their national and crossnational diffusion, relating them to the opportunities of the context. Exploring the internal movement dynamics and actors' perceptions and motivations, this study also contributes to the conceptualization of antipopulism from below, defining the main characteristics and the ideological underpinnings of these two antipopulist movements.

Perceived Emotional Synchrony and Political Protest Across Cleavage Lines

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Research in in social movement studies and the sociology of emotion and has consistently ar-gued that emotions are mobilizers of collective action and civic engagement, such as protesting, participating in marches and demonstrations, signing petitions, volunteering, or donating money. On the one hand, studies have shown that specific discrete emotions, for example fear and anger, have strong and distinct effects for political mobilization and collective action. On the other hand, following a Durkheimian tradition, scholars have long suggested that collective and group-based emotions are important motivators of civic engagement. However, there is comparably little evidence regarding this assumption. This contribution aims at filling this gap and investigates associations between perceived emotional synchrony (PES), a specific type of collective emotion, and political protest across different cleavage lines. Using original survey data collected in Germany, the study specifically looks associations between perceived PES and protest behavior ("keystroke" vs. "street" protest) across two cleavages, climate change (N=1706) and immigration (N=1783). We hypothesize that PES is positively associated with whether a person engages in street protest (such as joining a protest march) as compared to keystroke protest (e.g., signing a petition), and that this effect is qualified by cleavage type and partisanship. Our findings support the hypotheses, indicating that PES is positively associated with street protest for both cleavages, but only for the climate cleavage when controlling for partisanship. This suggests that PES is especially important for political protest when cleavages are not (yet) clearly associated with party politics.

RN25 | T08_03: Environmentalist framing and movement communication

Media Representation Of Environmental Movements: Unveiling Frames In News Articles On The Last Generation In Austria

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In this paper we examine how one of the most controversial and polarizing environmental movements of our time, the Last Generation, and its messages are portrayed and framed in the Austrian media. While supported by parts of the population, some politicians have labeled the activists as climate terrorists for their disruptive forms of protest (e.g., gluing themselves to the streets). The Last Generation strategically uses the media to generate attention and promote their warnings and demands. Our goal is to understand how different media portray the movement and how their representation contributes to the public discourse on environmental movements and climate change. With this aim, we conduct a media analysis on two of Austria's largest daily newspapers, exemplary comparing the what one could label as 'yellow press' with 'quality' newspapers with the help of computational social science methods. The media corpus consists of ca. 400 news articles about the Last Generation published between February and December 2023. In addition to the article analysis, we plan to analyze some 200,000 comments on these articles. Surprisingly, first results from a sentiment analysis show hardly any differences between the yellow press and the quality newspaper. In order to gain a more nuanced insight, we extend our analysis to include a combination of content and framing analysis, shedding light on emerging frames in the portrayal of the Last Generation. By contrasting these with existing frames from the literature, we make a fine-tuned empirical contribution to the current debate on the media representation of environmental movements.

Do the Police Distort Grassroots' Narratives?

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European University Institute, Italy

Grassroots tell stories: they mourn or criticise what is, demand what should, and imagine what could be. The police enforce the hegemonic understanding of what are legitimate ways of telling stories. Mass media comment on these stories and the way they are told, thereby affirming,

questioning, or criticising their legitimacy. Both actors hence affect grassroots' capacity to narrate, shape the content of, and influence how these stories travel. There exists a vast literature on the police's and journalists' engagement with, and the public perception of grassroots and protest events. However, it is rarely inquired whether and how police involvement influences the way mass media describes the grassroots' narratives. I approach these questions concentrating on temporal and spatial variation. I, firstly, conduct a narrative analysis of newspaper articles reporting on grassroots' blocking the Gotthard tunnel in Switzerland in 1991, 2002, and 2023. I intend to assess if and to what extent the activists' narratives find entry into the articles, whether police involvement change the way journalists talk about these narratives, and whether attribution of legitimacy changes over time. I repeat the analysis for articles on climate justice grassroots' protest events between 2018 and 2023 in the Swiss cities of Basel, Bern, Geneve, Lausanne, and Zurich. I am particularly interested in whether the ongoing intensification of grassroots' tactics affects how journalists make meaning of their narratives.

The Digital Visuality of Trust in Climate Change Politics: Emotions and Polarization on Twitter #COP from 2018-2021

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Trust is a key issue in political discourse and mobilization especially with rising misinformation and polarization. However, the role of visual communication in the construction of trust remains unexplored, despite the emphasis digital platforms place on visual content. We address this gap by looking at 6000 images and text shared on Twitter under the hashtags for COP24, 25 and 26. We analyze the way in which a wide variety of climate activist groups and NGOs as well as counter-movement actors express and elicit emotions to construct or undermine trust of key institutions, groups or individuals in climate politics. We find that the construction of (mis)trust is tied to how actors affirm or challenge emotional norms, constructing emotional regimes for their social and political groups. Official COP and some civic society actors emphasize rationality and hope, while climate deniers often legitimize feelings of fear or indignation to undermine trust. We show that this dynamic creates a corresponding visuality and identify four ways in which actors use images: i) peopling, the use of images of people to inspire trust; ii) subverting, the use of imagery that opposing actors use to construct trust in order to undermine it; iii) visualization of data and information; iv) romantization, appealing to a sense of beauty or attachment through images often conveying symbolic meaning. We argue that these visual strategies map with three emotional regimes distinguished primarily by the role and orientation of emotional sincerity or attachment and emotional detachment or cynicism, which play a significant role in the construction of trust and mistrust respectively.

Conflict, (Dis)trust and Social Change: A Complex Perspective of the Communicative Dimension of Social Movements

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Social movements' analysis provides a complex understanding of important processes and dimensions in current societies. There is agreement in pointing out the centrality of communication for them, but some authors consider that their communicative dimension has been the object of certain instrumental understandings or also remained a "black box" for theories about them. Based on a literature review of texts that offer an analysis of communication in recent social movements, this paper aims to provide a complex view of this dimension, considering it a scenario of the articulation of social conflict, (dis)trust and social transformation. The main findings show that communicative practices developed by these collective actors are central for the visibility of the social conflict they represent, by making public their demands, which find autonomous, undistorted expression, in their alternative communication spaces, as opposed to mainstream media representations. Besides proposing an alternative agenda, these communication spaces promote distrust in instituted politics, in line with the refusal to participate in it assumed by social movements, that propose developing trust in social transformation based on their internal practices. This process of social change also has its expression in communication, through the communicative articulation of new individual/collective interrelationships, based on the development of participatory communicative processes, as part of their collective action repertoires, which point to "other" social order. Consequently, we conclude that the communicative dimension of social movements is a complex scenario of tensions between protest (conflict) and proposal (social transformation), showing the complexity of a dimension that is associated with conflict (external) and consensus (internal).

RN25 | T09_01: Space and urban contention

Mapping COVID Protests in China: Insights from News and Surveys

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This paper examines the spatial dynamics of popular protest during the COVID-19 pandemic in the highly controlled communist state of China. In 2022, in response to the pandemic, China enforced strict lockdown measures. Despite this, protests, known as "White Paper Protests," surfaced in various regions in November and December. While media coverage predominantly focused on COVID-related protests in major Chinese cities, our study uncovers a wider range of protest locations. Our research aims to identify the cities where residents participated in protests against China's zero-COVID policy during this period and to explore common characteristics among these cities. Moreover, we analyze the influence of local political economies in driving these protests. Using national internet survey data, social media analysis, and news reports, we investigate these aspects. Our findings indicate that COVID protests were widespread, occurring in nearly half of China's cities. Notably, these protests were more prevalent in politically significant cities with higher levels of economic development and urbanization. The widespread nature of these protests, cutting across geographical boundaries in China, reflects significant grievances among the population. Even under a tightly controlled authoritarian regime, these grievances sparked popular protests. However, these protests were isolated, unorganized, and short-lived, and for the time being, they did not pose a serious threat to the state.

Claiming Space and Rights: Persuasion, Crisis, and Everyday Practices in Tacna's Street Markets

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The paper carves out how persuasion as part of itinerant selling practices connects the economic with the political character of Tacna's street markets.

Street markets in this bordering city between Peru, Chile, and Bolivia are the result of people's movement from rural-often aymara or quechua speaking-areas to the city and the lack of other more "formal" working possibilities. As such, they contain the claim for participation in the local working order and a defense of the "right to work". Vendors regularly claim public space, building their stalls in common streets and thus converting them into vivid spaces of consumption. Organization and coordination is at the heart of the market places. However, that does not mean that vendors generally have a directly political interest or that there is a political consensus. Members of the heterogenous group of merchant's-far from simply being the "urban poor"-share the interest of "keeping their business going". Therefore, even in the context of an extraordinary crisis, vendors adapted to the new conditions and requirements as much as they organized protest in a highly routinized way.

The paper draws on qualitative observation and interview material on the one hand and newspaper articles on the other hand to reconstruct selling practices, protests, and negotiations in two times of crisis regarding the "Feria del Altiplano" market and the respective process of its relocation.

It elaborates how claims-making does not only take place in moments of explicit protest, but that it is at the heart of the every-day selling practices. It thereby theoretically contributes to the conceptualization of claiming rights as processual and itinerant practices.

RN25 | T09_02: Protest parties and policies

Student Activism in the Higher Education Decision-making of Uzbekistan: Context and Challenges

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The higher education landscape in Uzbekistan reflects a systemic structure rooted in authoritative governance, where student involvement in decision-making processes remains absent. The government's emphasis on internationalization and quality improvement in higher education overlooks the critical role of students in shaping educational policies and practices. Policy documents stress moral and patriotic development, promoting adherence to traditional values rather than fostering critical thinking or democratic participation among students.

Cultural norms emphasizing conformity and obedience pervade educational institutions, limiting students' opportunities for critical inquiry and expression. Students view education predominantly as skill acquisition for future careers, with minimal emphasis on societal contributions or critical engagement. Institutional discouragement from questioning the status quo, limited resources, and a culture of obedience further impede meaningful student involvement.

Challenges such as fear of repercussions and a lack of avenues for dialogue inhibit students from actively participating in decision-making. Institutional dialogue between students and authorities is crucial to bridge this gap and foster a more inclusive educational environment.

The paper analysis underscores the pressing need for systemic reforms, advocating for increased student empowerment and meaningful participation in decision-making processes to shape a more inclusive and participatory higher education landscape in Uzbekistan.

Protesting Parties in Poland, 2020.

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Institute of Political Studies, Poland

Much ink has been spilt on conceptual and empirical analysis of the relationship between parties and social movements. The analysis of these relations has also become an important area of research in the contemporary sociology of social protests, but relatively little has been said about how parties participate in collective actions. In 2020, extraordinary political opportunities have arisen for the formation of broad protest coalitions in Poland. Most notably, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the government introducing regulations which provoked objections from many social groups. Political parties also took part in the protests in an effort to manifest their presence.

The primary unit of analysis employed in this study is the protest event, with daily newspapers serving as the data source for these events. Such events fall under "non-conventional" forms of political engagement and typically take place in the streets. I employ dynamic line-graphs to bipartite networks for incorporating time directly into the network. Bi-dynamic line-graph is an innovative way to visualize the evolution of actors' participation in successive events. The main implication of this method is that all time steps corresponding to events, are, in fact, directly taken into account, and actions, linked together by the common participation of actors, are represented as a chain, in a sort of continuous social process. The method will allow us to look at the degree to which the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the nature of political parties' involvement in protests. The findings suggest that the pandemic had a significant, albeit varied, impact on the strategies of different political factions.

Unlikely Allies? Protest Co-Participation Networks of Civil Society Organizations and Political Parties

Matthias Hoffmann[1], Felipe G Santos[1,2], Dan Mercea[1,2], Sorana Constantinescu[1], Henri Pozsar[1], Claudiu Vlasie[1], Fernando Varga[1], Gabriela Teresa Zenteno[1]

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The rise and electoral success of so-called 'populist', 'challenger', or 'movement' parties has shed new light on the intersection of institutional and extra-institutional politics. Recent debates have refuted a neat distribution of labour between civil society organizations who voice grievances through means of (street) protest and political parties, who channel demands through electoral participation, instead pointing toward intricate dynamics of co – and counter-mobilization that depend on both the type of (party) organization and their ideological positioning (Borbáth & Hutter, 2021, Hoffmann et al. 2022). At the same time, only few studies have taken an explicitly relational perspective that seeks to apply a field approach to the study of protest and which can therefore enrich our understanding of the way political parties and civil society organizations build, maintain, or dissolve political alliances through joint protest participation (Pirro, Pavan, Fagan, & Gazsi, 2021) and mutual learning. We enrich and develop this approach through an analysis that combines an original protest event dataset from six countries over fifteen months. We operationalize the co-participation in protest of political parties and civil society organisations in a social network analysis. We explore political parties' position in relational protest fields, in conjunction with protests' action form, issue, and actors' ideology, to advance academic knowledge on political participation and the complex interplay of the institutional and extra-institutional fields.

Feminist Voices. Frames, campaigns, and alignments of the Spanish feminist movements.

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Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Since the end of the anti-austerity mobilization cycle (2010-2013), feminism has been one of the few state-wide social movements in Spain that not only has resisted demobilisation but has strengthened and greatly impacted the public agenda and policy process. In the last five years, this development has prompted a reinforcement of antifeminist movements and a fracture of Spanish feminist movements. Existing literature on the Spanish feminist movements has tended to focus on their campaigns and repertoires of action, their organizational and generational diversity, and their ideological differences, especially in relation to cooperation with institutions. Nevertheless, movements discourse frames and impact on party politics and the policy process have received less attention. The European research project FIERCE (Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe), on whose fieldwork this paper is based, aimed at filling this gap. Its main objective has been the mapping the diverse constellation of feminist actors in Spain and the campaigns, repertoires of actions and discursive frames that they have developed since 2010, putting a special focus on their impact on party politics and on the policy debates. Thus, our paper will offer an analysis of the results of the FIERCE fieldwork, which has consisted in an analysis of hundreds of press news, 10 gender related policy debates, 20 feminist movement documents, 20 interviews with activists, 10 interviews with party representatives or policy makers and a co-creation process with activists and academics.

RN25 | T09_03: Online activism

Visualised Protest through Digitality. The Role of Visualisation for Social Movements in the Digital Space

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Digital space is increasingly becoming the base for social movements to connect, publicly criticise and formulate demands on politics and society. Images and videos posted on social media play an important role in determining the nature of protest and can enable new forms of protest. As a result, the relationship between protest and public communication is changing; protest actions are increasingly oriented towards the structure and visuality of digital space. The research project analyses current protest movements such as Fridays for the Future, street blockades and other protest cultures, and explores the relationship between the increased visuality brought about by digitalisation and changing or entirely new types of protest.

The theoretical framework is drawn from the sociology of knowledge, visual studies and communicative constructivism. In addition, research on movement and digitalisation provides a theoretical background. (see, for example, the work of Hubert Knoblauch, Boris Traue or Alice Mattoni).

Initial analyses show that the images shared by protest movements on social media and their circulation in the identity-forming profiles of individuals are of enormous importance and that protest cultures are aligned with them. The groundbreaking aspect of the work is the combination of image science and sociological perspectives with a view to visuality in digital space, which plays an important role in collectivisation and is evident in social movements.

The project is currently looking at examples such as the images used by the Last Generation group, posted on social media and shared in the mass media. It examines textual-visual communicative expressions in the form of images, signs and symbols in the digital public sphere using image annotation tools developed specifically for use in machine learning models (e.g. Rectlabel). This, together with qualitative interviews, will examine the influence and significance of the visuality of digital space and the increased circulation of images for the (self-)representation of protest movements and their actions. This will allow to classify the role of digital communicative action in the insurgency and positioning of social movements for socio-ecological transformation.

I have not yet attended a summer school.

By Any Means Necessary. Networks, activists and media processes in the Era of the Digital Turn: the three Generations of the No TAV Movement

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This work traces the digital expressions of social movements, using the last 13 years of the No Tav movement (Italy) as a case study.

The purpose of the work is to comprehend the capacity of activists to navigate the free space of communication networks while simultaneously exerting a transformative force, reclaiming urban space for citizens. The main object concerns the Internet as an innovation that continually reconfigures itself, intertwined with the changing nature of the struggle in Valsusa, characterized today by the convergence of over three generations.

– How do activists problematize the pervasiveness of digital media in their daily lives?

– How has the relationship between the Internet and different generations of activists evolved, impacting the processes of meaning construction and interpretative frameworks of the key actors?

– What characterizes current mobilization mechanisms, interplay, and direct relationships between different generations of activists operating inside and outside the Internet?

These research questions guide the study through the following methodological itinerary:

– a digital ethnography that includes a content analysis from the framing perspective built by the online narratives of the movement (2008-2022);

– a second phase focused on the performance perspective, integrated with semi-structured interviews and participant observation sessions.

In this way, the comprehension of the claims embedded in the frames constructed online by activists and their materialization in the direct action repertoires inevitably required the adoption of a nested mixed-methods research design capable of testing the complementarity of new and traditional research methods in examining an object in continuous motion within an ever-evolving context.

Social Learning from Tweets to Streets: Exploring Frame alignment in the Romanian #rezist Protests

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Triggered by plans to water down legislation on misconduct in public office, the #rezist demonstrations were a set of rolling protests in Romania, widely described as the most momentous since the fall of communism in 1989. In this paper, we use a dataset of 45,871 #rezist tweets collected for the period between February 2017, at the start of the protests, and the end of 2022. This setting allows us to study the evolution of online communication even after the end of the on-site protests , in 2018. Drawing on social learning and framing theory in social movement studies, we examine the hashtagged communication as a medium not solely for the aggregation and transmission of information but also for a process of frame alignment supported by social facilitation and contextual imitation. The latter two are social learning mechanisms whereby the presence of key individuals who champion one or more frames for the protests (social facilitation) enables alignment, over time, around those frames evidenced through the circulation of similar messages by other people than those key individuals (contextual imitation). First, we expect to find little evidence of alignment before social facilitation. Second, we posit that contextual imitation will facilitate an alignment of frames among on-site and online protesters. Third, we expect alignment to wane once the protests subsided. This study aims to contribute empirically to the understanding of framing processes, in social movements, by showing how social learning can be applied to a process thus far more generically described as frame negotiation.

Feminist Hashtagging – Articulating Gender Justice on Swedish Social Media

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The hashtag is a technocultural element, a feature of social media platforms that brings disparate units of content together into an assembled feed, and frames content in particular ways. When mobilized for social justice, hashtags can merge individual experiences into collective witnessing. In recent years, there have been many examples of feminist mobilization via hashtags globally. Scholars have emphasized that digitally mediated feminism is a feminism through messy affinities based on personalized narratives rather than women's rights – in line with Donna Haraway's well-known 'cyborg feminism'. Using feminist media theory

and theory on technocultural entanglements, this study looks into how feminist affinities and narratives are articulated through hashtagging practices. I trace two contemporary Swedish feminist hashtags – #kvinnostrejk and #jagvetvadensnippaär – to elicit social media users' strategies and intentions behind feminist hashtagging, and to analyze how gender justice narratives are articulated through these hashtagging practices. The study uses digital ethnography as its method. I employ discourse analysis on feminist social media content to see how hashtags are used as discursive tools, and how they are negotiated and reappropriated to further feminist narratives. Further, I interview communications specialists at feminist organisations, journalists, and feminist digital activists about their strategies for feminist hashtagging, and the effects that these practices might have had. The results can shed light on how hashtags can be used as feminist discursive elements in several ways, for instance, to shed light on news stories, to connect feminist content to viral hashtags, or to perform framing work in social movements.

RN26 | Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare

RN26 | T01_01: Parents and caregivers

Motherhood Under Control: Ideology, Reality and the Israeli Welfare State

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The paper will elaborate on the regulation of disadvantaged mothers, particularly those heading single-parent families, by various State authorities, mainly the welfare services and the courts. Disqualifying women's motherhood involves the removal of their offspring from their care. Few studies on disadvantaged mothers in neo-liberal regimes have examined the connection between the threat on their motherhood and welfare policies. Moreover, the research on out-of-home placement and on single mothers has largely ignored the phenomenon of the nullification of underprivileged mothers' parenthood by State authorities and the coercive means employed in the process.

The role of ideology (or 'rhetoric' or 'discourse') in regulating underprivileged mothers will be emphasized in examining the means and mechanisms that are involved in this phenomenon. Various means of regulation relevant to this context include formal documents issued by the Ministry of Welfare and other state agencies; budgeting (such as the allotment of minors' placements in welfare frameworks, for local municipalities); laws (such as the mandatory obligation to report any suspicion of harm done to minors in families and the prohibition to publish any identifying details relating to minors whose cases are being discussed in the courts); committees formed by the Ministry of Welfare (the most conspicuous of which are the "decision making committees" which issue recommendations for the courts in the process of declaring a minor as "needy"); Knesset committees that support regulation mechanisms (the sub-committee of the child's rights in particular); and court verdicts which provide justification and public credibility for the welfare policy and practices. All of these, it will be argued, are tightly bounded with an ideological apparatus, which serves to justify the welfare system's policy and practices.

Ethnic Bias in the Child Protection System in Hungary

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Roma children are over-represented in the child protection system in many European countries, but little research has explored why this is so. Ethnic-based treatment is problematic in many ways, not least because it undermines trust between social service providers and minority clients. This paper examines child welfare workers' perceptions of risk at the early stages of child protection decision-making. The research question is whether they perceive a higher level of risk when the parents are Roma. We use data from a vignette-based survey conducted among child welfare workers (N = 600) in Hungary. Factors influencing social workers' risk perceptions are analysed using multilevel ordinal logistic regressions. The regression models of risk perception include case variables and the individual characteristics of the social worker. Ethnicity is examined individually and in interaction with other case characteristics. The results indicate that some case variables increase the level of risk perceived by child welfare workers. Family ethnicity does not have a statistically significant impact on risk perception (main effect), but it moderates the effects of some case characteristics, such as physical abuse and the mother's non-cooperative behaviour (interaction effects). Overall, our findings show that even if social workers perceive some characteristics of Roma clients' behaviour as ethnocultural, this does not affect their perception of risk. The poverty and exclusion of Roma families and the resulting higher risks might be more relevant factors behind the disproportionate presence of Roma families in the child protection system. However, communication between social workers and minority families needs to improve to enhance trust between them.

Playing the Snakes and Ladder Game: Caregivers' Experiences in Applying for Cash Benefits when Caring for a Child with ADHD in Norway

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A substantial number of children live with disabilities, and caring for children with increased care needs can be demanding. Existing research highlights a link between childhood disability and child poverty. States can partly counter these adverse relationships through targeted cash support and respite care systems. However, families caring for children with a disability often struggle to take up cash benefits and welfare services beyond the immediate caregiving needs. The literature provides limited insights into why this occurs, particularly regarding how caregivers perceive their interactions with the state during benefit applications.

To address this gap, we explore the experiences of caregivers caring for children with Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Norway. We focus on reasons for non – or limited-take-up of a non-means tested cash benefit and ask: How do caregivers experience the basic benefit scheme and the application process? Why do they, or do they not, (re)apply for the benefit? Qualitative data collected through two rounds of semi-structured interviews with

15 families in 2022 inform the study, covering 18 children with ADHD aged between 7 and 16 years.

In our analysis, we integrate van Oorschot's model of benefit receipt with a game theoretic perspective, revealing the delicate interplay between strategy and chance for caregivers navigating the system. We find that the process of applying for basic benefits resembles a game of snakes and ladders, where the game board represents the application process, the snakes symbolize potential hurdles, and the ladders represent potential support. This analogy highlights the repeated interplay between individual, administrative, and policy design level factors.

When Father Leave Policy Expands And Lags Behind

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Only recently has the importance of fathers as child caregivers been recognized and developed into an important policy issue. Welfare states around the world are experimenting with father quotas, father-only entitlements, and bonuses that give families more leave and resources if both mothers and fathers share the leave in an effort to increase fathers' involvement in childcare.

However, there is still no nation in the world with a fully father-sensitive, gender-equal leave policy. There are also striking differences between countries in timing of introduction and extent of changes in father leave policies. To date, there has been a lack of attempts to shed light on these phenomena, as the major focus of research is on describing policy changes or take up.

In this contribution we try to fill this important research gap by focusing on four driving forces of change: public preferences, electoral competition, resistance, and the crisis (financial, fertility, and pandemic). We maintain that addressing these determinants is particularly important in understanding policy change in this policy field. This argument is substantiated by a more detailed exploration of these drivers of change in a comparative analysis of father leave policy change in the Czech Republic and South Korea. Our analysis reveals that, in these two countries, only in Korea does the government seem to be responsive to the growing voter preferences for father leave policies. Crisis and party competition have a buttressing effect here. In the Czech Republic, instead, crises postponed reforms and father leave policy is perceived by political parties as a policy that harms their chances of re-election. Resistance prevents fully father-sensitive, gender equal parental leave in both countries.

RN26 | T01_02: Knowledge and learning

Invoking and Contesting Expert Knowledge in Legislative Debates Over Social Policy in the Parliament of Finland, 1962–2022

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The literature on the relationship between expert knowledge and democracy is underpinned by two arguments. The first suggests that politics has 'scientized', pointing to the increased necessity to justify decisions with evidence. The second asserts that the dismissal and questioning of expert knowledge has become normalized, and that political discourse increasingly relies on personal experience and feelings. Both trends have been seen potentially detrimental for democracy. Our broader research project traces the intertwined development of these seemingly opposing trends. With this paper, we focus on parliamentary debates over new legislation in social policy, which we examine through the lens of epistemic governance framework. Social policy legislation has always provided a field for ideologically driven political struggles, wherein also experts have played a notable role. Depending on the perspective and situation, their role has sometimes been considered either too powerful, or too easily dismissed by governments in power. However, there is very little earlier research about the changes within politicians' practices of using and contesting expert knowledge. To shed light on the discursive and rhetorical shifts, we analyze a dataset consisting of all plenary debates over new social policy legislation which have taken place in the Parliament of Finland within the timeframe extending from 1962 to 2022. The first layer of our analysis utilizes corpus linguistics to examine the trends of invoking expert knowledge throughout seven decades, and the second focuses on discursive and rhetorical analysis of extreme cases wherein expert knowledge has been contested particularly intensively.

Welfare and AI: An Experiment in Co-Learning for Local Governments

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The digital era has profoundly transformed social policies, pushing towards a new welfare model. This approach aspires to innovations in offered services and influences policy management (Campedelli and Vesan, 2023). In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) is viewed as a solution to reduce repetitive work and provide new tools for policymakers (Toll et al., 2019). However, rapid advancements in

AI have raised concerns about the possibility of crucial decisions for social security escaping direct human control. To address and discuss this tension between the benefits and threats of generative AI in welfare, we present preliminary results from a research and intervention program called Govern-AI, focused on the regional welfare of Campania (Italy). The main goal of Govern-AI is to understand the interaction between institutional actors and new technologies through the introduction of an AI chatbot for local policy making. The construction of the chatbot follows a participatory research approach, as data provided by participating institutions not only constitute the chatbot's learning foundation but also significant empirical evidence. Before construction, preliminary focus groups identified relevant aspects of institutional imagination regarding AI, generating opinions and representations that translate into actual "policy frames" (Rein e Schön, 1996). Govern-AI not only provides a practical tool for decision assistance but also acts as a catalyst for co-learning between humans and the AI system, relying on information from human actors while providing outputs used by them.

The Aura of Evidence? The Production of Recommendations for Policies in Social-research-based Projects

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Currently, social research knowledge is widely used as a basis for interventions and policies. Yet, while there are established methodologies in sociology for making descriptive knowledge ('what is'), the production of prescriptive knowledge ('what should be done') has been largely unguided by such well-defined approaches. This question remains underexplored not only in general sociology and in social research methods, but also within the specific fields like social policy. This presentation is based on a retrospective analysis of an extensive, European Commission-funded study about the role of men in gender equality in Europe, which was done though in-depth interviews with the project teams and secondary data analysis. The reconstruction was focused on how recommendations for social policies were developed in the course of the project. Our analysis suggests that translating social research findings into policy recommendations may pose a significant methodological and practical challenge. Specifically, we found that it may receive lower priority than producing findings, be unguided by any specific method or approach, and remain largely untransparent and even unreflected before, during and after the project. Discouraging an all-too-easy criticism, we argue for more reflection, frameworks, and methods that could support sociologists in the development of research-based guidelines for policies.

The Making Of Good Practices

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Inspired by pragmatist beliefs and theories on collaborative governance, various administrations in the global North embrace experimenting in pilot projects as a fruitful strategy to bring about large scale institutional change. In such policy programs, experimentation in pilots is often combined with the development of large scale infrastructures for learning (e.g. quality collaboratives). The idea is that through experimentation and reflection new ways of organizing can emerge and that through the sharing of good examples and lessons learned the organizational transformation in other localities can be accelerated. This dynamic provides an incentive to actively produce good practices to showcase in infrastructures of learning. We take this dynamic as our analytical starting point. By drawing on a large scale ethnographic study to a program directed at healthcare reform, we show how good practices circulating in such infrastructures of learning are often fictions; in practice these initiatives seldom function as smoothly and effectively, or they do not exist at all. By drawing on a relational approach (Asdal & Cointe, 2021), we investigate how good practices are constituted by various interlocking mechanisms enacted by professionals, policy makers and technologies on different levels of the healthcare system. Our analysis raises important questions about what constitutes organizational learning in institutional reform processes.

RN26 | T02_01: Charity and social entrepreneurship

Business Plus Charity? Tensions between Conflicting Logics from the Perspective of Street Paper Buyers, Vendors and Project Managers

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The sale of street newspapers by people experiencing homelessness or poverty is common practice in many metropolitan areas across Europe. Combining logics of the market and entrepreneurship with logics of charity and social welfare, street paper projects are generally characterized by a high degree of institutional complexity.

On the one hand, they promise "business solutions" for social problems, while on the other, a morality of charity is involved, e.g. rooted in ideas of religious duty or social responsibility in urban communities. According to the first logic, street paper vendors (seemingly) make their own money in the sense of self-entrepreneurship, according to the other, they are nonetheless supported by alms.

Drawing on interviews and focus groups with street paper buyers, vendors and project managers, the presentation explores the question of how each of these groups relate to business and charity logics, trying to combine these logics in a meaningful way. Among other things, this provides insights regarding the perspective of "resource and product consumers", which has hardly been considered in the previous discourse on institutional complexity in the field of social welfare.

It becomes obvious that the buyers' views often differ both from the street paper vendors and the people involved in the projects behind them. The question of how these views are related to each other is particularly relevant, because the realization of the promise of participation inherent in street paper projects decisively depends on spreading the "good news".

The Cultural Transformation of Welfare and Charity

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While social inequality in Norway has gradually increased in recent decades, in the last few years we have experienced a marked increase in actual and visible poverty. The Covid-19 pandemic had serious consequences for the most vulnerable groups. Later, a sharp increase in interest rates and general prices have caused many to experience real hardship, while the government holds back social spending to bring down inflation. Our research emerges from the reality that the welfare state, along with the forms of autonomy that it made possible, is withdrawing multifariously throughout Scandinavia. As the welfare state gradually withdraws from the responsibilities that have characterized welfare policy during most of the post-war era, new forms of poverty, marginalization, and personal dependence have emerged on an entirely new scale. The needs of citizens have hardly disappeared when the public services addressing them have, the voluntary sector has expanded to fill in new gaps, a shift that is altering the relationship between state and society. Based on analyzes of existing research and policy documents, this presentation will explore; possible convergences and divergences between the development of state policies for volunteer organizations and those developments within volunteer organizations themselves; to uncover explanations for and consequences of such convergences and divergences.

Institutionalization of Finnish Food Aid in a Narrowing Welfare State

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Charitable food aid violates the fundamental pillars of the Nordic welfare state ethos: equality, strong democracy, and universalism. However, since 2015, the Finnish food aid field has been slowly institutionalized by the establishment of centralized food pantries, where all food donations from the area are collected and delivered onwards to satellites for further distribution to food aid clients. For the first time, the new government program in autumn 2023 included an entry of consolidation of food aid funding by the state, simultaneously with significant cuts in social security. The institutionalization of food aid as part of basic income is a trenchant illustration of the ongoing change in the political climate in Finland and the tacit transfer of welfare responsibility between the welfare state and the third sector.

In this article, I approach the field by pointing out the satellites by asking:

What are the satellites like in the food aid field centered around a centralized food pantry?

I`m raising changes brought by centralization from structure, agency, and resources perspectives. I explore the dialectics of structure and agency of the field by deepening the theoretical discussion of the critical realist research tradition (Archer 1995, 2000). Changing the structure of food aid affects actors and organizational activities, while the experiences of the actors themselves influence how structures ultimately take shape.

I started collecting data for this ethnographic case study at a centralized pantry in the summer of 2023 to learn about the field. I`ve visited all satellites once during the autumn and will collect the actual data during the spring of 2024, through participant observation. In addition, I`ll collect semi-structured interview data, and photographs, and use other documents of satellites. To combine and analyze the diverse data, I`ll use analytical triangulation.

Institutionalization has expanded and consolidated the local field, and many of the misuses taking place on the field have been eradicated. Meanwhile, many key characteristics used to justify food aid (social inclusion, preventing poverty, and a secondary route to reduce food waste) have been lost. It´s an ongoing development, which impact of the food aid field has not yet been studied.

Government Outsourcing and Faith-based Institutions

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The outsourcing of traditional state services to non-state actors is not a new phenomenon. From the beginning of the 2000s, the outsourcing of governmental services – primarily in the developed northern and western countries – began to grow noticeably. Nowadays, OECD countries spent an average of 9.5% of their GDP on outsourced expenditure. Within this, 3.3% of GDP was spent on goods and services provided to the public by the market or third sector. (OECD 2011, 2023) These may include variety of social, healthcare, educational, housing or other services. The present paper focuses on outsourcing of social services to faith-based institutions as specific actors of the service provision scene. Through a Hungarian case study, we present main experiences of a development program implemented by faith-based organisations. We highlight peculiarities of project-based social service provision, its perspectives and limitations. We examine the role of host organisations, their networking activities, embeddedness in local communities, and relationships with relevant institutions. We evaluate methodology applied by the project which is composed of diagnosis and permanent presence on the field. Our analysis is based on 224 interviews conducted in the framework of project evaluation. According to our results, faith-based organisations became accepted players of the local service provision. Host institutions and their implemented projects responded local needs adequately. They were able to complement insufficient local social system, introduced new services, channelled missing expertise, and provided flexible solutions to crisis situations. At the same time, some parallel services have been discovered with the state care system, and sustainability of interventions is also questionable.

RN26 | T02_02: Social care

Exploring The Boundaries Of Care: Personal Attitudes And Professional Ethics Of Professional Therapists In The Treatment Of Pregnant Opioid Users

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Unwanted pregnancies among women opioid users in Western countries ranges approximately between 70% – 86% proportionally much higher than unwanted pregnancies in the general population (30%-50%). Drug use during pregnancy extenuates the related somatic and psychosocial changes experienced by women and results in high-risk pregnancies. At the same time drug use during pregnancy potentially hinders the provision of care and places limits on the therapeutic relationship to the extent it interrelates with attitudes, beliefs, and professional ethics of the care provision personnel. Scholarly literature and research provide ample evidence of conflicting approaches (therapeutic vs punitive) towards the treatment of pregnant opioid users. This study based on semi-structured interviews of a sample of professional therapists (treatment staff of a harm reduction program in Athens, Greece) investigates the attitudes of professional therapists towards treatment of pregnant drug users and the way professional ethics delineate their daily practice. The analysis highlighted three main themes: i) the conflict of personal beliefs and professional ethics determine the attitudes of professional therapists, ii) gender and parenting do not appear to influence the quality of the therapeutic relationship iii) a strong duty of care to the fetus is recognized, independent of the provision of care to the mother. The study concludes with basic guidelines for therapists and public policy recommendations.

Platformization of Care: How Do Care Platforms Transform the Reproductive Sphere in the Netherland and Italy

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According to a recent report, care platforms providing home services and domestic work have grown, representing 30% of the digital labor platforms in the EU (European Commission 2021: 40). Despite this emerging phenomenon, social care services are overlooked in the platform economy literature, and gendered analysis of the welfare states literature understudies care platforms as new business models. To fill this gap, we ask the following research question: "How do care platforms trigger institutional change in care

regimes?" Bringing together digitalization and social reproduction literature, the paper analyzes care platforms as a new business model introduced to the traditional care mix of national settings. Traditionally, care is provided through public institutions, the (grey) market, or within the family and can be formal/ informal or paid/unpaid. However, emerging care platforms match caregivers and households for tasks ranging from a single instance of housekeeping to long-term elderly care.

Drawing on theories of institutional change, we argue that institutional configurations of national care regimes determine whether care platforms complement or substitute for existing forms of care provisions, thereby challenging or reinforcing national care regimes. We compare the Netherlands and Italy as two ideal types representing community-based and family-based organizations of care. The study triangulates three primary data sources: published European Commission consultations on the European Care Strategy in 2022, quantitative data on care platforms and care policies, and semi-structured interviews with platform managers, traditional care providers, and policymakers. We contribute to the existing literature by studying digital disruption in the reproductive domain, which is at the core of national political economies.

Policy Paralysis And Social Care In Northern Ireland

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Purpose

This paper will present a study of self directed support (SDS) in Northern Ireland (NI). SDS is a form of personalisation, a common approach to social care which aims to provide individuals with choice and control over their support. This study considers the decision to implement this practice in the absence of policy and the implications for citizens and professionals.

Methodology

A policy analysis was followed by qualitative interviews with service users, social workers and policymakers. The data were analysed using a constructivist grounded theory approach to develop a theoretical understanding of the lived experience of SDS.

Findings

The ongoing policy vacuum has led to inconsistent implementation and unclear expectations of social care. Reform proposals are ideologically ambiguous, committing neither to welfare universalism nor to laissez-faire marketisation. A labour shortage and unregulated market have contributed to an unstable monopsony. Choice and control were limited for individuals who opted for Trust arranged care. Flexibility and autonomy were experienced primarily by those in receipt of Direct Payments. Social workers and policymakers expressed frustration that Managed Budgets have yet to be implemented. This was attributed to a lack of top-down support.

Research implications

Policy recommendations include urgent updated social care legislation in NI which clearly defines SDS ideology and objectives. A long-term strategy is required, taking into consideration sustainability and workforce reform. State regulation of the social care market is necessary to ensure quality and cost-effectiveness. Investment and clear implementation plans are crucial to embed SDS into daily practices and cultures.

Transformations in Senior Care: Exploring the Intersection of Commercialization, Welfare Policies, and Institutional Dynamics in Romania

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The migration on a broad scale that has occurred in the past twenty years has resulted in a notable reduction of skilled workers in Romania, impacting various sectors of employment, including healthcare and caregiving. The complex phenomenon, exacerbated by the diminishing influence of the welfare state, necessitates a reevaluation of intergenerational care frameworks, leading to the development of new care models led by institutions. This study focuses on the institutional, policy-oriented, and legislative aspects of senior care arrangements that involve outsourcing and commercialization. It explores how these arrangements shift the responsibility of care away from the private family sphere. Preliminary observations, derived from the analysis of official data, reveal substantial disparities in the spatial distribution of licensed services across counties and within each specific county. The significant variations in the accessibility of government services throughout the country are primarily determined by the interplay of legislation, financial systems governing these services, and commercial interests. The study provides an in-depth understanding of the intricate relationships among social welfare, commercialization, migration, and the evolving landscape of aged care in Romania. The findings address both immediate challenges and offer insights into broader societal implications within European and global contexts.

RN26 | T03_01: Poverty

Serving The Poor Or Serving The State? The Ambiguous Role Of Fbos In Poverty Governance In Hungary

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In recent decades churches and faith-based organizations (FBOs) have taken increasing presence in social service delivery across the globe. These organizations moved into institutional spaces unlocked by the neoliberalisation of welfare states, i.e. the outsourcing of former state responsibilities to various non-state organizations. In Hungary, due to a "new alliance" between churches and the state, FBOs and churches enjoy more autonomy and state support than state institutions. Our presentation focuses on the operation of an FBO, the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (Málta), which has ascended into a hegemonic position in a particular segment of poverty governance, targeting the social integration of deprived communities. As such, it provides complex services in mostly rural marginalised communities, which has been abandoned by the current Orbán regime due to the dismantling of services and decreasing social support for the poor. Málta's hegemonic position entails that the organisation not only fulfils significant state roles of service provision in the most marginalised settings, but it has gained discretionary power to frame and develop policies and decide about the distribution of resources, participants of a network of implementors, the parameters of service delivery and the approach and methods of implementation. Our presentation will examine the ambiguities of an FBO in the current illiberal hegemonic context of Hungary to instrument new or alternative modalities, approaches, methods in dealing with inequalities and marginalization.

The Principle of Conditionality in Social Policies. Precarious Rights and the Discipline of the Poor.

Sandro Busso

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The paper focuses on the principle of conditionality, understood not only as a policy instrument, but as a veritable paradigm of public action, which regulates interactions between actors in a condition of asymmetry of resources and power. According to this principle, access to a resource is conditional on the beneficiary's willingness to implement certain behaviours and courses of action through positive incentives, sanctions, pressure. Its diffusion in recent decades has increased exponentially at different levels: from the provision of aid and loans by International Financial Institutions to income support policies in Western countries.

The presentation has a twofold objective and is divided into two parts.

The first part analyses on a broad scale the expansion and transformation of conditionality and its application to different areas of social policies, linked to the spread of paternalistic and disciplinary approaches that rely on the idea of going "beyond entitlement", as the title of L. Mead's famous book suggests.

The second part analyses conditionality at work, starting from a research conducted in Northern Italy on the implementation of income support policies. By relying on a broad qualitative empirical documentation, I will focus on the different representations of conditionality, on their justifications (based either on the principle of effectiveness and on that of justice) and on the practices and experiences of social workers and beneficiaries in their everyday experience

They're Not All Bad: Cross-National Comparison Of Single-Parent Poverty

Roxana Diana Burciu

Bocconi University, Italy

Single motherhood is one of the leading explanations for poverty in high-income countries, leading to increased inequality and other negative outcomes. This study underlines important cross-national variation and uses data from the Cross National Equivalent File (CNEF) to investigate three mechanisms behind these differences. First, we consider the influence of pathways into single parenthood (never getting married, divorce, widowhood, and separation) on personal histories and children's life outcomes. Next, the research explores demographic characteristics and their interaction with economic capacities, emphasizing the importance of protective factors such as education and stable employment. Lastly, we identify family policies as a fundamental tool in reducing poverty among single-parent families, with measures like affordable childcare and paid parental leave playing a substantial role. Results demonstrate that single parenthood varies in prevalence, pathways, and demographic characteristics across countries. The analysis underscores the fundamental role of family policies in mitigating vulnerabilities faced by single-parent households and its interaction with pathways and demographic characteristics in explaining poverty among single-parent families. The study contributes valuable insights into cross-country differences in child poverty.

Financial Inclusion at the Nexus between Social Policy and Finance

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Extensive literature employs the concept of financialization to elucidate the increasing impact of financial actors, markets, and representations across diverse scales and domains. This phenomenon is acknowledged for its role in shaping welfare states and social policies, impacting governance models, and introducing financial instruments and principles into institutions and programs of the welfare state. This contribution delves into the intricate interplay

between finance and social policies examining financial inclusion measures—initiatives designed to facilitate access to financial products and services for households facing social vulnerability or poverty. With a specific focus on two programs within the local welfare context of Milan, Italy, this study explores a social microcredit scheme and a financial literacy program. The first providing small loans to socially vulnerable households, excluded from traditional credit channels, to facilitate access for primary household expenses; and the second seeking to disseminate economic-financial knowledge and enhance financial capabilities — understood as the ability of making "rational" decisions, plan effectively, and develop strategies for self-protection and well-being.

Employing qualitative methods, including direct observation and interviews with key informants and practitioners, this contribution sheds light on the rationale behind these policy instruments and illustrates how they incorporate and reproduce individualising logics that reduce the problem of financial exclusion, and the social and economic vulnerability which underlies it, to a matter of personal responsibility, thus fuelling depoliticising tendencies in public action. Addressing inherent contradictions, the research exposes how local actors negotiate views and strategies on the problems to be addressed.

RN26 | T04_01: Social investment

Reasons To Distrust: Social Investment And Organised Childcare In Germany

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Most European societies have seen a remarkable expansion of childcare services, with strong policy commitments to modernise a sector which had long been characterised by low public recognition and poor working conditions. This paper, engaging with the 'post-conservative' welfare state of Germany, starts by showing that the sector has been exposed to a multi-dimensional social investment agenda materialising in ever more challenging expectations from various stakeholders. Drawing on early findings of a qualitative research project (conducted together with colleagues from Kassel University), we discuss the wider implications of this reconfiguration. We illustrate how German childcare organisations are nowadays pressurised to simultaneously pursue variegated objectives beyond their traditional mandate, among which high-end early education, the inclusive treatment of individual needs of children, action against social inequality, and attention to an increasingly diverse clientele. Additionally, childcare providers are requested to apply complex quality management systems. Hence social investment is swamping childcare settings with incompatible demands and technologies of formalised (self-)inspection. We assume that this agenda produces permanent tensions within childcare organisations and can only be pursued in selective ways, thus rendering these organisations less effective in meeting their core missions. Together with shortages in staff and childcare places, these strains produce reasons for distrust in welfare state institutions. Recent trade unions' struggles in the field do not seem to entail 'transformative' power that challenges of the social investment hype but may inadvertently contribute to undermining the faith in the welfare state's ability to deliver on promise.

The Normative Foundation of the Social Investment Welfare State

Azizjon Bagadirov, Pablo Puertas Roig, Anton Hemerijck

European University Institute, Italy

In this paper we consider the normative foundations of the emerging policy paradigm of the social investment welfare state. We start by outlining the unfortunate and prolonged disconnect between positive social policy research and normative political theory. Next, we address the shortcomings of a purely Rawlsian distributive normative reconstruction

of the social investment shift. Similarly, we also reject a 'luck egalitarian' interpretation of the social investment approach and its tacit conflation with Third Way welfare reform. After these critical precursors, we then explicate our conceptualization of the normative framework of the social investment approach, taking heed from Elizabeth Anderson's relational understanding of 'democratic equality' and Jonathan Wolff and Avner de-Shalit's work on 'secure capabilities'. Finally, we flesh out the notion of 'stepping-stone solidarity' as the normative anchor for social investment welfare provision.

Welfare as Social Investment: Framing Marginalized Citizens as Objects of Investments

Ditte Andersen

VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science, Denmark

At the turn of the millennium, leading social scientists suggested a new welfare state architecture centered around the rationale of social investment. Policymakers across Europe have since made it a well-established policy paradigm with Nordic welfare states often depicted as frontrunners. In this paper, I consider the political, ethical and social consequences of translating the rationale into operative policies and instruments. Empirically, the paper focuses on Denmark and draws on more than a decade of research on welfare services for marginalized citizens experiencing drug problems, mental illness and homelessness. Theoretically, the paper combines a Foucauldian analysis of governmentality with a Goffmanian orientation to the framing of face-to-face interaction. The paper suggests that the rationale of social investment works on a continuum of manifestation. Sometimes policymakers, welfare professionals or citizens use the concept of investment as a metaphor to argue that allocating resources today will pay off in the future without actually calling for a measurement of return; at other times the social investment rationale manifests in tangible contracts that explicate expected economic return. The power to define value and make decisions on welfare allocation remain pivotal but the investment framing risk camouflaging political judgements as technicalities. The paper ends with a discussion of how the investment rationale may impact lay perceptions of the social contract in a welfare state, and marginalized citizens' sense of deservingness. The discussion outlines two competing frames for investment rationales: One embarking from the market and an economic conception of returns; and one commencing from a democratic society and a social conception of value.

Rethinking Street Level Bureaucracy: Navigating the Tension Between Enacting Everyday Borders in Social Care Practice and Supporting Migrant Families

Julie Claire Walsh, Maria Teresa Ferazzoli

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The global movement of people is an increasing feature of contemporary life that European nation states position as a problem that needs to be controlled. It is widely acknowledged that the UK has created an intentional hostile environment towards immigration, which includes restricting a person's access to social welfare, dependent upon their immigration status. As such, everyday bordering practices have increasingly become a feature of this control, with some social and health care practitioners being required to check the immigration status of migrant families they support and their subsequent entitlement to service provision; in the words of Lipsky, they are expected to be street level bureaucrats.

This paper draws on qualitative data generated during the ESRC funded 'Everyday Bordering in the UK project', with a focus on the narratives of a diverse range of social care practitioners working in the UK. Analysis of their detailed accounts reveals the myriad ways in which practitioners navigate the tension in their practice; they directly and/or indirectly enact everyday borders, whilst also working creatively to support families to manage the impacts of the wider hostile environment on their lives. In doing so, we disrupt and develop conceptions of street level bureaucracy, offering a more nuanced perspective on the relationship between the state, social care practitioners, and the migrant families with whom they work.

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RN26 | T05: Children and young people

From Empowerment to Control? The Case of a National Programme for Young People in Peripheral Territoriee

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This paper aims to discuss public policies for young people in peripheral areas, exploring the case of the main programme in Portugal on this area, launched in 2001 and currently supporting 118 local projects throughout the country. Based on the international literature on social policies for vulnerable youth integration, sketching different models and ongoing controversies, we will provide a systematic analysis of the institutional guides of the 9 editions of the program insofar (from 2001 to 2023), as well as external evaluation reports and other studies. Besides, we will enrich our analysis with data collected from interviews with national board members and project local coordinators, as well as some statistical data regarding territories, target-groups and methodological approaches privileged in different editions. Our main goal is to sketch the main trends and challenges in Escolhas programme, as a way to contribute to the international knowledge on social policies for young people in poor outcasts. Although the programme's rationale tends to focus on young people as individuals, our analysis takes into account their structural position, as members of segregated communities. A key issue is how such interventions are actually integrating, empowering and/or controlling young people, as well as which groups are involved and which ones tend to be aside. The ability to effectively improve young people's conditions – on wellbeing, safety, employment, education, political participation, social capital – is examined, along with the impact on the whole communities, while the risk of generating new illusive promises, dependencies and exclusions is discussed.

Affective promises of the Equity Saving Account for Newborns and Finansialisation of the Welfare State

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As part of Finland's new Government Program (2023-2027), a proposition was made to establish an Equity Savings Account for Newborns (ESAN). The State would grant each newborn Finnish child an initial investment (e.g. 300euros) as part of the maternity pack. Further, mother-child clinics and primary schools would participate in financial education of parents and children, utilizing the ESAN as a tool for financial cultivation. Following political and public discussion spurred on this proposition, we ask, to what problems does ESAN and investing offer solutions? What kind of affective promises are linked to ESAN? In our article, we use the Gramscian concepts of common sense and hegemony to interpret how neoliberal imaginaries on causes for poverty as well as ideas on citizenship and the welfare state were promoted, circulated and re/configured in the discussion. We illustrate how the advocates of the ESAN (politicians, social media influencers, and commentators from public websites) promoted ESAN as an instrument to solve social problems, such as poverty, and even provide an opportunity for future generations to work up their way from generational poverty. Our analysis suggests that the institutions of the welfare state are harnessed to discreetly advance the transforming neoliberal hegemonical ideas, promoting the cultivation of 'future investor-citizen', who act as self-sufficient, financially knowledgeable individual, in the vortex of financialized welfare state. We propose that the rolling out of asset-based welfare in forms like ESAN, works to lay down a path for future welfare retrenchment, gradually weakening the universal social security.

Monitoring of Norwegian Foster Homes

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Based on interviews, this paper explores how the monitoring of foster homes is experienced by children and youths who have been exposed to what they consider abusive behaviour by foster parents. Using a thematic narrative theoretical framework, the article shows that a common narrative in the youths' accounts is a story of mistrust towards social workers and monitoring officers, which relates to a general mistrust towards the child welfare service. The young individuals are reluctant to tell monitoring officers about how they truly experience their situation in their foster home. At the same time, some of the youths have difficulty comprehending what normal parenting behaviour is like, due to previous experiences of neglect from adults. The paper discusses how successful monitoring of foster homes largely stands or falls on the children's and youths' ability to disclose their experiences to their supervisors and monitoring officers. We argue that the youths' narratives

tell a story of disempowerment. This represents a dilemma in the monitoring of Norwegian foster homes and in the children's right to protection.

In the Pursuit of a Transformative Welfare State: the Curious Cases of Chile and South Africa

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The experiences of post-apartheid South Africa and Chile in the aftermath of the military dictatorship in "reimagining and reforming" the welfare state, are telling. Return to democracy has not been followed by the "great transformation", instead what happened was a "fine tuning" and "parametric" adjustments of existing policies. Despite of the (left) orientation of the governments in both countries, unquestionable support that they have enjoyed from their constituencies, dire socio-economic situation that required urgent response, structural transformation did not occur, and a comprehensive and inclusive welfare state still represent a distant dream as it was in the times of the "struggle". Over the last couple of decades, capitalism has exhibited increased instability and susceptibility to crisis. Its relationship with democracy has become more delicate in both countries. The fundamental underpinnings of the post-war settlement appear to have been significantly shaken. The symptoms of crisis are mutually reinforcing, and they can be found, to varying extents, in Chile and South Africa.

The 1970s neoliberal revolution has given us dystopia, justified on the grounds that there is no alternative. What we are witnessing today appears in hindsight, as a continuous process of gradual decay. The precarity became the condition of our time, while the promise of the progress can no longer be taken for granted.

The "blueprints" for reforms, that emerged after the 1970s, but also in the aftermath of the 2008 economic crash, made little difference in preventing further decay.

In this paper, we to uncover possible underlining reasons for that. understanding South African and Chilean (within the wider Latin American context) "developmental path" will allow us to better understand the lack of alternatives emerging from the Global South.

RN26 | T06_01: Trust

Exploring the Trust Relationship with the Jobcenter from the Perspective of Sanctions Welfare Recipients

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Concerns about the citizens' declining trust in the government and public administration are very present in political discourse. This applies in particular to controversial policies such as sanctions policy in the basic income support. Understanding trust as a relational concept defined as „the willingness of an entity to become vulnerable to another entity "(Schilke et al.2021, p.240), it is relevant to examine the trust relationship in citizen-state interactions. Therefore, the perspective of sanctioned welfare recipients becomes crucial for how they perceive social and sanctions policy. Focusing on the German basic income support, the presentation explores how experiences of sanctions shape the perception of trust and the relationship between sanctioned welfare recipients and the jobcenter. Empirically, the analysis draws on interviews conducted with welfare recipients in 2022 and 2023.

How welfare recipients understand trust and their relationship with the jobcenter in the context of their experience of sanctions depends on how they perceive themselves as trust-givers and trust-takers at the jobcenter and how they identify the object of trust as such. In this regard, various factors and constellations can be identified that can foster the trust relationship or even lead to mistrust. Particularly noteworthy here are the expectations that are placed on various levels such as employees, organisation, institution and system, which are closely interwoven in the perception of trust. These insights into the citizen-state relationship of trust provide important implications for policy implementation at the street level of the welfare state.

References:

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Spaces of Equality: Universal Healthcare, Trust and Redistributive Preferences

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This paper explores the relationship between universal healthcare and individual perceptions of social and public trust by conceptualising universal policies as 'spaces of equality' that shape citizens' relationship both vertically with the state and horizontally with society. In using healthcare as a case study of wider universal welfare programmes, the paper establishes a theoretical link between public trust and the support for redistribution as a political

economy mechanism behind social expansion – with trust acting as a mediator in the relationship between universalism and the political support for redistributive policies.

In relying on a novel Healthcare Universalism Index (Schillings and Sánchez-Ancochea 2023) to measure varieties of universal healthcare provision across the world, and on data from the World Values Survey (WVS) and the European Values Study (EVS), the theory is tested using multilevel regression models across 108 countries.

After establishing a strong association between universal healthcare and social trust, the analysis highlights that a combination of improvements in universal healthcare and trust is necessary to strengthen the support for redistributive policies. With the precondition of trust, universalism has a significantly positive relationship with individuals' preferences for both taxation and social security. As such, the study finds evidence for the hypothesis of 'virtuous cycles of universalism' that universal policies can strengthen social trust by creating 'spaces of equality' which, in turn, can foster cross-class coalitions for supporting redistribution.

Tensions And Trust In Hybrid Social Work – Observations From An International Laboratory Of Case Studies

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This paper explores the evolving landscape of human service provision in 21st-century welfare sectors, particularly through the lens of social work practice in ever more prevalent hybrid settings. It argues that social workers are increasingly embedded in domains outside of the core social work environment, such as health institutions, labour market administration, educational institutions, or charities in homeless assistance, to mitigate tensions occurring from specialized service delivery, and fostering trust among collaborating organizations and with service users, particularly those in marginalized positions. The presentation is drawing on contributions from an international network of authors (extending beyond the list of authors of this paper) who have conducted case studies on these complexities across different countries and sectors, focusing on domains where social work is not the dominant player and considering dimensions such as the epistemic culture and scope for policy practice among social workers in that situation; professional strategies to solve setting-specific problems; the sense-making about interprofessional collaboration among affected social workers; and dynamics shaping the interface between organisations (including administrative bodies). Most of the evidence emanates from open interviews with professionals. For this paper, we chart configurations of 'hybrid social work' in the above sense and in the aforementioned dimensions, by identifying overlapping issues and common experiences across sectors and countries as documented in the case studies contributed by the above authors. A basic observation is that both institutional and organisational conditions matter greatly concerning the development of both trust and tensions in the settings under study.

Social Policy and Resilience Against Disinformation of social vulnerable population in Lithuania

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The threats in the geopolitical situation (War in Ukraine) require the society's preparedness and resilience against disinformation, especially in Eastern countries of Europe. Trust in government and democracy are well-known indicators of society's resilience to disinformation and propaganda (Sternisko et al., 2020; Fominaya, 2022). However, the trust in government and democracy varies among groups of society (Dagdeviren et al. 2020). Social vulnerability/resilience literature (Valverde-Berrocoso et al. 2022; Weitzel et al. 2022) tells us the unemployed, low-income or those at risk of poverty, and single or older age populations are more vulnerable to disinformation and propaganda. Their trust in the government and democracy relates to their attitudes to social welfare and socioeconomic position. The trust in the government and resilience against disinformation were analyzed by Morkūnas (2022), Galdikienė et al. (2022), and others. However, the trust in the government about the attitudes to social welfare and resilience to the disinformation of social vulnerable in Lithuania wasn't analyzed. Thus, our research aims to analyze the attitudes to social welfare and trust in the government of the socially vulnerable population in Lithuania as leading indicators for resilience against disinformation. We used Eurobarometer data to implement the aim (2021-2023). The data of the Eurostat in 2022 are used to evaluate the adequacy of social security of benefits receivers. The semi-structured interview data with unemployed, social assistance benefits receivers, and retired persons is used to evaluate the satisfaction of social security benefits receivers with their living standard, their expectations from the government, disinformation recognition level, and media literacy.

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RN26 | T06_02: Justice and social rights

Predictability versus Flexibility: Dilemmas When Providing Strong Legal Rights to Welfare

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In the tradition of TH Marshall and R Titmuss, strong legal rights is the hallmark of good social policies. However, are very strong rights always desirable? The paper investigates five possible dilemmas if all welfare programs are based on strong legal rights. A "dilemma" is defined as a situation where actions leading toward one policy aim simultaneously weaken the ability to reach other, also desirable aims.

1) The activation dilemma. The emphasis on "activation" may weaken legal rights to welfare, assuming that activation is easier to achieve when bureaucrats have a large room for professional discretion. A large room for discretion makes it difficult for agencies handling complaints to decide if claimants were not given their rights.

2) The outcome management – dilemma. Rather than giving people rights to welfare benefits and services, there is a NPM tendency to give them rights to "satisfactory welfare outcomes" – which are more difficult to operationalize if complaining.

3) The flexibility dilemma. A government may not want to 'tie itself to the mast' when issuing an expensive future welfare promise. This may clash with a concern that citizens should live in a maximally predictable welfare environment.

4) The disability dilemma. If we adopt the "social model of disability", the criteria for when someone should receive something may become more difficult to operationalize than when "the medical model" was dominant.

5) Someone's stronger rights may imply someone else's weaker rights. For example, how to balance protecting a child against abuse, and granting its parents due process.

The paper analyses these dilemmas, and discusses how their importance may depend on – and influence – citizens' trust in politicians, welfare professionals and street-level bureaucrats.

Social Class Perspectives on Social Justice and Redistribution. Insights from Contemporary

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This study investigates attitudes and values related to social justice, trust, and redistribution from a social class perspective, in Romania. Employing a telephone representative survey of 3666 respondents, with data gathered in December 2021, this research describes how individuals' perspectives on various facets of social justice differ based on social class. These facets include the equality of access to wealth and income, the meritocratic principle linking remuneration with work volume, the principle of unconditional assistance to those in need, and the perception of education's importance in forming social and job-related skills. First, from a methodological perspective, the results reveal a social class schema predicted on a set of objective socio-demographic criteria such as occupation and education, merged with subjective parameters linked to individuals' self-perceptions of their living standards. This class schema reveals gender and age divides, with women overrepresented in aged lower classes. Second, the study provides insights into reasons behind variations in attitudes and ideological stances through the categories of the developed social class schema. Key findings reveal class-based responses to what a just society means, with significant differences between those in more privileged positions and those in less privileged positions. Despite these disparities, there appears to be a widespread societal consensus attributing the existence of poverty to individual factors such as people not working enough. These results underscore the nuanced interplay between social class, perceptions of social justice, and societal values in contemporary Romania.

Sociology in Urban Public Policy Testing: Requisites for Justice as Fairness

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This paper has four interconnected stands, merging political philosophy, fundamental and applied sociology. We will argue that a) firstly, a welfare state guided by Rawls' Justice as Fairness principles should provide the keystone for public action in territories on the outskirts of urban centers, especially those characterized by poverty and social exclusion; b) secondly, public intervention guided by these principles must, through direct or indirect means (local partners), seek to substantively mollify the estrangement from the school system and the labor market which numerous segments of these territories population experience, a well-known source for high intergenerational reproduction of inequalities; c) thirdly, the quality of these interventions will profit from: 1) sociology' manufacturing the dimensions and indicators driving the evaluation of the "social actions planned" for "excluded" territories; b) sociology' carrying out research on each constructed dimension. Climaxing, we will present a script drawn up to monitor the intervention carried out in three particularly populous and mediatized territories in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, the first two with an "immigrant profile" and the last with a "national", and an assessment of how the intervention is being carried out. We believe that the sociological study of these "projected social actions" will render possible an analysis of how intensely and effectively the Portuguese public authorities are conveying the principles of Justice as Fairness. While using Portuguese empirical examples, we

intend to establish close links with similar efforts in the European context, in terms of the various identified stands.

Restorative Justice in Italy: New Challenges for the Socio-Legal System

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The proposal concerns the Restorative Justice approach in the current italian socio-legal scenario. Considering the variety of definitions, models and origins of this approach, the authors will introduce some questions about the implementation of a recent italian law reform, that, inter alia, establishes the introduction of public services of restorative justice. The presentation will also report some data collected in the Emilia-Romagna Region by the ERVIS research programme, promoted by the italian Ministery of Justice, and carried out by a research team of the University of Parma to evalue the implementation of public services for victims of every kind of crime in the regional territory (as prewieved by the Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council that established minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime). The presentation will try to show the involvement of various players in the legal culture context, differently equipped in terms of power, resources and useful tools. The presenters aim to highlight the vision ability needed by professionals, mediators, judges, lawyers, social workers to really implement the restorative justice in the public system, given that it asks to protect the victims and the offenders in the meanwhile.

RN26 | T07_01: Work and employment

Between Social Participation and Labour Market Integration: The Role of Case Management in German Jobcentres after the Introduction of the Citizen's Benefit

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Germany's "Hartz IV" law combined unemployment assistance and social assistant to form one benefit. Unemployment Benefit II was bound to lead to social tensions because 2,5m former recipients of social benefit were suddenly considered fit to work. Activating counselling and the use of sanctions were criticized widely and put a strong emphasis on labour market integration. The newly introduced „Citizen's Benefit" (Bürgergeld) attempts to replace pressure by trust and abolishes most sanctions, thus regarding social aspects more strongly. Now the criticism comes from another direction and fears are uttered that incentives to take up work are lacking.

Against this backdrop, it is not surprising that case work in job centres oscillates between social participation and labour market integration. Particularly in the case of unemployed who are remote from the labour market and have placement barriers like health conditions, the question arises whether the dominating employment orientation in counselling is still feasible. For these persons, case management units have been implemented with the aim to reduce employment barriers. They too, however, face the same conflict of objectives.

In our research, we use interviews and non-participant observation to assess how case managers as frontline workers deal with this conflict. Initial results indicate that conflicts between social participation and labour market integration are unavoidable and lead to different types of service – one being more socially inclusive, the other more oriented towards labour market integration. Performance management plays a significant role, often impeding the social aims of case managers.

Coverage Gaps And Policy Design In Contexts of Subemployment: The Case of Spain

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In labour markets with structural problems of subemployment, traditional social protection schemes are failing to

fully cover non-standard workers. On the one hand, when it comes to contributory unemployment benefits, unstable work conditions make complying with minimum contributions to social security very difficult. On the other, means-tested benefits do not only face important problems of implementation (high rates of non-take-up), but also exclude vulnerable workers by design: income thresholds below the poverty line, incompatibility with labour income, etc. This creates gaps in social protection and income instability for many households, especially the most vulnerable. The aim of this work is to analyse the current coverage gaps in the Spanish income guarantee system based on policy design. Using the microsimulation model EUROMOD, I first undertake a descriptive analysis of the coverage gaps taking into account unemployment benefits and subsidies, regional minimum income schemes and the national Minimum Vital Income. Secondly, I identify the main social and labour market factors that determine the probability of a working-age person of being eligible for contributory benefits, means-tested benefits or being excluded from social protection by design, considering gender as a moderating variable. Lastly, regarding those eligible for either form of social protection, I analyse potential benefit generosity and impact on poverty reduction.

Conditional Inclusion: Employer Engagement in Work Inclusion of Migrants in Norway

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Active labour market policies (ALMP) are a key approach in European integration policies. While we have much knowledge about the variation of ALMPs, and views from key stakeholders such as management, frontline workers, and service users of ALMP organizations, less is known about the employers' roles and perspectives in these policies. This paper reports from a research project of a local ALMP program that targets migrants in Bergen municipality in Norway, with the aim of transitioning them into job training and/or employment. The study includes fieldwork and interviews with management and street level bureaucrats, service users and employers. A range of sectors and types of employment are represented, but low-skilled jobs are most prevalent. The research is situated within theoretical orientations of street level bureaucracy theory (Lipsky, Brodkin, Zacka) and symbolic boundary work (Lamont). I explore employers as the extended part of street level organisations' role in ALMP, and as moral agents. I find that employers across business sectors generally talk positively and enthusiastically about engaging in work inclusion with migrants, and they draw lines against social exploitation. However, their orientations and motivations vary in terms of social responsibility and will to 'making good' on the one hand, and work demand and pragmatism on the other. The paper analyses various versions of boundary work that are drawn related to conditions for work inclusion, related to candidates' motivation, culture, and skills, and how to distinguish between promising and non-promising candidates for employment.

Observation In Portuguese Labour Courts: Trials and Appeals On Work Accidents Cases

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Since 2020 a sociological investigation on the legal compensation regime has been underway as part of the doctoral thesis, now in its final phase. It pursued to understand how the relationship configured between exposure to risk, inequality in the distribution of economic and cultural capital and problems of coverage and democratic access to institutions in the context of legal reparation aimed at labour accidents. Using an "extended" case methodology (Burawoy, 2009), the investigation focused on: studying the relations between individuals and institutions at the interactional and procedure level, by analysing the stages of institutional framework of the injured workers and the respective forms of face-to-face interaction; understand the framework of relations structured between the institutional coverage and the economic and cultural capitals of claimants; understand the configuration of social relations that underlie the reproduction of significant frameworks of inequality in the relationship between citizens who suffer accidents at work and the institutions, the analysis focuses attention, in particular, on the institutions of justice. This contribution seeks to share some of the main results of the ethnographic work, specifically from the direct observation of work accidents trials in Labour Courts and from the analysis of pleas to Court of Appeals.

RN26 | T07_02: Social services

Resilience, Crisis Response, and Transformation in Lithuanian Social Services (2020-2024): A Mixed-Methods Exploration

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This study investigates the resilience of the Lithuanian social services system in the face of external threats, focusing on its capacity for transformation. Inspired by the imperative to respond to existential threats such as pandemics and wars, which pose challenges to welfare systems, state security, and social cohesion, the research examines the transformative potential of the social services system. Vulnerable populations are particularly susceptible to the impact of such threats; therefore the social services system's role is pivotal in adapting and responding to their needs. Drawing on the shared features of threats, including risk, uncertainty, and tension, the study aims to assess the system's ability to proactively transform itself, ensuring sustainable functionality and contributing to the well-being of society.

This research employs a mixed-methods approach, utilizing semi-structured interviews and focus groups to capture nuanced perspectives from key stakeholders within the Lithuanian social services system. The exploration is guided by the conceptual framework of social spaces, social networks, and the self-regulatory system. The social services system is envisioned as a dynamic social space with interconnected networks of actors, interacting with other social spaces to counter threats and enhance resilience. 'Boundary work' analysis, inspired by Liu (2015), is employed to uncover how resources are exchanged across social space boundaries, how new actors and services enter the market, and how both formal and informal interactions contribute to the resilience of the social services system.

Social Services and Digitalisation

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Digitalisation is one of the major transformations of our time, not only in terms of technology, but also socially. It influences almost all areas of life. Accordingly, it also affects the welfare state and social services. For example, digitalisation is leading to changes in the needs and risks of the people, it leads to changes in forms of information and communication with citizens and it promises to optimise working processes.

Local social services have long been accused of being sceptical about digitalisation issues. However, the coronavirus pandemic has led to a digitalisation boom in the field of social services. This was accompanied by a shift in the perspective on digitalisation. Before the pandemic, the focus was on digital tools to optimise work in the back office. These developments were often criticised as a formalisation of social work. It was argued that digital tools shift the balance between bureaucratic and professional tasks, that is constitutive for work in social services, in favour of administrative requirements. With the pandemic, the use of digital media as a tool for information and communication with service users has moved to the centre of the discussion about digitalisation in social services. This use of digital media in the front office also harbours challenges. Nevertheless, it is predominantly viewed positively, e.g. as an expression of responsiveness to the communication habits and needs of service users.

Based on a Germany-wide survey of local authorities` children and youth welfare offices conducted in 2022, empirical findings on the status quo of digitalisation – both in the back office and in the front office – are presented and current trends and challenges are discussed.

Family Services Beyond The Pandemic: Bottom-up Innovation And New Models

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The pandemic has exacerbated existing social inequalities in many countries, with implications for the planning of social policies and the organization of social services. In this context, this paper evaluated how some Family Support Services (FSS) in Southern Italy have developed innovations to better meet the social needs of vulnerable families in a post-pandemic society. Following a mixed approach, the study is based on desk analysis, focus groups and a survey, involving coordinators, social workers, and some user groups.

Despite some critical elements for improvement, the results show that, without changing their mission, FSS have been able to innovate some practices and models from the bottom up, thanks to their flexibility. While some of the activities experimented in the emergency period remain limited to that period, some innovations have been generalized over time, such as the remote spazi neutri (Child contact centers).

However, new fragilities and new targets that are emerging in the post-covid society require a re-definition of working methods to contrast the social exclusion of disadvantaged social groups, as well as to develop new ideas to engage social groups that are traditionally distant from local welfare services, by decentralized activities throughout the territory. These objectives require a long-term investment for destigmatize welfare services and improve social workers' training, in order to promote the trust and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The Implications and Sustainability of Project-based Outsourcing of Social Services

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In Hungary – like in other parts of Europe –, the state is gradually withdrawing from the provision of social services and more and more different actors (churches, NGOs, or project institutions) are getting involved (Keller-Virág 2022, Kiss-Perpék 2023, Soliño 2019, Szikra 2018). The central question of our presentation is what are the consequences and how sustainable is when the state tries to fill the lack of social services in disadvantaged areas on a project basis.

The focus of my research is a complex catching-up program covering the most disadvantaged areas of Hungary, from 2017 to 2023. The program aims to prevent the intergenerational transmission of poverty in families with children, primarily by filling gaps in the social care system, but also by providing services such as learning support, community services, etc.

The main methodology of the research is a five-year follow-up study, with three rounds of interviews (270 in total) and field observations in six sub-regions, besides questionnaire surveys in all regions.

Our final results show that project implementation was hampered by several structural problems, like the shortage of social workers and the sudden influx of development funds, resulting in much parallelism, and competition between the projects. Results also show that in resource-poor areas, projects cannot rely on local people, local governments, or NGOs to maintain high-cost services. During the maintenance period, projects are abandoned, which not only leads to a lack of supply for the target group but also makes it more difficult and extremely costly to restart the projects later.

RN26 | T08_01: Policy narratives and change

Storytelling for a Change: Instigating Welfare Reform Through Policy Entrepreneurship

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European welfare states are at a peak of wealth but nevertheless fail to address persistent poverty (Cantillon 2022). In recent years, this reality has reignited policy researchers' interest in welfare reform. There is, however, a striking imbalance in academic accounts of welfare reform, which is primarily described as a top-down process focusing on regulation and standardization (Oosterlynck et al. 2019). Consequently, the literature lacks an understanding of the role of experimentation and 'bottom-up' innovations. This is problematic, as currently many welfare states are decentralizing and thereby increasing the importance of initiating policy innovations from the grassroots and municipal-level. In this paper, we will address this gap by describing the work of policy entrepreneurs to make experimentation and social innovation possible.

Our case study concerns the controversial (politically and legally) implementation of guaranteed income experiments in the Netherlands. Our research question is: 'How do policy entrepreneurs create 'space' for policy experimentation and social policies in a situation that is experienced as legally ambiguous and politically complex?'. Data was gathered by participant observation in an activist network of NGOs trying to promote income experimentation and by interviews with civil servants and alderman from 12 cities who try to implement these experiments. The theoretical framework that inspired our (narrative) analysis consists of a combination of policy entrepreneurship literature (e.g. Mintrom 2019) and narrative theory (Squire 2020; De Fina & Georgakopoulou 2015).

Our preliminary analysis indicates that to understand how policy entrepreneurs create 'space' for policy experimentation it is important to study different 'layers' that interact and give meaning to their actions – and the outcomes of these actions. Through coalition building, storytelling and framing by policy workers and aldermen, similar policy innovations of giving money to people in vulnerable situations gained widely different meanings in cities in accordance with their heritage, crucial historical events, and social demographics. This shows that policy entrepreneurship is an embedded and highly contextual affair.

Our empirical analysis contributes to the literature on social innovations by revealing the (invisible) work that policy entrepreneurs undertake to enable social innovation and contextualize the innovation to local settings in interaction with other stakeholders.

Disconnected Agendas: Participation and Democracy in EU Social Sector Discourses

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Strengthening democracy and promoting social rights are two policy priorities for the European Union. This paper analyses whether these two agendas align in terms of recognising the importance of democracy, participation and voice by people who use social services. It reviews key EU strategies on social rights, the rights of the child and persons with disabilities along with recent European Commission documents on social services. The position of EU-level networks of people who use social services and providers of social services are also considered.

Findings show a disconnect between discourses on democracy and the social sector. Reports and strategies on the social sector rarely consider democracy and may approach 'participation' instrumentally as a means to improve 'effectiveness' rather than the means to instantiate fundamental principles of democracy. These blind spots are worrying because people who use social services often face high levels of structural vulnerability and exclusion from key societal and political structures and are therefore an important group to consider in terms of democratic and civic participation. Linking agendas on participation and social services can also be a valuable opportunity to tackle the 'non-take-up' of social rights and support (cf. De Schutter 2022). Overall, the analysis has implications for understanding issues of democratic citizenship within social welfare systems.

The paper is based on research as part of the Horizon Europe project 'Increasing responsiveness to citizen voice in social services across Europe' (2023-2026).

The Governance of Care: Concepts, Levels And Care Services in Multilevel Contexts

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The European welfare legitimacy and economic crisis of the 1980s led to a top-down shift of power and responsibility, creating a multi-layered welfare system. New social risks are highly territorialised, and municipality is considered to be the best level to deal with them. The application of the subsidiarity principle and the localization of welfare became and effective, democratic and sustainable solution to deal with macro social and economic changes.

The main objective of this paper is to understand the importance of the municipal level in shaping social care policy, i.e. the relevance of local decision making in choosing the policy framework. To do this, we focus on the concept of care from a multilevel perspective and cross it with the typology of ECEC (Early Childhood Care and Education) and elderly-targeted servicesin 2 Italian and 2 Spanish municipalities. We carried out a content analysis of 94 documents: 36 Spanish documents: 17 national and 19 regional and two municipal websites; 58 Italian documents: 12 national, 30 regional and 15 local.

We found four main results: firstly, we observed a difference in the conceptualisation of care in both countries depending on the policy issue (0-3 years old and elderly); secondly, regional level is the most influential; thirdly, at the local level some services' innovations exist but the problem's conceptualization converges with the regional and national level. Finally, Spain shows a more gender equality orientation following the global trend while Italy remains stuck.

Beyond Participation: Towards A Concept Of 'Responsive' Social Services

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This paper presents the concept of 'responsiveness' as a new way to think about democracy and citizen participation in social services. Responsiveness is defined as the process of learning from and reacting to the perspectives of diverse people who use social services. It has been formulated against the backdrop of scholarly and activist concern that participatory and co-production mechanisms do not fully instantiate the democratic rights of people who use social services to participate and be heard. It aims to specify the conditions in which citizen voice can have an impact on social services and ensure that participation leads to transformation.

The concept is based on a review of critical discussions about democracy, participation and co-creation in literature on governance, public administration and social services. Seven core elements of responsiveness are identified: mandatory responses to user input, active discussion of user feedback, an organisational culture of valuing user input, transparency, promoting diversity, resourcing and accessibility. The paper discusses the interlinkage between participation and responsiveness as well as how its elements are mutually reinforcing and continuous processes involving effort and action over time.

The paper is based on research as part of the Horizon Europe project 'Increasing responsiveness to citizen voice in social services across Europe' (2023-2026). The project seeks to strengthen theoretical understanding and the practical 'infrastructure' for democracy and participation in the social sector.

RN26 | T08_02: Changes in the welfare state

The Evolution Of The Ukrainian Welfare State Since 1990s And Challenges Encountered

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The fall of the communist regimes across CEE since 1989 has opened a plethora of welfare state and social policy research in this part of the world. The focus was on primarily comparative research carried out in the CEE region, which includes ten EU member states. These studies highlighted that the welfare state in CEE evolved in a similar way as in the West, except the distinct interaction of the communist period, which, however, was also marked by extensive and generous social policies comparable with those in the West. There is, however, less know how the welfare state evolved in the other countries of the Eastern European region which do not belong to the EU such as Ukraine.

The evolution of Ukrainian welfare state is in particular worth of study. Ukraine is being considered the largest country of European continent in terms of its territory. It is a 'newly' emerged state after the collapse of the USSR that pass through the different state of state-building, including such unfortunate ones as a warfare and revolutions. Understanding and contributing towards building of social policies across the country could also impact on stability and prosperity of the CEE region in the mid-long term prospective. Thus, it becomes important to understand how welfare state evolved in Ukraine? What challenges it encountered? What could be learned from its development?

This article seeks to review the evolution of welfare state and social policy in Ukraine since the 1990s. The overarching aim is to document the evolution of the Ukrainian social policy and to reveal which factors contributed mostly to its dynamic.

Temporal Tensions in the Encounter with the Welfare State

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When citizens interact with the welfare state, they confront temporal patterns deeply engrained in bureaucracy. Although, literature has highlighted the causes and repercussions of administrative burdens for citizens, few studies within this strand of research direct attention towards the temporality of citizen encounters with state bureaucracy. In this study, we engage with experiences of temporal tensions that arise from citizen-state encounters in context of employment services to examine when waiting turns from an inconvenience to a significant strain on citizen agency. The article is based on ethnographic fieldwork in Danish job centers, particularly 82 interviews with unemployed claimants and frontline workers. Our study makes three main contributions: First, it shows how administrative burdens nest within temporality. Second, it deepens understandings of the role of time for agency of vulnerable citizens in state encounters by building a typology of the ways citizens exert agency during waiting. Drawing on Bourdieu, we further develop the notion of dead time to illustrate different ways, in which citizen-state interaction may disrupt temporal flows undergirding citizen agency. We illustrate how dead time involves a breakdown of the ability to facilitate temporal structures between past, present, and future, effectively hampering citizen agency. We argue that dead time is a fruitful concept to understand a variety of current forms of social marginalization, suffering and disadvantage arising from encounters between welfare state and citizens. Finally, we highlight how the stratification of time affects experiences of administrative burdens, thereby, illustrating how temporal triggers of administrative costs are unequally distributed.

Declining Social Empathy in the Welfare State? Attitudes towards the Clientele and Level of Social Assistance in Finland, 1995-2020

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We analyse what the general public thinks about the clients of last-resort social assistance and the levels of their benefits in Finland. Recent theoretical speculations suggest that social empathy towards social assistance recipients is continuously declining as the majority of the population lives in prosperity and well-being, and therefore lacks contextual understanding of the conditions surrounding those living in poverty and in need of social assistance. This trend is likely to be reinforced as austerity policies are accompanied by public debate on the need to cut social benefits and activate social assistance recipients into the labour market. To test whether the general public is becoming more negative towards social assistance recipients and more willing to cut the level of the benefit, we use a Finnish nationally representative time series survey data from 1995 to 2020. Our results do not support the idea of declining social empathy towards social assistance clientele. On the contrary, attitudes have become slightly more positive towards social assistance recipients during the research period. Most respondents also consider the level of social assistance too low, although demands for a higher level of the benefit have decreased. We find attitudinal differences between individuals according to their socioeconomic background variables, but no increasing polarization between the better off and the worse off respondents. In contrast to theoretical expectations, an empirical analysis of time series data suggests that a large majority of Finns understands the contextual conditions of the disadvantaged and show support for policies designed to help them.

Fighting Violence against Women: Examination of State Institutions in Turkey

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Turkey is a country with a high incidence of domestic violence against women. However, domestic violence against women has been on the social policy agenda since the 1990s. To this end, an action plan to combat violence against women was developed, the first of which was completed in 2007. The fourth action plan, which covers the period 2022-2025, is currently being implemented. The action plans provide for the fight to be carried out within the framework of five main objectives: the development of legislation, awareness-raising and changing attitudes, the provision of protection services and the empowerment of victims of violence, the provision of health services and the development of cooperation between institutions/organisations. 48 institutional structures were identified as responsible in this area. This study sought to understand practitioners' assessments of the institutional structures responsible for implementing the Action Plan. The results of the interviews with experts from 13 different institutions can be summarised as follows: studies on changing the social mentality are insufficient, there are problems with policy implementation and understanding as we move from the centre to the periphery, local governments do not take responsibility and experts have opinions on gender equality. According to the study, the competence of practitioners is the determining element of policy effectiveness. Policies become more localised when they reach the local level.

RN26 | T09: New challenges to the welfare state

Exploring The Nexus Of Social Policy And Humanitarian Policy & Programming

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This is an exploratory paper discussing the intersection of the study of social policy and humanitarian studies and potential for future research. There is an increasing literature on the interplay of immigration policies and humanitarian programming, and a growing policy interest to link humanitarian assistance and social protection aiming to bring humanitarian and development actors closer in delivering social welfare and assistance schemes to create safety nets against poverty, reduce human suffering in conflict and crises situations.

Overall however, the research and policy debates within the humanitarian sector are mostly blind in engaging with the analysis of actual social policies, failing to explore the domestic and global political dynamics that underlie the evolution of policies and practices. This also hampers a critical appraisal of the faultlines emanating from political normative choices that shape the public sector capacity and positioning vis a vis international norms and globally set standards of humanitarian protections.

Developing a line of research that explicitly examines the interplay between specific social policies and humanitarian policies & practices going beyond the project/programme evaluation logic would: 1) enable a comprehensive analysis of services across multiple sectors (e.g. health, education, labour, child protection..) and how they affect people's lives and wellbeing, 2) help examine the governance mechanisms including tensions and limitations that are at play at the intersect of public policies (or their lack thereof) and humanitarian responses, and 3) explore the role, capacity and leverage of both domestic and international civil society actors within such governance structures.

Double Aging Effect: The Challenge of Migration as an Accelerator of Aging Population for Welfare States

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Aging population is widely recognized as a global issue, presenting a significant challenge to the sustainability of welfare states. While the discussions often revolve around developed countries, developing countries are increasingly grappling with the ramifications of an aging population. The dearth of research and policy initiatives regarding aging

populations, particularly in Western Balkan countries, emphasizes the need for comprehensive research and strategic planning. In light of this, this study aims to fill this gap by focusing on identifying and analyzing risk factors associated with aging population in developing countries, especially Western Balkans. More specifically, it delves into migration – people leaving their countries – as a potential risk factor affecting the aging population and its impact on the sustainability of welfare states. Our research pioneers a new framework by introducing the concept of "double aging effect," underscoring the role of migration as a key accelerator of the aging population, alongside fertility and mortality. To understand the impact of migration on the aging pace of Western Balkan countries, we will compare their trends with those European counterparts. We will integrate national statistical data on fertility and mortality rates with insights drawn from national and international research and reports on migration in Western Balkans. Our exploration of demographic transformation in Western Balkan unfold through the lens of the Demographic Transition Theory and goes beyond by emphasizing the pivotal role of migration as a potential catalyst in accelerating the aging process.

Residence-based conditionality and Mobile EU Citizens' Social Rights

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Based on the empirical findings from a case study in Ireland and a comparative analysis of the implications of residence-based conditionality for mobile EU citizens in the UK, Germany and Sweden, this presentation examines the role of residency-status in limiting mobile EU citizens' social rights across different welfare regimes. Built around the notion of the mobile EU citizen as a self-responsible labour-active worker, the EU Citizens' Rights Directive 2004/38/EC discriminates against vulnerable labour-inactive groups by disregarding the needs of children, ill, elderly and victims of domestic violence as well as certain low-income precarious jobseekers and employees. Thus, fair treatment is extended to those who are socio-economically well off.

The national contextualisation of the Directive and its residency rules are being manipulated by some nation states to discourage the 'unwanted type of migrants' from staying and in some jurisdictions this is forcing groups of people to the margins of society and destitution. Moreover, mobile EU citizens' social rights are impeded not only for those who do not have the EU's right-to-reside but also those who have it. The latter practice is in direct violation with the supranational EU laws and the protections guaranteed to mobile EU citizens by the principle of free movement and equal treatment and non-discrimination. I argue that the Member States' resistance against uncontrolled migration accommodated by the EU principle of free movement highlights the issues of distancing from the Union and heightened nationalism, and points to a rather bleak future of EU social citizenship for mobile EU citizens.

Exploring School Absenteeism in Nordic Elementary Schools: A Meta-Epistemological Analysis

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This paper presents a systematic literature search examining the issue of school absence in elementary schools across the Nordic countries. Compulsory school is one of the major welfare institutions for children and young people in Nordic countries, responsible for children's well-being during school hours, as well as preparing children for vocational life. Nordic schools are meant for everyone, regardless of condition or qualification. However, acknowledged as a growing problem globally and particularly in the Nordic region, school absenteeism at the primary education level is a concern for policymakers, administrators, and researchers. Its implications are far-reaching, impacting various aspects of children's lives, including academic development, a heightened risk of upper secondary school dropout, and precarious connections to the labor market.

Employing a meta-epistemological analytical perspective, this article takes a unique approach by focusing on the process of knowledge production rather than the content. The investigation delves into how knowledge about school absenteeism is generated, emphasizing the methodological and theoretical assumptions underpinning the research publications identified in the systematic literature search. This novel approach provides insights into the positioning of knowledge production within the scholarly discourse. Conceptualisation of cooperation between school and other welfare institutions are particularly explored.

Preliminary findings: There is an epistemological distinction in Nordic research on school absenteeism, between research that establish a causal approach and develops designs where the research will generate knowledge about certain individual causes of school absence, and research that explores school absence as a contextual and relational phenomenon. This distinction contains many nuances, which we present in the paper.

RN27 | Southern European Societies

RN27 | T01: Transnational families and care arrangements

Transnational Families, Care Strategies and Public Policies in a Post-pandemic (Im)mobility Regime

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This article analyses the social protection strategies that transnational families have deployed to cope with the new regime of (in)mobilities that emerged after the Covid-19 crisis. It reflects on how the pandemic has restructured the articulation of the family welfare model and the migration regime in Spain. From a theoretical point of view, it combines the analysis of family strategies of "transnational social protection" with the approach of spatial and social (in)mobilities. The article also includes a multilevel analysis (macro, meso, micro) of the connections between care and migration. A mixed methodology was used: 1) the exploitation of secondary sources to show the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on Latin American immigrant families in Spain; and 2) an analysis of ethnographic material consisting of in-depth interviews (n=41) with various members of transnational families (n=13) residing in Spain (n=27) and in their countries of origin (n=14). The results show that after the Covid-19 crisis, an "assemblage of spatial and social (in)mobilities" was generated for the immigrant population. They highlight the social blockages that the immigrant population had to face: legal, residential, occupational and care, and also how informal arrangements to solve these immobilities are led by women. Those families who were further along in the migration cycle or who had social capital (relatives in Spain) were less affected by the impact of the crisis.

Birth, life and death of transnational families: A multi-sited ethnography across Colombia, Spain and France.

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This work focuses on transnational care and social protection arrangements in families scattered across their origin context of Colombia and their migration contexts in France and Spain.

It analyses the gendered caring practices among three generations of mostly female family members, in their evolution over large time frames, applying a life course and trajectory perspective. We draw on a multi-sited ethnography conducted in several localities in France, Spain and Colombia, between 2018 and 2023, comprising 37 members from six transnational families originating from Colombia.

The results of the research allow us to discover the transnational family from several points of view. On the one hand, it reveals the process of construction of the "transnational family space" through the different contexts in which the family members considered for this study find themselves – "here", "there" and beyond – using multisite ethnographic methods. Moreover, it shows the different intergenerational perspectives of younger, older and older respondents, as well as the different stages in the evolution of transnational family ties and socio-spatial trajectories over time.

Thus, our work displays how care and social protection arrangements in transnational families evolve over time, reflecting their birth, rise and dissolution, at while disclosing the underlying tensions

Growing Old Between Cuba And Spain: An Approach To The Transnational Reconfiguration Of Care In Cuban-origin Families

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This paper examines the mobility of the Cuban population, with a focus on care dynamics for older adults in transnational families.

The presence of the Cuban population in Spain has gradually increased since the 1990s, along with the primary destination, the United States. The direction of these migrations has been determined by legislation on nationality, in the case of Spain, or by immigration policy in the case of the United States.

The Cuba-Spain-United States triangle is a clear example of crossed mobilities (Oso, Cortés, and Sáiz, 2017), historically built within these transnational families. However, this proposal suggests analyzing the constant migratory exchange in these three spaces, beyond economic and political interpretations. This is because the health crisis has invited us to focus on the well-being of families and place care at the center (Solís, Martínez-Buján, and Paredes, 2018).

Empirical observation points to a reconfiguration of the flows of Cuban transnational families. In the case of Spain, there has been an increase in the group over 50 years of age (INE data, 2022). The objective of this proposal is, therefore, to analyze the reconfiguration of care in Cuban transnational families. Our contribution intends to analyze the organization of care among the different members of

the family, specially considering older adults, and understand them as a space in which to (re)define migration and mobilities.

To achieve this goal, we will analyze secondary sources and conduct two "family life histories" These histories will be constructed from a biographical, multi-methodological, intersectional, gender and longitudinal approach.

Between Cuba and Spain: Patrimonial Care and the Re-organisation of Transnational Families

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In recent years, there has been an intense scientific production that addresses the issue of migration and care. Beyond the perspective of global care chains,which propose, with a uni-directional vision,the transfer of care from the Global South to the Global North, the "circulation of care" approach (Baldassar and Merla,2013)has brought to light the exchanges in which transnational families participate.

In this paper we analyse a dimension of care that has been less addressed in the literature and that has to do with patrimonial goods. By this,we refer to the care of property, homes, pets, as well as the maintenance of burial plots of family members who are no longer present. To this end,we take a gender and intergenerational approach,bringing to light how this type of care re-organises the dynamics of transnational households, as well as families´strategies for mobility and immobility.

The research takes as a case study the migration of women from Cuba to Spain and, specifically, to the region of Ulloa ,in Lugo.This migration is explained by the demand for labour for domestic service,due to the progressive ageing of the population in rural Galicia.This, in turn, is connected to and structured by the demand for care in the host context.

The methodology used is based on multisite fieldwork.The first phase of the study involved conducting biographical interviews with families of Cuban origin located in the town of Monterroso, a village in the province of Lugo, Galicia. Subsequently,visits were made to their relatives in Cuba (areas of Camagüey, Sancti Espiritus and Havana).A total of 25 people were interviewed during the fieldwork.

RN27 | T02: Gender in Southern Europe

Comparing Regional Gender Disparities: Spain, Italy and France

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The analysis of gender equality at country level is a key information tool to assess the impact of gender policies as well as the trends of change over time regarding this social reality. In this paper we would like to deepen this type of analysis by investigating at the regional level (NUTS2) to what extent differentiated behaviour can be observed within each country in the Gender Equality Index (GEI) elaborated by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). We have chosen Italy, Spain and France as case study, covering a total of 62 regions, to analyse gender equality with the different indicators proposed in the GEI and to be able to observe what particularities emerge from a disaggregated territorial analysis, essential for the development of local gender policies. We carried out two types of analysis: a) the construction of the index and the analysis of the six main domains that define the measure: Work, Money, Time, Power, Knowledge and Health, with the aim of typifying the regions analysed, showing specific structures and dynamics; b) to relate the results obtained in the RGEI to elements linked to other indicators of economic, social, cultural, political and demographic development. The relevance of this analysis is inscribed in the importance of the persistent regional disparities observed in Europe. Monitoring these regional gender differences is essential in order to identify processes of convergence (or divergence) that are urgently needed and for the evaluation and implementation of policies at regional level.

Structure and Agency in Young Adult Women's Fertility Intentions in Italy

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The declining fertility has become a typical feature of Southern European Countries, and it has been particularly severe in Italy over the past thirty years, raising relevant questions on social, economic, cultural and welfare sustainability.

In this regard, several demographic research have been conducted to investigate the causes and effects of declining fertility in European countries. Still, few studies have focused on the agency of young adult women in planning their fertility behaviours in different contexts. Investigating the declining fertility considering young adult women agency means recognising them as active subjects who are not only exposed to and influenced by the circumstance's dynamics.

This paper is thus aimed at answering the following research questions: Do the structural conditions – namely referred to the labour market, the everyday cultural patterns, and the welfare regime – impact on young adult women (25-34 years old) fertility intentions in Italy? If so, what is their agency in planning their future in that specific context?

The first question is analysed through quantitative analysis, using regression models on the last Italian National Statistical Office Multipurpose Investigation data on Family and Social Subjects. The second one, instead, is investigated through semi-structured interviews with young adult women in Italy.

Results are interpreted within the theoretical framework of the Sociology of Youth and Gender and Women Studies, and they show how the Italian context limits the realization of fertility intentions and the agency of young adult women.

Discussing Homonationalism In The Context of Queer And Trans Reproduction In Spain And Catalonia

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This communication analyses the dynamics of homonationalism in the discussions on queer and trans reproduction in the context of Spain and Catalonia. Drawing upon Jasbir Puar's (2013) concept of "homonationalism," the study probes into the interplay between the Catalan independence process and the interconnectedness of queer and trans reproduction with the state. Through the analysis of eight in-depth interviews, the research addresses questions about potential variations in access to queer and trans reproduction between Spain and Catalonia, the presence of racializing or homonationalist ideologies in reproductive discourse, the significance of queer and trans reproduction in the Catalan independence process, and the strategies employed by queer and trans individuals in Catalonia to navigate reproductive challenges in the context of Spain and Catalonia. These interviews, conducted as part of an EU-funded project on queer and trans reproduction in Europe, shed light on both the struggles and the complicity of individuals in utilizing homonationalist strategies within their reproductive journeys. The communication critically examines the role of Spain and Catalonia in wielding homonationalist tools within the realm of queer and trans reproduction.

The Social Reorganization of Care During the Pandemic: Welfare, Community and Gender

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The aim of the communication is to present some of the results of the research on "The Social reorganization of care during the pandemic: welfare, community and gender" that we are carrying out from several research groups of Catalonia, Euskal Herria, Valencian Country and Balearic Islands. We want to analyze the social impacts of COVID-19 on household care needs, the consequences it has on gender inequalities and on the social reorganization of care work, and the role of community support and solidarity organizations and networks. Our general hypothesis is that the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated measures have meant a return to the home of some care needs that had previously been outsourced, modifying individual, family and collective strategies to respond to care work. This has led to a worsening of the care crisis, consolidating and perpetuating social inequalities, especially those affecting the well-being of the poor, and has also led to the emergence of key solidarity initiatives at the community level. The relevance of care work to maintain the current social sustainability and the challenges we face for a new social reallocation of these tasks towards a fairer and more egalitarian model is evidenced. Starting from a critical and non-androcentric perspective, we propose a mixed methodological strategy, on the one hand, quantitative from the systematization and analysis of secondary data sources in Spain, related to the management of time and care work, and on the other hand, qualitative, with in-depth interviews to women with care responsibilities and discussion groups with social entities supporting care.

Women's Contested Identities In Sustaining Sheep Grower Societies in Crete, Greece

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The goal of this presentation is to help build a clear picture of women's identity in sheep grower societies in Crete, Greece. Despite the so-called 'feminization' of Greek agriculture, the relevant literature indicates that cultural constructions and representations of gender impose an inferior role on rural women while deeply rooted prejudices and long-established traditions sustain their dependency on men, even today. Drawing data from one focus group (no.6), two group interviews (4 each) and six in-depth interviews with women involved personally in sheep growing and as 'assistants' to men (husbands, fathers, brothers), we investigate the changes in women's identities in pastoral societies in Crete. To achieve this, we emphasize personal, family, economic and community relations and argue,

that inclusive approaches are required that incorporate the voices of and lived experiences of women in pastoral societies. The results indicate that at the one end of the spectrum women's role within the family significantly improved in the last decades, while, at the other end, full gender equality and the assertion of a sheep grower farmer identity remains questionable in pastoral societies where traditional male-privileged morals and ethics prevail.

RN27 | T03: Social policy and care Regimes

(Un)Seeing from Southern Europe. Rethinking Critical Disability Studies from an Ethnography in Italy and Portugal.

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In the last three decades, there has been a notable increase in attention towards social approaches to disabilities, leading to the development of autonomous fields of knowledge and epistemologies. These frameworks aim to highlight the ableist structures embedded in societies and the intersections between (dis)ability and other axes of power and subordination. The connection with disability social movements and (trans)feminisms has resonated powerfully, offering transformative potential.

However, it's crucial to acknowledge that disability studies are deeply rooted in their original contexts, with the UK influencing the social model of disability and the USA contributing to cultural/critical disability studies.

This contribution takes inspiration from the initial stages of a 6-year research project focused on the relationship between visual impairment and the urban environment in Milan and Lisbon. Utilizing an ethnographic approach, the aim is to delve into the daily lives of subjects with a visual impairment in urban contexts. The focus is on exploring how the city acts as a disabling force, examining the interplay between architecture, human infrastructure, social policies, and daily routines that contribute to shaping diverse perspectives on seeing (and not seeing) as a disability.

Throughout this contribution, grounded in relevant aspects of the ongoing project, there is an attempt to reposition disability studies within Southern Europe, specifically in Italy and Portugal.

Three main issues are addressed: firstly, the unique configuration of social movements and the realities of activism and volunteering related to disabilities; secondly, the distinct historical conceptions of the welfare state and urban/metropolitan welfare; thirdly, the relationship between disability and austerity, considering its everyday impact and normalization within the broader context of crisis.

Local Social Care Regimes In Italy And Spain. The Case of The Third Sector

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Since the 1980s, the welfare crisis has led to the subsidiarisation and territorialisation of services. This is the increase of the responsibilities of local authorities in the design and organisation of welfare. Moreover, the legitimacy and economic crisis, together with the challenge of new social risks, open to the renewal of the relationship between local public actors and non-governmental actors involved in the production of welfare services.

The aim of this paper is to explore some features of the local social care regime. We focused on the role of the third sector in the organisation (from planning to production and delivery) of ECEC (Early Childhood Care and Education) and elderly services in two familistic and regional framed countries: Italy and Spain. We conducted 4 interviews in each municipality with third sector actors of the social economy and volunteer association involved in social services and/or advocacy activities.

We found four main results: first, the institutional variable (norms and laws) is essential in shaping the local welfare mix, the recognition of third sector actors and the regulation of the public-private relationship is one of the most influential factor for the mix outcome and it explains differences between Spanish and Italian municipalities; second, the policy issue has an impact on welfare configuration, indeed differences between local ECEC and elderly services organisation are registered; third difference between volunteer association depending from the country and the policy field exist; fourth, actor interests also shape the relationship between governmental and non-governmental actors.

The Impact of Urban Policies on Citizens' Opinion and Trust in the Welfare State. An Example from Local Welfare Systems in a Southern Welfare Regime

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In recent decades, changes have taken place in Welfare States that affect governance and the development of multilevel policies where local welfare management, understood in a broad sense beyond the areas of intervention defined by Esping-Andersen (1999), has become more relevant (Navarro and Rodríguez-García, 2009). The capacity for action of local entities will depend on the socio-economic vitality of their communities and their institutional context, giving rise to place equality regimes, which are determined by the institutional infrastructure and the welfare regime (Navarro et al., 2017). In the Spanish case, we have a Welfare State typical from Southern European countries (Ferrera, 1993) with decentralised competences towards regions and, to a lesser extent, local entities, that configure a specific local welfare regime.

In this context, sectorial policies, as well as integral urban policies, understanding cities as structures of opportunities that have an impact on citizens' access to services and quality of life, are part of the so-called local welfare system. Although we know that there is a social and civic impact of these interventions (Navarro et al. 2016), there is no information on the impact of welfare policies on public opinion on the Welfare State at the local level, as there is at the international, national and subnational levels (Chung, Taylor-Gooby and Leruth, 2018). Therefore, using survey data from local contexts in the region of Andalusia in Spain from the Urban Regeneration and Social Cohesion in Andalusia project (RUCOSA), we propose an exploratory analysis of public opinion on their position on local welfare systems in Andalusia.

(Re)building Trust and Improving Social Policy: Challenges in Enhancing The Relationship Between Society, Science, and Policy

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Citizen science is a novel and transformative approach to addressing the diversity and complexity of social challenges. It involves active collaboration between members of society and researchers, based on informed, conscious, and voluntary participation. Despite the growing attention it has received in the last decade, sociology and the social sciences in general have not been particularly active in these areas of research, although the long tradition of valuing citizen participation. We propose to explore how the perspective of citizen science can help us to understand social phenomena better and develop intervention strategies. This contribution presents an analysis model for the national support network for war veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, with a focus on the situation in Portugal. The different methodologies will be identified, including their advantages and disadvantages. Their applicability to the case under study will be considered, particularly regarding the empowerment of the direct beneficiaries of social policies. Giving a voice to citizens and involving them in defining responses to identified social needs is a way of strengthening the link between society, science, and policies. This, in turn, makes it possible to enhance trust in institutions, a challenge that is even more significant in uncertain conditions, such as those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RN27 | T04: (Im)Mobilities in Southern European Societies

Migration Experiences In Southern Europe: The Mobility Of Retired Italians.

Marco Alberio, Susi Anny Veloso Resende, Alice Lomonaco

University of Bologna, Italy

This presentation aims to identify experiences of mobility among elderly Italians moving to other countries within and outside Europe. Within the social imaginary aging is rarely associated with mobility and migration, but what can be observed among retired Italians today is a movement out of the country, a choice mainly related to the possibility of improving the quality of life. This study aims to understand patterns of migratory models experienced in Southern Europe along with everyday life experiences that bring new dimensions to both migration trajectories and redefinitions of lifestyles related to old age. Using a qualitative methodology, this study interviewed elderly Italians who decided to live in Portugal and Tunisia. From 46 preliminary interviews, it was observed that both the welfare and financial systems of Italy, Portugal and Tunisia were key deciding factors for many of the interviewees. Preliminary results indicate that the migration motivations of many Italians involve both personal and institutional dimensions related to welfare system patterns in Southern European countries. What we can also observe is how the choice to move to another country has economic impacts on both countries, and especially on the migration experiences of these individuals. On the one hand, we can see the effect of gentrification in Portugal, the real estate market; on the other hand, we see changes in the relationship with the local community, in access to services, and in the cost of living for these people.

Immobility Strategies Of Argentines In a Transnational Polycrisis Scenario

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Recently, the term polycrisis has been revitalized as a lens for the analysis of social processes in current societies. If "crisis" refers to "moments in which a group or groups perceive the emergence of a threat and try to respond to this, under conditions of uncertainty" (Voss and Lorenz 2016); polycrisis points to the "interaction of disparate crises at once, in such ways that the overall impact far exceeds the sum of each part" (O'Regan, 2023). The increase and overlap of crises of diverse nature has caused social vulnerability to become a structural feature of societies at a local and global level, in the North and the South. As an escape to reduce vulnerability, geographical (im)mobility as a survival strategy emerges, generating, in turn, other forms of crisis at the individual or family level.

From the perspective of the polycrisis, based on 38 semi-structured interviews carried out with Argentine people, we analyze their transnational (im)mobility strategies in a scenario of uncertainty influenced by the Corralito crisis, the Spanish Great Recession and the inflationary and employment crisis in Argentina since 2015.

As a result, the (im)mobility strategies of the Argentinians interviewed do not strictly obey economic reasons, but are connected to family events and fundamentally to the possession and control of certain capitals (economic, cultural, social, national, etc.). Trajectories rich in economic capital are more favourable to experiencing mobility while trajectories rich in cultural capital have to "think" more carefully about their decisions to stay or move.

Work-Life Balance In Recent South-To-North Migrations In Europe: The Case Of Spaniards In Sweden And France.

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Precarity and job insecurity have been hitting southern European societies in recent years. Increasing labour deregulation coupled with specific structural problems of southern countries have led to a landscape of unemployment, low salaries and poor working conditions. One consequences of this situation is an increase in tension between work and life for precarious individuals. For young people, permanent uncertainty and lack of resources make it extremely challenging to articulate their lives.

Migration towards northern countries with better opportunities has been an option to navigate through these problems. Specifically, movements towards countries with different labour relationships traditions and welfare frameworks can offer interesting opportunities regarding work-life balance.

The aim of this paper is to analyse the relevance of work-life balance in recent migration from Spain towards France and Sweden. Is it a factor in migratory decisions? If so, to what extent? Does it affect equally to men and women? What role plays the persistent familism of Spain?

In order to fulfil the objective and answer the research questions, semi-structured interviews to Spaniards who moved to Sweden or France from 2008 and onwards were developed. The questions focused on migratory decisions, work-life considerations, and perceptions on welfare systems in both origin and destination countries.

Results reveal that, although interviewees emphasize the importance of work-life balance, they do not consider it as a primary reason to migrate. However, it significantly influences subsequent migratory decisions: staying, returning or onwards migration. The impact is more pronounced for migrants in Sweden.

The Return Mobility and Remote Work Nexus: Labour mobility in Spain and Malta in the aftermath of the COVID-19

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As a result of technological developments and the gig economy, remote work has been a trend since 2009. After the pandemic there has been a significant increase. For some, the return was even enabled by their employers, who offered the option of work. Drawing on previous studies we note that remote work indicates clear benefits, most notably: improved work-life balance, lower environmental impact and spatial and time flexibility. Drawbacks have also emerged showing that existing inequalities in the economic sector and the position of the job, territory, gender and age – tend to be reproduced by remote work. Little is known however about remote work in the context of return mobilities, and whether this changes our understanding of the impact of remote work on individual workers, on addressing vulnerabilities and inequalities, as well as the broader impacto n the environment.

In this paper we combine the literature on remote work and contextualise it in a return mobilities framework. We draw on the long research trajectory of return migration and mobilities, and also on qualitative and comparative research between two southern European countries. Our aim is to explore the nature and different typologies in this nexus. The paper takes into consideration the micro-macro continuum of this reality in both countries. For this reason, it tries to understand aspects of a cultural, economic and social nature in relation to the personal decision to return to the country of origin, as well as structural issues related to welfare and social protection policies, labour rights and taxation.

RN27 | T05_01: Education, research and innovation

Predicting Student Dropout in Higher Education Using Artificial Intelligence Technology

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A significant level of student dropout characterizes the Italian university system. This has adverse effects on several fronts: on the socio-economic side of the country, due to the lack of return on investments made in skills growth; on the university institutions, in terms of reduced national funding and revenue; and, finally, on students, who must rethink and reorient their life paths. It is, therefore, important for universities to be able to make predictions about the outcomes of their students' academic careers.

Predicting college students' future careers using Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly Machine Learning algorithms (ML), has gained traction as a promising application to guide educational planning and workforce development. These algorithms can analyze a student's characteristics, academic history, and learning style to predict the likelihood of success or failure and recommend personalized interventions tailored to their needs.

In this regard, this paper presents a project carried out at the University of Catania, Italy, where a novel ML algorithm capable of providing predictions of career outcomes for students in some of the University's departments was developed and tested. The model showed how helpful such tools can be in helping educators and counselors make more informed decisions about students' college careers by analyzing large amounts of data and identifying patterns and trends that may not be immediately apparent through traditional methods.

Secondary School Teachers' Work in Greece: Educational Policy and the Perceptions of Teachers.

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The present study examines the interaction of educational policy and the working conditions at schools by exploring the perspective of the Educational Policy and the perspectives of sixty-eight teachers of Secondary Schools from the surrounding area of Athens. An analysis of the current underlying laws about Secondary Education was conducted to explore the perception of the educational policy regarding teachers' work and semi-structured interviews of teachers were conducted to ask the teachers about their experience

at work and their perceptions of it in relation to the directions given by the Ministry of Education. A grounded theory method of analysis was used to develop an empirically description of this interaction. Findings are discussed in relation to the meaning teachers give to their work, which emerged as an important finding influencing both their thoughts about it and the way they carry it out.

Studying University Careers: A Contribution from Machine Learning

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This contribution aims to present the outcomes of a research project conducted by the University of Turin (Italy), in which a Machine Learning (ML) model was developed to provide predictions on the career outcomes of university students of the institution, with the ultimate goal of supporting those who are struggling to successfully complete their academic paths.

The theme of artificial intelligence is introduced, and its applications and potential in the educational field are briefly discussed, focusing on the study of university careers and the phenomenon of university dropouts. Italy holds an unenviable record in this regard and occupies positions close to those of other Southern European countries in international dropout rankings. Subsequently, an experimental project ("Data Lab UniTo") of the University of Turin, in partnership with CSI Piemonte, is illustrated. This project was initiated in 2019 and aimed to construct an ML model capable of providing predictions on the career outcomes of students in certain Departments. The purpose is to offer an effective tool to decision-makers, at various academic levels, useful for making strategic choices in cases of criticality (delays and dropouts). This is a broad and articulated project, which, to date, has been expanded and involved about 60 courses of study at the University of Turin. This paper intends to describe its salient aspects, with particular reference to the ML of the study courses in the pedagogical area of the Department of Philosophy and Education Sciences, also showing the platforms available to the University for consulting the results.

'Dual' Work Placements As An Advanced Form Of Relationship Between Industrial SMEs And Vocational Schools: Evidence From The Basque Country

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In the last decades VET policies in Spain have been directed to strengthening the relationships between firms and vocational schools. An important step in that direction was the introduction in the mid 2010s of an extended model of student work placement (so called 'dual VET'). Since then, the literature about the Spanish 'dual' internship model has grown, looking at aspects like initial controversies about the design and early implementation of the instrument, comparison with central European apprenticeship systems, and agents' views about the organisation and results of the extended model.

Most of those studies look at perceptions of educational agents, but little is known about the views of firms. In this context, this paper would like to contribute to the knowledge about the implementation of dual VET in the Basque Country from the point of view of the companies. We look at student work placement as the main instrument of relationship between firms and schools, and check the differences between those firms which have experience only in the standard model and those which have adopted the extended model.

The research question is: Are there important differences between firms who participate in dual VET and those who don't in their views of the relations with vocational schools? And if so, which are they?

In order to answer that question, a quantitative research design has been used based on an ad hoc survey carried out with a sample of 254 industrial SMEs from the Basque region which have received VET student placements.

RN27 | T05_02: Spatial Inequalities, inner and shrinking areas

Territorial Crisis Meets Migrant Reception: The Implications Of Welcoming Newcomers Into Spanish Demographically Challenged Areas.

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The perception of the territorial imbalance faced by Spanish shrinking rural areas in terms of demographics (ageing, lack of generational replacement), economics (de-escalation of local productive sectors), welfare (limitations in access to basic services) or environment (neglected natural spaces), and the policies that frame them, position local communities towards specific dynamics of welcoming migrants. We aim to explore how the international population on the move is linked to the so-called "depopulation" crisis, analysing how "reception initiatives" are shaped by the perception of the territorial crisis, giving rise to three distinct patterns that have a differential impact on the dynamics of reception of migrants, which are considered both as an element of resistance to one crisis (rural devitalisation) and as directly responsible for the other (asylum/immigration/securitisation).

The methodological pillars of this research are based on intensive qualitative fieldwork in Andalusia, Galicia, Castile León and Aragón, using semi-structured interviews and participant observation. This research is part of the H2020 project Investing in 'Welcoming Spaces' in Europe: revitalizing shrinking areas by hosting non-EU migrants (H2020-SC6-Migration-2019-870952).

Social Bonding And (Mis)trust In Inner Areas Of Italy

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From a sociological point of view, the trust's topic is qualified with the meaning of social bond (Simmel, 1906), of stability of a established order. Durkheim (1893) defined it by the solidarity concept, a moral and a cognitive agreement able to keep society cohesive. This ones promotes the possibility to cultivate, in simple societies (communities), interpersonal relationships and social relations on a trust basis.

This possibility is also emphasized in contemporary sociological theories: them state that, in "community" social systems, it's still possible to trace "solid" forms of social bonding, based on trust (Bagnasco, 1999).

The results of a pilot research conducted in 2023 in Molise Region, one among the inner areas of Italy, show that "community" does not represent the place of social bonding and trust but, rather, would be the cause of a greater isolation and of problems in social emancipation, especially for young people.

Indeed, in inner areas, take place the depopulation phenomenon that, with aging, produces a vicious circle related to precariousness in life chances. Research data show how intergenerational and institutional tensions undermine the possibility to think about communities as relational and trusting places, connoting them as spaces where there is a strong sense of mistrust and where there is a loosening of social bond.

To re-create a sense of community, better ties for social cohesion and solidarity should be generated. In this direction, welfare policy interventions might also reach the "proximity communities" development, through the co-creation of solutions in order to curb vulnerability, to strengthen the social bond and to reconnect the trust relations and solidarity that are now "broken".

Spatial Inequalities in the Italian Labour Market(s). How Much Have Inner Areas Been "Left-behind"?

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The debate on the geographical dimension of inequality has been particularly intense in recent years (Rodríguez-Pose, 2018; Storper, 2018; Viesti, 2021). Traditionally, analyses at the sub-national level focus on regional divides or urban/rural cleavage. However, in contemporary societies, new interpretations of spatial inequalities and new dichotomies between central and peripheral (or marginal) areas.

In this perspective, the Italian National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) has developed a theoretical and methodological definition of spatial peripherality/marginality concerning the accessibility to services of general interest and its correlation with various forms of demographic and socio-economic vulnerability (De Rossi, 2018; Modica et al., 2021). Although SNAI enhances in Italy an interesting debate on the risk of progressive demographic and economic desertification of inner areas, especially for those most peripherical and located in the South of the country, to the best of our knowledge no studies have empirically deepened the labour market performances among municipalities with different degree of marginality.

Starting from the SNAI classification of Italian municipalities, we aim to fill this gap by answering the following research question: how much have the labour markets of Italian inner areas been "left-behind" (Pike et al., 2023)? Moreover, considering the structural internal North/South divide characterising the country, we want to understand how the two dimensions of spatial inequality overlap in

influencing labour market outcomes. Using Italian labour force surveys, we will provide a detailed descriptive analysis of these geographical inequalities by adopting a diachronic perspective and focusing on different dimensions of labour supply and demand.

Methodological Challenges In Living Labs: Promoting Community Cultural Capital For A Sustainable Rural Development In Mediterranean Regions

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In Mediterranean regions, depopulation of rural areas is an issue that significantly affects the social, economic and cultural conditions of local communities. Enhancing and promoting the cultural and environmental heritage of these areas can have positive effects in activating contextualized and innovative participatory processes of community regeneration. The "Living Lab" concept is being proposed by EU research programs as "open innovation ecosystems in real-life environments using iterative feedback processes". Following a critical contextualization of such concept in rural areas, we will introduce some reflections emerging from the experience gained by the SUSTAIN COAST european project from Living Labs in Italy, Greece, Tunisia and Turkey, currently upgraded by OURMed project.

We will focus on empirical findings that have defined Living Labs as dynamic learning spaces centered on cultural capital that integrate community tacit knowledge and scientific knowledge, in order to co-design rural development options. We claim the centrality of some key-drivers of success during the operationalization of Living Labs, with specific reference to the enhancement of cultural capital: perform an effective stakeholder mapping including marginalized stakeholders such as elderly, women and youth; develop awareness of the diverse interests and interdependencies at play, promoting a change in community and territorial care practices; encourage empowerment activities to build new synergies between public institutions, local communities and the Third Sector.

We also discuss the critical implications of implementing Living Labs in Mediterranean rural areas, which raises some methodological and epistemological challenges: semantic stretching; time dimension; role of researchers; stakeholder mapping; cultural and social innovation.

RN27 | T06: Societies in Polycrisis: new theoretical and conceptual challenges

"After The Social Disaster Of COVID-19". A Study On The Impact And Direction Of The Pandemic On The Spanish Working Population.

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Studying natural disasters from social perspectives is a task that corresponds to sociology because it allows us to anticipate future disasters or similar and avoidable circumstances if we know the directionality of the effects of such disasters. Through the labor perspective of the Welfare State as a mediator of scarce resources in competition, the direction of the social disaster produced in the Spanish working population is investigated. It is also examined from the social exchange theory how this unequal distribution of welfare can lead to a detriment in valuable social objects. A logistic regression analysis is carried out using data from the third edition of the European Social Survey (ESS Round 10 – 2020. Democracy, Digital social contacts). The findings shows a greater impact and effect on self-employed people with few employees, also responding differentially to socio-demographic and socio-economic variables.

Global Crises and Challenges in Southern Europe: a Scenario Proposal for 2030

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It is currently clear, through (in)direct observation and reading of available information, that the territories of southern Europe are conditioned by a context where (dis)tensions, transformaintenances and (dis)trusts can be seen, which raises several reflections on its characteristics, explanations and concerns about the future of the aforementioned territories.

The increase in populism, social inequalities, repulsive rural territories, population aging, extreme weather phenomena and migratory flows are some of the challenges facing these territories. Given this context, we intend to present: i) an enlightening framework of the factors that will influence the territories of southern Europe in the coming years; ii) scenarios, mainly in the 2030 horizon, with emphasis on

the migration crisis that significantly affects territories in southern Europe and which increases (dis)tensions, transformations (maintenances) and (dis)confidence and, iii) highlight ongoing measures and present suggestions that make it possible to reinforce these measures.

To prepare the article to be presented, documentary research was carried out based on key words and a categorical content analysis was carried out, which made it possible to systematize the challenges that the territories in question face in the present, which could in the future aggravate a situation of polycrisis and also conclude, through prospective scenarios, that the difficult management of migratory flows in southern Europe is associated with old and new challenges of a social, economic, political and security nature.

Based on these results, ongoing responses are presented and debated, additional suggestions are left for reflection, and future lines of research are presented.

What Do We Know About Social Research On Southern European Societies: A Systematic Literature Review

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Social research about the south of Europe has emerged as a research field on his own. In the last decades there have been important contributions on welfare, employment, institutions, politics, migration and other major social problems.

At the same time, several discussions have arisen about the existence of a common set of societal characteristics that justify the approach as a specialty of area studies, and even about the geographic and political meaning of the concept of 'southern Europe'.

Although hundreds of publications have been produced, it is difficult to foresee specific differences and convergences on topics, conceptual bases, methods and distinctive disciplinary schools. One of the reasons of this gap is the lack of systematic literature reviews.

The goal of this paper is to provide an analytic map of the state of social research about the south of Europe. The main questions are: what are the specific 'building blocks' in terms of intellectual influences? Are there newer emerging 'research fronts'? What are the most significant contributions?

We have performed a bibliometric search of publications that can be classified reasonably as related to southern Europe and produced an extensive data set. We have used "co-citation analysis" and "bibliographic coupling analysis", followed by a qualitative review of significant works. The results provide insights of the main theoretical and empirical developments and help to map the state of the specialty.

Italy at a Critical Juncture. Game Changing Crises for the Innovation System

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Italy has long been considered the «real sick man of Europe» because of the dramatic drop-off in its economic growth. However, thanks to the country's unexpected ability to respond to the pandemic crisis, how Italy is perceived internationally was completely overturned in the course of 2021. The argument we will present in this paper is that Italy now stands at a true «critical juncture» which provides a chance to relaunch the country's economic and social growth, taking a high road to development. This is something quite different from a mere rebound after the pandemic crisis. It entails a more structural attempt to correct Italy's growth model that got under way after the Great recession of 2008-2013. Today, a new window of opportunity has opened for this attempt. We will concentrate in particular on the Italian national innovation system (NIS), doing so for two reasons. First, the capacity to produce innovation is now considered one of the keys to competitiveness. Second analyzing the changes that took place in the NIS between the two crises can enable us to identify the «critical antecedents» leading to the critical juncture. Alongside these antecedents, we can also see a profound shift in the climate of opinion: Italians are now more optimistic about the future, and in particular about the twofold transition – technological and green – that is now under way. These are the factors that, together with the flood of resources now available through the Next Generation EU package as well as the agency of institutional entrepreneurs, can create the conditions for embarking on a new development path, although where this path will lead is still hard to predict

RN27 | T07_01: Nature, environments and social sustainability

Social and Cultural Consequences of a Decarbonisation Process. The Case Of El Bierzo And Laciana (Spain) Coal Mining Areas: A 'Just' Transition?

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Coal mining established itself as the dominant shaft of El Bierzo and Laciana rural communities over the past century, commanding their socioeconomic set-up and development. Nowadays, with all their mines closed and their derived industries teared down, the region has sunk to a significant decline which has showed up in different spheres; not only in the economic and labour sense, but has also been felt in people's consciousness, feeding up a sentiment of estrangement and despondency between local populations. Therefore, this work aspires to specify the different roles played by several actors on this matter, as well as to feature – from an ethnographic approach – the main problems and obstacles perceived by those who are linked to a territory absorbed into a clear demographic drain. Issues such as opinions on the industrial restructuring, expectations regarding future, assessments of the current situation and the dynamization projects, or geographical mobilities as a desired solution for younger generations will be addressed, aiming to describe if there are some existing patterns on the upkeeping of certain narratives and discourses in terms of differences on age, educational level, and gender. Finally, an appraisal of how the demographic decay has influenced local transformations will be made, trying to figure out in which ways would be feasible to stop the massive emigration and to involve those who have already left on the new socioeconomic organisation of the regions.

Navigating Historical Trajectories: A Community-Based Approach to Understanding the 1923 Population Exchange between Greece and Turkey

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Euripides' timeless lament, "What greater grief than the loss of one's native land," sets the poignant backdrop for the 1923 Lausanne Convention. Signed on January 30, this agreement mandated the compulsory exchange of minority populations between Greece and Turkey, profoundly reshaping the Aegean region's fabric of life. This study meticulously examines the repercussions of the 1923 population exchange, focusing on affected communities and their social spaces in Turkey and Greece, employing a community-based approach to unravel its long-term consequences and dynamics.

The Treaty of Lausanne, viewed through specific lenses, addresses humanitarian and ethical considerations. Initially rooted in a nationalist ideology aimed at constructing new nation-states a century ago, this framework now appears outdated. The study comprehensively explores the multifaceted challenges of forced migration, emphasizing historical analysis and scrutinizing the impact on social and collective spaces. The overarching goal is to delve into the diverse challenges posed by this migration and its enduring effects on the identity formation of exchangees.

Utilizing a diverse methodology, the research integrates qualitative methods—oral history interviews, archival analysis, and participant observation with community mapping techniques. Actively engaging with local communities, the study untangles intricate social dynamics persisting since the 1923 population exchange. Community narratives provide profound insights into socio-cultural transformations, emphasizing the resilience and adaptive strategies employed by affected populations, highlighting the significance of localized experiences in shaping broader societal changes. Comparing experiences across regions, the study identifies commonalities, divergences, and lessons, contributing to our understanding of territorial dynamics, community resilience, and social sustainability within Southern European Societies.

Climate Exodus: Natural Disasters And Migration Flows From an Environmentalist Perspective (European Excerpt)

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One of the main challenges of the 21st century is to address the climate crisis, the repercussions of which are becoming increasingly visible and frequent. The increase in disasters linked to environmental deterioration has resulted in the damage of multiple economic and community systems, forcing populations to migrate both because of the destruction of their environments and because of the search for a better future, leading to multiple struggles for natural resources by the various governments.

Due to these socioeconomic changes and in accordance with the measures formulated in the 2015 Paris Agreement, it becomes necessary to evolve social intervention, betting on a multidisciplinary approach more community-based than ever, capable of adapting to the current context of uncertainty. Therefore, the aim of this study has been the analysis of the existing literature on the subject within a global context, through a socio-critical paradigm that allows a systemic understanding of the issue. This proposal focuses on the transformation of the main results of

the original study in the European context, contrasting the main differences with respect to other territories.

Among the main results, we highlight a large gap in Western awareness of the problem compared to the rest of the world, coupled with ambivalent preventive policies and outdated strategies for action in the face of new climate challenges, and revealing community awareness that is poorly prepared due to the entry of negationist and skeptical currents of the magnitude of the problem.

The Green Transition in Southern Europe Societies: Political and Social Factors Favouring (or Hindering) Low-carbon Behaviour

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Recent studies (European Social Survey, 2023, Eurobarometer, 2023) show that the vast majority of European citizens think that climate change is real and is a very serious problem. Despite scientific evidence and directives laid down in international treaties, the paths of single countries towards a green transition differ widely. They depend on numerous contextual variables including institutional, infrastructural, economic, political and social ones. This paper aims to provide a comparative up-to-date picture of the interventions' perspectives of Southern European countries in the field of green transition. To this end, a literature review was conducted on the scientific studies and reports to analyse the main social dimensions on which trajectories towards the green transition of Southern Europe societies have been built from 2015 (the year in which the Paris Agreement was signed) to the present, investigating also the relations between : 1. the policies adopted by individual countries. 2. the cultural and social factors that favour or hinder low-carbon behaviour on the part of citizens. The literature review is carried out using the PRISMA standard for data classification. The work therefore identifies different conceptualizations of the European Green Deal in the different countries of Southern Europe, but also the different difficulties, challenges and opportunities that are connected to the green transition in these countries.

Finally, the work provides indications on how more efficient policies capable of encouraging and supporting low-emission behaviour can be built, consistently with the infrastructural, social and political context in which these policy interventions have been implemented.

RN27 | T07_02: Migration and Social Cohesion

Civil Society Organizations to Assist and Integrate Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers in Sicily

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Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are crucial in assisting and facilitating the integration of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (MRAs). They represent a cornerstone of the Italian welfare model aligned with the Southern European welfare approach.

Sicily is one of the European regions with the highest number of MRAs. For several decades, it has faced the challenge of effectively managing these critical and growing migration flows from the Mediterranean, which significantly impact welfare policies.

This study presents some results of the Social Impact Assessment of the PRISMA Project (Integrated Regional Plan for a Multicultural and Welcoming Sicily) conducted by the Sicilian Region under FAMI (Asylum, Immigration and Reception Fund) in collaboration with local CSOs, promoted by the Ministry of the Interior and funded by the European Union.

In light of the survey of a target population of intercultural mediators, social workers, managers, and CSO operators active in the region, this investigation argues for the need to reconsider the organization of the welfare model, placing a renewed emphasis on CSOs in a new welfare perspective.

This reconsideration is motivated by the need to adapt the response to social needs to the new role of public agencies in a political crisis, growing risks, and amplified social perception of emerging challenges, especially in the Mediterranean context.

The results also emphasize a reevaluation of the vital contribution economic migrants and asylum seekers (especially young and women) can make, independently or through organized forms (e.g., Migrant Self Organizations), in different areas (e.g., education, health, employment, entrepreneurship) in a European context that faces significant challenges such as an aging population, youth emigration, productive restructuring, etcetera.

Neighbourly Relationships, Immigration and Gentrification in Central Multicultural Neighbourhoods. Reflexions from Russafa (Valencia) and Lavapiés (Madrid)

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This paper presents two central multicultural Spanish neighbourhoods, Russafa (Valencia) and Lavapiés (Madrid), and its evolution in the last twenty years. Our results are based on previous research by the authors and an ongoing project ParticipaBarrio (PID2021-124346OB-I00l). The two neighbourhoods show a process of gentrification and touristification. Similarly, there are analogous dynamics of cohesion, based on peaceful cohabitation and common interests as neighbours, and dynamics of conflict. Despite the occasional tensions, a daily conviviality has been consolidated over time that has generated neighbourhood relationships of a very diverse type, strong and weak. At the same time, these two neighbourhoods present differences in the development of the gentrification process, with different pace and dynamics, in the underground tensions present in the neighbourhood and in the imaginary aroused by immigration. Our results are compared with processes in similar Spanish and European neighbourhoods, particularly French ones, in a multilevel analysis. At the micro level, neighbourhood relations and dynamics of cohesion and conflict. At the meso level, the neighbourhood, the factors that influence these relationships such as the evolution of the gentrification process, the action or omission of local actors (neighbours, associations and administration), as has been the process of immigrant settlement and the type of immigration and imaginary that it arises. At the macro level, societal, these factors differ according to the state framework that modulates them in a differentiated manner.

"Managing Tensions at a Time of Crisis: Migration Gorvenance and Local Bricolage in the Canary Islands"

Andrea Gallinal Arias

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After being considered inactive for more than a decade, over 100,000 people have arrived to the Canary Islands through the Atlantic migration route during the last four years (2020-2023) from different enclaves in Morocco and West Africa. The islands did not have the necessary management and reception infrastructure to provide an adequate response, even less so in the context of a pandemic. The situation was rapidly framed as a "migration crisis" and the consequent response of the government was aimed at "ordering" this crisis. Implemented in urgency, the ministry of migration put in place since the end of 2020 the "Plan Canarias" based on the construction of a series of "emergency humanitarian reception centers" in multiple sites of the archipelago. The long-term aim was to provide the islands with a network of "humanitarian reception" facilities to cope with future arrivals. The emergency rationale behind the development of these new centers justified the choice of locations and the type of structures used, even when the municipalities were against it. Taking these new reception structures as a starting point, my aim is to examine through a bottom-up approach the reorganization of public action in the face of the "migration crisis". Based on ethnographic material, I will analyze the multiple actors engaged on the production of the new reception model (public administrations, political actors, nonstate organizations) and their interactions to document the tensions, conflicts and alliances that have emerged during this process. What can the management of migration crises on Europe's peripheral territories tell us about the effects of multi-scale governance of migration flows on a local level?

Valorising Temporality and Memory for a Critical Understanding of Migration and Asylum: The Case of Greece

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Greece is very often portrayed as a new country of immigration in the period after 1990. However, there is a dense and long history that includes flows of emigrants, immigrants and returnees from the late 19th century until today. The largest influx of migrants was that of Greek refugees from Asia Minor (1920s) which led to more than 1.2 million people arriving in the country. The largest exodus took place between 1955 and 1977, when 1.3 million Greeks moved to Western Europe and other developed countries. These experiences of migration have been used by official historiography as a basis for defining national identity and belonging. The diversity of previous migration/refugee movements and the problems faced by these populations in (re)integrating into Greek society have been ignored in favour of the dominant nationalist discourse. Furthermore, the recent migration/refugee crisis is seen as a new, unprecedented phenomenon, despite previous experience with large-scale population movements.

In this context, this paper argues that temporality and memory can contribute to a critical understanding of contemporary migration and asylum issues by avoiding presentism and taking into account the historicity of migration in Greece. Examples from our research are used to show how temporality and memory can enrich research on migration and asylum without neglecting the specificities of the migratory phenomenon. Among the main conclusions is that migration should be considered as socio-spatial process embedded in places and spaces, and that migrants have their own agency that cannot be reduced exclusively to socio-economic conditions and drivers.

RN27 | T08_01: Territories, communities and civil engagement

Municipalism, Civil Engagement and Anti-Mafia Education in Late 20th Century Italy: Toward a Comparative Approach

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In the late 20th century Italy a relevant transformation of public space linked together local ruling classes renewal, educational activism of civil society and a paradoxical Southern centrality.

In Southern Italy — and especially in Sicily — a new municipalism and a cycle of collective mobilization wore the insignia of fight against mafia and seemed to mark the way out of a dramatic national crisis.

The anti-mafia characterization was successful in catalyzing commitment and public attention. From a greater analytical distance, those phenomena were connected to more general transformations and still need to be investigated outside the suggestion of a narrative still imbued with a sort of exoticism.

Especially around the crisis of the "Republic of parties" (1989-1994), a progressive bourgeoisie exposed itself with pedagogical intentionality in projects for the renewal of cities. It invested in urban regeneration and culture but also in a recognizable repertoire of educational interventions in "difficult" neighborhoods, in nurseries and services for early childhood, in typical specializations such as environmental education and reading education through libraries and illustrated books — such a repertoire would in itself be susceptible to international comparisons with a certain diachronic depth.

In the background, the new financing and management mechanisms of socio-educational services, from the municipal level to European planning, reiterated North-South schematisms and created spaces of intermediation for new social actors as powerless in determining policies as crucial in channeling funding.

Such a season of active Meridionalism, with its peculiar characterizations in Italy, needs diachronic and interdisciplinary approaches to be contextualized in a "trans-meridionalist" perspective.

Between Engagement And Conflict. Explaining Mafia Strategies Towards Public Institutions In Italy

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This article delves into the intricate relationship between the strategies orchestrated by organized crime (OC) in its interactions with public institutions and local political and economic conditions. Our research meticulously examines the factors propelling distinct strategies, categorized as "parasitic," "collusive," and "adversarial." The significance of this study unfolds on two fronts: firstly, by postulating hypotheses elucidating the intricate mechanisms connecting political and economic configurations to OC's strategic decisions regarding the placement of businesses and the selection of specific strategies. This contribution introduces a comprehensive typology of OC activities, delineating their multifaceted relationships with local political arenas.

Secondly, the empirical validation of these hypotheses is executed through a robust dataset encompassing 8,000 Italian municipalities. The findings of our investigation illuminate a nuanced landscape where collusive outcomes prevail in environments characterized by porous political systems susceptible to infiltration due to the limited influence of political parties. Contrarily, adversarial situations materialize in high-stakes scenarios, compelling OC to resort to coercive measures such as threats and violence to secure advantages in the allocation of public funding.

This research not only sheds light on the dynamic interplay between OC and public institutions but also establishes a foundation for understanding the intricacies of decision-making within OC entities. The typology introduced here serves as a valuable framework for comprehending the variegated nature of OC activities and their intricate ties to local political landscapes. Consequently, our study contributes to theoretical advancements in the field, and provides empirical insights that enhance our understanding of the complex dynamics at the intersection of OC and political and economic structures, particularly within the context of Italian municipalities.

Institutional Readiness And Civil Society As Engines Of Social Change In The Rural Areas Of South Italy

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Eisenstadt defines social change through social regulation, i.e. "the ability of elites to acquire opportunities for change by mediating them with pre-existing situations, according to patterns of 'self-sustained' growth" (Eisenstadt, 1974:48), in which a social system generates and absorbs change. In this perspective, it is not only the increase in resources, or even the governance of the political institution, that brings about social change, but also the role of other

civil society actors (Fantozzi, 2011). People, therefore, matter, and it matters how they are included in the programming processes of development goals.

This hypothesis seems of fundamental interest in those peripheries of the world, which are structured to intercept change with administrative structures and political-institutional capacity that are often weak in this role. What then supports these social structures in intercepting change and producing social regulation, in the sense of Eisenstadt described above? What variables contribute to the generation and absorption of trajectories of change in these places?

The paper presents a survey of rural areas in Calabria, in the South of Italy, focusing on development opportunities, but above all on the resources these areas have and make available for the development of innovative solutions to marginality. The article focuses on the analysis of the planning capacity of the territories, as groups of elites, capable of renewing themselves and intercepting opportunities for change, planning projects for public funds.

The study starts from an analysis of all Calabria rural areas as defined by Minister, that are 58 municipalities, by interviews to all mayors. In a second step, it focuses on the different profiles of institutional capacity capable of better intercepting the public funding.

Divergent Territories: Educational Planning Tools in The Face of Territorial Inequalities

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The current political and social debate on the need to reorganise the Portuguese state has resulted in the transfer of competences and services from the central state to the municipalities in various areas, including education. This is a structural change, since the education system has always been highly centralised and independent of regional or local communities. From 2022 onwards, the Intermunicipal Communities and Town Halls will develop their own education policies, suited to their territories. Among the strategic planning mechanisms, the Regional Strategic Educational Plans and the Municipal Educational Charters take centre stage. The collaboration of a team of sociologists in drawing them up in two highly unequal territories made it possible to analyse the territorial, social and cultural dynamics and reflect on their educational development strategies. A metropolitan municipality and a group of municipalities located in a rural area in the south of Portugal were analysed. The first, heavily gentrified, has a highly qualified population with high purchasing power, where cultural diversity is seen as an advantage for the digitally-centred municipal economy. The other, rural, marked by demographic regression and ageing, with a poorly qualified population and low purchasing power, where the growing presence of immigrants is disregarded by local institutions. The results point to strategies orientated towards a qualified and diversified educational offer in relation to the social and productive territory of the Metropolitan Area; and towards a "damage control" strategy in which education is considered an instrument for the survival of the rural hinterland.

RN27 | T08_02: Vulnerable communities

The Local and Community Dimension of Care in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods. Circles of Care, Elderly Neighbours and Territory.

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This abstract examines the local and community dimension of care involving the elderly in vulnerable neighbourhoods in Madrid. It aims to highlight the social relevance of both dimensions and the relationship between them in these spaces.

The circles of care in which older people are involved are favoured both by their long-term residential residence in these neighbourhoods and by the complex care networks that exist in them. These circles are understood within the specific welfare and care regime and the socio-demographic and residential model in which they are contextualized.

In peripheral neighbourhoods, less affected by tourism or gentrification, with less rental housing and a longer residential tenure, the provision of care between family members has a greater narrative presence, and there are more community care initiatives. In more rejuvenated, inner-city neighbourhoods, with more rental housing and residential mobility, we found more reference to care provided by non-related neighbours with whom there is spatial and emotional closeness.

Here, too, these care activities are intermingled with various community initiatives, more oriented towards social and political activity, leisure and culture. Older people of these spaces both receive and provide care, the latter above all to their relatives.

The communication is supported by a specific analysis of the empirical evidence produced by the COMURES-CM research done between 2020 and 2023, including a content analysis of the interviews conducted (97) in 6 vulnerable neighbourhoods in Madrid, and two quantitative studies, one of the mapping of community initiatives carried out and another with socio-demographic sources.

Social Life In Third Places: An Analytical Study Of Sociability In Southern Europe.

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It investigates the processes of public sociability in everyday places in southern Europe, such as bars, associations, libraries, restaurants and squares. It analyses their implications for social networks, communities, social capital, democratic spirit, civil society and sense of belonging. The aim is to understand and measure diverse sociability, creating a typology that transcends geography and identifies ways of producing social relations and groups of belonging.

Based on the hypothesis that a differentiated distribution of sociability will generate different types of social relations and networks, several research objectives are established. The aim is to identify the processes of sociability by recognising the determinants of interpersonal interaction, to quantify the types of sociability and to categorise the everyday places linked to these processes.

The research will be carried out in Southern Europe, using a quantitative methodology with secondary data and surveys to exploit statistical data, construct indicators and obtain primary information. The results will contribute to sociological knowledge, addressing the scarcity of sociability research at global and national level. Sociability will be used as an analytical category, providing a new frame of reference in the study of social relations and networks.

It hopes to highlight the importance of public sociability spaces, justifying the relevance of human relationships for social, psychological and emotional health in increasingly individualised societies. The research serves as a way of recovering the concept of sociability and promotes openness and renewal in the analysis of the production of social relations.

Targets of Hate Speech: A Study of the Portuguese Context

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In recent years, Portugal has seen the rise of radical right-wing representatives in the Assembly of the Republic, joining many other European Union countries. The election of André Ventura by the Chega party in 2019, which presents itself as anti-system, has been particularly noteworthy in creating social and political tensions that have significantly impacted trust in social institutions. The emergence of new political parties and radicalized forms of discourse has been increasing since the 2008 financial crisis and other global phenomena that generate uncertainty and daily concerns. This context reinforces hate speech, perceptions of insecurity, and social inequality, which are often amplified by radical right-wing parties through the use of social media. The purpose of our participation is to investigate how the anti-establishment stance manifests as hate speech towards specific targets, such as race, ethnicity, gender, migration, security, and corruption. We will conduct comparative analyses at a European level, with a particular focus on Southern Europe. The data being analysed is sourced from social media, using Facepager. The collected information will undergo network and thematic categorical analysis.

RN28 | Society and Sports
RN28 | T01: Social media and sports

The Making of Champions in the Digital Age: Resources and Obstacles to Progression Within the High-level Sports Career in Climbing

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Social media have become essential tools for the sporting elite, enabling them to communicate with their public, manage their brand image and generate material or financial benefits that are more or less stable and sustainable. As a platform focused on sharing texts, photos and videos, Instagram notably enables them to share content related to their training, competitions, successes, everyday life moments and extra-sporting pursuits. But in addition to the most visible public accounts on Instagram (which champions sometimes delegate to community managers), many other public accounts are managed by aspiring champions who express a more or less ordinary and/or utilitarian relationship to this Social Media. Favoring a qualitative approach based on an ethnographic survey (field diary and online observation) combined with semi-structured interviews, this project lies at the crossroads of interactionist sociology (Hughes, Becker) and the sociology of socialization (Bourdieu, Lahire). The aim of this research is to explore the plurality of Instagram uses among high-level climbers, and the evolution of their relationship with this social media as they progress through the objective and subjective stages of their sporting careers. In particular, the project will consider the resources and instances of socialization that contribute to the evolution of the relationship that high-level climbers have with Instagram, as well as the forces and determinants of the construction of their digital identities.

Challenging Invisibilities through Humour: The Paralympics on TikTok

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The penetration of social media platforms in the cultural production and consumption circuit of sport mega-events means that organisations such as the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) are afforded new and alternative channels to engage with their audiences (Petersen-Wagner and Lee Ludvigsen, 2023). TikTok, one of the largest platforms, is characterised by a higher degree of playfulness and humorous content, and has been used to mobilise audiences for prosocial political aims (Matamoros-Fernández, 2023). Using TikTok's Research API access, we automatically collected metadata from all IPC posts during 2023. After consolidating and manipulating the data through Python, statistical analyses were performed to understand how certain content becomes more visible on the platform (e.g., more views, comments, likes, and shares) by way of the algorithm selection process (van Dijck et al., 2018; Poell et al., 2022). We hold that the IPC, to challenge invisibilities, arguably one of the biggest obstacles for disability sport in terms of its cultural production and consumption (Hardin, 2009), engages in the circulation of humorous content with the aim of promoting inclusion and social change for persons with disabilities. While TikTok and the circulation of humorous content afford the IPC wider visibility to new audiences, it might provoke unintended consequences through further stigmatisation of disability sport as non-serious.

Trusting Social Media? Young Equestrians And Social Media

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Social media has developed rapidly and is a natural part of modern human life and communication. This is also the case for sports organisations and individuals within the sport industry, and social media research in sport studies has evolved over the last two decades. This research has focused more on professional sports and less on minor and grassroot sports (Aeza, 2023). In this study we explore how young athletes in equestrian sports use social media.

The study is based on focus-group interviews with young equestrians in Norway recruited from an upper secondary school for young talents in equestrian sport. Drawing on Goffman's (1959) "impression management" we try to understand how these athletes experience and produce different impressions of equestrian sport and stable culture in social media.

Findings suggests that there exist norms on what to share and not. The young equestrians describe how they in most cases share "perfect" images, but that some platforms are more private than others. For some, negative feedback and a feeling of social control have made them reluctant to share less polished images of the daily life in the stable. When following others, they "know" that they only see the polished side, and that what they see is not necessarily the truth, some still describe negative influence by social media.

Yes we can!" Paralympic Athletes Beyond Stereotype: how media can change and promote no-discriminatory sports

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Recent data from Eurostat show that one in four people (25.4%) in the EU has a disability ranging from mild to severe (EUROSTAT, 2021). In Italy, there are approximately 3.1 million disabled people (5.2% of the population) (ISTAT, 2019). However, people with disabilities are scarcely visible in Italian mass media. News with a focus on disability when it rarely happens, is often misguided, and tends to perpetuate negative stereotypes. One of the opportunities that exist for the mass media to portray disabled people in an empowering and positive way is through the Paralympic Games.

Based on an Italian National project, in this paper, we explore the views and perceptions of Paralympic athletes themselves on how certain representations make them feel, think or react and ask how sport and disability should be better represented at the Paralympic Games to provide a more positive representation of disability. The core overarching aim of our study is in line with the European Disability Strategy and its key term "self-determination", which reflects the right of disabled people to have a say in how they would like to be represented. The research project provides valuable educational and training resources on the promotion of non-discriminatory, inclusive, and empowering portrayal of disability aimed at: a) media professionals/journalists; b) Paralympic athletes; c) members of the disability community.

Through an interdisciplinarity approach between the sociology of sport, media history and disability studies, the project is designed to have a sustainable legacy for future sports editions (such as the PG in Milano-Cortina 2026).

RN28 | T02: Sport gender and bodies

Fight Like a Freak: the Phenomenon of Poland's Fame MMA Freak Fights and the Redefinition of Sports Spectacles

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One of the consequences of Mixed Martial Arts' global popularity is the phenomenon of freak fights. While these events follow the MMA formula of two competitors fighting in the octagon, the players, however, are unusual: former athletes, influencers, celebrities, or controversial public figures, often with no prior fighting experience. The fight galas are accompanied by spectacular media coverage: fight cards, fight previews, trailers, talk shows, live conferences with fans, social media streaming, open training sessions, and official weigh-ins.

We consider freak fights a contemporary retelling of the freak show formula in both their design and spectacular, ambivalent dynamic. The contestants undergo similar enfreakment processes to claim or accentuate their freak fighter personas. They are simultaneously objects of ridicule, insult, and hate speech and gain incredible, easily monetised popularity by participating in the galas. The freak fights attract large audiences — live in the arena and on pay-per-view streaming — whose engagement and validation of the spectacle are crucial for the event's success.

The analysis of freak fights as freak shows highlights some significant changes observed in sports (the redefinition of sport competition, spectacles of violence and corporeality), the media (the demotic turn of celebritisation, media spreadability, and audience participation), and in social life generally (the importance of the economy of attention and mediatization of reality).

This article is based on the analysis of all the (so far twenty) galas organised by Fame MMA – Poland's most popular freak fights federation. The content analysis aims at reconstruction of the media coverage of fights and their accompanying events/actions; the discourse analysis focuses on contestants' motivations and logic of their enfreakment, and audiences' interpretations of the freak fight spectacles.

Gender Perspectives and Urban Resistance in the Institutionalisation of a Countercultural Sport: the Case of Parkour in Vigo.

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This paper will analyse the perception of traceurs – parkour practitioners – in the city of Vigo – Galicia – about the institutionalisation of their sport from a gender perspective. Specifically, about the recent formation of a parkour school and a park in the city. Although it may seem that these measures would be positive for all traceurs, the issue is more complex. Parkour is a contemporary sport that is often practised informally – outside clubs or schools, without formal regulation – in urban public space. Some traceurs consider that "taking", "improvising", "reinventing" the city and its uses is part of the sport's identity and so they do not support the construction of specific parks or schools. For this sector, institutionalisation implies a domestication, displacement and privatisation of the sport. This is related to a countercultural character and even to the understanding of this sport as a practice of resistance. Nevertheless, we are in a context in which sport is masculinized, the public space continues to be discriminatory, and women tend to be socialised in "passivity" when it comes to political intervention. From this perspective, it is possible that women traceurs support the institutionalisation of parkour, as specific parks or schools offer them security. All in all, using a qualitative methodology and a gender perspective, this paper will try to approach the web of power/resistance relations established between the traceurs themselves and between them and the institutions, reflecting on the frictions between micropolitics and macropolitics and on the role of athletes as negotiators of urban public space. Shedding light on these issues can help to think about the role of institutions in guaranteeing the equal right to sport in our cities.

Five-a-Side Football, White Petty-Bourgeois Masculinities and Aligning to Ambivalence: An Ethnographic Exploration of Gender, Class and Race in Leicester, UK

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Drawing on an ethnography of 12 white, young petty bourgeois heterosexual men between the ages of 20 – 26 from Leicester, UK this article will critically explore how their masculinities are performed, constituted and articulated in games of five-a-side football through an exploration of 'banter' and 'care'. This will further understandings of white masculinities and the classed and racial identities of the petty bourgeoisie, as well as the current gender politics of the UK in three ways. Firstly, it will make an explicit link between the broader cultural politics of gender in the UK and petty bourgeois masculinities. Secondly, it will critically build upon recent insights into the 'both ways' politics of the petty bourgeoisie in the UK (Evans, 2023) by focussing on how gender factors into this. Finally, it will show how 'aligning' to this broader politics of gender is enabled by intersecting social locations of advantage, showing how alignment to ambivalence can articulate and reinforce inequalities between men, whilst feeding into broader gendered inequalities. Broadly, this will enable critical insights into contemporary transformations and continuities into the constitution of white masculinities, petty bourgeois 'structures of feeling' (see Williams, 1977) and the implications for gendered inequality through the lens of an under-explored sporting context.

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Sport and inclusion. The case of Tam Tam basketball

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Nowadays, in Italy, sport is officially recognized as a significant social and economic phenomenon that plays a pivotal role in achieving the strategic goals of the European Union. In 2023, the Italian Constitution recognized sport's social and educational importance for the first time in Article 33. The extensive literature has already established that sport is an effective tool for promoting inclusion (Schaillee, Haudenhuyse, Bradt, 2019).

This article examines the inclusion practices of Tam Tam Basket, a youth basketball club based in Castelvolturno. The team was established to provide opportunities for underprivileged youth and children of second and third-generation immigrants who cannot afford membership fees in other clubs.

To delve into the reality of the situation, we employed a qualitative approach (Corbetta, 1999) consisting of two distinct phases, each utilizing different data collection techniques to gather information on the team's life experiences, inclusion practices, and conveyed values. The initial phase involved a Focus Group (Acocella, 2001) with the team players, followed by a case study (Feagin, Orum, Sjoberg, 2016) featuring an interview with the team's president and founder.

RN28 | T03: Physical activity and health

Precarious Bodies and Masculinities – Physical Activity as a Resource in Hormonal Treatment for Prostate Cancer

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Current study focuses on ageing men diagnosed with prostate cancer receiving androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), a form of chemical castration conducted to slow down tumour growth. The treatment usually brings a spectrum of side effects, such as lack of libido, erectile dysfunction, gynecomastia, sarcopenia and increased body fat around hips. Socially, these side effects may have a negative effect on treated men's sense of self, not being able to live up to traditional masculine norms and values. This paper investigate how anticipated ADT side effects can be countered and dealt with through physical activity. The aim was to analyse how participants experienced and embodied physical activity when participating in an exercise programme in relation to ageing, illness and masculinity. Data were collected through both focus and individual interviews with 10 men aged between 65 and 79. Theoretically the study combined ideas about the habituated body with the notion of hegemonic masculinity, analysing processes of both ageing and ADT treatment as a form of precarious embodiment. Preliminary findings suggest that the ageing and ill body evoke a sense of unfamiliarity. Participation made it possible for the men to rediscover their bodily capacity and felt more assured when regaining key abilities related to the notion of masculinity. The men found motivation attending the exercise programme in the opportunity to meet others in the same situation and the group constellation was significant to the men as it promoted an inclusive environment, creating a sense of fellowship. Physical activity could therefore have the capacity to reinforce individuals on different levels.

Fostering Well-Being: Integrating Adapted Physical Activity and Art Therapy for Empowering Vulnerable Individuals

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Our intervention is geared towards exploring the advantages of integrating Adapted Physical Activity (APA) with art therapy, specifically drama therapy and body expression, to enhance social well-being. Grounded in a perspective of clinical sociology and interactionism, our approach draws inspiration from Paulo Freire's pedagogy of the oppressed and, concerning drama therapy and body expression actions, Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed. Currently, our ongoing action research, conducted in educational settings with adolescents facing mental and social challenges, as well as in healthcare contexts dealing with rare diseases, shows promising initial results.

Adopting an intervention strategy aligned with Freire's educational philosophy, we aim to empower participants by fostering a sense of agency and self-expression. Preliminary findings indicate notable improvements in participants' physical attitudes, communication skills, and self-perception. These outcomes underscore the effectiveness of the integrated APA-Art intervention in promoting emotional and social well-being, particularly within educational environments.

The Transition into Retirement: Sustainable Aging through the Sociability of Exercise

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The aim of this research project is to explore the formation of exercise habits during the transition from work life to retirement, a pivotal moment for potential changes in health lifestyles (Eklund et al., 2021, Vansweevelt et al., 2022). In the face of significant growth in the elderly population within Western societies, promoting increased physical activity emerges as a crucial tool for fostering healthier aging and enhancing social sustainability (Stenvold et al., 2020).

Method: Two months of observations in a communal health club and six in-depth qualitative interviews with women in their sixties regularly attending the club following their retirement. The analysis combines Elias and Dunning's theoretical concept of the Spare-time Spectrum (1986) with Crossley's embodied theory of practice (2001) to explore the nuances of exercise context and social capital in shaping exercise habits.

Results: When the Spare-time Spectrum significantly widens upon retirement, women feel entitled to prioritize leisure activities after a lifetime constrained by the time bind of work and family. The welcoming atmosphere of the health club and the organization of the training activities fostered a "leisure-gemeinschaft" that was a source of social capital. In addition, exercising in the pool evoked an embodied, "mimetic" sensation of wellness. These leisurely qualities were identified as crucial to the formation of their regular exercise practice.

Conclusion: As new retirees feel entitled to prioritize leisure activities over spare-time duties, the biomedical perspective often adopted in public health initiatives to increase physical activity among the elderly may inadvertently be counterproductive. Interventions aimed at sustainable aging might enhance their effectiveness by facilitating sociability and pleasurable bodily experiences through low threshold group activities tailored to a variety of taste preferences.

Therapeutic Leisure and Baby Loss: An Action Research Approach

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Engaging in physical activity during leisure time has long been associated with promoting overall wellness, healing, and mental wellbeing (Han and Patterson, 2011; Iwasaki, MacTavish & MacKay, 2010). Likewise, research has established connections between physical activity, therapeutic leisure, and meaningful leisure in the contexts of occupational therapy (Wensley and Slade, 2012), depression (Fine, 2009), stress-coping (Hutchinson, Bland & Kleiber, 2008), and bereavement (Williams et al., 2023). This study seeks to explore the intersections of therapeutic leisure, physical activity, and the experience of grief following the loss of a baby. Although therapeutic leisure, also known as therapeutic recreation, lacks a precise definition, it is often associated with enhancing wellbeing, building relationships, facilitating choice, and creating joyful and meaningful experiences (Genoe et al., 2021). This research adopts a multidisciplinary approach, using therapeutic leisure as a lens to examine the complexities of grief, bereavement, physically active leisure, and baby loss. In partnership with a Scottish charity (Held in our Hearts) this project seeks to understand their community who regularly partake in physical activity to gain insight into the benefits these opportunities bring to both mental wellness and physical health while dealing with trauma, grief, and bereavement. This project draws on multiple research agendas – the need for more research on women's health, social prescribing, and physical activity after baby loss – to collaborate with, design and produce the beginning of a necessary advancement in understanding the links between therapeutic leisure and being physically active to navigate baby loss, postpartum and overall wellbeing.

RN28 | T04: Sport for development

"I Can Only Participate in Free Sports": The Experienced Link Between In-Work Poverty and Leisure-Time Physical Activity

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Physical inactivity is a significant issue in all European countries, including Finland. Employers can motivate employees to be more active, but many, such as the working poor – briefly defined as those whose income remains under 60 percent of the national median despite being employed – cannot count on it. Relatedly, physical activity is also threatened by precarious employment – having insecure, short-term contracts, such as 0-hour or on-call jobs.

This presentation examines leisure-time physical activity, exercise, and sports behavior of people who self-identify as working poor in Finland. The analysis is based on 444 free-format written narratives and 68 in-depth interviews. Ongoing thematic analysis reveals how physical activity is conditioned by a burdensome work situation. Tentatively, the meanings of physical activity and sports can be summarized as follows: 1) as vital for well-being, 2) constrained and demotivated by a lack of time and financial resources, and 3) as non-existent because all spare time is spent recovering from work.

The presentation points out the conflict between individuals' labor market circumstances and policy discourse emphasizing the need to increase physical activity. It suggests that precarious, low-income situations have a far-reaching impact on people's lives and highlights the importance of incorporating sports and physical activity into the bigger picture to avoid excluding working poor people from public discussion and policy efforts.

Physical Activity and Sport in Niamey's Refugee Sites: A Multilevel Analysis of Changes between 2019 and 2022

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Refugee sites are a central mean of managing large-scale forced migrations. Despite their life-saving scope, they are 'liminal spaces' that re-create 'time bubble' feelings. In such settings, sport and physical activities (SaPAs) are standardly organised and believed to be beneficial for site residents.

Against this background, the question 'How do individuals experience organised sport and physical activities in

refugee sites over time?' is assessed through ethnographic studies conducted in 2019 and 2022. The collected data is analysed using qualitative content analysis and interpreted using the ecological systems theory.

Recurring changes within the organisations in charge of sports influence the way that SaPAs are provided. Indeed, the recurring changes mean the frequent restart of programs that should be delivering long-term outcomes for individuals, and thus cannot achieve their objectives. Although difficult to implement, the development of a system for transferring SaPAs-related knowledge is identified as a way to alleviate this problem.

Collaborative Governance of Sport for Social Change

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Reflecting debates on public sociology and research impact, in this paper we consider how sociologists can serve as co-creators of, and actors in, collaborative governance toward social change in sport. The paper focuses on a critical appraisal of a program of action research called Change Makers, which aims to co-design sustainable solutions to issues of inequity, discrimination, and exclusion in community sport in Australia. Change Makers brings together local coalitions of sports club leaders and volunteers, change facilitators, researchers, and community partners, in a concerted effort to promote equitable social inclusion in community sports clubs. Drawing on collaborative governance theory, the research questions this paper addresses are twofold: What changes has Change Makers affected within the clubs, organisations, and communities it serves? What collaborative governance dynamics and contextual factors affect these changes? These questions are answered through a mixed-methods approach that combines Ripple Effects Mapping, in-depth interviews, surveys, and observations. The results reveal various short-term and intermediate change processes and outcomes. This paper will discuss and illustrate the findings, and chart some of the main impact pathways between the program activities and the identified outcomes. This will be followed by a discussion of the collaborative governance dynamics and contextual factors that shaped the identified changes. We will conclude by reflecting on the value and challenges of the Change Makers program and associated change processes, as well as on the transferability of the findings to other research-informed initiatives that aim to enhance social inclusion in community sport.

Goal Management, Failures, and Social Change: Exploring the Perspectives of Sport for Development NGO Workers in Brazil.

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Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) is a global initiative that employs sport to engage young people and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite increased research in SDP, the specific area of failure remains largely unexplored. This study draws on semi-structured interviews with workers from SDP organizations in Brazil to explore how goals and missions are established and managed, and their connection to diverse experiences of failure among these professionals. The findings reveal a duality of goals and evaluations—mission-driven and donor-driven—and inner struggles within NGOs to balance external expectations with community-centered missions. While external funding sources pressure NGOs to adjust goals, the fulfillment of these goals is often routinized. Contrarily, failure is perceived in terms of unmet core missions and transformative roles for communities or individuals. In summary, the analysis underscores the challenges faced by SDP organizations in measuring their performance and failure, given their self-perception as entities driven by values and committed to enacting unquantifiable good. This creates a complex dynamic when assessing failure within the context of their altruistic missions. Examining the subjective experiences of SDP NGO professionals provides a deeper understanding of their contributions to social change through sports. This perspective also offers new insights into how sports programs intersect with local cultures, identities, and community dynamics.

RN28 | T05: Sport and culture

Street-Football Community As a Means Of Social Care. How Drug Misusers Can Rebuild And Change Their Lives

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This study explores how and why participating in a street-football program helps drug misusers become socially included in new communities that strengthen non-addict identities, and better their mental and physical health. In Norway, street-football is a recreational recovery-initiative that is becoming increasingly popular among drug misusers. This activity is viewed as a means of helping substance misusers become interested in non-drug activities by situating them in social milieus which does not include or involve drugs. Overarching research question: What characterizes the community that arises in connection with street-football, and how can it have an integrating effect on the participants' lifes?

The study is ethnographically inspired, following a Football team managed by a faith-based NGO. Participating observations and biographical interviews are used to produce thick descriptions on the elleven participants and their everyday-life experiences. In addition, the study adopts a contextual life-course perspective, formulated by Glen Elder. Focusing on the participants own life-stories, lifeprocess and experiences with drugs. Symbolic interactionism compliments the theoretical approach, by focusing on the formation of meanings to the participants regarding drug rehabilitation.

The findings highlight three important aspects for the drug users engaged in the street-football program. Firstly, the importance of having an predictable environment to do regular exercise, promoting physical health. Secondly, developing and learning sporting skills. Thirdly, the ability to interact and connect with 'like-minded' people, develop friendships and acquire new social networks in an safe community.

The conclusion is that participating in street-football can bridge the gap between drug users and society, by giving the drug users access to social recourses and networks, allowing them to gain confidence in themselves, trust in others and gain approval from society.

Sports Clubs: Catalysts for Diaspora Construction

Rahsan Inal

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For diaspora communities, sports is a multi-dimensional, dynamic field of relationship that includes cultural, social, and political dimensions. In this context, amateur sports clubs founded by immigrants and people of immigrant origin play a significant role in diaspora construction. This study aims to understand and explain the practices through which the influence of amateur football clubs on diaspora construction is realized. To this end, it focuses on an amateur men's football league founded by Turkish immigrants in London, England. The field research, conducted with a qualitative research design, spanned over six months. Face-to-face, in-depth interviews were conducted with football players and club administrators, and participants' personal archives were also utilized. The research results demonstrate that male community members passionate about football, primarily engaged in an amateur football league, form social relationships centered around football. Football serves as a focal point in diaspora construction, with individuals maintaining their connection to their homeland and ethnic identity through football. Furthermore, football acts as a means through which they reconstruct the social and cultural memory of their country of origin. (This research was financially supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) under the 2219 International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program)

Sports, Borders and Material Culture. An Ethnographic account from Skateboarding in Tijuana

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Tijuana is the northernmost Mexican urban area, bordering San Diego and California. From late 1990s, resulting from the neoliberal shifts imposed by NAFTA and related free-trade agreements, most of the historical Californian skateboards manufacturers relocated south to the border, in the so-called maquiladora industry. Maquiladoras are foreign owned factories operating in Mexican special-status regions, dedicated to import raw material, tranform it in finished goods and re-export them in the country of origin.

In addition to be "the land of opportunities and american dream", the United States and namely California are convetionally considered the "homelands" of skateboarding. Since the turn of the millennium, with the border's closure to the flow of people following 9/11, young Tijuana skateboarders (prevented from living the California dream) have developed their own skateboarding culture through informal access to, and exchange of, skateboards produced by U.S. maquiladoras.

In the presentation I trace the stages of this development focusing on the role of the border in simultaneously

developing regimes of immobility, hierarchies of desire, and in providing a material culture susceptible to creating new imaginaries, communities, and identity representations inspired by the U.S. neighbor but claiming an autonomy that fits neither the U.S. nor the Mexican national model.

Skateboards in Tijuana are the goods that embodies the globalization of this sport over the past twenty years. But how are they culturalized locally as either objects of desirable consumption, of transcendence to the other side of the border, or of assertion of autonomy by Tijuana's youth through practices of appropriation, production, and creative consumption?

Sports and the Sacred: Rituals of Sacrifice and a Sense of Belonging.

Álvaro Campelo Pereira, Daniel Seabra

Universidade Fernando Pessoa, Portugal

Sports practice encompasses sociological dimensions associated with concepts familiar to the religious field. Several authors even suggest a sports ritual, in various dimensions, capable of being interpreted through the symbolism of the sacred. Others, not limiting themselves to this interpretative field, deem it appropriate to examine sports and find in them experiences and expressions that would be more easily understandable if contextualized through the concepts of 'sacrifice,' 'rituals and ceremonies', 'belief group/community and belonging,' 'iconography', 'mythologies', 'spiritual sublimation', or Catharsis and redemption'. The main objective of the communication is, by comparing the bibliography supporting both positions with data collected in field studies, to understand i. does the narrative and religious ritual serve to comprehend the behaviors of sports fans? and to what extent is violence in sports sought as a practice that aligns with the senses of catharsis and ritualistic sacrifice.

Exploring these concepts in the context of both sports and religion can lead to a deeper understanding of the human experience and the ways in which individuals seek meaning, connection, and fulfillment.

RN28 | T06: Sport and History

Political Justification and Skateboard Prohibition: Unraveling Norway's Controversial Ban (1978-1989)

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In September 1978 the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, passed a law that made skateboarding illegal in Norway. As one of very few countries in the world, Norwegian authorities had declared owning and using a skateboard a criminal offence. The ban lasted for almost 12 years and was, according to the skaters, harshly enforced by the police. However, the ban seemed to have a limited effect. On the contrary, throughout the 1980s a growing portion of the youth in Norway defied the ban, and when the ban was revoked in 1989 the interest for skateboard nearly exploded. In this presentation we analyze the ban on skateboarding from two perspectives: first, from a historical sociological perspective, through neo-institutional theory the political justification and rationalization of the ban is analyzed; second, utilizing Goffmans terms of stigma and social identity the ban's influence on current skateboarding culture is examined.

The political justification of the prohibition is analyzed by highlighting the discrepancy between "rational" arguments based on injury statistics, and ideological arguments based on moral panic. The prohibition served to stigmatize skateboarders as prone to injuring themselves and pedestrians and disrupting the traffic. However, we suggest that the authorities' stigmatization of this group was to some degree embraced by the skateboarders themselves. With roots in surfing and urban Californian lifestyles, skateboarders already saw themselves as irreverent. For Norwegian skateboarders, then, the skateboard-ban was convenient as it confirmed this self-image. Skateboarding was thereby constructed as oppositional from both the inside and the outside.

The Romanian Sports Policy Between Nostalgia And Reality In Post-Industrial Context

Laszlo Peter

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In Romania sport was used for political and national purposes: as a tool to unite the country (interwar period), as a means of legitimization and international diplomacy (communism), even to distract attention from economic and social problems (transition). At the same time, minorities are looking for a way to keep their identity through clubs. Romanian sports performance is a highly debated issue,

the media narratives underlie its decline, and nostalgia for the golden years (the eighties) plays a role. The government is under pressure to ensure the conditions to repeat these successes. In 2022 the Sports Strategy was adopted, but in the meantime the Ministry of Sport was abolished. Based on critical text analysis and statistics and theoretically developed further on a chapter (Peter, L. 2020, The Romanian Sport System. Path to Commercialization", In Rojo-Labainen, Rodriguez Diaz, Rookwood, Joel: Paths (eds.) "Sport, Statehood and Transition in Europe.", Routledge 77-95) the presentation offers the analysis of the dynamics of sports policy and the aims of the Strategy taking into account the context in which the sports operates, highlighting the strenghts and week points of the sports strategy in the contexct of neo-liberal economy and new social realities, whare the state lost its interest.

Based on statistical history of sports performance I argue that the Strategy failed to take into account social conditions like the changing demography, the evolution of the sport economy or the dynamic of the field.

The presentation addresses the social and economic factors that have shaped the sport reality and those that are confronted with the objectives of the Strategy. Methodically, is also based on data and interviews with bureaucrats, journalists, sport managers.

The Emergence and Growth of the Casual Style in Portugal. Conditions, Motivations and Actions.-

Daniel Alves Seabra

Fernando Pessoa University, Portugal

The Casual style emerged in England at the end of the 1970s. Police control of the Hooligans led some of them to change their behaviour. To evade police control and continue to engage in fights with Hooligans from opposing teams, some of them began to organise themselves into small groups, abandoning the use of props or club symbols. They opted to wear branded clothing instead. They also continued to meet up and take part in fights with similar groups of supporters from opposing clubs.

This gave rise to the Casual style, which evolved from Hooliganism. The Casual style also influenced the young supporters of some clubs in continental Europe, even those who were part of the Ultra Movement.

Portugal also saw the emergence and growth of the Casual style in the 21st century. This communication is based on ongoing research into this style in Portugal. The documentary research, observation, as well as the semi-directive interviews carried out, will make it possible to highlight the evolution of Casuals in Portugal. The motivations that lead young Portuguese people to follow this style will also be presented. Their actions will also be described.

The communication will also include reference to the legal framework in which Ultra groups operate, as this has been a predisposing factor to a social dynamic that tends to promote the growth of the Casual style.

Politics of Forgetting. Historical Memory and Football Fandom in Post-Communist Countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

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The paper shows that participation in sports-related activity can be linked to adverse changes contributing to tension, mistrust, and undesirable transformation. Organised groups of football fans in post-communist Europe, identifying themselves often as an anti-system movement, however participated in the struggle of the right-wing parties for cultural hegemony. The new wave of politicisation of devoted fans concerned historical memory. They often shaped the collective identity of the fan communities through the politics of memory and numerous activities in the field of stadium performances, as well as articles in fan periodicals and even archival research and publications based on them. Anti-communism also increasingly was method of stigmatising rival clubs and their fans. It has become the politics of forgetting and falsifying the history of their favourite sports clubs. The basis has been the myth of radical dualism of state and society and the mass contestation of dictatorships. The clubs' links with the former regime, and even their participation in the workers' sports movement in the interwar period, were omitted, as the connections of some clubs with the former Jewish communities. However, paradoxically, devoted fans defended the names and symbols of clubs from the communist era. Desk research and ethnographic methods, including participant observation, were used to prepare the study. The data comes from original research conducted over the last twenty-five years.

RN28 | T07: Sport and power

"I Shouldn't Have To Do This…" 'Grudging Acts', Valuation And The Limits Of Acceptable Practice

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Illustrated with data from a Mass Observation Directive, this paper explores 'grudging acts' (Bottero, 2023) as forms of valuation (Dewey, 1939). A 'grudging act' occurs when people feel that they really shouldn't have to do an activity yet also feel obliged or required to perform it. By engaging grudgingly, people indicate their sense of the limits of acceptability within practices. But despite their sense of these limits, people still perform grudging acts. While there is a variety of work which explores why people feel they 'should' engage in various practices (such as work focused on instrumental action, values, norms, the internal logic of practices or the role of power relations) there is less attention to why people feel they shouldn't do things, and even less on why, despite feeling this, they still do them. In grudging acts, people participate with the 'wrong' motivation or affect for the situation in which they engage, with their engagement part of broader processes of 'practical reason' (Sayer, 2011), arising from evaluations of how best to act in imperfect and constraining social circumstances. Such valuation must be understood as trans-situational, in which people bring values and commitments to bear across settings, weighing-up their immediate situation in the light of broader circumstances and trajectories, and reassess ends in relation to the costs of the means necessary to pursue them. The sociology of morality has paid comparatively little attention to the process through which 'values' operate across situations (Hitlin and Piliavin, 2004). The exploration of grudging acts helps focus attention on such trans-situational 'valuation' processes.

A Heavy Habitus: Coaches, Clients and Embodiment in Powerlifting.

Mark Doyle

SETU, Ireland

Powerlifting is a strength-based sport comprised of three main components: the bench press, squat and deadlift (Hatfield, 1981), (King et al., 2023).This paper explores the relationship between the client and the powerlifting coach in the modification of the client's body through face to face and/or digitally mediated training programs. The coach works with a lifter to improve lifting technique and also advise on diet with the ultimate goal of increasing the amount of weight that can be lifted by the client. Therefore, the coach is actively involved in reshaping a client's body through lifting, bulking and cutting, generally with less of an aesthetic focus than bodybuilding. For many powerlifters, it is the accumulation of body mass leading to strength gains that trumps muscular definition. It is argued that the coach initiates the client into a powerlifting habitus via the social transmission of bodily knowledge (Underman, 2022) and the monitoring of practices. The embodiment of masculinity is explored through the modification of the body and the increase in the amount of weight lifted as training progresses is also explored.

Data was gathered from semi-structured interviews with coaches and clients, additionally, the researcher reflected on their own experience as a novice powerlifter through reflexive training diaries and logs as a form of embodied ethnography.

Shaping Sporting Careers in Norwegian Youth: a qualitative study of Family Influence, Peer Dynamics, and Socialization

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This study explored the formation and development of Norwegian youngsters' sporting careers, focusing on the transitions from childhood through the pivotal teenage years. Norway, with its high sports participation rates provides an interesting case study for examining nascent sporting careers. Forty one individual qualitative interviews with 17-18-year-old Norwegians were conducted to understand the role of family and peers in shaping their sporting trajectories. Findings reveal that sporting careers are deeply embedded in family cultures, where parents often initiate and facilitate children's sports involvement. This early socialization lays the groundwork for developing sporting habituses, a concept crucial to understanding long-term participation. As the youngsters transition into youth, peers increasingly influence their sporting choices, contributing to a diversification of sporting repertoires. This shift is marked by a move from formal, competitive sports to more informal, recreational activities, reflecting a change in orientation towards sports. Significantly, the study highlights the mutability of youth sporting repertoires, influenced by changing friendship networks, waning interest in performance and competitiveness, boredom with routines, and the allure of new experiences. This volatility is also driven by growing concerns about body image and health awareness among youth. Understanding these dynamic factors is crucial for developing sports policies that foster lifelong sports engagement, especially relevant in Scandinavian contexts.

Gender and Sport: An analysis fron the Basque Country (Spain)

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UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY, Spain

The gender continues being one of the most explanatory variable of sports habits today. And sport, one of the most resistant areas to equality policies for women and men.

For example, in Spain, data on the presence of women in positions of power in federative structures and sports clubs are disappointing: taking into account the 65 sports federations in our country, only 3 have women at the top of their structures.

In this paper an analysis of this issue, and the results of a survey carried out in one of the territories of the Basque Country are presented. Interesting differences are identified in relation to the sex variable. Likewise, sports socialization from mothers to daughters appears as a habit-generating element for women.

RN28 | T08_01: Trends in physical activities

Physical-sporting Activity and some Growth Patterns of a Group of Adolescents in a Northern Italian Province.

Nico Bortoletto

Univ. of Teramo, Italy

This is a preliminary presentation of the outcomes of a research conducted on approximately 110 adolescents involved in team sports, residing between the provinces of Bergamo and Brescia (provinces particularly affected during the pandemic period). Using some item from Istat's multi-purpose sample research, the outcomes were compared to see if there was congruence between the data reported by the national research and the local data. The outcomes cross-sectionally confirm the importance of organized sports practice in adolescence, both for gaining self-awareness in relational terms and for confirming what is already known in the literature about the importance of family sports practice in order to increase the adolescent's overall propensity toward sports.

Role of Sport and Physical Activity on Children's Well-being: Insights from "Growing up in Germany" throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic

Inga Simm, Christine Entleitner-Phleps, Susanne Kuger

German Youth Institute, Germany

Sport and physical activity play a crucial role in the overall well-being and development of children. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, not only for physical health but also for mental and emotional well-being. The aim of this paper is to disentangle the role of sport and physical activity in the context of children's well-being before and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany.

We use data from the large-scale representative biennial panel study "Growing up in Germany" starting in 2019 which is well suited to analyse children's well-being in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and their living conditions. Our sample comprises more than 1500 children aged 3-17 years old.

Descriptive findings indicate that about 80 percent of these children engage in physical activities 1-2 times a week before the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2019, with a positive correlation between higher socioeconomic backgrounds and increased activity. Notably, the commitment to sports

remains strong during the pandemic in 2021, with correlation coefficients of .32 for children and .43 for adolescents. First multivariate analyses reveal that there is a meaningful link between greater engagement in sports and physical activities and enhanced well-being over time, despite the restrictions during the pandemic. Moreover, we could see that the level of engagement in physical activities varies in diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

These insights hold relevance for policymakers, educators, and parents seeking to support the holistic development of children, especially in times of global uncertainty.

School Role in Increasin Sport Activity

Consuelo Diodati

Teramo, Italy

In contemporary societies the amount of people who do not practice sport is growing, as a multifactorial phenomenon. Different socialization agencies can play an important role in stimulating people to keep active: school, family, medical basic district, but even the state can cooperate at stimulating the importance of sport, also through advertising promotion campaigns, as well as by law and incentives. Its relevance has become such that the European Commission itself is working on consistent set of initiatives dedicated to sport and physical activity, as great contributor to the health and well-being of European citizens. Interviews on this topic were conducted with sport teachers (mainly female). School and sport are, infact, important vehicle for educating young people and promoting universal values, such as: peace, loyalty, health, inclusion, gender equality, democratic and sustainable growth, but they can't be left without the sustain of legislation.

To Facilitate for the Young – New Trends, New Needs

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UNIVERSITETET I SØRØST-NORGE, Norway

There has been a steady downward trend regarding people taking part in organized sport in Norway the last decades, especially the adult population, however also the participation among young has fallen. Still, youth are active on other arenas, especially fitness-centers, and also what is termed self-organized sport, both more traditional sport and physical activity like football, skiing, cycling etc. and non-traditional sport and physical activity like skateboard, snowboard, parkour etc. (also named lifestyle-sport). It is the latter that is in focus here. We find some of the same tendencies in our neighboring countries Sweden and Denmark, the latter is seen at as a forerunner when it comes to facilitate for such activities. In Norway, however, the facility structure that should form the basis for sport for all, is seen as traditional and rigid, and that the funding schemes prioritizing facilities for traditional sport. In this paper we go further into the hindrances (and possibilities) for facilitating for self-organized activities, non-traditional type. Based on an empirical study we emphasis both cultural – what is taken for granted and what needs to be argued for –; structural – the financial system favorizing traditional facilities for organized, competitive sport; and political – who have strong spokespersons and a backdoor to the politicians – factors. This is done through a three-level analysis of power execution (Bergsgard 2019), highlighting the symbolic/discursive power's influence on the institutionalized structures and finally the political process and decision – and back again.

RN28 | T08_02: Sport and performance

Performance Analysis and Social Research in Sport. A New Performance Index in the World of Football

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Sport has the power to ease social tensions, build trust between individuals and drive positive change on a personal and societal level.

It has been shown that, from a social perspective, sports activity can provide a means through which athletes have the opportunity to develop relationships for the creation of a sense of belonging (Beauchamp et al., 2014). Positive relationships with significant others in sports, such as coaches or teammates, can have a bearing on sports performance concerning the topic of socio-psychological well-being and have been identified as one of the most important sources for the development of young footballers as early as Bloom's (1985) work. In this regard, moreover, Ivarsonn et al. (2015) pointed to the support of the work environment in sport as a relevant issue in stress reduction and improved well-being, Socio-psychological well-being and risks related to stress, anxiety and social tensions have an impact in sports performance both in the academy for younger athletes (Rongen et al., 2020) and among elite athletes (Lundqvist et al, 2022).

The presented abstract aims to draw attention to the topic of socio-psychological well-being in sport and its importance related to athletes' performance. The research, carried out as part of a doctoral thesis, aims to present an index of performance and well-being developed for the world of football that can consider both statistics collected from footballers and information obtained from a sociological and psychological perspective, following the already established studies on this topic.

The Role Of Professional Athletes And Their Social Networks In The Overall Organization Of Sport Life, In Sport Politics And In The Development Dynamic Of Sport

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The aim of the article "The role of professional athletes and their social networks in the overall organization of sport life, in sport politics and in the development dynamic of sport" is to explore what is the role of athletes and their social networks (for instance, sport organizations, tournament organizers, coaches, family members and also others) in the overall organization of sport life, in sport politics and in the development dynamic of sport. Article's theoretical basis will portray aspects of Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory and Granovetter's strength of weak ties theory. The method that will be used in the qualitative article's phase are eight in-depth interviews that include name generator and name interpreter questions and in the quantitative article's phase mapping of social networks will also be performed. In this article there will be summarized the conclusions, comparing the social network maps of the athletes who represent individual sports and of athletes who represent team sports. All of that will be done to reach the aim of the study and to answer the research questions. The findings of the article are yet to be determined.

What is the Role of Competitive Sports Amongst Entrepreneurs Whose Lives Are Subjected to Market Competition?

Christian Maravelias

Stockholm university, Sweden

Research shows that an increasing number of technical, economic, legal, etc., specialists no longer work as employees whom are managed by organizations, but as self-managing "entrepreneurs" who sell their skills and expertise on the market. In this context of "market organization", this paper seeks to answer the following question:

What is the role of competitive sports amongst entrepreneurs whose lives are subjected to market competition?

The paper is based on a study of entrepreneurs in knowledge intense service professions that make considerable amounts of money and lead seemingly successful lives, but that also struggle physically and psychologically with the pressures and uncertainties that comes with "a life on the market". The study shows that in their efforts to cope with their lives on the market, competitive sports activities such as tennis, long-distance running, cross country skiing, etc., are used not only as recreation and as ways of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They are also used by the entrepreneurs as ways of molding themselves, physically and psychologically, into "tuff competitors" and "winners" whom are considered "worthy" of success in work as well as in life more generally. In short, they use competitive sports as a way of injecting the logic of competition into their bodies and minds. But the study also shows that competitive sports convey risks. For it can reveal – to themselves and others – that they are not be made of the right stuff. That they, in fact, are "losers" and not "winners. Since it is seen to expose "the truth" about one's abilities and inabilities, the role of competitive sports is seen by the entrepreneurs to be a "serious and scary game."

RN28 | T09: Football and society

Will Football Still Be A Popular Sport?

Paolo Corvo

University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy

In recent decades, football has undergone profound transformations that have changed its nature, through its progressive mediatisation and financialization. Many consider it only an industry and no longer a sport. The popular soul of football is in danger of being lost amidst the demands of television programming, large investments by sovereign funds, and more blurred territorial identities. The Court of Justice of the European Union itself has recently proclaimed the prevailing economic dimension of football spectacle. The essay tries to highlight possible ways to keep the popularity of football passion alive. It is an important phenomenon for people's social life, because is at stake the ability to freely express one's emotions in a hyper-capitalistic society.

"Un Capitano!". Affective Negotiation between Former Football Celebrities and Mediatized Fandom: the Case of Francesco Totti on Instagram

Mario Tirino, Simona Castellano

University of Salerno, Italy

Starting from the framework of the mediatization of sport (Frandsen 2020), our paper aims to emphasize the relationship between sports fandom (Sandvoss 2003) and celebrities on social media. Social media brought about sociocultural changes in the world of sports. Conceived as affective environments, they mold football emotions, which is reconfigured by digital cultures (Tirino, Castellano 2020). Sports fandom adapted to new patterns of sports consumption and media. Fans interpret media content in unexpected ways, participating in community processes (Hills 2018) and producing content on social media. Fans often come into conflict and tension with the official products of sports organizations and celebrities and often trigger competitive dynamics within the fan communities themselves. Our paper wants to investigate: i) cooperation and tension between official communication delivered by former football celebrities and fans' content; ii) cooperation and competition within fan communities. Former football celebrities are individuals who face the end of their sports career, but often the beginning of new activities connected with ageing dimension. These new activities allow them to renegotiate their celebrity capital in other social spheres (business, politics, etc.). Media narratives influence the transition from competitive and professional life and retirement, and also the content produced by fans has an important role in this sense. To achieve our goals, we decided to apply two research techniques: i) media content analysis (Macnamara 2005) of the content produced by one of the most beloved former Italian footballers, Francesco Totti, on Instagram and a fan community related to this former football player; ii) netnography of this fan community. The community was identified from the principles of relevance, activity, interactivity, diversity, and richness identified by Kozinets (2019).

Economic Domination on Football as a Symbolic Domination: The Case of "Modern" and "Traditional" Football

Lucca Ignacio Morais Luiz

University of Innsbruck, Austria

This research aims to propose a novel theoretical approach to the sociological studies of the struggle between 'modern' and 'traditional' football within football clubs and their fandom, bringing the relevance of the practical sense to the understanding of the meanings, directions, possibilities, and limitations of the resistance practice. Examining European literature on this subject reveals a complex spectrum of perspectives within football fan communities defending "tradition," ranging from popular defense of cultural rights to hyper-conservative agendas. Yet, even with this evident diversity of perceptions and actions regarding the "defense of tradition", the majority of the research that I had taken in count aims at the fans' struggle as a dynamic in itself, taking the expression of "tradition" and "modernity" as substantial to reality, making it clear a relevant analytical gap in this field. In a way to frame these differential theoretical approaches, this research employs a literature review methodology using Pierre Bourdieu's typology of sociological approaches, dividing the reviewed literature between opus operatum and modus operandi approaches. This division aims to highlight the need and relevance for the production of researches that aim at the practical sense of football fans, targeting the meanings that orient their "resistance" to "modernity", bringing the usual understanding of this conflict a resistance to an economic dominance to a resistance to a symbolic dominance and also suggests an approach, based on Pierre Bourdieu's theory, that may contribute to the development of this field of research on this direction.

RN29 | Social Theory

RN29 | T01_01: Resonance, Alienation, and Love

Resonance and Revolution

Arthur Bueno

University of Passau, Germany

This paper discusses the political implications of the theory of resonance by exploring its (in)compatibility with Marxist conceptions of revolution. Could one conceive of something like a collective struggle for resonance? While Rosa's theory presents a number of arguments that warn against such a prospect, it also continues the radical critiques of capitalism found in the Marxist tradition and in critical theory. Exploring this connection, I propose to re-read Marx's and Lukács' arguments on class consciousness in light of Rosa's theory with the aim of demonstrating the intrinsic link between resonant world-relations and emancipatory struggles.

Theories of alienation

Carl-Göran Heidegren

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What kind of theory does theories of alienation involve? There seem to be many possibilities. Social theory/social ontology: a building block of the social? Theory of society (esp. modernity): an important feature of modern society. Sociological theory (middle-range theory): belongs to the sociological tool-box. Diagnosis of the times: a salient characteristic of our time; part of the vocabulary of time-diagnosis. A sensitizing concept: indicating in what direction to look. A theoretical concept, so it seems, can play different theoretical roles, be part of different theoretical language games.

I will argue that the concept of alienation since some time is about to become a key concept in social theory, as an ever-present possibility pertaining to our relation to the world (subjective, objective, social). In the 1960s and 70s, being ahigh time for theories of alienation, it was rather a key concept in theories of modern (capitalist) society and in the diagnosis of the times. Furthermore, alienation as a social theory-concept is useful for theories of contemporary (capitalist) society and is again gaining relevance for a diagnosis of the times: being a key feature of our time. As examples I will use the work of Rahel Jaeggi, Hartmut Rosa, and the Swedish sociologist Johan Asplund.

The Civic Potential of Love: Social Love and Sociological Theory

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This article undertakes a comprehensive exploration of the historical and conceptual dimensions of the public aspect of love within classical and contemporary sociological theory. Drawing from a carefully selected set of authors and acknowledging the valuable contributions of contemporary scholars, the article positions love as a central phenomenon whose influence extends beyond interpersonal relationships to encompass political dynamics and civil life. Using the metaphor of a karst river, love is commonly depicted as a trickle that flows beneath the surface in intimate relationships, but has a powerful public dimension that erupts, highlighting its significance in civil life.

In response to contemporary literature that observes the implosion of love in intimate relationships and its colonization by the consumerist and utilitarian ethic of modern society, French and German critical theory has contributed to a reevaluation of love as a space for criticism of the subject. An example is the work of Boltanski, who conceives love as the social action that allows entry into a regime of peace. Likewise, Honneth recognizes love as a fundamental step in building solidarity, especially in pluralistic societies.

In conclusion, this article seeks to illustrate that the concept of social love is increasingly finding resonance in sociological theory as a distinct manifestation of solidarity aimed at the common good.

From Social Theory To Empirical Research And Back Again

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As a representative of critical theory, Hartmut Rosa has attempted a sociology of world relations with his resonance theory. His aim is to find a solution to the increasing alienation caused by processes of social transformation and acceleration. As an antonym to alienation, resonance as a mode of relationship represents a solution approach that can be defined on the basis of four characteristics: Affliction, Self-efficacy, Transformation and Unavailability. While Rosa's reflections are based on social theory, with brief excursions into his personal everyday experience, there has been no transfer of resonance theory to empirical research. This gap has been filled by translating the theoretical considerations into an empirically measurable and theoretically validated project to capture the possibility of resonance and alienation in the context of social media (qualitative content analysis and type building based on the interviews conducted). In RN29, the implications of the empirical findings for the theory itself are discussed and the extension of the theory along three dimensions – the relationship between resonance and alienation, the source of resonance

competence and digital resonance – is presented. The aim is to demonstrate the benefits of linking empirical theory-led work back to theory itself and to counter the lost status of 'theory-ology' in the sense of the empirical turn. This means that a well-founded social theory that unfolds on a higher level of abstraction, necessarily free of empirical evidence, is needed in order to work out its empirical strength in a second step and, ideally, to open up further theoretical questions through empiricism and to further strengthen the theory in the debate.

RN29 | T01_02: Cohesion, Tension, Trust, and Solidarity

"The Leap of Courage": An Integrative Theory of Existential Anxiety and (Social) Trust

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Although trust is a social science 'hot topic', its definitions are fraught with (self-)contradictions and inconsistencies. This confusion is augmented by commitments to outdated concepts (e.g. in organisational studies) and questions the validity of empirical studies.

Cognitive concepts describe trust as a fragile, knowledge/experience-based, calculative, interest-driven capacity: rational decision/expectation assuming uncertainty, risks and vulnerability. They conflate/confuse trust with reliance, naïveté, distrust and manipulative cunning, and cannot explain trust in strangers or why dis/trust "breeds" dis/trust.

Noncognitive concepts consider trust an innate faculty, a benevolence-assuming, irreflective sense of security, affective warmth and optimistic attitude. Some attribute an unconscious background-characteristic to trust. This "pattern in the weave of life" biases the interpretation of information, hence its robustness. Vulnerability-avoidance is replaced with shared vulnerability in this framework. However, it is insufficient for understanding "everyday"/conscious trust, its cumulativeness and naïveté.

This study proposes an integrative concept based on an investigation into the dynamic relationship of trust and existential anxiety. Trust appears as Tillich's subjective "courage to be" – the self-affirmation of being despite the threat of nonbeing – projected on the Other. Courage is actualised in spite of anxiety at the core of objective threat, vulnerability, and risks. The sharing of the courageous self-affirmation accounts for the good-expecting nature of trust and the sharing of vulnerability.

The proposed concept defines forms of distrust, lack of trust, naïveté, reveals the true antithesis of trust, explains conscious/cognitive and cumulative trust, and hints that facilitating trust is only possible by trusting in advance. The radical, courageous "despite-act" of trust transforms the lonesome, anxious individual into the social, optimistic human: the trusting being.

(Mis)Trust and Societal (In) Stability – An Analysis of the Social Construction of Reality in Modern Society

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Against the backdrop of increasing social complexity, fading trust in policy makers and scientists as well as the rise of populism and authoritarianism, the question of the stability of social order is gaining in relevance – a "crisis of trust" does not only lead to ungovernability but also to social instability. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of (mis)trust in and (in)stability of modern society is needed. Many existing sociological approaches only focus on a certain social phenomenon, specific to a nation state or historical period, when explaining (in)stability. Instead a more comprehensive approach is needed. Starting from the assumption that trust in social institutions and actors and thereby the stability of a society depends on the prevalent way reality is socially constructed, this contribution argues that societal communication should be at the centre of a respective sociological observation. It first seeks to provide a brief overview of existing relevant literature while highlighting what it lacks when explaining societal (mis)trust and (in)stability. Then it proceeds to bridge systems theory in the tradition of Niklas Luhmann, which claims to describe modern society comprehensively by putting communication at the centre of sociological observation, with Daniel Hausknost's concept of passive legitimacy, which connects the (in)stability of a social order to the capability of its rulers to generate passive legitimacy through the measures of exclusion, performance and reification. Through merging these approaches, this contribution argues that (mis)trust in and (in)stability of a modern society can be described and explained comprehensively.

"Solidarity" In Social Theory: Between Conflict And Autonomy

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"Solidarity" is a relevant concept in classical social theory (especially in Émile Durkheim's work) abandoned by most sociologists during the 20th century due to its lack of precision and its excessive political and moral connotations. However, during the last fifteen years, a growing body of literature has revived its popularity, a phenomenon that reflects a broader pattern: "solidarity" is usually invoked in times of crisis (Metz 1999). The reappearance of this concept has been particularly notorious in two emerging fields of knowledge that barely interact with each other (Della Porta 2020): social movement studies and studies on civil society (and, related to the latter, studies on voluntarism and the third sector). Social movements conceptualizations tend to focus on conflict, transgression and networks, while studies on civil society emphasize autonomy (from both the market and the state), civility and association as key elements of our societies. Accordingly, solidarity appears, on the one hand, as a synonym for class formation, as the internationalization of social conflicts (Nussbaum, Dingeldey & Laudenbach 2022), as a form of collective action (Sangiovanni 2015) and as an expression of the trust necessary for social order or, on the other hand, as a synonym of social capital that enables an un-coerced human association. Therefore, "solidarity" becomes again a blurry term. Combining a bibliographical review of recent academic works and a textual analysis of classical sociological texts, this contribution argues that the ambivalent usage of "solidarity" in its growing popularity was already a tension in its classical social theory conception. An appropriate historical comprehension of its conceptual evolution will shed light on its potentialities and limits in social theory.

Intergroup Cohesion as a Trigger for Exclusion? The Paradoxical Implication of the Established-Outsiders Model

Marta Bucholc

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The established-outsiders model stands as one of Norbert Elias's significant contributions to the study of social exclusion and polarization. In my presentation, I aim to revisit Elias and Scotson's insights concerning the social construction of difference, highlighting a key weakness: the assumption that the remarkably homogenous social structure of Winston Parva represents a universal model for understanding exclusion. However, I contend that Elias's theory of established and outsiders can be critically re-examined to overcome the limitations of the original study.

I proceed to analyse three distinct dimensions of societal cohesion within Winston Parva: the behavioural, normative, and cognitive aspects. Contrary to Elias's original model, I propose to separate these dimensions to explore how established-outsiders figurations evolve in heterogeneous, multicultural societies. Central to my discussion is the interplay between the group cohesion of the established and the outsiders, and the often overlooked cohesion of the established-outsiders figuration as a whole.

My main argument posits that figurational cohesion is essential for effectively constructing differences and perpetuating exclusion within an established-outsiders figuration. I support this theoretical stance by examining selected figurational strategies of both established and outsiders, illustrating how the former benefit from maintaining figurational cohesion, while the latter stand to gain from undermining it.

In the concluding part of my presentation, I address the paradox of large-scale societal cohesion promoting exclusion and intergroup hostility, and I discuss the implications of this thesis for studies on global transformations.

RN29 | T02_01: Theorizing, Professionality, and Everyday Sensemaking

Transforming „Theory“ and the „Theorist“. Boundary Work Within the Sociological Discipline

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In recent decades, the meanings of „theory“ and „theorist“ have changed fundamentally within the sociological discipline. While the notion of “theory” is more and more narrowed down to one of its recent “meanings” (Abend 2009) – “empirical generalizations” – the “theorist” has lost much of his (sic!) professional status. A glorious figure during the “long summer of theory” (Felsch 2015), the sociologists focusing on conceptual work and philosophical discussions are increasingly devalued.

Like any other social transformation, this development, too, is the outcome of social processes and social construction. In order to understand the transformations of “theory” and “theorists”, we draw on the concepts of “boundary work” (Gieryn 1983) and “social and symbolic boundaries” (Lamont&Molnár, 2002). In an analysis of the professional rather than the “theoretical” discourse of sociology, we reconstruct how the boundaries of “theory” and “theorist” are drawn (Abbott 1995), which categories are used to make sense of these identities, how they are related to other identities in the sociological field, and how they are valorized.

For our analysis, we concentrate on discussions within US-sociology and draw on professional newsletters and blogs. In the spirit of computational grounded theory (Nelson 2020), we reconstruct the “meaning structures” (Mohr 1998) underlying these texts as semantic networks and the practices of symbolic boundary work employed in them.

Creative Tensions and Dialectical Theorising: Reading Michael Burawoy And Erik Olin Wright Through The Lens Of Professionalism—Post-professionalism

Anna Engstam

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In the context of social theory/theorising, calls for further specialisation, rationalisation, and methodisation through more far-reaching discipline and reflexivity may well be described as professionalism: further professionalisation is depicted as the solution to various problems that social theorists are presumed to face. On the other hand, opposing arguments that the constraints of professionalisation are not all good can be described as post-professionalist interventions. The post-professionalist message may be reconstructed as follows: we need to go beyond professionalism to produce more interesting and relevant theories, since rigorous and systematic use of logics and methodology to elaborate on established theoretical frameworks and conceptual apparatuses on its own is not enough to achieve this aim – we may even get trapped by professionalism; put differently, we need to use intuition, imagination, and/or experience as well as specialist knowledges and methods of problematisation, clarification, elaboration, criticism, justification and so on. Against this background, I have constructed an ideal type of professional theorising, and then contrasted this type of theorising with what I typify as free-spirited theorising; in total, four subtypes are constructed on the basis of idealised directions for theorising. My presentation in Porto will focus on Erik Olin Wright’s and Michael Burawoy’s writings on social theory and theorising, especially their ideas of creative tensions, real utopias, and what I would like to name as dialectical theorising (“the dialectic of utopian and anti-utopian thinking”). They certainly did not agree on everything, but together and individually they have made a strong case for post-professional theorising.

Varieties of Theorizing: Three Ways of Relating Scientific and Everyday Sensemaking

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Over the past decade, the theorizing movement has sought to foreground the process of theorizing. Before theory comes theorizing – this is Richard Swedberg’s (2016) famous claim that more attention should be paid to this very process and less to its artefacts. This assertion has sparked a discussion about the core of theorizing which has led to two diametrically opposed approaches (Anicker, 2020; Carleheden, 2016, 2019). We argue that the different camps are talking past each other, because neither sufficiently considers that the social sciences are inevitably confronted with a distinction that can be made explicit through a further development of a concept introduced by Weick et al. (2005): the distinction between everyday sensemaking and scientific sensemaking. Based on this claim and following Thomas Nagel (1989), three modes of theorizing can be distinguished: Nowhere theorizing, everywhere theorizing, and somewhere theorizing. While nowhere theorizing and everywhere theorizing give preference to either everyday or scientific sensemaking, somewhere theorizing tries to relate the two forms of sensemaking to each other. The aim of this paper is to highlight these varieties of theorizing in order to avoid any one-sided generalization of it.

Building an epistemologically humanised sociology: Harriet Martineau's concept of the Traveller

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With her Science of Morals and Manners (1838), the early classical sociologist and founding parent of sociology, Harriet Martineau, introduced the concept of the Traveller. Martineau is a nineteenth-century thinker whose writing is an interesting hybrid of a Baconian understanding of science, curious discovery through mixed methods, and communication with readers and citizens.

This paper summarises and develops Martineau's sociological concept of the Researcher-as – Traveller. Within the fields of social theory, her skilled Traveller's scepticism, co-inspired by Francis Bacon's idols, is analysed in the context of the following current transformations: (1) pluralising methods of social theory, (2) mutualising communication contexts, and (3) meta-reflexive tendencies.

It is expected that, as a possible consequence of the further development of Martineau's first Traveller concept, the subject of the human researcher can be re-identified and consolidated in a landscape of evolving systems, rich ontological concepts and endless availability of data. This will provide insights into how humanised research activity can be anchored in current AI and machine-generated scientific landscapes.

RN29 | T02_02: Social theory, Communication, and Public Spheres

Patterns Of Theoretical Continuation – Understanding Social Theory Sociologically

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The debate on 'theorizing' in sociological theory is a welcome irritation for the field of science. We want to build on the perspective of how theory (or rather: theorizing) works by problematizing theory from a sociological standpoint. For that we are looking at the problem of communicational continuation. Drawing from perspectives of Social Systems Theory we understand theory as a sociological fact in that theory is communication. This poses the relevant question for our presentation: What are relevant factors that facilitate the continuation of theory communication?

As an analytical tool we will categorize the factors of communicative continuation along three dimensions of meaning: thematical (structural), temporal, and social. Looking at theory from this perspective allows us to see how scientific statements are kept relevant. In doing so, we find a topology of relevant factors for scientific continuation that we draw from current diagnoses of sociology and social theory. These factors include e.g. concepts/terms or reference questions on the thematical dimension; the politics of theory, opposition and camp building, on the social dimension; and forgetting/remembering and evolution of theory on the temporal dimension.

Analyzing theory from the perspective of communication is a first step in a broader endeavor to look at reciprocal irritation of science and other areas of society. Therefore, the analysis of relations between sociological theory and mass media, politics, or art can be observed and analyzed with respect to their consequences both for the 'sociologization' of society and the import of problems, forms, and concepts into theory.

From "Them" To "Us": Actor-Network Theory As A Public Sociology

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The present contribution aims to theoretically address and discuss this question: is it possible to frame current political, ecological, and cultural tensions as due to progressive collapsing of society? Or, in other words, the alleged formation of relatively closed living environments and the fading of intersubjective trust, and thus related affirmation

of shortsighted instrumentalism in relationships, must be considered the approaching result of processes of rationalization and expansion of modernity causa sui or, conversely, such "capsularization" should be interpreted as caused by the advancement of individualism undermining social institutions? Too much alienation or too much freedom? In canonical social theory and research both solutions are commonly assumed and empirically tested, oscillating between the two versions of organicism: the whole being more than the sum of its parts, which could only occasionally deviate from established social order, or the whole corresponding to the reductionist sum of its parts, thus obtaining a rational form or not according to independent elements' stock of values. However, the point is that both approaches retain a common pre-assumption, the ability of sociologist to step aside from society and to discriminate between the excesses or shortcomings on both sides, that is to exert a critical vision, ultimately stemming from normative arguments. Anyway, such "view from nowhere" could be the most misleading observation point, as it induces to transfigure social phenomena according to scholarly models about what society is or should be, which are not determined and legitimized according with the audiences they refer to, or even manifestly against them. Here lies the main argument of public sociology, which strives to reconcile the gap and to reflexively put into discussion conditions, limits, and possibilities of scientific inquiry. In this sense, it is argued that, drawing inspiration from feminist situated knowledges and advancement in political ecology, Actor-Network Theory could represent the most radical interpretation of such approach, via the dismissal of customary coordinates emancipation/regulation and agency/context as binding dualisms, and affirming an innovative methodology that adopts an "experimental metaphysics", adhering to the level of informants to compose society and achieve it as a transformative open-end result instead.

Transformation and Alteration of Public Spheres, between Constellation and Configuration

Gilles Verpraet

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Public sphere can be considered as a space of public and private relations (Habermas), where can be formulated and negotiated public and private opinions (Lazarsfeld), subject and collectivity (Simmel), collective institution and social mobilizations (Della Porta). Long term social history takes in account the changes of relation between public and private domains, the modification of public performance (Alexander 2006), the extension of internet media spheres (Verpraet 2012).

We propose to specify these changes and alteration of public spheres by the double figures of convergence and diffraction of cultural values. Constellation considers the diffraction of cultural values by pluralization and by critics (From Adorno to Boltanski). Configuration designates the meaningful social relations between symbolic forms and subjectivities in interaction (Elias, Fontanille, Verpraet 2023)

This analytic framework helps to specify between the domains of uncertainty and consistency (classic epistemology) , the domain of hypothesis as epistemology of possible , the dynamic episteme between the regimes of knowledge (Bachelard). Transformations of public spheres can envision the dimension of trust stabilized inside each cultural configuration, but they also can analyze both the tensions between configurations and the critical tensions inside each configuration . This framework will be exemplified on the Covid stop and go processes.

Foucault's Paradox: Veiling Sexual Controversies and Flawed Sociological Theories.

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The research we present stems from the concern about the discrediting that sociological theory is undergoing in sciences and citizens for having Foucault as one of the references by many sociologists. Foucault, whose flawed theory has fueled influential advocacy for the decriminalization of rape and pederasty is used as a primary reference even in the context of sex education for minors, while hiding this information from students. The study interviewed 19 subjects with diverse profiles, employing a communicative methodology, and confirmed the concealment. However, in today's society, everyone can logically access information sources through which scientists and the public discover this deception, thereby undermining the discipline. The research proposes two conclusions: 1. It clarifies that many sociological theorists reject such a theory which exhibits a very low intellectual level. 2. It initiates a debate about the hypotheses that might explain why this information is concealed and why there is a tendency to: a) portraying Foucault as the preeminent critical thinker; b) characterizing him as a transgressor; c) emphasizing his role as a relativist intellectual; d) using him as a "shield to hide behind"; and e) advocating for the separation of the intellectual from the person. Faced with the social scandal this generates, many theorists have already distanced themselves from it.

RN29 | T03_01: Theorizing: Working On and Working With Theories

Theorizing As A Two-Way Street. Or: Why Theorizing Should Be Thought Of As More Than Developing Theory

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Recent years has seen a surge in interest in theorizing, amounting to something of a "theorizing movement" in sociology. This paper engages with this literature, and with the formative contributions by Richard Swedberg in particular, to challenge and further our current understanding of theorizing, both as concept and practice. My aim is to show that a key aspect of theorizing is missing from current discussions about theorizing. While it is true, as claimed by Swedberg, that before theory comes theorizing, it is also true that before theorizing comes theory. Swedberg has centred attention on theorizing as theory development, and on the creative process of making new sociological theory. But theorizing, understood as the articulation of assumptions about phenomena, is a two-way street that also includes theory application, or the use of theory. The takeaway message, then, is that theorizing regards both the development of theory (through the application of data, or, at any rate, exogenous elements) and the development of data (through the application of theory). Theorizing in this sense is a form of theory work, involving work on and work with theories. In the paper, I conceptualize theorizing as a two-way street and use this conceptualization to discuss the role of theorizing in both theory use and theory development. I draw on a both the theorizing literature and a sociological interpretation of Wittgenstein's finitist theory of language to argue my case.

Theorizing the Agency of Artificial Intelligence – A look over my own shoulder

Fabian Anicker

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Theorizing is certainly more an art than a science. Yet, the recent debates about theory construction have helped to explicate some know how, tacit self-understandings and many strategies of theory building that allow us to see much clearer what we are doing, when we are theorizing.

In my talk I will reflect on my own theoretical practice of constructing a theory of agency that helps to understand interaction with artificially intelligent systems. I will show how I use a critical comparison of existing theories to get a clearer idea of what is lacking in contemporary thought on AI. I will show that theory is still divided on the agency-question between classical action theory that restricts agentic notions only to humans and STS and ANT positions that grants agency to any entity that exerts causal influences on a situation. I will show how I sharpen the theoretical problem by confronting these two positions with empirical data on interactions with AI (from a self-conducted laboratory experiment on the interaction with ChatGPT). I formulate two theoretical problems and show how I try to make them as clear as possible: the problem of demarcation and the problem of differentiation of agency. The former refers to the conceptual border between agents and non-agents, the latter to the distinction of different types of AI agency. I show how I make crude comparisons at the beginning to have some idea about the differences that may be important and how I refine these in the process of elaborating the theory. I will show how I go back and forth between theoretical ideas and empirical data to establish the fruitfulness of the theory.

Uberizing Social Theory. On Problems of Model Case Research

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Our contribution invites for reflection of so-called "model cases" in social theory. In a recent book, Monika Krause (2021) outlines and critically investigates social scientists' reliance on "model cases", that is, privileged material objects and sites. While research accumulation via model cases has its advantages and disadvantages, Krause argues that in contrast to the natural sciences social scientists make use of model cases in a unreflective manner. Considering that model cases, for instance, are baked into theoretical generalizations, guide further research and research questions, promote possibly undue universalisms, this lack of reflection has only disadvantages and should be addressed.

In our contribution, we want to discuss the problem of model cases for social theory specifically. We start with problems for which a more reflective approach to model cases seems an easy (and important) solution. We exemplify these "solvable" problems on the case of Uber as the model case for platform-organizations (e.g., Davis and Sinha 2021; Schüßler et al. 2021), which greatly troubled our own research on the platformization of Swiss academic libraries. Here, we demonstrate how strong cases such as Uber shape conceptualizations and research agendas in substantial ways, and how one may counter such shaping forces. However, we then consider how platform research is moreover a typical example of how social theory is used, and ignored, as current scholarship is encouraged to favor case-based nuance over abstraction. As we argue, this form of theorizing is linked to larger cultural and structural shifts in academia and yields problems that can hardly be addressed by reflection alone.

Reappraising the Role of Face-to-Face Interaction in Social Theory: Insights from Studies of Autistic Individuals

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Much of contemporary social science presupposes that face-to-face interaction represents the quintessence of human social engagement. This assumption informs a wide range of social scientific thinking, as evinced in methodological treatises privileging face-to-face over mediated methods and in social theories positing face-to-face interaction as crucial for social bonding and shared meaning. However, despite their broad acceptance, such assumptions are based almost exclusively on research about "neurotypical" people. This makes it highly likely that existing theories come with biased and skewed understandings of what it means to "interact," be "social," or even be "human."

To redress these shortcomings, this article reviews and synthesizes research on the interactional practices, experiences, and preferences of people on the autism spectrum, who have a well-documented aversion for conventional forms of face-to-face interaction. The article contends that studying interactions with people on the autism spectrum can advance our understanding of social interaction more generally, as it can help shed light on taken-for-granted and normative assumptions about interaction and sociality. Specifically, the article uses the heterogeneity of autism to chart a "spectrum" of different interaction logics, each comprising a distinct set of situated needs, preferences, and motivations for interacting. The article thus contributes to relativizing the presumedly universal "face-to-face logic" presupposed by dominant theories of interaction, situating this as one of many ways in which people understand and navigate their social worlds, and thus expanding our understanding of what it means to "interact" and be "social."

RN29 | T03_02: The Social, Society, and Individuality

Sociology Meets Poststructuralism: Liquidity of the Late Modern (In) dividual and the Society of Control.

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Since Beck introduced the concept of the risk society, the process of individualization has been a focal point in attempts at a comprehensive social theory addressing late modernity. Despite Beck's initial commitment to providing an analysis at the level of the individualised subject, sociological discourse has fallen short in addressing this gap. Articulations of late modern conditions, such as Bauman's liquid modernity or Reckwitz's society of singularities have all elucidated the effects of a presumed individualization, and attributed its cause to neoliberalism, globalisation, and technological developments. But the causal link between these systemic changes and the transformative process at the level of the subject still remains inadequately explored.

This paper highlights this gap, proposing a synthesis with Foucault's theories on power and Deleuze's thought on societies of control. Utilising their framework, I interpret liquidity of the late modern subject as a manifestation of a novel form of power that neither (negatively) constricts nor produces individuals in reference to a norm. Thus the sociological concept of individualization is reinterpreted as dividualization: late modernity marks the end of subjects formed into individuals because such a transformation is integral to the reproduction of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. Extending analysis in social theory within this framework is especially important in the age of Big Data when the process of (in)dividualization works in conjunction with algorithmic nudges and suggestions, steering the neoliberal subject's freedom towards autonomous alienation and profitable information production. This exploration underscores the complexity of the late modern condition, challenging conventional sociological interpretations and offering a fresh perspective rooted in philosophical analysis of subject formation.

Governmentality and Social Structure from a Foucauldian Perspective

Dániel Kömüves

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In this presentation, I will focus on the historical development and theoretical foundations of the concepts of social structure. Using Michel Foucault's notion of biopolitics and governmentality, I analyse the historical changes in how

statistical apparatuses and political thinkers created different categories to represent the structure of the society in the 18th and 19th centuries. Foucault's ideas could contribute to a better understanding of theories on social structure in at least two ways. On the one hand, we can use Foucault's theory of power as a basis for a critique of traditional structure analysis in general, as illustrated by Agnes Horvath and Arpad Szakolczai. On the other hand, we can also apply Foucault's concepts to reflect on changes in the representation of social groups from a historical perspective. To illustrate this, I rely mainly on the analyses of Mitchell Dean and Karl Polanyi. According to their concepts, I demonstrate the transformation of the criteria by which the poor (paupers) and different segments of society were grouped into classes. How this was linked to aspects of liberal government and to power relations in general, what is the social context in which they were created and how this relates to issues of population control and government? I argue that Foucault's views offer a better understanding of structural theories, which examine socio-cultural and socio-economic inequalities within the framework of a self-regulating market.

Jan Szczepański's Theory Of Human Individuality As An Attempt To Look For A New Paradigm In Sociology

Tomasz Leszniewski

Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland

This presentation attempts to critically review the individuality theory proposed by Polish sociologist Jan Szczepański and answer the questions: what role does individuality play in understanding and explaining social changes? How can we include the individuality of man in social theory? And is this an example of searching for a new paradigm in sociology? What kind of advantage does it give us of an individuality category?

The above questions appear from particular theoretical and methodological assumptions taken by Szczepański. 1) individuality realizes an essential social function –it can reduce or even exclude human suffering rooted in the social order – it emphasizes the moral character of loneliness that determines the reflexivity of man. 2) One ingredient of individuality is the inner world of man, which has a different logic of action than the social system – based on the common social reality, individuality gives its a particular meaning according to the biographical trajectory of a person. 3) Man's individuality could be developed by being aware of their opportunities to externalize values of the inner world. 4) The human concern about the development of the inner world and reflexivity relation with self does not have to be the cause of alienation and disappearance of community. Still, it is even necessary for the occurrence of trust and solidarity in social relationships. Eventually, individuality has a moral facet and can be a source of pro-community attitudes. The proposed conception of individuality allows us to analyze the individualization process and individualism from a different (alternative) point of view, giving us a chance to grasp the complexity of changing society, emphasizing the necessity of individuality being included in the sociological explanation.

(E)valuation and Audit Culture: Procrustean Logic, Social Valuation and Recognition, and the New Iron Cage(?)

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Evaluation as a policy instrument that assesses individual and institutional performances has gained momentum in recent decades and it is applied in almost every sphere of human endeavour raising several questions and concerns. For instance, part of the literature on evaluation tackles the consequences of the policy in education showing that inequalities have increased as well as the privatisation trend of common goods. This development is related to the 'recalibration' of the state (Ball) and is explained as 'academic capitalism' (Slaughter and Leslie), to name but a few.

In my view the emergence of the current form of evaluation raises several questions, relevant to sociological theorising: How does evaluation as a policy instrument has gained momentum? What are the underlying connotations that may account for its widespread use?

In the paper, firstly, I delve into the literature on evaluation exploring its emergence in the context of audit culture (Strathern). Next, I examine the interlinkages between current and previous forms of valuation that as processes inform among others the construction and sustenance of hierarchies.

Moreover, I explore the link between evaluation and the claims of, as well as the 'struggle for recognition' (Fichte, Hegel, Honneth, Ricoeur); these are processes linking individuals to society and social life with varied effects. For some authors these struggles may account for social transformation as well.

The relation between evaluation and recognition is to my knowledge scantily researched. This line of inquiry could provide fruitful insights into the less obvious aspects of power arrangements as well as into social transformation processes and the trust citizens may have in social changes.

RN29 | T04_02: Social theory, Literature, and Interdisciplinarity

The Dialogic Society: Catalyzing Sociological Theory's Rise and Prestige Among All Sciences

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Historically, sociological theories have elicited no interest from other scientific domains outside the social sciences and humanities. Disciplines such as mathematics or neuroscience had shown little regard for sociological frameworks.

However, the theory of the Dialogic Society has transformed this scenario. Principles in this theory, such as co-creation or social impact, are of utmost need for all scientists wanting to advance their contributions to the improvement of society. As an example, at the first Social Impact International Conference, the Nobel Prize laureate Harald Zur Hausen, who discovered the link between papilloma viruses on cervical cancer, acknowledged the need to collaborate with social sciences to know in which ways that knowledge would best benefit society. The evaluation of the social impact of actions such as conducting regular check-ups or vaccinating the population was necessary to establish which was the best way to proceed.

This paper presents the role of the Dialogic Society theory in propelling the scientific prestige of sociological theory to new heights. On the one hand, it has positioned sociological theory as an invaluable contributor to the collective pursuit of societal improvement, aligned with society's own goals. On the other, it has overcome the historically limited engagement with sociological concepts from disciplines outside the social sciences, sparking a newfound interest and demand for sociological theory across diverse scientific domains.

Border Praxeology: Integrating Sociological Practice Theories into Border Studies

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The field of Border Studies has experienced rapid growth in recent decades, marked by its increasing internationality and multidisciplinarity. Amidst discussions seeking common theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches for border investigations (as seen in Walther et al., 2023), sociology has seldom engaged in this discourse. This contribution aims to explore how sociological perspectives can enrich border research, specifically through the lens of practice-theoretical approaches (e.g., Allison et al. 2017, Gherardi 2019).

While the concept of practice is not new to Border Studies, it remains underdeveloped. Despite its established presence, there is a dearth of theoretical and methodological exploration of practice-oriented approaches in border research. This contribution addresses this gap by introducing the concept of "Border Praxeology." (Gerst/Krämer 2017, Connor 2023) Through a synthesis of practice sociology and border studies, it presents a set of theoretical concepts and methodological tools, establishing a novel research approach. Central to this framework are sociological practice theories, providing guidance on key concepts, methodological considerations, and research tools such as ethnography.

In essence, this contribution seeks to pave the way for an enriched understanding of territorial borders by integrating sociological praxeological perspectives into the discourse of Border Studies. The development of a Border Praxeology offers a promising avenue for advancing theoretical and methodological approaches within the growing and evolving field of Border Studies.

Social theory and Annie Ernaux

Cato Wittusen

University of Stavanger, Norway

The auto-fictional novels of Annie Ernaux are often considered sociological works of literature. In this paper we will discuss how Ernaux' novels can contribute to social theory, focusing in particular on La Place (1985). In philosophy there have for a long time been very different views on the relationship between philosophy and literature, a discussion that goes back to Plato and Aristotle and the so-called ancient quarrel between philosophy and poetry. A dominant view in philosophical conversations about the value of literature for philosophy is that philosophical literature can only illustrate and help us understand philosophical theories. A contrasting view is that literature, by means of literary devices and narrative form, can investigate, and even transform, philosophical problems in its own way. Interestingly, Ernaux has often mentioned the influence from Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical perspectives and empirical studies. One might therefore conclude that her works merely illustrate theoretical perspectives. However, we will argue that while it is tempting to take a writer such as Ernaux to illustrate and make important social insights available to their readers (most of them not social theorists), it is important that we also recognize how her ways of describing and drawing attention to social phenomena help social theorists rethink and develop perspectives and concepts within social theory. Not only can her descriptions help us pay attention to complex social phenomena in refreshing ways, but they might also lead to thoughtfulness that strengthens and transforms our bonds with social reality.

Woman On Woman: The Transgender Difference As Theorised Through Alain Badiou

Ciara Cremin

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It is frequently said by advocates of transgender that 'trans women are women'. The statement itself is a contradiction in terms. For clearly, as qualified, trans women fall short of being woman in an unqualified sense. The presentation approaches this statement through Alain Badiou's notion of the vanishing difference, or difference in the sameness as elucidated through his interpretation on Malevich's White on White. It is not a question of whether trans women are indeed women, but what it means to be a woman at all. Rather than invalidating trans identities, in their (minimal) difference from the sameness of ciswoman, trans, it is argued, opens a space for new ways of thinking and doing gender.

RN29 | T05_01: The Past, the Present, and the Future

Theorising Contemporary Nostalgia: Longing for the Past in the Context of Current Tension, Trust and Transformation

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In 2001 Svetlana Boym stated in her now classic book 'The Future of Nostalgia': 'The twentieth century began with a futuristic utopia and ended with nostalgia'. In more than twenty years that have since passed, yearning for the past has indeed taken on an extraordinary significance in the contemporary world, enormously influencing current tension, trust and transformation.

As far as contemporary politics is concerned nostalgia is exemplified, for example, by Brexit, or the rise of neo-nationalist aspirations. Nostalgia is also important for the transformation of contemporary culture, as the past is very often a reference point for shaping contemporary cultural phenomena. Yearning for the past is very much present, for example, in contemporary film productions, computer games, fashion and design. Technology also has an increasing influence on contemporary nostalgia, as – for example, through AI algorithms – it provides tools for exploring (and sometimes playing with) the past. Nostalgia is therefore subjected to politicisation, mercantilisation, mediatisation and technologisation.

In light of all these phenomena, sociologists need to investigate the meanings and functions of nostalgia in contemporary society and culture, but also reflect on the theoretical framework of nostalgia. Recently, Michael Hviid Jacobsen stated that '(...) nostalgia is in desperate need of theoretical elaboration and empirical investigation'. With regard to the dynamically developing 'nostalgia studies', Niclas Salmose concluded that they 'have not yet formulated a theoretical framework for its practice and method'. In my paper, I will attempt to revise the theoretical framework of nostalgia in sociology, paying particular attention to its relevance to contemporary tension, trust and transformation.

Transformative Power of Dystopia

Michal Kaczmarczyk

University of Gdansk

In my presentation, I aim to advocate for the thesis that the increasing prominence of dystopian narratives can be interpreted through the lens of Niklas Luhmann's social systems theory. This theory claims that societies are composed of various interdependent systems. I propose that the rise of dystopian literature and movies serves as a form of sublimation and differentiation of negative elements within the

self-descriptive narrative of the general social system. This process is analogous to the role of civil disobedience within the legal system, where it acts as a means of highlighting and challenging legal norms; the function of parliamentary opposition in the political system, which provides a necessary counterbalance and critique of governing bodies; the significance of errors in the scientific system, which are essential for the advancement of knowledge; and the role of debt within the economic system, which, despite its negative connotations, is integral to the functioning of modern economies. These elements, while seemingly negative, are crucial for the evolution, adaptation, and self-regulation of their respective systems. Similarly, dystopian narratives, by reflecting society's fears and anxieties, contribute to the self-description and ongoing evolution of the social system as a whole, especially in the age of growing global risks and accelerating technological change.

Sociology Of The Future. Theoretical Foundations, Approaches, And Prospects.

Manuel Reinhard

Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, Germany

21st-century societies are in a "crisis of the future". As the meta-analysis of the Global Satisfaction with Democracy Report 2020 conducted by the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Future of Democracy has documented, since 2019 more than half of the world population living in democracies doubts the ability of their countries' public institutions to successfully cope with the societal challenges of the present (from political polarisation ["culture wars"] to economic inequality ["refeudalisation of the economy"] and the fragmentation of the public sphere ["filter bubbles"]). It is therefore not surprising that the research field of sociology of the future has recently attracted increased sociological research interest. The research field – which must be clearly distinguished from that of futures studies ("futurology") (i.e., research attempts at forecasting societal futures) – aims to expand "traditional" past-oriented socio-theoretical perspectives in sociological research (e.g., social structures, milieus, and socialisation) by shedding light on the role that "future cultures" (i.e., interrelationships between people's anticipations of, aspirations regarding, and interventions for the future) play as drivers of social crises, dynamics, and transformations. The aim of this presentation is – by giving an overview of the socio-theoretical foundations (Part 1), approaches (Part 2), and prospects (Part 3) of the currently burgeoning sociological research activities on engagements with the future in today's societies – to provide an introduction to one of the most dynamic developments in contemporary sociology on both sides of the Atlantic.

Contemporary Diagnoses of Social Crises and Futures: theoretical insights from European and Brazilian scholarship

Mariana Motta Vivian

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As a multidimensional idea, which can be associated with very different phenomena and meanings, the concept of "crisis" seems to have become a leading category in contemporary sociology. If the foundation of the discipline was directly related to the scientific endeavour of thinkers concerned with explaining the phenomenon of modernity – especially in what concerns the social changes experienced by Western societies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries –, in societal contexts of profound transformation as the ones we live in today, the crisis idea assumes a prominent role in the diverse theoretical attempts to translate a shared sense of an unsettling present associated with an unknown future. But what is really in crisis in the present times? And what futures can emerge from a crisis diagnosis? As part of a broader interdisciplinary project regarding futures in Latin America, the present work discusses social theorizations of crises through the articulation of insights coming from both European and Brazilian scholarship. Based on a critical analysis of contemporary crises diagnoses, it argues that, even though polyphonic and polysemous, the crisis discourse acts as a signifier capable of providing a messy and puzzling present with a shared meaning. The crisis grammar, in this sense, might limit imagined futures, but it does not necessarily prevent prefigurative links with the times to come. Following this two-fold argument, the potentialities and limitations of social theorizing on crisis are addressed in order to identify its role as a reading key to social change.

RN29 | T05_02: Transforming Social Theory and Sociological Research

Transforming Social Theory: Steps Towards a General Societal Ontology

Patrick Joseph O'Mahony

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If indeed social theory has been pushed to the margins of sociology and the other human and social sciences that draw from it, how has this come about? There are multiple possibilities, for example, that it results from opposition to the perceived hegemony of theory, or that it has been made less relevant by the growth of 'local theories' within sub-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary constellations. One further possibility will be explored here. Social theory lacks an adequate general architectonic that would make it relevant to contemporary societal concerns viewed through the prism of the social sciences. For society has a remarkable capacity for social change of all kinds and in all directions and contemporary theory has struggled to fully keep pace with it, with the consequence that researchers frequently take only take a little of it and go on to instead develop theoretical frameworks of their own. The paper advances the case for the continuing necessity of a general social theory. and for this it outlines elements of a correspondingly general societal ontology. Such an ontology must contain both necessary elements and elements that respond to changing societal conditions. It will be argued that such an ontology can be built from modifying the social theoretical resources advanced in various generations of critical theory that arose in both dialogue and difference with other and theory traditions and multiple disciplines. The basic elements of such an ontology will be briefly presented and its advantages for enhancing the general relevance of social theory to exemplary dimensions of intellectual fields and social research outlined.

Bringing Together Theories Of Integration And Conflict

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Throughout history, human beings have created both formal and informal arrangements that generate close integration between people as well as contradictions and interpersonal conflict. Structural and institutional theories of these arrangements address two fundamental questions of social science: i) how it is possible for modern societies with highly developed divisions of labor to remain relatively orderly at the systemic level, i.e. for people to live in integrated societies; ii) even though these societies are torn apart by systemic conflicts. The so-called Grand Theories have in the past attempted to explain the possibility of system integration and the causes and consequences of conflicts arising from within the same system. Although there have been attempts to combine these theories of integration and conflict, this aspiration has been abandoned and these aspects have been treated as two separate sets of phenomena.

If societies with a highly developed division of labor tend to organize themselves in orderly ways, I suggest that there must be some organizing standards underlying these operations. Otherwise, the conflicts would tear the social fabric to shreds. Thus, as Habermas has emphasized, the instrumental order is not stable, i.e., social orders cannot achieve permanence if they are based solely on competing interests. To address this problem, I propose that integration and conflict theories can be seen as complementary aspects of the minimum necessary conditions of the prevailing social order. They explain the mechanisms of normative integration necessary for the peaceful reproduction of modern societies and the contradictory dynamics of these processes, of which capitalist competition is one of the most central. Within these minimum necessary conditions, more specialized theories can be valid at the same time.

Towards a Sociology of Guilt

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In Britten's 1945 opera the eponymous protagonist Peter Grimes seeks to restore his social and societal reputation, tarnished by the death of his apprentice, via economic success: "These Borough gossips listen to money, […] Get money to choke down rumour's throat." (Slater/Britten 1945) Notwithstanding Brett and Wood's analysis of the opera as a "powerful allegory of homosexual oppression" (2002), this paper proposes another angle to the cultural significance of guilt for the social texture and its relation to sociological theory. Beyond the emotional significance of guilt as/and shame for the social fabric (e.g. Scheff 2000), this paper presents an approach to guilt based on Bourdieu's theory of capitals and the state (1983, 2014) and Graeber's analysis of debt (2011).

The simultaneous establishment of centralised states and respective markets is an anti-transcendental movement aiming at reifying guilt in an earthly and social manner, and subject it to social norms, which allow for varying (re-) valuations. This becomes particularly tangible in times of societal transformations, which trigger said re-valuations of past deeds, guilts, and capitals and allow for the moral lading of (new) economic realities (cf. Hilmar 2023). The result is a moralization of economic, political, and social relations, in which domination is extended to the realm of morals in order to dictate the terms of the interchangeability of capitals/debts/guilts and which, due to the inherently retrospective characteristic of these re-valuation, undermines existing group consciousnesses (Halbwachs 1980).

RN29 | T06_01: The Situation, Positioning, Agency, and Creativity

Two Theorizing Moves to Revitalize Social Theory: Global Social Positioning and Leaning into Discomfort; The Case of Multilingualism in Global Stratification

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I propose two theorizing moves to revitalize social theory. First, building on intersectionality, I propose a type of theorizing I call global social positioning. Global social positioning involves juxtaposing multiple dimensions of persons' social identities (gender, race, and class but also nationality, ability, and other meaningful categorizations) and examining how these multiple dimensions of inequality interact to influence different outcomes of interest. This move complicates the notion of "margins" and theorizing from the margins by highlighting mixed experiences, marginal along some dimensions of inequality but privileged along others. Tensions between different dimensions of persons' global social positions can be illuminating.

Second, I find that leaning into discomfort as part of theorizing can be informative. Emotions carry information. Practicing radical reflexivity and examining the nature of one's emotions expands what constitutes empirical data. Thinkers' global social positions, experiences, and understandings become part of the data.

To illustrate the generative potential of the proposed theorizing moves, I provide an example. I theorize multilingualism as a mechanism through which people outside the global core can become aware of and find their place in the hierarchical global social order. I arrived at this proposition following the two proposed moves. I examined my mixed feelings toward my multilingualism experiences (leaning into discomfort). I traced my upward social mobility trajectory focusing on multilingualism (global social positioning). My experience demonstrates how multilingual education in the semi-periphery can sort individuals into social classes domestically and how it opens avenues for upward social mobility globally. For upwardly mobile migrants in the global core, multilingualism can lead to a double form of social marginalization, from the host community and from the community of origin.

Creativity and Ignorance

Jose Angel Bergua

University of zaragoza, Spain

I propose to think the limit condition embodied by the social through creativity in several steps. First, I will pay attention to contemporary capitalism, the context in which the main and most pressing demand for creativity unfolds, although it makes a soft use of it. Second, I will show that creativity in its strong sense demands that the observer recognizes his ignorance in the face of an object to which he recognizes cognitive and operative autonomy. Third, I will affirm that the recognition of ignorance in the subject corresponds to an external reality based on indeterminacy, since no event is more likely to appear than another, something that the social and natural sciences recognize, although they are unable to explain how the creative spark springs from this nothingness. Fourth, I will prove that the ancient myths of death and rebirth, all the rites of passage and the incubation process of shamans and ancient sages make it possible to fill this gap. Fifth, I will point out that the consumption of entheogens, present in those worlds, but equally stimulated by the new spirit of capitalism forged in the last third of the twentieth century, allows the experience of death and rebirth through the dissolution of the ego and the consequent expansion of consciousness. Sixth, I will suggest that creativity is an unconscious knowledge that is related not to logos but to wisdom, characterized by accepting the dissolution of subjectivity in the indeterminacy on which our existence rests. Finally, I will propose four tips for liberating indeterminacy and thus favoring the creation of anarchy.

Bringing Genuine Agency Into Historical Institutionalism: A Weberian Approach to Distinguish Types of Agency and Institutional Conflict

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Institutionalism tends to develop a structural bias. Nevertheless, institutional theories have consistently involved the interference of actors. Bringing structure and agency together poses a demanding challenge to the concept of the institution. Tension arises when institutional plasticity undermines its original purpose or structurally determined institutional contexts leave no room for agency. This paper enhances historical institutionalism's ability to account for agency. It links historical institutionalism with a Weberian concept of the institution, which sets ideas at its basis. Thus, institutions consist of a regulatory and a symbolic-cultural dimension. Dynamics in these dimensions can vary. Transformation can occur in the regulatory dimension without altering the institution's idea. In addition, genuine opposition to the idea and its institutionalization becomes possible. Institutions embody both transformation and

continuity simultaneously. This complex nexus between institutions and individuals allows for defining different types of agency and the institutional conflicts that arise within these contexts. Institutions enable and restrict action in various dimensions. They do so for incumbents as well as for their challengers. Their ideational basis allows for open opposition by challengers while still being structurally shaped by the institutional context. Order and conflict are not mutually exclusive; instead, different degrees of institutional stability come with different kinds of institutional conflict and agency. This framework enables the inclusion of real agency in historical institutionalism without making the concept of institutions too fluid.

RN29 | T06_02: Theory, Concepts, and Epistemic Injustice

The Twofold Indispensability of Theory for Empirical Knowledge: Adorno's Sociology Today

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Contrary to the musealizing tendency to reduce sociological theory to its history and separate it from empirical research, my contribution will stress the unique role of theory in sociology.

Without theory, there can be neither facts nor social change, neither tension nor trust nor transformation – but in which sense?

To answer the question, I will recall Theodor W. Adorno's position, which mediates between theory and empirical knowledge. In the first step, I will rethink and update Adorno's sociology, considering capitalism's neoliberal period emerging after Adorno. In the second step, the analysis proceeds along three lines: First, regarding epistemology, Adorno's sociology relies on a critical realist view of theory formation. Secondly, regarding methodology, it advocates a broad concept of experience through empirically open 'constellation analysis'. Thirdly, regarding ontology, Adorno's sociology includes an understanding of 'subjectivity' that is neither autonomous nor determined but integrated into the sociological analysis. The latter point will be discussed as the core challenge of contemporary social thought, which perishes in current project-funded sociological research.

Substantial and Functional Concepts in Sociology

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In his early work, Substance and Function, Ernst Cassirer (1910] presented his epistemological conclusions from the radical transformations of the natural and formal sciences at the turn to the 20th century. According to him, ancient thinking and, in its wake, thinking up to the pre-modern era were still tied to substantial concepts, e.g. numbers stood for numbers of something. Such thinking in substances and the "thing concepts" based on them is still prevalent in our everyday life. However, according to Cassirer, a developed science is based on functional, relational or formal concepts.

The epistemological problems highlighted by Cassirer are no different in the cultural and social sciences. But here it is not just a matter of the transfer of metatheoretical

interpretations of an otherwise analogously modernized scientific practice. The basic thesis asserted in this paper is that sociology, in contrast to the formal and natural sciences, has only incompletely carried out the transition from a substance logic to a functional-relational logic. This makes sociology vulnerable to political and ideological instrumentalization.

Based on Cassirer's epistemology, three orders of sociological approaches can be distinguished: sociologies based on substance concepts (proto-sociology); sociologies that go beyond life-world concepts, but in the basic concepts of which substances still play a role, and sociologies based on formal-functional definitions of concepts.

Cassirer's idea of scientific progress, developed from the formal and natural sciences, is also valid in the human sciences and especially in sociology. A reconsideration of his ideas opens up the opportunity for advancing beyond the currently dominant practice of sociology oriented towards traditional substance thinking.

Epistemic Normativity and Injustice in Max Weber's Ideal-Type Methodology

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This paper examines the inherent contradiction within Max Weber's ideal-type methodology and its impact on social research. To achieve this goal, I engage with two contemporary sources: Catherine Z. Elgin's epistemic normativity and Miranda Fricker's epistemic injustice. It begins by offering the procedural logic of Weber's methodology: from idealization to de-idealization. Inquirers construct idealized conceptions as benchmarks to confront and de-idealize in the face of reality. The methodology is based on a liberal pluralism of values, where inquirers use their different values to select and research different aspects of reality, constructing ideal types. However, the liberal-pluralist values remain idealistic, lacking consideration for its de-idealization in reality. To clarify its idealistic feature of values, I introduce the notion of epistemic normativity and argue that Weber assumes that inquirers are not only free and equal but also interdependent. Only under the assumption of freedom and equality can one inquirer select his/her preferred side of reality without impeding others' endeavors. And their different selections can be mutually supportive to grasp complex reality. To offer the shortcomings of the lack of de-idealization of values, I analyse epistemic injustice of ideal types. His methodology allows inquirers to disregard materials that don't align with the ideal type during its construction (testimonial injustice). Furthermore, inquirers might be overconfident in their ideal type, which undermines others' interpretive capacity(hermeneutical injustice). The epistemic injustice can be seen Weber's writing of The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.

Social Theory's Dual Political Imaginary And The Arc Of Contemporary Modernity

Craig Alan Richard Browne

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This paper explains how the political imaginary's antinomies have inflected social theory and assesses the immanent potentials for social theory's renewal. It argues that the symbolism and representations of the political imaginary disclose the institution of society and that the incipient political imaginaries of modern social theories are constitutive of their basic structure and normative orientations. My analysis shows how the political imaginary's reconfiguration confounded influential social theory perspectives' visions of contemporary modernity. In many respects, this critical analysis was anticipated by Claude Lefort and Cornelius Castoriadis' theory and diagnoses of the times. Lefort and Castoriadis' elucidations of the imaginary revealed aspects of the constitution of theories of society and their antinomies that had only been gestured towards previously by other conceptions and interpretations. I show how the arc of the transition in contemporary modernity manifests the dynamics of the conflict between the modern capitalist imaginary of pseudo-rational domination and control, and that of the project of autonomy. Despite its profound importance to the renewal of social theory and its insight into the formative conflict of modernity, my analysis suggests that it is necessary to think both with Castoriadis' theory and beyond it in order to grasp the arc of contemporary modernity's transition and the corresponding vicissitudes of social struggles. The arc of transition is evident, it will be argued, in the reconfigurations of the social relations of capitalist production, political forms and social integration. Similarly, the conflicts intrinsic to these institutional changes exemplify tensions in the dual political imaginary.

RN29 | T07_01: Crisis, Critique, and Emancipation

A Sociology Of Critique For Challenging Times

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In times of polycrisis, growing social tensions and declining trust in political and social institutions, a sociology of critique, that is sensitive to the diagnosis of the times and focuses on the transformative potential of critique, is particularly in demand. In the last years of his life, Michel Foucault had already given much thought to the social upheavals, which we are facing today, and he adressed the topic of critique not only in his famous lecture 'What is critique?. In the social science, however, these considerations have not yet been acknowledged in a systematizing way. Due to the particular topicality of his reflections and also on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his death this year, I would like to close this desideratum in my lecture. On the base of Foucault I will present a sociology of critique that focus on the practices of critique and places them in a dynamic relationship to the modes of government, against which they are directed. This perspective is equally capable of illuminating the dimension of power, the dimension of truth production and the dimension of subjectivation and of sounding out the practices of critique with regard to their transformative potential. In times of polycrisis, it also seems particularly appropriate, not only to place a stronger focus on the motives of protest and critique, but also to ask about the ethical orientation and scope of critical practices. A sociology of critique based on Foucault makes it possible to focus on this question as well and to discuss it critically with regard to a central challenge of our present – to strengthen social coexistence in a new way.

Materialist Epistemology – Forgotten Paths of Critique

Finn Gölitzer

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In recent decades, the epistemological assumptions of classical social theory have been widely challenged, particularly by feminist as well as post – and decolonial critiques (cf. Spivak, 1988; Haraway, 1988). In order to criticize western knowledge production, they targeted the inherent violence of philosophical categories of reason. One critique of epistemology that always remained underexposed in the course of these debates is a theoretical approach that emerged in the 1970s. Following Alfred Sohn-Rethel, theorists such as Hans-Georg Backhaus, Bodo von Greiff or later Moishe Postone attempted to formulate an in-depth critique of capitalism and epistemology against the background of a re-reading of Marx's "Grundrisse", which placed particular emphasis on analyzing the relationship between the commodity form and the form of thought. This attempt can neither be clearly integrated into a traditional Marxist nor a poststructuralist framework. By situating philosophical thought in a historical-specific social form, those theories provide fruitful aspects for current critical theories.

My contribution is indented to introduce the aforementioned theoretical approaches and discuss their relevance for current social theory.

No emancipation without theory! Assessing Micro-Narrative Paths To Frame The Critical Role Of Self-Theorising In Action-Research with a Wider Lens

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Action-research responds to sociology's founding double tension between knowledge and emancipation, by radically placing its value and meaning in the hands of the, in manyfolds marginal, protagonists. This stresses the practical need of trust as competence for achieving its scientific and transformative power. However, theory, and specially theorizing, remain distant to the social participants. Some of this can be explained by the static and functional concept of theory as a condition, a resource, a context /background, or a result, but also as (de)legitimation.

Here theorizing is a competence of the protagonists, and self-theorizing, not as Tripp's inductive "action theorizing" and not as MacNiff (even if it's undeniable the emancipatory power of being "clear about both what we are doing and why we are doing it") but pragmaticaly. Not self-awareness, but self-service, what humbles, but hopefully improves, the emancipatory ambition of the researcher, creating a new tension between apriorism and empiricism.

Expanding on Tripp about the need and the value of theory to action-research, some perspectives are presented as a crescendo of trust: from atheoretical, to minimalist (Scriven), and Merton's mid-range, onto Luhmann's systemic trust, vis-a-vis Habermas communicative-action, Giddens' "double hermeneutics", and Bourdieus' "theory of practice". A synthesis is reached with Mills' sociological imagination, after a wider Weberian lens shows our reasons, contradictions, irrationalities, conflicts and paradoxes.

With this wider lens, this presentation proposes a relational and dynamical ideal-typical framework about theorizing competence building and it's conditioning factors. applied to two action research case studies. We conclude, confronting the value of the framework with a critical realistic perspective and the grounded theory power in producing valid theories, that pass the triangulation test, on Denzin's perspective

RN29 | T07_02: Humanism, Colonialism, and Fascism

Humanism and Empire – Re-examining "the human"

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The paper offers a comprehensive exploration of the interplay between humanism, anti/colonialism and the reconfiguration of essential concepts that have shaped our understanding of humanity. The narrative interweaves the ideas and actions of anticolonial thinkers such as Eric Williams, Kwame Nkrumah, Aimé Césaire, Leopold Senghor, Amilcar Cabral and Julius Nyerere to provide a fresh perspective on the critique of humanism and its significance in the broader struggle against colonialism.

In particular, the paper examines the concept of "the human" and its transformation in response to anti-colonial critique. The theorisation of the human takes on particular importance for those whose humanity has long been denied. Dehumanisation raises questions that are fundamental to understanding what it means to be human. These are questions of identity and liberation, of meaning and purpose, of being and becoming, which are central to philosophical anthropology in general. This paper explores how anticolonial thinkers of the mid-twentieth century played a significant role in detranscendentalising and reconfiguring the once transcendental category of "the human." The paper argues that this process of detranscendentalisation laid the groundwork for the development of a more modest, secular understanding of "the human" that later became central to the human rights discourse of the 1970s. This transformation was a response not only to the dehumanising effects of colonialism, but also to the environmental consequences of anthropocentrism.

Decolonizing Volunteering? A Postcolonial Critique of the Ideal Type of 'Volunteering'

Itamar Shachar

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Since the 1990s, there is an upsurge in the public interest in volunteering: policy makers, corporations, civil society actors as well as academic institutions seek ways to promote and govern volunteering efforts as a panacea to neoliberalism social ills, but represent volunteering promotion as an 'a-political' and altruistic project. As part of this growing interest, social scientific research identifies and stabilizes 'volunteering' as a separate research object, distinguishing it from other spheres of human activity such as work, politics or domestic-familial obligations, and thus re-establishing fundamental modernistic distinctions. In this paper, I will further argue that such definition of 'volunteering' is a case of constructing an 'ideal type' in the Weberian tradition, which is based on a collection of empirical phenomena that were stripped off their particularities in favor of abstract commonalities.

The paper adopts postcolonial critiques, in particular the work of sociologist Gurminder Bhambra, the Weberian theoretical and methodological heuristic of the ideal type to critically asses their offsprings in volunteering research. As an alternative, the paper examines the relevance of Bhambra's proposal for the development of 'connected sociologies' to analyzing volunteering promotion as a world-making project that creates new connections and alliances, which are embedded within a neoliberal version of the 'coloniality of power' as identified by Anibal Quijano. By doing this, the paper contributes to a decolonization of the paradigmatic assumptions and analytical frameworks that guide the study of volunteering, while examining the possible contribution of such critical engagement to contemporary debates in social theory.

Lélia Gonzalez: An Amefrican Perspective to Reorient the Canon

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Our hereby proposed presentation aims to bring to the forefront the contribution by a historically marginalized, Black Brazilian intellectual called Lélia Gonzalez, who developed her perspective mainly during the 1970s and 1980s. Having passed away precociously, without even taking her Ph.D., this aspect, coupled with the well-known and persisting, worlwide spread obstacles for recognition stemming from racial and gender prejudice, kept her work from being taken into account besides a few circles. Throughout the last years, specially from 2020 onwards, when an edited volume with her texts and speeches was published by a prestigious editorial house in Brazil, her reflections have gained traction, foremost – though not exclusively – among the social sciences and also spreading towards the debates among philosophy.

After focusing on one of her main conceptual contributions, the debate on Amefricanity, we will deal with the potential of introducing her in the sociological debate, specially paying attention to the outlooks presented when it comes to engaging in a critical appraisal of the established canon. A dialogue with the epistemological debates on universalim and indigenization (Akiwowo), the captive mind (Alatas) and the outsider within (Hill Collins) enables us to situate her contribution towards questioning the theoretical status quo (Dufoix). Our argument stresses ways in which her reflections could be critically taken up to foster anti-racism, hence interpreting her as a paramount theoretical-epistemological expression to enact change from the margins towards the established white and male academic canon conforming the established history of sociology.

Fascism: Towards a General Sociological Theory

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This paper is focused around three insights: I contend that we can explain the genesis of fascist movements if we conceptualize them as forms of patrimonialism (particularistic, personalistic political processes, even if bureaucratically grounded (a patrimonial bureaucracy)), as fundamentalisms (charismatic re-evocations of subterranean (Sykes and Matza), traditional-hierarchical values within the context of (incipient) modernity), and forms of "disorder" (motivated violations of institutionalized norms, here those that reconstruct some component of social action) that proceed from within the state (i.e., where state actors violate institutionalized norms of authority) and are supported within the societal community/civil society (by significant portions of the political nation). If we think about fascism in these terms, we will have conceptualized it as something we can explain generally. In this paper, I formulate a general theory of revolution applicable to fascism, a general theory of fascism, and specify it to individual cases, to Nazism and to contemporary USA.

RN29 | T08_01: Theorizing the ecological crisis

The Pitfalls of Transformation. On the Socio-Ecological Dilemma of Simultaneity

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The ecological restructuring of carbon-based economy and fossil ways of life – often referred to as "socio-ecological transformation" – confronts modern societies worldwide with an unprecedented challenge: economy and politics, technology and everyday culture must undergo a fundamental change in a very short time if the most serious effects of climate change are still to be contained. Until now, social theory has analysed comparable upheavals as transformations that should take place one after the other in certain sectors of society in order to be successful (Albert O. Hirschman, Jon Elster, Claus Offe). However, the need to change all societal systems and sectors simultaneously in the face of the ecological crisis creates dilemmas that neither modern societies nor social theory are really prepared to deal with. Economic development, democracy and the protection of the planetary livelihoods could mutually block each other, even though they are equally necessary for an ecological change. Therefore, this paper will discuss the specific dilemmas of a "socio-ecological transformation" and how societies could possibly escape them. The existing theoretical models of societal transformations will be summarised, shortcomings in relation to the climate crisis will be identified and conceptual alternatives will be discussed.

Ecological Communication and Social Transformation

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This paper approaches the question of social transformation through the paradigm of Habermas's communication theory of society and social evolution.

The paper aims to consider cultural transformation in the social construction and interpretation of nature in the contemporary discourse of ecological crisis as opening a horizon towards the ecological transformation of late capitalism. Here it adds to the Habermasian frame insights from Beck's theory of risk society, Luhmann's theory of ecological communication, and the fields of ecofeminism and environmental sociology. The paper thus seeks to approach the question of ecological transformation by way of the communication of ecological crisis, understanding the language of crisis diagnosis as a semantic deepening and increasing reflexivity of modern culture with regard to nature. Here, the emergence of ecolinguistics, as the language through

which the natural environment is conceptualized and ecological crisis is communicated, marks a crucial development.

The paper has two aspects. The first situates the emergence of ecolinguistics within Habermas's thesis of modernity. Here, the selective rationalization associated with the capitalist path of modernization is interpreted as involving a particular linguistification of nature. This linguistification placed the natural environment outside capitalist material and symbolic relations. Against this, the emergence of the modern environmental movement spearheaded a relinguistification of nature, proceeding through the elaboration of ecolinguistic forms. The present moment thus sees a dialectic in the semiotic construction of reality. The second considers this dialectic by way of the further intersection of ecolinguistics and political ideologies, with ecological communication conducted through ideologically-specific crisis frames. From these, differing ecological futures extend: green capitalism, ecosocialism, and ecofascism.

The Spatial Turn in Social Theory: Lefebvre's Insights on Energy Transition

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In "The Production of Space," Henri Lefebvre presents a socio-spatial theory that establishes a dialectical relationship between space and social relations. He proposes a spatial interpretation of Marxism, focusing not merely on production in space but on the production of space itself. Lefebvre argues that space is not a static backdrop but is actively produced, impacting and being impacted by social relations. His key point is that the industrial capitalist state utilizes space to dominate everyday life. Therefore, altering capitalist production relations necessitates changing how space is produced. In a context of climate change adaptation, transformations in production systems must also consider alterations in the production of space. Here, we highlight how proximity to key production centers in current energy systems (namely, areas reliant on fossil fuels) shapes gender and intergenerational relations and how these, in turn, become sources of social tension. We conduct a survey to a representative sample of the population (1,500) in Spain. The variables included in the questionnaire deal with sentiments toward the social and economic impact of the energy transition, as well as overall environmental values and attitudes. We have adopted a multi-stage sample design. The population was divided into two clusters: those living in the former coal mining areas and the rest of the country. Subsequently, we stratified the clusters according to age and sex. The results confirm that female and young population exhibits more positive sentiments toward the energy transition. These differences, however, disappeared in the former coal mining areas. The results suggest the need of a spatial turn in social theory and the potential of developing a Lefebvre's inspired green theory in connection to climate change adaptation.

The Dialectics Of Freedom: Is a Modern Society Still Possible?

Mikael Carleheden

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What is meant by a modern society? Modernity is usually portrayed as a specific epoch in human history, which began in Western Europe and then spread across the world. Sociologically, it concerns the specific institutions that underpin how members of a modern society organize their common affairs. So, what can be said to distinguish a modern social order from other social orders? What types of interactions and institutions are central? What specific norms and values underpin a modern social order? The Hegelian basic answer is freedom. This answer has been further develop by Axel Honneth in his book Freedom's right. Accordingly, modernity should be understood as social order under the conditions of freedom. In my presentation, I will further discuss and develop this claim by distinguishing between conceptions of freedom, regimes of freedom and pathologies of freedom. However, anyone attempting to develop such a theory of social order today can no longer avoid two ongoing but delayed discussions within sociology. First, how should we understand the relationship between the modernization of society and colonialism? Second, what significance has the modernization of society had for the ongoing mass extinction of species and the systematic environmental destruction of the planet we humans inhabit? In both cases, the temporal correlation between these historical events already indicates the relevance of the questions. In this presentation, I will attempt to provide tentative answers.

RN29 | T08_02: Education, Arts, and Capital Conversion

Comparing Various Theories on the Social Organization of Arts

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From the 1970's a vital sociological interest on arts and culture has raised. One can speculate about the multiple reasons for the renewed interest in the social organization of arts (production, distribution, consumption, valuation, archiving), and the diversity and plurality of different theoretical perspectives is indeed remarkable. Putting the focus on "how" modern societies organize various artistic activities implies references to formation and institutionalization but also to transformations and unforeseen and unintended ruptures. This focus explains why theories on the social organization of arts stand in an inherent nexus to general social theories.

This insight has motivated us to look closer and analyze the emergence and reception of 7 particular perspectives on the social organization of arts: the interactionist approach, the structural field theory, the systems theory of arts, the production of culture perspective, the neo-institutionalism, the cultural institution studies which has been inspired by practice-theory and pragmatist approaches, and the sociological network theory. All these approaches depart from an anti-essentialist understanding of arts and apply contextual and relational thinking on their research questions. However, they have emerged from very different theoretical foundations and scholarly contexts. Our analysis and comparison will not be evaluative – creating a ranking of theories –, but epistemological, which presupposes an appreciation of each distinct perspective aiming to advance the understanding of theory building and theoretical innovation.

Conversion into Symbolic Capital: Testing the Foundations of Bourdieu's Capital Theory

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Bourdieu's influential theory of social stratification assumes that economic capital (money), social capital (beneficial ties), and cultural capital (valued symbolic resources) constitute the major bases for symbolic capital (respect, deference). The idea is that economic, social, and cultural capital converse into symbolic capital that thus makes individuals able to dominate social life in ways that the dominated deem legitimate (i.e., allows individuals to dominate others without being seen to do so). For Bourdieu, such conversion into symbolic capital is foundational to how inequality is misrecognized. But despite its long-standing theoretical impact, this idea has rarely been tested. We address this issue with novel operationalization and analysis of key constructs. We conducted a population-representative survey in Iceland (N > 1000) that allow us to examine how the major forms of economic, cultural, and social capital converse into symbolic capital. Following the logic of Bourdieu, we carefully operationalize symbolic capital as field specific. Thus, we distinguish between symbolic capital in the public sphere (having a sense of voice in the public debate) and symbolic capital in frontstage settings (having a sense of respect in everyday public settings). In support for the theory of conversion into symbolic capital, we find that education, occupation, and money control all converse into symbolic capital in the public sphere, and moreover that they all do so in part through embodied cultural capital and elite social ties. However, only embodied cultural capital converses into symbolic capital in frontstage settings, possibly reflecting everyday egalitarianism in Iceland.

Teaching Theory: Lessons from a Rancière-ian Approach

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Jacques Ranciere is a contemporary French philosopher who is mostly known for his studies in the field of political and social theory. This study, however, takes its premises from the intersection of the two fields: theory and pedagogy. Even though the research question is related to the field of social theory, the question itself originated from the classroom experiences. As a professor of political and social theory, I have been attending to students' experiences in theory seminars and classes. Varying from too abstract to impenetrable, very sophisticated to puzzle-like, students expressed their encounter with the content of theory always with a difficulty. While such observations carry an indisputable element of truth, the problem seems to lie more with the classroom experience than the teaching material itself. In other words, the question is not the theory per se, but how to teach it.

Taking this formulation as the basic research question, this study has two main inquiries: is a Rancierian approach to teaching theory (one that takes the equality of the minds as its fundamental premise) possible and if so what would it entail? To that aim this study attempts to uncover the difference in the learning experience of senior students from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in METU when a different teaching and evaluation method is used in the classroom. The sample is composed of 47 senior students who were enrolled with the ADM 4150 Modernity and the Idea of Freedom, an advanced level theory class, over the past five years.

RN29 | T09_01: Embodiment and The Unavoidability of Interpretation

The Interpretation of Cultures: Geertz Is Still in Town

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Clifford Geertz's The Interpretation of Cultures (New York: Basic Books, 1973) is widely regarded as one of the most important contributions to the humanities and social sciences in general and anthropology in particular. On its 50th anniversary, the literature drawing on this monumental work is so vast that it is hard to see how anything of significance may still be added to the wide range of insights gained from the in-depth engagement with its main argument. The noticeable differences in opinion between followers and detractors of Geertz's project notwithstanding, most commentators will agree that The Interpretation of Cultures, having dominated the agenda of Anglophone anthropology for at least two decades after its publication, had a major and lasting impact on neighbouring disciplines and subdisciplines – notably sociology, social psychology, politics, history, philosophy, and cultural studies. This paper aims to demonstrate that the key conceptual components of Geertz's enterprise can be located in his case for an interpretive theory of culture, epitomized in the methodological commitment to providing a 'thick description'. The first half of this paper comprises an inquiry into the core assumptions underlying Geertz's defence of this endeavour, before moving, in the second half, to an assessment of some controversial issues arising from his approach.

Exploring «Sour Grapes»: The Convergence of Universal Premises and Contextual Significance in Mechanistic Causal Explanations

Mats Eirik Lillehagen

Oslomet – Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

This article revisits a classic question in social theory. Formulated in contemporary terms: How can we understand the relationship between interpretative, meaning-based understanding and causal, mechanistic explanations of social life? It critically examines Isaac Arail Reed's influential synthesis developed in his book "Interpretation and Social Knowledge," which attempts to marry what he calls 'Landscapes of Meaning' with mechanistic explanation. Although I argue that Reed's Aristotle-inspired approach ultimately falls short, it provides a valuable foundation for developing a more convincing model.

Building on this, I propose a novel approach to understanding the interplay between specific historical meanings and general mechanistic features in explaining social action. This is developed through an analysis of the 'Sour Grapes' mechanism, popularized by Jon Elster. I begin by re-analyzing and reconstructing this mechanism by using cognitive metaphor theory. Building on this I then show how situational features can be connected to the general schema by discussing empirical data on various social stratification systems, including caste and modern economic systems.

I thereby construct a model highlighting the essential role of both hermeneutical interpretation and mechanistic schemas in causal explanations. This approach not only offers a critique of Reed's solution but also advances a generalizable, ideal-typical model for understanding the intricate relationship between context-specific details and overarching mechanistic patterns in social theory. This model aims to provide a more nuanced account of the dual role of hermeneutical and mechanistic elements in the causal analysis of social phenomena, as well as new insights into how the two interact.

Crisis of Worldly Meaning. A Schutzian Consciousness of Problem

Zihan Zhang

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Alfred Schutz's profound exploration of meaning forms the essence of his scholarly pursuits, seamlessly weaving through every facet of his research and shaping his responses to the crisis of his time. A scrutiny of Schutz's reflections on meaning can also offer insights into our contemporary predicaments. Drawing inspiration from Husserl's "European Scientific Crisis", we can assert that Schutz's theoretical engagement is fundamentally attuned to an acute awareness of the neglect or reduction of meaning. In this way the problem of Husserl was generalized. "Meaning" is used in certain contexts as a synonym for relevance, significance, sense, and reference, but Schutz didn't provide a rigid definition. In social sciences, meaning serves as the foundational premise, resisting facile explanations. Schutz, acknowledging the relativity inherent in meaning, posits that it surpasses mere linguistic or structural definitions. For him, meaning transcends mere material counterparts of word; it embodies a realm, surpassing tangible entities and events. Simultaneously, meaning defies reduction to a contentless medium which resembles a spaceless fulcrum between both meaningful ends. While both perspectives, denying or affirming meaning's substantive nature, bear scientific merit, Schutz posits that, for the life-world, meaning is contextually grounded and relatively stable. The crisis of meaning, as articulated by Schutz, has both historical roots and enduring relevance. Its historicity and immanence intertwine, stemming from disturbances in the sedimentation of our stocks of knowledge. Therefore, the crisis of meaning is both historical and eternal as well. Its historicity and immanence exist in mutual interpretations.

The Interplay of Interpretation and Embodiment: A Phenomenological Approach to Epistemology

Csaba Szalo

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The concept of interpretation traditionally draws attention to the epistemological commitment against the empiricist claim that unmediated access to the world is possible and advantageous for humans. Various philosophers of science, from Feyerabend to Sellars and Davidson, affirm the unavoidability of interpretation and offer a revealing critique of our assumedly direct epistemic confrontation with "facts". Asserting the untenability of epistemological foundationalism does not necessarily rely on a commitment to epistemological nihilism. For social theory, it is crucial to safeguard this discourse about the possibility of truthful knowledge that (i) does not adhere to empiricist presuppositions and, at the same time, (ii) resists the sceptical assumption that the endorsement of interpretive mediation would make our epistemological access to the world unjustifiable. This task requires making clear how could the theoretical knowledge's validity be justified (i) without neglecting linguistic, affective, and social mediation, and at the same time (ii) not reducing justification to a struggle-driven social practice without having a chance to claim that available knowledge of particular phenomena is distorted, impoverished, or misleading. The paper focuses on the phenomenological perspective on embodiment as an alternative to the empiricist notion of experience. Disclosing the entanglement of matter and meaning captures how corporeal and other modes of mediation condition the plurality of perspectives and give grounds to justify epistemological validity.

RN29 | T09_02: Non-Human Elements, Hybrid Life Forms, and Social Explanation

Latour and the Critique of Social Explanation

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One of the key social theory trends of the last few decades has been the rise of actor-network theory. Although sociologists have undoubtedly showed an interest in ANT, the wholesale adoption of the ideas of Bruno Latour, a major figure within actor-network theory, would be challenging for the discipline. After all, Latour is clearly critical of standard sociological practices of social explanation and critique as well as the language-centred modes of analysis favoured by many forms of social constructionism and discourse analysis. In this paper I want to elaborate on, and appraise, Latour's critique of social explanation. I argue that Latour is unenthusiastic about both the social and the explanatory components of this mode. For Latour, social explanation overrates the human input into events in the world, and problematically deprioritizes non-human elements such as artefacts, 'natural' objects and spiritual entities. Further, Latour argues that social explanations account for events by reference to a small number of influential entities, rather than grasping that many entities participate actively in events via their ability to mediate. As the Durkheimian tradition is a key exemplar of social explanatory theorising, I draw on examples from the work of Emile Durkheim, Mary Douglas and David Bloor to explore these issues. I argue that while Latour makes convincing points about the need to include non-human entities in sociological accounts, adopting a totally unweighted approach to the influence of entities on events results in an uninformative mode of analysis.

Towards the Triple Hermeneutics – Challenges of Knowledge Verification in Contemporary Societies

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By extending original conception of double hermeneutics of A. Giddens, the paper discusses some of the key challenges in knowledge formation processes nowadays. Contrary to the context which depicted Giddens, in the 21st century a social scientist copes not just with an issue of an interpretation of what other human actors already interpreted (double hermeneutics), but also the third 'level' might be identified which is mainly connected with flat ontology,

emergence of non-human actors (or 'actants') such as artificial intelligence entities or machines emulating human cognitive capacities capable of producing quite convincing intelligible artefacts. In concrete terms, it has been becoming increasingly demanding to distinguish between human and non-human productive output. This is the issue both in the level of theory development, but even more in the context of justification, i.e. knowledge validation. Alongside emergence of non-human 'subjectivity' the third layer of triple hermeneutics should comprise reflection and self-reflection whether a developed theory and/or knowledge contains potential biases. This is especially important in relation to salient external pressures imposing on scientific work today primarily from the domain of politics, but also from an economy field in a form of 'sponsorship' financing preferred types of research. Connected with the former, one should also take into account bias of a certain self-censorship by avoiding not fashionable or favourable research topics. Finally, it is concluded that adding third layer in the triple hermeneutics scheme is inevitable in reliable knowledge validation process, as well as in the final instance in nurturing truly democratic societies.

Artificial Intelligence as a Hybrid Life Form. On the Critique of Cybernetic Expansion

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Artificial intelligence (AI) challenges human intelligence and our humanistic self-conception. This contribution argues that this is happening for good reasons but is based on a mistaken opposition that falls short. Human beings and technology have always been intertwined in hybrid forms of life. Yet the exact nature of this hybridity is misunderstood when inadequate dichotomies of human subject and technical object are replaced by a totalizing conception of a cybernetic informational universe that reduces all that exists to this latter, single point of comparison. Representing the paradigm of digital society, AI is a bearer and expression of such a cybernetic expansion that both anchors digital analogism in society as a closed system of interpreting the world, or a cosmology, and renders it plausible at the level of knowledge. AI thus deepens and generalizes conventions and functional patterns of justification that have a long history in industrial society. The thesis proposed here is that, to counter this expansive dynamic effectively and critically, more needs to be done than evoke humanistic values. What we need is a better understanding of the ontological heterogeneity of the societal modes of existence that are assembled in hybrid forms of life. Thus, to regain the necessary critical ground for this theoretical debate, the paper uses anthropological theory to explain that a new, digital analogism is spreading with this development, the problematic one-sidedness of which can be better grasped against the background of Philippe Descola's alternative ontological schemes and cosmologies.

Critical Theory in the Age of the Digital

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The paper contains the critical analysis of the digitalization discourse which is reflecting not social innovations but managerial and bureaucratic appropriation of virtualization routine practices. Virtualization as a replacement of things and real actions by images and communications was the anti-system tendency at the end of the 20th century when digital technologies enthusiasts created virtual networks escaping control of reified institutions. But now that 'Great Escape' of cyberpunks, hackers, pirates, and copyleft activists has been absorbed by the system as digital technologies usage became social routine and the newest form of social control. Social life is alienated into virtual realities arising on the digital networking platforms exploiting human interactions.

To reveal contradictions and true direction of digitalization, we need a development of critical theory following the dialectical line of the Frankfurt School neo-Marxism. The totality of domination structures and new forms of social control in postindustrial society are analyzed on the basis of algorithmic rationality conception. Algorithmic rationality now has replaced instrumental reason (Horkheimer) and technological rationality (Marcuse) which organized praxis and thinking of people in the early and late industrial ages. Algorithmic rationality is a new domination logic as reality is perceived to be dynamic and hybrid network of objects functioning automatically without human subjectivity. The current post-virtualization tendencies and micromovements in everyday life can be treated as a source for an authenticity resistance to the virtual and artificial substitutes of humanity brought by total digitalization / coercive virtualization of social life. Distinction between emancipative digital technologies and oppressive algorithmic rationality should become the basis for the new critical theorizing in the age of the digital.

RN30 | Youth and Generation

RN30 | T01_01: Youth place and inequalities

Embracing the Countryside: Social Cohesion's Role in Enhancing Youth's Subjective Well-Being in Rural Croatia

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In contemporary social sciences, there is a growing interest in understanding the elements that contribute to young people leading fully contented lives. Previous studies have suggested that residence in cohesive societies can elevate individual well-being. Therefore, this study examines whether social cohesion at the local level positively influences life satisfaction among rural youth. Using a mixed methods research approach with a sequential design (QUAL → QUAN), we conducted 37 semi-structured interviews and a survey with a sample of 351 rural respondents aged 18 to 34. The integrated findings indicate that young people in rural Croatia show a high level of satisfaction with their lives and the countryside as a place of residence, expressing feelings of security, contentment with personal health and the quality of leisure time. Conversely, dissatisfaction is associated with limited employment opportunities and financial challenges. Importantly, both the qualitative and quantitative results consistently conclude that strong social cohesion at the local level positively influences the subjective well-being of Croatian rural youth. Key factors that contribute to higher life satisfaction are well-developed social networks of family and friends, which provide a vital support system, and a strong rural identity characterized by a developed sense of belonging and attachment to the local community, the rural space, and the natural environment. This study underscores the importance of fostering strong social cohesion within local communities to improve the subjective well-being of rural youth. This research was conducted as part of the scientific project "SECRURAL" funded by the Croatian National Science Foundation (UIP-2019-04-5257).

Rural Youth In Remote Rural Settings Of Sweden Acting Together In Uncertain Times

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The Covid-19 pandemic, inflation and the threat of war has changed and challenged the everyday life of young people living in remote rural settings. This paper draws on empirical data from my ongoing dissertation project with 36 participants, using ethnographically inspired methods including interviews, home visits, mobile methods such as walks and car drives, and informal talk.

The paper will focus on collective coping strategies that youth, living in remote – and highly car dependent – rural areas in the Swedish north, use to deal with the challenge of rapidly increasing fuel prices due to global events. The already burdensome situation of mobility inequality due to the lack of public transport, is further strained in this new situation. Young people in the sparse countryside respond together by reorganizing their lives and their mobility through collaboration.

This paper aim to explore how studying time spatial organization can show how rural youth deal with issues of inequality in their everyday lives. The paper focuses in particular on the topic of everyday mobility by asking these research questions; How does young people in remote rural areas organize their everyday mobility in relation to the new challenges? How do social networks and materialities interact with young people's organization of mobility in remote rural areas?

I draw on the relational turn in rural studies about increased recognition of the interwoven and co-constitutive construction of rural spatiality through material and discursive phenomena, processes and practices (Heley et al., 2012). In analyzing the youth's mobility in and between different socio-spatial contexts, I focus on how social networks, materialities and policy interact with the organization of rural youths' everyday lives.

Mismatched Aspirations: Young People and Employability in Portuguese Rural Areas

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Scarce employment opportunities are one of the challenges related to living in low density and less developed areas. Regardless of the dematerialization of training programmes and even of employment opportunities accelerated in the post pandemic period, it remains that young people based in Portuguese rural areas, even though increasingly qualified, many times do not find suitable positions in the local labor markets. Over time, this barrier may result in forced relocation to coastal cities or abroad, or in a NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training) situation. Public Employment Services (PES) play a critical role in providing young people with employment and training opportunities. Through the reinforced Youth Guarantee Framework or through Social Innovations programmes, PES seek to reduce youth unemployment by providing young people with access to education, training, or employment opportunities, including upskilling and digitalization training.

Adopting an employability perspective, this contribution analyses 20 interviews of young people aged 25-35 years old, based in rural areas, former beneficiary of PES and associated partners training programmes, and examines how these opportunities have contributed to their labor market inclusion. It argues the importance of matching training

to young people's aspirations and the need of qualitative evaluation of PES interventions, while highlighting the influence of mobility infrasctrutures shaping the access to desired jobs.

RN30 | T01_02: Digital youth

Researching Platforming Families: Methodological Challenges and Analytical Opportunities of a Cross-Generational and Cross-Cultural Study

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"Platformization" (van Dijk et al., 2018) marks a new period of digital transformation and "deepening mediatization" of societies and life-worlds (Couldry & Hepp, 2017) over the last decade. This provokes researchers to consider what media practices people are involved in individually as well as collectively, and how are those shaped in the context of the development of data – and algorithm-driven global digital platforms as powerful economic actors (Helm et al., 2023) and socio-technological environments. This paper presents methodological reflections from an international project PlatFAMs on platforming families and digitally transforming everyday lives in Estonia, Norway, UK, Spain, and Romania. While a large body of research has focused on young people as the generation most engaged with new technology and media forms, this research aims to reveal across three generations how children, their parents and grandparents within one nuclear or other type of family negotiate their relationships in the transforming context of not merely using, but rather "domesticating" (Silverstone et al., 1992) various digital platforms for communication and information, education, entertainment, consumption, care, parenting, socialization, etc. We will discuss the qualitative design of, and ethical considerations in, family-based participatory research, and shed light on the challenges of operationalising the conceptual framework of platformization in a cross-generational and cross-cultural study. We will also introduce preliminary results of the first round of individual interviews with representatives of three generations in ten Estonian families, illuminating the unique perspectives on inter-generational relationality and family practices, and addressing aspects of autonomy, privacy, tension, and power dynamics.

Youth Political Participation on Twitter

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The global proliferation of social media platforms has significantly reshaped society. Social media is believed to introduce new avenues for political engagement, albeit with notable criticism regarding participation via these channels. On one hand, there is unparalleled access to information and a diversification of political involvement. On the other

hand, the rapid increase of disinformation and algorithmically engineered communicative fragmentation is believed to fuel political polarization.

The empirical section of the paper relies on netnography on Twitter (now X), supplemented by in-depth interviews with active users conducted in spring 2022. The objective was to explore the factors that encourage or hinder political participation, how young people engage on Twitter, the significance they attach to it, and the perceived impact of their Twitter participation on other forms of engagement.

The findings indicate that while young people exhibit an interest in political and social issues, they perceive their activity as lacking, with active political engagement primarily evident in initiating discussions through original posts. Factors such as positive feedback from fellow users and anonymity were identified as supportive of participation. Despite recognizing the importance of fact-checking and source criticism, informants tended to prefer social media as a news source, considering it a reliable information channel. They acknowledge Twitter as a crucial platform that fosters political engagement through information dissemination, raising awareness about current issues, and fostering discussions that have the potential to drive societal change.

Digital Ties and Tomorrow's Horizon: Examining Online Social Capital and Future Expectations Among University Students in Hong Kong

Wan Sang Kan

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This research aims to investigate the correlation between online social capital and future expectations among university students in Hong Kong. Engaging 293 participants in a cross-sectional study, the study used the Future Expectation Scale for Adolescents (FESA) to measure the students' outlook on their futures and the Internet Social Capital Scale (ISCS) to measure the extent of their social capital in the digital realm. Our findings indicate a positive link between online social capital and future expectations ($p < .001$), highlighting the important role of online interactions in shaping students' perspectives on their prospects. Notably, online bonding social capital emerged as a significant predictor for all dimensions of future expectations, while online bridging social capital was predictive for most dimensions, with the notable exception of expectations related to church and community involvement. This study emphasizes the critical role that online social networks play in nurturing the aspirations and prospective achievements of young adults. The exchange of social capital in online settings can enhance university students' future prospects in various domains, including career development, global collaboration, knowledge exchange, cultural awareness, and personal development, thus further facilitating and benefiting their future endeavors.

Young People with Disability and Digital Generation – Towards Inclusive Citizenship

Susan Marie Eriksson

South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences, Finland

The effects of digitalization have been studied from various angles in youth studies and sociology. Digital activity of persons with disabilities is also growing field in social research, as digitalization is remarkable social change affecting daily lives. However, there is lack of research in youth studies concerning young people with disabilities, and their opportunities to live youth or life as a young person. One crucial reason for that is ableism in thinking, as it is implied, that person with disability is incapable to lead a lifestyle typical to young people.

Analyzing the character of their digital activities, this presentation deals with the opportunities of young persons with disabilities to participate in digital youth cultures. Qualitative interview data collected amongst young persons with mobility impairments and ethnographic data amongst persons with profound and multiple intellectual disabilities show, that possibilities to use digital devices have increased their opportunities for participation to a large extent. However, the nature of participation varies considerably between young persons, and is related to several individual, socio-material, and sociocultural dimensions in their daily life practices.

The analysis of the digital practices of these young people furtherly shows, that intersectional difference relating to individual attributes, such as socioeconomic position, is essential in recognizing the nature of the opportunities of young people with disabilities. It has a considerable impact on their statuses also regarding digital citizenship.

RN30 | T01_03: Youth and the future

The Future as an Issue for the youth in Brazil

Alexandre Barbosa Pereira

Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

This presentation undertakes an examination of the meanings of the future for Brazilian youth. The study investigates the diverse representations that Brazilian youth formulate about their future, as well as the representations of the future that public policies create for and about young people. In an era marked by escalating global crises, encompassing health, climate, political, and economic dimensions, understanding how young individuals aspire to their futures emerges as a pivotal inquiry in contemporary youth studies.

Within the Brazilian context addressed in this research, the focus lies on contemplating how disadvantaged and Black youth construct their future aspirations. The study also seeks to scrutinize the expectations of the future that are established for them. Consequently, the research adopts a threefold approach, employing distinct methodologies: a) ethnographic research within youth cultures and their narratives about the future; b) open interviews with young individuals regarding their future expectations; c) surveying and analyzing public policies that address the future of youth as a focal point of intervention.

Carried out in São Paulo, Brazil, the research explored youth cultures such as carioca funk, hip-hop, and tag graffiti. Interviews were conducted with young individuals in public high schools, and the study analyzed the issues related to a specific reform policy in the Brazilian high school system. The principal justification presented by the State for this reform was to provide young people with resources to develop their life projects. This research aims to understand the implications of this reform on the young people's aspirations.

Exploring Future Imaginaries: A Comparative Study of Student Perspectives from England and Spain

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1University of Bath, United Kingdom; 2University of Valenica, Spain

This comparative paper delves into the future imaginaries of higher education students in England and Spain, with a specific focus on those pursuing studies in different disciplines. Employing a qualitative research approach that combines creative visual methods with usual focus group approach, we conducted focus groups to delve into students' core values, aspirations, and visions of the future. As contemporary higher education increasingly positions students as human capital and future workers, societal narratives emphasize career trajectories, employability, and work as paramount life aspirations (Brooks et al, 2022), little emphasis in research and policy is given to students themselves and their voices. Simultaneously, generational stereotypes depict them as hedonistic, with questionable work ethics and limited aspirations. This key value of this article is comparative as the unique and divergent social, policy and institutional contexts of England and Spain shape value and future imaginaries influenced for example by distinct hegemonic discourses in these societies.

This paper adopts the concept of "orientations" from Sarah Ahmed's work adapting it to explore how individuals navigate the complexities of envisioning their future. We investigate how young people approach their lives, the core values that shape their navigation and future life imaginaries and how they how they envisage reaching their destinations. These imaginaries also shape students in the institutional university environment in relation to the teaching staff and fellow students.

The findings present the stances, discourse and visual representations that reveal diverse ways in which young participants engage with the idea of the future, both personal and societal. Ultimately, this research contributes to a nuanced understanding of the intricate processes involved in shaping future imaginaries among students in England and Spain.

Taking Their Future in Their Own Hands? Young People's Social and Political Concerns and Engagement for the Future in a Global Perspective

Natalia Waechter[1], Gudrun Quenzel[2]

1University of Graz, Austria; 2University College of Teacher Education Vorarlberg, Austria

Multiple global crises contribute to young people's growing worries and concerns about their personal as well as their countries' and the planet's future. While for previous generations, the life stage of youth has been considered a "moratorium" from adult obligations and worries (Erikson, 1988), youth researcher today state the loss of the moratorium and consider youth a "serious life stage" due to increasing responsibilities and concerns (Böhnisch, 2022; Quenzel & Hurrelmann, 2022). In our presentation, we will answer the questions which social, economic, and political concerns young people have, which concerns they share around the globe, and how their concerns differ by global region. Furthermore, we have investigated if young people feel responsible for making the future a better place, or if they rather trust in the adult institutions to solve the problems.

We will answer these questions by presenting new findings from a large-scale quantitative survey with young people aged 18-26 ("Generation Z") which was carried out in 2022 in 31 countries worldwide (n=21,700). While the main concerns of the global Generation Z were racism, education, poverty, and access to health care, young Europeans were most concerned about access to affordable housing, racism, sexism, and climate change. About a third of all surveyed

members of Generation Z reported having changed their personal behavior or lifestyle to address a social issue they are concerned about. We conclude that despite of having found global similarities, specific regional conditions shape young people's concerns as well as their civic engagement.

In Search of an Oasis of Youth. Exploring spaces for youth development

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In this presentation we explore in depth the potentialities of the concept of 'oasis of youth'. The concept is proposed by the Authors based on analysis of 18 qualitative interviews with young Europeans who have undertaken more than one Erasmus stay abroad during their higher education. Starting from the J.J. Arnett's concept of emerging adulthood, we reflect on spaces for exploration for young people in Europe. As the analysis suggests, this 'oasis of youth' may symbolise a niche in which young people live out a youthful lifestyle (being), while getting prepared for the transitions to adulthood (becoming). The idea of a youth oasis contributes to the discussion on the transformative potential of youth, highlighting processes of youthful exploration in order to achieve personal growth. Beyond this analysed case, it allows to describe the diverse social spaces that express the social value of youth allowing young people to live youth momentum while in education, despite growing uncertainty and harshened structural conditions. As we argue, the opportunities described by Arnett to transform one's life through intensive exploration are rare and not widely accessible, constituting an oasis in the sense of exceptional circumstance rather than a generalised framework for young people. In this presentation, we further reflect on potential usage of this metaphor to understand and reflect on changing cultural demands towards youth people.

RN30 | T02_01: Youth, solidarities and civic participation

"Postmodern Solidarity". Youth Volunteering Between Flexibility And Proximity

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1University of Florence, Italy; 2University of Florence, Italy; 3University of Florence, Italy; 4University of Florence, Italy

In Italy, there are 7 million people who, in addition to their daily commitments – study, family commitments, work, sport, etc. – decide to perform free actions in support of the community. However, only 6% of young people between the ages of 18 and 29 continuously carry out activities that can be explicitly defined as "voluntary work".

In this regard, we ask how italian adolescents, compared to other age groups, redefine the three key dimensions of solidarity: belonging, identification and responsibility.

Specifically, there were two main research questions that drive the study: What meanings prevail in adolescents' perceptions? (RQ1) What are the main motivational levers that, particularly with the pandemic emergency, may have brought young people closer to volunteering?(RQ2)

The study involved female and male students (407) from secondary schools present in different metropolitan areas of Italy.

In a first phase, an online form on the "Datalifestudio portal" of the University of Florence was distributed. Definitions, perceptions, short text productions and emblematic images of volunteering were collected. The research path was then enriched with an additional qualitative methodological tool: the focus group among students.

In Italy the volunteering is often experienced as a more or less pleasant way of spending one's free time, without the urgency of an associative membership that accompanies growth. However, despite the insistence in recent years on the ability to inhabit virtual environments, the direct relational contribution, the close contact with both other volunteers and the beneficiaries of voluntary action, continues to have an enormous explanatory power, even in the world of associations.

Civic and Political Engagment. The Differences between Two Young Generations in Italy

Andrea Casavecchia

Università di Roma Tre, Italy

The paper aims to analyze the change in participation among young Italians. The objective is aimed at verifying whether the trends emerging in Europe are confirmed: the growth of civic engagement and disaffection with politics (Barret, Pachi 2019). The activities and commitment of two demographic cohorts of young people (20 – 30 years old) are compared through a re-elaboration of secondary data, derived from two multi-purpose Istat surveys 2013 and 2022.

The analysis starts from the assumption that these two cohorts are characterized by a different "generational placement" (Mannheim 2000, Chisholm 2002, Merico 2019): the young people of 2022 have lived the experience of Covid, the lockdown, the Ukrainian war for example. First of all, the participatory styles of the two generations are outlined and compared, and then we highlight how civic and political commitment differs. Finally, it will be shown how socio-economic status and the level of education change trends and contribute to building "generational units" (Mannheim 2000), which have different trends between generations and therefore are oriented towards different landscapes (Maira, Soep 2004).

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Cultural Practices in Formal Education as an Arena for Youth Authentic and Meaningful Civic Participation

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There is a contradiction between public sector's investments for fostering young people's civic participation from one side, and NGO data (the Latvian Civic Alliance, etc.) on the other side, attesting to young people's lack of belief in their agency. A possible solution may be sought in unconventional civic participation forms (Bárta, Boldt, Lavizzari 2021) grounded in young people's interests, values and emotional choices (Cross et al 2014, Walther et al 2019), which develop in parallel to formally institutionalised frameworks for civic participation, most notably students' self-governments.

The goal of the research is to expand knowledge on cultural practices as a tool of civic participation in the formal education environment. The research questions: What authentic and meaningful participation expressions do secondary education students identify? Do they complement (and in what ways) the activities of the cultural education programme "The Latvian School Bag"?

The empirical data has been collected in the impact assessment study of the cultural education programme "The Latvian Scool Bag". The data reveals that the programme has fostered 1) power-sharing practices uncharacteristisc of the formal education in the decision-making related to students' choices of cultural activities; 2) authentic and meaningful participation expressions inpsired by the cultural experiences gained in the programme.

The data has been collected by the sequential mixed methods strategy: quantitative and qualitative. The opinions of 12th-graders have been studied by 1)using CAWI (nationally representative sample of students: 1061 students from 66 educational institutions) and 2) four focus group discussions with a heterogeneous composition of young people. Data analysis reveals many formal education environment characteristics as a precondition for cultural practices as authentic and meaningful participation forms.

Don't Ask Us To Vote (First Give Us Space!). Teenagers And The Public Life In Italy

Emanuela Pascuzzi, Sabina Licursi

Università Della Calabria, Italy

Conventional measures such as low voter turnout and reduced membership in associations are used as evidence of the youth disengagement from political and civic life. Research shows that young people tend to be distrustful of political institutions and do not take part in the public decision-making process. Yet, are we sure they are totally indifferent to public issues or apathetic? And what do we know about teenagers, living the crucial period during which citizens form the basis of political attitudes and behaviours? How do they learn to and get engaged in contemporary society?

Informed by results of a mixed methods research, the paper contributes to the understanding of teenager's public participation attitudes, experience and socialisation in Italy. The study was based on a web survey with about 1,300 adolescents, 6 focus groups and 4 world café workshops carried out in five Italian cities in the years 2020-2023.

Findings show that teenagers: are highly exposed to information but feel uninformed about the political system, rules and current affairs; distrust politicians but claim for a strong leader able to bring order to society; disagree with lowering the voting age to 16 but think that young people can change society; are taught that democracy is essential

but cannot count in their school; are asked to engage but do not find space to meet and discuss in their daily life. They are interested in public issues but mostly participate in invisible forms. When asked, they give many ideas on how young people can play an active role in the community for the better good.

RN30 | T02_02: Youth and Transitions

Uniformed Transitions: A Strategy Between Opportunities And Constraints

Nuno Almeida Alves

Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Transitions from education to employment have been a substantial subject on Youth Studies on past decades. The focus has lied on the pace of these transitions, and how they have become protracted due to important changes in education, labour market and regulatory environments. This has turned young people's access to permanent and full-time employment into an almost unattainable condition, blocking other steps into adulthood.

This proposal reflects on the agentic response of a specific segment of young people in respect to these transitional constraints. Every year, a non-negligeable number of young people between 18 and 26 years of age in Portugal applies either to the Military Academies or to temporary contracts in the Armed Forces. Though this strategy, young people have access either to Higher Education training followed by a guaranteed employment for life, or to a temporary contract lasting up to 6 years, which might be followed by a permanent contract if some restrictive conditions are met.

However, these employment guarantees come at a cost. The admission into a total institution and compliance with a strict set of values and rules; the voluntary inhibition in respect to young people's practices and behaviours; the auto-segregation from peers and family. How, with whom and with which information is this strategy devised? How do they negotiate with these restrictions in such an important time of their lives? These and other questions will be answered through the thematic analysis of 40 interviews held with candidates to different positions in the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Adulthood As A Life Course Construct: Experiences Of Lithuanian Children From Transnational Families

Ginte Martinkene

Klaipeda University, Lithuania

This paper aims to show how transnational life experience in childhood forms unique identity maps and affects life course scenarios in adulthood. By giving the voice of adult children from Lithuanian transnational families the research examines how living at a distance experience in the childhood create transnational background for adulthood. Subjective concept of adulthood emerges as social construct. Transnational life experience in childhood becomes one of the major elements that constructs subjective life

course scenarios in adulthood but not the only one. Global and personal crises also play a significant role in shaping the identity of young people. The methodological uniqueness of the research by using Mapping method combined with Timelining method in a life course perspective (Elder 1985) allowed the research participants to look deeper into their own life experiences by seeing and talking about them and enriched the research with detailed data and in-depth knowledge of life stories by listening to the voice of the research participants. The subjective reflections of the experiences of adult children from Lithuanian transnational families have emerged showing that not only the traditional normative markers of adulthood are important in becoming adult, but individual aspects and experiences as well. These aspects highlight the individual agency of the research participants to shape their own life course scenarios. In addition, the study showed that these aspects lead young people to potentially enter adulthood earlier. Linked lives aspect is also important as well as Individual Agency aspect The experience of transnational life in childhood, individual agency and social environment form unique life scenarios and unique maps of identity.

Coping with Failure in Second Chance Education. How Young Adults Negotiate Pro-longed Transition into Adulthood

Hatice Altindal

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Second-chance education in Germany offers an opportunity to achieve “Abitur” (highest general school degree that qualifies for tertiary education). It is a chance to correct the possible wrong decision due to an early stratifying general school system, which brings along the problem of inequality in participation in education. With the second chance education students are given the opportunity to pursue their educational aspirations, which previously existed to a large extent but were not realized. By graduating, students try to find their place in society and (re-)integrate themselves into it. Integration here means that the actor is integrated into networks, finds recognition and a place for themselves in society.

Now the question arises, why these students want to be students again, even though they might have to drop out of their jobs for this wish, have stressful phases and have to live or to continue to live in precarious conditions. In this regard, my research questions are: What are the occasions and educational paths that lead to attendance in institutions of second chance education? How do young adults navigate through these reversed status passages? How do young adults interpret their educational biographical success / failure and how do they dealing with them?

My work will be a qualitative longitudinal analysis. The biographical interviews were conducted and repeated once a year with the same students for three years. 34 interviews were conducted.

RN30 | T03_01: Youth and inequalities

Italian Young Men in Incel Virtual Communities: Marginalization, Self-Victimization and Violence Against Women

Annalisa Dordoni

University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

Young people in contemporary society are faced, on the one hand, with the risk of intensification of gender-based violence and the rise of old and new forms of discrimination, and, on the other, with the social risk of precarity and poverty, especially after decades of stagnation, economic crisis and austerity.

Incel and red pill virtual communities produce and reproduce discourses of gender-based violence and online hate speech against women, justifying it with their anxieties and fears about the future, their economic conditions of job precarity, in-work poverty and uncertainty (Dordoni and Magaraggia, 2021). They are transforming what is a real situation of inequality and social exclusion (Unt et al. 2021), especially for young people with working-class origins, into anger and hate (Kimmel, 2013).

In order to study this phenomenon, an ethnographic observation in Italian Incel and Red Pill social media groups was carried out in 2020-2021 – during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

The study adopts an intersectional approach and focusses on gender-based violence, cyberhate and marginalized working-class masculinities, integrating reflections and concepts used in the fields of sociology of work, youth studies and gender studies.

Also, the paper aspires to contribute in identifying key aspects of this phenomenon, which may be useful towards designing prevention policies, and proposing different imaginaries for the younger generations.

The Influence of Supply-Side Factors on Gender-Typical and – Atypical Career Paths: Investigating the Role of Parents, Extracurricular Activities, and Individual Characteristics

Julia Zimmermann

Universität Leipzig, Germany

Horizontal gender segregation in the labor market is not only problematic in terms of social inequality, it is also economically inefficient. In addition to creating incentives that break down the gender-stereotyped demand behavior on

the part of companies, it is therefore necessary to take a closer look at the causes of gender differences in young people's career choice behavior. The aim of this presentation is to contribute to the identification of preconditions and contexts that foster horizontal gender segregation. Using longitudinal data from the German Youth Institute's "Growing up in Germany (AID:A II)" survey, the presentation examines whether family characteristics, extracurricular activities and individual factors such as self-efficacy expectation, gender role orientation, work values and interests can predict the transition into gender typical and – atypical vocational or academic training. The data confirms that the majority of the young women and men follow gender typical career paths. However, women are significantly more likely than young men to aspire to gender-neutral occupations. Furthermore, the results of logistic regression models provide evidence that informal and non-formal learning processes are influential in the choice of gender-typical and – atypical career paths. The results suggest that different policy measures need to be taken for boys and girls in order to reduce gender differences in occupational choices: While girls should be encouraged to develop an interest in technology at an early age, stereotypes about female and male attributions and competencies need to be dismantled in the case of boys.

Differentiation Among Youths – Everyday practices of racialization at an YRC in Sweden

Shahab Mirbabaei

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The current discourse of race in Sweden is arguably consisting of conflicting and scattered ideas. Discussions of race and visible differences carry a stigma and people tend to present themselves as colorblind. Concurrently, research testify to the social relevance of race through the racializing or othering experiences of certain groups. My research contributes to this field through an in-depth ethnographic study of racialization and racism among youth. I attempt to provide theoretical and empirical insights to nuance our understanding of when, how and for whom race matters in Sweden.

My research explores everyday, verbal and physical, practices of racialization among youths at an YRC (youth recreation center) in a mid-sized town in Sweden. Unlike co-curricular activities which are tied to the classroom curriculums, the YRC can be perceived as a form of institution, and an everyday setting, that some youths visit after school for extra-curricular activities. Through my research questions, I show particular interest towards how youths approach ideas of difference and similarities, categories and stereotypes, how race intersect with other categories, and youths' approach to phenotypical markers. The material for this study has been collected through participant observations and focus group interviews. At the conference, I plan to present results and an early analysis based on my observations and interviews of recurring conversations and quotes related racialization and racism. I also plan to present methodological and ethical considerations, theoretical insights and experiences from my field work.

The Ecological Potential of Young Italians. A National Survey of 14-18 Year Olds

Davide Girardi

Istituto Universitario Salesiano Venezia, Italy

The cohorts born in the new millennium could also assume a central role in Italy in the processes of ecological and social transition. The question is, however, to what extent this public discourse is for young Italians powerfully mobilising or is it instead a question of vanguards. In this sense, is there among those attending secondary school today an "ecological potential" that could become a fundamental resource for the challenges posed by the transition in the Italian context? To answer these questions, this paper focuses on the results of a survey conducted among a representative sample of 1,800 young Italians aged between 14 and 18. The working hypothesis is that the socio-historical location of 14-18 year olds presides over the formation of a specific "generation bond". On the basis of the survey results, it can be seen that the 14-18 year olds involved in the survey strongly emphasise a civic value plexus connected to the contribution that citizens will be able to guarantee in the future in the environmental issues that are considered most critical in Italy today. This ecological potential could therefore materialise an ecological transition whose dynamics are, however, still to be written, especially in the narrow space of the transition to the adult state of young Italians. Their "long view" can, however, force the limits of such a space, inviting institutional actors to guarantee transition infrastructures to adulthood that are more solid than those currently in place; otherwise a potential that nevertheless exists and clearly appears will be wasted.

RN30 | T03_02: Youth views, attitudes and perspectives

"Left In The Dark": Young People's Perspectives On Government Policymaking During Their Transtitions To Post-16 Education And Training Within The Context Of The COVID-19 Pandemic In England.

Alice Weavers

King's College London, United Kingdom

During the COVID-19 pandemic, national education policy in England was in a state of flux, continually changing and adapting to evolving public health guidance. This paper explores how young people experienced these policy changes during their transition from school to post-16 education and training. Focusing on themes of distrust, disconnect, and confusion, it highlights their perspectives on how they felt about the relationship between the government and young people.

This paper draws on government policy documents and qualitative data from 'Young Lives, Young Futures', an ESRC funded longitudinal study exploring the school-to-work transitions of young people who do not plan to go to university. The data comes from the first wave of interviews with over 100 young people, aged 15-18, from four different areas in England. This group of young people are seldom heard in policymaking and this paper brings their experiences and views to the forefront.

The analysis finds a disconnect between the government and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a lack of direct communication leading to participants feeling "left in the dark" and "forgotten about" by decision-makers. However, many of the participants had ideas for how the government could better support their transitions and listen to their views about policy. In emphasising the importance of governments working with young people to ensure policies respond to the diversity of their experiences, this paper has implications beyond the pandemic context, for future times of crisis, as young people continue to navigate their transitions in a changing world.

Dynamics of Pro-European Orientation Amidst Crises: A Comparative and Longitudinal Analysis of Pro-European attitudes of young Europeans (2014-2020)

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This presentation aims to investigate the factors that contribute to pro-European orientation among young European citizens through the exploration of three key research questions. Firstly, we seek to map the dynamic trajectory of pro-European orientation in a period marked by two recent crises – the migrant crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly, we aim to recognize the individual-level determinants that underlie pro-European orientation, particularly the recently observed upswing in pro-European sentiment. Drawing on Hobolt and de Vries (2016), our study employs both utilitarian and identity approaches to gain insight into the driving forces behind pro-European sentiment. Thirdly, we aim to delineate the role of contextual factors that either contribute to or hinder pro-European orientation. Our analysis includes contextual dimensions such as the state of national democracy, economic conditions, and the share of foreigners and asylum seekers (Czymara, 2020; van der Brug et al., 2021).

To detect the dynamics of pro-European orientation we will conduct longitudinal analyses on the data collected in six waves of the European Social Survey (ESS) spanning from 2014 to 2020. Utilizing the same dataset, we will employ a multilevel analysis (at three levels) to establish the contribution of specific factors at the individual, country, and time levels in shaping pro-European orientation during crises.

Navigating Europe: Spanish Youth's Insightful Grasp on European Politics and Institutions

Mihaela Vancea, Dani Cetra Bernado, Priscila Álvarez Cueva

University of Barcelona, Spain

The 2019 European Parliament elections marked a notable increase in voter turnout, rising from 42.6% in 2014 to 50.6%. Post-electoral survey highlighted that this boost was mainly driven by increased participation among young adults, reflecting a stronger sense of civic duty towards the European Parliament and a more positive view of the European Union. The upswing in turnout was observed in 19 Member States, with significant increases in several countries, including Poland, Romania, Spain, Austria, Hungary, and Germany.

Younger demographics, under 25 and 25–39, played a leading role, indicating a promising outlook for youth turnout

in the upcoming European Election 2024 (EE24). However, variations exist in the knowledge and engagement levels with European institutions among young adults. This article aims to shed light on the knowledge and perceptions of Spanish youth regarding European institutions and politics and their impact on the daily lives of young Spanish citizens. Using a quantitative approach, this study employs an online survey distributed to a representative sample of Spanish youth to systematically assess their understanding and perspectives on European institutions and politics.

RN30 | T04_01: Youth and generations

Generation Gaps, Past And Present

Jennie Kathryn Bristow

Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom

The temporal dislocation provoked by the Covid-19 pandemic has been widely acknowledged to have significant implications for young people, who were quickly labelled 'the Covid generation'. This label lacks definitional rigour and reproduces the problems of 'generationalism' observable in previous forms of generational claimsmaking (Rudolph & Zacher, 2020). Nonetheless, its use raises two important questions. First, has the current period of accelerated social change, beginning with the upheavals provoked by the pandemic and followed by acute cultural, political, and geopolitical destabilisation, created the conditions for a distinctive generational consciousness (Mannheim, 1952 [1928]), in which children come of age in a world considered to be dramatically different to that taken for granted by their elders? Second, might the temporal and cultural dislocation observed during the present period give rise to a 'generation gap', of the kind observed following the First World War, and during the 'cultural revolution' of the 1960s? This paper draws on an ongoing study of the discourse of the 'Covid generation' in media and policy narratives (Bristow & Gilland 2020, Bristow 2023, 2024), and a study of the experiences of the 'Covid cohorts' of university students in the UK (Potter et al, in progress), to analyse the implications of these questions for the sociology of knowledge.

Youth Perceptions Of The Boomer Generation On Social Networks.

Víctor Gago Rivas, Ángel Martín Gómez, Carmen García Gutiérrez

Universidad of Salamanca, Spain

In recent years, the generation has gained importance in the narrative of social change and conflict, as reflected in the spread of digital phenomena such as #OKBoomer, which highlighted the negative perception of this generation by later generations, popularising the term "boomer" as a pejorative adjective. In order to find out whether the use of this term is an expression of conflict and generational vindication, we downloaded more than 600,000 tweets, in Spanish, issued between November 2019 and December 2022, which contained the term "the boomers". Using supervised machine learning techniques, we quantified the percentage of tweets that, through the use of this term, expressed generational claims or conflicts. Subsequently, we used topic modelling techniques to investigate under which themes these are expressed. We found that, during this period, most of the tweets analysed expressed conflicts and demands, focusing on issues such as material and economic inequality, lack of opportunities to develop a life project and political issues. Everyday generational clashes

were also observed, related to digital skills or attitudinal differences. In conclusion, behind the use of the term "boomer", claims of the younger generations are being expressed in the form of generational conflict, either by blaming the "boomer" generation for their situation or by denouncing the lack of empathy of the "boomer" generation towards them.

Convergence and Divergence in the Political Socialisation of Youth in Poland

Hakob Matevosyan, Félix Krawatzek

Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), Germany

This paper examines under what conditions the attitudes of young Poles today converge or diverge from their parents' political and social views. Poland has been experiencing significant societal polarisation since 2015, which has resulted in a relationship between generations oftentimes portrayed as exclusively antagonistic. This fragmentation of society has profound significance for families. Thus, we examine the Polish case within the context of the profound disruptions between generations, mapping onto broader political and social discourse while exploring conditions of convergence between generations and its connection to the larger narrative of the family as a fortress.

To understand the intergenerational political convergence and divergence, we analyse the self-assessments of young Poles with regard to party attachment and various socio-cultural values compared to their parents. We explore the relevance of different factors such as religion, political party preferences, and educational achievement, as well as demographic factors. These factors help us better highlight the reasons behind convergence and divergence among young Poles and their parents. Central in the paper is its focus on the gender dimension, which has been underexplored in the literature but emerges strongly as a pattern in convergence and divergence in our analysis.

For the analysis we can rely on an original online survey conducted by the authors in April-May 2023 with over 2,000 respondents aged 16-34.

Finnish Students' Experiences of Social Interaction, Mental Health and Performance Pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic

Pia Nyman-Kurkiala, Amanda Hyvönen, Henrik Groundstroem, Jessica Hemberg

Åbo Akademi University, Finland

Objective of the study:

Young adults' everyday existence and lives have been dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and students have experienced limitations both in university studies and in social life, which has affected their well-being and health. The aim of the study is to explore Finland-Swedish young students' experiences of social interaction, health and performance requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methodology: A qualitative exploratory design was used. The dataset consisted of essays written by 43 young adult students (aged 18-28) at a university in Swedish-speaking Finland. The data analysis method consisted of qualitative content analysis.

Results obtained: The results showed four main categories: Continued health obstacles, self-reflection and vitality, Performance requirements as a constant destructive companion or source of self-compassion, New start with university studies, Balancing act between social interaction and loneliness.

Conclusion: Young people's experiences of high performance demands and stress in everyday life need to be addressed and supported by the university and society. Further research should focus on investigating which forms of support and psychosocial interventions should be developed in the opinion of young people, in order to adequately respond to their needs.

RN30 | T04_02: Youth values & social trust

School and School Environment as Socialization Agents of Inclusive Attitudes

Daniel Gerbery, Roman Džambazovič

Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic

School is an important agent of socialization that affects the formation of value orientations and attitudes of young people. it aims at bringing up young people up to become well-informed, critically thinking citizens (Hess 2009; Neundorg – Smets 2017), providing various stimulus in the periods of their life cycle, which are key for development of social and political attitudes (Blakemore – Mills 2014).

Presentation examines attitudes towards immigrants' rights among the secondary school students in Western and Eastern European countries, focusing on the role of the characteristics of the secondary schools. Attitudes towards immigrants represent an indicator of inclusive acceptance of cultural and social diversity, which is becoming crucial in the times of expanding nationalism, populism and rising global inequalities.

We show how attitudes towards rights of immigrants varies among young people cross-nationally and how they are influenced by the characteristics of the schools. We examine the role of formal aspects of education (school's curricula, type of education provided), its informal context (social climate, availability of extra-curricular cultural activities), as well as its socio-economic characteristics. In addition, we also explore theoretically funded hypotheses about the role of individual dispositions (cultural capital, heterogeneity of close social ties, class identity) and their interactions with higher-level determinants.

Our research is based on data from the quantitative Survey of young people's cultural literacy (2020), which was part of the comparative project Cultural Heritage and Identities of Europe's Future. We use multilevel modelling strategy in order to examine the effects both at individual and school level and their combined influence on attitudes towards immigrants.This work is supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency under the Contract no. APVV-20-0449.

Social Trust Amongst Adolescents

Alexander Niclas Saaranen

Lund University, Sweden

Despite the ample interest in trust as a research subject and the believed heightened malleability of trust amongst younger people, most historical and contemporary research base their findings on data with participants above the age of 18. While previous research indicate that social trust is durable and resistant to change amongst adults, the same conditions may not apply for adolescents. In this study I explore how social trust develops during the transformative phase of adolescence, a stage in our lifecycle believed to be marked by increased malleability and change. To remedy the current gap of knowledge surrounding youths and social trust I draw on rich survey data from the World Value Survey, the European Social Survey as well as nationally representative panel data from the Swiss Household Panel. Utilising fixed effects regression analysis accompanied by longitudinal growth curve modelling, I find that most adolescents experience a severe loss of social trust during the transition from dependent young child to independent young adult – the timeframe also known as the impressionable years. The drop in trust that occurs during the impressionable years is then recovered gradually over the course of the lifespan, with some people never reaching similar levels of social trust ever again.

Generational Changes and Youth Political Participation in Portugal: Polarization, Deinstitucionalization and Trust, a Comparative Study

Nuno Miguel Augusto

University of Beira Interior / Center for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES_Iscte), Portugal

In this communication I aim to outline the main sociopolitical characteristics of the Portuguese youth, concerning the relationship with the party and the electoral systems. Similar to the European reality, Portuguese youth have recently exhibited two trends – a preference for non-conventional or non-institutional forms of political participation, distancing themselves from electoral and party activities combined with (or explained by) a lack of trust in political institutuions (one of the lowest levels of political trust in Europe). Additionally, there is a tendency towards polarization in party and ideological identification, reflected in an increasing alignment with both far-left and far-right parties, although this may not necessarily translate into actual voting, which remains limited. Across generations, there is a diminishing significance of centrist parties, historically leading portuguese governments and vote. To achieve this, a quantitative and comparative analysis was conducted within an European context, using various waves of the European Social Survey and European Values Studies questionnaires, with a particular focus on the latest waves. Contrary to the trend in most European countries, Portuguese youth display significantly higher levels of interest in politics and political mobilization compared to older cohorts, revealing a contradiction between apparent disengagement from institutional processes and the political mobilization of these cohorts. This reinforces a tendency towards a deinstitutionalization of the participation forms and a reintegration into non-institutional forms of engagement.

The Impact of Economic and Religious Factors on the Spread of Post-materialist Values in the First Post-communist Generation: A Comparative Analysis of 24 Countries

Laura Dauksaite

Vilnius University, Lithuania

This study uses Inglehart's theory of materialist–post-materialist value change to analyse the values of the first post-communist generation (born in 1991–2000) in 24 post-communist countries. The analysis of the data from the World and European Values Surveys of 1990–1993, 1999–2004, 2008–2014 and 2017–2022 waves leads to the conclusion that in the majority of post-communist countries, post-materialist values have become stronger in the first post-communist generation compared to those of older generations. This trend is particularly pronounced in the economically strong post-communist countries, but is also observed in the economically deprived ones. Only six countries show a statistically significant correlation between the importance of religion in people's lives and materialistic–post-materialistic values in the first post-communist generation. The study also revealed that post-materialist values are more widespread in countries dominated by the Roman Catholic faith than in Orthodox and Islam-dominated countries in the first post-communist generation.

RN30 | T05_01: Youth policy, services and practices

Vulnerable Andalusian Youth: Other Life Paths

Virginia Gutiérrez Barbarrusa

Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Sevilla, España), Spain

We present the results of one of the objectives of the project "The resources of Andalusian youth: Diagnosis for the design and evaluation of public policies aimed at their full emancipation", winner of the 2022 Edition of the Research Award of the Economic and Social Council of Andalusia.

Among the results, we obtain that the group of 18 to 29-year-olds residing in Andalusia has an incidence of social exclusion of 39.4%, 11% above the national average (FOESSA, 2023). We also know that at least 7000 young foreigners reside in Andalusia "without family references".

This paper focuses on these two groups. To understand the context of young people in vulnerable situations, we have taken qualitative data from the work of the Spanish Red Cross (Romera, Grané and Gil, 2021) in three areas of competence: life, training and employment. Concerning young foreigners, we have taken different documentary sources and conducted in-depth interviews with young migrants and NGO workers; in both cases, we analysed the role of the family as a support network and in transmitting values and attitudes.

The family is a fundamental support, but it can burden these young people. Regarding young people without family references, we highlight the importance of the new referents in our country. Finally, we will explore Andalusia's youth policies and gather some proposals.

Facilitators And Barriers To Care-leavers Engagement With After-care Services: Findings From A Realist Informed Study.

Ceryl Teleri Davies[2], Louise Margaret Prendergast[1]

1Bangor University; 2Bangor University

Without a familial safety net, care-leavers rely on the state as a 'corporate parent' to help them navigate challenges and responsibilities associated with transitions to adulthood and independent living. Research indicates that care-leaver's engagement with multi-agency support services can improve their social and individual outcomes. However, little is known about the key barriers and enablers to engagement with support, or what an effective model of engagement looks like.

The aim of this study was to identify the barriers and enablers to after-care support services and co-produce a

practice model and toolkit with care-leavers and multi-agency practitioners. Informed by a realist approach, an initial logic model was developed from a review of the international literature, refined through qualitative interviews with care-leavers and multi-agency practitioners. The model illustrating links between inputs, mechanisms and outcomes subsequently underpinned the practice model and toolkit. This will be evaluated through a social return on investment to explore its social value and impact on practitioners and care-leavers.

In this paper we discuss our findings from the qualitative interviews with care-leavers and multi-agency practitioners conducted within four areas in Wales, UK. We outline the main themes identified, including factors associated with enabling engagement: tailored approaches, consistency, transparency, persistence, and responsiveness. Additionally, we highlight issues of stigma, resilience, and trust, and discuss the challenges experienced by practitioners in delivering support in the context of structural constraints. Finally, we discuss the outcomes of engagement and significance of these findings to wider policy, practice, and research.

A 'Lost Generation'? Generationalist Thinking and Young Adults' Housing in Sweden

Elias le Grand

Stockholm University, Sweden

In the last decades the Swedish housing market has been increasingly deregularised and privatised. This has led to growing housing inequality, which has particularly disadvantaged young adults. Parental coresidence among young adults is increasing, and for the vast majority their coresidency is involuntary. Many young adults have also entered into insecure rental contracts or ended up in shared accommodation. As residential independence is a marker of adulthood, staying in the parental home may be viewed as a failure. It may also cause young adults to delay other life course transitions such as marriage and parenthood. In this paper I present ongoing research on recent public debates about the housing situation of young adults in Sweden, particularly in relation to generational and age-related categories. Preliminary analysis suggests that there is a recurrence of generationalist narratives (White, 2013) in which young adults are positioned as a 'lost generation' who are the victims of previous generations' selfish appropriation of public resources. It is argued that such generationalist discourses serve to homogenise and stereotype generational categories, and largely fail to address intra-generational differences, which would allow more nuanced analyses of the processes that condition young people's housing prospects.

Young People and the Politics of Listening in Social Services and Social Research

Laura Davy

Australian National University, Australia

There is increasing recognition in policy studies and practice that listening to people with lived experience is crucial for creating tailored, responsive social services and trust in their efficacy. However, the mechanisms for engaging young people – especially young people with disability and young carers, who are key targets of social policy initiatives – are often poorly implemented and do not lead to meaningful reforms to practice. Addressing the institutional barriers these young people face in being heard is critical to designing services and systems that meet their needs.

This paper discusses a co-designed Australian research project investigating how young adults with disability and young adult carers of family members with disability experience being "listened to" by the institutions, organisations and services that impact their lives. It draws on "the politics of listening", a theoretical approach concerned with the interpersonal, cultural, and institutional processes of listening that render some voices heard, and others ignored.

The paper will explore the early findings of this research project, particularly reflecting on the co-design process. Working with a co-researcher group of young people with lived experience has shaped the project approach and methodology in important ways such as the accessible design of a national survey of young people's experiences of being engaged by government funded services. This process has also yielded important methodological and theoretical insights into the politics and practice of listening in co-produced research.

RN30 | T05_02: Post-Covid and contemporary youth

The Generation Of Polycrisis

Francesco Ramella, Sonia Bertolini

University of Turin, Italy

In Italy, young people are returning to be seen and heard.

Over 20 years ago, young Italians seemed invisible. Not so much and not only because there were fewer and fewer of them, but also due to a certain lack of social "distinctiveness": they seemed "domesticated". Judging by the results of a research we conducted recently, today the situation has decidedly changed. Although with many differences related to regions, gender and social condition, young people are decidedly different from their parents and grandparents. Because the acceleration of social change has inevitably increased the gap between generations. You can see it looking at their attitudes towards work, consumption, social media, family, spirituality, gender identity, the environment, politics, and much more. Their public participation is also growing.

The under-35s represent a new generation, which possesses precise distinctive traits. They were born and raised after the fall of the Berlin Wall. They experienced adolescence in the context of a technological revolution that provided them with new tools for information, communication and interaction. Furthermore, their future has become radically uncertain. And this trait characterizes them, since they live in an era of polycrisis. This term indicates not only the coexistence of a plurality of crises, but also their mutual amplification and is particularly appropriate to connote the context in which young Italians become adults.

In Italy, young people live a peculiar asymmetry in their social recognition: their "valorization" in the private sphere corresponds to a dramatic "devaluation" in the public dimension.

Impact Of The COVID-19 Pandemic On The Apprenticeship Market In Switzerland: Changes In The Interests Of Young People

Milan Stocker

Universität Bern, Switzerland

In Switzerland about two-thirds of compulsory school leavers complete a dual apprenticeship, where over half of the time spent in a training firm. The Swiss vocational education and training system (VET) is thus linked to the economy, making it vulnerable to economic fluctuations. Consequently , the economic turmoil during the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the apprenticeship market's supply and demand. During recessions, open apprenticeship positions typically tend to fall. Thus, school leavers who wish to pursue vocational training are confronted with the tense situation on the apprenticeship market. Young people may alter their training choice if their preferred occupation is affected by the crisis, because they perceive unfavourable prospects and an increased risk of training companies' bankruptcy amid poor economic conditions. This paper examines whether and how the affectedness of an occupation during the pandemic changed its demand for specific apprenticeships. The change in the demand of young people is examined through their search queries and applications on online apprenticeship portals before, during, and after the pandemic. To measure how the different occupations were affected by the pandemic, I use administrative data on short-time work, bankruptcies, and the number of open apprenticeships. While one in six Swiss compulsory school leavers reported that they had changed their educational plans because of the pandemic (Golder et al. 2022), it remains unclear which occupations were more frequently abandoned, and which gained interest. Additionally, it is uncertain whether the changes in search and application patterns are temporary or will persist over time. To close this research gap, I use time-series analysis to recognize trends as well as regression models to control for gender, lower secondary school track and region. Results indicate that Covid-19's impact varies across occupational sectors. Strongly affected sectors like gastronomy, have seen a decline in search queries during and after the pandemic, whilst less affected sectors remained stable or have even observed an increase in interest. By analyzing the changes for specific occupations in detail, this research will highlight the impact of crises on the apprenticeship market in Switzerland.

I have never attended an ESA Summer School before.

Legal Consciousness, Everyday Morality and Pandemic Risk Management. A Sociological Research on Legal Consciousness of Italian Young People.

Isabella Università di Urbino;[1], Anna Uboldi[2]

1Università bocconi; 2Università urbino

This research focuses on youths' law experience during the pandemic time (Ewick Silbey 1998). The research explores how the rules were daily implemented, in terms of acceptance, interpretation, negotiation and rejection of them, or of some of their aspects. The theoretical framework considers the interconnection between research on legal consciousness, ethical choices in everyday life, including the management of risks as elaborated in Douglas' cultural theory of risks, and the Bourdieusian approach to moral judgment. This analytical perspective questions how legality is (re)produced in uncertain conditions and how socio-cultural differences continue to act in a highly individualized society. Discursive interviews, with photo stimulus, are carried out with 72 young people between 18 and 25, students and workers, Italian and with migratory experience, residing in different Italian regions. Based on the analysis of 70 narratives with a mixed methods approach, our findings show different ways of acting and attributing meaning by young

people to everyday life. This concerns the orientation of oneself in managing normative uncertainties and pandemic risks. Thus, different narratives can be identified: individual translation, trust in procedure, fatalistic claims, and cooperative criticism. These narratives are recurring repertoires of perceptions and practices. Besides confirming the processual character of legal consciousness, our data show systematic differences in the mobilization of specific cultural schemes by young people with different amounts of cultural capital

SF and the Doing of Youth Sociologies for the Anthropocene

James Goring

Deakin University, Australia

A sociological imagination for the Anthropocene must find innovative, productive, and critical ways to move beyond the human exceptionalism and methodological individualism that underpins the more conventional sense of a sociological imagination which characterises orthodox sociologies of young people. Some of this work is being done in the post-humanities (Braidotti 2019), in feminist studies of science, technology and society (Haraway 2016), and in critical studies of the Anthropocene and the Capitalocene (Latour 2017, Moore 2016, Tsing 2015). In this presentation we want to point to the possibilities that emerge for a sociological imagination for the Anthropocene that can be found in other disciplines, fields, domains, and genres. In this sense, as Haraway (2016) observes, It matters what stories tell stories. What stories can we tell with/for/about young people and the Anthropocene? How do these stories connect to, intersect with, exist in tension with other stories about our pasts-presents-futures?

In this presentation we will explore some of these challenges and opportunities through the video-telling of one young person's story over a period of 3 years. This story is drawn from a number of projects we have conducted during 2020-2023 in which more than 100 young people participated in innovative video-based interviews about their pasts-presents-futures in the context of the pandemic and the unfolding crises of capitalism and the climate.

In exploring the forms of storytelling we have tried to develop, we will discuss the challenges that these modes apparently present for the the orthodoxies of youth sociology as these challenges are manifested in the practices and responses of the journal editors and reviewers who gate-keep what a sociological imagination should look like and do.

RN30 | T06_01: Youth health and wellbeing

Predictors of Subjective Well-Being Among Young Poles: Evidence from the ULTRAGEN Project National Survey

Agnieszka Golinska, Justyna Sarnowska

SWPS University, Poland

The framework of the study is rooted in the concept of multi-crisis (Beck, 1992). Especially the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the war in Ukraine and the economic recession, has undeniably caused a state of emergency in Poland (Pustułka et al., 2023). Concerns about those crises impact Subjective Well-being (SWB), a state in which a person believes that their life is good and enjoyable, regardless of how others perceive it (Diener, 2009) of young Poles. Empirical evidence shows that SWB is influenced by extrinsic but also intrinsic factors (Gomez et al., 2009) thus, both life events as well as psychological factors should play an important role as determinants of SWB. Young adults, with less experience from previous life disruptions and adaptation processes, are particularly vulnerable in times of crisis (Weinberger et al., 2018).

The paper is based on the national survey conducted in January 2023 as a part of the bigger research project "ULTRAGEN: Becoming an adult in times of ultra-uncertainty: intergenerational theory of 'shaky' transitions" funded by the National Science Centre of Poland. The representative sample consisted of 2104 young Poles (49% of women) aged 18-35 (M = 27.55; SD = 4.99). Within the study, we explore the role of both the variables related to the perceptions of the crisis as well as psychological variables as predictors of individuals' SWB, measured using the modified Personal Wellbeing Index (International Wellbeing Group, 2013), the scale that adopts a domain-level representation of global life satisfaction.

Mind the Gap: Understanding the Impact of School-to-Work Transitions on Youth Mental and Emotional Health

Ilaria Pitti[1], Eleonora De Stefanis[2]

1University of Bologna; 2University of Milan

The paper delves into the intricate interplay between mental and emotional health and the challenging transition from school/university to the workforce. Presenting the preliminary results of the Erasmus+ project "Mind the Gap: Supporting Young People's Mental and Emotional Health in School to Work Transitions" (2023-2025), the paper seeks to shed light on the multifaceted factors influencing the

mental and emotional well-being of young individuals navigating this transitional phase, as well as on young people's own copying strategies.

The discussed research is based on a series of qualitative interviews conducted in Italy, Germany, Spain and Slovenia with young people aged between 16 and 25 and differentiated backgrounds in terms of gender, socio-economic status, ethnic background and sexual orientation.

Firstly, hrough the intersectional analysis of the interviews the study explores youth subjective experiences of mental and emotional health during the school/university to work transition. Secondly, by focusing on the dynamic interplay between academic stressors, career uncertainties, and personal identity development, it provides a comprehensive understanding of the emotional challenges faced by young adults during this critical period and of the strategies they enact to deal with them, individually and collectively. Finally, while examining the emotional impact of academic expectations, societal pressures, and the inherent uncertainties associated with career choices, the contribution also investigates the role of different professionals working with young peoeple in this phase (e.g., teachers, educators, career advisors) in fostering environments conducive to positive mental health outcomes.

Changes In Adolescents' Well-being During The COVID-19 Pandemic And In Its Aftermath

Michal Kozák

University of Oslo, Norway

The restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus dramatically changed adolescents' lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several large-scale studies have found that adolescents' well-being deteriorated during the pandemic and that this decline was most marked among adolescents from families with a low socioeconomic status. However, less is known about adolescents' situations after restrictions had been lifted and life had seemingly returned to normal. In this study, we address this issue by using nationwide, large-scale, repeated cross-sectional data from more than 500,000 adolescents in Norway, who were assessed on key well-being aspects before the COVID-19 outbreak, during the pandemic and after all restrictions were lifted in the spring of 2022. Our main objective is to examine whether well-being changes related to the pandemic were reversed when restrictions were lifted and whether social gradients according to parental socioeconomic status returned to pre-pandemic levels after the restrictions were lifted. Multilevel analyses showed that after Norway removed all restrictions, adolescents reported lower satisfaction with peer relationships and less-optimistic future life expectations, but less loneliness compared with long-term trends. Moderation analyses revealed that adolescents from poor families and with low parental education suffered more adverse changes both during and after the pandemic across several domains. While our results do not indicate a general worsening of well-being among Norwegian adolescents in the period following the pandemic, there is concerning evidence that exacerbated socioeconomic inequalities in well-being during the pandemic have remained in its aftermath.

Youth Life Satisfaction and Political Efficacy: A Comparison of Croatian and Slovenian Youth across Socioeconomic Strata

Dunja Potočnik, Anja Gvozdanović, Iva Odak

Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Croatia

Research on the relationship between political efficacy and life satisfaction of youth is relatively scarce. In order to fill that gap, this paper presents the results on youth life satisfaction in Croatia and Slovenia in regard to their socioeconomic background and political efficacy. The paper is based on the quantitative data collected during the project "Youth wellbeing and support structures before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic" and includes nationally representative samples of young people aged 16-29 in Croatia (N=1216) and Slovenia (N =1287). The data were collected at the end of 2023. Following the framework developed by Bandura (1991, 1997), we argue that political efficacy is an important predictor of life satisfaction. We are starting from a hypothesis that young people with a developed sense of political efficacy have higher results on life satisfaction, which is mediated by their socioeconomic status. The results of multiple regression analysis indicate there is a contribution of political efficacy to life satisfaction, depending on the type of political efficacy and socioeconomic strata, and conditioned by the openness of the political system. The findings will be explained from a contextual, and life-stage perspective, emphasizing divergent political transitions after the 1990s and current socio-political developments that are to a different extent supportive of youth progressive civic and political participation in Croatia and Slovenia. The obtained results are significant for further development of supportive frameworks that would improve youth political efficacy and their civic and political participation.

RN30 | T06_02: Youth and political participation

Youth Political Participation Today: Subjectivities, Ethics and the Everyday

Carmen Leccardi

Università Milano-Bicocca, Italy

The paper focuses on some characteristics of young people's political participation today, in a time of increasing scepticism of traditional political organizations and disenchantment towards representative democracy. Based in particular on a qualitative ongoing Italian research on unconventional political participation among young people and its link with futurity, the paper aims to mobilize new conceptual tools for the analysis of political participation. Politics is being reinvented making use of a new type of temporality, able to connect short/medium term futures with everyday experiences. It is in this analytical framework that the concept of 'everyday utopias' (Davina Cooper) seems to offer a way to focus on what is doable in the everyday while capturing a sense of hope and potentiality. This form of 'temporal work' (Michael Flaherty) resonates with the need for young people to intertwine the need to express control of their lives, meaningful relations and subjectivities. A specific role is played, in this frame, by the increasing importance of personal responsibility (like in the struggle for climate justice). Responsibility, here, expresses young people's need for a subjective, ethical engagement here-and-now. In this respect, and from a methodological point of view, Kurt Wolff's proposal (Surrender and Catch) proved to be important as it opened up perspectives on the relation between given knowledges, ethics and research experiences.

Emerging of New Public Spheres. Why Did Young People's Electoral Activity Surprised Sociologists?

Monika Kwiecinska-Zdrenka

Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland

Emerging of New Public Spheres. Why Did Young People's Electoral Activity Surprised Sociologists?

In the fall of 2023, the democratic opposition won the elections in Poland. Turnout analyzes indicate that this was due to, among others, the great mobilization of women and youth. This result surprised many sociologists. In recent years, these young people (of which many took part in the parliamentary elections for the first time, and representing the first generation after 1989, which grew in the conditions of an already well-developed democratic system and Poland's belonging to the European Union) were described as "pathologically passive", unstable, immature citizens, indifferent, passive, politically apathetic, passive aggressive citizens. We have been observed young people's withdrawal from politics and the radicalization of their preferences.

However, if we change the perspective – both related to the definition of youth (in terms of a generation, not an age category) and the way of understanding the presence of this generation in the public sphere (the ability to overcome in the imagination and action the horizons of one's own interest political or non-political), we will see that new public discourse is emerging, at least when it comes to matters important for this generation to face public matters (including status quo endangered by collapse of democracy).

The diagnosis of of civic involvement of young people, emphasizing both the old and the new forms, acknowledging the motivations and meanings attributed to civic engagement and disengagement, allows to better understand their functioning as adult citizens in future.

The presentation is based on the results of empirical research on approximately 3,000 young Poles, with a comparison of their attitudes to the behavior of their parents' generation.

Generations, Crises, Inequalities and Solidarities

Maria Grasso

Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

The most recent generations of young people have gone through several challenging experiences in their formative years. They have experienced economic crisis, political crisis, a health crisis, an ongoing environmental crisis, a cost of living crisis. These developments have impacted on young people in many ways including in terms of their political, social and economic outlooks, their educational paths, employment, economic security, and the opportunities available to them to flourish and enact positive social change for the future. All these experiences are likely to have impacted on young people coming of age and experiencing their formative years in profound ways leading to the formation of new values in relation to those of generations coming of age in previous periods. In particular, this could be reflected in growing support for leftist values amongst young generations coming of age through these experiences. Moreover, these experiences are variegated within generations in terms of different dynamics of experiences such as those relating to gender or class or spatial inequalities. I will critically examine these crucial aspects in relation to generations and social change and build on insights from previous work to examine how these patterns can lead to opportunities for the development of solidarities and collective political action for social change in the current socio-historical juncture.

RN30 | T07_01: Youth, social class and mobility

Spatial, Affective and Temporal Dimensions of Youths' Everyday Class Struggles

Maria Keil

University of Tuebingen, Germany

Today's youth is not only confronted with several societal crises but also with increasing social inequality. Trajectories into adulthood are not linear anymore and meritocratic promises are often enough shattered when entering the labour market. But how do young people perceive social inequality and how do they develop a sense of one's place? The paper presents results from a grounded theory study based on longitudinal ethnographic data and guided interviews following 19 adolescents during their transition from school to work in a German city. Using the relational framework of Bourdieu's praxeology and the concept of symbolic boundaries, the paper presents spatial, affective and temporal dimensions of social class in young people's everyday life.

Different mobility patterns can be identified between young Muslims in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and white middle-class adolescents. The appropriation of local space is not only formed through (anticipated) experiences of symbolic violence, but also shapes the (social) space of possibilities and the interaction with and trust in institutions, such as schools, universities, youth clubs, museums, etc. Spatial appropriation is also interwoven with affective dimensions of social class intersecting with gender, ethnicity and religion. Whereas some fear gender – and sexuality-based hatred in working-class areas of the city, others avoid white working – and middle-class districts anticipating racism. Finally, temporal dimensions of social class address the past, present and future within everyday practices and shape the sense of belonging in unsteady times.

Young People's Lay Perceptions of Material And Symbolic Inequalities

Sanna Aaltonen

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

In this presentation I focus on young people's lay perceptions of inequality and social class. Drawing upon thematic analysis of interview data produced among 17–19-year-old upper secondary students in four municipalities in Eastern Finland, I examine their subjective sense of inequality (Bottero 2020) and how they see themselves positioned in a stratified society (e.g. Irwin 2018; Snee & Devine 2018). From previous research we know that class identities are fundamentally ambivalent. Further, young people tend to see themselves as agents capable of controlling their own lives, and they have been accused of being blind to the existence of structural constraints arising from gender, ethnic, or class divisions ('epistemological fallacy' by Furlong and Cartmel 2007).

Instead of adopting a restricted focus on how young people fail to grasp inequalities, my presentation deals with both identifying and downplaying of differences. The sense of inequalities is examined with a special reference on language, drawing upon the notion that linguistic practices are linked to the construction of inequalities, and the cultivation of moral distinctions (e.g. Bourdieu & Thompson 1991). Thus, the presentation contributes to the understanding on how both material and symbolic boundaries and hierarchies are articulated by young people and what consequences these hierarchies are seen to have in their lives.

The presentation is written as part of a cross-disciplinary research project 'LINSOC – Linguistic variation, social class and experiences on inequality in Eastern Finland'.

The Patterns of Youth Life Chances Differentiation in Lithuania: the role of education, employment, and family background

Ruta Braziene, Sonata Vysniauskiene, Laima Okuneviciute-Neverauskiene, Justina Krauledaite

Lithuanian Social Science Centre, Institute of Sociology, Lithuania

The paper examines the subjective attitudes towards life chances of the Lithuanian youth (aged 18-35). Based on the concept of life chances introduced by M. Weber (1920) (cited by Grusky 2001), the theoretical aspects of life chances are analyzed. The theoretical construct at the micro level is based on the following theoretical approaches: life course theory (Brady, 2018; Jones, 2019, etc.), employment quality and security (Braziene, 2020, Barbieri, 2009; Kalleberg, 2009), subjective well-being and health (Diener, 2009), economic independence, and autonomy (Baranowska-Rataj et al., 2015; Walther, 2006; Corijn and Klijzing, 2001, Shanahan 2000, etc.), socioeconomic situation (Nolan and Whelan, 1996) and family socioeconomic background (Munro, 2019; Cho, Brand 2019; Bourdieu, 1984, Bourdieu, Passeron 1977). For the survey research, life chances dimensions were distinguished: individual socio-demographic characteristics; family/household characteristics; parents' family characteristics and status; work, employment, and career opportunities; income and material; learning, study, and training opportunities; subjective welfare and health; autonomy (housing, financial, decision making, etc.). The total number of primary indicators was 367. A differentiation of youth life chances indexes was constructed based on the representative survey research results in 2023 (N=1209). The indexes reveal the diversity and patterns of youth life chances (age, gender, education, employment status, family background, etc.). The results of this study demonstrate the differentiation of young people's life chances but also allow the development of public policy recommendations

at a national and regional level. The Lithuanian Science Council funds this research.

Russian Youth Experience of Downward Mobility and Achieving Recognition in the Current Context.

Ekaterina Pavlenko

National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation

The paper focuses on the changes that occurred in downward mobile young people's understanding of their social positioning and mobility, with particular interest in how young people in Russia today draw boundaries between social groups and themselves, and how they construct what becomes the foundation of their personal understanding of dignity and recognition. We are looking at the way young people perceive their past choices with regard to education and work within the perspective of the future they strive to achieve.

We are using the data gathered within "Trajectories in Education and Careers" longitudinal research project. We have collected in-depth biographical interviews with participants of the national representative panel. The sample includes three groups of youth, depending on their answers to the question about their status in relation to their parents' (subjective social mobility): upward, downward and reproducing. Our informants were interviewed in the summer of 2023, at the age of 24-26, amounting to 56 interviews. All informants signed consent agreement forms, and their data was anonymized. We are using Michele Lamont's latest work on the concept of recognition, as well as Annette Lareau's insights into the role of upbringing practices in order to look into meaning structures that shape individual trajectories. We hope to show how understanding of downward mobile young people social stance and the means to establish the life they wish for themselves has changed over the years, and how they perceive their future.

RN30 | T07_02: Youth, social relationships and belonging

Ethnic Homophily in Friendship Selection among Czech and Ukrainian Secondary School Students in the Czech Republic

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The paper investigates ethnic homophily in friendship selection among secondary school students in the Czech Republic. As several European countries are becoming increasingly multi-ethnic, the salience of harmonious interethnic relations is widely recognized. However, an extensive body of research has demonstrated that, even in diverse school settings, ethnic homophily (preference for same-ethnicity peers) is prevalent in friendships. While in-group friendships can provide some benefits for immigrant children, the benefits of having native/majority friends have been widely documented.

Data from the first wave of the Czech Education Panel Survey (2023) is used, which includes over 20,000 students (aged 15-16) from 249 schools in the Czech Republic. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Czech Republic hosted over half a million Ukrainian refugees, which made them the largest foreign-born ethnic group in the country. Consequently, our analysis focuses on interethnic friendships among Czech and Ukrainian students at school.

The paper sets out two goals. First, drawing on intergroup contact theory and social identity theory, we investigate the relationship between ethnic homophily and ethnic diversity across classrooms. Second, applying exponential random graph models, we investigate to what extent can ethnic homophily be explained by network characteristics (such as reciprocity and transitivity) and by homophily along other dimensions including socio-economic status and peer popularity. Additionally, we control for structural factors such as classroom size in our first set of models, and for gender and the level of empathy in our network models.

Relationship between School Climate and Sense of Belonging among Students of Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds

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Educational contexts serve as significant agents of socialization, contributing substantially to the development of not only academic skills but also of a diverse range of socio-emotional competencies. An important factor linked to students' satisfaction and general level of well-being is sense of belonging. Alarming PISA results demonstrated that 17-40% of 15-year-olds are dissatisfied with school and that one in four adolescents have low feelings of belongingness (Willms, 2003). More specifically, studies suggest that the meaning of belonging may be different for students of different ethnicities who experience differential levels of discrimination (Murphy & Zirkel 2015), which consequently affects the sense of school belonging among these students (Brown & Tam, 2019). Therefore, our paper focuses on the sense of belonging as it relates to individual variables (e.g., ethnicity, SES, and gender) as well as to broader, school-level variables, such as multicultural climate and ethnic discrimination in schools. Participants (N=904; Mage=16.24, SD=1.05) were recruited from 20 high-schools located in multi-ethnic regions of Serbia. Ethnically, students identified as Serbian (ethnic majority; 69.9%), Bosniak (11.1%), Hungarian (10.8%), and Roma (8.2%). For this paper we used a single-item 5-point Likert type measure to assess school belonging ("I feel I belong to this school"), Delaware School Climate Scale (DSCS), version for students (Bear et al., 2011, 2014a; 2014b), and a 12-item five-point Likert-type scale assessing ethnic discrimination by peers, teachers, and the institution. Individual-level variables were not significantly associated with the sense of belonging. School factors, however, proved to be significant predictors, especially those related to bullying, teacher-student relationship, and students' engagement. This indicates that a greater focus should be placed on contextual–school-level factors instead of the intrapersonal ones.

Exploring Campus Green Spaces and Student Sense of Belonging through Photovoice

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Access to green spaces has been shown to increase sense of belonging within urban environments. However, few studies have explored the role campus green spaces may play in contributing to students' sense of belonging within their campus community. Drawing from a semester-long photovoice project in New York City that invited 26 students to capture photos of campus green spaces and voice preferences, concerns, and potential improvement to the college community through an exhibition, this presentation explores the multiple roles campus green spaces play in student lives. Enacted in student photo-making and narrating were several themes. First, while students frequently photographed the campus great lawn and centrally-located plaza, the most common green spaces were miscellaneous, with a third of all photos featuring areas between buildings or along pathways and roads. Relatedly, although uses included socializing with friends and taking a break between classes, the most common was passing through (i.e., noticing nature while walking by). Finally, green spaces served as symbolic representations of students' lives (e.g., changing leaves representing growth) and their college careers (e.g., stairs and hills representing work ethic/steps in life). Taken together, these findings suggest that while actively using green spaces may be important, even the green spaces observed walking through campus have meaning and can promote student sense of belonging. Institutional and pedagogical implications of using photovoice methodology will be discussed as a way to foster campus cohesion and empower students to address social and environmental issues on campus, and in their communities of the future.

Trust, Distrust and Belonging in East Helsinki

Tarja Tolonen, Anni Nyyssölä, Hanna Yrjänä

University of Helsinki, Finland

Trust, Distrust and Belonging in East Helsinki

Tarja Tolonen, Anni Nyyssölä and Hanna Yrjänä

University of Helsinki, Sociology

In our study we focus on young people's relationship with their neighbourhood. In this paper we ask: how do young people relate to their neighbourhood and see their future and life there? In our ethnographically inspired qualitative research in East Helsinki, we have conducted interviews with 17-20-year-olds, who mainly belong to racialized minorities.

In our analysis we draw inspiration from Nira Yuval-Davies' (2006) dimensions of belonging. Our analysis takes place on two levels. First, we focus on general distrust of East Helsinki created by the media, statistics, city planning and populist politics. East Helsinki represents a stigmatized place of disadvantage, justified by high unemployment, low-income-rates and a high number of foreign-language-speaking population and is seen in media as one potential breeding ground for youth crime. The academic and media representations of East Helsinki materialize in urban regeneration programs which attempt to fix things from top-down. Secondly, we analyse young people's feelings of belonging, including trust and distrust, their communities and social relations in East Helsinki. Without dismissing the experiences of disadvantage, our aim with this paper is to add nuance to the at times black-and-white discussion of segregation and to increase the understanding of the perspectives of the young people living in territorially stigmatized areas.

RN30 | T08_01: Youth, work and education

My Confinement Experience: Analysis of Biographical Narratives of Young Students in Transition to Adulthood and Higher Education

Sandra Coelho, Cláudia Carvalho Amador

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

We conducted a research involving 43 first-year students of Economics and Management from Católica Porto Business School, focusing on their digital life experiences during the initial wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Biographical narratives were applied. The findings reveal that social networks served as crucial allies against isolation but also triggered feelings of discomfort. The hastily implemented distance learning, lacking preparation, led to widespread dissatisfaction due to challenges faced by teachers and the students' susceptibility to distractions. Additionally, we investigated the transitions to adulthood and higher education during the pandemic for these young individuals. The absence of significant events, such as birthday parties and graduation trips, was highlighted as distressing. Despite comfortable material conditions, the darker side of the pandemic was perceived in the realm of leisure. In summary, this study provides an in-depth understanding of young individuals' experiences during confinement, addressing both the digital dimension and transitions to adulthood, enriching our comprehension of the challenges faced by this generation in times of a pandemic.

Narratives Of Growth At The Bottom Of The Knowledge Economy

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Universitatea 'Babes Bolyai', Romania

Many graduates from the Social Sciences and Humanities in Romania start their employment in the thriving business service sector. This entails work in finance, accounting, procurement, data entry and customer support: all areas claiming a stance in the 'knowledge economy'. Whilst many multinationals gradually located low-end office work in Romania, it is uncertain whether the sector can sustain career progression for large cohorts. Nevertheless, the companies advertise the promise of 'growth' and the concept is gaining currency among the graduates themselves. Also, an entire professional layer emerged, with the purpose of fostering growth at/ through employment in the sector.

Informed by over 100 face-to-face interviews with young employers in the business service sector, HR staff and managers at different levels of seniority, the presentation asks how the main actors conceptualise 'growth'. In this process, the research also asks: What it takes to grow: who grows in companies, when and under which enabling circumstances? What are the (expected) paths to growth and how strategic thinking or pure luck play a role? Ultimately, what does 'de-growth' look like and what the refusal of growth tell about the changing nature and meaning of work?

The presentation suggests that despite its pervasiveness, companies and graduates alike, rarely define the concept. When prompted, young people tend to display rather diffuse projections, and less, strategic plans and pathways. Companies' representatives project growth in the labour market by and large, turning to 'personal growth' as a strategic move to circumvent the promise of 'in house'' career advancement.

New High School Reform in Brazil: Youth Experiences and Projects in Urban Outskirts

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In recent decades and in different national realities in Latin America, public secondary education systems have undergone several reforms in their structural formats, curricular proposals and purposes, together with the democratization of school access and attendance, increasing the presence of young people from different socio-economic backgrounds. Based on a dialogue between theoretical references from sociological studies of education and youth, this paper focuses on the school experiences and future projects of young people living on the urban outskirts in the face of the current reform of secondary education in Brazil. The consequences of this reform had great repercussions on the Brazilian public scene, especially considering the implementation of training itineraries and the curricular component called "Life Project". Throughout 2023, eight discussion groups were held with young people from schools located in urban outskirts of the State of São Paulo, one of the first to implement the reform. The results show a mismatch between young people's expectations regarding secondary education and the changes implemented in schools. There are also negative effects on plans for access to higher education, which had been a new reality among the popular classes, following the adoption of affirmative actions in the country in recent decades.

The authors of the proposal are undergraduate and graduate professors at the University of São Paulo and the Federal University of São Carlos, focusing on sociological studies of youth, investigating the relationship between young people and education, work and collective action. They participate in the Brazilian Youth Research Network.

Higher Education, Affective Governance and Ideas of Youth Employability

Minna Marita Nikunen

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

In my paper, I will analyse the current ideals of 'employability', especially affective / soft skills. I ask how these ideals are transmitted by higher education institutions to students, and how students interpret and use them in their identity work. These ideals are often global but they are implemented locally, in this case in Finland. I call the overall process 'affective governance': the demands to develop affective capacities or soft skills are seen essential for young adults as employees/entrepreneurs-in becoming.

In the analysis, I use 1) materials from Finnish universities' web sites on student employability, 2) policy documents on youth employability created by Finnish ministries and European commission and 3) students writings on their expectations towards university education in terms of employability. In Finland, there has been a longstanding reliance to entrepreneurialism, especially as developing an entrepreneurial mind-set – as a central important component in increasing employability. In this paper, I claim that the current idea of tuning one's mind to entrepreneurial frequency has incorporated some ideas of therapy culture, such as personal growth, self-assurance, happiness and emphasis on affective capacities and soft skills.

RN30 | T09_01: Youth, climate justice and activism

Framing Climate Justice From an Intersectional Youth Perspective: Fridays for Future

Antje Daniel

University of Vienna, Austria

In August 2018, 16-year-old Greta Thunberg began demonstrating for climate justice in front of the Swedish parliament. From this protest arose a global protest movement under the slogan Fridays for Future, which, according to organizers, covered 163 countries and over four million people in September 2019. Since 2019, youth are at the forefront of addressing the climate crisis and are able to mobilize masses for climate justice (Almeida 2019, De Moor et al. 2021). With Fridays for Future, a new form of youth activism emerged, unique in its global scope and the low average age of the activists (Daniel & Deutschmann 2020; De Moor et al. 2020). Although all protests take place under the globally shared master frame of climate justice, youth demand vary in Austria. Youth in Austria contribute to linking globalising orientations (master frames) of climate justice with context-specific problems. Climate activism thus configures itself between global and local conditions, but also depends on gender, education and other social categories. Against this background, the presentation aims to highlight the intersectional framing of climate justice in Austria climate activism. In so doing, the first question that is addressed is, who are the young people engaged in the climate justice movements? What motives drive activists and how do youth frame climate justice from an intersectional perspective reflecting local conditions, gender, age or socio-economic background and education? This perspective on youth environmental activists is important to understand the relevant ecological conflicts and their political negotiation by young people. The presentation results from the research project on youth activism in Austria, Bangladesh and Uganda and is based on a mixed methods research.

How Can Youth Work Support Transformative Youth Activism?

Sarah Ward[1], Maureen McBride[2]

1University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 2University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

For youth in low-income neighbourhoods in Scotland, multiple crises have deepened existing poverty and inequalities. The increasing educational attainment gap causes many young people to leave school with no positive destination. Young people report that their neighbourhoods are not good places to live due to a lack of affordable housing and sustainable jobs. Further, youth from low-income

neighbourhoods are often pathologized and further marginalised for their lack of economic and civic participation. Meanwhile, the local resources available to disadvantaged young people are being eroded. State-funded youth provision has been cut, with responsibility for youth delivery devolved to community-based organisations that are themselves frequently victim to precarious employment and funding.

Within this challenging landscape, pockets of potentially transformative relational work support young people to develop agency and voices for social change. Youth work organisations deploy a range of creative youth-led activities focused on promoting youth voice and developing participation opportunities for marginalised youth. Using holistic, trauma-informed and situated approaches, youth workers build responsive and trusting relationships with young people. This paper explores the potential for transformation offered within such settings, given the limitations such organisations have to address structural inequalities. Based on a research project in Scotland exploring the question, 'What are the barriers and enablers to working-class youth activism?', we employed qualitative in-depth interviews and focus groups with youth activists across three youth organisations to examine the role of identities, intersectional inequalities, activity types and resources in supporting disadvantaged young people to develop agency and voice towards action for change.

Generation Dread? Young People and the Hope of/for Intergenerational and Climate Justice

Peter Kelly

Deakin University, Australia

In much of our work in the Young People's Sustainable Futures Lab (YPSFL) we continue to situate many of the issues that concern us about young people's pasts, presents and futures – for example, the pandemic and its consequences, the climate crisis, the crises of global capitalism, the mass extinction of bio-diversity – in wider debates and discussions about the impacts that different groups of humans have had, and continue to have, on the earth systems that sustain the complexity and diversity of life on the planet. In this presentation we will draw on more than 100 video interviews we conducted with young people in Melbourne (AUSTRALIA) during 2020-2023 to situate aspects of this ongoing work. Drawing on theories of intergenerational and climate justice, and posthuman understandings of the complex entanglements of the human and more-than-human that shape young people's hopes for living well in the Anthropocene we will explore how sociologies of young people can contribute to imagining what a 'radical politics of hope' (Braidotti 2013) for intergenerational and climate justice might mean for 'Generation Dread' (Wray 2023) – those contemporary populations of young people in different places who are experiencing the sorts of generational anger and emotional responses that are evident in the 'climate endgame of the historical present' (Frantzen 2023). In thinking with what many of these young people told us, we will suggest that any exploration of the promise of intergenerational and climate justice must acknowledge that if 'climate change accumulates in our bodies, it accumulates in our minds and brains too, and in our nervous systems. It sediments as a generational experience' (Frantzen 2023).

RN30 | T09_02: Youth practices and substance misuse

A Qualitative Research on the Relationship Between Youth Values and Substance Use

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With advancing technology, global mobility and ease of transportation, drug production and addiction has become a problem that concerns not only Turkey but the whole world. The decreasing age of starting substance use has increased the importance of studies aimed at understanding and analyzing the world of young people. The lack of a value-centered philosophy of life on the road to substance use makes young people very defenseless and fragile.

The aim of this study is to investigate the increasing substance addiction among young people from the perspective of transformation in social values. Being able to enter the world of meaning of young people who use substances and learning their ideals and goals will enable us to better understand substance addiction, which prevents the individual from thinking rationally and making decisions, and to produce solutions. The most challenging aspect of this study is that the subject content is sensitive and made drug users uneasy. Therefore, snowball sampling method will be used to determine the participants in this research spread over time. Pre-prepared semi-structured interviews will be applied to individuals aged 15-30 living in settlements such as Ilıcabaşı, Orta Mahalle and Germencik, where substance use is particularly concentrated in Aydın province. This research aims to understand their future plans, life philosophies, personal boundaries and values through open-ended questions prepared for the participants' experiences and perceptions. The effect of the values revealed in the findings on the relationship between substance use behaviors and addiction will be analyzed sociologically.

The Relationship Between Tobacco Use And Life Satisfaction Among Serbian Students

Mihajlo Djukic, Dusko Bodroza

Institute of Economic Sciences, Serbia

Tobacco use is responsible for 8 million deaths annually. Most people start smoking in their teenage period. About one third of those who start using tobacco on a regular basis die from tobacco-related diseases. The most important determinants of smoking initiation refer to smoking status of the parents and friends. However, some studies found that onset of smoking is also associated with depression and low life satisfaction. Other studies reported bidirectional relationship between life satisfaction indicators and tobacco use suggesting that tobacco use could also be responsible for personal wellbeing. Youth are often aware of the smoking consequences, but often underestimate the risks since expect to stop before the negative health outcomes occur. Smoking prevalence rates in Serbia, although slightly decreasing over the last decade, are still higher compared to most of the European countries. This research aims at analyzing relationship between smoking status and life satisfaction indicators among students (18 to 30 years old) in Serbia. The analysis is based on the sample of 1,430 respondents out of which 26.6% consume tobacco products including those being occasional ("social") smokers. Analysed life satisfaction and wellbeing indicators include subjective perception of physical and mental health and were assessed in a 1 to 7 Likert scale. Additionally, use of alcohol and gambling practices were also taken into account as control variables. Obtained results could provide valuable information for the policy makers referring to redesigning tobacco control and youth policies.

Young People and Different Drinking Cultures

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1Tallinn University, Estonia; 2Eclectica, Italy; 3Aarhus University, Denmark

The paper explores the relationship between perceived cultural norms of alcohol consumption and social context from the perspective of young adults. Today's youth are the first generation to grow up in a globalized world that is largely discussed in the context of diminishing national and regional differences. However, even though different drinking cultures are believed to be merged due to the increasing homogenization of practices and norms of alcohol consumption, some studies suggest that the cultural position of alcohol remains different in European countries. The paper aims to analyse how young adults from Estonia, Denmark, and Italy understand excessive drinking, highlighting both similarities and differences in drinking patterns, and demonstrating how that are related to broader historical developments and contemporary attitudes.

The empirical part relies on 24 focus group interviews (N=128) conducted in spring 2022 with young adults from Estonia, Italy, and Denmark. The focus group interviews were conducted using the Reception Analytical Group Interview (RAGI) method, which utilized two video clips of drinking scenes in distinct contexts as stimuli for eliciting collective meaning-making processes, experiences, feelings, and perspectives of alcohol use. All group discussions were recorded with participants' permission, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using the software NVivo or Atlas-Ti. For the paper, analyses of the data are structured three-dimensionally: the (un)acceptability of heavy drinking, "othering" based on alcohol use, and gender-specific drinking norms.

RN30 | T09_03: Youth, social bonds and lifestyles

Title Case: Sociological Analysis of the Phenomenon of Youth Gang in Greece. Forms of Appearance, Member Characteristics and Suggestions for Dealing with it

Theano Manoudaki

Panteion University, Greece

One of the characteristic features of most forms of juvenile delinquency is collective behavior, whether it concerns delinquent actions of minor severity or organized criminal behavior oriented towards the acquisition of profit. Juvenile gangs are differentiated from other youth groups with deviant behavior not only because of their delinquent activity but mainly because of the degree of organization within the group and the particular identity that members form for themselves and for the group itself.

The present study deals with the phenomenon of youth gangs as it has developed in Greece during the last decades and is based on a qualitative analysis of interviews with gang members in the wider area of the city of Athens. Through the analysis of the interviews, both the reasons why young people join a gang, as well as the degree of connection and dependence on it, are revealed. It is also analyzed the way in which they perceive their role and themselves in it as well as the identity they form through their participation. It also examines how group members organize their actions and the use of violence within and outside of the group. Finally, the relationships and perceptions of gang members towards the school, the family and the police will be discussed.

Distinctive Features of Hikikomori Lifestyle Among Russian Youth

Ekaterina Orekh, Elena Bogomiagkova

St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation

The report aims to analyse the phenomenon of strong expression of digital escapism in Russia, which can be found in a specific lifestyle referred to as hikikomori. Under the term «digital escapism» we understand practices of using the virtual environment (dumscrolling, web surfing, video games, online gambling, virtual communication) in order to distract from everyday social reality. Modern hikikomori are characterized by long periods of voluntary isolation from the social environment in real life, lack of work or study, and active or even excessive use of the Internet. Studied since 1998 as a phenomenon of Japanese society, today the lifestyle of hikikomori ceases to be specific to that culture. Every year a number of studies appear which document similar phenomena in other countries, and Russia is no exception.

The hikikomori phenomenon in Russia has a short history and concerns mainly young people. There are very few cases of empirical analysis, reduced to a quantitative survey conducted on one of the Internet platforms and to the analysis of publications in the thematic group of the social network VKontakte. Access to these respondents is difficult, and at the moment they can only be judged by their representations in virtual space, making our research particularly relevant.

The purpose of our study is to analyze the phenomenon of hikikomori lifestyle among Russian youth. For our tasks, we use the method of in-depth interviews with youth representatives, who have some similar lifestyle features to Japanese hikikomori.10 in-depth interviews were conducted in August-November 2023.

Unmasking Identity, Masking the Entertainment

Ayça Oral Aksu

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Turkiye

This study examines the evolving cultural landscape of cosplay in Turkey, tracing its progression from a niche hobby to a transformative practice, especially impactful among the youth. Through ongoing ethnographic research started in 2021, the research uncovers cosplay's role in navigating identity, fostering social connections, and challenging established norms within the intricate socio-political context of Turkey. Grounded in critical youth studies, performance studies, and cultural studies, the research analyzes cosplay as a space for identity construction and performance, investigating how individuals adeptly negotiate gender norms, racial representations, and societal expectations. Emphasizing cosplay's function as a hub for community building, inclusivity, collaboration, and a sense of belonging among Turkish youth, the study employs a nuanced methodology involving ethnographic fieldwork, semi-structured interviews, and visual documentation. It highlights cosplay's empowering impact on young individuals, enabling them to articulate their identity, challenge societal norms, and foster supportive communities.The research explores the intricate interplay between youth culture and the nuanced political landscape, examining how cosplayers navigate this evolving socio-political milieu addressing social issues, such as political polarization and inequalities through creative expression. The significance lies in providing insights into the under-researched cultural sphere, highlighting the creativity of young people and examining how cosplay has become a distinct cultural sphere in Turkey that empowers young people to express themselves, build communities, and negotiate their place within a complex social and political environment by contributing to the pursuit of a more free social and cultural landscape.

RN31 | Ethnic Relations, Racism and Antisemitism

RN31 | T01_01: Antisemitism after 7 October, Memory and Rethinking

Between instrumentalization and denial: Rethinking antisemitism in Spain after October 7th.

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In the recent research project "Sites of Tension: Shifts in Holocaust memory, anti-Semitism and political contestation in Europe (2020-22)", the results for Spain aligned with those of the other four countries studied. Far-right nationalist parties engaged in revisionism of World War II narratives, including the distortion of the Holocaust, while at the same time showing openly pro-Israeli attitudes. During the same period, Spanish far-left parties showed very little explicit antisemitic discourses while they often diluted the Jewish Holocaust by reinforcing other persecuted victims of the Nazi regime.

However, since the October 7th attacks in Israel a new discursive constellation is emerging in Spain vis-à-vis Jews and Israel, which has common characteristics with other Western countries, but also specific national traits. On the one hand, there is a revival of traditional anti-Jewish tropes that are unacknowledged as such across the political spectrum and that emerge in the representation of Israeli military actions. On the other, the proliferation of speech about antisemitism itself, in the form of accusations by conservative and far-right actors, or as defensive denial by the left (antisemitism seen exclusively as a rhetorical weapon to shield Israel from criticism), configures a zero-sum game that severely limits a transparent and critical debate on the problem of antisemitism in Spain.

This presentation will address the challenges of combating antisemitism in this new discursive constellation, with a specific focus Holocaust memory and its place in postcolonial studies, forcing a relation between the historical past and the current political situation in Israel.

The Racisms of the Postcolonial

Thomas Doerfler[2], Eberhard Rothfuss[1]

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Postcolonialism has become one the leading ideologies in academia and in certain fields of (institutional) politics. Based on the narratives of diversity, de-colonialisation and a general critique on ‚western' epistemes, it claims that ‚western' philosophy derived from this hemisphere can't contribute to ‚southern' (aka ‚non-western', ‚subaltern', ‚indigenous ' etc. knowledge. It's second pillar is the classic left political ideology of the victim-narrative, which says that all non-western cultures are a consequence of the ‚colonial' heritage of these systems, as if they have no agency by themselves but are still only ridden by the past.

Third fundament is what Lacanian psychoanalysis calls the dialectics of the »master signifier«: every victim-narrative needs a ‚betrayer' who has ‚robbed' the identity of oneself. The most popular of such constructs in left ideology is ‚Capitalism', ‚Imperialism', ‚colonialism' or similar. In antisemtism it is ‚the jew' or jewish culture/politics etc. When it comes to Palestine we face a telling flip of ideological positioning within the left: confronted with the surely unsatisfiying situation of the people (the victim) it must be clear that there is a ‚betrayer' of their cause (the robber) – that is, well, Israel. To fit it into the aforementioned scheme, the state of the ‚ultimate victim' (Zizek) is turned into the ultimate perpetrator: to defend their cause, like in the actual situation since October 2023, they became like their tormentor and commit a ‚genocide'. I want to trace the roots of this construction being a false/uncritical ‚identity logic' (Adorno) that reveals with every ‚evidence' it gives it's racist ground: truth is relative and belongs to context (ex-Prof. Gay, Harvard) – except for one's own (victim-)cause, which bears the ‚ultimate truth'.

Guilt and Defence in the German Discourse on 7 October

Elke Rajal

University of Passau, Germany

The lecture focuses on discourses on the German left and right on (German) guilt in the context of 7 October.

While the German extreme right has long denied responsibility for Nazi crimes, in recent years the so-called New Right has popularised the idea of a cult of guilt. It is not guilt per se that is denied, but the culture of remembrance associated with it is massively questioned, and it is denied that guilt should entail corresponding responsibility. Political action and cultural practices that refer to German guilt are dismissed as fetishistic or cultic.

In the course of Documenta 15 (2022) and in the wake of the 7 October pogrom (2023), actors who see themselves as post-colonial leftists suddenly demanded that Gaza/Palestine be freed from German guilt. The pro-Israeli actions of the German government and the outrage over the pogrom are seen as exclusively determined by the discourse of German guilt. Furthermore, guilt is reversed when it is claimed that Israel itself is to blame for the Hamas pogrom.

The lecture reconstructs the influence of the two German historians' disputes ("Historikerstreit 1.0" in the 1980s and "Historikerstreit 2.0"/Catechism debate since 2021) on right-wing and left-wing discourses around an alleged fetishisation of guilt. It shows the dynamics of guilt deflection

in the discourses around 7 October in the various political camps. And it relates current German discourses on guilt to studies of memory and dominant forms and functions of antisemitism. From the perspective of Critical Theory, in particular Adorno's writings on guilt and defence, it examines the unifying elements as well as the different derivations of defensiveness against guilt on the German left and the right.

RN31 | T01_02: Historical and Conceptual Perspectives on Racism and Antigypsyism in Europe

500 Years A Slave: The Historical Political Economy Of The Racialisation Of Roma (Or A Case Study Of Racial Capitalism Over The Longue Durée)

Ashli Mullen

University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

The history of Roma in Europe is a history of violent persecution and exploitation, in which the forces of the state and capital loom large. From over 500 years of enslavement (Beck, 1989) to attempted extermination during the Porrajmos or Samudaripen (in which at least a quarter of a million Romani people, or around a third of the total European Roma population, were murdered), state racism and state-sanctioned exploitation cast their shadows over half a millennium. These historical facts remain largely under-theorised within the mainstream of the sociology of racism yet are ripe for exploration. This is especially so given that the sociology of racism has recently been enriched by transatlantic interdisciplinary conversations on 'racial capitalism'. Yet to speak of racial capitalism is not to treat the dual systems of racism and capitalism as synonymous, nor to collapse the two. Whilst centuries have been marked by a grotesque symbiosis of their expropriation and violence, a sufficient theoretical account of their embroilment must grapple with their independent efficacy. That is, with how the twin histories of racism and capitalism grew to become entangled across time and place in the making of the modern world. In this paper, I read against the grain of dominant perspectives on racial capitalism, from political Marxism to postcolonial studies, to re-tell this story. In doing so, I argue that the case of the racialisation of Roma complicates these dominant accounts, whilst posing generative new insights of its own.

How Can A Materialist Theory Of Racism Contribute To The Critique Of Antigypsyism?

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Antigypsyism is a relatively new subject of research compared to racism or antisemitism. Discussions about the special nature of this form of domination draw parallels with antisemitism on the one hand, as people identified as

"gypsies" are considered to be harmful to the community and without a place, similar to Jews (End 2016). On the other hand, there are similarities to racism, as antigypsyism often manifests itself through social neglect and claims of an inferior culture (Bhabha et al. 2017). Such comparisons can be helpful, precisely because they make it clear that antigypsyism is not subsumed within other forms of domination.

However, if we want to do conceptual justice to the distinctiveness of antigypsyist ideology and practice, further specifications are necessary. To this end, I will draw on the differentiation between social and racist dimensions of antigypsyism proposed by Wippermann (2015) and Tittel (2020). The connection between these two dimensions is also central to current debates on a capitalism-critical foundation of a theory of racism (see for example Reed et al. 2009; Bhattacharyya 2018; Egger 2023). In my presentation, I explore to what extent antigypsyism can be included in a materialist analysis of racism. Would this allow us to decipher ethnicized accusations of work-shyness and criminality as projections arising from the conditioning of people into bourgeois subjects? Or does a simple derivation from capitalist dynamics rather lead to functionalist conclusions that lack the explanatory power for experiences such as spatial segregation or generalized mistrust that people identified as "gypsies" often have?

Racialisation of Roma and Muslims in a Nation State: the Case of Poland

Michal J. Buchowski

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

The problem of the racialisation of the 'Other' in Central Europe is linked to nationalist ideologies. These are based on an exclusivist image of an ethnically homogeneous state. The 'Other' is seen as a contamination of the immaculate body of the nation and a threat to its existence. Although Muslims (commonly classified as 'Arabs') and the Roma are perceived in different ways, they are orientalised and racialised in a similar way, often in an overtly racist manner. With regard to these numerically marginal minorities in Poland, symptoms of a fear of small numbers can be observed. In the defence of an imaginary national and religious homogeneity and in a cultural fundamentalist mode, they are portrayed in the media – both linguistically and visually – as a major threat. At the same time, they provide ideas about the mythical 'Other' that are evoked and intertwined into complex images. Roma and Muslims embody negative attributes that are rejected as unacceptable by dominant group of 'Us' and incompatible with the nation's culture. Representations of the Other are politicised by those who produce discourse as they seek to draw clear boundaries around and to consolidate the nation. These 'fantasies' are perceived as real and have an impact on intergroup relations at the grassroots level. Ethnographic data highlighting these processes, particularly discrepancies between nationally circulated stereotypes and everyday practices in local communities where dominant majority and minorities coexist, resulting from an ongoing (2021-24) study on "Othering and racialisation of Roma and Muslims in a nation-state," will be presented.

RN31 | T02: Antisemitism after 7 October: Conceptual and Practical Implications

Antisemitism and Misogyny in today's Anti-Democratic Authoritarian Rebellions, exemplified by Incels and Jihadists

Gesche Gerdes

University of Passau, Germany

In my paper, I will focus on the so-called incel movement as a contemporary expression of anti-democratic authoritarian rebellion in which antisemitism and misogyny are intersectionally fused.

Incel is an acronym for involuntary celibate and serves as a self-description for thousands of young heterosexual men who gather in online forums to share their deep frustration at not finding a sexual partner. Incels blame modern society in general, and women in particular, for their loneliness. In virtual communities, they reinforce each other's worldviews, sometimes radicalising themselves to the point of committing terrorist acts. Their hateful ideology is not only directed at women and what incels perceive as feminine, but also at Jews and what they perceive as modern Western capitalist society.

I will analyse the incel movement using the framework of the authoritarian personality developed by Theodor W. Adorno and others in the 1940s, as well as Karin Stögner's concept of the intersectionality of ideologies. This approach allows me to focus on the ways in which antisemitism and misogyny intertwine to form the anti-democratic authoritarian syndrome under today's neoliberal economic conditions, while also highlighting the importance of sexuality and gender in the constitution of authoritarian personalities.

The Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 demonstrated the lethal combination of antisemitism and misogyny, that poses one of the greatest contemporary threats to emancipation, freedom and democracy in the so-called Western world and beyond. I will conclude my talk by applying my analysis of the incel movement to Islamist jihadism as another contemporary expression of anti-democratic authoritarian rebellion.

The Implications of Post-October 7 Expressions of Post-Holocaust Antisemitism for Western Democracies

Gerald Steinberg

Bar Ilan University

This analysis will build on the existing frameworks for studying post-Holocaust antisemitism, incorporating a database on post-October 7 manifestations, in order to consider the wider political implications for Jewish communities and, more broadly, western democracies. In particular, the paper will examine the role of social and political alliances that adopt antisemitic agendas under headings such as intersectionality, decolonization, solidarity, etc. In addition, we will consider these developments in the light of the debate over the application of the IHRA working definition in frameworks such as universities, labor unions, media platforms, political parties and other core institutions.

Rising Antisemitism and Discourses on Antisemitism and Israel in Germany after the Hamas Massacre of October 7: An Analytical Overview

Kim Robin Stoller

International Institute for Education and Research on Antisemitism, Germany

In the aftermath of the tragic events of October 7 orchestrated by Hamas, there has been a disturbing escalation of antisemitic incidents and crimes in Germany, as well as a partial shift in the discourse of the protesters. This paper offers a comprehensive analysis of these developments, drawing on data from civil society, state institutions, social media, and the media. A noticeable increase in public demonstrations, many of which have been marked by antisemitic episodes, signals a significant shift in public discourse and, to some extent, perception.

This study examines the nuanced changes in rhetoric and sentiment toward Hamas, Israel, and the nature of the demonstrations themselves. A critical examination of the language used in these anti-Israel protests reveals novel approaches to Israel, German historical contexts, and the Holocaust. This paper systematically analyzes the topoi employed by the demonstrators, highlighting a shift in narratives and public opinion.

It also identifies and characterizes the key actors in these demonstrations, exploring their perspectives and motivations. The analysis employs a multifaceted methodological approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data to provide a holistic understanding of the current antisemitic climate in Germany.

Through this work, we aim to shed light on the dynamics of contemporary antisemitic mobilization in Germany and offer insights into the societal and political implications of these developments.

Conspiratorial Social Critique And Antisemitism

Balázs Berkovits

Comper Center, University of Haifa, Israel

Since the work of Karl Popper there has been ample discussion about critical social science potentially becoming conspiratorial, due to the way they explain social phenomena. Some theoreticians nowadays, criticizing Popper, even argue that critical social science is by nature “conspiratorial” and “paranoid”, as suspicion lies at its essence. However, this dangerous assumption would mean that the presupposition of conspiracies cannot and need not be avoided and that there cannot be a clear-cut distinction between conspiracy theories and social critique, neither on epistemological nor other normative grounds.

A detailed examination of the relationship between three terms designating practices of interpretation is needed: conspiracy theories, critical social science, and antisemitism. The link between conspiracy theories and antisemitism is obvious; however, a hypothesis has to be tested: whether the links between conspiratorially minded explanations and social critique have the effect of rehabilitating antisemitic critique as social critique? Whether the anti-hegemonic stance expressed by conspiratorial explanations passing as critique legitimizes antisemitic expressions on the “progressive left”?

Supposedly, this is the case when Jews are perceived as part of the power elite, let it be financial or political; or when they become the epitome of the privileged classes, “betraying” their original position of outcasts (like when there is question of “Jewish whiteness”); or again, when they are pictured as being favored by the state and its apparatuses to the detriment of other groups or minorities (termed as “state philosemitism”).

RN31 | T03_01: Antisemitism, Perceptions, Practices and Institutional Responses

Police Statistics on Antisemitism in Germany. Results from a Civil Society and Practice-oriented Research Project

Colin Kaggl

Bundesverband RIAS e.V., Germany

In Germany, the October 7 massacre and the subsequent rise in antisemitic incidents prompted policymakers to question the effectiveness of the official German political – and hate-crime statistics (KPMD-PMK) (see Buchsteiner 2023). However, the accuracy of and deficits in the official statistics have long been the subject of critical debate by the Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism (Bundesverband RIAS) and other representatives of civil society.

A major point of criticism is a divergence in perceptions between official data and the experiences of affected communities. Given already low levels of institutional trust, this could strain relations and deepen distrust between Jewish communities and the state.

Bundesverband RIAS was founded in 2018 to ensure the consistent recording and documentation of antisemitic incidents by civil society throughout Germany and thus strengthen the perspectives of those that are affected in public discourse. Beyond that, RIAS started the research project "Exchange between police and civil society on antisemitism" (APZAS). Using a mixed-methods approach of expert interviews and quantitative analysis of the KPMD-PMK the project explores the (non-)registration of antisemitic offenses by the German police and the underlying understanding of antisemitism in all its forms.

The proposed paper presents the results of this research and delves into findings of mechanisms and practices of police actors and statistics, as well as criticisms of these by civil society and the scientific community. It thus offers critical insights into the inner workings of the state and police as key players in the fight against antisemitism.

Buchsteiner, Jochen. 2023. Faeser will antisemitische Straftaten differenzierter erfassen. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, October 30.

Understanding Antisemitism And Its Relation To Racism – The Perspective Of German Jews

Niklas Herrberg

Heinrich-Heine-University, Germany

A recurring part of the conflict about an appropriate understanding of antisemitism is the relationship between antisemitism and racism, their similarities and differences, but also the question of subsuming antisemitism under the category of racism. However, researchers have often paid little attention to the perspectives of Jews. In my presentation, I will therefore address the question of how Jews, as those primarily affected by antisemitism, understand antisemitism and its relationship to racism.

In light of a phenomenologically oriented sociology of knowledge in the tradition of Alfred Schütz, the everyday understanding of antisemitism comes into focus. The experience of antisemitism can undermine the unquestioned nature of everyday life evoking the need for a practical interpretation. On basis of a coding of 21 problem-centred interviews with Jews living in Germany and a line-by-line analysis of key passages, I was able to reconstruct the diversity of understanding antisemitism in everyday life.

My analysis indicates that the interviewees agree on the need for an appropriate understanding of antisemitism. In their perspectives, especially the non-Jewish society lacks sufficient knowledge about antisemitism. However, the interviewees' specific understanding of antisemitism varies, mirroring the positions of the public controversy. While some interviewees emphasise the ideological distinctiveness of antisemitism, another sees antisemitism as "racism against Jews". Yet others trace antisemitism and racism back to a common origin, thereby emphasising differences and similarities. Regarding the lifeworld it is crucial to understand that these interpretations are tied to the practical anticipation of antisemitism as well as the need for promising responses.

No Antisemitism, Nowhere. Sociological Perspectives On A Widely Neglected Issue Within Social Work

Holger Knothe

IU International University of Applied Sciences Munich, Germany

The subject of this paper is the sociological exploration of the neglect of Antisemitism as an important social problem within the profession of Social Work in Germany. Despite recent efforts to promote the subject of combating antisemitism in educational settings it is still rather insular in Social Work education and practice. In light of rising antisemitic attitudes and actions within Germany the widespread lack to address antisemitism as a social problem e.g. highly visible in the field of school social work can be seen as

rather peculiar and highly disputable. This finding became even more evident in light of the October 7 massacre and the subsequent silence of German Social Work Professional Organizations in its aftermath. This resonates strangely with Social Work's core beliefs as a highly ethical profession in which "Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities" (IFSW 2014) are integral. Hence the paper unfolds sociological and historical perspectives on the possible reasons for the neglect of Antisemitism as a social problem within Social Work. The interconnectedness between Social Work's high ethical stance on the one hand and the absence of combating current antisemitic practices, discourses and attitudes towards Jews on the other hand is thereby very often entangled with Germany's current migration situation. It remains an open question if the manifold, yet insular efforts of changes in education lead to a beginning shift of perspective in order to sensitize German Social Work professionals and educators alike for the ongoing relevance of Antisemitism and the fragile situation of German Jewry.

The German Press and Israel: Research Findings of a Study on Reporting on Israel

Jonas Hessenauer, Lukas Uwira

Tikvah Institut, Germany

Previous studies on German media coverage of Israel have shown that it is often distorted, decontextualized, one-sided, erroneous, and even contains antisemitic motifs. An ongoing empirical research project of the Tikvah Institute in Berlin investigates the German media coverage of Israel in 2023. Using qualitative content analysis, the authors identify recurring distortions and mistakes in the reporting. While the reproduction of antisemitic stereotypes in the articles examined is relatively rare compared to the findings of prior studies, distorted reports that depict Israel in a negative manner occur with some frequency. Articles adopt one-sided perspectives, and events are often not sufficiently contextualized or historically classified. These distorted reports about Israel are problematic because they can influence the attitudes of recipients and amplify antisemitic beliefs. In addition to the presentation of different forms of distortions, preliminary quantitative results about the frequency of these phenomena will be presented. One focus will be the development of reporting on Israel after October 7th. Despite persistent distortions, for example, the German media reported on Israel in a slightly more supportive manner after Hamas' massacre than before, except in letters to the editor and interviews. This is a noticeable change compared to the reporting on prior conflict phases (e.g. the Second Intifada). It will also be discussed whether October 7th and its aftermath had a lasting impact on German journalism and its coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or whether it was just a short-term change.

RN31 | T03_02: Anti-Roma Racism and Social Exclusion

Cacophony in conceptualizing and operationalizing ethnicity: The case of Roma in Hungary

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HUN-REN Center for Social Sciences

Using secondary research from the political, education and employment fields this paper aims to demonstrate the consequences of confused and overlapping conceptualization of the Roma in Hungary as an ethnic group, as a racialized minority, as a national minority and as a socially disadvantaged group. We discuss the conceptualization and operationalization of race and ethnicity in Hungarian law, with particular interest in the use of legal categorisations, terminological clusters, and their relationship to policy-making. Our thesis is that conceptualization, operationalization and policy-framing are connected and that the incoherent conceptualization and operationalization of race and ethnicity contributes to the ineffectiveness of policies geared towards ethnic groups in Hungary, and especially with regard to the Roma population. We also identify the phenomenon of ethno-racial data processing-phobia, a reluctance to "see" race and ethnicity by policy actors due to a false apprehension of European privacy regulations. We argue that this leads to the Murphy law of data protection: where discriminators have no difficulties identifying their victims, but when it comes to remedial action or social inclusion measures, action is paralysed by the mis-interpretation or overly cautious application of the principles of processing ethnic data. The case of Roma communities in Hungary provides a unique opportunity to reveal the political and ethical dilemmas in conceptualizing and operationalizing race, ethnicity and nationality in the law, in public policy and in related everyday practices. By presenting the above dilemmas we intend to fill in a research gap left open by the Western and Northern Europe research tradition that mostly overlooks how ethnicity (and race) function differently in Eastern Europe.

Ethnic Experience Index – the case of Roma in the Czech Republic

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Currently, there is a lack of quantitative research on the significance and meaning of ethnicity for Roma individuals in the Czech Republic. The meaning of ethnicity for its bearer is usually the subject of qualitatively oriented research. To address this gap, we aim to measure the significance and meaning that Roma individuals attribute to their own

ethnic identity quantitatively, which has not yet been studied in the Czech national context in this sense.

When it comes to the particular case of Roma in the Central European context, there is a discrepancy between the publicly declared identity and the identity attributed by others. Our objective is to reveal how Roma perceive their ethnicity, in terms of the dimensions that are commonly followed by the Racial and Ethnic Identity (REI) measures, such as the extent to which Roma people are concerned about their ethnicity, what it means for them to belong to this group and what kind of experience means to be Roma in today´s Czech society.

In the paper, we present the Ethnic Experience Index we have used and the results of its application. We analyse data collected in 2023, as part of a representative survey focused on the Roma population, under the project "Creating a system for quantitative data collection to evaluate the situation of Roma in Czech society" (1563 respondents). We will demonstrate how the index is related to the socio-demographic and mainly socio-economic situation of Roma people.

Roma as a "Suspect Community" in Addressing the Covid-19 Pandemic in Slovakia

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In this article we use empirical data to examine the management of the pandemic situation during the COVID – 19 outbreak in affected localities inhabited by Roma in Slovakia. Approximately one-third of Roma in Slovakia live in segregated neighborhoods where there is widespread poverty, overcrowding, and the absence of water and sanitation. Constructing the Roma minority as a "suspect community" (Breen-Smyth 2014), as a racially defined category of people who pose a threat to public health, the government deployed violent measures that included forced COVID – 19 testing conducted in several hundred settlements with the assistance of the military. Once those infected were identified, entire settlements were sealed off and people were forced to go into quarantine. The Army's Special Operations Forces, which are part of the armed forces, were active in building quarantine sites and guarding isolated neighborhoods. This approach to Roma was strikingly different from the management of the pandemic in relation to the general population.

We argue that this discriminatory and violent anti-pandemic measures towards the Roma emanates from the principles of colonial racism, particularly ideas of racial hierarchy. We argue that Slovak (and Czech) societies historically created specific colonial cultures without colonies, where dominant groups exert power and authority over less powerful and subjugated ethnic minorities (Spivak, 1988; Blunt & Wills, 2000). We conclude that the governmental responses of COVID-19 and the militarized quarantines in Roma neighborhoods clearly reveal that neocolonial attitudes play a structural role in Slovak society's treatment of its own ethnic minority

RN31 | T04: Racism, Belonging and Social Mobility in Diverse Societies

Exploring Experiences of Ethnic-racial Discrimination of Young People in Formal and Non-formal Education Contexts in Portugal and Their Civic and Political Consequences

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In the context of increasing diversity in both communities and schools, understanding the impacts of ethnic-racial discrimination in educational contexts becomes essential for the development of intervention strategies and policies. Our research focuses on the analysis of racism and ethnic-racial discrimination faced by young students aged between 12 and 18 years attending formal (basic education and high-school levels) and non-formal educational contexts in a city in the north of Portugal. This research taps into various manifestations of these experiences, aiming at understanding their civic and political impacts. Explicitly filling existing gaps in the literature, our research directs attention to the intricate relationship between school and community in the everyday trajectories of young people subjected to discrimination. The methodological approach is qualitative and based on young people's perspectives, with data collected through discussions in focus groups. These will allow us to explore young people's perceptions of discrimination and racism and how they see themselves as political actors and citizens. Understanding the diverse experiences and manifestations of discrimination in the educational trajectories of racialized young individuals and those belonging to ethnic minority groups, as well as identifying critical actors in these experiences, constitutes crucial aspects of this research. This communication discusses how such experiences of discrimination and racism reverberate in the social relationships of these young individuals within their educational institutions and communities. This study can contribute to practices that promote more egalitarian and respectful educational environments, endorsing the importance of political-educational approaches sensitive to ethnic and racial diversity.

Fragmentation or Integration? Ethnic Diversity and the Structural Cohesion of Social Networks in Schools

Georg Lorenz

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Scholars concerned with social cohesion in ethnically diverse societies often investigate ideational indicators, such as trust, and find negative associations. Another aspect of social cohesion, which might be a mechanisms underlying diversity's effects on ideational cohesion measures, is structural cohesion, describing the connectivity of social networks. This study investigates the structural cohesion of adolescent friendship networks and compares it across differently diverse classrooms. We distinguish multiple types of ethnic diversity and the consolidation of ethnic origin with socio-demographic attributes, such as gender and socioeconomic status. We theorize that these diversity aspects would undermine structural cohesion only if students had pronounced preferences for associating with ingroup others (i.e., homophily preferences). Our analysis of a computational measure of structural cohesion in data from the Trends in Student Achievement Study 2018, which included information on over 1,300 complete friendship networks in German schools, reveals that none of the considered diversity aspects are related to the structural cohesion. Confirming the relevance of this finding, we show that an ideational cohesion indicator—school attachment—is also unrelated to classroom diversity, while structural cohesion is a significant predictor of ideational cohesion. Our findings have important implications for diversity and cohesion research, indicating that homophily preferences are not powerful enough to fragment social networks in diverse contexts.

Negotiated Homes: Transmission and Transformation of Belonging in Kurdish Diaspora

Orkide Izci

University of Bologna, Italy

This paper analyzes the meanings of home(s) found in the biographical narratives of three generations of Kurdish-Alevi women who come from Northern Kurdistan and Turkey and live in the diaspora in Germany. Blunt and Dowling (2006) argue that home must be considered a spatial imaginary (the relations between feelings, attachment, and dwelling) and a political space of negotiation and contestation. This sociological analysis of 'de – territoriality' and displacement of an ethnic group is guided by the issue of how displaced populations deal with questions of 'home' as a concept of belonging(s) such as origin, homeland, nation, diaspora and the hosting country. This research focuses on the collective memories, life stories, migration experiences, and diaspora effect in (re)making homes, sense of belonging(s), and identities from a gendered and inter-generational perspective. This study will show what it feels like to feel at home in terms of belonging and identities: what is home, how diaspora and hosting country influence the idea of home, and what are the inter-generational transmissions of the sense of home, belonging, and identities? Analysis of the 'sense of belonging' found in the narratives of Kurdish-Alevi women in the diaspora shows transformation not only from one generation to another but also indicates a broader social change because experiences of belonging and identities are dynamic and sensitive to changes since self and society are interconnected and cannot be analyzed separately (Simmel 1964; Elias 2001; May 2011).

Rejecting Racism as an Interpretative Frame: Ethnoracial Minorities Navigating the Prospect of Stigmatisation in Business and Finance

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Newer contributions in assimilation theory demonstrate that upward mobility is not sufficient for the acceptance of ethnoracial minorities in mainstream society. Analytical concepts such as 'space invaders' (Puwar 2004) and the 'integration paradox' in discrimination research suggest that despite gaining access to spaces that have historically been occupied by the majority (middle class), minorities often experience othering and stigmatisation. Departing from this scholarship, this study examines experiences of stigmatisation – and strategies to avoid stigmatisation – among ethnoracial minorities who have entered middle-class positions in the fields of business and finance in Norway. Building on 40 in-depth qualitative interviews, the study finds that although the minority professionals are acutely aware of the reality of stigmatisation and discrimination in the Norwegian labour market, they maintain that they have not had negative experiences related to their ethnoracial background. Furthermore, they challenge the usefulness of anticipating stigmatisation and resistance. Rather, the main strategy to navigate the prospect of facing stigmatisation is to embrace a 'positive mindset' emphasising their agency and downplaying racial frames and narratives of discrimination. This strategy is enabled by their experience that ethnic boundaries in the Norwegian labour market can be permeable, and that elite educational credentials and outstanding work achievements can override ethnoracial difference, at least in specific contexts. This study contributes to the research literature on minority 'space invaders' entering predominantly white spaces by showing how rejecting racism and ethnoracial stigmatisation as interpretative frames is used as a strategy to stay competitive and maintain a sense of self-determination.

RN31 | T05: Postcolonialism, Antisemitism, and Historical Memory

„The holocaust as an application of colonial practices“ – Aimé Césaire As A Keyword Provider For Postcolonial Antisemitism?

Randi Luise Becker

University of Passau, Germany

Antisemitism and racism are two ideologies of group-based enmity that do not function in the same way and yet must be combated together in order to make a society without exclusion imaginable. However not least the reactions of the anti-racist, academic landscape all over the world in regard to October 7th have shown that a critique of racism does not necessarily go hand in hand with an understanding of how antisemitism reproduces itself in different forms and narratives.

In my dissertation, I examine if, where and how points of reference for antisemitism can be found in early, canonical texts of postcolonial theory and how these are taken up, changed or reinforced in the reception history of postcolonial studies till today.

In Porto, I would like to present my analysis of Aimé Césaire´s work and its reception: As a theorist from Martiniqué and founding father of the Négritude Movement, he has significantly shaped postcolonial studies and continues to influence them today. In particular, his thesis that National Socialism was a colonial practice that was this time applied to white people is widely received today in thematizations of the relationship between the Holocaust and colonialism.

In my paper, I present what Césaire actually says about Jews, National Socialism and Israel in his work and show the extent to which points of reference for antisemitism can be found in his work. I then show how these points of reference changed in the development of postcolonial studies and the reception of Césaire to answer the question, if Césaire can be seen as a provider of keywords and ideas for postcolonial antisemitism.

A. Dirk Moses And The “Catechism-Debate”: Shifts In Holocaust Memory?

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A. Dirk Moses’ essay “Der Katechismus der Deutschen”, which triggered the “Historikerstreit 2.0” in 2021, is an indicator of a possible shift within the German understanding of the Holocaust, away from the singularity thesis and towards embedding the Holocaust in a colonial continuum of violence. Based on Moses’ monograph “Problems of Genocide”, also published in 2021, the lecture examines the connections between these changes in memory and Moses’ academic work, particularly his postcolonial understanding of history. In doing so, Moses’ view on the topics of the Holocaust, Zionism, and colonialism, which are closely linked to the “Historikerstreit 2.0”, is analyzed. Focusing on the Nazi war of extermination and the history of Israeli Holocaust remembrance, the consistency of his understanding of history is discussed on the one hand, and the connection of this understanding of history to the current debate on a diversification of German politics of remembrance is worked out on the other. The lecture is intended both as a reflection on and a contribution to the current debate on Holocaust remembrance and colonialism. The aim is to show that Moses discursive-psychological paradigm for the explanation of a global history of violence is confronted with an epistemological problem. It fails to reflect the primacy of the object. This deficiency is simultaneously linked to the attractiveness of Moses theses for a national renewal of German culture of remembrance. Reducing the history of violence to discursive-psychological causes tends to disregard an analysis and critique of contemporary causes of violence (E.g. contemporary antisemitism or racism) in favor of an overemphasis on the significance of representation and memory for the present.

Antisemitism And The Antiracist Struggle

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In this paper, I discuss resistance against antisemitism in relation to the overall antiracist struggle. Inspired by postcolonial theory and critical race studies, and by locating notions of “Swedishness” at the core of the analysis, I show that antisemitism can be understood as a form of structural racism entangled with other racisms. Through in-depth interviews with self-identified Jews in Sweden, some of whom had a strong antiracist identity while others did not, the paper sheds lights on the experience of being a minority and having “a rather good life”, not being exposed to discrimination on the labor market, yet being exposed to forms of everyday racism. The paper discusses the opportunities and limitations for antiracist alliances between Jews and other people exposed to racism, not least people from the Middle East, a group that is portrayed as particularly antisemitic in hegemonic discourses.

Jews As ›Whites‹ And The Lack Of Solidarity Within Progressive Circles After The Antisemitic Massacre On October 7th

Tim Stosberg

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In recent years the characterization of Jews as ›Whites‹ has become a common theme within postcolonial and critical race theory-inspired approaches to Jewishness and antisemitism. In this context, ›Whiteness‹ is conceptualized as a social norm and a practice of domination – thus, it is viewed as both a social and political category. Hence, the critique of Whiteness aims to unveil unmarked and unnamed power structures and privileges associated with individuals racialized as Whites. However, scholars like Balázs Berkovits and David Schraub have criticized that portraying Jews as Whites often leads to the reproduction of antisemitic beliefs, such as the trope of ›Jewish power‹.

Building on this critique, my aim is to shed light on the shift within the social sciences from perceiving Jews as victims of antisemitism to being portrayed as alleged perpetrators of white supremacy and settler-colonial violence. I will primarily focus on the postcolonial assertion put forth by scholars like Edward Said, Abigail Bakan, or Lorenzo Veracini, suggesting that Jews, once they adopted Zionism, have become White, consequently signaling the end of antisemitism. Furthermore, I will address the lack of solidarity with Jews within leftist and progressive circles after the antisemitic massacre on October 7th, placing this silence in the context of the discursive ›Whitening of the Jews‹.

RN31 | T06: Antisemitism, Antizionism, and Public Memory: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Anti-Zionist Campaign In Poland (1967-68): Antisemitic Violence, Jewish Experiences, And Public Memory

Piotr Forecki

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In June 1967, responding to the Six-Day War in the Middle East, Polish authorities started a campaign against Zionism that resulted in the army purges of individuals accused of being traitors. 'Zionists' were a virtual enemy because no political movement of this kind had been active in Poland for a long time already, and it was a codeword to target Jews. The antisemitic campaign in Poland culminated the following year, and it has reached Jews in workplaces, neighborhood surroundings, and their homes.

The dominant historical narrative about these events, typically points to such manifestations of antisemitism as propaganda, discrimination at work, and job losses, which led thousands of Jews to leave the country. However, autobiographic sources reveal that the range of forms of violence the Jews experienced was broader. The presentation will discuss the diverse and recurring patterns and practices of antisemitic violence at the time. How are they remembered by the victims? Are memories of their experiences present in historiography? Answers to these and other questions will be provided on the basis of preliminary research findings from the project Jews in Poland in the Aftermath of the 1967-68 Antisemitic Campaign: Biographical Experience, Identity Changes and Community Dynamics. My main sources are biographically oriented in-depth interviews supplemented with published memoirs, press, and archival records.

Polish Jews After the 1967–68 Antisemitic Campaign: Antizionist Stigmatization and Redefinition of Attitudes Towards Israel

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The paper analyses the impact of the antisemitic campaign in communist Poland beginning with the government's

response to the Six-Day War in June ’67 and culminating in March ’68 as the authorities’ way of handling the pro-democratic protests and the crisis of legitimacy. Denouncing the Jews as Zionists and employing anti-Israel rhetoric was a strategy of blame and a way to avoid the charge of using antisemitic racism in party-state politics. What followed was massive discrimination and forced exile of a substantial part of Poland’s Jewish population. Framing our approach as a historical sociology of culture and politics, based on autobiographic (interviews and memoirs) and press sources, we ask questions that stem from the ongoing project Jews in Poland in the aftermath of the 1967–68 antisemitic campaign: biographic experience, identity changes, and community dynamics. How was the antisemitic stigma present in the context of ‘anti-Zionism’ and the actual significance of Israel to the Jewish community at the time? How and when did the attitudes towards Israel and its relevance for Polish-Jewish identity change over the decades? How were such changes manifested in the Polish-Jewish transnational community, including both the exiles (of whom fewer than one-third arrived in Israel) and those staying put? How can the tension between official politics and personal and communal sentiments be traced in Poland, as evidenced in the only remaining Yiddish newspaper – the communist weekly Folks-Shtime?

Revival of Antisemitism

David Hirsh

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The paper deals with the revival of antisemitism after October, 7.

Following October 7th, Young Jewish People Facing Antisemitism in France. Results of a New Quantitative Survey

Claudine Attias-Donfut

CNAV

A strong wave of antisemitism has occured in France, like in many other western countries, after the October 7th massacre of Israeli men, women and children by Hamas. This paper presents the results of a large survey conducted in France among a large sample of young jewish people, after these terrible events in order to know how do they face such a growing antisemitism, and what are their feelings and reactions. The survey has been conducted on a large sample of young jewish people (around 1300) , including schoolboys, school girls, attending public or private schools, – students attending universities, and young active people. According to the results show, more than 43% of them have been subject to antisemitic harassement and more than half of them (53%) have been subject to another form of harassment . Only 41% did not suffer from antisemitic or other kind of harassment.

The paper presents how these young jewish people face these difficult situations, thanks to their strong family attachments and showing both resilience and solidarity.

RN31 | T07_01: Media, Discourse, and Antisemitism

Unveiling Antisemitism with Survey Experiments: New Designs to Address Social Desirability Bias in Antisemitism Research

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In the field of antisemitism research, the validity of quantitative surveys is often compromised by the phenomenon of socially desirable responding. This issue not only skews descriptive statistics, leading to an underestimation of antisemitic attitudes, but also risks generating spurious correlations. Our research addresses this methodological challenge by implementing three distinct survey experiments: a factorial survey, a visual experiment, and a context framing experiment. Each of these approaches is designed to circumvent the biases inherent in traditional survey methods.

The factorial survey dissects complex attitudes into simpler, factorial components, reducing the respondent's ability to align their answers with perceived social norms. The visual experiment leverages imagery to elicit more instinctive responses, thereby bypassing the cognitive filters associated with social desirability. Lastly, the context framing experiment manipulates the contextual presentation of questions, aiming to disrupt the respondent's preconceived notions of the 'acceptable' response.

Our study draws on a representative sample of the North-Rhine Westphalian population, ensuring the generalizability of our findings within this region. The combination of these innovative methodologies provides a more accurate picture of antisemitic attitudes, paving the way for more effective policy interventions. This research not only contributes to the academic discourse on antisemitism but also offers practical tools for researchers grappling with the challenges of social desirability bias in survey data.

Rotating National Populism and Role of Hate Ideology. The case of Poland.

Ireneusz Krzeminski

Warsaw University, Poland

1). During past eight years 2015-2023, Polish nationalistic populist party, Law and Justice, developed the strategy of destroying democracy. Populists grants had been effective due to support of nationalistic, antisemitic and xenophobic ideology.

2). Ideology operates, using the hate as a main factor in organizing minds and behaviour of people. I'll would illustrate it by showing political and propaganda activities of L&J. In Poland, after eight years of L%J rules, in parliamentary elections there was a great success of opposition parties which united in one block.

3). What is going now and how L&J reacts to new Polish rulers? My main thesis is simple – the ideology used during the election campaign, now is being used as a tool pretended defence of democracy and constitution!

The President, Mr A. Duda, and the leader of L&J, Mr Kaczynski, who had broken Constitution many times, now redefined theirs goals.However, hatred is the main feeling they propagate and the hatred colours their views in general.

4). On the base of the article by Leszek Kolakowski, I'll try to show the role of hatred in the nationalistic populism politics. Professor Kolakowski shows how the ideology of hate erodes the minds of followers making them useful for manipulation by the leaders of the political movement.

Denunciation, Unmasking, Exposure: the Specificity of the Antisemitic Persecution Pattern in Poland

Anna Zawadzka

Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

In the proposed paper, I would like to explore the mechanism of antisemitic gossip, which is characteristic for Polish culture. Often the content of this gossip is not what is implied by the fact of someone's Jewishness, but the very fact that someone is Jewish – as if it were a fact that is firstly concealed and secondly compromising. During World War II, the chances of survival 'on the Aryan side' were almost exclusively for assimilated Jews who knew the Polish language and the Catholic rite, had been brought up in the national culture, and had the so-called 'good looks' – an appearance that did not lend to antisemitic racialisation. However, they remained the subject of constant 'round-ups' and extortion by the Poles, who engaged in 'identifying the Jew', a peculiar game with deadly consequences. On the basis of Jewish literature and memoirs (Krystyna Żywulska, Henryk Grynberg, Hanna Krall, Adolf Rudnicki) and data collected for the research project 'Jews in Poland after the 1967-1968 Anti-Semitic Campaign: Biographical Experiences, Identity Changes and Community Dynamics', I would like to show how this pattern of antisemitic violence – a pattern of unmasking and denunciation – has been reproduced since the war and how it functions in Poland today. My goal is to analyse this pattern in relation to the category of assimilation and the question about the whiteness of Jews, which have recently gained new importance. Together with the conference participants, I would like to discuss how this question can be addressed in the Eastern European context.

The Common Antisemitic Matrix of Different Conspiracies

Claudia Gina Hassan

University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

To the combination of post-truth and disinformation that has dominated public sphere studies in recent years, a third node of the issue is added: that of conspiracy and conspiracy theory.

This widespread diffusion corresponds more to a highly parceled and mediatized public sphere than to a dominant and powerful theory that has taken over everything else. Conspiracy theories are not merely descriptive but have a performative power and rhetorical function within public discourse that often has long-lasting consequences. By moving between old and new conspiracies, very different in time and space, it's necessary to identify their common anti-Semitic matrix. For example, the new idea of a conspiracy for an ethnic replacement of Italian and European civilization is articulated through a typical and ancient form of conspiracy of Jewish strong powers.

Conspiracy theories, however, have taken on different forms, subjects and objects in both a diachronic and synchronic sense. But in reality, the form of conspiracy as we have known it since the past two centuries is the result of modernization with its particular socio-political-cultural context. Whereas in the past conspiracy theories were ascribable to minority groups located on the fringes of politics and were placed in the category of pathology, today, however, they are widespread and highly visible. In the generalized distrust regarding the truth and plausibility of public discourse and in the climate of epistemic uncertainty, conspiracy theories represent a real cross-cutting and widespread subculture that exerts a certain attraction on which we intend to shed light here.

RN31 | T07_02: Intersectionality, Racism and Ethnic Relations

Violence Against Roma Women – Discursive Positions On Domestic Violence And Prostitution With Roma Women As Victims

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Studying violence against Roma women is a specific subfield of domestic and sexual violence and prostitution. The relevance of the topic is related to this group's multiple vulnerabilities. It might seem evident that women of a disadvantaged and socially excluded minority population are at higher risk of victimization by violence. Nonetheless, when their victimization is accounted for, there are a lot of social, and political stakes involved.

In this study, our goal is to identify and describe the major positions of different social actors (politicians, experts, activists, civil organizations, journalists) in the discourses on violence against Roma women. Through a discourse analysis of media and political texts, we aim to explore how political, and civil stakeholders and the media construct the problem.

The main issue around which the debates revolve is whether the ethnicity of the victims (and perpetrators) should or should not be mentioned, or, a color-blind or non-color-blind approach should be taken. Civil actors promoting Roma emancipation either use a color-blind approach aiming to avoid ethnicization and essentialization of the problem, or argue from an intersectional perspective and highlight the importance of the non-color-blind approach. The non-color-blind approach, however, is also used by conservative actors arguing that ethnicity is a key issue in understanding violence against Roma women, while others from the same position frame the problem in an essentialist manner and use prejudiced language.

Exploring Roma Feminism and its Demands: A Dialogue with Community Leaders in Spain

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Scientific debates surrounding feminism in the 21st century increasingly call for mainstream feminism to include the voices of non-white women, as well as looking also at

the work and expressions of feminism taking place in the Global South. While progress has been made in the United States in acknowledging the work and demands of non-white feminism, Europe lags behind in recognizing and amplifying the feminist contributions and demands of its largest non-migrant ethnic minority, the Roma. This way, although some studies can be found about Roma feminism and how Roma women are organizing at the grassroots level to contest inequalities, much more can be learned about the specific traits of Roma feminism. In this context, this study is framed in a larger line of research about grassroots Roma women and leadership on which the co-authors have been collaborating and researching during the last years. Specifically, the study presents findings from qualitative fieldwork conducted with 23 Roma women and young adults organized in civic organizations across Spain, exploring how they understand and experience feminism. Despite working towards gender equality among Roma men and women, as well as equality between Roma and non-Roma women, many do not identify with dominant representations of feminism. Our results highlight three key elements of what these women would claim as Roma feminism: the role of men as allies, claiming freedom as women as a central aspect of Roma cultural identity, and advocating for a feminism that promotes and safeguards the idea of equality of differences.

Studying Racialization and Racism with an Old Age or a Liffe-course Lens: The Need for a Research Agenda

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The study of racialization and racism is informed by various research traditions, theoretical orientations as well as disciplines. As such, this area of research is relatively fragmented, and seems to lacks a research agenda of its own, and an old age astute and life-course informed. Within the sociology of aging, there has been a lukewarm interest in engaging with these notions. Opportunities to let racialization (as a notion that can inform research) and racism (as an experience that can affect an array of circumstances for people that live into advance old age) have not been seized yet. In light of this, two extensive scoping reviews were conducted focusing on mapping out whether, and how, these notions inform research on older ethnic minoritized and racialized people, and doing the same for research on older migrants. The reason why two different scoping reviews were conducted is that not all research on older ethic minoritized populations is migration-informed, and neither is research on older migrants, ethnicity-informed. This presentation – which relies on the systematization that guides scoping review methodology, and the recommendations for data volume that allow social scientists to identify evidence-based knowledge gaps – will present results from these scoping reviews. The presentation will use the results generated to argue not only that the sociology of racism is in need of a life-course-astute and old-age-informed research agenda, but also to illustrate the type of research questions that could be used to advance the state of the arts of research on the sociology of aging that brings attention to ethicized and racialized minorities.

Concrete Universality And The Race/Class Problematic: Raya Dunayevskaya, C.L.R. James, And The Dialectic Of Power And Revolution

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In this paper, we explore the concept of concrete universality in contemporary Marxist theory with a view to the contributions made by two theorists and activists associated with the Johnson-Forrest Tendency (JFT) in the early postwar U.S., Raya Dunayevskaya and C.L.R. James. Inherited from German idealism, concrete universality became a lesser-known trope in the materialist-dialectical arsenal of traditional Marxism. However, the concept found its way into some of the heterodox Marxisms on the fringes, sometimes clearly on the outside, of the traditional paradigm; Evald Ilyenkov and Lucio Colletti's writings being prominent examples, along with the writings of the JFT. Today, this lineage informs a vast field of Marxist theorizing concerned with "practically true" abstractions, concepts, and universals. However, from a historical point of view, this field seems to be undergoing a process of diremption, becoming polarized between two rather self-contained circles, with studies of the "abstract domination" and "real abstractions" of capitalist power on the one hand and theories of "insurgent" universalities and revolutionary social forms on the other. Against this background, we argue that contemporary Marxist theory might benefit from Dunayevskaya and James' work on race, which they approached as a concrete and practical reality at the heart of the economic base of U.S. capitalism and, at the same time, as a locus of social revolution where "black masses as vanguard" prefigured and generated new modalities of universality through struggle.

RN31 | T08_01: Historical and Contemporary Antisemitism and Social Constructions of Racial Differences

Aspects of Anti-Semitism in Greece yesterday and today. The Case of the Organization "National Union Hellas", Popular Orthodox Rally and the Greek Solution.

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The aim of this study is to investigate Greek anti-Semitism during the interwar and the modern period in Greece. More specifically, this study focuses on the activity of the "National Union Hellas" organization (N.U.H.) or more widely known as Tria Epsilon (3E) since 1927, when it was founded in Thessaloniki, until 1933 – 1934. In the Popular Orthodox Rally where it had a strong presence in the decade of the 2000s and the Greek Solution which is currently in the parliament.This paper examines the political, social and economic development of the specific party – organizations in order to highlight to what extent anti-Semitism remains on the agenda of political parties over the years. This is a historical research, which is based mainly on archive material and in the speeches of political leaders.

The main conclusions of the paper are that τhe Popular's Orthodox Rally is a party quite different from the traditional pre-war and post-war neo-fascist parties of Europe. It belongs to a series of far-right parties that have emerged in Europe since the late 1980s shaping the political agenda with issues of multiculturalism, immigration policy and the purity of the nation. Although the National Union Hellas that we presented above was also an anti-Semitic organization, their common points are few or diminishing as Popular Orthodox Rally enters the Parliament and the European Parliament, also interesting are the positions of the Hellenic Solution where their leader comes from Popular Orthodox Rally.

Experiences Of Anti-Muslim Racism And Antisemitism By Muslim-jewish People. A Reconstructive Study On The Exploration of Conjunctive Coping Strategies

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Anti-Muslim racism and anti-Semitism as structures of inequality are understood and examined in the academic literature from a theoretical and historical perspective as separate structures that have each undergone historically different genealogies and processes (cf. Benz, 2004; Beyer, 2015; Brumlik, 2016; Chernivsky & Lorenz, 2021; Shooman, 2014; Amir-Moazami, 2007; Attia, 2009; Attia et al., 2021). This dissertation project refrains from macro-theoretical analyses and comparisons and focuses on the lifeworlds and individual experiences of the individuals affected by anti-Muslim racism and anti-Semitism.

Using problem-centered interviews (23 interviews provide the empirical basis for this study) according to Witzel (cf. 2000; Witzel & Reiter, 2012, 2022) and the documentary method according to Bohnsack (1983, 2003, 2007, 2009), the contexts in which anti-Muslim racism and anti-Semitism arise and how they are perceived are first reconstructed on the basis of the experiences of the affected individuals. One of the relevant questions here is what narrative-theoretical similarities and differences can be identified in terms of individual experiences?

Consecutively, the doctoral project focuses on using the collected narratives and articulations of Muslim and Jewish individuals to show whether and how conjunctive coping strategies emerge. Taking into account and emphasizing homologous and heterologous coping strategies, the doctoral project aims to reconstruct a conjunctive experiential space for how affected individuals overcome anti-Muslim racism and anti-Semitism.

The National Idea and the Construction of Racial Difference in the Origins of Sociology in Spain (1875-1925)

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UNED, Spain

In this proposal I present the study of the discourses on national identity that are reflected and elaborated in different periods of the history of sociology in Spain, taking into account the role they play as expert discourses in the social construction of racial difference and its political impact. I will pay special attention to the origins of sociology in Spain at the end of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th, linked to the intellectual concern for crime and criminal law. The discussion on charity and social exclusion,

the poor and the prisoner, fueled the sociological literature around deviant behavior, spinning the "social question" around an axis of distinction between the 'normal' and the 'pathological'. I will also deal with the reception of positivism and Spencerian evolutionism and the debates that it raised when interpreting, from that incipient sociology, the history of Spain and the foundations of "national character", and in the much discussed relationship between Krausism and organicism. The work of sociologists such as Urbano González Serrano or Manuel Sales y Ferré captures that intellectual atmosphere and its tensions, permeated by racial interpretations of "national being". Thus, the ideas of nation, modernity (as a problem) and national character as a result of a process of racial and cultural hybridization are amalgamated in the intellectual production of the so-called positivist Krausism, institutionalism and social reformism of the time, which are the sources from which the first Spanish sociology draws.

Shaping Borders: Social Movements And The Political Representation Of Ethnic And Racial Minorities In Portugal

Nuno Dias, Ackssana Silva

CICS.NOVA

In the last couple of years, black social movements have emerged beyond the scope of the traditional immigrant associative movements based on national origin and area of settlement and changed the debate topics from housing and human rights to a broader affiliation area, namely around skin colour, African ancestry, and institutional racism. Despite the increasing diversity of Portuguese society, largely due to immigration, the question of social cohesion is seldom discussed in relation with political participation as a component of citizenship. Notwithstanding the recent dynamics in social movements of people of African descent in Portugal, and the first time a political party presented a black woman as the main candidate to parliamentary elections in the 2019 legislative election, the political landscape has changed little to nothing in relation to ethnic and racial presence and discussion at any level of government.

This paper results of an exploratory ongoing research on minority representation in local politics focusing on the municipality of Amadora and will look at minority representation at the municipal level and at the level of the political structures of the six parishes that comprise the municipality of Amadora to establish a clear image of minority representation in the territory. Subsequently, we will analyse the discourses of members of associations representing people of African descent and stakeholders to understand what variables (demographics, political engagement, prejudice) are affecting the likelihood of a non-white candidate on an eligible position in local politics and the relevance of the matter for local movements.

RN31 | T08_02: Attitudes, Memory and Racialization

Ambivalent Narratives On The EU External Border Crises: Between Racialisation And Inclusion

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The paper discusses narratives surrounding the border and migration crisis on the EU's external border as constructed by the public discourse in Poland. Building upon the changing conceptualisation and social construction of a border and narrative approach, it explores frames, contexts (national, European), standpoints and narrative strategies that have been applied to justify the (in)hospitable policy towards migrants on both the Polish-Belarusian and the Polish-Ukrainian border. By analysing official statements by Polish state representatives, NGOs reports, and public opinion polls, two rival narratives have been identified. Whereas the first focuses on the securitisation of the border and the dehumanisation of migrants and is underpinned by the radicalisation and genderisation of borders, the second deploys a welcoming border narrative by constructing an imaginary of an open border and migrants as "our Slavic neighbors",realising an integrating narrative strategy, but is not free from hierarchisation. As such, this paper sheds light on bordering practices,explored from the perspective of language analysis, and reveals narrative strategies that can be applied within a broader migration and border discourse.

Anti-German Sentiment and the Difficult Heritage of Post-war Camps in Poland

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The post-war camps in Poland (1944-1950) for decades have been a part of a difficult heritage strongly linked to anti-German sentiment. The strength of this sentiment depends largely on the socio-political and cultural context in Poland. The victims of these camps were mainly Germans, but also people of other nationalities, people of the Polish-German borderlands and Poles considered "traitors to the Polish nation". Difficult heritage is understood, according to Sharon Macdonald, as "(…) a past that is recognised as meaningful in the present but that is also contested and awkward for public reconciliation with a positive, self-affirming contemporary identity" (Macdonald 2009: 1). In this sense, the study applied the concept of authorized heritage discourse (AHD) from Laurajane Smith's (Smith 2006), who introduced the issue of power relations into the theoretical framework of critical discourse analysis (CDA).

Thus understood, heritage is also dissonant and troublesome because it encompasses social processes closely linked to a range of cultural and social identities, opening up social divisions (Tunbridge and Ashworth 1996). The author will present the mechanisms of power relations towards this heritage in a sociological and historical context and its multidimensional effects, based on the results of the most recent sociological-historical research on the memory and commemoration of the post-war camps in Poland, conducted in 2021-2022 among 27 representatives of several milieus: Polish and German politicians of various levels, the German minority, Silesian regional movements, experts, churches representatives. The method used was a semi-structured interview questionnaire and content analysis (literature, press).

Classroom Diversity, Identity Style and Attitudes toward Ethnic Minorities

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Negative attitudes towards minorities are associated with issues such as racism, discrimination, social problems, or crime (Beelmann & Heinemann, 2014). In this article, I examine the role of identity styles in the relationship between intergroup contact and prejudice in adolescence. According to the contact hypothesis (Allport, 1957; Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006), interaction with members of outgroups can foster a positive shift in attitudes toward these groups. Similar results were also indicated in a meta-analysis of research conducted among children and adolescents at schools (Tropp & Prenevost, 2008). However, we know from previous research that individuals vary in their strategies for reacting to their environment. Berzonsky (2004), in his theory of identity development in adolescence, distinguishes three identity styles: informational, normative, and diffuse/avoidant. These styles reflect individuals' social-cognitive strategies when confronted with conflicting experiences challenging their established identities. Previous studies show that people with a dominant normative or diffuse identity/avoidant style tend to be more susceptible to prejudice (Miklikowska, 2012; Ozer et al., 2022). Using data from the first wave of The Czech education panel survey (n= 20,000 students aged 15-16 from 249 schools), the goal of this paper is to test if the effect of contact with outgroup members at school on prejudice is moderated by the identity style. Data will be analyzed using multi-level regression models, where individuals are nested in classrooms which are nested in schools. The results of my article will be contribution to the literature on the contact hypothesis.

RN31 | T09_01: Trauma, Memory, Social Relations, and Antisemitism

The Lasting Shadow of the Holocaust: How Collective Trauma Shapes the Perception of Antisemitism

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This article explores how collective trauma influences the perception of antisemitic threats. Through in-depth interviews with 61 Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews in Sao Paolo and extensive ethnographic observation, we show that the salience of the Holocaust in the collective memory of Ashkenazi Jews shapes both their perception of present-day antisemitism and their support for institutional protection measures. Sephardic Jews, by contrast, perceive antisemitism as harmless and do not connect antisemitic incidents to the Holocaust or the history of antisemitism. Building on these descriptive observations, we detail the social processes through which collective memory becomes part of group identity thereby sensitizing minority members to present-day threats and discrimination. However, when traumatic events do not resonate with group members' collective history, they retain authentic definitions of self-identity by rejecting the past as an orienting device in the present. The findings provide novel insights into the enduring impact of traumatic events and their role in shaping perceptions of antisemitism today.

Willingness for Social Integration in a Deeply Divided Society: Views of Jews and Arabs in Israel

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This study aimed to identify factors shaping the willingness for social integration into a society marked by a deep divide in residential terms. Social integration was studied at two levels: collective and individual. In addition, it was studied not only from the view of the ethnic minority (i.e. what predicts their willingness for integration) but also from the view of the ethnic majority (i.e. what predicts their willingness to integrate ethnic minority). The data were obtained from the 2021 "Still Playing by the Rules" nationwide survey conducted in Israel to understand the attitudes toward various social, identity-related, and integrational aspects among Jewish and Arab citizens of the country. The samples included survey respondents who provided answers for the items assessing each abovementioned social

integration type (NJewish = 1501; NArab = 717). The results show that a better image of the counter population, higher perceived quality of interethnic relations, and frequent obtaining of instrumental help from the counter population were associated with the greater willingness for each type of integration in both populations. Slightly less consistent associations were found for institutional trust, spread of hate toward the minority population by mass media, frequency of leisure with the counter population, and frequency of experiencing negative contact with the counter population. The results provide support for a myriad of theoretical frameworks, like ethnic competition theory, interethnic contact hypothesis, and media cultivation theory. The findings imply that the willingness to socially integrate members of ethnic minorities, as well as the willingness for such integration from the minorities' side, is a function of a myriad of interpersonal experiences as well as social and media-related attitudes.

Teaching in a Diverse and Divided space in the Shadow of War: Lecturers coping with conflictual realities in Israeli academia

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Lecturers in academia are meant to teach, challenge and support students. But what happens to them, as part of the conflictual fabric of Israel?

In this lecture, we turn the spotlight on them, on us. We both have been teaching courses dealing with dialogue, multiculturalism, and activism in Israeli society for many years. The encounter with students from diverse ethnic, national, and class backgrounds, while attempting to develop their critical thinking skills, has become more complex over the years. We have seen more expressions of disagreement on social, ideological, and political issues, turning the classroom into a conflictual zone. The atrocities of October 7th and the ensuing war in Gaza have intensified the polarization between Jews and Palestinians in class, followed by ingroup closure, negative intergroup attitudes and mistrust, as well as expressions of mutual hostilities.

By sharing stories about teaching, encounters with students that evoke feelings of achievement and success, as well as those encounters that arouse frustration, anger, and a sense of failure, we will attempt to reflect on teaching in these challenging times. We will discuss students' difficulties in reaction to our teaching, however, our focus will be on our own difficulties as lecturers forced to part with our worldviews and pre – conceptions in order to engage students who think differently.

Our stories demonstrate an attempt to create a space in which moments of discomfort and anxiety may be examined and lead to new insights, suggesting that the academic arena is an opportunity for everyone present to examine worldviews and beliefs and acquire new knowledge, and perhaps also hope in the possibility of dialogue even in a reality of war.

Privileged passing

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This paper analyses the growing similarities between Jews and Palestinians in Israel through the practice of passing. Passing often refers to a performative movement out of a marked group into the hegemonic group. For the most part, passing is a one-directional phenomenon and there is no conceptualisation or accepted term for the opposite experience – moving from the hegemonic group to the marked group. In order to analyze such a performance, I suggest the term privileged passing to describe Jewish Israeli men who pass as Palestinians.

In Israel, which has a strict ethnic division, passing is usually not a quest for a transformation of oneself and one's identity, but a temporary act to profit oneself. I term it as sojourner passing: that is, an abrupt and temporary event limited in space and time in order to gain access to religious, financial or militarised goals. That is, sojourner passing is a potential act of passing that is less threatening for ethnic identities.

RN31 | T09_02: Global Perspectives on "Race" and Racism

Race beyond the "West": Narratives and Counternarratives of Blackness in/from the Maghrib

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My paper, which is located at the intersection between visual/digital anthropology and critical race studies, aims to investigate the images and imaginaries of Blackness in contemporary Maghrib, especially Morocco. In the popular imagination, as well as in academia and in the art-world, Africa is often separated into two disconnected worlds: North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. This geographical and epistemological separation, reified and institutionalized in the colonial era, is first of all a racial fracture. Under the French colonial administration, Sahara became a sort of "color line" separating the "White" Africa (Afrique blanche) from the "Black" one (Afrique noire). The "Saharan Divide" is also linked to historical dynamics within the continent, such as the trans-Saharan slave trade. Morocco played a major role in the slave trade but slavery and its legacies (in terms, for example, of anti-Black prejudices) are still a taboo in Morocco which represents itself as a color-blind society with no racism. Nevertheless, in the past few years, Blackness has become a crucial political and cultural issue, taking on different meanings and embracing new (counter)narratives. The question of "race" is thus a complex and controversial topic in contemporary Morocco, which touches on many aspects (from economics to religion, from geopolitics and national identity to social movements, cultural and artistic expressions and gender issues). Through a critical, intersectional, transnational and transhistorical approach, I will explore different figures of Moroccan Blackness (Gnawa, Sub-Saharan migrants, Black Moroccan activists and artists), focusing on the connections between local meanings of race and global imaginaries of Blackness.

Ethnic Prejudice, Racism and Discrimination in Italy

Walter Greco

University of Calabria, Italy

The present paper aims to present initial findings from a survey on ethnic prejudice, racism, and discrimination conducted at the Dispes-CATILab of the University of Calabria through 1,500 telephone interviews, representative of the Italian population.

The primary thesis seeks to demonstrate that the increasing influx of foreign populations in Italy, a consequence of globalization-driven migration flows, serves as a pretext for fostering a system of prejudice across the country and its social stratification. Both old and emerging forms of prejudice and discrimination serve as the moral foundation upon which political consensus is built and sustained by specific political parties.

The rise of populism across Europe, coupled with the vulnerabilities of democracies, appears to provide fertile ground for the development of a new form of social control. Widespread levels of prejudice can function as a tool within a societal apparatus that extends its reach to different aspects of social life.

By examining the data, it becomes conceivable to hypothesize that prejudice, along with forms of discrimination and racism, is rooted in ancient fears. Simultaneously, it undergoes a specific re-functionalization, particularly when uncertainties in everyday life become more tangible and are entwined with a persistent crisis in social regulation. Prejudice, therefore, not only has a cultural foundation but also draws energy from an unexpected and revitalizing source of legitimacy embedded in common sense.

Where the Culture of Exclusion and Hatred are Not Present...

Ágnes Kövér-Van Til

Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

The paper focuses on how the second and third generations of Holocaust survivors reflect the recent changes in the political atmosphere and public discourse in Hungary with regard to the growing authoritarianism, the mainstreaming of far-right politics and the exclusion of minority groups. This exploration is part of a more extended research on the transgenerational impact of Holocaust trauma among the second and third generation of Hungarian Holocaust survivors. Previous research has reported heightened sensitivity to social injustice, discrimination, and oppression among Holocaust survivors and their offspring (Morgan et al. 2022, Danieli 1998). Other research results have also confirmed that the second and third generations of Holocaust survivors show a higher level of social responsibility, empathy, and sensitivity (Bar-On 1998), which can be interpreted as a form of a post-trauma adaptational style (Danieli 2015). Although these people often perform well in societal life, they are highly exposed to re-traumatization, as they are more sensitive to crises and adverse social environment, which in extreme cases can even play a role in the reactivation of acute stress reactions (Bar-On 1998). Based on the analysis of interviews with 65 second – and 30 third-generation Holocaust survivors, the study presents the effects of the increasingly authoritarian and discriminative Hungarian politics and public discourse on the survivors' descendants. The text analysis reveals the impact of the family trauma of the Holocaust on their social sensitivity and trust, as well as the societal conditions affecting their sense of security.

Welfare Policy Discourse In Austria – Where Racism And Classism Meet And Intersect

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Large strands of welfare state discourses in Austria are closely linked to the topic of labour, labour relations and willingness to work. One dominant position states that social benefits must not undermine the motivation to take up work, no matter the given pay and working conditions. This has also always been part of the concepts of welfare chauvinism and spillover of racism into welfare discourses but is especially immanent in the resurfacing image and discussion of the "guest worker" ("Gastarbeiter") in recent policy debates. "Gastarbeiter" is and has always been a euphemistic term concealing the over-exploitation of migrants based on global inequalities. This discourse centralises the notion of the immigrant workers as resource to be used if needed and thrown away if depleted or not asked for anymore. If they however dare to stay, they are among others degraded e.g. as "scroungers", blamed for disturbing social cohesion or endangering the welfare state. To illustrate this racializing practice, the presentation is based on an analysis of central contributions of policy makers, public figures and newspaper articles relevant for and influencing this discourse. It analysis how the immigrant "other" as well as the Austrian citizens are on the one hand demarcated into social classes with different ascribed values and on the other hand within these classes separated into useful or useless for the labour market and welfare state. In conclusion and referring to the few attempts at a critical theory of racism, it will be argued that within these discourses on welfare state not only racist but also classist fragmentations are enacted, used and intertwined.

RN32 | Political Sociology

RN32 | T01_01: How extreme and far-right wing ideologies matter

The challenges of extremism and right-wing ideologies in contemporary European democracies. The panel focuses on recent insights from sociological research on far-right ideology in contemporary politics. Both contents of ideological messages and conditions of their circulation will be addressed.

Producerism and Reproducerism. The Economic Ideology of Radical Right-wing Parties

Marianna Griffini[1], Oscar Mazzoleni[2]

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The economic dimension of populism has been little studied to date, although it is ever more relevant. Recent academic work has focused on populist prescriptions of how the economy and society should be organised for ensuring material prosperity (e.g. Mazzoleni & Ivaldi 2022). Within this field, the concept of producerism, often associated to right-wing populism (e.g. Shantz 2014; Berlet & Lyons 2000; Bergman 2022), has been advanced as an economic and political ideology, emphasizing the importance of producers (e.g., workers, farmers, small business owners) as contributors to common prosperity, allegedly undermined by groups the populist radical right envisions as parasites (e.g. elites, immigrants).

In this paper we adopt a gendered approach to producerism, drawing on thriving literature on gender in the populist radical right, which stresses the duplicity of the latter's attitudes towards gender (e.g. De Giorgi, Cavalieri, Feo 2023). Radical right-wing populism fights for women's rights, especially for mothers, but also imposes reactionary values regarding abortion rights and LGBTQ+ rights (Norocel and Giorgi 2022). The result is the relegation of women to their traditional reproductive role.

This paper contends that producerism and reproducerism are complementary facets of the political economic ideology of the populist radical right. The latter develops a gendered and materialistic vision of the people, split between men the producers, and women the reproducers. Our argument is based on case studies of populist radical right parties' and leaders' discourse in Europe, specifically the Italian Lega and Fratelli d'Italia, the French Rassemblement National, and the Swiss People's Party.

The Ideology behind the Mandate. Mapping American Conservatism from Reagan to Trump.

Mattia Diletti[1], Luca Massidda[2]

1"Sapienza" Università di Roma, Italy; 2Università della Tuscia

The paper tracks the trajectory of U.S. conservative thought between Ronald Reagan's first electoral achievement (1980) and the 2024 election. Comparative textual analysis of the first (1981) and the last (2023) "Mandate for Leadership", published by the Conservative think tank Heritage Foundation, will provide the groundwork for drawing the ideological maps of American conservatism at two crucial stages of its history. We suggest that the political thought of the America's leading conservative think tank is a key reference for looking into the ideological evolution of American conservatives over the past 50 years. Leaning on the perspective of ideology as a symbolic form as proposed by John B. Thompson (1990) and the morphological approach first proposed by Michael Freeden (2012), the paper will seek to identify both the mutations and invariants of the ideological ecosystem of American conservatism. Second, we will analyze whether, and to what extent, ideological configurations of think tank manifestos were embedded into the narratives proposed by Reagan in the 1980 election campaigns and by Trump in his third run for the White House (2024). This second part of research will be pursued by comparing Republican Party leaders' official campaign ads.

Ideological Evolution of the Extreme Right: Symbols of the Past in FdI, Afd and Vox's Political Communication

Giorgia Bulli

University of Florence

The recent success of the Fratelli d'Italia party in the 2022 parliamentary elections in Italy has sparked a debate on the extent to which the party's programmatic and values platforms have definitively departed from the ideological appeals of the post-fascist extreme right. This debate has extended to the European level, particularly in light of the success of radical right-wing parties in countries that share experiences with extreme right-wing totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, such as Germany and Spain. In Germany, the Alternative for Germany party's repeated electoral successes at the state level have focused attention on the Afd's alignment with extreme-right ideology. In Spain, these issues have also been raised in conjunction with the electoral successes of Vox and its inclusion in government coalitions in important Autonomous Communities.

Building upon these considerations, this paper aims to comparatively analyze how the three parties address the authoritarian political past using three predominant strategies: 1) denial of ideological affinity; 2) symbolic and contextual evocation; 3) explicit appeal. These strategies will be tested through the examination of party manifestos,

statements by party leaders and prominent figures, and contributions posted on major social media platforms. The results of this exploratory investigation will be contextualized within established analytical frameworks, ranging from the hypothesis of the normalization of the far-right (Wodak 2022) to the thesis of the transformation of typical far-right content into a right-wing populist ideology and strategy (Mudde 2019).

Gender Perspectives in the Far-right Politics. The Italian Political Movements and Parties Between Convergences, Conflicts, and Polarizations

Milena Meo[1], Antonio Tramontana[2]

1University of Messina, Italy; 2University of Messina, Italy

In contrast to the emergence of new sensibilities that are determined from gender issues, and consequently in front of the progressive demand for the recognition of new civil rights, there is a constant and dynamic development of misogynistic and sexist spheres of influence.

This angry response to the loss of privileges taken away by the advancement of gender claims feeds both political parties and social movements. On the one hand, what emerges from the articulated galaxy known as Manosphere contributes to the process of constructing masculinity through the use of gender stereotypes. On the other, stereotypes based on a traditional and hierarchical view of gender roles are present in social communication by far-right leaders, in their respective political manifestos and election programs.

In order to highlight how such convergences contribute to the new forms of political polarization and radicalization, the purpose is to analyze the articulation of the manosphere in Italy. This analysis is the partial result of the research activity conducted under the PRIN 2020 entitled "Stereotypes and Prejudices: the Social Representation of Gender-Based Violence" (Coordinated by Prof. F. Saccà as P.I.). In particular, we will focus on Men's Rights Activism (MRA), their anti-feminist, misogynist and sexist imaginary. Far from considering MRA as a peripheral opinion movement, the aim is to highlight the convergences with the gender imaginary that shapes the perspective of the mainstream Italian Far-right Parties and underpins the new political and cultural conflicts.

RN32 | T01_02: New debates in governance

This session brings together papers discussing a variety of current debates in governance including governance under crisis, in authoritarian setting, and the impacts of new governance approaches for democracy and policy.

Project-based Governance: How Funding Schemes Impact Local Governance on Migrant Integration

Irene Ponzo

FIERI, Italy

The paper is aimed at bringing to the fore a novel type of governance arrangement, i.e. the project-based governance. Drawing inspiration from the garbage-can model (Cohen, March and Olson 1972), the project-based governance puts into question the problem-driven nature of governance prevailing in the literature and contributes to highlight how governance can be driven not only by problems but also and especially by opportunities and solutions. Specifically, in this type of governance opportunities and solutions are offered by bids and calls for projects issued by public or private entities. Project-based governance provides a useful lens to understand certain governance arrangements that tend to develop in those policy fields where structural and stable funding is almost absent or marginal, shedding light on funding schemes' decisive role. After illustrating the key features of the project-based governance, the paper provides empirical examples drawn from Italian local experiences. Finally, it shows some major consequences of this type of governance for the local migrant integration policies.

Policy Entrepreneurs, Crises, and Policy Change

Evangelia Petridou[1,2], Jörgen Sparf[1,2], Nikolaos Zahariadis[3], Thomas Birkland[4]

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Our understanding of policy entrepreneurs as agents of change has evolved considerably in the past few decades. Concomitantly, the scholarship on crises and the challenges and opportunities they present for effective governance and public policy has burgeoned as well, not in the least because crises are a ubiquitous component of politico-administrative structures. This is particularly evident in the era of pandemics, financial and military crises. In this manuscript, we connect the theoretical approaches of the concept of crisis with the theory on policy entrepreneurs. Our purpose

is to shed light on the drivers of policy change during and in the aftermath of crises from an agency perspective, using illustrative examples including the Covid-19 pandemic, terrorist attacks, the financial crisis, war, and extreme weather events. We explore tenets of crisis policy entrepreneurship and conclude with themes drawn from the case studes as well as implications for policy entrepreneurship and crisis policymaking.

Local Power, Where We Are And How We Got Here: Discussing The Tangle Between Trajectories and The Quality And Professionalization Of Local Democracy

Margarida Estêvão

CIES-IUL, Portugal

In recent decades, Portugal has introduced a number of legislative innovations (e.g. participatory budgeting; limitation of mandates; parity law) with the aim of contributing to the quality of local democracy, reversing the previous image of vices and corruption. However, each political phenomenon is a complex network made up of multiple protagonists and relations, where different trajectories, meanings and intentions intersect. Therefore, the quality of local democracy is not only linked to the legal tools that support it, but also to the ones who use them and to the sociopolitical context in which they do so.

To try and make up for the lack of studies on local power in Portugal, this communication aims to discuss the impact of new local political elites on the quality of local democracy. To that end, at the beginning of 2024 a questionnaire survey was made available to the universe of Portuguese mayors, focusing, among other questions, the sociographic dimension, individual and professional trajectories, and entry into and relationship with politics. Together with a content analysis of CVs and biographical notes available online, this communication explores the results of that survey.

This aims to contribute not only to the development of a database on local government in Portugal, which is still lacking, but also to the discussion on the quality of local democracy, political trajectories and the professionalization of political offices at this level of power.

RN32 | T01_03: Politics and memory

Memory, mobilized by a variety of different political actors, shapes action, experience, and political decision-making. This session brings together papers on memory to discuss how politics and the construction of memore interact today in a variety of settings.

Memories Of Nazism In Germany: Transformations And New Tensions

Alexandra Oeser

Universite Paris Nanterre, France

This paper addresses ordinary appropriations of politics by adolescents visiting concentration camp memorials in Germany.

Since reunification, German memory politics of the nazi past have undergone considerable transformations. The victims of German extermination policies have become centerpieces of German, but also transnational memories (Traverso, 2005). German memory politics have even been presented as a "model" for other countries and different pasts (Neiman, 2019). But memory politics developed in the Federal Republic after the 1970's and 1980's have reached their limits. Trust in the effectiveness of memory of the nazi past as educational protection against extreme right votes has been eroded. Thirty years after reunification, Germany struggles with a double failure: the country's extreme right has had major local successes, and more and more criticism arises against the exclusionary effects of German memory for Germans whose grand-parents have not lived the second world war in Germany (Özyürek, 2023).

Based on a long-term ethnographic study of three memorials in Germany, this paper will address these tensions through the example of adolescents who visit memorial camps, while subscribing to extreme right-wing discourses. One explanation of the drifting apart of memory politics and their contemporary uses can be found in the hardening of memorial discourses and their exclusionary effects for migrant populations; another in the pedagogical divide between emotional and unanimous rejections of the nazi past and a lack of analytical and historical explanations, a third in the practical uses of the memorials by teachers and students, as well as formal and political constraints.

"Narr-acting" Europe's Past: Intra-Institutional Memory Activism in the European Parliament.

Andrea Apollonio[1,2]

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This paper examines the political discourse on 'European historical memory' as it is constructed and transformed in the European Parliament in the context of EU politics of memory. The term 'EU politics of memory' refers to political interactions and struggles between various actors, within or close to the European institutions, regarding memorial narratives, practices and policies that use 'Europe's past' to support claims and projects in the present. The concept of 'discourse on European historical memory' aims to identify the interweaving of memorial narratives exhibited and contested by actors in European fora, i.e. the 'discursive dimension' of European memory politics. According to several authors, the European Union began to engage with this field of political interaction from the 1990s onwards and became more involved from 2005 onwards. Since the end of the Cold War, European institutions – or rather, the actors interacting within them – have developed a discourse on the historical memory of the EU. The study examines the sociological and political dynamics of the construction of the discourse on "European historical memory", with a particular focus on the 9th parliamentary term (2019-2024). For interpretive purposes, this research uses an extensive empirical database consisting of institutional texts such as resolutions and transcripts of debates on 'European historical memory', as well as semi-structured interviews with selected informants, i.e. memory entrepreneurs who interact with the discourse across the parliamentary arena.

The Making of Ethno-racial Memory Activism in Malaysia: Quasi-religious Mnemonic Mobilization, Post-memory Generations, and Chinese Education Movement in Abeyance.

Ke Liang NG

National Taiwan University, Taiwan

This article elucidates how the ethno-racial grassroots memory activism sustains postcolonial Malaysia's Chinese Education Movement in abeyance by 'quasi-religious mnemonic mobilization': leveraging ancestor worshipping, embodying movement memories, and generating mnemonic symbols.

To mobilize the apolitical Chinese post-memory generations to participate in a movement losing explicit threat in settled times poses a critical challenge.

With authoritarian state repression replaced by neoliberal assimilation, concealed under the guise of free choices and personal freedom, ethnic Chinese minority activists in Malaysia encounter difficulties in mobilizing, transforming, and recruiting post-memory generations into movement organizations.

Through participant observation at the Lim Lian Geok Memorial in Kuala Lumpur and Chinese schools across West Malaysia, coupled with conducting in-depth interviews with Chinese Education Movement activists, I illustrate how the making of ethno-racial memory activism constitutes symbolic politics of inter-generational ethno-racial remembrance, worshipping, and identity-making through quasi-religious practices.

Firstly, memory activists build a memorial museum as an ethnic commemorative infrastructure, worshipping a movement leader—Lim Lian Geok—as 'ZuHun' (soul of the ethnic Chinese, 族魂).

Secondly, memory activists utilize the memorial museum as a free space to embody lived movement memories, officially erased and unrecognized, through the quasi-religious movement technique, aiming to spiritually transform the apolitical subjectivities of post-memory generation students.

Thirdly, memory activists have generated the Lim Lian Geok Spirit Award as symbolic capital to make officially unrecognized grassroots Chinese education movement activists across countries recognized, thereby symbolically strengthening the movement in abeyance.

Lastly, this case of ethno-racial memory activism contributes to a sociological framework that transcends conventional binaries, including modernity/tradition, secular/religious, rational/emotional, and structure/culture models.

Voices from the past: How Political Elites are influenced by the political history. An Iberian comparison.

Pablo Cañete Pérez

European University Institute, Italy

Although Portugal and Spain have had analogous government compositions between 2008 and 2015 and the Troika intervened in Portugal, Spain ended up implementing more stringent austerity policies after the Great Recession than its neighbouring country. What explains this divergence? This paper focuses on the key role of political culture in driving this difference. As evidenced by previous research, these two countries experienced different pathways of transition to democracy (a revolution in Portugal and an agreed transition in Spain), which left a longstanding legacy on the political culture. Relying on elite interviews with the politicians involved in the implementation of austerity measures between 2010 and 2015, I show there are still vivid legacies from the transitions in the justification of austerity policies. The political legacies from the 1970s are crucial in understanding contemporary political decisions in Iberian countries.

RN32 | T01_04: Right-wing populism and illiberalism

Research in this session explores the interconnections between illiberalism and the far-right, exploring both its conceptual underpinnings and its empirical evidence, and discusses far-right political imaginaries.

Policing Belonging: Police, Protest, and the Citizenship Amendment Act in India

Deep Chand, Parishmita Dutta

Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

The present BJP-led Indian government has passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 [CAA1-2019] in Parliament to grant citizenship to 'illegal migrants' of six non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. The systematic attempt to exclude Muslims from said countries has led to massive social protests across the country at different times and spaces. The protesters have strongly articulated how the Act is

discriminatory and violative of the basic structure of the Constitution of India. It

institutionalises preferential treatment based on religion, which directly conflicts with the inclusive spirit on which the idea of India was formed.This study aims to unfold the question of policing belonging about anti-Citizenship Amendment Act [CAA] protest as police being a part of the 'state apparatus' (Althusser, 1971) have played a vital role in eroding and creating tension in belonging of protesters. Policing belonging can secure a sense of belonging and solidarity among protesters as citizens' human rights and right to protest are constitutive of citizenship.

However, in the context of the anti-CAA protest, it is not only this Act threatening and creating tension in belonging, but the violent forms of policing itself erode belonging for protestors. Using the repression-protest literature, the study seeks to understand how policing of protest create conflict and tension in in belonging as the protesters face police brutality during the protest. The study will also try to comprehend policing protest from the point of view of the protesters who employed a 'repertoire of resistance' to express their opposition against the political establishment.

Denunciations as a Tool of State Control in Authoritarian Hybrid Regimes: Evidence from Turkey

Emine Ay

Dublin City University, Ireland

The surge in denunciations in Turkey reflects a widespread trend among citizens, particularly since the 2016 coup, with indications of the regime leveraging these reports to target political opponents. Despite this, scholarly work has yet to explore the relationship between increasing authoritarianism and the denunciation phenomenon in Turkey. Existing knowledge on citizen-led denunciation practices is limited to extreme forms of governance seen in 20th-century totalitarian regimes and contemporary dictatorships. Little is known how mass reporting can thrive in hybrid regimes. Addressing this gap, our study delves into the decade-long denunciation phenomenon in Turkey, aiming to unravel the political and societal factors contributing to emergence and persistence of mass reporting.

The study implements a multi-level analysis to explore the state-society interactions through denunciations. Macro-level analysis explores the politics and ideology informing citizen mobilization for denouncing as reflected in the political discourse. For this, Critical Discourse Analysis is conducted to examine speeches by Erdoğan between 2013-2023. Micro-level examination reveals the diverse individual experiences within the reporting system. Victims of denunciations and users of the reporting system are interviewed to illuminate the societal repercussions. Meso-level illuminates the interplay between the state and society through legal, judicial, and bureaucratic resources utilized to facilitate denunciations. The Legal Doctrinal Method, along with interviews with legal and bureaucratic experts, is employed to uncover the political engineering behind the denunciation mechanism. This involves examination of the regulation, solicitation and processing of denunciations, as well as its consequences. Focusing on Turkey, this paper exposes the political engineering behind horizontal citizen surveillance. It argues the ostensibly democratic framework is leveraged by aspiring autocrats to elicit denunciations from society, impacting the institutional arrangement and citizen behaviours.

Cracks In The Neoliberal Consensus And The Hegemonic Battle For Authoritarian Rebelliousness: Analysis Of The Emergence And Positioning Of The Far-right In Chile

Luciano Santander

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

In the diverse panorama of neoliberalism in Latin America, the response to anti-neoliberal mobilizations reveals a staunch defense of the model by reactionary and authoritarian

means. Is there a common thread in the institutional defense of neoliberal actors in the different countries? What mechanisms sustain the institutionality of neoliberalism under normal conditions?

I argue that challenged neoliberal projects tend to deploy a series of coercive strategies, which I called collectively "Authoritarian Mechanisms of Neoliberalism" (AMN). This paper delves into one facet of the AMN: the ascent of the far-right in Chile. It scrutinizes the rapid rise and consolidation of these actors.

The study focuses on two pivotal variables influencing the emergence of ultraconservative populist groups in Chile. First, the far-right strategically positions itself as defenders of Chilean national identity, as antithesis of a re-foundational left. Secondly, the skillful reorientation of public discourse from social rights, fundamental during the protests of 2019, towards public order and security.

By conducting 12 semi-structured interviews with far-right leaders, and crossing this empirical evidence with documentary analysis, this work reveals that the far-right's emergence as neoliberalism's guardian represents a manifestation of authoritarian mechanisms intrinsic in the model's actors struggle for hegemony. Central to this endeavor is the employment of a remarkably effective strategy, which is display the notion of authoritarianism as common sense.

By scrutinizing this dynamic in Chile, this study contributes to a broader understanding of how neoliberalism wields authoritarianism to safeguard its dominance. This endeavor offers crucial insights into the complex interplay between neoliberalism, democracy, and reactionary responses, providing a nuanced perspective on the socio-political landscape in the region.

Discursive Legitimisation of Illiberal Democracy by Populist Right-wing Parties – the Case of Poland

Katarzyna Zielińska, Magdalena Góra

Jagiellonian University, Poland

The starting point for our research is the Weberian assumption that every authority and every political order requires legitimation. In the context of observed processes in Poland and other countries worldwide leading to democratic backsliding or the construction of a system of illiberal democracy, the question arises about how political actors justify illiberal order or the need for its implementation. According to the principles of the discursive approach, the hegemonic status of a given order depends on the effectiveness of its legitimation. Therefore, our paper seeks to analyze how Poland's right-wing ruling coalition, the United Right (2015-2023), legitimized their actions that resulted in the dismantling of key elements of liberal democracy. Statements made by members of parliament representing this coalition during plenary parliamentary debates on judicial reform, civil rights (women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights), and relations with the European Union serve as our research material. The analysis of legitimization strategies will be the starting point for a broader discussion on the consolidation mechanisms of an illiberal order.

RN32 | T02_01: Populism and conspiracy. The transformations of radical and far right

Are populism and conspiracy distinct or intertwined concepts? To what extent radical right-wing actors connect populist stances and conspiracy narratives? This panel will deal with these questions providing theoretical discussion and empirical research.

Amplifying The Populist Anti-Immigration Cause Through Climate Policy Discourses – Does The Relative Degree Of Mainstreaming Matter? – Evidence From Swiss People's Party And National Rally.

Klaudia Koxha, Oscar Mazzoleni

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Research suggests a positive link between radical-right populism and climate skepticism/opposition to climate policies. Nonetheless, the populist discourse on climate varies across the radical left and right and within the same party family. Scholars highlight 1) party history and 2) diverse national contexts to explain variation in climate policy positions of radical-right populist parties and 3) the positioning of populists in government vs. opposition affecting the degree of moderation of their discourses on climate (Huber et al. 2021, Taggart & Szczerbiak 2013, p. 34). Yet, while we expect opposition to climate policies to exacerbate the anti-elite discourse and amplify popular sovereignty as a main discursive element, we argue that populist discourse on climate could intersect with and amplify other populist core issues, such as immigration. To our knowledge, the intersection of climate change and immigration in populist discourse is largely underexplored. Studies show that populist frames may shift, i.e. populists may moderate their discourses due to a 'normalization' strategy, such as in the case of Marine Le Pen/National Rally regarding immigration (see Hutchins & Halikiopoulou 2020). Thus, we expect the intersection of climate policy framing and immigration to be affected by the relative mainstreaming of a radical right populist party; the more a party stays away from the mainstream, the higher the likelihood of this intersection. One party that has arguably stayed away from the mainstream is the Swiss People's Party (see Mazzoleni 2016). Thus, to test our expectation, we compare the Swiss People's Party and the National Rally, conducting a discourse analysis of party programs, Facebook posts, and press releases during the last national elections campaign (April 2022 in France, October 2023 in Switzerland).

Challenging Democracy: How Do Conspiracy Ideas of Populists Politicians and Citizens Align?

Reinhard Heinisch[1], Oscar Mazzoleni[2]

1University of Salzburg, Austria, Austria; 2University of Lausanne, Switzland

The Great Exchange, rigged elections, climate change as a hoax, viruses (e.g., HIV, COVID-19) created in government labs, and George Soros as the mastermind of many evils are just a few of the conspiracy narratives that have fueled political debate in liberal democracies around the world and prompted significant new research on the phenomenon. In the process, the literature has diverged, with some focusing on the demand side, that is, the conspiracy mentality of citizens who are receptive to conspiracy narratives or actively motivated by conspiracy discourse, and others focusing on the supply side, that is, political leaders who engage in conspiracy narratives. The rise of radical populist parties promoting conspiracy theories and the growing support they find highlights the importance of this issue for the state of democracy. In order to assess the importance of conspiracy theories in democratic political discourse, it is necessary to examine the extent to which demand-side and supply-side conspiracy theories correspond to each other. In short, the aim is to assess the extent to which voters of radical populist parties are motivated by certain conspiracy ideas and also to see whether these are also present to a similar extent in the narratives and discourses of populist actors. The proposed paper is based on original data generated through a funded study designed to investigate this question comparatively in key Western European countries.

Moderating radical-right wing parties? Populism and conspiracy theories during the 2022 French Presidential Elections

Oscar Mazzoleni, Grégoire Yerly

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

The analysis of mainstreaming represents one of the most relevant issues in the literature on radical right-wing parties (e.g. Akkerman, De Lange and Roodujin 2016). Meanwhile the significance and the ways by which this issue can be tackled remains a challenge. This paper addresses how and to extent populism and conspiracy theories are provided by radical right-wing parties' supply. Aiming this scope, we will explore discourses by a rooted and establishment-oriented party and a new and anti-establishment party, that is the Rassemblement national (RN) and Reconquête in France. We will test the hypothesis that the RN provided more moderate during the 2022 French presidential elections. We will adopt a discourse analysis approach considering press releases, Facebook posts and party manifestos by both parties between August 2021 and August 2022.

Debunking The Disinformation Ecosystem

Felix Schilk, Mara Precoma

Universität Tübingen, Germany

Most tensions, social conflicts, and political discourses relating to contemporary transformations are connected to the emergence of a disinformation ecosystem in recent decades. Strategically disseminated disinformation, including conspiracy theories, aims at fostering polarisation and distrust of governments, institutions, and the media. Informed and critical people are, however, the very essence of democracy. Countering disinformation is thus a key challenge for everyone who believes in democratic values and debate.

These challenges have not gone unaddressed in recent years. Different approaches against disinformation have been funded and implemented by authorities at the European, national, and regional level as well as by the media, NGOs, and social networking platforms, among them fact-checking, debunking, digital and media literacy, civic education, and consulting.

In the cross-European research project "REDACT: Researching Europe, Digitalisation and Conspiracy Theories" we examine these approaches. We aim at figuring out how the people who conduct them understand the phenomena of disinformation and conspiracy theory, and how hegemonic perspectives in social science on a national level translate into different approaches across regions.

For this purpose, I conducted 30 semi-structured expert interviews with individuals working in institutions, the media, and NGOs that tackle disinformation. Drawing on a Sociology of Knowledge and Grounded Theory approach, I will first provide a typology of my interlocutors, their understandings, and the approaches they apply and second show how institutional settings and funding shape the implementation and continuation of projects. My research helps to understand path dependencies in governmental and non-governmental crisis management, and to identify key challenges in the fight against disinformation.

RN32 | T02_02: Democracy today

Democracy remains a core theme in political sociology and the core of this session on how democracy is framed, supported, and used in our discipline.

From Authoritarian to Liberal Democrats: People's Conceptions of Democracy in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

Martin Ulrich

Saarland University, Germany

Against the backdrop of the increasing electoral success of populist parties in the EU, many scholars argue that liberal democracy is under threat from populist parties. Their rejection of representative democracy in favor of direct and majoritarian conceptions of democracy is seen as a direct challenge to the core principles of liberal democracy. However, the supporters of such populist parties would see themselves as democrats. This is because the concept of democracy is highly contested, meaning that different people ascribe different meanings to it.

This paper has two main contributions. First, it studies the most prominent conceptions of democracy among the German, Austrian and Swiss population. Using data from the 10th round of the European Social Survey, this paper finds six types of democrats through a Latent Class Analysis. This typology includes supporters of liberal democracy who still account for the majority in all three countries. However, there are other classes that show less support for key liberal principles or that combine them with an acceptance of leaders above the law. The second contribution focusses on the consequences that these different conceptions of democracy have for key aspects of political participation (probability of non-voting, affiliation with populist parties, satisfaction with democracy, etc.).

The results of this paper will help to shed a light on the scale of the challenges to liberal democracy, both at the abstract level of what people consider democracies to be, and at the real-life implications of these conceptions.

Types of Democrats Compared: Comparing Democratic Profiles between the Majority and Muslim Minority Population in Belgium

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To reduce the negative impact of radical narratives posing Islam as fundamentally undemocratic, it remains crucial to get an accurate picture of the actual level of support for liberal democratic principles among Muslim minorities in comparison the to majority population. However, studies measuring public support of democratic principles generally assume that support for liberal democracy follows a one-dimensional concept and that citizens will either accept or reject these norms consistently. However, public opinion studies tend to show a substantial group of people who are not consistent in their support for democratic values, combining general support for democracy with a tendency to support authoritarian practices, such as the rejection of political opponents or minorities. Using the Belgian National Election Studies 2019 for the majority population and the Belgian Minority Election Studies 2019 for the minority population, this study will make use of Multiple-Group Latent Class Analysis (LCA) to distinguish different democratic profiles within both the majority and Muslim minority population in Belgium. By identifying how both groups interpret and combine their support for several core indicators of liberal democracy, including indicators for individual freedom (freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association) and indicators for political equality (equal rights for homosexuals, women and immigrants), this study aims to more consistently map out which liberal democratic values are the most under pressure among both groups, while at the same time identifying the values with the biggest division between the majority and Muslim minority population in Belgium.

Democracy and its Threats in the New Year Speeches of the Czech and the Slovak Presidents

Zuzana Kusá

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Political discourse,and especially the speeches of political actors privileged to speak in the name of the „nation", co-shapes the way people think about issues and principles of governing society. I will present part of my CDA research of the tradition of presidential New Year speeches that continued in both the countries after the split of Czechoslovakia. The focus is on how Slovak and Czech presidents in office between 1994 and 2022 defined the meaning of democracy, its basic features, value principles and what they called threats to democracy. I show that that with the exception of Václav Havel and one other, presidents presented

democracy as self-evident and taken for granted and they determined its components, conditions and connections mainly indirectly: by listing democracy among other desirable values without specifying their mutual connections or naming its formal characteristics. Certain exceptions to this enumerative delimitation are passages in which they talked about threats to democracy.

I suggest that the prevailing non-argumentative approach to democracy of the majority of presidents may have contributed to the narrowing of democracy to its formal characteristics and to the weakening or emptying of its value foundations, and thus also to the loss of its importance for part of the population of Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Taking Democracy Seriously as a Sociological Concept

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If there is one thing that we, as political sociologists, may take away from the political upheavals of recent years – ranging from internal contestations of democracy to external threats, from the Trump-presidency to the war in Ukraine–, it is the fact that democracy is a social and societal force in its own right with central analytical importance. Immediate social repercussions of democratic decline, such as the re-essentialization of societal conflicts or the relapse into vulnerability of entire social groups, are so imminent and so widely visible as to make the conclusion appear trivial: understanding contemporary society means understanding it from a sociological stance that systematically and centrally incorporates the concept of democracy.

In my presentation, I will tackle a threefold task. First, I will draw on current research to delineate the ways in which the democratic decline threatens to fundamentally transform social orders. Second, I will show how, with few exceptions (e.g. Habermas, Laclau/Mouffe), democracy as a theoretical concept is marginalized in sociology. Consequently, sociological analyses of the present often struggle to adequately take social transformations as outlined before into account. To address this gap, my final (and main) task is to offer a programmatic understanding of the democratic formation of society that goes beyond the common conception of societies structured by capitalism. I draw on John Dewey, for whom democracy is not just a governmental system or a collection of political institutions, but a 'mode of associated living' that permeates social interactions at their core. Dewey's perspective opens up a view of current societies that are not only determined by a capitalist 'logic of competition', but also by a democratic 'logic of configuration'.

RN32 | T02_03: Interlinkages between attitudes and political actions (1)

The session explores the interlinkages between attitudes and political action, exploring the role of external factors in shaping and changing political attitudes – including networks and critical junctures – , the interplay between political attitudes and identities, and the role of emotions.

Trials of life, Emotions and Far-Right Attitudes

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Economic grievances and cultural backlash are among core, competing explanations for the growing appeal of far-right parties. In this paper, we take an alternative explanation provided by Rosanvallon (2021), as our theoretical point of departure, according to which the experience of personal hardships or "trials of life", resulting from societal structural conditions and their afferent emotions, are associated with support for far-right ideas. We translated Rosanvallon's typology into empirical concepts and embedded these in a representative survey of the adult Norwegian population (N=3766), fielded in 2022. This allowed a study of how holding far-right attitudes was related to experiences with trials of life, and to explore the role of anger and fear in this context. Results indeed showed a relationship between having experienced "trials of contempt", "trials of social bonding" and "trials of uncertainty" and far-right attitudes. The relationship was even stronger among those who felt fearful about the state of society, whereas anger did not play a mediating role. Based on these results, the notion of "trials of life", seems a fruitful avenue for empirical research on the foundations for far-right attitudes. Theoretically, the perspective enlarges the scope of hardships to be considered, beyond economic ones, and allows for capturing the effect of experienced economic, cultural and social transformations, as well as the subjective evaluation of these experiences.

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What Contextual Factors Influence the Social Acceptability of Extreme Political Behavior?

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Various forms of extremism are of great security significance for democratic societies. However, it remains unclear under which contextual effects normal people may develop feelings of justification for extremist behavior. Drawing on General Strain Theory (GST), this paper argues that certain perceived economic and personal strains can serve as mechanisms for the general acceptance of extreme actions. These individuals are neither extremists nor radicalized, but understanding how perceptions of contextual effects shape societal attitudes can play a crucial role in preventing an individual's susceptibility to the multifaceted process of radicalization. In addition to the aforementioned forms of perceived discrimination by the GST, a perceived sense of belonging and perceived territorial prestige are also part of the analysis. Furthermore, it was found that the more people score on the Index of Susceptibility to Radicalization, which consists of the three theoretical dimensions "perceived discrimination", "authoritarianism", and "distrust of democracy", the more open they are to extremist behavior. However, a contextual influence remains independent.

In a quasi-experimental, factorial survey design, participants are asked to what extent it would be justifiable for them if a described person were to resort to drastic means – means that go beyond civil disobedience – in order to achieve a political change in his or her life situation. The fictitious person in the experiment is – or is not – affected by the contextual influences defined above. This method is embedded in representative questionnaires from three major German cities (N=2.990), which allow for further covariates, such as the index of susceptibility to radicalization.

When Discussing Important Matters and Politics, Extremists' Networks Do Not Resemble Echo Chambers

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This study explores the dynamics of political discussion networks across the political spectrum, considering the variation in network composition and structure based on political orientation.We derive from the understanding that humans are inclined to engage with similar others, but those with extreme political views may face challenges in finding like-minded individuals while possessing a heightened preference for homophily.

Examining core discussion networks and patterns of tie activation, the study posits hypotheses suggesting that extremists are more likely to be isolated, maintaining smaller, more homogenous networks with pronounced divisions between differently-minded individuals. We use the 2013 Spanish General Social Survey (N=8403) that includes many personal network questions and political orientation for both respondents and their networks.

The preliminary results show that, contrary to expectations, extremists were found to have, on average, larger networks than moderates. Both fewer opportunities to meet like-minded others and a preference for homophily seem to shape extremists' networks: they were more heterogeneous than that of moderates, even if their deviation from expected heterogeneity based on random mixing was also larger (particularly for the extreme right). Consequently, extremists were significantly more exposed to opposing views in their core networks than moderate individuals. Tie activation followed similar patterns: Despite tendencies of homophily in their tie activation (which moderate individuals lacked), extremists were significantly more likely to talk about politics with family and friends with opposed views than moderate individuals.

In summary, the research suggests that personal networks, despite individuals' political extremeness, act as a buffer against online filter bubbles, fostering exposure to diverse perspectives within core discussion circles.

The Effect Of Sanctions On Political Attitudes In Autocracy

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Since February 2022, extensive sanctions have targeted Russia as a response to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Less than in a month Russia became the most sanctioned country globally. Sanctions aim to pressure and influence policies, but those imposed on Russia since 2014 have not significantly changed Russia's policy towards Ukraine, much less prevented a war.

A reasonable question arises as to whether and why sanctions can be effective at all. I believe the potential reaction of the target and particularly likelihood to comply, which is often overlooked, is one of the key factors behind the effectiveness of sanctions. In autocracies, especially those with mineral resources, sanctions may seem insignificant, easy to circumvent, or not pose a threat, making it easier for them to maintain undesirable behavior. More importantly, sanctions can backfire, fostering support for authorities and increasing authoritarianism. They risk becoming an expensive, inefficient foreign policy tool.

Therefore, understanding how sanctions affect attitudes in autocracies is crucial, because it forms the political price to be paid by authorities to continue undesirable behavior. While their economic impact is well-studied, their influence on political attitudes is often overlooked. In this paper, I explore this gap, focusing on the Russian case. What can be expected from the Russian population under the unprecedented scale of the imposed sanctions? Do they provoke an increase in dissatisfaction or lead to greater support for the authorities? Do they affect attitudes toward the war?

Utilizing two quantitative datasets representative of Russia—one from a state-affiliated research center and

another from independent researchers—I employ logistic regressions to analyze the effect of sanctions on political attitudes. Although causation cannot be claimed, associations reveal the broader picture of the effect of sanctions. Contrary to expectations, the research finds no rally-around-the-flag effect in Russia. Instead, the consequences of sanctions were associated with a decrease in support for the authorities and the war, and an increase in the positive assessment of democratic renewal.

This study makes a significant contribution to the broader debate on both the effectiveness of sanctions and understanding the (radicalizing) Russian society.

Deindustrialization's Polarising Impact on Confidence in the Political System: Evidence from 171 OECD Countries and Year

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This study utilizes a three-level multilevel model and data from the European Value Studies and World Value Studies to examine the relationship between industrial employment, union membership, income, and confidence in political institutions within democratic systems. By separating comparative effects from temporal changes, the research design offers insights into causal heterogeneity and the role of industrial composition. The findings reveal the challenges posed by the decline of industrial sectors and the diminishing engagement of unions with political confidence. Lower levels of confidence in political institutions are associated with diminished industrial employment, suggesting a potential erosion of democratic legitimacy. The impact of union power on political confidence has become negligible, questioning the relevance and effectiveness of unions amidst economic transformations. Changes in the industrial-service employment ratio magnify the relationship between income and confidence in political institutions, with lower-income groups experiencing a greater decline in confidence. The declining union power widens the confidence gap between higher-income and lower-income groups. This study has implications for future research on political confidence, urging further exploration of the evolving role of unions and the implications of economic transformations on societal divisions and democratic legitimacy.

RN32 | T03_01: Gender and politics – leadership and political activism

The panel focuses on the role of gender in the political sphere by combining the analysis of gendered performances of political leaders with the exploration of grassroots activism related to gender issue.

Styles, Themes and Narratives of a Female Leadership: an Analysis of Giorgia Meloni's 2022 Election Campaign

Flaminia Sacca'[1], Luca Massidda[2]

1Università Sapienza di Roma, Italy; 2Tuscia University, Italy

This paper deals with the analysis of power from a gender perspective. In particular, it analyses the 2022 electoral campaign of Giorgia Meloni, the first woman ever to have become prime minister in Italy. Her election has initiated a heated debate on the characteristics of power, on gender disparity and on feminism. While Meloni herself has denied her gender any specificity to her role, we argue that on the contrary, being a female leader has softened the image of an otherwise perceived as a radical right wing party that has challenged democratic values and the Italian democratic history. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that, the mere fact of having a woman in that role represents a tangible example of new possibilities for the younger generations. We will present the data collected during a Research Project of National Interest funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research: «The Transformations of Democracy: Actors, Strategies and Outcomes in Opposing Populism in Political, Juridical and Social Arenas» (principal Investigator: prof. Carlo Ruzza, Trento University; Unit coordinator: prof. Flaminia Saccà, Sapienza University).

The Strong Man Fighting the Virus. Viktor Orbán's Masculine Narrative during the Covid-19 First Wave

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The paper analyses the leadership style adopted by Victor Orbán during the first wave of the pandemic. It conducts a content analysis of the official speeches delivered in March and April 2020 to identify the topics, moods, and formats that characterized the political communication of the Hungarian far-right populist leader. The aim of this paper is to

investigate whether the health emergency has intensified the use of populist rhetoric's traditional characteristics, such as appealing to 'the people', attacking the elite, and ostracising others, or if it has resulted in a change in its argumentative structures. The analysis will concentrate on Orbán's self-representation, specifically identifying the rhetorical devices and discursive strategies used by the Hungarian Prime Minister to establish himself as a strong, masculine, and agentic leader. The presented data were collected as part of the research project «The Transformations of Democracy: Actors, Strategies and Outcomes in Opposing Populism in Political, Juridical and Social Arenas» funded by the Italian University Ministry (principal Investigator: prof. Carlo Ruzza). Our local research unit was coordinated by Prof. Flaminia Saccà.

Feminisms and Populisms in Italy and Bolivia. Social Tensions and Political Challenges Around Gender Inequalities

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The relationship between populism and gender appears complex and contradictory. Generally, right-wing populisms develop a discourse on gender that conceals a traditional view of gender roles and a lack of attention to the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities. When they advocate for the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities, they do so within positions that are anti-immigration and anti-Islamic, contrasting liberal Western values with an obscurantist Middle East. This leads to strong social and political tensions related to sexualities, gender, transgender issues, gender-based violence, abortion, also in terms of intersectionality, and a crisis of trust in democratic institutions.

Feminist movements navigate within these social tensions, acting as important actors in anti-populist resistance. They advocate for the expansion of civil, political, and social rights for women and LGBTQ+ individuals, and they set new political challenges about gender inequalities. This contribution will analyze the relationship between populism and gender issues in a comparative perspective between a European country, Italy, and a non-European country, Bolivia. It will observe the persistences and differences between the two phenomenologies based on the cultural variable of the reference contexts and the ideological variable of the investigated populist forms.

The Political Role of LGBTQ+ Centres Against Discrimination in Italy. A case study

Fabio Mostaccio

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The lack of laws that protects people from homophobic and transphobic violence in Italy encourages systemic discrimination and contributes to increasing the inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ people, who are also denied access to resources and, in general, to citizenship rights. For this reason, Italian LGBTQ+ communities have self-organized to create anti-discrimination centers and shelters for young who are victims of violence. The aim is to arrange support and assistance for vulnerable people without social protection. These organizations, providing essential services to sexual minorities, carry out political action to combat violence and raise cultural awareness, reaffirming the need for recognition of the rights of LGBTQ+ people. After a tough political clash and pressure from social movements, in 2022, 37 projects were funded across the country to create Centres Against Discrimination (CAD) and 2 Shelters for victims of violence.

The political role in these activities is the focus of this paper: we present the first results of research carried out with a qualitative approach (in-depth interviews, interviews with key informants) in a specific case study, a CAD in Reggio Calabria (Southern Italy), a peculiarly fragile area of the country from a political and economic point of view.

The presentation analyzes this organization's actions and working methods to verify its political role and social impacts on the territory.

This work represents a first step for a subsequent comparison with other case studies in Italy and Europe.

RN32 | T03_02: News, mass media, and journalism: political implications

This panel unpacks different dimensions of the relationships between politics and newsmaking, exploring how journalism understands the political implications of their work, news media framing practices, politicized news media and the interconnections between news and social media.

An Empty Concept in a Hostile Environment: Understandings of Populism Among Journalists Covering the Populist Far Right in Italy and Spain

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Journalists have been confronted, recently, by a political arena characterized by the growing presence of populist forces. In Europe, populism (predominantly of the far right) is often characterized by hostility towards journalists, considered part of the "evil elites". Populists' affinity with social media, moreover, has fuelled political communication styles characterized by polarization and disintermediation, partially undermining journalists' role of gatekeepers and watchdogs. Recent research shows that journalists make an often derogatory, albeit vague use of the category of "populism", which can become an empty signifier bent to political partisanship or hiding other, more relevant features of political forces. Drawing from semi-structured interviews in Italy and Spain, our research investigates how journalists understand and use the term "populism", and how journalism practice has been impacted by populist forces. We focus in particular on far-right populism's influence on journalism practice, interviewing journalists that have covered these forces with a critical stance. Our results show that, while journalists can usually define populism, they do not always believe it is a useful concept for journalism, as it can at times be too vague and prone to manipulation. Journalists highlight several difficulties in their relationship with far-right populist forces, such as an increased hostility, difficulties of access, loss of gatekeeping power. However, according to some, these difficulties are brought about not only by populists, but more broadly by changes in political communication and new technologies. We discuss the implications of these issues for journalism practice and for democracy.

Shifting Narratives – Analyzing the Discursive Framing of Migration Connected to Russia's War on Ukraine in Hungarian Online Media Using the Tools of Natural Language Processing

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Following the 2014 parliamentary election, Hungary's governing party, Fidesz, faced a significant decline in popularity due to various scandals. In response, Fidesz initiated an extensive anti-immigration campaign, elevating migration to the forefront of political discourse. While much analysis has explored how Fidesz has strategically placed migration at the center of public attention, our paper focuses on the evolving framing of the issue.

In February 2022, amidst the Russian-Ukrainian war, the government's narrative on migration underwent a radical transformation. Previously stigmatized "undeserving, bad" migrants from non-European, predominantly Muslim countries were replaced by "deserving, good" migrants with closer religious and cultural ties to the Hungarian population. Initial analyses based on a limited number of articles indicated a corresponding shift in media discourse.

Our presentation is rooted in an extensive and methodologically innovative analysis of a large-scale online media corpus comprising thousands of articles from February 2022 to December 2023. This corpus, representative of both pro-government and non-pro-government outlets, enables a comprehensive examination of media along political leanings. Our study pursues a dual objective: first, to unveil the discursive framing of migration due to the Russian-Ukrainian war in Hungarian online media, with a focus on political affiliations; and second, to compare this current framing with the previous one, shedding light on the evolving narrative surrounding migration. By delving into the nuances of media discourse, our paper contributes to a deeper understanding of how political transitions influence the framing of migration in Hungary, offering insights into the dynamic interplay between political events and media representations.

Contestation about Pandemic Management in Greek News Portal and Social Media

Angelos Loukakis

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The Covid-19 crisis has caused a serious health, welfare, economic, and social crisis in almost every country around the globe. In most countries, governments followed scientific advice which led to different crisis management policies. Focusing on Greece, although the government set up

a scientific committee, and consulted on COVID-19 management policies, in many cases political decisions did not follow scientific recommendations. Moreover, sometimes members of the government or scientific committee spread contradictory messages. These facts led some political and social actors to distrust both political and scientific leadership and to contest their decisions in the public domain.

Having these incidents in mind this paper combines fresh empirical data collected from both Political Claims Analysis and Facebook Comments Analysis in the context of the Poco-Covid research project to identify elements of contestation about pandemic management in Greece. The research question that the paper aims to address is whether, to what extent, and how the Greek Covid-19 crisis debate was contested. Moreover, it tries to reveal the different patterns of the contestation across the different phases of the pandemic as well as the differences between contestation in media and bottom-up social media contestation by examining, whom they target and how they evaluate them, the issues that they raised, as well as the frames that they apply to justify their claims.

This paper argues that contestation about pandemic management follows different patterns between news portals and social media. While, in the first low levels of contestation appear and the strategy of individual responsibility prevails in the social media debates contestation is much more visible and issues such as government responsibility and conspiracy theories are more salient.

Neoliberalism And The Authoritarian-Populist Repertoire: The Case Of Chega's Far-Right Newspaper

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An incompetent and corrupt government, a bankrupt economy wasting money on inefficient public services, welfare scroungers taking advantage of taxes taken from hardworking people and private businesses, street violence caused by ethnic minorities, terrorist acts perpetrated by Muslims and pyromaniacs, children and women abused and killed by monsters, security forces humiliated and assaulted on a daily basis, a soft penal system lacking proper punishments such as the death penalty, life imprisonment and chemical castration. Portugal, in the second decade of the 21st century, has turned into a third-world country and its all because of socialism. This is the crisis narrative constructed by the portuguese Chega (Enough) party in a country that was considered by many analysts as immune to the rise of the far-right until five years ago. This specific electoral trajectory has been mostly addressed through descriptions of its ideological profile and style of political communication, often emphasizing the party's "anti-systemic" nature in relation to Portugal's political system. Informed by a critical sociological perspetive on contemporary politics, the present communication explores the construction and topography of Chega's dialectic of crisis narrative and authoritarian solutions through Stuart Hall's concept of authoritarian populism, originally used to analyze Thatcherism's articulation of neoliberalism and social authority. This is done through a critical frame analysis of the three most prominent social themes found in Folha Nacional (National Sheet), a newspaper published by Chega since June of 2022: political corruption, (in)security and economic crisis. Contrary to mainstream perspectives, the results argue that Chega's "politics of fear" is embedded in the political project of neoliberal penality and in the longer historical continuities between the center-right and the far-right.

RN32 | T03_03: Interlinkages between attitudes and political actions (2)

The session explores the interlinkages between attitudes and political action, exploring the role of external factors in shaping and changing political attitudes – including networks and critical junctures – , the interplay between political attitudes and identities, and the role of emotions.

What affects voter turnout in European countries? A multivariate analysis (1990s-2020s)

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Voter turnout has been, and still is, one of the most important topics in research on representative democracies, since it is considered as an indicator of legitimacy of the political institutions, the political debate and the public policies. Developed in the framework of the ongoing Horizon TRUEDEM research, this paper is aimed at a first outline of the whole complex of the variables at stake when voter turnout is addressed in political research, with a special reference on social and political trust. After a short review of the literature, we draw on Norris' approach on trust and political behavior to outline a heuristic model in which voter turnout, as a dependent variable, is explained by political trust, as an intervening variable affected by (1) the societal environment (including generalized trust as a cultural long-term feature of this environment), and (2) individual skills, on one side, and (3) the political actors' performance, on the other. Subsequently, the model is tested by means of a multivariate analysis based on data collected within the TRUEDEM project and referring, in particular, to elections for the European Parliament (1994-2019) and for national parliaments (1991-2023). The results seem to support the hypothesis that political trust is an important variable in the causal path leading to explaining variations in electoral turnout.

Xenophobic Attitudes In Eastern Europeans: A Study Of The Interplay Between National And European Identities

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In this paper we will trace how East-European nationals attempt to assert their claims to a European identity on the basis of their opposition to non-European migrants and refugees. This complicity in racist and xenophobic practices may seem paradoxical, as most East-European ethnic groups are (or in some cases were until very recently) met with xenophobic hostility when emigrating towards West-European countries. However, such a phenomenon has historical parallels to how certain groups of European migrants (Irish, Italians, Slavic peoples etc.) were faced with racist hostility when migrating to the United States in the 19th and early 20th century, and rejected from the category of "whiteness". According to previous analyses of the subject developed within whiteness studies, the inclusion of these ethnic groups into the racial category of White Americans was contingent on their participation in the racial oppression of African-Americans, as well as other racial minorities. We will analyze whether a similar process is underway with nations from the Eastern periphery of the EU. To this end we will analyze the voting behavior and political participation of East European diaspora populations together with survey data on the shifting attitudes towards minorities to explore how the perception and self-representation of East-Europeans in Western European countries (with a specific focus on Romanian nationals) has shifted with the appearance of newer non-European migrant groups, and what potential implications this might have on the development of European identity in general.

Domestic Political Preferences, Trust and Attitudes Toward the Russia-Ukraine War in Slovakia

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The Russian attack on Ukraine has had a profound impact on Europe, reshaping the geopolitical landscape in significant ways. While the countries of the European Union expressed support for Ukraine from the outset, certain segments of societies lean towards favoring a Russian victory in the conflict. This analysis focuses on attitudes towards the war in Slovakia, a neighboring country of Ukraine. Its goal is to investigate the potential connection between national political preferences, political trust, and geopolitical inclinations—specifically attitudes toward the conclusion of the war in Ukraine. To address this research question, data from the online 'How are you, Slovakia?' survey series

were utilized, with a sample size of 1000 respondents. The results indicate that individuals with higher political trust and trust in the media express a desire for Ukraine to succeed. Conversely, those who perceive their own economic situation as unfavorable and those with far-right political preferences tend to favor Russia's success.

How National is "National Pride"? A Critical Assessment of the Single-item Measurements, Using Austrian Data from 1990 to 2022.

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The concept of "national pride" is used throughout different survey programs to study the phenomenon of nationalism in comparative research across societies and time. Hitherto, the single-item measure of "national pride" has shown to be robust in Austria since the item was first introduced in 1990 in a representative survey. The share of those being either "very proud" or "quite proud" ranged consistently between 90% and 96% over the time-span of three decades. However, during the three panel waves of the Values in Crisis (ViC) survey, we have seen a steady decline to 71% in 2022. Rather than attributing this to the Covid-19 crisis, I was intrigued in studying, what this commonly employed item actually measured. In the presentation, I try to point out two major issues: First, while the item appears to be a consistent question, only the response categories are unaltered across the different surveys. There are vast changes in the wording of the item. This leads to semantic differences of more emic and ethic versions of the item between the different waves, even within the same survey program. Being sometimes more open to ethnic conceptions of nationhood (being Austrian) and sometimes restricted to a civic conception of nationhood (being a citizen of my state). Second, looking at the panel data, the ones with declining pride are overwhelmingly right-wing voters. Which in turn raises the question of validity when it is nationalists who are not proud any longer.

RN32 | T04_01: Religion and politics

Religion is a crucial element in contemporary politics – both in terms of politically active religious actors and contentious issues related to religion. The panel explores how religious grammars and values penentrate the political agenda, the activism of religious actors, and the interconnections between political, legal and societal structures and religion.

Gender, Religion, and Populism in Contemporary Greece: The Cohabitation Agreement Debate

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This contribution is an effort to trace the interplay among gender, religion and far-right (FR) populism in the Greek context by deconstructing and analyzing, by means of documentary analysis, the discourse of two radical right political parties – the People's Association Golden Dawn (GD) and the Independent Greeks (ANEL) – and the Orthodox Church of Greece (OCG). It focuses on the 2015 debate about same sex couples' right to cohabit. The findings show that, due to ideological affinities between the OCG and the FR in Greece, multiple intersections between gender and religion can be observed in the FR populist discourse. It is argued that, in the Greek case, the religious discourse about gender legitimizes the gendered FR populist discourse, while the legitimized gendered discourse of the FR legitimizes its ethno-nationalist discourse, which is the main locus of the intersection between gender and religion.

The Role Of Christianity In Contemporary Hungarian Media Discourses On The European Union

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The interpretation of the European Union on each level – its actual functioning or the question about its future connected to its vision formulated in the past – has endless variation in contemporary media. Meanwhile, media framing is crucial in how citizens create their image concerning the EU and its enlargement process. As the Hungarian partners in the Mediatized EU Horizon project, we focused on the main discourses present in the Hungarian media concerning this process. During the analysis, we discovered several

topics connected to the EU and the integration process, but we also found overarching discourses connecting national and international issues. These discourses share several elements, one of which is the explicit and implicit role of Christianity. In this presentation, thus, we aimed to focus on Christianity in its several forms used in these discourses and issues: as part of national and European identity, as the dominant culture in the European continent, or as a value system connected to the previous aspects. We investigated topics such as migration and demography, human rights, LGBTQ+ issues, environmental concerns, the position of the Central-Eastern European countries, and the V4 as referring to Christianity in different ways. We have used content and discourse analysis methods, followed by interviews with the Hungarian media and political elite members using Q methodology built on the media analysis results.

Gendering The Consequences Of Religious Conversion Through Legal Narratives In Migration Courts In Sweden

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In a courtroom, every person accused of a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty, but at the migration courts, appellants are presumed bogus until proven otherwise. Since they were not found credible by the respective migration agency (for many reasons, including unproven identity, documents, etc.), they appeal to a migration court and the court assesses whether there is a reasonable basis for changing the migration agency's decision.

This paper critically examines the credibility assessment and discursive space of intersectionality in migration courts, focusing on asylum seekers who have converted from Islam to Christianity in Sweden. Using qualitative legal text analysis, it evaluates cases from the Migration Court in Stockholm and explores the power dynamics constructed during judgement. The aim is to scrutinize the court's perception and assessment of religious conversion, probing the often severe juridical consequences experienced by converts. Diving into gendered aspects of credibility, the paper dissects a specific case where the absence of a male network led to the approval of a female asylum seeker's application, reflecting the societal norms in Afghanistan. The paper accentuates the dominance of stock stories and narratives that reinforce pre-existing stereotypes in the legal system. The findings seek to contribute to a deeper understanding of how the legal system adjudicates on religious conversion asylum claims, through exposing inherent biases.

Delegitimizing Liberal-Democracy With Its Own Discourse: Ultra-Orthodox Leaders And The Israeli Supreme Court

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Since the 1980s, there has been a political debate regarding the appropriate authorities of the Supreme Court in Israel. This debate has become even more salient and polarized in the past year. The current study traces public discourse regarding this issue over four decades and explores the role of ultra-orthodox leadership in delegitimizing the court. Using an analysis of newspaper articles about key Supreme Court rulings and the theoretical lens of Peter Berger's theory of legitimation, I posit that ultra-orthodox leadership changed the type of legitimation mechanism used to criticize the court. In the 1980s-1990s, their leading legitimating principle was religion, i.e., claiming that the Supreme Court hurts the states' Jewish nature. However, since the 2000s, critique against the court was legitimated through liberal democracy. Ultra-orthodox leadership has increasingly used liberal-democratic principles, such as the importance of personal liberty and the separation of powers, to denounce Supreme Court rulings.

This is especially notable because many ultra-orthodox communities are essentially opposed to liberal-democratic ideals, as these identify the will of the people as the source of sovereignty rather than divine power. Despite this, their leadership increasingly adopted liberal-democratic discourse. While this may be perceived as a sign of democratization, it is in fact more complex. Harsh critique against the Supreme Court has formed the basis for legislation meant to curb its authority, thus threatening its independence and its ability to protect the rights of individuals and minorities. Therefore, this case is a unique example of a group which is opposed to liberal democracy and working to weaken one of its key institutions but is adopting liberal-democratic discourse to do so.

Gender Resistance and Populism in the Discourse of Vox

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Public University of Navarre, Spain

This paper analyses the discourse of Vox on gender. In order to identify Vox' particular appropriation of the global discourse of anti-feminist resistances and to locate this party on the map of the use of gender made by European radical right parties, we start from what the literature has established about the populist discourse on gender. Firstly, we approach the idea of anti-feminist resistance itself as a set of interrelated concepts – such as "backlash", "anti-feminism" or "gender ideology" – through which feminism has studied the reactions against gender and women's rights following the third wave of far right. Secondly, we analyze

the statements on women and gender in Vox' parliamentary interventions and its official Twitter account during 2021 and 2022. A provisional advance of the results allows us to affirm that its discourse of anti-feminist resistance is characterized both by replicating the classic strategy of backlash – as denoted by the insistent use of the concepts "gender ideology" and "feminazi" – and by its militancy in organizational anti-feminism, which has been present since the beginning of the party. Therefore, the anti-feminist reaction is more than just a complementary issue, as Mudde claimed, and constitutes one of the central elements of Vox's populist discourse. In conclusion, this set of elements of resistance would place Vox in a position close to that of Hungary and Poland with respect to gender, with whom, moreover, it does not share its authoritarian drift.

RN32 | T04_02: Post-pandemic politics – Covid-19 and its impacts

The Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on European politics, and its relevant consequences contribute to shape (or re-shape) political activism and trust. The session explores the multidimensional impacts of the pandemic in different European contexts.

Covid-19 As A Catalyst For Anti-institutionalist 'Careers'.

Tim van Meurs

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

During the Covid-19 pandemic, anti-institutionalism seemed to have transitioned to the mainstream. Whereas aversion to (establishment) politics, science, and related institutions has been around for years, it had not resulted in such a consistent stream of (large-scaled) protests and explicit disregard for official health advice. While anti-institutionalism aligned with gradual formation of personal beliefs (e.g., political beliefs) is likely to remain a deep-rooted sentiment, the Covid-19 pandemic was an extraordinary occurrence. This was evident from the various groups in society that were not previously (vocally or actively) involved in anti-institutionalist discourses, but were during Covid-19. A pressing question that remains is whether this involvement can become a catalyst for further anti-institutionalist 'careers', or if it was case-specific involvement that declined together with the decline of Covid-19 related discourse in media and everyday life. To this end, I conduct in-depth interviews with Dutch citizens that, according to themselves, first developed feelings of anti-institutionalism during the Covid-19 pandemic, to answer the research question: How did Covid-19 shape citizens' anti-institutionalism, and how has it developed during and after the pandemic's heydays? These interviews focus on how and why Covid-19 caused interviewees to become anti-institutionalist, and on the form this took during, but especially after the heydays of the pandemic. This study can provide insights into the development of anti-institutionalist 'careers', following the 'deviant careers' approach more recently applied to studies about e.g., politically discontent citizens and vaccine-skeptics, and may offer indications about the formation and longevity of anti-institutionalist discourse during exceptional societal disruption.

WHO, Multiple Endorsements, and Vaccination Willingness

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Despite the World Health Organization (WHO) being the key international institution in global health, there were concerns about its ability to issue effective public guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the WHO was not the only organization involved in public messaging during the pandemic, as the number of global actors involved in public health emergencies has steadily grown. In this increasingly complex global health governance landscape, how do endorsements from multiple organizations affect individual health decisions like taking a vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic? We study this using a survey experiment implemented in the US, Japan, and Canada during 2020, which involves vaccine endorsements from the WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Oxford University, and the Gates Foundation. We find that the WHO was effective at increasing willingness to take vaccines more quickly, but also that endorsements from the other organizations were nearly as effective. Furthermore, we find that the effect of the WHO's endorsement becomes less important as respondents received multiple endorsements from the other global health organizations. These findings highlight potential advantages for multi-actor public health messaging in global health governance.

Navigating Solidarity in Crisis: Political (Dis-) Engagement in the Covid – 19 pandemic

Maria del Carmen Mayer

Bielefeld University, Germany

While Italy was dramatically hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, collective solidarity actions, such as free distribution of essential items like food, rose within civil society and social movement actors confronting the crisis. This paper contributes to the growing literature exploring this phenomenon by analysing processes of political subjectivation, investigating how collective solidarity actions shaped the individuals experiencing of the ability to act and engage politically during the pandemic. Through an interpretive and qualitative in-depth study, the paper explores the lived experiences of activists and volunteers who engaged in solidarity actions within the metropolis of Milan, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the limits and potential of engagement as a politicising empowerment.

Utilising Grounded Theory methodology, the research is based on extensive participatory observation during food distributions, network and group meetings in late spring and summer 2021. In addition, over 70 hours of qualitative semi-structured individual and group interviews with activists and volunteers from different grassroots solidarity groups in Milan were conducted in two rounds, in summer 2021 and 2022.

The findings highlight diverse trajectories of trust and deception, their impact on individuals' sense of power to act, and its correlation with trust in transformative political participation. The study underscores the challenges associated with efforts of care and solidarity during periods of heightened societal tension, emphasising the potential for experiences of powerlessness and limited influence to lead to friction and disengagement. Ultimately, these dynamics may undermine the initial motivations for solidarity-based political participation, shedding light on the complex interplay between collective action, political subjectivation and societal engagement in times of pandemic crisis.

Europe, Covid Politics and the (Un) Expected Surge of Nationalistic Narratives

Faten Khazaei

KU Leuven, Belgium

More than being turning points in history, crises are moments of acceleration of processes that are already in place. The Covid-19 pandemic, as one such crisis, has triggered and exacerbated conversations about who belongs and who does not within different European nation states, whose lives should be protected, to the detriment of whom and to what cost. In the face of the outbreak of the coronavirus, the unity of the European Union, at least at the beginning of the crisis, started to crumble. Nation states reappeared as the main actors, and nationalistic responses spread in Europe. Government after government closed their borders, introduced a travel ban for the Schengen Area. They restored to war metaphors, in some cases even granting the military a visible role in the management and communication of the crisis.

To learn from and to avoid falling back to these understudied but historically repetitive reactions in the face of emergencies, in this paper I examine the political language used during the media coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related policy documents in three European countries (Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland). Different points in time will be considered: before the outbreak in Europe, at the time of the outbreak, and the spring of 2021 following the implementation of vaccination programmes in Europe.The focus of this project, funded by a European Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship, is to examine and to compare configurations of different European national identities that were generated during the management of the pandemic, and to investigate the links between nationalistic and war-related discourse, on the one hand, and the exclusionary policies and practices that (re)emerged in Europe and beyond, on the other.

RN32 | T04_03: Formation of the political subject

The panel explores the formation of the political subject from different perspectives – including political socialization and the impacts of critical junctures and ideologies on political subjectivity and the process of political subjectivation.

From Sunday Lunch To The Ballot Box – Political Socialization And Political Homophily In Hungarian Society

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Political socialisation is the process of forming an individual's political identity, in the course of which the individual's attitude to politics and political worldview is formed. Political socialisation takes place in different spheres, of which the family and parents are of particular importance. Previous research in Hungary has confirmed that the family is an "incubator" of citizenship. However, there is little data available in Hungary that would allow for a more precise understanding of the transmission of political attitudes. This study investigates political homophily within the family (between parent and child) and the effects of parental political characteristics on the

individual in Hungary. Our data are drawn from a nationally representative telephone survey of 2000 respondents sampled in 2023. The results show that in nearly two-thirds of Hungarian families, family members held the same political views during the respondent's childhood, with the highest proportions of homophily indicators, fathers' and respondents' voting activity, and mothers' and respondents' conservative-liberal attitudes. The effect of parental characteristics was tested using structural equation modelling (SEM). Parents' political interests and ideological positions had a strong direct effect on the same child characteristics, but the individual's political participation and party preference were only indirectly influenced by parents. The success of attitudinal transmission was strongly enhanced if the parents were themselves, homophiles, along with the trait in question. Our results point to the important role of the family as a primary agent in political socialisation and suggest new research directions.

Conflict and Transformation in the Political Socialisation Process of the Tamil Second-generation

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The paper aims to analyse the political socialisation processes of the second-generation of the Tamil community in Palermo, from a reflexive perspective (Bettin Lattes 2006). The theoretical framework of reference considers political socialisation as a process whereby one becomes a member of a political community, in close connection between this and a broader socialisation with overlaps between the political dimension and the other aspects that mark one's life. The paper presents the results of a research conducted in Palermo, collecting 20 biographical interviews of second-generation youth and adults of Tamil origin (then analysed through the T-Lab software) and carrying out participant observation of secular and religious events. An active and changing pathway that each subject contributes to create between continuity, conflict and change is revealed. In which the institutional and individual dimensions intertwine, in a complex framework that unites several levels: local, national and transnational in the biographies of individuals and in the life of the diasporic community (Macaluso, Tumminelli 2023).

Intersectional inequalities, occupational segmentation, gender and generational differences are intertwined in biographies with practices of life politics, political participation often in the absence of citizenship, and the claiming of rights and recognition for oneself and one's community history. The reversible and changeable character of socialisation as a process open to change also suggests interesting insights into permanent socialisation. Thus, an enduring process that makes symbolic resources available in the complexity of postmodern politics, manifestly or latently involving different socialising agencies, in the context of "deep mediatisation" (Couldry, Hepp 2017).

Subjects of Crisis: How People Are Made to be Tragic, Harmful and Dangerous

Jan Dobbernack

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In contemporary social-political diagnoses, crisis is hard to avoid. Popular frameworks (e.g. 'polycrisis') trace the confluence of economic, environmental, political and social conditions and draw attention to cascading effects. Missing from such work is a measure of concern for the personalization of crisis and for the production of social visibility. Among the most important functions of crisis is the close view it provides on groups that are framed as its perennial subjects or that are newly positioned in this frame. The paper develops this argument and adds a perspective to contemporary theorizations of crisis on how crisis positions

subjects, suggests relationships with social others, and puts spectators into the picture.

Among the constituencies of crisis that it briefly considers are problematic ethno-religious minorities, harmful migrants, trans people (who are ambiguously cast as vulnerable and dangerous), or tragic members of working-class communities, often racialized as 'white'. Subjects of crisis emerge as dangerous, damaged or tragic, often with reference to grievances and resentment, the potential for problematic conduct, and based on moral evaluations portraying them as worthy, beyond redemption or something in between. Rather than the 'simple' production of abject populations and different from the situational concern with 'moral panics', I argue that crisis creates expansive social worlds. Groups are assembled in this way, often for the apparent benefit of spectators invested in tensions and conflicts who themselves are constituted as viewing subjects. The paper considers the panoramic space that crisis makes available and explores this space with an interest in the politics (not least spectacle of contemporary 'culture wars') that images of crisis tend to substantiate.

Limits Of "Neoliberal Subjectivity": A Case Study From Turkey

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TED University, Turkiye

This paper aims to investigate the "neoliberal subjectivation" together with its so-called impediments to the collective actions and public inclinations of people under the neoliberal capitalism. The literature on "neoliberal subject" imposes the thesis of "de-democratization", assuming the rising of economized subjects who think and act as homo economicus on every domain of life in place of the politically minded citizens. This argument has been questioned by drawing on a case study from Turkey as a developing country which has experienced neoliberal transformation simultaneously with the West since the 1980s. In this study, forty professionals from Istanbul and Ankara, the two biggest cities of Turkey, were chosen in terms of their convenience to the "human capital" theory. Through in-depth interviews, they have been asked about their realities and strategies in the neoliberal context together with their inclinations towards collective action and publicity. The findings of the research indicated that economized conducts of the subjects are not developed out of the discourse of human capital theory but of the imperatives of neoliberalism crystallized within the production domain, new governance techniques, extended financialisation and the authoritarian politics accompanying with them. Thus, rather than being their preferences or reflecting their horizon, neoliberal subjectivity constitutes only the limits of individuals within the institutional operations of neoliberal capitalism. That's why subjects should not be degraded to be a functional component of capital or neoliberalism; but need to be considered with their contradictions and potentials of collective action that are also intrinsic to neoliberal capitalism.

RN32 | T05_01: Political actors and the digital (1)

Digital technologies increasingly intersect with political practices. This double-panel presents an overview of research on this topic, from different perspectives, including the role of AI, how activists engage with the digital, and digital technologies impacts upon policies and politics.

AI-infused Politics: How Generative AI Transforms, Challenges, and Empowers Political Actors and their Practices

Alice Mattoni

University of Bologna, Italy

In recent years, general-purpose AI systems based on large language models (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude 2, Stable Diffusion, Vall-e), whose function is to generate content in response to a human prompt, have proliferated rapidly around the world and are increasingly being used in different social domains. These general-purpose AI systems and the content they produce are also rapidly entering, and will increasingly enter, the realm of politics. Yet we know little about how they support different forms of political engagement. This paper is the first systematic attempt to explore how these general-purpose AI systems, more commonly known as generative AI, are transforming the practices of different types of political actors: from political parties, politicians and their staff, to movement organisations, activists and the citizens who support them. It does so by moving beyond overly pessimistic and overly optimistic views of the issue, and instead takes a pragmatic approach that looks at what political actors do with generative AI systems to support various forms of political engagement. The paper begins with a review of the extant literature on general-purpose AI systems in relation to politics. It then proposes a preliminary definition of AI-infused politics and a related typology, taking into account two main dimensions: the overall form of actors' engagement with politics (within and outside institutions) and the extent to which generative AI systems are used to support actors' political engagement (extensive and limited use). Finally, the paper uses data collected through desk research to examine case studies from around the world that exemplify four different types of AI-infused politics, and discusses the key generative AI-related practices that are more central to each of the four types.

Activists' Digital Stories And Intersectional Knowledge Translation: FFF, Trust, And Transition

Nicole Doerr

UCPH, Denmark

This paper combines visual, digital media, interviews and ethnography in order to study the diffusion of knowledge on ecological transition that emerges through digital storytelling and knowledge sharing between climate justice activist groups in the Global South and their European counterparts in the digitally networked Fridays for Future community. Addressing the crisis of andropogenic and capitalist versions of EU and global climate adaptation politics, the paper conceptualizes ecological transition through the analysis of alternative practices of storytelling and trans-local knowledge translation practices advanced by transnationally connected FFF activist communities, which create and translate new and alternative visions of climate justice through online storytelling on Most Affected People and Territories (MAPA for Future), including indigenous and local BiPoC for Future communities. Based on decolonial and intersectional theories of knowledge translation I trace how critical voices from the 'Global South' and indigenous activist perspectives become shared within broader, transnational public spaces and digital media debates about Europe's green transition among the intersectional Fridays for Future (FFF) movement in Germany. Focusing on digital visual practices of storytelling, and interviews with local FFF activists in Germany, it highlights the importance of visual, digital media as a way for marginalized voices and their visions of climate justice in inspiring effective local practices of ecological transition beyond institutionally promoted EU official green transition politics. Based on innovative visual, digital and narrative methods and online and offline ethnography, the paper advances political sociology's understanding of critical knowledge translation advancing trust and building effective local practices toward a deep ecological transition due to social movements in Europe learning from, digital dialogue and engagement with indigenous and MAPA climate justice activists in the South.

Transformative Technocultural Worldings: Reflections on 'memeing Back' and Other Innovative Feminist and LGBTI+ Tactics Against the Rise of Anti-feminism

Mia Liinason[1], Onur Kilic[2], Shao Shao[3], Guanqin He[4], Sama Khosrai Ooryad[5], Suay Melisa Özkula[6], Ov Cristian Norocel[7]

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Digital media offer tremendous possibilities for emancipatory feminist and LGBTI+ collectives to create other possible worlds in solidarity and struggle. By the same measure, however, digital media also allow similar potentiality for far-right actors to build profoundly different subjectivities and networks of belonging. In the context of these dynamics, this semi-plenary roundtable presents a transdisciplinary conversation focusing on how, and to what effect, digital technologies enable diverse communities of feminist and LGBTI+ initiatives, as well as exclusionary, misogynist and anti-LGBTI+ collectives, to materialize and shape civil (and uncivil) societies. This roundtable conversation will highlight expressions of visual misogyny in the context of platform affordances in diverse national and media sites, digital identities of the far-right metapolitical project, and illuminate threats – but also opportunities – for LGBTI+ resistance in digital space. We will explore cyber 'living ghosts' as new modes of subjectivity on Weibo, and attend to the aesthetic and tactical interventions of 'memeing back' and 'meme-feminism' against the rise of mediated anti-feminism. Contributors share an interest for exploring how digital and cultural initiatives transform existing societies and worlds. After short reflections on the topic based on their ongoing empirical research, panel participants will engage in a joint conversation led by the chair, followed by questions from the audience.

RN32 | T05_02: Polarization in politics

The session explores political polarization by discussing political conflict and ambiguity, and analysing the shape and nuances of individuals' political and ideological polarization.

Tension, Crisis and the (In-)Tolerance of Ambiguity

Antonia Schirgi

University of Graz, Austria

The SARS-COV2-Pandemic and its multiple implications gave rise to social tension and contributed to tendencies of polarisation. In the aftermath of the pandemic, some political and social-interventionist actions were taken in order to "overcome" this polarisation, amongst them a project led by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). This presentation draws on material that emerged from the focus groups conducted as part of this project (participatory observation, transcripts of focus groups). It questions whether and how discourse can contribute to overcoming polarisation.

In a first step, polarisation is reconstructed as a result of a social intolerance of ambiguity. Following Else Frenkel-Brunswik and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, opposing opinions and convictions are understood as rooted in (socially caused) one-sided perceptions (e.g., when only the best or worst possible effects of certain measures are perceived) of phenomena that are composed of a multiplicity of (sensory, normative, conceptual) perspectives. One way of overcoming polarisation would be to perceive the other sides of a phenomenon and to integrate these sides – to tolerate ambiguity.

In a second step, an analysis (deductive-inductive qualitative content analysis) of the focus groups is presented, centred on the extent to which the discourses have contributed to a change and broadening of the individually expressed perspectives. This analysis includes a typology of different forms of dealing with other perspectives: the non-acceptance of other perspectives; the joint discussion of different perspectives that remain side by side; an integration of perspectives.

Finally, implications of this analysis for the concepts of polarisation and the (in-)tolerance of ambiguity are discussed.

Opposite Universes. A Focus on the Ideological Polarization of the Italian Electorate

Marco Palmieri, Melissa Mongiardo

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The study analyzes ideological polarization in Italy, conceptualizing the relationship between ideology and political polarization. The morphological character of ideologies is closely related to the context in which they manifest themselves (Freeden, 2008). Political polarization is the tendency to concentrate political supply mainly around two opposing poles (McCarty, Poole, Rosenthal, 2006). These poles are characterized by high levels of ideological distance and high homogeneity within them, resulting in a lower propensity of voters to move from one side to the other (Fiorina, Abrams, 2008; Druckman, Peterson, Slothuus, 2013).

The methodology combines economic and demographic indicators and electoral results of the 2022 general elections. The hypothesis is that electoral behaviour is strictly connected to the territories' socioeconomic and demographic structural contexts (Mongiardo, Palmieri, 2023). This paper identifies the forms of ideological polarization considering Italy divided into two blocs with different electoral competitions.

The North Centre (high economic level and social inclusion): The political clash is between the forces heirs of the traditional ideologies; here, abstentionism decreases. The South (low economic level and social inclusion): The electoral competition is between the hybrid-tactical forces outside the system of traditional political forces; here, abstentionism increases.

The aim is to reflect on the latent causes of the different forms of ideological polarization, considering the model of Inclusive/Extractive Institutions (North, 1990; Acemoglu, Robison, 2006). According to our interpretation, in the North Centre, the social form of institutions is horizontally and collectively oriented. In the South, the vertical relations between the political and socioeconomic systems led Institutions to be extractive; here resides a dysfunctional interpenetration between the political and socioeconomic systems.

Public Opinion and Political Polarization: A Comparative Study in Spain and Europe

Jose A. Lopez-Ruiz, Sebastian Mora, Agustín Blanco

Universidad Comillas de Madrid, Spain

Across Europe, political discourse has taken on increasingly extreme ideological stances, leading to a negative impact on the quality of democracy in nations. This polarization is evident in conflicts and tensions within parliaments, political parties, and traditional and digital media. One crucial question is how much these polarising ideologies resonate with and spread among the public, particularly regarding critical aspects of democratic coexistence such as immigration, cultural and religious diversity, and gender identities. To explore this question, we will use primary data from the Observatory on Encounter Culture Survey (2021-2023) to analyse questions related to discrimination, trust in institutions, corruption, and environmental commitment. Specifically, we will compare primary data from Spain with other European countries, creating a temporal series that spans pre and post-COVID crisis periods up to the present. These questions are replicated from international surveys,

including the World Values Survey Wave 7, Eurobarometer 77.4, European Social Survey Round 10, and the International Social Survey Program. The analysis uses statistical significance tests for association and mean difference tests for inter-group and category comparisons, identifying any significant differences between countries and, in Spain, in the time series.

The Construction Of The Conflict. The Case Of The Valencian Parliament

Fernando Martínez Rodríguez, Francesc Xavier Coller Porta

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Spain

Political consensus is a fundamental part of the proper functioning of a healthy democracy. Although the citizen´s perception is that politics is based solely on confrontation and bickering, empirical studies such as Proyecto Consenso have shown that the level of consensus in the Spanish territorial chambers is higher than it seems, although with differences among them. In this paper we explore the case of Comunitat Valenciana, one of the regions with less consensus in Spanish politics. Analyzing 9 semi-structured interviews with parliamentarians of the X Legislature of the Valencian Parliament, we approach the construction of conflict in the Valencian territorial chamber at three levels: contextual, institutional and personal. The results of the interview analyses show that at contextual level the fragmentation of cultural identity is superimposed on the left-right political axis, creating two partisan mega-identities (blaveros and fusterianos) that polarize the debates. At the institutional level, the supremacy of the Congreso de los Diputados and the central leaderships of the parties influence the territorial debates, reducing the room for maneuver of the Valencian parliamentarians. Finally, at personal level, the existence of conflicting profiles and the use of social networks and media for differentiation with the rest of the parties hinder the debate. However, there is hope: in those spaces where the media spotlight does not reach, is where the Valencian representatives smooth out differences and manage to reach agreements.

RN32 | T05_03: Protest and politics

The panel explores different aspects of the politics of protest in contemporary societies, focusing on diverse forms of protests – including political debates and activism – and on protests regulation and control.

Social Cleavage and the White Paper Protest in China

Kuan-Chia Lin

National Taiwan University, Taiwan

In late 2022, the “White Paper Movement,” opposing the government’s zero-COVID policy, emerged across China, marking the most significant and widespread social protest since the Tiananmen Movement. This raises questions about the drivers of participation and support for social protests in a regime that stringently controls and suppresses social resistance. Utilizing data from an online survey conducted in December 2023, this paper shows that unemployed individuals and those with lower educational levels are more likely to support and participate in the White Paper Protest. Conversely, urban residents show less support for the protest, while rural villagers are more likely to participate or know someone who has. Notably, CCP members, in comparison to non-members, are more likely to be involved or acquainted with participants in the protest. The findings of this research highlight the significant social cleavages within Chinese society and suggest the potential impact of these divisions on the stability and future of China’s authoritarian rule.

Gun Talk Then and Now: The Discourse Surrounding Firearms Control

Lucie Němcová

Charles University, Czech Republic

Gun laws in Czechia are currently exceptionally liberal, due to a consensus across the political spectrum. However, following the tragic and unprecedented mass shooting in December 2023, the need for re-evaluation of existing legal framework resonates among the public, politicians, and experts. This research utilizes Critical discourse analysis and Discourse-historical approach to analyse the discourse and trace the arguments in political discussions on gun control. The analysis will focus on the discourse of relevant stakeholders during three key moments: 1) Political mobilization against an EU directive that tightens gun ownership in 2017. 2) An amendment to the constitutional law which from 2021 onwards includes the ‘Right to defend one’s life or the life of another person even with a weapon’.

3) A mass shooting in the Faculty of Arts, which resulted in 14 deaths in 2023. The study examines arguments both for and against gun control during three significant periods. Its aim is to uncover the evolution of discourse about gun laws and policies, to identify changes in arguments and rhetoric, and to discuss these arguments in the context of the current debate on gun control in other settings. It is imperative to understand evolution of gun control discourse since it can provide insights on what factors influence policy shifts and helps to identify values that shape policy debates. Understanding changes in rhetoric over time is critical for representatives working to oversee the intricacies of gun legislation.

Marginalizing the Moral: Realistic Reasoning and the Disappearance of the Future

Colm Flaherty

Roskilde University

Political movements today seldom advocate for utopian or idealistic futures, preferring instead to emphasize idyllic pasts. In this article, we argue that the disappearance of the future depends, at least in part, on the increasing prominence of a style of reasoning we call realistic reasoning. Based on focus groups with right-wing populist party voters in Denmark, we suggest that realistic reasoning has four main features. First, realistic reasoning depends on common-sense constructions of what actors define as realistic and feasible. Second, realistic reasoners identify political issues as legitimate based on their understanding of what can and cannot be controlled. Third, realistic reasoners focus on local issues rather than global ones. Finally, and most importantly, realistic reasoning attempts to marginalize idealistic, utopian, or moral styles of reasoning, depicting actors who adopt these justifications as dreamers, out-of-touch, or lacking legitimacy. This article demonstrates how right-wing populists in Denmark use realistic reasoning to justify their focus on political issues such as immigration or crime rather than potential issues such as the environment, the economy, or the welfare state while simultaneously employing this style of reasoning to delegitimize and devalue other political actors. The article further shows how one consequence of this style of reasoning becomes an inability to articulate or imagine futures, forcing actors to turn back to the past. The article concludes in noting that this style of reasoning does not only characterize right-wing populism, but that it has clear links to other societal developments such as welfare state restructuring, increasing financialization, and democratic deficits and suggests that actors who wish to confront right-wing populism must also work to restore the legitimacy of other forms of reasoning.

RN32 | T06_01: Political actors and the digital (2)

Digital technologies increasingly intersect with political practices. This double-panel presents an overview of research on this topic, from different perspectives, including the role of AI, how activists engage with the digital, and digital technologies impacts upon policies and politics.

Fandom and Political Leaders: Exploring Varieties of Attachment on Social Media Platforms in Italy

Giovanni Barbieri, Marco Mazzoni, Roberto Mincigrucci

University of Perugia, Italy

The weakening of party loyalties has raised fundamental questions about the formation of political identities, including the forms of political belonging, the nature and extent of affective connection with parties and communities and the impact of digital politics on participation. Several researchers have begun to associate the concept of fandom with that of politics, questioning whether the phenomenon of fan-like attachment to specific political leaders can be considered a new form of political participation (Hinck and Davisson 2020; Sandvoss 2013; Dean 2017). Our study aligns with this line of research by mapping the phenomenon of fandom in Italy and providing insights into its main features.

In particular, our study aims to explore the fandom pages on Instagram and Facebook devoted to the main Italian political parties' leaders: Giorgia Meloni; Matteo Salvini, Elly Schlein; Giuseppe Conte, Matteo Renzi, Carlo Calenda. Through our analysis, we will measure the number of active pages devoted to the aforementioned leaders, the engagement they achieve, and the content they publish. In particular, we will classify the shared content within three categories of fan attachment: political, which emphasizes the political skills of the leader; satirical or entertaining, where political content is irrelevant and fan communities primarily seek to have fun or joke; adoring, where fans exhibit a physical and emotional attraction to the leader.

The analysis results will enable us to make initial assessments of the role of political fandoms in the Italian discourse and to identify the possible political consequences of this type of engagement.

The Final Boss is Woke: Video Games and the Gender Discourses of Far-Right Video Influencers

Briar Dickey

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Scholars have noted the significance of 'geek masculinity' and conflicts about video game culture to digital far-right mobilisation. Despite this, existing observations about video games and the far right neglect to investigate how far-right actors engage with the fictional content of games, focusing rather on the role of nerdish male grievance and surface-level acknowledgements of their attachment to pop culture.

Narrative-driven games, however, are not only pop cultural objects around which nostalgia and male entitlement interact, resulting in violent anti-feminist mobilisation. They are also audiovisual fictions inviting players to activity construct an identity and make judgements and choices within virtual, often intentionally political worlds. Given this and their role in key digital far-right conflicts about gender, far right discourses about video game fictions are particularly well-positioned to tell us both about the role of audiovisual fiction and pop culture in far right mobilisation and the role of fictional tropes, mythology and stories in far-right identity construction.

This research zooms in on this unique facet of digital far-right culture through a multimodal discourse analysis of 50 videos from YouTube, Rumble and Twitch containing either gameplay or commentary on games by far-right-leaning influencers. It examines two interrelated dimensions of far-right engagement with games. Firstly, it explores how critiques of video games are used as a vessel to share reactionary ideological messages about gender and society, demonstrating the strategic use of pop culture by far-right influencers and contributing to a wider body of work on far-right 'metapolitics'. Secondly, it explores how engagement with video game fictions results in the construction of far-right masculinities and femininities, as well as provoking critiques of deviant gender expression.

Cadres and Bureaucrats: Sovereignity and Law in Markus och Malcom

Tor Hammer

Mittuniversitetet, Sweden

Markus och Malcom is a Swedish political podcast that is associated with a local populist party from Örebro, Örebropartiet. It is hosted by the party leader Markus Allard and prominent member Malcom Kyeyune, and it is one of the party's main channels of political communication and ideological development. The podcast had a left-nationalist and self-admitted populist identity when it begun in 2014, but it has since actively sought to distance itself from the political left and have begun engaging more closely with the far right. Markus och Malcom is of interest not only because podcasts are a novel and understudied form of social media with interesting synergies with populist politics and its uses of media technologies, but also because of its ardent attempt at developing a novel political and ideological worldview. In this paper I will focus on the latter, critically interrogating the understanding of sovereignty that emerges throughout podcast as they argue for the necessity of what they call a cadre-state – a state run by political cadres who, unlike the bureaucrat, does not treat the law as a series of neutral statutes, but rather as means for a political purpose – and how this relates to their ambition of a Sweden run by local populist parties.

RN32 | T06_02: The impacts of gender politics

The panel discusses gender perspective on politics, focusing on both gender-related issues and gendered politics, providing a complex overview of the processes at stake.

Gendered Public Policies: The Discourse around FeminisminSpain

Blanca Alonso Gracia, Olatz Zeltzin Arriaga Huerta, Mar Nacher Escartí

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

One of the objectives of the European project FIERCE (Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe) is to multi-disciplinarily analyze the impact of the feminist movements in public policy processes. To this aim, the project focuses on how the feminist discourse is shaped and developed, as well as on how it transcends its own limits, permeates the public imagination and puts certain struggles and issues on the agenda, while prompting reactionary counter-discourses and movements. Thus, through discourses, political stances and alignments, the project studies tensions and conflicts in the public policy process, not only with regards to far right anti-gender forces, but also within the very feminist actors.

One of the research lines proposed by FIERCE has been the analysis of the networks of actors around certain gendered public policy debates. As Twitter data was not accessible, the project has conducted a Discourse Network Analysis (DNA) methodology. This has entailed the retrieval and posterior codification and analysis of hundreds of newspaper articles related to gender public debates between the years 2019 and 2022, which has enabled a mapping of the constellation of actors, their relationship with other political actors, their stances, as well as the impact that those alliances have had on gender politics. The present paper aims at presenting the results of such a line of research.

Intersectional Gender Structure and Political Impact of Western Education: A Comparative Historical Analysis

Aray Gaipova

Leiden University, Netherlands, The

Cross-border educational mobility of citizens of developing countries to advanced democratic nations has been associated with democracy in developing countries (Atkinson 2010, Freyburg 2015, Gift and Krcmaric 2015, Mercier 2015, Spilimbergo 2009). This relation between Western education and democratization hinges on the assumption that Western education challenges persisting structures of inequality by equipping underprivileged groups with social and cultural capital. However, strong disparities in access to Western education have persisted across different types of programs (Dassin 2013, Dewachter et al. 2022). In my paper, I investigate the relationship between the intersectional gender structure, Western education of non-Western citizens from developing countries, and sociopolitical inequality in these sending countries. Adopting a qualitative research design that combines in-depth interviews, focus groups, and secondary evidence analysis, I test whether women and particularly women from lower socio-economic background are able to access Western education similarly to their male counterparts. I use comparative historical analysis of post-Soviet Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, selected through most-similar systems, to trace causal processes and mechanisms in this relationship. Embedded in interdisciplinary debates across comparative politics, sociology, gender studies, and education studies, the research addresses the persisting tensions in the processes of internationalization of education by identifying if and how certain segments of the population get filtered out of the selection into Western education. As a result, the findings are relevant for transformative social change in the field of international education and have important implications for the restructuring of Western educational opportunities in a manner that unfolds their democratic potential.

Just about Language? Political Polarization and the Discourse on “Gendern” in Germany

Werner Binder

Masaryk University, Czech Republic

In many contemporary societies, debates on issues such as immigration or climate change have become markers or even drivers of political polarization. Yet, there are also cases of polarization on specific issues, which do not lead to broader political polarization. Under what circumstances and how do polarizing issues become divisive for whole societies? In order to address this question, I would like to investigate the discourse on “Gendern” in Germany, a linguistic practice that aims to reflect gender diversity and inclusivity. Although “Gendern” is widely perceived as a polarizing issue and rose to political prominence in the regional elections 2023, it has not (yet?) become a marker or driver of political polarization. In my talk, I will map the public discourse on “Gendern” and identify the various ways in which the issue is framed by different actors in the field. As empirical data, I will use political speeches and official statements of organizations as well as newspaper articles and social media posts, including readers’ comments. I want to focus in particular on the interaction between the opposing camps, how they frame their opponents and their arguments. My understanding of political polarization is informed by Alexander’s civil sphere theory as well as Laclau’s and Mouffe’s discourse theory, but I will also draw on Braunstein’s work on political backlash and Rever’s model of performative polarization to understand how “symbolic

entrepreneurs" try to confine or delimit polarization on this issue.

The Cost Of Visibility: Gendered Online Hostility Against French MPs

Annina Claesson

Institut Polytechnique de Paris/Sciences Po, France

Gendered online violence against elected officials has recently been identified as a key factor complicating women's political participation, especially as social media becomes a central political tool (Sobieraj, 2020; Håkansson, 2023). While we know that women politicians experience higher levels of sexualized and personal abuse on social media, we know less about how this affects their political practice. This paper explores the gendered impact of online violence on MP's working practices, grounded in the case of France. How do MPs adapt to a hostile online environment while pursuing visibility?

Combining computational and qualitative methods, I propose a framework differing between personal abuse, political criticism, and expression of support in order to understand MPs' online experiences. I trained a state-of-the-art automatic classifier to recognize these categories and applied it to the total number of tweets targeting French MPs in the period October 2022-April 2023 (approx. 30 million tweets). I explore how higher levels of abuse and criticism affect their media engagement. This was complemented by over 40 interviews with MPs and their staff.

Results indicate that there is a qualitative, rather than a quantitative, difference in how men and women experience abuse and criticism in their online visibility work. Particularly among higher profile women MPs, the labor undertaken to manage and moderate personal abuse constitutes a significant burden, and influences the extent to which they engage with traditional and social media. The paper argues that online violence is a key factor reinforcing gender inequality in the allocation of visibility among politicians.

RN32 | T06_03: Urban environmental politics

The panel focuses on urban evironmental politics, discussing the interplay between policy processes and grassroots activism.

Analyzing Transformative Public Action: Dissecting Change In Two Case Studies Of Remunicipalised Drinking Water Services In France

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1Bordeaux Metropolitan Area Water Company (France); 2National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE, France)

Our research provides an empirical analysis of the recent remunicipalisation of water and sanitation services in Bordeaux and Lyon (France). These politically driven decisions, made in 2020, entailed simultaneous processes of, on the one hand, creating new public companies and, on the other hand, transforming large existing socio-technical networks. We analyse these processes as projects to reconfigure the public policy "referential" in these territories, which were respectively historic strongholds of the multinational drinking water and sanitation companies, Suez and Veolia. We examine, in the respective contexts, the different approaches among the political and administrative stakeholders enacting these transitions to a public management model—notably to what extent they conceptualise and implement disengagement efforts with respect to past logics, power dynamics and practices associated with the outgoing concession service delivery model. This leads us to question the establishment of new forms of governance that accompany such transitions, including certain inevitable operational consequences (e.g. new institutions and the associated codes of conduct) but also lesser predictable impacts of a newly politicized service (e.g. transfer of politically charged concerns onto everyday operations). In relation to these considerations, we contribute to the literature on new public management, examining the paradox of the implementers' ambitions to bring water "back to the public" realm and supplant the modus operandi of private operators, all while defending performance-oriented management strategies that aim to "get the best of both worlds". In this way we show how these transformative processes are marked by sociopolitical influences and engrained neoliberal ideals.

Toward Sustainability as Political Process: Interpreting Urban Globalisation through the case of the EU's Urban Agenda

Monika De Frantz

University of Vienna, Austria

As European societies struggle with complex crises, the global goals for sustainable development (SDGs, UN 2015) highlight the political challenges of joint human action for societal transformation. Focusing on cities as centres of globalisation and growing urban areas, the UN-SDGs dedicate a specific urban objective (no. 11, 2015), followed by the EU's Urban Agenda since 2016. Merging economic with social and environmental objectives, the notion of sustainability addresses not only practical limitations of growth but also implies critiques of modernity through tensions in institutional ordering and loss of trust in human progress. Particularly, cities symbolise these modern tensions – as centres of creative societal innovation and places of complex interconnected problems. Against national-populist retreat from EU integration, urban contexts offer multi-facetted opportunities for local civic participation, multi-level governance and experimental learning across countries, sectors and disciplines. However, in a rapidly changing and diverse world, any governing stategies are necessarily limited, contextually differentiated, imply winners and losers, and thus possibly conflicts and contentious mobilisations.

So, how may urban research contribute to the SDGs? Reflecting current transformations, scholarly debates on urban globalisation pose societal diversity as critical claim, which connects capitalism critiques with cultural identity and environmental sustainability. As the SDGs frame a variety of urban transformation efforts, this paper reviews the recent literature on the EU's Urban Agenda to enquire some relevant normative, practical and epistemological perspectives on sustainability. Thus elaborating my previous work on EU urban multi-level governance (De Frantz 2022) by embedding sustainabilitiy objectives in diverse contexts contributes to politicizing the SDGs as open-ended processes of democratic transformations on the ground.

Democratizing the Green City? The Contentious Politics of Urban Biodiversity between Participation and Expertise

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The politics of biodiversity has recently emerged as a key issue of urban governance. Big cities are investing massively in the greening of urban spaces as part of their strategy of both sustainability and competitiveness.

Greening urban spaces means not only renewing or adding some natural elements to urban landscapes, but intervening on their social dimensions. Programs of urban biodiversity triggers interesting dynamics regarding the relations among technical experts, citizens and green politics.

Notwithstanding its 'naturalistic' feature, urban biodiversity is neither purely 'technical' nor a 'natural' issue. It impacts directly on many social and political dimensions. So, what are the characteristics of the new urban politics of biodiversity?How is the problem of nature politicized by the main relevant collective actors? How does it become a public good, subjected to conflicts and aspirations to participation?

The presentation compares evidences from in-depth cases of citizens participation and conflicts in the metropolitan area of Milan. It pinpoints the key aspects of the politics of urban biodiversity and link them to the broader attempts to 'democratize the green city'.

Sustainability Culture and Environmental Activism Among Young Adults: A Survey on Italian Students

Viviana Asara, Alfredo Alietti

University of Ferrara, Italy

The new climate movements emerged since 2018/2019 have represented the birth of a new wave of environmental mobilizations, putting forth a vigorous critique of institutional 'environmental' politics and governance. Furthermore, some fundamental cleavages at the core of sustainability debates – such as the role of economic growth, technological innovations, social inequalities/justice, and the transformation of the mode of production and consumption – have acquired renewed importance in the discourses and frames of the new movement. On the other hand, young people's eco-political actions are embedded in a neoliberal governmentality that acts by individualising responsibility within the marketplace (Kyroglou & Henn 2020) by means of a "performative environmentalism" (Anantharaman 2022) .

While several studies have analysed the determinants of EC, such as socio-demographic factors, socio-psychological constructs, and political orientation and variations in value systems (Rampedi & Ifegbesan, 2022; Liu et al 2014), few studies have investigated the role of institutional trust and political efficacy (Boulianne & Ohme 2022), and social and cultural background (Della Porta and Portos 2021) as intervening variables mediating the effect of EC on young adults' environmental activism and sustainability culture.

Our study aims to fill in such a research gap by investigating the relationship between university students' perceptions on the climate crisis and the ecological transition and their institutional trust and environmental activism. These questions are explored by means of a structured online questionnaire that has been distributed to all the population of students enrolled in Bachelor's, (2 year) Master's Degrees and 5 – and 6 – years Single-Cycle Degrees at the University of Ferrara.

RN32 | T07_01: The politics of everyday experiences

The panel explores mundane politics by focusing on how social actors make sense of their everyday experiences.

Cities And New Human Rights: Children's Right To Clothing In Nottingham

Michele Grigolo

Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom

This paper presents some preliminary theoretical reflections and empirical findings from my current research agenda on cities as spaces of new human rights. In this research, I look at how cities foster new human rights. By this I mean that cities 1) inject new meaning into existing human rights and 2) are incubators of new ideas and concepts of human rights. My argument and analysis are premised on a notion of the 'urban' borrowed from Lefebvre's work and his idea of the right to the city. While commentators have tended to present human rights and the right to the city as distinct or even irreconcilable, my point is that these two notions of right may be fruitfully combined and further developed to explore the social and political processes in space through which human rights acquire new meaning and significance. The empirical part draws on a study that has not been completed yet, of children's right to clothing in Nottingham, in collaboration with Sharewear Clothing Scheme. Children will be invited to reflect on the meaning of clothing in their everyday life and space, and eventually on clothing as a human right. A critical analysis of children's lived experiences of clothing will be performed, which is expected to illuminate the link between human rights and the right to the city, and new meaning of human rights in the context of contemporary marginality, crisis, and agency taking place in the urban form.

An Inquiry of Engagement of Unemployed People

Maggie Müller

Roskilde University, Denmark

In this paper, I explore how individuals in rural areas experience unemployment and the situations they find themselves in. Grounded in Thevenot's concept of regimes of engagement(2006), this study examines how individuals, living in rural areas with a formerly high working-class identity, engage with their surroundings in the wake of unemployment. Regimes of engagement, as a theoretical lens, provide a nuanced understanding of the ways individuals establish connections, make meaning, and navigate their social environment.

The research unfolds in a rural post-industrial area in Southern Denmark employing an ethnographic approach. Over the course of nearly a year, I follow the everyday life of six unemployed people, combining interviews, photo elicitation, and shadowing. This methodological diversity ensures a comprehensive exploration of unemployment encounters on formal, local, and proximate levels, capturing the complexity of individual experiences. The research focuses on working "with" the unemployed, prioritizing their subjective vantage point for analysis. By concentrating on the experiences of individuals in a rural post-industrial setting, this paper addresses a gap in the literature, offering insights into the complexities of unemployment in such contexts.

Initial findings suggest that unemployed individuals engage in various situations beyond job-seeking activities. Their engagements encompass both material and immaterial aspects. For instance, it becomes evident that a cat holds significant meaning in shaping how the unemployed person feels about himself and his life. These engagements may arise from emotional attachment, nostalgia, or a need for care. Others are influenced by a broader structured governing such as interactions with the welfare institutions and the labor market.

While many studies concentrate on either the individual or the interaction between welfare institutions and the unemployed, this paper provides a more nuanced perspective. By highlighting the subjective experiences of the unemployed, it enhances our understanding of the broader societal implications of unemployment. This challenges conventional categorizations of unemployment as a purely objective issue and contributes to a deeper understanding of unemployment.

I am applying to the ESA PhD Summer School for the first time to present my research on unemployment dynamics in a diverse scientific setting and connect with fellow PhDs and scholars.

Social Vulnerability, Collective Imaginaries and Infrastructures of Solidarity in Rome

Antonio Putini

Sapienza, Italy

Social vulnerability expresses the conditions into which large sections of the population who find themselves living in a post-industrial development context are plunged (Beck, 2000). According to Ranci (2002) states of vulnerability arise in fact from the transformations following the transition from a Fordist to a post-industrial society. Starting from this definition, the contribution provides a set of reflections deriving from the results of a field-research conducted in the neighbourhoods of Torpignattara and Certosa in Rome. Through a participatory methodological approach – built around 2 focus groups with a neighbourhood committee, 15 in-depth interviews and 123 questionnaires – the research offers an insight into states of social vulnerability (Ferrigni, 2021; Istat, 2020; Lelo et al., 2021). What emerges is a contrasting overall picture that summarized some of the main trends observed in the urban environment during

the last decades: the collapse of political-administrative institutions; the radicalisation of the processes of economic and financial value extraction; the centrality, in the processes of socialisation, integration and social cohesion, of institutions such as schools; the need, transversal to the various social groups, of meeting places and moments that contribute to reconstructing a community and identity dimension in an environment that is, on the contrary, an expression and concretisation of the impersonality of social relations, made even more acute by that parenthesis of suspension and isolation constituted by Covid-19. Finally, the mediating role between individuals and institutions that the world of associations, voluntary work and informal groups finds itself playing, often with substitutive rather than integrative or subsidiary functions, with respect to local administration.

Critical Religious Selves Muslim Palestinian Women Caught Between Religious Patriarchy and a Hegemonic State

Nahed Mohamad Ashqar Sharary, Sarab Rabia-Abu Queder

New York University, Israel

This study explores how Palestinian women in Israel develop a religiosity that enables them in negotiating identity and empowerment. It examines the dynamics necessary for them to develop religious identities and the significance of these dynamics in their daily lives. These components include self-perception, dress codes, body image, relationships, sexuality, familial relationships, work, agency (autonomy), gender-based relationships, the relationship as members of a minority group with the hegemonic, Jewish State of Israel, and the women's internal identification with, and dissonance between, Islamic Sharia law and the status of women. The central argument is that the development of religious identity is built around a combination of political, social, religious, and socioeconomic conditions which coincide with the individual's self-identity and unique personality.

this process is being significantly influenced by external religious control over them, in conjunction with hegemonic regimes which promote the patriarchal power, resulting in women seeking religious consciousness choosing, in a seemingly paradoxical way, to take part in processes that consistently strengthen their religious Muslim identities.

The study is based on in-depth, open-ended interviews with 33 Palestinian women who self-identify as religious, all aged 30–60. All but four of the participants hold academic degrees. The findings of this study reveal the existence of critical religious identities in both the personal and interpersonal spheres of women's daily lives, which contribute to their sense of self while emphasizing the need for strengthening their sources of Islamic religious knowledge: in other words, a "religious self" which encourages the development of a psychological agency anchored in Islam, through which the individual may challenge the collective forces which oppose the established sense of self.

RN32 | T07_02: Beyond identity – intersectionality, queer and trans politics

The session explores gender, queer, and trans politics, and discusses the analytical concepts to approach these topics, including intersectionality and power.

Political participation and Anti-violence policies

Maria Mirabelli[1], Sabrina Garofalo[2]

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The regulatory crisis that characterises states has led to a redetermination of institutional processes and balances, of the trust and legitimacy of the system, and of the relationship between citizens and political institutions. Within this framework, our reflection aims to focus on the experience of anti-violence centers in Southern Italy, from a particular point of view, that of the relationship between institutions and culture. The research we are conducting with an intersectional approach seeks to reconstruct the experiences to understand how anti-violence centers understand political participation at local, national and international levels. In some cases they prove capable of building important networks to address different issues related to violence, other times they are configured as parallel paths, which also have difficulty communicating with each other. The aim of the work is to understand how civil society networks engaged in policies to prevent and combat gender-based violence can really act and influence the political agenda and in particular, and how political participation is understood and declined in terms of building democracies based on non-infringement of human rights. In this case, analyzing the link between institutions and culture, allows to codify the dialectic between tension, trust and transformation, starting from the subjective experiences of anti-violence centers immersed in relationships of intersubjective and political trust. The hypothesis of work is that the dialectic between tension and trust, read in the relationship between culture and institutions, can give rise to dynamics of transformation of contexts and territories.

Social Movements, Futurities and Social Transformation: An Analysis of Contemporary Queer and Trans Politics

Alexandre Nogueira Martins

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Queer and trans social movements have long been regarded in social research as culture – or identity-based activism and their demands for inclusion as already been achieved in most Western societies. Nonetheless, the comprehension of their politics may go far beyond the focus on identity (Haider, 2018; Ferguson, 2020) as many strands grounded on non-hegemonic positions of class, gender, and race have been disputing the futurities of gender and sexual politics. In a dialogue with contemporary analysis of social movements against neoliberalism (Cox 2016; Dinerstein 2019), especially queer and trans (Gleeson, Rourke, 2021), the paper aims to analyze the political practices of radical queer and trans activist organisations in Argentina and Colombia. From documents and interviews analysis, we investigate, firstly, how social reproduction practices have been central to the political organization of those movements (Raha, 2021) and how they have entailed a relation to futurity and social transformation. Secondly, queer and trans radical demands and strategies in those countries are investigated as part of contemporary struggles for redistribution (Fraser 1996). The campaign for jobs, housing, and healthcare for trans populations is taken as a case for understanding the visions of futurity and social transformation from queer and trans movements. The paper aims to contribute to an analysis that goes against and beyond reductionist divisions of redistribution versus recognition or class-based versus identity-based social movements in order to better apprehend the futurities envisioned in current social transformation processes in which social movements play an important role.

Revisiting Intersectionality: A Dialectical Approach to Power Relations in Capitalist Societies

Julia Schmid

University of Vienna, Austria

The concept of intersectionality, developed in the 1970s within the framework of Black feminism in the United States, serves as an analytical tool for examining mutually constitutive power relations, primarily based on the triad of race, class, and gender. Originally emerging in the struggle against sexism in the Black civil rights movement and racism in the Second Wave feminist movement, intersectionality has inherently united analytical and political dimensions from its inception (e.g., Combahee River Collective 1982; hooks 2001 [1982]; King 1988; Lorde 1984). Nevertheless, the concept's political implications have come under growing criticism in recent years. This was particularly apparent amid the ongoing Middle East conflict, as intersectional left-wing activists and scholars employed the concept to promote anti-Semitic slogans. Consequently, this has led to the concept being dismissed as a mere political tool, exacerbating inter-identity conflicts. Despite the understandable criticisms raised in this context, this theoretical paper wants to refute the fundamental rejection of the concept and instead advocate for a dialectical reinterpretation. In doing so, the paper aligns with a tradition of the Frankfurt School that seeks to connect and further develop feminist approaches with the theorems of Critical Theory (e.g., Becker-Schmidt 2008; Fraser 1994, 2022, 2023; Klinger 2008; Knapp 2008). Proposing a dialectical conceptualization of intersectionality, the paper aims to undertake a theoretical examination of the multilayered contradictions and ambivalence inherent in modern capitalist societies by specially looking at research conducted in the field of the international division of labor (e.g., Bair 2010; Collins 2014; Dunaway 2014; Mies 1996; Mohanty 1986; Wright 2006; Yeates 2014).

A Toxic Cocktail Of Compassion and Transphobia: A Discursive reading of the Dutch Opposition to the Transgender Act

Iskra de Vries

University of Warsaw, Poland

'What is the point of this? Tomorrow you will identify as a camel, the day after as a dromedary?' bashed Geert Wilders, leader of the Party for Freedom, a far-right party recently elected as the largest in Dutch parliament (own translation, 21 Sep 2022). Being confronted with the heated and ongoing debate on the proposed adjustment of the Transgender Act in the Netherlands, I aim to empirically map political and public discourses to reconstruct the interpretation processes of the Act. In April 2024, a motion was initiated to withdraw the bill in its totality, which passed by a slim margin. The analysis is grounded in the affective economies as developed by Sara Ahmed (2014). By carving out the resisting narratives of the Act's opposition – and their positioning on gender in conjunction with their understanding of valid knowledge in society – the article simultaneously contributes to the debate on anti-gender mobilizations, as the initiated simplification of the Act backlashed in the founding of several organizations and political and public actors explicitly opposing the so-framed 'trans and gender ideology.'

My proposition for the affective mapping of the various interpretations of the Act unmutes the issues related to gender discrimination and the rejection of gender knowledge more broadly speaking (Bracke and Paternotte 2016; Paternotte 2019). Furthermore, by reconstructing the emotionality of the discourses around the Act, my central concern will be to shed light on how transphobic and sexist prejudices are mobilized and distributed, if not justified. The novelty of this article lies not in describing the general anti-gender strategies, as this is already done rather extensively, but in offering the localized Dutch adaptation to its operation. As my analysis will show, the resistance to the Act is largely executed in the name of compassion and for the sake of good policy-making.

RN32 | T07_03: Political sociology in contemporary times of crisis – Palestine and Israel

This session includes contributions discussing the use of political sociology in understanding crisis and conflict, including in Palestine and Israel.

"Multiple Crisis and Conflicts: The Importance of Being a State. Obstacles and Opportunities of the Palestinian State-building"

Rosalba Belmonte

Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Italy

Nowadays, the exercise of sovereignty by a power pursuing public interests on a territory and its inhabitants is no longer a sole prerogative of nation-states. Indeed, states coexist with a plurality of new orders such as non-state public authorities.

An example of non-state public authority is the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), namely the self-government body established by the Oslo Agreements (1993) to administer the Palestinian Territory for an interim period of five years, with the aim of forming an autonomous Palestinian state that has never been achieved.

Although since its establishment PNA has embarked on an institution-building process aimed at gradually achieving the independence in terms of territorial control, economy, people flow management and transnational relations, after thirty-one years an effective and fully functional Palestinian state was not established, and the current and increasing exacerbation of the conflict in the Gaza Strip suggests that it is not destined to be born in the short/medium term.

The obstacles that have prevented the establishment of a Palestinian state are both endogenous – deriving from the Palestinian actors' behavior and choices – and exogenous – arising from the choices, the behavior, and the omissions of external actors.

The aim of this work is to present and analyze in depth the abovementioned obstacles and then to discuss the opportunities that the creation of an effective and fully functional Palestinian state could guarantee to local populations in terms of justice, rights, and protection, and to the political stability and security of the whole region.

Israel-Palestine: Beyond the Violation of International Law: Colonialism, tension, and transformation

Arees Bishara

Tel Aviv University

The Israeli settler colonial practices and the war on Gaza raise critical questions about the applicability and limitations of Sociology, international law, and human rights norms. Recent events, including the bombing of civilian sites like schools and churches and UN properties in Gaza by Israel, have prompted outrage and resignations from UN officials who condemn the lack of accountability for apparent war crimes. However, powerful actors like the US and EU continue to provide Israel with diplomatic cover and material support, undermining the authority of international legal frameworks. This roundtable will examine the tensions between human rights ideals and geopolitical realities, analyzing how politics and power dynamics shape the discourse and enforcement of international law and Academia. It calls for academics and institutions to uphold democratic norms, allowing free speech and debate on these issues. The discussion aims to move beyond stagnant two-state proposals toward an equitable resolution respecting Palestinian rights. It asserts sociology's transformative potential to address global crises like this conflict by applying critical perspectives and methodologies. The field's diversity offers multidimensional understandings of causes and solutions, helping rebuild trust and stability. By relying on the sociology of war theory that focuses on the macro-level patterns of war-making, how societies and states engage in warfare, the meaning that war has in society, and the relationship between state structure and war-making, this roundtable tackles the role of international law and Sociology in the Israel-Palestine discourse, arguing for open academic dialogue and sociological insights to promote social change.

When Violence Trumps Politics: Historical Perspective on the Derailment of Peace Negotiations to War in Israel/Palestine

Lev Luis Grinberg

Ben Gurion University, Israel

In 1994 I suggested a theoretical framework for analyzing the peace negotiations between the Israeli government and the PLO. The framework was based on elitist theories of transition to democracy, which explains the political dynamic as struggles between four elites, the moderates among the rulers and the ruled, seeking peaceful transfer of power, and the extremists in both sides, who tacitly cooperate in sabotaging the compromises between the moderates.

The expected democratic outcome of such process in Israel/Palestine was dismantling the military occupation and establishing a Palestinian State, however, the paper emphasized the capability of extremist opponents to sabotage it, given the power of zealot Jewish settlers, and the armed organization of Palestinian resistance. Indeed, in 1995 Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish religious zealot, and in 2000 sparked the second Intifada, finally derailing the negotiation process into violent clashes between Israeli military repression and Palestinian terrorist attacks.

The redeployment of the IDF around Gaza in 2005, and imposing a blockade, was designed to detach it from the West Bank, successfully preventing the establishment of a Palestinian State. The new regime of divide and rule under military domination created a fragile "unstable stability" of sporadic violent clashes without diplomacy. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza in response to Hamas missiles was legitimized as acts of self-defense, and in the West Bank the continued expansion of Jewish settlements provoked Palestinian resistance, either by terror or popular uprisings.

The proposed paper analyzes the rise to power of religious nationalist zealot elites both in Israel and among the Palestinians, exploding in criminal acts against humanity since the October 7 massacre, questioning the viability of political solutions to the crisis.

Political Sociology Of Crisis In Times Of Crisis: Introducing The 'Augmented Discrepancy Approach'

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Sociology has evolved and developed as a "crisis science". In times of crisis, political sociologists are frequently inquired to understand the structural mechanisms and dysfunctionalities that led to the crisis as well as to process the social and political consequences. Moreover, the cascade of crises since 2007 – including the world economic crisis, the political crisis over migration, the covid pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the inflation crisis – are accompanied by the claim of the crisis of liberal democracy. Here, political sociology is called upon to analyse, what these crises mean for societies, democracies, institutions, convictions, and behaviors of people taken for granted in normal times. In this paper, we address the relationship between political sociology and crisis and discuss possible characteristics of a genuine political-sociological approach to (political) crisis. Here, we propose and introduce an 'augment discrepancy approach' (ADA) as a heuristic framework for the empirical analysis and comparisons of (political) crises: this approach or perspective interprets political crises as resulting from a gap between democratic ideals, i.e., the self-understanding or legitimation narratives within society, and real-existing political practices. From this angle, a social constellation appears as a crisis, if the material conditions and practices constituting it (considerably) deviate from a certain understanding of democracy and if members of society perceive this deviation as such to a relevant extent. The paper concludes with a consideration of the merits of the discrepancy perspective for the sociological analysis of (political) crises.

RN32 | T08_01: Debating democratic innovation

The papers in this session explore evidence from different types of participatory democratic governance experiences.

Public Administration as Innovative Ecosystem for Governance of Potentialities? A Case Study in Berlin.

Jun Chu, René John

The Institute for Social Innovation (ISInova), Germany

In recent decades, citizen participation in local planning and decision-making processes has attracted considerable attention from scholars in the interdisciplinary fields of policy, governance and civil society. The issue becomes even more relevant today in the context of the rise of political polarisation, populism and distrust in politics. While the processes of participation have been thoroughly investigated from the perspectives of empowerment and democracy, an increasing number of studies draw focus on the aspect of public administration in its capacity to deal with participation in the tension between structure and agency. However, the question of the organisational conditions for participation still requires further explanation.

Based on our ongoing case study in Berlin's local administration within the framework of the BMBF-funded research project EmpHyRes (2023-2026), we focus on the potentials and challenges for a possible organisational change in public administration during the participation processes. By posing the question of under what conditions the quest for digital citizen participation can become a source of innovative change within the internal structure of the local administration, we aim to investigate the dynamics, tensions and challenges for a future-oriented organisational form and thus provide more insight into the complexity of transformation processes at the local level in the digital age. Furthermore, we will explore the theoretical fruitfulness of bringing the organisational angle back into the discussion on the politics of engagement and participatory governance.

Changing the Machine from Within: An Analysis of the Costs and Impacts of the Professionalization of Activism

Héctor Gil Rodríguez[1], Eduardo Romanos Fraile[2], José Luis Ledesma[3], Jorge Sola Espinosa[4], Daniel Sorando Ortín[5]

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After the local elections of 2015, several citizen candidacies emerging from social movements entered Spanish city councils with the aim of transforming their modes of governance. The objective was to promote a novel way of "doing politics", which would translate the demands of the protest cycle led by the 15M movement into the sphere of local institutions. However, these innovative models of governance encountered various structural rigidities and administrative inertia from the outset, significantly limiting their transformative potential. This paper aims to analyze the way in which these factors modulated the dynamics of the new municipalism and had an impact on the actors involved in them.

Through a series of in-depth interviews with activists who took part in diverse "city councils for change", our aim is to delve into the subjective dimensions of the professionalization of activism. This involves exploring the discursive space that these activists put into play to rationalize the personal and political costs of the so-called "institutional assault". By exploring these costs and impacts, we seek to assess the extent to which the experience of government has changed the political culture of a generation of activists with the configuration of new expectations and perceptions about institutional politics, social movements and the relationship between these two spheres.

Conference on the Future of Europe: Challenges, successes and expectations

João Limão, Inês Campos, Sandra Oliveira

CE3C – Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, Portugal

In response to a certain erosion of representative democracies, national, regional, local or even supranational public authorities in various parts of the world have sought to counter a certain cynicism on the part of citizens by promoting innovative, more participatory and deliberative democratic initiatives, from referendums to citizens' assemblies, mini-publics or participatory budgeting. At European level, the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) was the most visible expression of this trend by the European Union (UE). Held on an unprecedented scale, this conference involved European citizens from the 27 Member States in the debate on the future of Europe and in the deliberation

and presentation of proposals in several key areas of European policy. Through a case study based on more than a dozen in-depth interviews with participating citizens and members of the organisation, and the analysis of various documents about this initiative, this research seeks to understand the main challenges and results achieved in the CoFoE, and how citizens and organisers view the initiative. If everyone agrees on the uniqueness of the CoFoE in terms of scale and innovation, opinions are less unanimous on the success and effectiveness of the initiative in terms of the follow-up given to citizens' proposals and the effectiveness of the participatory dimension. The timing of political decisions worries some citizens, who fear that their proposals will be lost in the intricacies of the decision-making process. Once again, organisers and citizens agree on the ineffective communication of the initiative.

Building Societal Resilience Through ICT-based Co-production: Citizen Action And Public Services During The War In Ukraine

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This paper examines the transformative potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the co-production of public services, drawing on a case study from the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine. The central research question is how to harness the benefits of ICT-enabled co-production of public services for building societal resilience in the Dnipro region? The first sub-question is what are the current challenges in the co-production relationships between governmental and societal actors in the Dnipropetrovsk region? The second sub-question is how to tackle the identified challenges in the co-producing relationships to enhance the capacities to manage resilience in the Dnipropetrovsk region? The study is framed within the co-production theory, reimagining public service creation as a collaborative endeavor where citizens transcend the traditional roles of recipients and customers to become active, contributing partners. This paradigm shift, caused by the war, involves citizens deploying their resources, expertise, and insights in concert with government entities to address public challenges effectively and fill the gap that is not covered by traditional government services. The study investigates the ways ICT-enabled co-production can bolster societal resilience amidst the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine which became a reason for activating civic initiatives in co-production of public goods. Utilizing Linders' (2012) typology, which outlines the variability in citizen co-production initiatives, the authors explore the typology of ICT-facilitated C2C (Citizen-to-Citizen) services in the Dnipropetrovsk region during 2022-2023. This approach emphasizes a more holistic and participatory role for citizens in the ideation, design, and realization of public service solutions.

RN32 | T08_02: Discourse politics in crisis

This session brings together a broad range of approaches to discourses, values, and principles in politics.

Illiberal Democracies and the rule of law in the European Union

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The reference to values enshrined in the article 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon has assumed an increasing role in the construction of European identity. They establish an internal and external conditionality principle that guides the political action of the European Institutions and the definition of the "European way of life".

Among these values, the institutions have paid particular attention to the rule of law, certainly one of the most controversial in the recent experience of the EU. As some member states have witnessed a shift towards "illiberal democracies" (Zakaria 1997), concerns about the erosion of democratic principles and the rule of law have emerged; the consequence could be a "democratic backslidings" (Bermeo 2016) which separates liberalism and democracy.

This paper aims to analyse the challenges posed by illiberal democracy to the EU's commitment to upholding the rule of law, focusing on the following issues:

– the relationship between illiberal democracy and the rule of law in the EU;

– the instruments adopted by the EU institutions to protect the rule of law;

– the rule of law as a value for European citizens and Member States. For the former, data from Eurobarometer 489 on the Rule of Law (2019) and the Special Eurobarometer 508, Values and Identities of EU citizens (2021) will be analysed; for the role of member states, the Rule of Law Reports (2020-2023) will be examined;

– the analysis extends to the potential implications of illiberal practices for the EU's internal cohesion and its ability to project a united front on the global stage.

When the "No" Turned to "Yes": Political Cynicism and Crisis of Representation in the Aftermath of the Greek 2015 Bailout Referendum

Costas Gousis, Angelos Kontogiannis-Mandros

Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece

The July 2015 bail-out referendum marked the apex of the Greek crisis and constituted a pivotal moment in the overall trajectory of the Eurozone crisis management. In this context, our aim here is to illuminate its political repercussions and more specifically to analyze its impact vis-a-vis the growing crisis of representation that is clearly manifested in the sharp and prolonged increase of electoral abstention. To that end, we pay particular emphasis on the dynamic and the characteristics of political cynicism; a variable that in our opinion is of utmost importance for the analysis of Greek politics in the post-2015 period. Political cynicism is of course a contested concept and thus our elaboration begins with a brief elaboration on the relevant debate and our take on it in relation to the specificities of the Greek crisis. Following that, we put forward our main research findings and elaborate on the complex interplay between political cynicism, crisis of representation and electoral abstention in the backdrop of EU's crisis management and SYRIZA's handling of the 2015 referendum. Our analysis utilizes survey data but relies primarily on qualitative data in the form of 75 in-depth interviews and 10 focus groups of 7 participants each. This data combination allows us to draw significant insights into the impact of the third austerity package, the vicious circle of the Eurozone debt crisis and the dynamics that continue to underlay the Greek political system.

Contentious Chronicles. Preliminary Analysis of the Processes of Political Subjectification in a Southern Italian Region.

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Starting from a review of the most representative territorial conflicts that have characterized the history and geography of a specific area of Southern Italy, we intend to relate the multiple forms of political subjectification with which different segments of the population have reacted to the phenomena of depoliticization that have animated Italian political, economic and ecological history in the neoliberal era. From the analysis of some case studies emerged through the method of Protest Event Analysis, we described and analyzed the combinations of practices that so-called 'subaltern' groups and 'spontaneous' movements enact as concrete responses to the processes of capitalist valorization of the territories; their active or passive adherence to dominant political formations, and their attempts to influence the agendas of these formations in order to impose their own claims and knowledge oriented toward overcoming the very condition of subalternity. In each case investigated we found the presence of multiple elements of conscious direction that nevertheless failed to surpass the level of 'popular science' in which they were born or to elevate their action beyond the level of a-systematic rebellionism. This seems mainly due to the inability of leftist political actors to channel, reposition and guide the demands for change of the weaker segments of society. The thesis is that of overcoming spontaneism as political practice and horizontality as method. Both elements, instead of being a resource to the foundational processes of conflict subjectivities, proved to be an obstacle, negatively affecting the outcome of the contentious action The data collected are based on in-depth interviews with key actors and the mapping of all conflict episodes that occurred between 2007 and 2017 in Salento.

Neo-Authoritarian Regime of Truth: Epistemic Politics in Neo-Authoritarian governance

Amir Barjasteh

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The rise of neo-authoritarian forces, in both democratic and non-democratic systems, has brought along updated technologies of governance. This neo-authoritarian politics includes not merely devices for the infringement of human rights but also epistemic politics on how to affect people's opinions and justify those destructive devices. These governing technologies are methods for achieving a given aim: to "sabotage accountability" (Glasius, 2023) and thereby erode democratic processes.

While prior studies have convincingly shown that the securitization process (and thereby de-politicization) is the main logic in neo-authoritarianism (Gerschewski, 2023; Vuori, 2008), the literature on epistemic practices upon which the securitization process is activated is scattered in diverse disciplines. Drawing on Foucault's notion of "truth-making regimes," this study argues that neo-authoritarian governance has discovered the recipe of knowledge (re)production, which has a certain power of separation between truth and error.

As the concluding chapter of my doctoral dissertation, this piece reviews the cases of securitization practices investigated in my articles during my doctoral studies (article-based dissertation), and shows how neo-authoritarian actors govern the epistemic field to silence society's voices. Such epistemic politics can have harmful consequences for human dignity.

RN32 | T09_01: The socio-politics of space

While often overlooked in political research, the role of space appears to be crucial for the analysis of the political processes.

Only Nature is Beautiful Here. Tracking the Social and Political Consequences of Spatial Inequalities in Central Europe

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Regional inequalities are increasingly understood as a risk to social cohesion, a cause of social and political polarities and a source of perceived injustice and marginalisation. The proposed paper is part of the project Social and political consequences of spatial inequalities that explores this issue with a focus on three Central European countries – the Czech Republic, Poland and the eastern regions of Germany. Drawing from the concept of 'left behind places' (Rodríguez-Pose, 2018; Psycharis et al., 2020) a central research objective of the project is to understand how inequalities between regions are reflected in local perceptions of injustice as well as to map the potential political agency of the subjects affected incl. bottom-up responses to spatial inequalities and processes of peripherialization.

The study includes a qualitative research approach (focus group interviews including photo-elicitation, and in-depth expert interviews) designed to explore the subjective meanings and viewpoints of those living in disadvantaged regions. The proposed paper discusses preliminary results of research conducted in two regions of Czechia facing amongst others depopulation and de-industrialization, low-wage work, and difficult accessibility of services. Giving voice to a broad spectrum of social groups, we seek to understand in more depth how the perception of the region is reflected in local political attitudes and actions (such as radicalization, indifference, populism, grass-roots movements, local activism, etc.).

"Relation between District Magnitude and Local Incumbency: Cases from Turkey"

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In representative democracies, what is essential for power is to get more votes than the other competing political party or candidate. Parties or candidates have instruments at their disposal to come to power. Among these instruments, we can mention methods such as clientelist policies (vote buying, participation buying, pork barrel, patronage, etc.), election campaigns, ideological discourses, and the use of ethnic and religious sensitivities. Parties and candidates try to use these instruments when competing on two scales for power: general elections and local elections. These two electoral scales require the implementation of two different policies at the macro and micro scales. If parties and candidates make the right moves, they can win long-lasting and iterative incumbencies at both scales.

This study will focus on an issue whose impact in local elections has not been carefully analyzed: the relationship between the size of the electoral district in terms of population and resources and long-lasting and iterative power. The argument will be analyzed in this paper is the following: In local elections, the smaller the electoral district, the more likely it is that winning candidates will win again and remain in power for a long time. Because politics become porsonalistic in local. Candidates, and particularly the clientelist relationships they control, enable candidates to become actors embedded in society and better able to analyze the needs and preferences of voters in their communities. Therefore, the smaller the electoral district, the greater the probability of the same candidate coming to power more than once in local elections. In this study, this argument will be tested by analyzing the election results in the "belde"s (districts smaller then subprovince) in Turkey.

Tension and Trust in the Social-Ecological Transformation: A Case Study on Lusatia (Germany)

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Current conflicts on tension, trust and transformation often reveal themselves in certain local contexts. In my paper I will explore on the connection between right-wing-populism and the obstruction of climate policies, focusing on the local case study of Lusatia in Germany. The region Lusatia, which is known for coal mining and coal-fired power generation, can be described as a place of a contested social-ecological transformation: While the region has to implement climate policy measures by 2038 due to the decision to phase out coal, the "Alternative für Deutschland" – a partly far-right party that in parts denies the climate crisis and obstructs climate policies – is gaining support in Lusatia in particular. These parallel developments are an example of the potential for an intensifying tension within the socio-ecological transformation (cf. Gürtler et al. 2021: 182).

How can we study, describe and explain this tension? In my dissertation I approach these questions with qualitative methods, building upon critical theory and psychoanalytical ideas. Drawing from my own research I will provide insights on the narratives of climate obstruction by right-wing populist and far right actors and present preliminary findings on the different responses to these narratives in Lusatia. The current transformation is evoking memories of the reunification among the population, who are reacting with both hope and mistrust to the promises made by politicians. While the former react with commitment and

activism, the latter show tendencies of political protest or withdrawal. As I will show, the social-ecological transformation faces challenges in gaining trust from the public and is therefore vulnerable for anti-democratic tendencies.

Social Divisions in Contemporary Politics: A Spatial Approach to the Analysis of Socio-political Attitudes and Preferences in Flanders

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Ghent University, Belgium

In this study, we assess what contemporary political cleavages divide people in Flanders, Belgium. We specifically look into the existence of new cleavages separating people based on their perceptions of political institutions and (direct) democracy. Information on a broad range of policy issues (economic interventionism, migration, environmental issues), democratic institutions (populism, democratic participation), and societal perceptions (social unease, conspiracy mentality) from 2232 respondents is analysed by means of Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA), using survey data from 2019. We find evidence for two structuring dimensions. The first axis distinguishes people with a pessimistic and populist outlook on politics and democracy from those with more optimistic views of politics. The second axis separates people with cultural and economic conservative attitudes from those with progressive attitudes. Interestingly, classical sociological explanations (e.g., education, occupation, and age) are primarily associated with axis one, while political partisanship is linked to both axis one and two. These results provide new insights into the recent success of populism in politics, and also illustrate (potentially) important sociological changes in the social structuring of political attitudes in contemporary society.

RN32 | T09_02: The role of political trust

Our knowledge about the factors that shape trust in political systems and institutions is constantly evolving, and new questions about trust and confidence are emerging in contexts of crisis and rapid change. This session brings together papers examining trust and confidence in a broad range of settings.

Schooling, the Higher Educated and Political Trust: Critical Citizens, Universal Democratizers, or Defenders of the Political System?

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Classically, tertiary educated people have been found to have higher levels of confidence in political institutions than the non-tertiary educated. However, most of the existing research regarding the position of the tertiary educated has been conducted in democratic countries. Contrary to the widely held assumptions about the democratic power of schooling, recent evidence shows that the tertiary educated living in autocratic regimes show high support for the political system. These findings indicate the need for a revision of the 'education effect' on political trust. Moreover, many countries in the contemporary world are developing into 'schooled societies', where schooling has become a central institution. In these societies, schooling has become an authoritative basis for stratification, granting the tertiary educated a dominant position in society and the political field. Here, the tertiary educated are likely to be defenders of the political system as well. Following this reasoning, we examine the relationship between the development of schooled societies, educational attainment, sector of employment, and political trust. Multilevel analyses (Nindividual=102,389; Ncountry=85) show that (1) the tertiary educated have more confidence in the public institutions than non-tertiary educated people and that (2) this is especially true for the tertiary educated working in public institutions. Simultaneously, (3) in more schooled societies, the tertiary educated have more political trust than in weakly schooled societies, while non-tertiary educated people display a lot less confidence. Finally, (4) for the non-tertiary educated, this is true regardless of the sector of occupation. Yet, for the tertiary educated, their increased political trust in strongly schooled societies does not hold for those working in public institutions, who displayed high trust regardless of how schooled a society was.

What Do Digital Skills and Competencies Reveal About Political Participation and Trust? Insights from the Austrian Digital Skills Panel Project

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Most western democracies are under pressure. They faced and continue to face complex 'multi-crises', which includes, but is not limited to economic, health and migration related challenges. These crises led to a loss in trust in political institutions in many countries, providing ample opportunities for populist and anti-democratic actors to position themselves. In parallel numerous digital technologies matured, providing the public with new means for political participation. However, this came with a cost: fears of misusing digital technologies for political gains, the widespread dissemination of disinformation and misinformation as well as other aspects like polarization are continuous reminders.

While there is substantial research on loss of trust in political institutions and how political participation changed, the role digital skills and competencies of the public played in these processes is less researched, despite the often-discussed influence of digitalization on the public and political sphered. Accordingly, we discuss what kind of influence digital skills – inspired by van Deursen and Helsper – and digital competencies – inspired by the EU DigComp Framework – have on conventional (e.g. voting), as well as alternate and digital forms of participation (e.g. online petitions, social media engagement with politicians) before testing their impact on trust in political institutions.

Using multi-wave CAWI panel data from Austria (n=2000; multi-stage-quota sampling, matches population structure), focusing on digital skills and participation, preliminary results show that digital skills – especially those tied to digital privacy and safety – and interest in digital technology have a statistically significant impact on political online participation. Yet there is no indication that political participation in general benefits from digital skills or competencies. Trust is positively correlated with skills and competencies.

Trust in Political Institutions in Modern Russia in the Context of the Formation and Legitimation of a Personalistic Regime.

Nataliya Velikaya

Institute of Socio-Political Research of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy, Russian Federation

Political regime in Russia has undergone many transformations in recent decades, including an authoritarian turn. In this context the Russian political elite has searched for a new mechanisms of legitimization. The most important indicator of legitimation in this case is trust, which we consider within the framework of a socio–cultural approach.

The paper is based on the data from the annual monitoring survey "How are you living, Russia?" (1992-2023), conducted by the Institute of Socio-Political Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences since 1992. The sample size varied from 1,312 to 1,866 respondents in different years.

Analyzing the dynamic of values sharing by respondents one can see it dependence on political discourse, including activization of traditionalism, conservatism and neo-imperialism. At the same time the high level of loyalty to the regime, expressed by indicators of approval of the political system, is accompanied by a low level of trust in political institutions (excluding the president) and by the awareness of the fact that ordinary citizens (as it was mentioned by 69% of respondents in 2023) cannot influence the government.

Actual political order is rather evolving towards a "neo-authoritarian" and personalistic, with the weakness of the party system, the underdevelopment of parliamentary institutions, the strengthening of presidential power, the pressure on independent media. Paradoxically but majority of Russians do not connect the activities of Putin with the course of the government and the socio-political situation.

We also analyze a persistently low level of trust in civil society institutions, which leads to an increase in social distances, and to political escapism.

The Politics of Breaking Promises: A Comparative Analysis of Declining Promissory Legitimacy in Chile and South Africa, 2009-2018

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In both Chile and South Africa, neoliberal economic policies have remained resilient. This resilience is surprising not only because both countries have a history of strong socio-democratic social movements, but also because two governments came to power promising to implement more left-leaning policies in the post-authoritarian period. Accordingly, the paper will provide a comparative analysis of the "promissory legitimacy" of the Michelle Bachelet administration in Chile and the Jacob Zuma administration in South Africa. Jens Beckert coined the term "promissory legitimacy" to refer to "the support that political authority can derive from the credibility of the promises that political leaders make regarding the future states of the world." When authorities lose their promissory legitimacy, legitimacy crises can arise. We investigate how the Zuma and Bachelet regimes "talked left and walked right"

and attempted to maintain their promissory legitimacy while failing to deliver. In order to analyse this phenomenon, we conducted a quantitative text analysis of a total of 656 tweets concerning important events during both

administrations. Furthermore, we conducted 12 semi-structured interviews with some of these important actors to gain further insights. The preliminary finding of the paper is that the promissory legitimacy of the government declined. Accordingly, a narrative emerged that blamed inefficiency on the government's "mismanagement of the economy" instead of blaming neoliberal economic policies. Paradoxically, this narrative only strengthens the resilience of neoliberalism since it fits neatly within neoliberal discourses of governmental inefficiency.

RN33 | Women's and Gender Studies

RN33 | T01_01: Gender and Care Work

Feminisation of Care, the Case of the Elderly in Spain

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Care for the elderly is one of the main challenges facing today's societies. The ageing of the population, the incorporation of women into the public sphere, and urban development, are shared characteristics in Europe. Long-lived societies – and the resulting long-term care – represent a clear challenge not only for social policies, but for the respect of human dignity and the rights of individuals. It is necessary, not only to meet the basic needs of the growing number of older people, but also to preserve their rights, their fundamental freedoms and their autonomy. This approach must incorporate, among other variables, the issue of gender equality.

This presentation proposes to analyse the feminisation of care in the elderly population, based on the empirical material of the EDI Project. This feminisation is analysed from the dual perspective of those who receive care as well as those who provide it. It shows how feminisation of care has important consequences in people's living conditions from both approaches. Some of the phenomena that are analysed relate to areas such as access to care resources and the development of public policies, social support for paid and unpaid care activities, access to individual use of time and to social networks, and people's health conditions and satisfaction with their own lives.

Gender Division Of Unpaid Domestic And Care Work: Perceptions And Practices Of Immigrant Women In Portugal

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According to statistics from various international organizations and scientific studies, the gender gap in unpaid work (domestic and care work) clearly shows the profound inequality between men and women around the world. On average, women spend three times as much time as men doing this type of work. If this is true worldwide, is it different in the lives of immigrant women? What are the perceptions and practices of immigrant women in Portugal, of Brazilian, Cape Verdean, and Ukrainian nationality, concerning unpaid work, and how do they articulate it with their professional lives? That's the research question that will guide the presentation based on the results of the thematic content analysis of 5 focus groups, recorded and transcribed in full, with 43 immigrant women. These focus groups were held in 5 different areas of Portugal as part of the BOOMERANG project: Study on the perceptions of the economic impact of unequal sharing of unpaid labour on the lives of immigrant women and men in Portugal (CIEG/ISCSP-ULisboa). The results will be presented according to four axes of analysis: 1) the type of unpaid work carried out by women; 2) the causes that underlie the unequal sharing of unpaid work; 3) the impacts of this unequal sharing on the lives of women; and 4) the strategies that could be adopted to mitigate and/or combat gender inequality at this level and its effects. The presentation will conclude by suggesting some specific measures that could inspire public policies to make it easier for these women to reconcile their personal, family, and professional lives and to achieve greater and more effective gender equality.

Caring Spaces: Women and the Geography of Voluntary Care Work in Newcastle Upon Tyne

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Questions of care are intrinsically linked to gender as an ordering principle. Drawing on an intersectional approach to the layered inequalities that women are made subject to in the urban environment, provisional PhD findings on the creation of collective communities of care for women in the city are discussed. The title of this paper is: 'Caring Spaces: Women and the Geography of Voluntary Care Work in Newcastle Upon Tyne' and it seeks to examine three key research questions: 1) How are the geographies of care work in Newcastle gendered? 2) What is the place of individual ethics in voluntary care work provision? 3) How can

affective geographies of care be understood intersectionally? Existing scholarship outlines that the voluntary sector is playing increasingly important roles in the delivery of services, many of which compound in the urban environment. Furthermore, a wealth of academic literature has examined caregiving and its gendered divisions. As such, this project worked collaboratively with volunteers at organisations in Newcastle that provide space, services or support for women in the local community through participant observation and creative practice focus groups. On the basis of this qualitative data, this research makes valuable connections between the positive impact of women's volunteer work to create spaces of care, and the extent to which the provision of such care space is reliant on the individual ethics of women volunteers. Preliminary findings suggest that the practice of community care building requires a dialectical analysis of the mutual dependencies of women in the community, and the impact of voluntary care work on those that provide it. This relies on an understanding of the ways in which emotions and spatial contexts intertwine to shape the landscapes of care and foster community bonds, through the care work that is provided for women, by women. These provisional findings support the need for a gendered, sociocultural approach to understanding geographies of care. This is a first-time ESA Summer School submission.

The Role Of Gender In (Care-) Work-Related Theories Of Practice Of Psychotherapeutic Teams

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Exhaustion and stress are widespread and diagnoses of mental illness have been on the rise since the 1980s. In public and scientific opinion, stress and strain associated with the changing culture of employment are attributed a central role in this increase in mental strain. These social changes like subjectification, digitalization and the increasingly precarious nature of work have gendered effects. In addition, the distribution of care work is also organized along gendered lines with women doing the majority of care work. At the same time, the practice of psychotherapy, which is responsible for the treatment of (care-)work-related psychological stress, is analyzed from a sociological perspective as individualizing the consequences of structural conditions.

In my paper, I will follow on from these connections between work, gender and psychotherapy in current society and examine the extent to which work-related gendered demands occur (in crisis form) among patients in psychosomatic acute hospitals in Germany. It shows how coping with these demands is addressed and interpreted by the staff and how the category of gender is (made) relevant in everyday clinical practice and in the action-guiding knowledge of doctors, psychotherapists, specialist therapists, social workers and nursing staff. The aim of the paper is to draw out a typology of action-guiding (gender) knowledge in theories of practice of team members involved in the treatment of (care-)work-related psychological stress.

The paper is based on a qualitative research project funded by the German Research Foundation, in which interviews, group discussions and participant observations were conducted with psychotherapeutic professionals. It focuses on the sociological reconstruction of explicit and implicit (gender) knowledge using the documentary method developed by Ralf Bohnsack.

RN33 | T01_02: Mothers

Reimaginations of Motherhood in the Neoliberal Era: Proposals, Tensions and Resistance from Feminism.

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In this research we investigate how the idea of motherhood is being reconstructed among women who participate in feminist spaces and assemblies in Barcelona. We explore the tensions that arise in women who embrace a feminist identity while navigating the complex neoliberal socioeconomic reality, an environment that exerts a significant influence on their personal and social development. The main objective is to see what is their discourse on motherhood, the proposals to overcome the heternormative and biparental model that emerge from feminism (and also their resistance) and the tensions they encounter with the ways of doing of the capitalism in its globalizing and mercantilizing phase. For this purpose, nineteen women who are not mothers and who are active in feminist spaces in Barcelona were interviewed. The context in which these feminist (re) imaginations of motherhood occur in Southern European societies is not only the neoliberal context (which will be discussed throughout the article) but also the context of the transformations of family dynamics and the crisis of care, and it is from this context that we study this reality. We start from the premise that the imaginary determines how reality is perceived through different mechanisms, such as practices and struggles in social movements, and that social constructions exert a powerful influence on the generation of realities and subjectivities

Nigerian Mothers in Higher Education Professions: Navigating Gendered Challenges and Cultural Dynamics

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Extensive research has been conducted in Europe and North America to understand the experiences of mothers in the higher education profession, but limited knowledge exists in other contexts, particularly in Africa and notably in Nigeria. Nigeria has unique socio-cultural practices of patriarchy and strict adherence to traditional gender role divisions. The discussions around gender in higher education professions have brought attention to the challenges that women face in advancing at a similar pace as their male peers. However, these conversations have not fully explored how women's experiences with maternity and motherhood intersect with workplace norms and how they navigate these complexities in their careers. This qualitative phenomenological study draws upon Acker's (1990) Gendered Organization framework to explore the experiences of female academics in Nigeria during pregnancy, maternity, and return-to-work. The study aims to understand how mothers in academia manage and navigate the world of academia and motherhood and the implications of this on their career prospects and outcomes. It delves into how cultural norms and practices shape the career trajectories of women and how societal expectations surrounding women and mothers impact and perpetuate gendered processes in the workplace. The examination aims to add to the existing knowledge in Management and Organisation Studies, specifically regarding the experiences of women in understudied contexts such as Nigeria. The findings of the study aim to demonstrate the need for Nigerian academia to proactively accommodate maternal identities while ensuring that women are not unfairly disadvantaged due to societal expectations surrounding motherhood and caregiving.

The 'Drip, Drip, Drip of What People are Actually Saying': Subtle Sexism Against Working Mothers in UK Work Settings

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Having children continues to raise doubts about women's job commitment and performance in the contemporary UK workplace. Penalising women for being mothers, workplace cultures persistently foreground mothers' perceived commitment to paid work as lower than of those who more closely resemble the wholly committed 'ideal worker'. Drawing on 27 in-depth interviews with mothers working in both the private and public sector in the UK, this presentation sheds light on the operation of a new form of sexism at work. Existing outside of anti-discrimination legislation and affecting women after pregnancy and breastfeeding, such sexism is i) motherhood-based rather than gender – or pregnancy-based, and ii) subtle rather than explicit or overt. I argue that such subtle forms of everyday sexism against working mothers have come to form part of the 'inequality regimes' (Acker, 2006) within contemporary organisations. The interconnected practices, processes and interpersonal encounters that re/produce subtle sexism within organisations take a range of shapes including day-to-day comments and questions from colleagues and employers such as 'Who is looking after the children?' or 'How will you cope with these children?'. These work as constant and unsolicited 'reminders' of women's presumed primary caregiver role, which is seen as being in conflict with the responsibilities of a committed 'ideal worker'. While the ambiguity and low visibility of such subtly sexist interactions and events contribute to impeding the possibilities for change, I also draw attention to how some women resist and challenge such sexism through calling its appropriateness and legitimacy into question. I discuss the link to severe consequences for women's careers such as limited opportunities, participation and failures to gain promotions — and possible changes.

Am I Adult Enough to Have a Room on my Own? Mothers' Experiences of Spatial Transformation in Polish Empty Nests

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The arrangement and experience of the family home is influenced by a number of factors, of which gender dynamics in the household remain one of the crucial orders. Deborah Tannen (1990) argues that paternal authority is associated with power and control in the household. Scholars such as Allen (1996) and Madigan et al. (1990) have also examined the relationship between domestic privacy, prevailing gender ideologies and family roles.

In Polish society, there is a tension between traditional expectations of women as mothers and the developing emancipatory approach to women's roles (Budrowska 2000; Korolczuk 2012). This tension extends to control over the home, its functions and spaces, and the reorganisation of personal space (Gajewska et al. 2023).

Our aim is to highlight the challenges and ambivalence experienced by Polish mothers during the transition into empty nest (Żadkowska et al. 2024; de Singly 2021). We propose to analyse the entry into a new phase of motherhood and womanhood in the context of their homes (cf. Woroniecka 2014; Herzberg-Kurasz 2023).

Drawing on 42 dyadic and 42 individual qualitative interviews conducted in Poland, we explore the women's emancipation through the processes of gaining private place. Spatial attitudes and everyday practices serve as a compass, revealing the reconfiguration of the mother's role. The most striking change is the decision to have a personal bedroom or study. Alongside this, we have also identified more subtle practices that enhance privacy and intimacy. New uses of shared spaces and new rituals, such as long baths or lounging on the sofa, create comfort and relaxation in women's places.

RN33 | T01_03: Intersectionality

Postcolonial intersectionality. Rethinking Intersections of Race and Gender in the Colony and the Postcolony

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Colonial regimes invested in the construction of systems of racial classification. These social categories of difference carefully manufactured the dichotomy between coloniser and colonised, out of which empire and its racial hierarchy took shape. Racial categorisations emerged from this constant work of politically legitimising colonial violence. Postcolonial scholarship has long emphasised the colonial dimensions of race, racial hierarchies and classifications. A second critical approach emerged from intersectionality theory, first developed in the United States in the 1990s as a way of addressing the long-term consequences of the US experience of slavery and forms of categorisation. Although both perspectives share a critical approach, there has been little conversation between intersectionality and postcolonialism. This paper seeks to fill this gap by developing the notion of postcolonial intersectionality. Despite the success of a 'Southern critique' of hegemonic knowledge systems (Connell, 2022), further efforts are needed to decolonise sociology. Thus, rather than arguing that the intersections of race, class, gender or sexual orientation are rigidly interlocked, the paper defends a postcolonial model of race and gender categorisation. The empirical case of colonial and postcolonial Mozambique will inform our undertaking. Focusing on the life stories of Mozambican men and women who migrated to South Africa from the 1950s onwards, the paper examines colonial and postcolonial intersections of gender, migration, (post)colonialism, capitalism and socio-economic inequality in Southern Africa. It examines how individuals, past and present, navigate the different racial and gender systems constructed under the rule of the British and Portuguese empires.

#MeToo Movement Goes Local: Assessing Intersectionality in the Portuguese Context

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In recent decades, feminist movements have taken on a hybrid form, manifesting both in digital spaces and face-to-face interactions. Notably, the #MeToo movement exemplifies this phenomenon, supporting the existence of a purported fourth-wave activism characterized, among

other things, by a renewed focus on intersectionality – that explores the intersecting facets of identity, such as gender, race, class, age, and nationality, to expose various exploitations and oppressions (Crenshaw 1989, 1991) –, and the use of digital technology (Chamberlain, 2017; Cochrane, 2013; Munro, 2013; Rivers, 2017). Founded in 2006 by african-american activist Tarana Burke to address sexual harassment and violence against black women, #MeToo gained global attention in 2017 when Hollywood actress Alyssa Milano popularized the hashtag on Twitter, sparking a viral movement. However, as #MeToo transcended borders, it seems to have shifted away from its empathetic, intersectional roots to become predominantly associated with white feminism.

Through a qualitative close reading and hermeneutic analysis of 828 news pieces from eight leading national newspapers and magazines, this research seeks to understand the Portuguese version of the #MeToo movement. With an emphasis on four axes of oppression – race/ethnicity, class, age, and nationality – the study examines whether Portuguese #MeToo reflects intersectionality.

Our findings reveal a lack of intersectionality within the Portuguese iteration of #Metoo, primarily driven by media coverage centered on national public figures, sidelining diverse voices. Nonetheless, additional research is needed to fully understand changing intersectional dynamics and assess how inclusive the Portuguese #MeToo movement can be.

Intersectional insights into the practice of Obstetric Violence in Portugal: subjectivities of racialized Brazilian bodies

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Social and gender studies have given space to discuss the main characteristics of daily care during the pregnancy and puerperal cycle and understand how practices of obstetric violence are faced, due to the specificity of the event that involves the female body. Characterized as gender violence, as it is directed at women, seen as objects of a patriarchal society, prone to shame, alienated from their bodies and programmed to be passive. Objects of exploitation and domination, practices of obstetric violence limit female autonomy, preventing women from making their own choices, considering them an inferior being, incapable of discerning what is appropriate for the health and well-being of themselves and of your child. The present communication aims to critically analyze the obstetric violence that still punctuates obstetric care in the Portuguese context with a technocratic model and practices of objectification of the racialized Brazilian body that are justifications of knowledge and power that act as interpretive operators and manufacturers of bodies, these bodies who carry experiences, giving place to the perceived object, representing values and social attitudes that support them in their experiences, go through processes of dehumanization through the articulations of gender/race/class/ethnicity/sexuality, suppressed in most approaches to gender built from a place of white and western privilege. Therefore, the interest is to bring realities that are still invisible and that produce more vulnerabilities and violations in relation to social life and in relation to subjectivities, problematizing relationships that interconnect with specific identity belongings such as being a woman, Brazilian and racialized.

Locating Subjectivities of Asylum-Seeking Women: Feminist, Intersectional and De-Colonial Perspectives

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This paper derives from an empirical study of asylum-seeking women survivors of gender-based violence arriving through the Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece in the second decade of the 21st century. Through qualitative, in-depth interviews of 20 key informants and 35 asylum-seeking women arriving from diverse African and Middle-Eastern countries, the journeys to "safety" in the EU are being focused to investigate and interrogate the ways in which the agency and resilience of these women defies stereotypical "Northern" assumptions about gender and refugees of generalized or gender-based violence. Non-conventional narratives, with unexpected twists in harrowing journeys, camps and transit spaces or "settlement" in urban jungles are foregrounded and analyzed to reveal the humanity and subjectivities of asylum seekers who are neither passive victims nor heroic survivors, as stereotypically portrayed in the global "North." Using feminist, intersectional and de-colonial perspectives asylum-seeking women in Greece are presented as human beings, sometimes fighting and resisting, but also aquiescing, negotiating, connecting with others and forming alliances, making strategic choices under highly constraining circumstances and limited options, adapting and changing themselves in the process. Instances of racism and legal status discrimination are considered from the viewpoint, experiences and identities of women while their intersections with gender and social class are discussed.

RN33 | T02_01: Care Work: Transformations and Challenges

The Future of Care Work: Some scenarios.

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To be cared for is an essential physical, social, and emotional need, not only for individual people, but also for societies. For several decades, however, complex processes leading to stagnating welfare services, increasing marketization of care, demographic ageing have led to a situation in which care has become a 'scarce commodity' and care work increasingly precarious and undervalued.

This situation is described as a care crisis and/or a normalization of neo-liberal welfare policies.Are there alternative ways to think about future developments of care?

Can responses to 'scarce commodities' bring possibilities to think differently on the future of care work? We think there is a need to connect sociology of care and welfare to the sociology of futures and argue that sociology can and should be more directly involved in claiming what futures might be, should be and in materialising these claims.

We discuss three scenarios 1) digitalization and new health care technology as a response to 'scarce care resources' 2) global care chains, global solutions to local problems and 3) care commons as a prefigurative image of how the future of care work can be.

Particularly, we will discuss how the commons of care is a metaphor that can be lifted up as an image of a future welfare state where people create and recreate care resources, and care resources are just as important as air, water, soil, fish, agriculture etc. Here we are talking about public resources, society's shared sources of care which are created in relationships in interaction between the local norms and values about the use of resources.

Rethinking Care. A Qualitative Study of Young Women's Feminist Activism in Argentina (2015-2022)

Anna Bednarczyk

Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

With my presentation, I aim to reflect on when and how the concept of care emerged in young women's biographies in the context of feminist mobilizations in Argentina between 2015 and 2022. The massive character of the Ni Una Menos movement and the great victory of the National Campaign for the Right to Legal, Safe, and Free Abortion, preceded by years of grassroots activism, impacted the way young women in Argentina reconceptualize and rethink care and care work. One of the directions of reconceptualization of care is theorizing the concept of collective care and rooting it in empirical material.

I am inspired by Miriam Ticktin's work which distinguishes collective care from the liberal understanding of care as welfare or humanitarianism. She argues that welfare limits care to the provision of services by a state, humanitarianism, on the other hand, tends to create hierarchies by using ambivalent moral values like comparison, pity, or sympathy (2021). She urges to search for new conceptualizations of care that challenge structures of power and have transformative potential.

Based on sixteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in Córdoba, the second-biggest city in Argentina, and thirty semi-structured interviews with young women I explore various instances of care in my interlocutors' biographies. I then propose a definition of collective care that derives from the experiences of young women involved in political mobilizations around women's rights. I analyze five key elements of this definition and the way they interplay with the everyday experiences of transition from childhood to adulthood.

Transformations and Continuities in the Discourses on Care in the Context of COVID-19.

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In recent years, different discourses have appeared in the social imaginary (care as a collective responsibility, self-care, the vindication of care work, etc.) that aimed to articulate a rights-based response to the care crisis affecting our societies. However, with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated social distancing measures, these emerging discourses came into contradiction with the official discourses based on the hegemonic medical model, which promoted individual responsibility and the return of the responsibility of care to the home. In this paper, we propose a feminist analysis of how the impact of COVID-19 has led to a transformation of discourses on care, especially those that appeal to new ways of understanding and organizing care. To this end, we based our study on the sociological analysis of the discourse system of a corpus of 30 in-depth interviews with women with care responsibilities in the home in different parts of Spain. The purpose of these interviews was to find out how they had organized care in their homes before, during, and after the pandemic. The analysis allows us to identify the permanence of the most traditional discourses on the organization of care that coexist – often in conflict – with discursive references to new ways of covering this care, especially in those women with higher cultural capital.

Pandemic And Times Of Care: Changes And Permanencies

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We start from the idea that the pandemic have highlighted the consequences of the commodification of public, collective and solidarity-based spaces on common life (Fraser, 2014), accelerating and aggravating social processes that were already taking shape (Comas, 2023; Luxán et al., 2023). In terms of the social organisation of care, while in some cases confinement allowed more time to be devoted to care and led to a "rediscovery" of the home as a safe environment and of care as a restorative and satisfying activity, in others it constituted a "new crisis of care" (Moré, 2020). Thus, as on so many other occasions of emergency, women's time, work and bodies withstood the situation and sustained everyday life (Sagastizabal and Legarreta, 2023). We investigate the articulation of the times before, during and after the pandemic based on the narratives and life stories of 29 women with care responsibilities in the territories of the Basque Country, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the Valencian Community, carried out within the framework of the RESCUPAN R&D project (PID2020-118801RB-I00). We pay special attention to families in more critical situations, such as single-parent families, since they experienced more stress, fatigue, family overload, lack of time for self-care (Carbonero et al., 2021) and, especially, difficulties to count on community support, social or family network that, prior to confinement, could mitigate and improve their realities (Brey et al., 2023). We delve deeper into the changes that the pandemic may have brought about as a possible relevant element for the greater visibility and social recognition of care.

RN33 | T02_02: Work-Life Conflict

The Bigger Half: Spousal Relative Housework And Gender Deviance Neutralization

Joanna Syrda

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Gender is by far "the most reliable determinant of time in housework" (Kroska, 2004) among heterosexual couples. In general, regardless of income, education, ideology, or extent of paid employment, women tend to do far more domestic labour than their male partners. Using Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) 1999-2019 dataset this study investigates the role of traditional gender identity norm

First, I show that the distribution of the share of housework done by the husband exhibits a sharp drop to the right of 0.5, where husband's housework exceeds wife's domestic labour. This discontinuity and concentration is a puzzling pattern as standard economic models of marriage cannot account for this distribution. I formally test the impact of traditional gender identity norm and 50-50 sharing rule as departures from model predictions about spouses' housework and leisure time.

Much of previous research focused on spousal relative income as a dimension where gender deviance occurs to be compensated via housework. I show that it is spousal relative housework itself, where norms are constituted and enacted, as spouses significantly adjust their housework to follow traditional gender identity.

While previous research has focused on neutralization through housework of gender deviance in the dimension of spousal relative income, this research shows that it is housework division itself where traditional gender identity norms exist and shape the behaviour of wives and husbands. Specifically, I identify an aversion to a situation where a husband spends more time on domestic labour than the wife.

"I Am Rather Organized, And I Like to Have a Finger in Every Pie". Gendered Constructions Around Work-Family Conflicts in Iceland.

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This study aims to explore gendered discourses around arrangements and decisions in relation to domestic chores and childcare among working parents in Iceland. Over the last decades, men's involvement in childcare has increased

and men's attitudes towards gender equality have become more egalitarian. However, men's participation in household chores has not kept up with increased labour force participation by women. We specifically turn our focus on the gendered constructions around work-family conflicts, time, and care work within the walls of homes.

We draw on semi-structured interviews with 16 participants, both fathers and mothers, in heterosexual relationships. The interviews were conducted in the spring of 2022, after all social gathering restrictions because of COVID-19 pandemic were lifted. The intention was to follow up on the situation caused by the pandemic, not least as work-family conflict became a current topic in public debate during the pandemic.

The findings indicate that intensive care-work was shouldered by the mothers, reflected both in the mothers' own descriptions of their everyday realities, but also in the fathers' accounts of their own involvement and priorities in caring for their children. The findings point to differences in immediacy of time, both in terms of work and private life. That not only applied to care-work during the pandemic, but also during normal times, revealing the dominance of traditional gender roles among the parents and families represented in the study. Further, the study unveils how structural roots of inequality and gender norms is masked by the language of individual choices and responsibilities.

Work-To Family Conflict Or Family-To Work Conflict? Variations In Work Family Conflict On Women's Mental Well-Being By Class

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In this presentation we report findings from a study where we estimate the effect of work-family conflict on women's mental well-being and explore whether that relationship is contingent on class. Prior research finds that high levels of work-family conflict negatively impact women's well-being. However, most research concentrates on women of high socio-economic status. Variation in the effects of work-family conflict across socio-economic class has been understudied. Moreover, most estimates of work-family conflict do not distinguish between the differing effects of work-to-family conflict and family-to-work conflict, two directional components of work-family conflict that have different antecedents and consequences. We use data from a cross-sectional phone survey conducted on a sample of Icelandic women in spring 2022. Key findings include: i) work-to-family conflict and family-to-work conflict both have a direct effect on symptoms of anxiety and depression for all women, ii) when we introduce the interaction term for class we find that work-to-family conflict increases symptoms of anxiety and depression across the class spectrum, but, iii) the effect of family-to-work conflict is contingent on class position. Working-class women are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety due to family-to-work conflict than women of intermediate or salariat class. These findings underline the importance of including class-structures in research on work-family conflict and not ignoring class disparities in women's resources and barriers when it comes to juggling work and family. Moreover, these findings demonstrate the need to consider both work-to-family conflict as well as family-to-work conflict in research on work and family.

Household Labour and Changes of Gender Regime in Post-Transitional Croatia

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Although the socialist gender regime has been frequently thematised in the post-socialist discussions on the position of women in the former socialist states, they have often revolved around theoretical and normative issues. In some areas, these discussions have been scarcely backed by empirical evidence. For instance, in the former Yugoslavian republic of Croatia, in an area highly important for the understanding of gender asymmetry, such as household division of labour, there had been very few empirical data for the socialist period. In the post-socialist period, however, there exists by now a relatively rich – albeit predominantly quantitative – body of empirical data on different aspects of the gendered division of housework.

This paper uses qualitative data obtained from 23 semi-structured partner interviews to identify how women and men in post-transitional Croatia describe and perceive the division of work in their households, as well as to attempt to contextualise these descriptions into wider matrices of gender relations. In data analysis, we applied reflexive thematic analysis (both semantic and latent), discourse tracing (Le Greco and Tracy, 2009) and the "household portraits" perspective (Doucet, 1996). Starting from the premise that gender regimes are "complex systems of inequality, which vary over time" (Shire and Walby, 2020), as well as that "several regimes may coexist in the same period" (Lett, 2012), we have identified three matrices of gender relations in the division of housework: the transformed traditional, the transformed socialist and the post-socialist.

RN33 | T02_03: Gendering Academia

Beyond Merit. Women's Paths Towards the Position of Full Professor. The Voice of Italian Female Academics

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The study investigates the career paths of Italian women towards the position of full Professor.

We conducted 34 discursive interviews with female academics of STEM and SSH disciplines (chemistry and economics sectors, Miur register) from universities in central, northern and southern Italy. The women united by having reached the qualification stage, but differentiated by grade and career path.

A consolidated line of research highlights the persistence of a significant disadvantage of women in Italian academic careers. It also shows how this gap refers to structural dynamics of discrimination.

We examine how female academics make sense of the obstacles and opportunities that shaped their careers, and how they interpret everyday dynamics through, or not, the lens of gender inequalities. Within a common framework of general recognition of both forms of everyday sexism and conciliation problems, different discursive and practical strategies can be seen, aimed at facing, naming and giving meaning to the difficulties encountered. Reproductive modalities of gender inequalities are also identified, which refer to different processes of tacit adhesion to an unfair social order. We identify five ideal types that cuts across the STEM and SHH: a-problematic optimists, (a)problematic acquiescents, ambivalent moderates, radical critics, and resigned critics.

The study shows how gender inequalities are produced and inherent in the same academic 'conditions of work', permeated by a hegemonic male and neoliberal value system.

Playing the Game to Get Playtime: Creativity, Competition and Desire in Norwegian Academia

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In this paper we explore the tension between academic competitiveness, hierarchies and institutional demands, on the one hand, and the desire for knowledge, creative flow and exploration of intellectual interests, on the other hand. The empirical foundation of our study is based on 45 open narrative interviews with researchers at various phases of their academic career: PhD-students, postdoctoral fellows and professors in the humanities and social sciences at a larger research university in Norway. Our study is part of a larger research project investigating transformations – in the form of a potential remasculinization – in academic culture, knowledge production and governance within the context of "audit culture" and "corporate academia." We engaged with the interview transcripts using depth-hermeneutic method associated with Alfred Lorenzer (Hollway & Volmerg 2010) and were particularly attentive to ambivalences and tensions in the research participants' stories about everyday life in academia. The stories, in particular, revealed a tension between creative intellectual pursuits and the strategic priorities required in contemporary academia. This paper explores these tensions by drawing on feminist readings of Pierre Bourdieu, and specifically the notion of illusio – "the fact of being caught in and up by the game" (Bourdieu 1998: 77) – to illuminate different motivational forces spurring researchers' affective investment in the academic field. We are particularly interested in experiences of the creative process and what hinders or enables researchers to experience glimpses of undisturbed intellectual pursuits – which we refer to as "academic play time". We suggest that, paradoxically, playing "the game" (Bourdieu 1998:80-81) of academic competition and positioning is a key part of experiencing glimpses of unhindered academic playtime.

Gender Equality Plans In Italian University: A Challenge To Change Gender Perspective And Order In Academia Through Students' Training

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Gender Equality is based on the right of all human beings to "equal rights, freedoms and opportunities", a condition that today is still not achieved in the European Research Area and in the HED sector in general. Women are still under-represented in university governing bodies and at various levels of university decision-making. This lack of gender issues' visibility has also occurred in curricula and educational content with a potential impact on students and younger generation's social construction of gender. Although most Universities in Europe have already drafted a Gender Equality Plan – GEP, which constitutes an effective tool for initiating change and addresses various manifestations of gender inequality, it is crucial to move from a "tick the box" approach to the utilisation of the potential of such a dynamic document is paramount. This is the main aim of the European project Pro-Gendering which, thanks to the collaboration of partner universities, intends to change organisational cultures by raising awareness and motivating the academic community, including students, to engage and take initiatives to promote gender equality. Using the qualitative (GEP comparative analysis and interviews) and

quantitative (online survey) data collected in the project's research activities, this contribution discusses potential implementation for those actions that these official documents specifically address to students. Strengthening the capacity of universities to build inclusive educational communities also through the provision of know-how for the implementation of GEPs and the education of university students on GE are key objectives for the development of an increasingly inclusive future society. Suggested Topic: The Social Construction of Gender.

Gendering Academia in Italy. From Gender Imbalance to Gender in Balance

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Why do women in universities remain underrepresented in academic careers and governing bodies? What are the obstacles and processes that make it more difficult for women to enter the academy permanently and reach apical and leadership positions? What policies are needed to eliminate these disparities?

These questions are addressed through qualitative and quantitative data collected as part of the national project "GEndering Academia" (GEA – https://www.pringea.it/), focused on gender asymmetries in Italian academia. The project, funded by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, analyzed academic careers and working conditions of young researchers and professors in SSH and STEM disciplines in 4 different Italian universities. By considering recent transformations in the university system and making use of different levels of analysis and a "mixed-method" approach, the research offers an articulated picture of gender inequalities in the academia and the processes reproducing them, visible both in the persistence of traditional gendered practices and patterns and in recent neoliberal changes in university, characterized by an increasing emphasis on productivity and excellence, as well as increased job insecurity.

Drawing on the main findings of this research, the paper focuses on possible intervention strategies to promote greater gender balance within academic settings. It will outline some of the main policy areas analyzed in the national study that emerge as most relevant to removing gender inequality and discuss how such policy interventions might be integrated within the existing suvra-national (EU) and national system of promoting gender equality, from gender budgets to GEPs (Gender Equality Plans).

RN33 | T03_01: Gender Inequalities and Institutions

Gender Asymmetries in Research and Innovation Institutions: Challenges and Potential to Address "Gender Fatigue" and Promote Sustainable and Effective Gender Equality Plans

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Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) in public and private work organizations have become increasingly important, particularly considering the persistent gender imbalances in the labor market, which have been exacerbated during the pandemic. European efforts to ensure GEP adoption in universities and research centers applying for H2020 funds, as well as the National Strategy for Gender Equality introduced by the Italian government, based on the European Strategy for Gender Equality, have highlighted the significance of GEPs. However, studies on the enactment of these plans are still limited, particularly in small research centers.

This paper aims to identify the challenges, limitations, and potentials of implementing Gender Equality Plans in research centers in Italy. This will be achieved by analyzing the international theoretical discourses on this topic through a literature review on GEP implementation and impact, and by identifying successful strategies utilized by Italian organizations through 10 interviews with key informants about advancement perspectives from stakeholders. The analysis involved three key steps: 1) detecting and monitoring gender imbalances; 2) raising awareness of gender asymmetries; 3) promoting well-being by designing innovative solutions. Among the best practices, particularly for promoting work-life balance, the article notes the construction and integration of qualitative-quantitative tools to detect gender asymmetries, the use of participatory methods, and the definition of shared, context-specific goals and actions with a phased approach to incentive identification. Finally, the paper discusses certain factors that might encourage initiatives to endorse substantive equality and diverse perspectives within research and innovation careers from an intersectional and women's studies approach.

The Role of Residential Care Institutions in Combating And/Or Perpetuating Gender Inequalities: An Inquiry On Gender Knowledge And Practices In A Portuguese Residential Care Institution

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Iscte-iul, Portugal

Although little is known about gender in the institutional residential care contexts, evidence shows that girls are more dissatisfied with institutional residential care, due to the low prioritisation of their specific needs. There is a lack of studies that takes gender as a relevant aspect to understand the experience of children and young people in care. Gender transformative education implies an integrative approach to education, ranging from laws and public policies to pedagogies, training content and the professional and personal practices of all those directly and indirectly involved in the education and socialisation of children and young people of all genders. As a byproduct of the Erasmus+ project Space4us, which focused on empowering girls living in care, research was carried out to understand the role of residential care institutions in addressing gender inequalities. Seven semi-structured interviews were conducted, with professionals responsible for the educational and care strategies and practices of young people in a residential care institution, and later analysed using content analysis. The results of these study indicate that, despite the attitude of openness, acceptance and adaptability to diversity, gender is not considered a differentiating aspect of the reality of the children and young people in care and is therefore ignored as relevant to the institution's professional training and the construction of educational and intervention strategies. A gender-blind approach prevents the identification of the specific characteristics and needs of girls and boys, which has implications for collective and individual intervention in the fight against gender inequalities.

The Agency and Leadership of Pious Lithuanian Catholic and Lutheran Women: Challenging the Dichotomy of the Religious and Secular

Morta Vidūnaitė

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

The secular is often presented as rational, progressive, and associated with public and male sphere, while the religious is seen as irrational, backward, and associated with private and female sphere (Asad 2003; Knibbe and Bartelink 2019). Nevertheless, the relationship between the two is a boundary zone that is heavily contested (Beckford 2003). The "secular" and "religious" concepts of agency reflect this dichotomy influenced by classical secularization theory (Beckford 2003; Woodhead 2003, 2008).

There has long been a perception that secular people have the most agency and religious women have the least (Mack 2003). Feminist theory has used the notion of false consciousness to describe religious women and has associated agency with female emancipation, liberation, and resistance (Mahmood 2005). From a secular liberal point of view, agency lies in individual autonomy and freedom (Giddens 1976, 1984).

More recently feminist scholars have acknowledged that pious women might have goals other than feminist ones, such as piety, morality, the observance of religion, care for others, fulfilling relationships, etc., and their agency can exist even in their subordination to patriarchy (Abu-Lughod 2002; Avishai 2008; Davidman and Greil 1994; Mack 2003; Mahmood 2005; Orsi 1997; Ozorak 1996).

Based on the open and modal concept of agency (encompassing both religious goals as well as secular, liberal, and feminist ambitions) and semi-structural qualitative interview data (2022-2024), the presentation explores, how religion provides the pious Lithuanian Catholic and Lutheran women with agency for leadership in church, career, family and elsewhere, challenging the dichotomy of the religious and secular.

Empowerment and Agency: Women's Pilgrimages to the Hasidic Destinations in Poland and Ukraine

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This research is focused on agency and empowerment of women who travel to the Hasidic destinations in Poland and Ukraine. Empowerment, seen as an individual process of obtaining power, is linked to agency, which is the ability to act. Both are embedded in and influenced by sociocultural contexts. Religion is often perceived as burden, another structure of male domination over women. However, religious women find sources of agency and empowerment in their religious beliefs and rituals (El-Or 2006, Taylor-Guthartz 2021). How do women's pilgrimages to the graves of righteous people (known as Hasidic destinations) in Poland and Ukraine contribute to empowerment and agency? What are the most important aspects of empowerment, in this context, and what do they unveil in women's relations to their communities?

It is possible to differentiate four approaches to empowerment of women connected to religious domain of life: avoidance (Rosenberg et al. 2019), resistance (Israel-Cohen 2012), inventing new rituals (Neriya-Ben Shahar 2018) and active engagement (Avishai 2008). Based on qualitative interviews and observations of two most popular destinations (Leżajsk in Poland, Uman in Ukraine) in 2023 and 2024, research results discuss aspects connected to inventing new rituals and active engagement. Specifically, these are: strengthening religious beliefs, sisterhood, controlling internal subordination system, caring connection and exposure to diversity. While mentioned aspects of

empowerment are intertwined, there are certain linkages of these aspects to both destinations of pilgrimages and social status (including religious and family status, age and education) of female pilgrims.

RN33 | T03_02: Gendered Spaces and Services

Gendered Structures of Spatio-Temporal Dynamics Experienced by Young Women: Feeling (Un)safe in Urban Spaces of Ankara

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This study examines young women's everyday urban experience in Ankara in relation to fear of crime and feelings of safety. Within the discussions surrounding gender inequality in urban space, scholars contend that the configuration of urban spaces, shaped by power dynamics, significantly influences the social interactions occurring in public spheres and contributes to the (re)production of inequalities within the city. Indeed, the gendered structures of cities which are laden with patriarchal norms have influenced and restricted women's access to, and participation in, public space. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of how women resist and contest the prevailing limitations and exclusions within the city first requires examining how they experience the gendered structures of urban space. At this point, fear of crime and feelings of safety emerge as important aspects of young women's urban experience. Following Ahmed (2004), this study focuses on how fear of crime and perceptions toward safety are experienced in a way that affects the daily lives of young women. Consequently, this study aims to understand how young women experience the gendered structures of spatio-temporal dynamics in Ankara, an important case which presents the struggle between the republican aims of modernization, and conservatism in Turkey, through their own narrations and expressions. Based on the in-depth interviews carried out with 52 young women residing in different parts of the city, this qualitative research also delves into the factors cited by these women as influential on these perceptions and opinions, namely socialization, past experiences, and news and media.

Rights And Access To Sexual And Reproductive Health Services For Sikh Punjabi Women Living In The Lisbon Metropolitan Area

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Over the last two decades, the concept of women's empowerment has become ubiquitous in the development agenda and it's interdependence with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) has been affirmed, since the control of

women's reproduction and sexuality is recognized as one of the most harmful forms of women's subjugation. While the effects of women's empowerment on SRH have been studied extensively, there are still knowledge gaps regarding its relationship with the migratory context.

Based on a case study, our aim was to understand the impact of the empowerment of Sikh Punjabi women living in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area on their access to and use of SRH services, through their perceptions, practices, experiences and expectations. With a qualitative approach based on direct and participant observation and 13 semi-structured in-depth interviews with Sikh Punjabi residents and stake holders from health and migration fields, we sought to shed light on this understudied community in Portugal and contribute to improving healthcare services.

It was found that the problems identified in the use of SRH services are fairly homogeneous, although they are not always characterised by negative experiences. The main criticisms directed at the National Health Service include difficulties in scheduling appointments at Health Centers, the time gap between booking and the appointment date, the lack of detail on the part of health professionals during the diagnosis phase, and, notably, the challanges in effective communication with professionals.

Despite the pernicious effects of the barriers encountered, we have seen that Punjabi Sikh women have not been deterred from their conviction that they have the right to quality healthcare. The strategies implemented demonstrate the potential for fostering a process of collective empowerment.

Hungarian Women in Architecture – Tendencies, dynamics and prospects

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Stereotypes suggest that architecture is a profession for men, but trends in the male-female ratio regarding university enrollment and graduation seem to prove this wrong.

The first part of the research is based on a longitudinal analysis through the review of archival documents and a digital database. The results reveal how female representation changed at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics Faculty of Architecture (the main architectural school in Hungary) during the period between 1941 and 2023. Although the gender ratio became balanced in the 2000s, furthermore, the tendencies of the last few years indicate the feminization of the profession; women are still nearly invisible: only a few or none of them are listed as laureates of architectural awards, as the leading designers of buildings published in journals, or as members of competition juries. This phenomenon is addressed in the second pillar of the research, which includes focus groups to examine the underlying factors, such as the incompatibility of women's unpaid caring work with the common long-hours culture, the questioning of women's competencies because of their gender, or the exclusion from informal networks.

Promoting Gender Equality in Higher Education: between institutional tensions and transformations in four Portuguese HEIs.

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Higher Education is a pertinent locus for analysing institutional cultures on the promotion of Gender Equality (hereafter GE) policies, particularly because it contributes directly to scientific and technological development. Portugal's delay in implementing these policies, along with the recent expansion of the Higher Education system, pose specific challenges and opportunities for institutional change at HEIs. Looking to catch up, Portuguese HEIs have started to recognize GE promotion importance, both due to external and internal forces (Horizon Europe; ENIND2030; RCM186/2021). This presentation draws from a larger project on GE in HEIs(EEA Grants), that included both qualitative (4case-studies, 25interviews with academic leaders and 9focus-groups) and quantitative data, namely trends over the last two decades across Europe. In the 4 case-study HEIs – selected by contrast sampling (subject area, educational subsystem and regional location) – the comparison between institutional cultures promoting GE allowed us to better understand how change takes place and the different availability and tensions when implementing measures. Rather than differences at regional level, the evidence has shown that the size and composition of HEIs, as well as the predominant scientific areas, are more relevant factors in explaining inequalities, and can mitigate or reinforce the possibilities of implementing measures. Power struggles and resistance were identified in two ways: ignorance about the facts of inequality and the lack of objective conditions for promoting and realizing GE at the HEI. In view of the different institutional cultures, we found that the commitment to transforming HEIs into more equitable, inclusive and fair contexts depends on the involvement of the entire academic community and the recognition of gender studies as an area of knowledge that requires long-term learning and investment.

RN33 | T03_03: Gender Differences and Dynamics

Unveiling the intricacies of the Gender Dynamics in Mosuo Society: the Enmeshment Between Patriarchy and Matriarchy

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The Mosuo people of China, widely regarded as the "Last Matriarchy of China," have been subject to misrepresentation and romanticized narratives in existing scholarly literature. They have often been epitomized as a deviance from traditional gender norms in patriarchal societies. Renowned for their "walking marriage" tradition and matrilineal culture, the Mosuo society has gained a reputation as a haven where formal marriages are absent, and promiscuous sexual practices are sanctioned (Yong & Li, 2022, p. 28). In this unique social milieu, men are relieved of traditional fatherly responsibilities (Hua, 2008), and women hold dominant positions of authority (Wu et al., 2013; Zhou, 2010). This research endeavors to rectify these misconceptions and illuminate the intricate gender dynamics within Mosuo society. Contrary to popular perception, an in-depth analysis reveals the presence of an underlying patriarchy operating within this unique social structure. By means of an in-depth examination of interviews, casual conversations with Mosuo community members, religious narratives, and data collected through observations in the Lugu River region of Yunnan, China, this paper aims to demonstrate that, on the one hand, women are revered as sacred and entrusted with family financial matters. However, on the other hand, the gender-based division of labor within Mosuo culture inadvertently fosters gender inequality. The complex gender dynamics observed within Mosuo society provide valuable insights into the pursuit of gender equality and the cultivation of harmonious relationships between men and women. While exhibiting certain elements resembling Western and Chinese patriarchal societies, the Mosuo society also demonstrates a high degree of respect for women.

Shifting Gears: Navigating Generational Transformation Amid Digital Disruption in Women's Labor Participation in Mechanical and Plant Engineering

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In German STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), women are still significantly under-represented, especially in engineering: Not even a quarter of engineering students in Germany are female. Equally under-represented are women in engineering positions on the labour market.

Various studies suggest that the increasing digitalisation of the workplace and other areas of society is opening opportunities for under-represented groups, including women in engineering. Meanwhile, Germany's engineering culture, which has traditionally been conservative, is gradually undergoing a generational shift. Furthermore, digitalisation and technology have been associated with gendered connotations, often excluding women from these fields by denying corresponding competences and ascribing them to male gender roles. But to what extent are these processes of generation change and digitalisation hindering or strengthening each other?

To shed light on these questions, our ongoing research project "digiMINT", funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (funding code: 01FP22M01), focuses on the under-representation of women in STEM fields, especially in mechanical and plant engineering. The project's empirical base founds on a mixed-methods approach of narrative interviews and quantitative online surveys with female pupils, STEM students, young professionals, as well as industry representatives from mechanical and plant engineering in Germany. This enables a comprehensive and multi-perspective picture of engineering education and work settings.

Consequently, our paper not only highlights the changes in the gender order associated with generational change within the engineering discipline and work culture, but also presents the first empirical findings from the project on the impact of digitalisation within the discipline and its gendered effects.

Gender Dynamics in Mining Areas: Contrasting Environmental Attitudes and the Role of Women in Spain's Energy Transition

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The attention given to the role of women in the literature on mining communities allows us to discuss the concept of "mining women." They often connect to the community not as individuals but through the family, sharing with other families "a common fate determined by virtue of their similar relationships with a wage-earning husband in the mining industry." Ronald Frankenberg encapsulated their position by suggesting that "the woman pays for her dependence with subordination." However, this image contrasts with recent studies in the field of environmental social sciences, where being a woman tends to be associated with a greater predisposition for caring and protecting the environment, both in behaviours and in the awareness reflected in their narratives. Here we present the results of our research focused on analysing local sentiments toward energy transition in Spain. We want to study whether female in the former coal mining areas exhibit any differential pattern compared to overall female in Spain and thus contribute to current theoretical debates on gender and mining. We conduct a survey to a representative sample of the population (1,500). The variables included in the questionnaire deal with sentiments toward the social and economic impact of the energy transition, as well as overall environmental values and attitudes. We have adopted a multi-stage sample design. The population was divided into two clusters: those living in the former coal mining areas (800 respondents) and the rest of the country (800 respondents). Subsequently, we stratified each of the clusters according to age and sex. The results confirm that female population exhibits more positive sentiments toward the energy transition. These differences, however, disappeared in the former coal mining areas.

"Italian Feminist Daughters: What the 'Generation Y' Has to Say About Growing up in a Feminist Household"

Marta Maria Nicolazzi

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Seeking to reconcile childhood and feminism as well as moving away from adult-centric perspectives on generational change, this paper explores the childhood experiences of women of Generation Y that grew up in feminist households in Milan, Italy. Specifically, it aims at understanding the role that mothers have in shaping the political identity of their daughters and the effects of feminist assumptions on motherhood and family structures. The research engaged with existing literature, connecting the mother-daughter relation to debates around agency, care, politics of childhood, concept of 'generationing' and generational feminism. Adopting an abductive value-based reflective and relational approach, the data was collected through one-to-one, semi-structured biographical interviews with Milanese women born between 1981 and 1999 who had a feminist mother. Findings from the interviews show an overall positive impact of feminism on gender stereotypes within family structures that reflected themselves on household dynamics as well as on generational order. Placing communication at the core of their parenting agenda, feminist mothers broadened their children's possibility to perform agency and transformed the existing standardized top-down power relation with their daughters into a more horizontal dynamic based on trust and mutual learning. Challenging the idea that messages tend to get lost in translation across generations, this paper also unveils a strong continuity between feminist waves as daughters' political identity is deeply shaped by their mothers' feminist dialogue.

RN33 | T04_01: Education and Policies

Activity Of Women Living In The Countryside In Non-governmental Organizations

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The research conducted in 2020 by the author of the article shows that In rural families, the patriarchal model of the family model, modified to the reality in which women play more and more roles, is maintained and implemented – apart from the traditional role of wife, mother and housewife, also the role of co-managing the farm. This co-management, however, is primarily about taking over some of the responsibilities while leaving the decision to the men. Women managing farms more often (than men) indicate agreeing their strategic decisions regarding the matters of this farm with other people. It can be assumed that one of the explanations for this consultation of decisions is the desire to maintain a pattern of behavior well-established in culture, in which decisions-decisions are made by men (Kluba, Szczepańska, Uss-Lik 2021).

This impact could be complemented by one more aspect – finding by women space for emancipation outside their own home, precisely in an NGO. This aspect, based on the example of rural women involved in the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and rural housewives associations.

Results of qualitative interviews conducted with women managing local NGOs in Poland (10 cases studies) indicate that (1) in women's organizations operating in the countryside there is a large potential of unused social capital, (2) this capital is most often channeled into activities for the benefit of the local community, and (3) acting in social organizations is a form of reducing social inequalities and self-realization of women, which has a positive effect on the entire community.

The Black Female Nurse Lecturers Lived Experiences In Higher Education

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What is it like being a Black British woman of Caribbean heritage, a registered nurse and a nurse lecturer in the predominantly white space that is academia and female dominated nursing profession? A pilot study was undertaken as part of my Doctoral research and female nurse lecturers were interviewed that all identified themselves as Black of Caribbean origin born in England. There is a legacy of Black Caribbean and African women coming to the epicenter of the British Empire as nurses or to train as a registered nurse (Brathwaite, 2018; Flynn, 2011).

The movement from practicing in the clinical environment to nurse educator in higher education is one fraught with white privilege, white supremacy and various forms of racisms on the one hand and being seen as a role model and empowering the large number of Black and Brown students nurses who see what can be achieved on the other (Alexander & Arday, 2015; Bouattia, 2015; Watson, 2017; Bhopal, 2018; Arday & Mirza, 2019;). Using a postcolonial feminist and intersectional lens, the participants gendered lived experiences were interpreted (Finlay, 2011). The Black female nurse academics experiences are one that are contextualised through the inequality experienced in both nursing and higher education and the calling out that inequality and navigating it throughout their lives (Rollock, 2022; Watson, 2017).

The Long-term Trends in Gendered Educational Attainment in Poland

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The reversal of the gender gap in education represents a rare example of reordering social hierarchy. Until the end of the XIX century, females were not permitted to enter tertiary education, and access to secondary schools was highly restricted. This pattern has changed significantly in Poland in the XX century. Under socialism, females constituted a majority in full secondary schools, and since the '70s, they represented more than half of tertiary education students. The gender gap in higher education has widened dramatically since the mid-90s, leading to unprecedented asymmetry in the educational attainments of males and females.

This presentation aims to analyze the patterns and dynamics of this historical shift in Poland. To document the evolution of the gender gap between generations born in XX and the beginning of the XXI century, I will use two complementary data sources. First, to illustrate the major trends in the gender gap in secondary and tertiary education, I will utilize administrative data collected by the Statistical Office. Secondly, I will employ data from the European Social Survey to estimate the effect of social status (measured by parental education attainment) on the educational outcomes of several generations of males and females. The analyses revealed that both mothers' and fathers' education exerted a stronger effect on the educational attainments of daughters than sons.

The discussion will encompass the impact of the disparity in educational achievement on female and male gender roles.

How Does Policy Framing Affect Support For Gender Equality Policies? Evidence From Survey Experiments Fielded Across Europe

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Who supports gender equality policy, and how does this support depend on the framing of the policy? Different gender equality policies are currently politicized in various democracies. We fielded two survey experiments across 27 EU countries to test who is most (least) likely to support policies on gender quotas in politics and school reforms for less gender-stereotypical teaching. Based on theoretical expectations about support for gender equality and policies in general, we manipulate whether the policies are described as a) promoting material vs. symbolic gender equality, b) benefiting only women vs. everyone, c) supported by experts vs. a majority of the population, and d) endorsed by left – vs. right-wing political parties. Pilot study results reveal partly gendered trade-offs in policy support: Some policy framing appeals to women but deter men, and vice versa. Further, the proposed school reform provokes more strongly polarizing effects than the proposed gender quotas in politics. The policy support patterns by population group differ by the proposed gender equality policy, suggesting that different gender equality policies yield different patterns of support and opposition in the population. Our findings carry implications for the study of gender attitudes and policy support.

RN33 | T04_02: Gender, Technology and Stem Issues

Decoding Gender in Smart Home Research

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Smart homes, as technologically advanced residential systems, are commonly touted as agents of change in both individual lifestyles and broader socio-environmental strategies. However, their innovative thrust tends to primarily manifest in material terms rather than ideological ones, usually consolidating rather than reforming existing social structures. In these hyper-modern living spaces, the continuation and potential intensification of entrenched traditional gender norms and power dynamics emerges as a critical issue, necessitating a thorough social science-led investigation into how smart technologies might unwittingly maintain or aggravate social inequalities.

Drawing inspiration from Judy Wajcman's early advocacy for a gendered lens in smart technology studies, our research explores the degree to which discourse on smart homes has responded to this call. We present a critical review of a representative set of 92 disciplinary-diverse smart home publications, examining how gender-related notions and issues are addressed or neglected, and explore their distributional characteristics and thematic range. Through both bibliometric exploratory and qualitative analyses, our survey delves into the key themes, theoretical underpinnings, methodological approaches, and main findings of the collected studies. This systematic approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the representation and operationalization of the gender category in smart home research.

Our findings underscore a significant deficiency in gender-sensitive approaches within the analyzed domain, highlighting the urgent need for inclusive and multifaceted research methodologies, as well as emphasizing the importance of embedding more thoughtful gender frameworks in future techno-academic advancements.

Can Post-Materialistic Values explain the Gender Equality Paradox?

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The Gender Equality Paradox (GEP) describes the phenomenon that gender segregation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields increases in more "developed" and gender-equal societies. A common explanation for GEP is that when economic conditions are better, boys and girls aspire more toward the fulfillment of

post-materialist values. In the presence of gender-stereotype norms and practices, this leads to more gendered educational and occupational aspirations. However, whether a shift towards more post-materialistic values underlies GEP has not been tested in the literature. Using four waves of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) on students' mathematics-related career aspirations with multi-level regression models, we test (a) the effect of societal affluence on boys' and girls' mathematics career aspirations (i.e, the gender-affluence paradox), (b) the extent to which the effect of societal affluence can be attributed to a country's post-materialistic values, and (c) the extent to which a country's post-materialistic value orientation moderates the effect of household affluence and SES on the gender gap. We also test whether the gender gap in post-materialistic (work) values increases with societal affluence. We focus specifically on post-materialistic work values (consequently working culture) because we hypothesize that work life goals underlie educational STEM choices and preferences. By doing so, we try to find an explanation for the GEP that relates to cultural differences between "modern" and "late modern" societies and to the absurdly persistent gender stereotypes in these.

Hybrid Femininity: Practices Of Navigating Gender Boundaries In Male-dominated Technology Start-up Organizations

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In the new economy, the high-tech industry is recognized as one of the most powerful and profitable globally (Neely et al. 2023: 320). Recent research indicates that women employed in technology organizations encounter various challenges and barriers in advancing their careers, including microaggressions, discrimination, and sexual harassment (Alegria 2019; Alfrey & Twine 2017; Mickey 2022).

Start-up organizations, as a form of global culture and entrepreneurship (Koskinen 2023), present a specific type of technological landscape characterized by their ideology rooted in Silicon Valley, special work ethos, and non-traditional financing methods. Numerous analyses reveal that prevalent practices, norms, rules, and organizational logic within technological start-ups strongly favor cultural patterns of masculinity (Papageorgiou 2022; Cooper 2000; Wynn & Correll 2018). Despite this, women are actively engaged in these spaces, assuming various roles, including regular employees, leaders, and founders of start-ups (Startup Genome & We Rise 2021). However, we still know little about how women, through various gender practices (Connell 2006; Martin 2003), achieve and sustain high status within the start-up industry and what practices they undertake in response to barriers and challenges.

Based on 43 qualitative interviews conducted between 2021 and 2023 with males and females working in start-up organizations (as part of a broader research financed by the Poland National Science Centre grant no. 2020/37/N/HS6/03913), I will discuss how women manage their gender status, how navigate gender boundaries, and how (depending on the context) selectively exposing and withdrawing femininity (or masculinity) during interactions to negotiate position in the workplace and avoid sexual harassment. Finally, I will present a conceptualization of the term "hybrid femininity" as a category that helps to understand this analyzed pattern of gendered practices.

Gender Gap In STEM And ICT Education: What Can Education And Educators Do?

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The shortage of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, particularly in ICT, has been a matter of increasing concern in Europe. The acknowledgment of a "severe gender balance issue" is evident, with only 19% of ICT specialists and one in three STEM graduates being women. The emphasis has been on attracting girls and women, highlighting the persistent gender gap.

While the phenomenon of horizontal gender segregation has long been denounced, only recently have strategies emerged that prioritize gender stereotypes in education for thorough examination and corrective actions. Currently, there exists a growing body of studies and programs dedicated to addressing gender inequalities in STEM and ICT. These initiatives delve into the root causes and propose solutions, encompassing policies and pedagogies to counteract gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices within the educational sphere. Diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, education experts, and advocates for gender equality, actively participate in tackling this challenge.

This presentation draws upon the outcomes of a European research project aimed at addressing the STEM gap through gender-inclusive education and teaching programmes. The insights are derived from an in-depth questionnaire administered to educators, an analysis of practices at both national and school levels, and interviews conducted with experts.

Our focus will be on the initiatives implemented in Portugal to enhance the involvement of girls aged 11 to 15 in the fields of STEM and ICT. We aim to understand how these initiatives identify the issue, the frames they use, the identified causes, and whether their strategies promote more systemic approaches addressing gender stereotypes and inequalities in education or if they adopt more targeted approaches that leave the existing gender regimes in education untouched.

RN33 | T04_03: Gender and Language

Reading Gender. Exploring the Reading Practises as Cultural Spaces of Emancipation and Ambivalence

Michela Donatelli

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This article explores the relationship between men, women, and cultural practices by exploring the representation and use of books. Starting with a historical overview of the construction of female readers in comparison to their male counterparts, the article highlights the manifestation of gendered dimensions within cultural spaces, with a particular focus on reading circles. Reading circles offer a nuanced observation of gender dynamics through participants' interactions and interpretation of the texts under consideration. In these contexts, the act of reading reveals its dual nature, serving simultaneously as a tool for emancipation and as a mirror reflecting gender differentiations. Based on qualitative research conducted through participant observation within reading circles organised in 3 public libraries in Rome, this paper aims to contemplate how the reception of specific texts can sustain subversive biographical trajectories. It is a dual movement that transcends the dominant norms of femininity and embraces values that favour material and symbolic autonomy from men. In line with previous studies (Albenga, 2017), the article adopts a socio-historical perspective on reception, exploring various aspects of reading practices to discover the meaning readers derive from books. Bourdieu's (2001) concept of co-production is used to illuminate the dynamic interaction between authors and audiences, as well as the practical and symbolic use of cultural goods. Chartier's (1988) notion of appropriation differences is considered, which emphasises creative invention at the centre of reception processes. Specific activities within reading circles contribute to creating a literary field in which genre functions as a distinctive category, and both authors and readers transform being female from 'negative symbolic capital' to 'positive symbolic capital' (Moi, 1999), showing, a certain ambivalence, the emancipatory potential of reading.

Expanding Boundaries: "Gender Theory/Ideology" and Twitter Debate on Gender-Sensitive Language

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This paper examines Twitter (X) discussion in Slovenia following the decision of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, to adopt gender-sensitive language in their internal regulation documents. Employing social network analysis, this study identifies distinct user communities with predominantly right-leaning political affiliations. Linguostylistic and critical frame analyses revealed that these communities emphasize different themes related to gender-sensitive language, often introducing new, tangentially related topics. However, a common thread connecting these debates is the discursive concept of "gender theory/ideology." The analysis of the most retweeted tweets demonstrates that "gender theory/ideology" acts as a unifying force within communities, bringing together disparate actors. The study also reveals the colonizing nature of "gender theory/ideology," as it diverts the focus of the debate toward new issues, potentially transforming them into ideological matters. Additionally, the findings highlight the de-democratizing effect of "gender theory/ideology" by limiting the boundaries of legitimate debate and excluding alternative perspectives. The absence of dissenting voices and the prevalence of ideological homogeneity within the right-leaning network creates an "echo chamber" effect that marginalizes alternative viewpoints. Importantly, our research demonstrates how "gender theory" has transformed the structure of public debate in Slovenia since its initial mass emergence in 2015.

It's a Wonderful World Where You'll Find ... Good Girls and Naughty Boys. An Analysis of Gender Representations in Romanian Songs for Children

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Romanian songs for children started to be found more and more often among children's daily activities, being one of the main sources of learning, fun and interactive recreation. The current research aims to study how certain gender roles are attributed and highlighted to the representations of femininity and masculinity in Romanian children's songs, wanting to identify a favorable socio-cultural context in which certain prejudices and gender stereotypes can be early developed among children even during the primary socialization. Thus, the research question from which this

study starts is: How are the representations of femininity and masculinity presented in Romanian children's songs? As a theoretical framework, I discuss gender as a social structure to highlight the perpetuation of the existing gender system, rooted in the "traditional" social structures of Romanian society. To facilitate the analysis of these theoretical aspects, this research will be carried out through a complex study based on two types of content analysis – quantitative and qualitative, focusing on both song lyrics and related videos, selected through a hierarchy that includes five YouTube channels for children's entertainment. As a few results, I expect gender inequalities to persist in many of these representations. According to the traditional benchmarks of gender as a social structure, femininities are taking shape that promote the image of a beautiful, caring, docile woman in the private environment, strongly impregnated by numerous domestic activities. In contrast, masculinity is associated with holding power both in the family and in the professional sphere, promoting the nonconformist, disruptive and even violent nature of boys and men. The differentiated cultivation of nonconformism and the diversity of professional involvement reinforces the symbolic superiority of masculinity in public life. This research proves useful because it discusses a topic less presented by researchers until now. It is important to understand the great impact that such representations of femininity and masculinity have on children's socialization, because these children's songs continue to promote the traditional roles associated with each gender in a contemporary society where we aspire to equality. I have also not attended one of the ESA Summer Schools before.

Lead, Supporting, Or Background Character? A Story Of Age(less) Hallmark Narratives In The Era Of 'Please Don't Ask Me My Age'

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Going beyond discussions regarding the relationship between social, psychological, and biological age, the movie and TV industry has its own persistent way to guide itself and to divide the actors, especially the actresses, by their biological age. The double standard of aging is still very visible. Once there is a certain threshold crossed, there is no way back; the roles are becoming stereotypical and, most of the time, unidimensional.

More and more actors from the Hallmark family choose not to publicly disclose their age, precisely because of the fear of not limiting their roles only to a certain generational typology: among the 628 analyzed films (titles launched by two of the Hallmark Media trust between January 2015 – December 2023), there were identified numerous actors whose age is not available online. Is this strategy of depicting the self effective in an era of informational transparency?

Another dimension of this study is to examines gender and age representations in Hallmark films to identify whether these programs reproduce similar gender gaps and patterns of underrepresentation of individuals over 40 as Hollywood films.

This study captures typologies created through gender-related clichés, bringing into attention the most visible stereotypical portraits seen as well as the impact on the age of the actors, especially regarding the variety of the received and acted roles. Also, we want to discuss the change and persistence observed in the importance of age for the careers and roles of Hallmark actors, as well as for the typical characters portrayed.

RN33 | T05_01: Domestic Violence and Intimate Life

Title: Experiences, Needs, and Utilization of Services by Victims of Lethal or Near Lethal Domestic Violence

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The research aims to fill a crucial gap in comprehending the needs and help-seeking experiences of intimate homicide survivors and their families. Through in-depth interviews with survivors of near femicide and proxies of women killed, this study explores psycho-socio-judicial needs in the post-separation period, shedding light on self-determination and agency in response to these challenges.Methodologically, the study relies on the Canadian Initiative for the Prevention of Domestic Homicides, incorporating 26 interviews conducted in Québec. Utilizing a narrative research framework, interviews delve into participants' experiences of feeling unsafe, actions taken, help-seeking, and the effectiveness of support received. Phenomenological analysis ensures an intimate understanding of survivors' experiences.The author's unique positionality, as a man from a visible minority and part of sexual and gender diversity, and a survivor of domestic violence, enriches the research. Professional experience as a specialized educator and social worker, combined with active involvement in data collection, ensures a nuanced and empathetic analysis.Preliminary analysis uncovers initial themes, providing insight into survivors' journeys. The research aims to inform interventions and policies by identifying specific needs and proposing a framework for enhanced support systems. Ultimately, the goal is to contribute to the protection and support of survivors of attempted femicide and their close ones, fostering more effective public policies in the realm of domestic violence.

"…Here We are Arab Women in Uniform Engaging in Domestic Violence and Arresting an Arab Man who Raised his Hand on a Woman… It Does the Job…" – Cultural Responsiveness among Arab Policewoman in Israel towards Arab Women who are Victims of Violence.

Tal Meler

Zefat Academic College, Israel

Arab-Palestinian women in Israel (native-national-minority) who have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) as excluded discriminated women face complex challenges in seeking help which may ultimately impact their ability to leave violent relationships. Over the last decade there has been an increase in IPV towards Arab-Palestinian women. Their representation as victims of violence or among femicide cases is disproportionate and exceeds their percentage in the population.

Despite a significant foothold in the public discourse intimate partner violence (IPV) in Israel, the State's efforts to address this issue reveal deep problems and widespread lacunae. This poses inquiries about the efficacy of various institutions, including the police, in adequately addressing women's needs as well as the extent policies are tailored to women from distinct locations.

The Israeli police are viewed as representing the state, intensifying friction with minorities and resulting in minimal trust and support from Arab citizens, particularly women. Arab policewomen who enlisted face national/gender community objection. Despite the prevailing male/macho, conservative, and racialized police culture, the presence of Arab policewomen offers advantages. Departments handling domestic violence within the police force may offer better support for women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) to alleviate their challenges.

Through semi-structured interviews with 27 Arab policewomen in Israel, I ask: how do Arab policewomen perceive Arab women victims of IPV who are seeking safety from violent relationships and turn to the police? Second, how do policewomen who investigate IPV understand the extent to which their organization's practices reflect cultural responsiveness in serving Arab women?

Femicides And Homicides in Intimate Relationships: An Analysis of Judicial Stereotypes

Madalena Duarte

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Feminist theories of law have played an important role in denouncing that a stereotypical view of gender, of intimate

relationships and of social roles remains in legal culture. Analysing these stereotypes is particularly relevant in violence in intimate relationships cases, in which, as some studies have shown, there is still a legal understanding that this is a crime with shared guilt, with the victim's behaviour being scrutinised. In this paper, I explore, with reference to the Portuguese context, how gender stereotypes are, consciously or not, present in the legal assessment of homicides and femicides committed in a context of intimacy.

To this end, I'll analyse interviews conducted, between 2021 and 2022, with judges and with women who had committed a homicide in an intimate context, with the aim of discussing, in an articulate way, their experiences and representations regarding both this type of crime and its legal treatment.

This qualitative analysis will be complemented with a content analysis of 160 court cases (with first instance and appeal decisions) on homicides (committed and attempted) in intimate relationships.

I conclude that the existence of apparently neutral and vague legal concepts contributes to the reproduction of models of femininity and masculinity, and for a hegemonic and heteropatriarchal understanding of romantic love, namely in determining the motives for the crime, in which the victim-offender relationship plays a significant role. This biased understanding has (in a more or less subtle way) legal consequences for women, both as victims and as criminals.

'How Can Someone Be A Woman and Activist Yet Be A Good Citizen?': Stories Of Intimate Citizenship Of Polish Activist Women

Ecem Nazlı Üçok

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The current populist political environment has been shaped by growing tensions and differences, which have led to innumerable transformations resulting in consequences for intimate life. The paper focuses on the impact of political changes in Poland, particularly the rise of the PiS government, on the intimate lives and citizenship identities of Polish activist women. Two of Poland's constitutive elements, namely religiosity in the guise of Catholicism and a profoundly entrenched patriarchy in the society, have raised the tension between the feminist movement and the populist counter-movement (Paternotte & Kuhar, 2017). Plummer (2003) argues that the emergence of the women and LGBTQI movements brought up a host of potential new identities that demand recognition and lay claim to rights and obligations. The electoral success of the far-right in Poland in 2015 and 2019 and the consequences of these political shifts have raised violent attacks on women's and LGBTQ rights and bodies. In the paper, Plummer's notion of 'intimate citizenship' will be used to explore how Polish activist women are experiencing the tension between being a 'good citizen' and a 'bad citizen'. The study intends to critique classic models of citizenship by showcasing the gendered nature of the citizenship process and the meaning of 'dissident citizen'(Sparks,1997). By incorporating life-story interviews of Polish activist/migrant women living in 'exile,' the paper aims to provide a voice to those affected by suffering, tension, and contestations and demonstrate how social movements contribute to creating solidarity through narratives demanding recognition (Miles, 2022).

RN33 | T05_02: Gender, Violence and the Economy

Unveiling Economic Violence Against Young Women in Türkiye: A Critical Examination

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The study aims to show the hidden forms of economic violence and investigate its connection with other types of violence experienced by young women aged 18-29 in Türkiye, in relation with the concept of emerging adulthood. Our study seeks to propose social policies to combat economic violence against young women and create a liberating effect on their lives by using feminist methodology. For empirical part, we used (1) nationally representative violence against women survey data and (2) semi-structured in-depth interviews to reveal young women's challenges in terms of economic freedom, value, self-confidence, emotional burden, money control and saving.

The secondary quantitative data analysis '2014 Survey on Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey' found a 12% prevalence of economic violence among young women, particularly in urban areas, Western Anatolia, the 25-29 age group, with primary education, divorced or separated, married before the age of 18, and with low wealth. Most significantly, 80% of these young women reported a lack of personal income, and this percentage is higher among women in rural areas, Southeast Anatolia, the 15-24 age group, individuals with no formal education, those currently married, those married before the age of 18, and individuals in low-income households. With indicating a 10% increase compared to all women, this figure highlights the vulnerability of young women and challenges presumed economic empowerment in this age group, showcasing experience heterogeneity.

The key topics regarding the prevalence of economic violence among young women found to be 'the relationship between economic freedom and social status', the impact of the economic freedom on feeling valuable, being self-confident, emotional burdening and young women's understanding of managing finances and saving.

Appropriation of a Generation of Turkish White-Collar Women's Labour: Economic Abuse in the Marriage as Grounds for Divorce

Aylin Akpinar

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Appropriation of women's labour in the marriage and transfers of capital from women's native households which were not used for the family were cited as grounds for divorce by a generation of Turkish white-collar women who married in the eighties, in their twenties. The four narratives selected for presentation is drawn from research data which was gathered through in-depth interviews with divorcées of various ages and backgrounds living in three metropolitan cities of Turkey, in 2016. The presentation theorizes on gender ideology and gender as structure and problematizes the enfamilied selves of the women and their parents' supporting the image of women's husbands as main breadwinners. These performances are depicted as collusive femininity in contrast to women's performances leading to their divorces depicted as alternative femininity. Two of the women gave their monthly salaries to their husbands and received pocket money. A third woman paid the college fees of their children besides the health insurance bills for her and her husband but did not know how much money her husband earned. In the fourth case, the couple lived in the flat entitled to woman's father and received support by the woman's mother covering the daily costs of the household while the husband saved money and bought the company he worked in. The instrumentalization of their marriages became the reason for women's divorces. I consider these women as caught in between, a generation of Turkish women who had empowered themselves by gainful employment but not through individuation in their intimate lives.

A Critical Examination of Women's Integration and Experiences in Irish Banking Post-Marriage Bar Removal

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This research focuses on the experiences of women in Irish banking organisations following the removal of the so-called 'marriage bar': a piece of legislation which required women to resign from certain jobs on marriage (Foley, 2020). In 1973, Ireland joined what is now the European Union; this led to extensive legislative, economic and societal change (Jobling, 2023)

A primary objective of the research is to evaluate the integration of women into banking organisations following the lifting of this 'bar' and to critically examine their lived experiences. This paper highlights the male-dominated structure of banking organisations and the archetype of the 'ideal worker' as conceptualised by Joan Acker (1992). Despite

legislative advancements towards equality, organisational and societal norms lagged behind (Harford and Redmond, 2012).

The paper examines sixteen interviews conducted with twelve women and four men using Wengraf's (2001) Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM) allowing for the 'pushing for PINs' (Moran, Green, and Warwick, 2022). These interviews offer rich insight into the life narratives of participants and the exploration of specific incidents. These data are transcribed carefully and organised using NVivo software. Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2019; 2006) and Narrative Analysis (DeVault, 1994; Riessman, 1993) are applied.

Findings offer insight to mixed feelings about work, family life, and career opportunities. The banking organisations placed financial and behavioural barriers for women, highlighting struggle for equality in the workplace.

This paper aims to understand the personal and societal challenges faced by these women in banking and examines the broader context of social norms and ideals that influence effective equality. The study offers insight into the impact of equality legislation and the need for comprehensive social change.

RN33 | T05_03: Violence and Social Media

"A Cognitive Map of Sexual Violence Victims' Decision-Making: Understanding the Preference for Social Media Over Formal Legal Avenues – Insights from Media Consultants"

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The objective of this study is to develop a cognitive map that outlines the decisions and actions taken by victims of sexual violence. This cognitive map is informed by interviews with ten media consultants who specialize in assisting sexual violence victims. These consultants offer a view of the decision-making processes of victims.

Existing literature extensively explores the perceptions and behaviors of sexual violence victims. This article contributes to this field by proposing a detailed cognitive map that illuminates the specific decisions made by victims in choosing where to disclose their assault.

The study's findings, as depicted in the cognitive map, reveal several vital points:

Sexual assault victims often perceive media as a primary avenue for achieving justice, prioritizing it over formal legal means. In the media, victims tend to prioritize the process over the outcome. In terms of process, victims place utmost importance on the values of voice and respect.

Framing Gender-Based Violence: The Gendered Impact of Institutional Intervention on Media Discourse in Italy

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Sociologists have long examined how social movements strategies and discourses evolve after their institutionalization. In their struggle to put gender-based violence on the public agenda, feminist women have ambivalently underlined the risks that institutionalization entails, most notably the assimilation of gender-based violence with other social issues, and the shifting away from its feminist, cultural, and structural interpretation. Critics of feminists' success in this field argue instead that feminist mainstreaming risks hiding other factors behind gender-based violence, or even its gender symmetric nature.

Focusing on the Italian case, where institutional intervention happened recently and in a heterogenous way across

regions, I use topic modeling and word embeddings methods to analyze a large corpus of more than 30000 articles published between 1992 and 2023 in local and national Italian newspapers. Using an event study research design, I investigate the effect of institutional intervention on who writes about gender-based violence in terms of gender and political alignment, and how.

Over the past three decades, articles on gender-based violence written by women correlated more strongly with a feminist framing compared to those by men, that were instead consistently more likely to reference other social issues. However, institutional intervention had gendered-specific effects that narrowed these gaps. Men's articles increasingly incorporated a feminist framing after regions adopted antiviolence policies, while women's articles became more likely to reference institutions and social services, with differential effects across newspapers' alignment. This research, utilizing novel methodologies, reveals how institutional intervention can legitimize specific framings across different societal groups, contributing to our understanding of cultural change following a social movement's success in placing its issues on the public agenda.

Reconfiguring Academic Feeling Rules: Ramifications of Digital Violence

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This study delves into the intricate emotional responses of academics subjected to online violence, presenting a comprehensive exploration of this pervasive issue. Leveraging semi-structured individual interviews with eleven academics—hailing from diverse academic levels and institutions in Europe and the United States—who reported experiencing online attacks, our research elucidates the multifaceted nature of their emotional experiences. The interviews, offered insights into participants' coping strategies, emotional states during and after incidents, and the impact of these emotions on decision-making processes. Integrating Hochschild's (1983) insights with perspectives from scholars like Lorde (1983) and Ahmed (2004), specifically focusing on gender, work, and emotions, our study sheds light on how academics encountered a phase of uncertainty in established conduct and emotional norms while navigating online harassment. This research then contributes a nuanced understanding of the emotional landscapes of academics facing online harassment, shedding light on coping mechanisms, emotional complexities, and ethical considerations inherent in this domain.

Dynamics, Patterns and Emotional Mobilization of Feminism discourse: Focusing on South Korean Twitter Dataset

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This study examines the dynamics of digital feminism in South Korea, seeking to enhance the global understanding of digital activism. It analyzes 7.03 million tweets containing 'femi', a term linked to feminism in Korea, from January 2018 to January 2023. This research also highlights the role of emotions in mobilizing individuals in the digital space, a key aspect for understanding feminist discourse on social media(Ahmed, 2013; Ureta et al., 2021).

The first research question focuses on the prevalent themes in feminist Twitter discourse within this period, examining how they have changed over time. This approach not only highlights the unique aspects of digital feminism in South Korea but also contributes to the global understanding of digital activism's intersectionality with cultural and social norms. Using biannual top-tokens and n-gram(2, 3, 4 gram) methods, the study identifies key discussion topics like the cultural industry, sexual violence, appearance labor, and educational issues. These topics are categorized into areas such as politics, education, crime, sexuality, feminist taxonomy, and transgender issues through topic modeling.

The second research question explores the relationship between emotional tone and Twitter engagement, focusing on how negative emotions correlate with increased retweet activity. This inquiry sheds light on emotional mobilization's role in digital feminism, essential for grasping online activism's emotional dynamics. Sentiment analysis categorizes tweets as negative or positive, and network analysis evaluates the influence of emotional tone on tweet clustering.

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RN33 | T05_04: Men and Masculinities: Changes and Challenges

Polish Young Men Do Cry. Present Challenges In Gender Norms And Generational Changes In Defining Masculinities

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Both men and women are embedded in gendered systems and cultures (e.g., Hearn, 2014; Levtov et al., 2014; Lorentzen, 2011). In a broader societal scope, gender norms determine status, power, and rules of social relations regulating women's and men's lives, often leading to positive and negative consequences related to their health and well-being, education, and careers (e.g. Elliot, 2020; Greig et al., 2000). Movements progressing toward gender equality question social norms that are disadvantageous not only for women but also for boys and men, such as mandates of emotional control or pressure on employment and fulfilling breadwinner roles (Ellemers, 2018; Scambor et al., 2014).

In our research, we investigate possible changes in gender order, considering the perspective of adolescents and professionals who support young and adult men. Within the framework of the Polish-Norwegian project "EQUAMAN. Masculinity navigator – unpacking the relationship between masculine roles, well-being, and gender equality" we conducted: (a) a quantitative study among 550 adolescents (16-17 y.o.), that focused on the importance of boy's sense of gender identity and their attitudes towards gender roles and gender equality; (b) 3 FGI with 30 boys (16-19 y.o.); (c) 2 FGI with 11 health, psychological, and social welfare specialists. The data collection took place in Poland. We aimed to learn how young men define and negotiate their gender roles in transformation, and if (via experts' lenses) a generational change can be observed. The outcomes shed light on practical implications for educational interventions targeting boys and men.

Gendering Nursing and Rethinking Masculinities: An Exploration of the Nexus Between Men and Caring Occupations

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University of Turin, Italy

Care practices have historically been associated with women, both when enacted in the 'private' domain of the family and when enacted in the 'public' sphere of paid work.

The aim of our research is to contribute to the debate by exploring the nexus between masculinity and care looking at a specific work domain: nursing. Among caring occupations, indeed, it is an interesting case study because it is an extremely feminized workplace (in Italy, for example, until 1971, access to this profession was closed to men), and a domain where the gendered ambiguity between cure and care is more easily detectable.

Drawing on 28 interviews with Italian male nurses, the paper aims at investigating how men perform masculinity and care in a feminized work environment. From our analysis it emerges that male nurses perceive care practices as central to their profession; a fact that, though, force them to cope with two aspects that expose them to the risk of 'de-virilization': body work and emotions. The body is considered both a technical tool and a communication channel with patients, part of the embodied competences of a nurse. However, it emerges some problematic aspects – specifical to men – linked to the symbolic implications related to the contact between gendered bodies. Looking at emotions, even if many respondents insist on the emotional suppression and on the show of empathy, as part of their professional practice (emotional work), they also stress a female 'predisposition' to emotional labor linked to daily care and relationality.

Our research, then, sheds light on the implicit gendered implications of care and on the challenges and opportunities that it determines for the performances of masculinities.

Single Fathers in Swedish Twenty-First Century Media

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Since single parenthood is a highly feminized phenomenon, it is important to investigate how "media images and representations intertwine with political and social ideologies" (Gallagher 2014, 27) to convey messages about single fathers. Drawing on findings from an interdisciplinary cultural studies project on single parents in Swedish media, this presentation explores representations of single fathers in three sets of materials: newspaper articles, fictional cinematic film, and literature (fiction and life writing). The analysis focuses on how these representations speak to the contemporary political and ideological context of their time of

production. Single parenthood, including single fatherhood, is "normalized" rather than socially or morally stigmatized in Sweden, and family policy has promoted fathers as (potential) primary parents since the 1970s. I demonstrate that in the media the single father is a "split figure" (Hall 2019) in the Swedish media landscape, for while newspapers represent him as a competent primary parent who manages well to combine work and family life, in Swedish film he is primarily a tragic figure marked by disqualification as a parent, and in literature, while demonstrating parental commitment and ability he embodies a fear of lost or unrecognized parental legitimacy. It would seem, then, that while newspaper representations discursively align themselves with father-friendly and gender-equality oriented national family policy in portraying the single father as a successful parent, films and literature offer counter discourses in their subjective explorations of single fatherhood as fraught, failed, or threatened.

Empirical Evidence On Shared Parental Leave In Austria: Pathways For Shared Parenting?

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Against the background of Austria being a conservative welfare state and facing challenges in establishing institutional infant care, I want to discuss obstacles in going beyond gendered role stereotypes and establishing long-term shared parenting arrangements, which often include precarious working conditions and part-time contracts in paid work, mainly for. In parallel, building up emotional bonds during a child's infancy and bearing mental load still are highly gendered topics. My Austrian empirical research results show that the provision of well-paid, shorter childcare benefits on one hand promotes men's uptake of parental leave and their gain in caring abilities. However, on the other hand, obstacles in overcoming gender inequalities in both parents' reconciliation of employment, childcare and family management are still to be observed: last but not least due to employers' gendered expectations and due to a lack in the provision of (public) childcare and education. The empirical research included two empirical waves (interviews with parents in Austria, 2021, 2023). In my presentation, I will focus on starting emotional bonding with an infant and both parents' attempt to dually share the reconciliation of family management, infant care and employment. The results indicate a (re-)production of traditional gender roles in the transition to parenthood, which still counteract the realization of gender justice despite the provision of parental leave rights for both parents in Austria. Moreover, men's shares in the uptake of parental leave in Austria are low, about 4% in all forms of childcare benefits (and parental leave variants). Nevertheless, the results also show men's pathways in developing caring attitudes and being an involved parent are the first steps towards realizing gender justice in the transition to parenthood.

RN33 | T06_01: Harassment, Gendered Violence, Femicide

A Culture of Silence: Gendered Violence in Post-Conflict Northern Ireland

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Northern Ireland is commonly referred to as a 'post-conflict' society, however violence against women has increased dramatically since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 which marked an end to The Troubles. This phenomenon has been noted in other post-conflict societies, which will make this research impactful across disciplines and contexts. The general research project will examine the lived experiences of women in relation to rape culture, comparing the everyday lives of older women who lived through The Troubles and younger women who were born after the ceasefire. As the general research project is still at early stages, this will be a theoretical paper which outlines the necessity to study post-conflict societies with a focus on gender and sexual violence. There is a culture of silence which persists in Northern Ireland in relation to both political violence and sexual violence, as well as contested definitions of victimhood for victims of political violence which links to modern rape myths surrounding who is deserving of the label of victim. I will explore this culture of silence through applying the continuum of sexual violence (Kelly, 1988) to challenge the hierarchies of harm applied to both political and sexual violence and uncover how these hierarchies interact with one another to legitimise the silencing of violence. This research will also consider the shifting negotiations of militarized masculinities and determine how these can facilitate high levels of violence against women in contemporary Northern Ireland.

Results from the Research Conducted in Isolating Gender Violence (IGV) among Professionals Attending Victims of Gender Violence in the Region of Extremadura (Spain)

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Scientific literature defines isolating gender violence (IGV) as that suffered by people who support victims of gender violence. Thus, its identification is a key element as a preventive mechanism, both for victims as for defenders. However, although progress has been made in the delimitation

of the concept, in its legal regulation and in its manifestation in areas such as sexual harassment in universities, it is still unknown whether IGV is suffered by professionals attending women victims of gender violence. To provide with some scientific knowledge to this question, qualitative research with a communicative approach has been conducted using in-depth interviews. In particular, such interviews have been made to professionals of the Extremaduran system of attention to victims of gender violence. Results allow to place them as preferential victims of IGV. Furthermore, a clear isomorphism between the process of victimization followed by gender violence victims and professionals have been found too. Finally, research also allows the identification of mechanisms of victimization professionals suffer, which have been classified in subtle and open and which differ in the level of violence.

A deep understanding of such processes of victimization is essential, on the one hand, to face an occupational risk which has been ignored to date. Such risk is affecting not only the health of these professionals but also the quality of their service provision which, on the other side, contributes to fuelling denialist discourses of gender violence.

The Representations of Students at the University of Coimbra Regarding Sexual Harassment Since the 1960s

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This study aims to understand the social representations of students at the University of Coimbra in relation to harassment since the 1960s. The term “sexual harassment” was coined in the second wave of the feminist movement, with MacKinnon being its driving force, who defined it around power relations and discrimination based on sex. Since the phenomenon of sexual harassment has arisen in the workplace, most studies are related to this context, making it imperative to problematise harassment in relation to the spaces where it occurs. With regard to the study of sexual harassment in the context of higher education, more recent studies have made it possible to analyse the problem through the lens of identity characteristics. They have also sought to study the relationship between these problem and organisational norms and policies. Coimbra presents fertile ground for research due to the fact that it was Portugal’s first university and due to the struggles, it waged (especially in the 1960s), which still today reveal important contours for the country’s democratisation process. Nonetheless, the legacy of women’s invisibility still shows the remnants of a patriarchal society that tends to subordinate women. This is particularly relevant if we look at recent years in which there has been constant reporting of sexual harassment in higher education institutions in Portugal, partly as a result of the #MeToo movement. Coimbra has been no exception to this exposure, especially in the media. In this study I propose a qualitative approach based on documentary analysis, focus groups and semi-structured interviews (with students and ex-students) according to previously defined time segments. The data collected to date makes it clear that harassment practices have always existed and have only rarely been denounced. Fieldwork since the 1960s has made it possible to understand codifications attributed to femininity and masculinity that are imperative for understanding the phenomenon of sexual harassment. In recent years, with social movements (like #metoo) and increased awareness, this reporting has been growing. This research has paved the way for theorising sexual harassment from an intersectional perspective and from the perspective of the institutions’ own organisational culture.

Femicide In Wartime

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Femicide is the intentional murder of women because of their gender. While most intentional homicide victims are male, the majority of domestic homicides are female. There are no up-to-date statistics on the extent of femicide globally, although an (under)estimated 89,000 femicides per year is being quoted in UNODC statistics.

Femicide in war is different from femicide in peace, and yet the dividing-line between the two is thin. The difference is that in peace and in war, the rules of the game change. In the Republic of Kosovo, men are socialized into “toxic behavior” toward women from a young age. When the men commit sexual and gender – based violence against women as adults, the legal system casts the survivors of gender-based violence back into a cycle of maltreatment.

In Israel, c. 20 femicides are perpetrated annually, but in 2023, dozens, maybe hundreds (numbers are unfolding), were added to that number in that female citizens were targeted by Hamas terrorists on 7 October as women, raped before and after they were murdered, and their sexual organs dismembered.

This paper is in no way an examination of the Gaza-Israel conflict. On the contrary, it presents the difficulties of data collection of femicide during war (e.g. bodies burned after rape) experienced in Rwanda and elsewhere, and documented in my edited volume “Femicide in War and Peace” (Routledge, 2023). It also examines the distortions of the perpetrators and their supporters that a higher political ideology could replace condemning femicide as a human rights violation. Finally, it attempts to analyse the statements and silence of feminist organisations and NGOs, which normally work to prevent femicide.

RN33 | T06_02: Misogyny and Social Media

Misogyny and the Incel Subculture in Italy: A Netnographic Study

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The rising role of online and digital interactions in mass culture among young people (Standlee, 2017) lead to the proliferation of the Incel phenomenon, among the most popular and active online subculture (Mountford 2018; Salojärvi et al. 2020). The Incels are a mostly young male community that struggles to properly relate with women, both romantically and sexually. The Incels criticize the society since they believe it is marked by an excessive glorification of physical attractiveness and feminine superficiality when picking partners (Halpin, 2021). Such beliefs frequently deteriorate into sexism and hate speech aimed at the female figure (Jaki et al., 2019). Although, according to European Commission (2021), Italy is the fourth biggest country in Europe in terms of Incel presence, there are few empirical research on the Incel culture and its potential harm to society (Clarke & Turner, 2020; Baele et al., 2021). To address this gap, we chose an exploratory-descriptive approach through a netnography (Kozinets, 2002, 2010) to explore the dynamics of the biggest Italian Incel community. This approach allowed us to gain a better understanding of the Incel culture, by exploring its ideology we found the empirical evidence of their misogynistic point of view, the community was structured around concept of sexual market, women as naturally evil, legitimizing masculinity, male oppression, and violence. An interesting result is the concern about the mothers as the Incels see them as someone who challenges paternal authority and affects their son's self-esteem in their interactions with women.

Gender-based Violence and Misogyny Against Women in Politics on Social Media

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In this study we explore the escalating concern of gender-based violence and misogyny targeting women in politics within the realm of social media. Rather than contributing to the further democratization of public and political spaces, social media platforms have become conduits for the dissemination of hate speech, aggression, violence, and misogyny against women engaged in politics at various levels (local, national, international). This study addresses the critical questions surrounding violence against women in politics on social media and examines the associated risks and consequences for women at different stages of their political careers, including parliamentarians and those initiating their political journeys.

Employing critical discourse analysis, our research delves into the discourse on Twitter during the two months leading up to the Slovenian parliamentary election in April 2022. Through the examination of over 300 hand-collected Tweets in the Slovenian language, we aim to elucidate the impact of Twitter discourse on pre-election events and assess the extent of violent and misogynistic content directed at women actively participating in the election campaign.

The overarching objective of these violent and misogynistic activities transcends mere psychological harm and the instillation of fear. Their aim is to induce a sense of inferiority, dissuading women from active political participation and compelling them to retreat from the public sphere into the private domain. This research contributes to a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted challenges women in politics face within the digital realm and underscores the imperative for concerted efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of online violence on political engagement and underlines the importance of studying the phenomenon of violence against women in politics.

Misogyny On Social Media: The Case Of "Kezban"

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This study examines the character "Kezban", a name associated with the "ideal woman" in popular Turkish movies of 1970s, which then became one of ridicule and hatred in humorous texts and memes in social media at the end of 1990s, eventually turning into a general insult for women. Using critical discourse analysis, this study looks into "Kezban" memes and texts, referring to Goffman's concept of stigma and Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence. The aim of this study is to explain how, under the mask of humor, women are constantly exposed to humiliation, insults and made to always feel the judgmental masculine gaze on them. Through ridicule, their self-esteem is damaged, they are shamed, subjugated to male dominance and silenced.

The story of Kezban is actually the story of masculinity in crisis in the post-industrial era. Unable to maintain the socio-economical standards of their fathers, men feel like failures and a loss of their masculinity. As women's movement after the 1980s made them more visible and vocal, women become primary targets for men's feelings of shame, hatred and anger for "stealing" their positions. Humor thus becomes a weapon in men's campaign against women.

The ease of production and circulation of memes, one of the most popular forms of digital humor, means a lot of repetition. This gives memes an active role in the construction of social perceptions and meanings. This study argues, social media, a place thought to be inclusive and egalitarian, has increasingly become an environment hostile to women, where hate speech against women can be rapidly produced and distributed, sustaining the patriarchal hierarchy in the society and setting the stage for violence against women.

Negotiating Gender in the Digital Age: Youth and the Representation of Femininity and Masculinity on Social Media

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This research examines the complex interplay between media logic and gender dynamics within the online activities of Italian adolescents. Engaging 800 participants aged 14-16 in an online workshop, the research used ethnographic observation, visual artifacts, and group conversations to explore adolescents' creation of fictional social media accounts aimed at peer popularity. The study's primary objective was to elucidate how adolescents perceive and construct notions of success in online spaces, particularly in relation to media-driven ideals.

Key findings reveal that adolescents' constructions of popular online personas are heavily influenced by prevailing gender norms and heteronormative discourses. The study highlights a predominant trend where female representation in social media is idealized and sexualized to cater to the male gaze, thereby reinforcing traditional gender roles. Secondly, the study reveals that while women are often viewed as passively sexualized, there is a prevalent perception that girls adeptly navigate social media mechanisms. This belief prompts a defensive moral condemnation from boys, culminating in the stigmatization of female online representations as inauthentic or driven by insecurities.

This research contributes to the understanding of how digital environments perpetuate and possibly amplify gender stereotypes among adolescents. It raises critical questions about the role of media in shaping youth perceptions of gender and popularity, offering insights that are vital for educators, policymakers, and scholars in gender studies. The findings challenge the notion of digital spaces as liberating realms for identity exploration, suggesting instead that they may reinforce conventional gender narratives.

RN33 | T06_03: Combating Inequalities-Violence and Women's Agency

From The Non-Discrimination Clause To Combating Violence – Comparison Of The Belém Do Pará And Istanbul Conventions

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Violence against women is „a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women" (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and Its Explanatory Report, 2011). Approximately one-third of women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence from their partners in the private sphere (WHO, 2021), and in the EU, „one in three women has experienced some form of physical and/or sexual assault since the age of 15" according to a 2012 research (FRA, 2014).

International efforts to tackle this matter include various instruments. As these evolved, so did the conceptual framework addressing this issue: initially the focus was on formal equality and the non-discrimination clause, followed by a progressive shift towards a more explicit recognition of violence as a human rights violation (Holtmaat, 2008). Within these, two legally binding treaties stand out: the Belém do Pará Convention and the Istanbul Convention. The Belém do Pará Convention, adopted by the Organization of American States in 1994, was the first binding regional treaty recognising violence against women as a punishable violation of human rights. The Istanbul Convention, established by the Council of Europe in 2011, was the first binding European treaty on the matter.

The paper analyses and compares these two regional conventions involving three aspects: the conceptualisation of violence, monitoring mechanisms, and the role of States in the treaty's implementation. Despite contextual differences between Europe and America, the analysis and comparison highlight similarities and distinctions in text and implementation of these conventions. Initial findings indicate that both treaties share similar objectives and monitoring mechanisms, yet they differ in conceptualising and addressing violence against women (Sipos–Garcia, 2024).

Victims' Interests as a Cultural Repertoire in Lawmaking: Reform of Dutch Sexual Violence Law in the Wake of #MeToo

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In recent years, victims of sexual violence and their experiences have received increasing social recognition, most notably through the global #MeToo movement. This is also reflected in the increasingly central role of victims in the legal process, from the process of lawmaking to the trial. While much scholarship analyses the role of victims in sexual violence trials, how references to victims/the increasing centrality of victims shapes the process of lawmaking and legal reform remains understudied and undertheorized. Drawing on research in cultural sociology, we conceptualize victims' interests as a prevalent cultural repertoire that informs processes of legal reform. This article focuses on a case study of the drafting of a new sexual violence law in the Netherlands (2020-ongoing). We conducted a qualitative content analysis of all parliamentary documents relating to the new law on sexual violence and interviews with key actors involved in the process of lawmaking. We highlight three effects of this cultural repertoire on the Dutch legal reform of sexual violence: 1) it allowed specific types of actors to play a more central role in legal reform; 2) it shaped how actors and organizations defend their interests; and (3) it shaped how the role of sexual violence law was defined and communicated. What does making victims more central to legal reform on sexual violence entail concretely, and what tensions and resistance does this provoke? We argue that analyzing how this cultural repertoire informs lawmaking sheds a fundamental and original light on the politics around victimhood and sexual violence in the post #MeToo era.

Struggling With The Full Force Of The Law – 'Law Talk' As Critique Of #Metoo As Reproduction Of Gendered Domination

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In this essay, I critically examine the prevailing reliance on legal concepts in navigating the complex moral dimensions surrounding sexual violence, arguing that it may contribute to the reproduction of gendered domination. I build on two strands of literature and empirical data to justify my argument: Firstly, I explore the ways in which critiques aimed at discrediting the #MeToo movement, which I consider a contemporary manifestation of cultural narratives shaping the moral boundaries of sexual violence, frequently invoke legalistic concepts. For example, critics often invoke the idea of a 'witch hunt' or 'kangaroo court', referencing illicit quasi-legal procedures, contrasted with the perceived authority and privileged role assigned to institutionalized, legitimate legal settings. Secondly, I engage with socio-legal scholarship highlighting the potential inadequacies of employing legalistic 'law talk' in comprehending #MeToo and broader cultural dialogues on gender, power, and violence. I synthesize and extend these two strands of scholarly analysis and empirical insights, offering a theoretically anchored analysis of the consequences of a widespread reliance on legalistic discourse, considering our present knowledge about the dynamics of sexual violence The examination focuses on the cumulative victimization experienced primarily by women as well as sexual and ethnic minorities, considering the substantial objective and subjective barriers to attaining legal justice. In my analysis, I draw on feminist socio-legal scholarship, insights from Bourdieu's framework of practice theory as well as its subsequent feminist reception.

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket": The Postfeminist and Entrepreneurial Subject in Chinese Reality Dating Shows

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Intimate relationships are presented as personal business on reality dating shows. Dating contestants perceive intimate relationships as work, illustrating the growing influence of an entrepreneurial mindset on contemporary perspectives and personal lifestyle choices. The entrepreneurial self is framed as a project demanding a lifelong and all-encompassing process of transformation and upgrading. This paper explores the postfeminist and entrepreneurial subject embodied by female candidates on the reality dating show 'New Matchmaking Conference', produced by Jiangsu Satellite TV from 2019 to 2021. The data are derived from thematic analysis of the show and audience reception with 23 young women viewers in China during the Covid-19 pandemic. Audience reception research combines texts-in-action viewing sessions and in-depth interviews to capture not only the live moments of TV engagement but also the viewers' reflection on the entrepreneurial subject depicted on dating shows. The paper has summarized three key themes that collectively construct the entrepreneurial subject: 1) the middle-class imagination; elucidating the bourgeois taste and lifestyle presented by dating candidates; 2) the aspiration for a 1+1>2 relationship; reflecting the expectation for an 'ideal' relationship where both parties maximize mutual benefit, emphasizing that relationships and marriage serve as avenues for self-optimization; and 3) "Don't put all your eggs in one basket", outlining the calculating and precarious subject who engages in the (unpaid) labour of self-branding, curating a positive persona, and publicizing social media accounts on the show. This paper contributes both empirically and theoretically to the existing literature on the postfeminist and entrepreneurial subjectivity, offering insights into how postfeminism and neoliberalism are lived, experienced, and represented.

RN33 | T06_04: Gender, the Life Course, Families and Care

Reconstruction of Grandfathers' Fathering in Turkey: Masculinity, Family, Work

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This study delves into the often-overlooked realm of caregiving roles shouldered by Turkish grandfathers, providing a nuanced exploration of the intricate interplay between masculinity, family dynamics, and the delicate equilibrium of work and life. Against a societal backdrop associating caregiving primarily with females, the research aims to illuminate alternative gender constructs in the Turkish context. It focuses on pivotal moments where traditional masculinity confronts challenges, including crises and periods of assuming primary childcare responsibilities, employing a multifaceted methodology for a comprehensive perspective. The research foundation is established through a qualitative synthesis of existing literature on fathering, gender, and nontraditional family structures. This groundwork is complemented by in-depth interviews with a diverse cohort of Turkish grandfathers, facilitating the exploration of their narratives and the identification of recurring themes. Narrative analysis, a critical component of the methodology, deepens understanding at the intersection of gender, family, and work. Contrary to prevailing assumptions relegating Turkish grandfathers to auxiliary roles in childcare, the study challenges these notions, revealing that they do not assume mothering responsibilities. Instead, societal perceptions often stereotype them into roles like the "baby entertainer" or "part-time father" — essentially, as mothers' helpers. By challenging stereotypes, the study underscores the diverse and evolving nature of caregiving among Turkish grandfathers, significantly contributing to understanding masculinity within Turkish familial and societal contexts. Furthermore, it interrogates societal resistance to nontraditional gender roles, aiming to uncover how these resistances are generated and perpetuated in the fabric of everyday life in Turkey.

Exploring Practice of Relational Agency in Living Apart Together Relationships

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This paper takes a relational approach to examine how agency is developed and negotiated through the practice of living apart together (LAT) relationships. China's dramatic socio-economic transformations over the past few decades have witnessed a growing diversity in people's intimate relationships and personal lives. At the same time, a heterosexual couple living with their dependent children remains the most prevalent living arrangement in contemporary Chinese society. In-depth interviews with 35 LAT women at different life stages with contrasting socio-economic profiles were conducted to explore why they ended up living apart from their partners. The analysis shows how people's agency in living a desired co-residential partnership intersects closely with practices of gender, social norms about family values, and their life stages as circumstances and contexts change. In the split households that are a result of structural constraints, people tend to be 'forced' to live separately from their partner, and family life is essentially shaped surrounding the gendered family roles and maintained through gender inequalities. Couples living apart can also be a personal choice. There is a rise in individualism and reflexivity, especially among the young generation, in making sense of changes in their personal lives, while social and cultural expectations of female roles in Chinese society are particularly strong. This empirical-based study on LAT relationships provides an important insight into the interaction between individualism and familism and argues that practice of agency is conditioned by intersections between social circumstances, gender roles, and relational bonds with others.

Masculinities: Care, Privilege and Trust Explored with Ageing Czech Men

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Exploring social inequalities based on gender and age still presents a challenge in intersectional analytical perspective. The paper presents work-in-progress findings from a qualitative sociological study on the institutions of ageing men. Fieldwork is based on face-to-face interviews with (ageing) men in several social settings in the Czech Republic. Using a critical analytical perspective and grounded in feminist methodology, this paper compares and explores the themes of care, privilege, and trust – or lack of any or all thereof – among two groups of communication partners. These are graduates of courses designed to reflect on masculinity (mostly urban, upper-middle-class men in their middle adulthood) and users of transition homes (older men in shelters for homeless people designed for single overnight stays). Intersections of age and gender and their various conceptualisations provide diverse implications for the topics of care – provided and received (being cared for) – in these social settings. Analysis of 27 interview transcripts opens up issues related to care, such as trust in institutions and one's own capabilities to bring about desired change, respectively, preventing change from happening. It helps us understand continuity as well as change and transitions in their lives connected to age and gender. It points out the reproduction of privileges and inequalities within groups of men and normative expectations related to masculinities. And it aims to bring further understanding to the gender and age related perspectives on care in broader social and analytical terms of continuity and change in the gender order.

(Un)changing Masculinities: Mineworker Men's Everyday Lives after Retirement

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This presentation explores the construction of retired mineworkers' masculinities, focusing on the dynamics that evolve during increased free time post-retirement and daily life practices. The masculinities of the working class in mining cities have undergone changes through two processes since the 1980s: privatizations and early retirements. Mineworker masculinities in Zonguldak, one of Turkey's significant mining cities, are no exception. Despite the deindustrialization process, Zonguldak maintains its identity as a "mining city", and the impact of mining masculinity persists. The study investigates how the extended free time post-retirement influences the gender identities and performances of mineworkers, who have shaped their masculinity through years of demanding work. In-depth interviews with 15 retired mineworkers in Zonguldak reveal that retirement brings both opportunities and crises. Opportunities include specialization in other fields or applying mining skills elsewhere at early ages. However, crises arise from the perception of a labor-intensive skill becoming idle, leading to a sense of uselessness in a still active life. Overall, daily life after retirement is imbued with meaning derived from the mining profession and identity, with an effort to maintain a heroic masculinity that endures beyond retirement.

RN33 | T07_01: Violence Against Women and Women's Voices

What is the Impact of Women's Movements on Policies to Prevent Violence against Women? A Comparative Study Set against Political and Social Change in Spain and Italy

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Actions to counter violence against women are a fully-fledged policy field with significant differences across countries. Through a comparative analysis of Spain and Italy since the 1980s, this presentation maps the interplay between women's movements and national governments in launching violence against women (VAW) policies. In Spain, policy formation was the outcome of dual feminist–socialist activism, leading to dialogue between movements and the government. In Italy, movements opposed the government from the outside. In both countries, the critical factor inciting responsiveness on VAW was not one single variable but a mixed combination of political opportunity, movement identity, dedicated women's state agencies, and the soft power of international institutions. Today, as the narrative on VAW spreads globally, the interplay with national governments may serve to increase knowledge about the role and impact of women's movements on this, and other policy issues.

Combating Violence Against Women: An Examination of the Struggles of Women's NGOs in Turkey

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Violence against women (VAW) is a pressing social problem in Turkey, and despite policies implemented since 2007 through National Strategies and Action Plans, there are notable deficiencies in prevention. It is imperative to assess the effectiveness of current policies and practices in addressing women's needs, evaluating achievements, and identifying obstacles and gaps from stakeholders' viewpoints.

While the number of cases of violence against women is increasing in Turkey, many different policies and practices

have been developed and implemented to combat violence against women. The question then arises: Why do these practices and policies fail to reduce the number of cases of violence against women? This presentation, part of a nationally representative research in Turkey, will discuss why current practices, legislation and policies are insufficient from the perspective of women's NGOs. Women's NGOs, which are important actors in the fight against violence against women, are in a position to observe and know both sides of women subjected to violence and the state institutions responsible for their protection. Because of this position, they are well-placed to identify shortcomings and inadequacies in the field of combating violence against women. For this reason, focus group discussions were held with 34 women's NGOs selected from 12 different provinces in Turkey. According to the results of the discussions, state institutions have generally lost the perspective of working with women's NGOs. They carry out the State-NGO cooperation as specified in the National Action Plans with the selected women's NGOs that align with the government's political orientation and support its policies.

Women's Perspectives on Achievements, Challenges and Gaps in VAW Policy and Implementation in Turkey

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This presentation is based on a national-level research project that aims to evaluate policies and practices in combating violence against women through a gap analysis method to identify the achievements, obstacles, and gaps in policies and practices to combat VAW in Turkey. Based on the results of our research, this presentation will highlight the experiences of women who have been subjected to domestic violence. It adopts the feminist model, which recognizes women's strength, resilience, and agency, and seeks to achieve the goals of women's empowerment and self-determination. In this context, the main findings of qualitative data obtained from semi-structured in-depth interviews with 36 women in 12 provinces of NUTS-1 statistical regions of Turkey are evaluated. The research includes women from diverse backgrounds, but a common characteristic of the participants is that they have experienced violence within their nuclear family, extended family, and intimate relationships. According to the main findings of the interviews, there is a need to raise awareness of the current gender inequality, provide social and economic support to women, and revise existing policies not only in response to violence but also with a preventive focus on violence. These findings, presented from the perspective of women who have experienced violence, will contribute to the improvement of existing policies and services related to combating VAW in Turkey, taking into account the needs and characteristics of these women. It is emphasized that the perspectives of these three prominent institutions – the family, the state, and women's NGOs – in preventing and combating violence are far from developing a comprehensive approach to VAW without taking into account women's experiences.

What Does It Mean "Gender Approach" In Studies and Policies On VAW?

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The proposal aims to discuss continuity and changes in definitions and social representations on gender-based violence, and namely on male violence against women (vaw), as defined in sociological debates as well as by policies and public discourses in Italy.

During the last five decades, the adoption of a gender approach has been consolidated to understand violence against women, defining it as a structural phenomenon located within the social structure of relations between women and men. Oriented towards women's suffering and agency, this approach crosses European as well as Italian policies, at least at narrative level (Schwartz 1997; Creazzo 2008, Corradi, 2006, Pietrobelli et al., 2020). On the other hand, the evolution of the debate on gender issues under the name of equality has originated approaches based on gender symmetry (Straus, 2014), such as those found in some Nordic countries. Both these narratives are also connected to situated discourses, characterised by tensions and continuities in gendered social orders at local, national and transnational level.

Based on ongoing researches in the Italian context, we propose an interpretation of the evolution of definition of vaw considering three areas of analysis:

– the policies supporting women in situations of violence, in particular those related to socio-economic empowerment measures;

– the mobilizations across the country, following the feminicide of a young woman in 2023;

– generational changes in stereotypes of gender roles, masculinity, femininity and violence, collected both from qualitative studies conducted in 2024 and the survey published by Istat in 2023.

RN33 | T07_02: Women's Activism

Inter-Generational Gender Patterns: Disabled Women's Shifting Feminist Discourses

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Despite being one of the largest and most diverse minorities in the world, disabled women face intersectional discrimination that is under-researched. This oversight extends to neglecting the knowledge generated by disabled women activists within sociology. To address these epistemic gaps, which also persist in Women's and Gender Studies, a critical examination of the history of discrimination against disabled women and the production of knowledge by them is necessary. Furthermore, such scrutiny is crucial for understanding the gendered discrimination faced by marginalized populations in neoliberal and patriarchal societies. This paper aims to address some of these omissions by exploring the inter-generational knowledge-making processes related to the conceptualization of feminism and the interconnected concept of gender, as advocated by disabled women and their allies. The empirical foundation of this exploration is based on the advocacy efforts of leading disability organizations led by Polish women over the past two decades. These organizations have critically engaged with dominant exclusionary discourses in Poland and Eastern Europe regarding gender, identity, citizenship, and agency. Therefore, their contributions can be framed as 'new feminist activism.' Additionally, this paper contributes to discussions on the 'generations of feminism,' highlighting how changing economic, political, and cultural contexts shape the approaches to conceptualizing feminism and gender among representatives of women-led disability organizations of different ages.

Women Empowered as Active Agents For The Living Together Of Their Communities

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In contemporary societies, women, irrespective of age, cultural background, educational path, or socio-economic status, drive diverse empowerment processes globally. Their leadership in these endeavors enhances agency and amplifies voices in social spheres crucial to their lives, families, and communities.

This communication highlights outcomes from the All Women project, titled "Empowering all women through adult education for sustainable development" (2021-2024). Funded by the State Research Agency of the Ministry of Science and Innovation as part of the State R&D&I Plan addressing societal challenges, the project aims to analyze actions in adult learning (formal and non-formal) that empower women in vulnerable situations. It seeks to provide scientific evidence of their social impact while identifying replicable and transferable characteristics.

The paper specifically delves into a case study exploring women's involvement in a successful educational initiative, the Dialogic Scientific Gathering, and their contributions to the development of a dialogic model of conflict prevention and resolution in an urban preschool and primary education setting. The study finds that women engaged in the Dialogic Scientific Gathering played a pivotal role in mobilizing other families to implement the Dialogic Model of Conflict Prevention and Resolution in the community. They actively participated in dialogue spaces, offering evidence-based arguments for social impact, fostering unity, and contributing to improved coexistence in the school community.

This paper reflects on the transformative effects of women's participation in community processes, underscoring their role as social agents shaping and influencing the social contexts in which they participate.

"My Body Speaks My Ideology" – Expressions Of Participation And leadership Among The Girls Active In The Protests In Israel.

Sigal Oppenhaim – Shachar

Bar Ilan university, Israel

The current protests in Israel provide a fertile ground for tracing the power that motivates adolescence girls and documenting different narratives of defiance of power and leadership, some of which are embodied.

In light of the fact that there is no universal experience of girls, we have to look for components of safe spaces that allow them sense of power and autonomy. That is, to examine how intersections of identity positions alongside cultural contexts and reality circumstances allow some of the girls to become active and to explore their leadership ability.

From the analysis of the findings collected through semi-structured interviews and focus groups with girls aged 16-18, it appears that the girls experience the activity itself and the demonstration arenas, as safe spaces. This is mainly because they can exhibit defiance through their body, the same female body with all that is embodied in it, which from their point of view, the current government, strives to have them hide.

And so, it is interesting to see how the body, shape, clothing and gestures, express narratives of active participation. Coupled with highlighting their femininity, they position themselves in the arenas of protest, reclaiming an expression of power that is mostly perceived as masculine.

Footprints of Protest Masculinity in the Little Square of Agonies: Avatar Aesthetics, Incels, and Manospheric "Neo-realities"

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This research explores the manifestation of protest masculinity within the incel community, specifically examining avatars as a unique form of self-expression and community-setting. Through an analysis of avatar self-portrayals sourced from the incel website incel.is, our aim is to reveal the political potential of aesthetics in shaping the identities of incels, considering the structuring role of erotic capital. These avatars, infused with distinct qualities, establish a profound connection with their subjects, transforming into visual practices that facilitate both self and communitarian ideological and political expressions. Diverging from the conventional emphasis on class-related aspects of protest masculinity, this study analyzes incels' aesthetic expressions as a creative form of social manifesto, providing a distinctive approach to understand their critics about "sexual agony" or male-loneliness within the context of gender-radicalization.These avatars function as pathways for subjectivation and politicization, simultaneously "cursing" and envying the hegemonic beauty standards for men. Conducting a comprehensive thematic and visual analysis of about 1000 avatar photos, our research delves into the intricate interplay between graphical and thematic choices. This investigation unveils the volatile dimension of incel-collectivity by studying their pictural agenda and choices, as well as their contribution to the emergence of digital protest masculinities. The findings accentuate the pivotal role of avatars in reshaping incels' realities into what can be termed as "neo-realities," elucidating how these choices actively reshape visual narratives surrounding incel-culture. Consequently, this study illuminates the nuanced ways in which such choices extend beyond a simple individual expression, carrying broader socio-political implications and identifications. It provides valuable insights into discussions on masculinity, identity construction, and the socio-political landscape.

RN33 | T07_03: Beyond the Binarism

The Binary Of Sex And Gender As Common Sense? Transformations And Continuities

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In the Western world, the certainty of sex and gender in the sense of male and female as unambiguous, natural, and unchangeable is reflected in the assumption that there are two and only two sexes and that the genitals provide information about the sex. We know that intersex people exist who do not fit that binary.

Furthermore, gender is deemed innate and unchangeable because of an understanding that it is grounded in the body.

In my presentation, I will discuss how this 'naturalness' of sex and gender shifts, transforms, and continues when a child receives an intersex diagnosis and no longer fits into the (medical) binary system of male and female. My findings are based on my research on the everyday experiences of parents of intersex children in Germany. For this I conducted narrative interviews with parents and analyzed them using grounded theory methodology.

In a society where the dichotomy of sex is an unquestionable fact, parents with an intersex child have to figure out how to integrate "intersex" into their knowledge. The self-identification of the child becomes the decisive factor for the parents to identify their child's gender. The parents try to identify the child's self-identification by analyzing their child's preferences when it comes to playing, colors or behavior. While becoming reflective about gender, the parents are still looking for gender-biased behavior. Also, they still see gender as something innate and unchangeable, because they believe that identity is grounded in the body. I will argue, that the parent's common sense of sex and gender change, but that the concept of unambiguity, naturalness and the unchangeable of sex and gender still persists.

Transphobia Beyond Waves: Interrogating Feminist Genealogies

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'Generation' typically evokes specific historical periods or age cohorts, and has, in Western feminist epistemologies and feminist organising, often been employed in problematic ways through the notion of 'waves' of increasingly progressive feminism. Generation is often invoked as a

shorthand to delineate feminism's 'bad objects' (Nash and Pinto, 2020, 2023), demarcating political and epistemic boundaries through negative affects and a presumption of intergenerational conflict. Such antagonisms can work to elide the many complex relations, overlapping interests and intersectional alliances between and within generations. We explore the usefulness of the notion of 'generation' in relation to thinking about trans-exclusionary feminism in the UK and Spain. It is perhaps tempting to dismiss TERFs as outdated, old-fashioned, and soon to be confined to the dustbin of history. But this fails to respond to the ongoing influence of their rhetoric in the present moment and the entrenchment of trans exclusionary ideas in political discourse and policy. It also fails to do the uncomfortable work of reckoning with the history of Western feminisms' entanglements with 'fasciant themes' (Lewis and Seresin, 2022), and the ways in which forms of exclusion, including racism and transphobia, structure certain aspects of Western feminism. We trace the exclusionary history which prefigured the present TERF influence, and examine the seemingly 'strange alliances' between feminists and right-wing/far-right. We then explore forms of accountability to one another that do not depend on tropes of intergenerational antagonism, and thus can reckon with feminist complicities whilst working towards more fully liberatory trans-inclusive feminist futures.

Intersex people and transformative research agendas: Findings from the Intersex – New Interdisciplinary Approaches (INIA) Research programme

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Loughborough University, United Kingdom

Intersex people and people with variations of sex characteristics frequently face social erasure, discrimination, and stigmatisation. Intersex minors in many countries still experience non-consensual and medically unnecessary medical interventions such as clitoral reductions, which often leave them traumatised and with serious long term health issues. Intersex people's suffering is a result of intersecting forces, including sex/gender binarism, body normativity, and ageism (as irreversible interventions are carried out on young children because of adult's prejudices). There are severe tensions between medical practitioners who continue with practices that are shown to have high risk of harm, human rights advocates and intersex activists who condemn early non-vital interventions, and parents, who may or may not have normative ideas about their children. Intersex people and those with variations of sex characteristics experience specific sexuality-related and gender – lelated harms and issues, which are often absent from Sociological discussions; this presentation will outline some of them.

Intersex people are subjected to epistemic injustice by non-intersex people (including medics and social scientists) who build careers in the fields of DSD (Disorders of Sex Development) and/or intersex studies without engaging in impactful work to support medical and social reform. The Intersex: New Interdisciplinary Approaches (INIA) international research programme was an attempt to counter this. It was funded by the European Commission (2020-2024) to deliver 10 original research projects. INIA https://www.intersexnew.co.uk/ drew on aspects of Participative Action Research methodologies Topics included issues of gender, older intersex people, activism, equality and diversity, healthcare, cultural representations, human rights frameworks and ethical research methodologies. This presentation provides an overview of some key projects and findings.

Generational Shifts in Young Women's and Nonbinary People's Accounts of Sexual Harassment

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The #metoo movement and various other social media campaigns have made sexual harassment increasingly visible in recent years. Such collective practices of naming and thereby resisting sexual harassment have been made possible by feminist discourses that have enabled the linking of personal experiences to gendered social structures. In our presentation, we examine temporal shifts in young people's accounts of sexual harassment based on two datasets generated by 15–16-year-old girls and nonbinary people which were collected 20 years apart (2000 and 2021) in Finland. We present the results of an analysis that drew on poststructuralist discourse theory, intersectionality and Sara Ahmed's writings on complaints in exploring the young people' positions in relation to sexual harassment in the two datasets. We show how in the 2000 dataset, the participants emphasized individual agency and responsibility, whereas in the 2021 dataset, they acknowledged gendered and intersectional patterns in victimization and actively resisted victim-blaming and silencing. Therefore, the positions the participants held in the two datasets differ specifically in the extent to which they are informed by feminist discourses and the extent to which sexual harassment is seen as warranting and legitimating complaint. We conclude our presentation by discussing the possibility of reading this pattern as an indication of generational shifts in young people's capabilities to recognize and criticize sexual harassment in their everyday lives.

RN33 | T07_04: Men and Masculinities Between Modernity and Late Modernity

Navigating Anonymity: Tracing Provincial Masculinities through Rental Car Consumption in Anatolian Towns in Turkey

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This study traces how provincial masculinities are performed and reproduced in provincial conservative contexts by looking at the rent-a-car consumption practices of local consumers in Konya, Turkey. Cars constitute a private mobile space in modern urban settings and contribute to the construction of hegemonic masculinities through daily routines, intertwining notions of freedom, privateness, and visibility within the fabric of car cultures in the modern era. However, especially within conservative and tightly-knit provincial urban environments, where the daily whereabouts of community members are closely under surveillance paradoxically, the privacy of the car becomes public through this gaze. Hence, owning a car in these environments entails a compromise of freedom. The preliminary findings suggest that rental cars also serve the anonymity needs of the local notables when they transgress the moral boundaries of the community to gain their freedom. Connell and Kimmel argue that masculinities undergo changes influenced by culture and geography to gain community approval. In this framework, through rental cars, provincial masculinities opt to forsake recognition, a predominant aspect of masculinities and car cultures. The vehicle becomes a temporal negotiation zone between freedom and visibility in the daily construction of provincial masculinities. This article employs an ethnographic approach, utilizing semi-structured interviews with rent-a-car proprietors and their clients in Konya. It seeks to trace the dichotomies inherent within these contexts, such as moments of anonymity/visibility, publicness/privateness, and transience/permanence. This exploration aims to unearth the nuanced dynamics of masculinities within these settings while delineating the intersections between conservatism, temporality, and anonymity.

Lost Boys or Uncooperative Immigrants? – Intersectional Analysis of Constructions of Accountability in the Online Discourses on “Street Gangs” in Finland

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University of Helsinki, Finland

This paper analyses how the online audience discuss youth street gangs in Finland, a topic that has gathered a considerable amount of public attention and concern in recent years. The public discussions have been clearly gendered and racialised, with young immigrant men as the main culprits, and the gangs have been constructed as a threat to Finnish values and national security. The data consists of comments to news articles about street gangs, collected from three Finnish online media sites (hs.fi, yle.fi; svenska.yle.fi). The analysis combines critical discursive psychology with an intersectional approach, and explores how accountability is constructed in lay discourse online; a perspective that has been left somewhat unattended in discursive research on this topic. This combined theoretical and methodological approach allows the analysis to simultaneously shed a light on the interactional level discursive work in the online environment, as well as on the structural level societal discourses that shape these everyday meaning-makings. The analysis shows how intersectional categorisations, such as age, class, gender, race, and ethnicity are mobilised to construct accountability for various actors, ie. society, family and the individual. Moreover, it shows how the sense-making around youth street gangs rely on national historical narratives that shape understandings of proper gendered citizenship. In practical terms, the question of accountability has implications on what is seen as proper reactions and measures to combat the problem. Moreover, the discourses can be mobilised to legitimise exclusion and control of those considered to belong to the outgroup.

Exploring the Manosphere’s Discourse on Prostitution: Unraveling Masculine Self-Perceptions

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The changes in masculine subjectivation in late modernity and the crisis of neoliberal subject cultures can trigger authoritarian reactions. From a gender sociological perspective, the reference to traditional ideals of masculinity is particularly relevant in this context. The emergence of the so-called Manosphere can be considered as a manifestation of these developments. With reference to Connell’s work on Hegemonic Masculinity we understand this as a defence of a masculine self-perception whose hegemony is perceived as being threatened.

Especially the engagement of the Manosphere with the topic of prostitution offers an often-unrealised potential to elaborate implicit masculine self-perceptions. Therefore, we focus on how the interpretation of prostitution by actors in the Manosphere is accompanied by discourses of subjectivation. Our presentation addresses the gender images within the framework of a sociological discourse analysis of postings from a client forum, as well as one key online forum each of the so-called Incels and Men Going Their Own Way. We identify central themes of gender-related understandings of subjects and further interpret them through a fine-grained sequential analysis.

In terms of Hegemonic Masculinity, we can point to three particularly relevant self-perceptions. Firstly, the attempt to defend masculinity through the exertion of power over women. This manifests through blatant misogynistic degradation and the objectification of women. Secondly, the declaration of a claim to women, framing sex and affection as obligations women must fulfil for men. Finally, masculinity is defended by asserting independence from women, with prostitution being rejected from a standpoint of superior morality.

Analysing the Construction and Impact of Visual Discourse in Loyalist Communities through the Lens of Masculinity.

Paula Ellen Surgenor

Ulster University, United Kingdom

This paper seeks to decipher mechanisms that are operating within iconography, and furthermore examine how the material is deployed, within residing communities of Northern Ireland through the lens of masculinity. Although many academics have touched upon discourses of masculinity to explain the underpinnings and perpetuation of conflict, there are inchoate understandings in relation to Northern Irish visual material. This is perhaps surprising given, even at first glance, the obvious masculinity-related themes of guns and militarism depicted in the murals of key actors and events from the conflict and in the banners, flags and insignia that are so prevalent in many local areas. This research focuses on the production and display of such powerful visual material and explores the extent to which it can be viewed as gendered. By focusing on gender, the research seeks to highlight the potential of this dynamic for understanding and responding to common forms of sectarian or politically motivated behaviour.

Visual material can represent a device for understanding sectarian and gendered behaviour and provide a means to decipher the function of power and control in local communities. This research will examine how these depictions can illustrate assumptions of power and appeal to militarized masculine tendencies which mobilise and amplify the scope and scale of Loyalist agency. The research will therefore explore how the construction and deployment of such identities can pose serious implications for community relations and the perpetuation of endemic sectarianism and segregation in Northern Ireland's post conflict environment.

RN33 | T08_01: Gender and Socialization

Resistance And Hierarchies In Mealtime Conversations. An Ethnography Of Power And Care In Family Socialisation

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The image of families happily eating together, having conversations, is a pervasive ideal across many societies in the Global North. Family mealtime conversations – also called commensal communication – are viewed positively and have been associated with social and health benefits, but few studies have investigated the way they enfold and are regulated. This study examined how family members managed and took part in mealtime conversations, and how different gendered, class-based, and cultural norms of family life, fatherhood, and motherhood shaped communication. Based on 90 hours of in person observations in 14 households across France and Australia and interviews with parents, this ethnographic study examined how family members engaged or disengaged from commensal conversations and how table talk was regulated. The data was analysed using grounded theory (Charmaz, 2014). Goffman's work on the 'territories of the self' in social interactions and his theories about conversational territories (1971) supported our analysis and allowed us to focus on regulation and power relationships in mealtime conversations and on their articulation with relationships of care (Tronto, 2008). Unequal and hierarchical gendered relationships were thus observed during mealtime conversations. The commensal communication reinforced the fathers as custodians of parental authority and the mothers as guardians of egalitarian relationships between siblings, of family cohesion and of children's health and wellbeing. Mealtime conversations were built around children, but they were also seen showing resistance and engaging on their own terms and according to their age-related capabilities. The management of conversations repositioned parents in traditional roles of domestic care and power relationships.

Gender Regime of Kindergarten

Svetlana Radovic

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Commencing with the theories of reflexive modernization and patriarchy, this paper examines the nexus between the process of individualizing gender roles and the transmission of patriarchal patterns within the framework of gender socialization at an early age. The focus is specifically

on kindergarten, recognized as a pivotal institutional agent of socialization. Participant observation is employed as the primary method to investigate this relationship. Trained students served as observers during their two-week internships, observing gender-oriented interactions among children and between children and educators in kindergartens located in Novi Sad, Serbia. Qualitative and quantitative analyses of meticulously recorded field notes indicate that 72% of the total observed gender-oriented interactions (378) perpetuated a traditional pattern of gender roles. Gender-stereotyped interactions pervade all facets of kindergarten activities, including learning, play, and everyday routines. Children exhibit a greater tendency to replicate the traditional pattern of gender roles in their interactions compared to teachers interacting with children, with boys displaying this tendency more frequently than girls. Preschool teachers, in responding to gender-stereotyped interactions among children, predominantly rectify children's behavior in alignment with stereotypical roles. Furthermore, the majority of the limited instances where children challenged stereotypical gender roles resulted in their subsequent alignment with the stereotypical gender role following the reaction of teachers or other children. The findings of the study suggest that the gender regime within kindergartens perpetuates a patriarchal pattern of gender roles, and instances of individualizing gender roles are infrequent.

Gender Inequality and Their Determinants in Physical Activity Involvement Among Adolescents in Spain

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Introduction. Engagement in physical activity during adolescence has a plethora health and social benefits. Nevertheless, adolescents decrease their physical activity as they grow older, especially females.

Objective. To understand physical activity habits among adolescents and possible gender inequalities and their determinants.

Methodology. With the usage of different neighbourhoods of Madrid and Bilbao, a Z index was constructed, stratifying the neighbourhoods of these two cities into three socioeconomic tertiles: low, medium and high. Once the neighbourhoods were ranked from the highest to the lowest level, 5 neighbourhoods of each city were selected according to their socio-economic status.

Educational centres in the selected neighbourhoods were studied; 36 semi-structured interviews were carried out, of which 12 were with key informants. Furthermore, 24 focus groups were conducted, 6 with students, 12 with teachers and 6 with parents. These techniques were applied proportionally in the two studied cities.

Results. In addition to indicators such as social class, gender has been highlighted as key determining physical activity habits. Female students decrease their participation in formal sports both outside and inside schools, as opposed from their male counterparts. Lower socioeconomic respondents suffer a steeper decline due to burden of caregiving.

Conclusions. Understanding the reasons for gender inequality in physical activity participation among adolescents can

Gender and Care between Bonus/ step-grandparents and Bonus/ step-grandchildren

Linn Alenius Wallin

Lund University, Sweden

Almost half of all divorced Swedes are aged 60+ and many of them are, or have been, part of a reconstituted family. This increases the probability of having (or to be a) bonus/ step-grandchild and raises the question:

How does the caregiving dynamic between bonus-grandparents and bonus-grandchildren intersect with gender and life situation, unraveling the intricate threads that weave through familial relationships in later life?

The data consists of in-depth interviews (and diaries, lifelines, concentric circles, and drawing exercises) with bonusgrandchildren (n13) and bonusgrandparents (n13) who´s bonus-relations departs from re-partnering as well as family of choice.

Building on Mason´s (1996) concepts of care, I argue that the disproportionate caregiving burden previously in life diminishes women's willingness of care for bonus-grandchildren, while for men caring is conceptualized as an opportunity to redress previously missed chances for engaging in caregiving activities. An additional argument is that when informants engage in joint caregiving as a couple, the care of bonus-grandchildren is viewed as a means of fortifying the relationship. Conversely, when caregiving is carried out separately to separate sets of grandchildren it competes with time allocated for the couple.

In the context of bonus-grandchildren assuming caregiving roles, I observed that the interviewed girls articulate their involvement in providing both emotional and practical care to their bonus-grandparents. In contrast, the boys in the study predominantly characterize their caregiving contributions in terms of practical assistance. This research underscores gender-specific patterns in children's caregiving roles, shedding light on distinct dimensions of practical and emotional support within the familial caregiving dynamic. This research contributes to a nuanced understanding of how gendered caregiving dynamics shape intergenerational relationships in reconstituted families and families of choice.

RN33 | T08_02: Generations

Sentient Dependencies in "the Most Individualised Country in the World". Rethinking Generation, Gender and Care in Sweden.

Sara Eldén, Terese Anving, Linn Alenius Wallin

Lund university, Sweden

This paper discusses the possibilities of rethinking the narrative of how intergenerational relations have developed throughout history in Sweden, focusing specifically on how to understand dependency between generations in a family. We argue that the dominant narrative of "decline in family care between generations" has taken its point of departure in an understanding of in/dependence that rests substantially on the notion of the autonomous individual. Care responsibilities being taken over by the state has been equated with an idea of an overall independence of significant others.

The paper departs from a study of care biographies, with interviews from three generations of Swedes – women and men born in the 1940-50s, in the 1960-70s, and girls and boys born in the 2000s (63 informants). These narratives are analysed through the theoretic lenses of personal life (Smart 2007, 2009; May & Nordqvist 2019), relationality (Mason 2004; Twamley et al. 2021:4; May 2015; Nilsen 2021), and care as "sentient activities" (Mason 1996); perspectives that places the reflexive social self at the centre and enables the capturing of the multi-dimensionality of relationships. The analysis shows that the expansion of the welfare state has transformed care doings between generations in ways that have enabled simultaneously independence, particularly for women, but also new forms of dependence, less informed by economic necessity but often just as strong or demanding as economic ties – sometimes constraining, sometimes positively affirming – as people continue to be embedded in webs of relationships to kin (Smart 2007:23).

Profiles Of Oppression In The Inter – And Intra-Generational Female Chain

Ignazia Bartholini

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In today's sex/gender system (Rubin 1974) there are still residues of that oppression that we consider as an invisible barrier that prevents women from expressing their needs for identity affirmation in private, professional and public life.

The challenge imposed on women in combining tradition and postmodernity translates into a "genuine club on the head" (Bartholini 2023). However, one wonders whether the elements that determine this oppression are not to be understood today as attributable to an emotional work (Hochschield 2011) of a matrilineal nature, rather than a late patriarchal one. And whether they can be traced back to significant female relationships of an intra – and intergenerational nature that guide women's habits and postures with latent forms of emotional blackmail.

The search results we propose to return, and based on 31 biographical interviews with professionals between 40 and 55 years old living in southern Italy, highlights how "female habits" are partly the product of a "gentle violence" perpetrating "in" the "inter – and intra-generational gynaeceum" (mothers, grandmothers, relatives and reference figures in various roles) of the interviewees.

The self-representations of the sample of interviewees, inspired by family-work conciliation, hide an oppressive configuration of models and habitus that imposed on the woman must be able to carry out her role as partner, mother and worker (perhaps even successful) and to carry out the functions foreseen by this same multiple role without failure (divorce, separation, loss of employment ecc.), under penalty of disapproval of one's "inter – and intra-generational female chain".

New Generations, Old Problems? Gendered Experiences Of Different Generations Of Women At A Hungarian University

Anikó Gregor, Ágnes Kövér-Van Til

Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary

Several recent studies confirm that European higher education institutions remain highly gendered and gender stratified (see, e.g. Drew & Canavan 2020, Rosa & Clavero 2022, Séllei 2015). In our presentation, we will complement the previous findings, coming from a mainly Western European context, with the research results at the largest public university in Hungary, a country with a heavy anti-liberal (Fodor 2022), reactionist-populist (Fraser 2017) gender regime. The research aimed to ground a Gender Equality Plan for the university to tackle the epistemic injustice (Clavero & Galligan, 2021) and, not only to identify the problems of those working in different faculties and positions in the organizational hierarchy but also to shed light on the experiences of the academic staff of different age groups about gender relations within the university. Our goal is to explore how the perception of gender problems and sensitivity to gendered interpersonal and institutional relations change among academics of different age groups. Preliminary findings confirm that younger female academics have stronger awareness of their gender-based disadvantages and they show higher level of competence to recognize adverse situations that limit their career chances. By contrasting the experiences of different age groups, our presentation also contributes to the debate on the sociological use of the concept of generation (Constanza et al., 2023), and does so from a gender perspective.

Tensions in Transnational Spaces – Gender, Generation, and Struggles over Female Autonomy

Anika Liversage

VIVE – the Danish Center for Social Science Research, Denmark

Over the past half century, migration from the Middle East to Western Europe has altered the composition of European populations and brought different understandings of gender into close contact. This paper explores tensions over the gender order in ethnic minority communities in a biographical perspective. Based on a larger interview material, I compare and contrast the life stories of two women, who arrived in Denmark from the Middle East as children. Following expectations, the women married at young ages, only to find themselves in relationships that were not only unhappy but also abusive. In Denmark, acceptance of divorce is high and female divorcees can survive either through working or through state support. Consequently, the two women were able to leave their husbands, but by doing so, they transgressed boundaries of socially acceptable female conduct. The paper explores the different ways in which both parents (particularly fathers), but also the broader ethnic minority community tried to force the two women back "in place". Strategies included harassment, ostracism as well as physical violence. The women's experiences bring out the sometimes-ferocious struggles over continuity and change in the gender order in transnational social spaces. Access to Danish support structures enabled the women to survive physically, but emotionally, the strains of being labelled as outcasts took a heavy toll. However, their experiences also motivated the women to work for establishing social spaces where divorced ethnic minority women can meet like-minded others, thereby contributing to increasing ethnic minority women's scope for agency in intimate matters.

RN33 | T08_03: Generations of Feminism

Intergenerational Difference Between Women from Different Generations and from Different Women's Organizations in Türkiye

Özge Konuralp

Middle East Technical University, Turkiye

The interviews held with 56 representatives of 25 different women's organizations, women's platforms/coalitions and digital platforms with diverse political standings (including secular, liberal, feminist/reformist, socialist, Kemalist and Islamic women's organizations) in Türkiye between 2020-2021 reveals that intergenerational difference emerges as one of the outstanding features between "older" and "younger" generation of women's approaches towards understanding of gender identity, feminism, intersectionality and organizational culture of women's organizations. Analysing the intergenerational difference, this study points out four important findings regarding the intergenerational difference between "older" and "younger" generations: 1) Young women are more eager to get organized in flexible and less institutionalized organizational models and from time to time this inclination is subject to criticisms of "older" generation of women in terms of not taking a long-term role in women's organizations and engage in conventional/traditional way of advocacy. 2) Young women problematize hierarchical and highly institutionalized organizational structures in women's organizations as well as hegemonic secular discourse in women's movement, have less "red lines" than the "older" generation in terms of being inclusive, and adopt a more liberal and "Queer" approach in terms of understanding of gender equality. 3) Young women put a great emphasis on "intersectionality" and the way in which they identify themselves as "feminist" goes beyond the normative and discursively "Western" hegemonic understanding of "feminism" and "being a feminist" which refers to a certain stereotype. 4) Intergenerational difference between "older" and "younger" generation of Muslim women from different women's organizations stand in a distinct position due to their unique feature of taking religious doctrines as a central context and addressing religious doctrines in their advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.

Generational Silences in Context – Orientations in Feminist Sociology over Local and Global, and Time and Space dimensions

Elina Oinas

University of Helsinki, Finland

This paper will discuss methodological challenges as feminist scholarship needs to identify new tools to detect gaps and silences. The paper takes its starting point in 1980s feminist sociology where listening to women's voices was a key theme (Oakley 1980, Stanley & Wise 1993, Ettorre 2022) and contrasts these debates with current queer and black feminist urge to take silences and silencing in white academia seriously. What does the trajectory in feminist scholarship mean in methodological terms when conducting qualitative research in different locations and when publishing internationally? How do we address power and epistemic "passing" in contemporary feminist social science tool kit? The paper will use student data from methodology class rooms as its data.

Registers of Hope: an Effort Towards Building Intergenerational Feminist Hope

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This paper explores the conditions of hope within feminist knowledge production in UK Higher Education. Feminist knowledge production, in its capacity to identify and work towards dismantling unequal power relations and injustice, is a site of ongoing work to produce more 'hope-full' relations and futures (Ahmed, 2014). But as a site of work, it is also subject to power imbalances, injustice, prejudice, and inequalities that structure neoliberal academia, including a reliance on casualised labour, citational politics, bullying or misconduct, and promotional inequalities. Fostering feminist hope thus requires a reckoning with hope's ambivalence and the (unequal and unjust) conditions under which it emerges, and which can work to dampen, grind down or extinguish it.

We understand feminist hope not as blind faith or passive inaction, but as a fundamentally relational and affective force which requires psychic and social work; the 'social relations of hope'. This paper explores how we recognise and seek to (re)produce feminist hope, value it, and equitably (re)distribute it, focussing on the forms of 'quiet hope' that can emerge among feminist scholars who work to foster everyday intellectual, emotional, and material hope with one another. In doing so, we unpack what feminist hope is contingent on and how we might nourish 'quiet hope' as a form of hopeful intergenerational relations and accountability that holds a capacity to simultaneously confront feminist complicities in injustice working towards more fully liberatory and 'hope-full' feminist futures.

The Process of Achieving Adulthood in Perspective of Gender Differences. The Case of 30-year-old Poles.

Jolanta Grotowska-Leder

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

Transition from youth into adulthood is characterized with increasing complexity, fragmentation and differentiation in postmodern societies (Walther et al. 2001). This process is differentiated by structural factors such as gender, place of residence, family resources and also individual life choices. The aim of the paper is to characterize the difference of the process of achieving adulthood of Polish young adults. Basing on qualitative research findings with young adults (60 in-depth interviews) I want to confront women`s and man`s paths into adulthood. I answer four main questions: How do young adult women and man define and interpret adulthood? What life strategies do they undertake in terms of adult social roles: workers, intimate partners, parents? What are their expectations towards the social policy institutions? Answers to these questions result from the findings of the research project „Public policies for completed adulthood in Poland" conducted in 2015-2020 at the Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz and financed by the Polish National Science Centre of Poland.

RN33 | T08_04: Strategies of Resistance

Feminization of Survival and Counter-Strategies of R-Existence. A Case Study of Migrant Women Employed in the Sicilian Countryside

Monica Massari, Federica Cabras, Simona Miceli

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While early migration studies suffered from a strong gender bias, which overshadowed peculiarities of female forms of mobility, from the 1980s onward the emergence of the 'feminisation of migration' paradigm has addressed the growing visibility of women in contemporary global migration. A widespread approach, however, has been often that of 'adding women and stir' (Salih 2011), which has allowed to question the invisibility of women, but not to deconstruct gender neutrality in many migration theories. Moreover, the recurrent overlapping, in the public debate, between female forms of mobility and the sex market or the care sector has not only enhanced stereotyped forms of representation of migrant female workers, but also obscured their presence and role within other sectors, such as in the case of agriculture, a traditionally masculinized one. Based on the outcomes of a fieldwork carried out on the working and living conditions of migrant women employed in greenhouses in Sicily, this paper addresses the so-called feminisation of survival carried out by women of different generations, struggled between harsh conditions of exploitation, isolation and personal fragility and daily micro r-existence practices that allow them to resist and survive. The adoption of an intersectional approach allowed to shed light not only on process of multiple oppression, i.e. on the ways how gender, nationality, age, marital status, skin colour, legal status and other conditions are linked to different forms of oppression and exploitation, but also on the agency that individuals show on the basis of the social structures and conditions available.

Ecofeminist Critique to Development from the Perspective of the Mozambican Women

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Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

This paper is a part of a research about the ecofeminist critique to development from the standpoint of the Mozambican women. I started from a conceptual framework based on ecofeminist theory and a social-critical epistemological orientation. The methodological approach is qualitative, and I used focus group interviews as information-gathering technique with an intersectional approach: one with a group of academic and activists' women, and the other with a group of peasant women from Maputo province. I stated the problem in the following question: To what extent do ecofeminist critiques of development reflect the challenges and concerns of Mozambican women in Maputo province?

Like many African countries, Mozambique is undergoing a social, political, and economic crisis and the consequences of the global ecological catastrophe. The ecofeminist critiques of development can be summarized in four essential points: (1) the Western anthropocentric vision, which continues to define humanity's relationship with the planet and all the living and non-living beings that inhabit it; (2) the presence of androcentrism and misogyny in development thinking; (3) the development discourse as a patriarchal, colonial and capitalist product which adopts a predatory and extractive view of life, promoting global climate catastrophes; and (4) the profile of developmental extractivism in Africa combined with the specific ecological effects to which the continent is exposed, and their impact on women. I conclude that at a time when the country is dominated by neoliberal and extractivist capitalist policies, in which life is a privilege for some and not a right for all, I argue that ecofeminist critiques correspond to the concerns and challenges of these Mozambican women from different backgrounds. In the context of a globalized economy, where struggles are increasingly interdependent, there is a growing need for articulation and action from both the North and the South. As such, this paper aims to contribute to the collective construction of ecofeminist thinking and practices that emerge from a way of speaking and thinking about the world from southern Mozambique. It's the first time I would participate in the ESA summer school.

Muslim Women's Self-care as a Source of Agency and Resistance. Two case-studies from Italy

Giulia Mezzetti, Veronica Riniolo

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano, Italy

This paper examines forms of intersectional agency displayed by women originating from Muslim-majority countries (mainly Morocco and Egypt) residing in Italy, comprising first-generation migrants and their descendants. It does so by analysing different practices and spaces of resistance – namely, a private Facebook group reserved to Arabic-speaking women and an association – studied through the conduction of semi-structured interviews and observation (the fieldwork started in May 2023 and will end in March 2024). The first represents a virtual space for exchanging practical advice and moral support, which may turn into sources of empowerment, as women taking part in the exchanges encourage each other to emancipate (e.g. by sharing information on how to look for a job, study or acquire the driving license) and to speak out in the face of discrimination they experience, thus also expressing a form of voice (Hirschman 1970). The second, too, represents a powerful example of voice, as the association considered promotes an activity of sensibilization against domestic violence within the Muslim community and provides support to victims, defying taboos about gender roles and family

relations. We argue that these two cases are exemplary of how women who face intersectional discrimination can "take care" of their cause and shape repertoires of action to counter exclusion precisely by tapping into the factors which generate their marginalization – being young, women, Muslim. Besides, we interpret these two "claimed spaces" (Riniolo 2023) through feminist theories that consider the practice of self-care as a practice of resistance (Lorde 1988; Woodly et al. 2021).

Contours of Gender-Based Violence in the Global South: Towards a More Inclusive Approach

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Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global crisis with widespread consequences, impacting women across cultures, socioeconomic levels, and life stages. Despite the proliferation of GBV research and significant contributions from various disciplines, there is a disproportionate focus on the experiences of women from the Global North in shaping theories and knowledge, neglecting high rates of violence in the Global South, where women face both structural marginalization and ontological discrimination.

In response to the growing demand for research that considers diverse contexts, this paper moves beyond traditional agendas to seek innovative approaches to address and resist GBV. It provides reflections from two researchers engaged in autoethnographic projects. One project involves an author embarking on a fundraising pilgrimage to raise awareness for GBV, exploring transformative interactions with fellow pilgrims and local communities. In the other, the author delves into the ancestral experiences and perspectives of Afro-Amerindian women, revealing unique dimensions of their struggles and how they circumvent coloniality to resist contemporary subordination and silencing.

Embracing a transdisciplinary lens and departing from detached epistemic stances, the project advocates for new ways of understanding and transforming the world based on interdependence and relationality. This collaborative approach contributes to a more inclusive understanding of GBV within the context of contemporary mobilizations in Latin America, where intricate connections between violence, power, gender, race, and other intersections unfold. The paper also extends theoretical discourse, offering practical insights into how individuals and groups can collaborate across disciplines and institutions to broaden possibilities and create the conditions to effectively combat GBV globally.

RN33 | T09_02: Resistance to Women's Rights and Gender Equality Policies

Title Case: Discursive Strategies Legitimising Resistance to Gender Equality Policies in the University.

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AGH University; Faculty of Humanities, Poland

In recent years, equality policies have been implemented in European universities with the aim of ensuring equal treatment in structures, teaching and research. Three main types of equality policies at universities can be identified. These are policies targeting structural solutions, knowledge and institutions. Public reactions to the implementation of equality policies vary, one of which is resistance within and outside universities.

In this presentation, I would like to discuss the different discursive strategies that justify resistance to gender equality policies in the university. I conducted my research in 2021-2024 at one of the largest technical universities in Poland. The material I rely on in the presentation is the result of methodological triangulation: in-depth interviews, quantitative surveys with academic and administrative staff, students and PhD students, and content analysis of qualitative comments included in the surveys (a total of 3438 surveys with students, including PhD students, and 2001 surveys with staff). The research diagnosed experiences of gender inequality and expectations and opinions on various countermeasures.

In reconstructing the strategies justifying resistance to gender equality policies in universities, the analysis will highlight their intersectional determinants (age, position in the university structure, gender, type of solutions opposed). I want to show the connection between these strategies and the phenomenon of backlash and the increased activity of right-wing movements in Poland, as well as the masculinised organisational culture of the university, the neoliberal conception of science and the hierarchical structure of the university. The theoretical framework is rooted in Critical Discourse Analysis. The analysis of strategies of legitimisation helps to decode the relationship between language and ideology that justifies resistance to equality policies.

Re-masculinisation of Academia: a Historical Materialist Approach to Gendered Power Dynamics in Current Academic Capitalism

Helene Aarseth, Rebecca Lund

University of Oslo, Norway

Gender scholars have claimed that the shift to 'academic capitalism' (Slaughter and Leslie1997) and more market-oriented forms of governance and positional competition in academia instigates a process of re-masculinization (Aléman 2014).

While men and women are measured on the exact same performance criteria in the global knowledge economy, these processes of re-masculinisation operate in subtle, indirect, and complex ways.

Drawing on free-association narrative interviews with 48 professors, post docs and PhD candidates the humanities and social sciences at a university in Norway, this paper aims to further develop the conceptions of the dynamics involved in and driving these subtle forms of gender domination. More specifically, we explore how scholars handle the potential tensions between subjective emotional processes involved in creative scientific pursuits on the one hand and the requirement to do well in the positional competition on the other.

We argue that the gendered implications of current market-based forms of governance should be sought in different modes of emotionally informed ways of having and relating to the world. In order to account for this, we suggest that feminist historical materialism, a theoretical approach that gained traction in the 1980s and 1990s, may be retrieved and revised to shed light on new forms of gendered power dynamics in contemporary capitalism, in academia and beyond.

Anti-gender Appropriation of Feminist Abortion Discourse: Shifting the Human Rights Frame Through Affect

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Reproductive rights, abortion in particular, have been at the center of feminist activism and struggles for several decades. However, the landscape has shifted with the rise of neoconservative anti-feminist and anti-gender movements, reshaping public discourse on this topic. This paper delves into the discourse on abortion rights in Slovenia, a post-socialist country with a constitutional legacy of protecting reproductive rights. The objective is to analyse the ongoing debate by juxtaposing the framing of the topic by feminist and anti-gender actors, revealing frame repertoires in their narratives. We aim to complement existing studies that have analysed pro – and anti-abortion discoursive opportunities by exploring discourses in their relation to mobilization of affects. We draw upon empirical data obtained through a frame analysis of activist documents addressing abortion, covering the period 2010-2023. Preliminary findings indicate a prevalent framing of abortion as a human rights issue, embraced by both feminist and anti-gender actors, albeit with significant differences. While feminist actors frame abortion using assertive language, as women's right to self-determination, anti-gender discourses accentuate abortion as harmful, framing it as the right to life of unborn children. Unpacking these discoursive shifts we show how anti-gender actors strategically mobilize affects such as empathy, anger, frustration, and sadness, as mechanisms to legitimize and sustain pro-life positions. We point out that emotionally charged discoursive redefinitions are underpinned by deeply gendered hierarchies. This study contributes to contemporary scholarship by unravelling how anti-gender actors strategically employ an emotionally charged appropriation of discourse commonly associated with liberal movements.

Gender Inequalities In Women's Careers In Higher Education Institutions In Portugal

Fátima Assunção, Diana Maciel, Anália Torres, Paula Campos Pinto, Bernardo Coelho, Sara Merlini, Tânia Reigadinha

CIEG/ISCSP-ULisboa, Portugal

The debate on gender equality in higher education institutions has gained increased visibility in the public arena in Portugal in the last few years. This presentation discusses some of the results of a research project on gender equality in higher education institutions in Portugal, funded by EEA Grants. In particular, it focuses on the secondary analysis of national and comparative official statistics and the qualitative interviews conducted with 10 women academics who have reached positions of leadership. Secondary analysis shows that in Portugal, as in many other countries, there have been advances in terms women's access to higher education and academic career. Women account for about half of the students, teaching staff and researchers in higher education. However, they are under-represented in the top position of the academic career and in decision-making positions. There is a higher percentage of women researchers working under precarious contracts, in comparison to men, and Portugal presents a comparatively high feminization of researchers associated to less R&D expenditure per capita researcher. The analysis of the interviews illustrates some of the changes occurred in gender relations in higher education in the country, the role of family and socioeconomic conditions as resources on which women draw on in their ascendant careers and the ways in which subtle barriers foster persisting patterns of vertical segregation, lending support to research showing the impact of the biasing effect of gender stereotypes, the difficult access to strategic social networks dominated by men and the gendered division of service work on women's academic trajectories.

RN33 | T09_01: Gender Order

Between the Impossibilities of the Past and a New Gender Order – Analysing the Professional Trajectories of Portuguese Women Visual Artists

Sónia Bernardo Correia

ISCTE-IUL, Portugal

The communication results from an ongoing doctoral research that aims to elucidate the gender dynamics within the Portuguese artistic field, and also to understand how gender shapes the array of opportunities and constraints of visual artists' professional trajectories.

In the qualitative component of the study, the life paths of 43 female artists were delineated through in-depth interviews. Analysing their accounts allowed me to discover what they observe in the field and shed light on how gender impacts their professional endeavours. Despite the identification of instances of gender inequality, many artists contend that their careers are affected by other circumstances, such as the socioeconomic background, the quality of the social network, the randomness of the gatekeepers' decisions or the size and deregulation of the art market.

The inequalities in work-life balance are the overarching theme that unifies the representations and practices of the interviewees. Nearly all mothers among them acknowledge a deceleration or even an interruption in their artistic pursuits, attributing this to the demands of motherhood. Those without children admit that the prospect of motherhood is significantly constrained by the idea of professional disappearance and precariousness.

The findings of this research provide insight into the experiences of these women, positioning them amid the "impossibilities of the past" (Silva & Leandro, 2013) that persist in relegating them to the peripheries of the artistic field, and a new social (and gender) order that, more recently, appears to animate both artistic structures and women's agency, propelling them towards the coveted centers of recognition.

Changing The Gendered Order: The Case Of French-speaking Feminist Podcasts

Dimitra Laurence Larochelle

Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, France

Characterized by the intimacy between producers and listeners the podcast constitutes a quintessential territory both for exploring themes related to intimacy as well as for giving visibility to marginalized voices. In this sense, the podcast constitutes an alternative space of major political and cultural importance since it plays a prominent role in the production and circulation of counter-discourses and resistances within the public sphere. In this sense, the podcast provides a platform that lends itself to challenging the norms imposed by patriarchy.

This study focuses on feminist podcasts and their potential as means of resistance to gender-based violence within French-speaking societies. This alternative medium, characterized not only by privacy but also by the ability of those who express themselves on it to maintain their anonymity, provides a space which is at the same time safe and intimate as well as a form of public expression. Feminist podcasts thus lend themselves to the sharing of individual experiences and the discussion of "taboo" topics.

Taking these elements into consideration, I consider that feminist podcasts constitute spaces of resistance to gender-based violence as they contribute to the awareness-raising and denunciation of this phenomena. Podcasts thus provide a platform for an auditory experience that can challenge heteronormative and sexist ideals. In consequence, they are tools with a liberating potential. Feminist podcasts reveal therefore the political potential of digital practices.

The results presented through this paper are based on a podcast ethnography of seven French-speaking feminist podcasts as well as on interviews with their producers.

Stigmatization Toward Eating Disorder from the Gender Perspective – Continuity or Slow Change in the Gender Order?

Dorota Mroczkowska, Monika Frackowiak-Sochanska

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

Our presentation examines the stigmatization of eating disorders in women and men from a gender perspective. The attitudes toward mental health issues reflect the persistence and change of gender schemes. EDs are pertinent examples, as they have historically been considered the most gendered of all psychiatric illness presentations,

The studies on the ED stigma content reveal the presence of negative beliefs in ED populations, such as being responsible for their condition, negative attitudes, and social distance toward people with EDs. Despite the importance of the topic, little is known about the differences in stigmatizing attitudes toward men and women with ED. The low (although growing in the last decades) morbidity rate in the male population explains insufficient knowledge, leading to men's exclusion from epidemiological studies.

The authors – sociologists and psychologists prepared a research model including:

– synthesis of current knowledge on common and specific EDs stigma content of inncluding stereotypes, prejudice, and discriminatory behavior against men and women with EDs.

– identification of the gender characteristics associated with increased stigmatization of people with EDs.

– evaluation of the impact of ED stigma on individuals with EDs in terms of self-stigma, depending on their gender, resulting in mental condition, help-seeking behavior, and therapeutic adherence.

The above model is utilized in the ongoing research on a sample of Polish students aged 18-25 (N=1000) and psychologists and therapists (N=500). This presentation will discuss the research results, and its conclusions for gender-sensitive research, theory, and the practice.

Using Mobile-Based Technology to Support Victim-Survivors of Domestic Abuse

Kate Butterby, Nancy Lombard

Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom

The use of mobile-based technology to support victim-survivors of domestic abuse is becoming more prevalent, with the 24/7 availability and ease of use reported as positives.

We report on developments of ISEDA (Innovative Solutions for Eliminating Domestic Abuse) a Horizon Europe project involving 14 partners from 9 European Countries which aims to tackle and eliminate domestic abuse using multi-sector expertise via modern technological tools and practices.

One of the key tools to be deployed by the project is a chatbot which victim-survivors will use to seek help and find information alongside being able to store and record evidence to be used in court. Primarily, it will give women access to supportive technology in countries where services are not always commonplace, for example, countries where women's services lack consistent funding, or where police training on domestic abuse is sporadic.

In this paper we explore whether technology such as the chatbot should be integrated within women's services as a complementary tool available to support victim-survivors, and explore whether this can be done without adding to the workload of the already under-funded and overworked domestic abuse sector. We also highlight ethical issues surrounding the use of technology within the development of the chatbot specifically, and in the field of domestic abuse more broadly, and consider how these issues can be addressed

RN34 | Sociology of Religion

RN34 | T01_01: Religion and (Digital) Media

Attitudes towards digital media during the time of transformations: The Roman Catholic Church and the Jehovah's Witnesses in Poland.

Marta Kołodziejska

University of Warsaw, Poland

During the Covid-19 pandemic, all religious organizations in Poland had to, at least partially, shift to digital media to facilitate participation in religious services, prayer groups, and organizational meetings. However, this reliance has not necessarily translated into a change in attitudes towards digital media within these organizations. As part of the international Recov-19 research project, this study involved the analysis of official documents and selected magazines and websites published by the Roman Catholic Church and the Jehovah's Witnesses in Poland from 2020 to 2023, using qualitative content analysis. It also comprised the analysis of online survey conducted among religious and community leaders from both churches. Grounded in the concepts of media settlers and deep mediatization, the investigation focused on how these sources framed the meaning and function of digital media, as well as the attitudes towards its use. The paper discusses two key findings: 1) the attitudes and ascribed meanings did not necessarily align with the extent of digital media use by the churches, and 2) there was a pronounced emphasis on the practical aspects of using digital media, along with a focus on the connection between online activities and secularization. In conclusion, the paper reflects on how religious organizations conceptualize digital media in response to the perceived tensions and distrust in public health services, as well as to react to societal transformations.

Dixit Algorizmi – Transcendence In The Age Of Digital Reproduction?

Adrian Totaro

Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany

Social development is increasingly influenced by digitalization processes. This is also reflected in the field of religion (cf. Campbell/Tsuria 2022; Maasen/Atwood 2022). In contrast to secularization theories, religion hasn't disappeared, it's just changing its form (Luckmann 1967). Secular and religious discourses appear as a so called "two pluralism" (Berger 2014).

Space, materialities, practices of action, and interaction are considered essentially for experiencing and coping with religious transcendences. Religion interprets the world and makes it meaningful to the individual by providing a stable framework for the disordered and subjective contingencies of individual existence. According to Hu-bert Knoblauch, however, it isn't only relevant to "take an analytical perception at the role of materialities, objects and spaces", but to ask "whether participation in religious communities, which is usually conceived as the physical co-presence of the faithful, cannot be trans-formed into new mediatized forms" (Knoblauch 2017, 238, own translation; cf. further Hepp/Krönert 2009; Hjarvard/Lövheim 2012).

In 2022 ChatGPT, a large language model, is released by OpenAI. AI became an everyday phenomenon. This paper examines, by following the sociology of knowledge (Berger/Luckmann 1967; Knoblauch 2017), the social significance of an AI worship service and asks questions about the conditions of the constitution and construction of social situations as well as the role of AI in the construction of religious experiences. The study follows an empirical hermeneutical method. From a sociological perspective, it is important to clarify how AI-generated religious communication succeeds – algorithm talks (dixit algorizmi) – and what kind of answers can be provided by sociological theory in terms of technical-media changes in the field of religion, which reach over the inclusion of media forms or their mass medial dissemination.

Religious Voices and Anti-genderist Discourse in the News Media: The Case of the Ratification of the Istanbul Convention in Lithuania

Gintare Poce

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

In today's context, religion is often seen not only as a part of private life but also as an active actor in the public sphere, seeking and able to influence certain political processes and decisions. One such example is the involvement of religion in political decisions on gender equality issues. In public discussions, religious actors often oppose gender as a concept based on social construction and imposed by what they call "gender ideology." Concerns that this "ideology" could take over the legal discourse is a common basis of their argumentation in the discussions on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. This paper presents the main results of the analysis of Lithuanian news media coverage of the Istanbul Convention between 2011 and 2021. The analysis shows that religious actors entered the news media discourse by presenting arguments against the ratification of the Convention and supporting the opinions expressed by conservative political actors. These arguments are based on the idea that the Istanbul Convention is a threat to the future legal support of the natural rights of men and women, their natural roles and Christian values. Also, as this research shows, in Lithuania, where the Catholic Church is supported by tradition, the active involvement of religious actors in the public sphere on political gender issues has also shown a certain level of the politicisation of religion.

(Re)Negotiating Religion in the Public Debate: Catholic Church Between Legacy and Social Media in Italy

Rita Marchetti[1], Susanna Pagiotti[1], Anna Stanziano[2]

1University of Perugia, Italy; 2Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

To understand the place and role of religion, and particularly churches, in our societies, among other factors, it is necessary to consider their journalistic coverage and the mediatized public debate about them. The way different media outlets cover churches when they express their views on the issues at the center of the public debate inevitably contributes to shaping our understanding of a plurality of issues, religious and non-religious, and our way to consider religious actors.

The spread of digital media and social media platforms has made more complex to understand how the public debate contributing to transform how religion is discussed and re-interpreted. Indeed, social media have rendered religious discourse more accessible and immediate, enabling a diverse range of actors to engage in the discussion, but also activating new dynamics of attention and newsworthiness.

This paper analyses the media representation of the Catholic Church in 10 print, digital, and online-only Italian newspapers (277,537 articles) and the discussions on the Catholic Church on Facebook (2,873,095 posts) over a 5-years period (2017 to 2021). The study shows how the discourse around the Catholic Church in Italy changes over time and is renegotiated thanks to the intervention of different type of actors and the rules and affordances of considered platforms. Between convergences and divergences among different media outlets, digital newspapers and in particular social media show more emphasis on scandalous and curious aspects, but also on religious actors usually not allowed to participate in the public debate of the mainstream media.

RN34 | T02_01: Religion, Health and the Pandemic

Barrier or Bridge? The Role of Migrant Minority Religious Groups During and After the Covid Pandemic in London and Milan

John Eade, Samuele Molli

Roehampton University, United Kingdom

For state institutions, especially in Europe, religions have historically had a double and contradictory face: problem and resource. This dilemma is particularly true for minority religious groups as they can represent both a «barrier» that weakens trust in public bodies and a «bridge» that serves as an intermediary of trust in state institutions.

The Covid pandemic can be seen as a «stress test» which challenged the sense and direction of the relationship between the state and religious minorities. In the name of public security and its supremacy, state institutions called for respect, especially in terms of duties and obedience, for the introduction of drastic decisions that had important repercussions. In sum, the major question was: stay with or resist the state?

Our paper discusses the ways in which minority religious groups responded “from below” to the pandemic regulations imposed “from above” by the state. It focuses on the challenges that the pandemic created for these groups and explores different reactions, such as compliance and resistance. We will also analyse the position of the groups at the intersection between exogenous pressures from public institutions and endogenous processes linked to people’s spiritual and social needs.

The paper draws on data gathered during a cross-national project, where we compared Bangladeshi Muslims in London and Peruvian Christians in Milan and their location within two different state-minorities configurations.

Finally, we will discuss the ways in which trust represents an important analytical lens that questions current approaches towards diversity in societies where religious-based associationism is a key feature of minority group presence.

Healing Through Faith: an Exploratory Analysis of Healing Testimonies in the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God During Austerity Politics in Portugal

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This work explores the social effects of the austerity public policies in Portugal during the 2010-2014 financial crisis, and how religious belonging could have acted as a mechanism for social cohesion. We are particularly interested in the ways through which religious belief and/or religious belonging was perceived to have impacted physical and/or mental health. This period and state of crisis took a toll on Portuguese society and generated profound financial, economic and social instability.

For this analysis we look into one specific religious group, the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (UCKG), and the healing testimonies published in the church's newspaper (Folha de Portugal) under the column "Casos Veríd-icos" ('True Cases') throughout the years 2010-2013. Our methodological approach is of a qualitative nature, focused on discourse analysis. We will group the testimonies into different problems/illnesses, demographic profiles, simultaneously reflecting on the perceived impact that faith/religious belonging had for those church members.The main aims of this paper is to outline a typology of testimonies given by the church's members regarding health problems, as well as to engage in a broader reflection on the role of religion and faith concerning social cohesion, particularly during times of crisis.

The Dynamics of Religious Engagement in Poland before, during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic

Rafał Boguszewski

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

Just as religious ideas can lead to empirically tangible social change, so social change affects the level of religious awareness and perception. Religion and religiosity emerge as both a shaping force and a dependent phenomenon, contingent upon the context.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that religious commitment has differentiated the ways in which Poles coped with the threats posed by the pandemic. Simultaneously, the coronavirus pandemic, with its far-reaching implications for societies globally, including Poland, significantly influenced the transformation of religiosity.

In my presentation, I aim to address whether and how Polish people have religiously changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, I will examine the extent to which the pandemic has either strengthened or weakened religiosity, the degree to which it has caused (or accelerated) a retreat from the Church and religious practices, and which demographic groups are most evidently affected by this phenomenon.

I will base my considerations on the results of five waves of quantitative CAWI research conducted at various stages of the development of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research was conducted from April 2020 to August 2022 on quota samples of adult Poles reflecting the social structure in terms of gender, age, education, size of the place of residence, and region.

Constructions of Religion in Swedish Newspaper Articles on Funerals during the Covid – 19 pandemic

Karin Jarnkvist

Mid Sweden University, Sweden

This paper examines the discursive construction of religion in Swedish newspaper

articles on funerals during the Covid – 19 pandemic. Thirty articles from the six most

prominent newspapers were analyzed using Multimodal CDA and intersectionality.

The analysis reveals that most articles deal with religion as an institution, followed by religion as a group and individual religiosity. Religion is constructed in intersection with ethnicity and gender. The CoS is privileged, portraying Lutheran Christians as professionals. Minority religions are positioned as 'the other', something 'problematic' or 'different' from 'Swedish (secular) values' and ways of living. Migrant men and women are portrayed stereotypically. However, alternative narratives are told by well-educated and influential representatives of different minority religions, giving these religions a 'voice'. I argue that increased religious literacy is needed among media workers if the reporting should be based on equality within and between the power categories of gender, ethnicity,

and religion.

RN34 | T03_01: Local Governance of Religion

Local Phobias. Conflicts Over Migrant Minority Religions and Their Presence in Italian Urban Scenarios.

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Religious diversity represents one of the main results of migratory flows. The geography of cities is transforming in unexpected ways due to the practices of «reuse and reconversion» of empty spaces actuated by migrant minority groups for their social and religious needs. This change has become a controversial issue in Italy, both in terms of relation with public institutions and for the fears related to the erosion of the culture and security of local territories.

Our paper considers the problems that minority religions encounter in Italy when decide to recreate a place of worship. Specifically, it examines different conflicts over visibility and invisibility of minorities' religious places and their right to be accepted in the public space of Italian cities. We will also see at how different municipalities or nativist movements initiate disputes against the possibility of readapting and reconverting empty spaces for religious motives.

The paper discusses fresh data gathered in a wide research project on 348 immigrant religious centres in the region of Lombardy. Thanks to this study, we will use a reach collection of visual data, 120 interviews and a series of observations collected during social and spiritual activities.

We initially explain specific patterns of sacralisation of space we observed in 1) city central areas, 2) urban neighbourhoods and 3) extra-urban industrial or agricultural areas. We then consider the conflictual sides of sacralisation of space, such as the diffusion of fears for public order and security, public opinion campaigns in media and the use of discriminatory planning norms against migrants' religions. Thirdly, the paper examines the counterstrategies migrants try to adopt for maintaining the possibility to dispose of worship places in Italy.

Interfaith Governance In Local Politics: A Study Of The Changing Dynamics Of Jewish-Muslim Institutional Relations In Germany

Arndt Emmerich

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Sociological interest in Jewish-Muslim relations at the local level has recently increased in Europe (Gidley and Everett 2018, Becker 2019, Nagel and Peretz 2022, Emmerich 2023), partially revising the polarised macro-debates around the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict and "imported" religious antagonism thesis. Contributing to this emerging sociological inquiry of Jewish–Muslim encounters, this article adds a new analytical layer to this debate by focusing on local interfaith dialogue and the governance of religious diversity. Through the case study of Frankfurt's Council of Faiths (Rat der Religionen) and other at times competing initiatives, the empirical discussion investigates how Jewish Muslims relations are negotiated, disrupted and re-established. Perceived by policy-makers as a prime institutions to ensure social cohesion, the interfaith initiatives in this research became involved in internal and external disputes and political crisis, in particular over Jewish-Muslim relations and (extra-)local events (e.g. occurrences in the Middle East). The analysis draws on Foucault's understanding of power: not just a coercive tool but also as a productive, creative and regulative force. The role of church authorities and their imbued – what Foucault called – "pastoral power", is pertinent for this study on local interfaith councils and Jewish Muslim relations. By researching several organised interfaith encounters in Frankfurt over more than 20 years, the article is able to demonstrate how crisis moments lead to new management strategies and processes of institutionalisation, changing internal affairs within Muslim, Jewish and other faith communities and altering partner choices within dialogue constellations.

Combatting Racism In A Context Of Religious Transformation: Insights From Research With Muslim Communities And Local Authorities In Ireland.

Dr James Carr, Dr Tiba Bonyad, Mr Patrick Fox

University of Limerick, Ireland

This paper will present selected original research findings derived from the Ireland based, European Commission funded, Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) project. The religious profile of Irish society has transformed dramatically over the past thirty years with Islam now one of the fastest growing religions in Ireland. Contemporaneously, Ireland has also witnessed an escalating growth in anti-Muslim animus. Resonating with the work of Law et al (2018), and employing a public sociology (Burawoy 2004) perspective, this paper explores how Muslim communities and municipal authorities can build trust and develop anti-racism initiatives by means of educational practices, public awareness campaigns and through the development of local level political participation platforms. Drawing on the perspectives of Muslim communities (n=193) and municipal authority staff (n=69) from four Irish cities, this paper will argue that resistances to anti-Muslim hatred, developed at the local level hold the potential to counter exclusionary discourses and practices operating nationally and beyond. Moreover, with the process of racialisation as a core focus, it will also be argued that SALAAM provides a model that can be replicated to challenge

other racisms, including those directed towards racialised religious communities, across jurisdictions. This paper will conclude with a discussion of the role and importance of public sociology (Burawoy 2004) in the fight against racisms in all of their pernicious forms; a role that is arguably more important than ever in societies that are transforming at seemingly exponential rates.

Religion And Socio-Cultural Dynamics In The Management Of Muslims at Local Level: Opportunities And Obstacles In The Perspectives Of Policy-Transferability

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Despite there being a rich body of literature on migrations, studies investigating religion within immigrant communities, including its role and impact on the second generation, have been less extensive. However, evidence from some contemporary ethnic groups suggests that religion may play a strong role in the lives of both first – and second-generation members. Even though several studies have been focussed on Muslims with a migratory background in Europe, this chapter intends to address an emerging field of study concerning the management of the Muslim diaspora at the local level. Requests for places of worship, recognition of rights and appeals to participate in the policy-making process are managed at the level of local rather than national administrations. Across various cities in various European countries, numerous approaches appear to dismantle the social construction of the Muslim exception; and the concepts of 'spatial regime', 'street level bureaucracy' and 'secular place-making' can be used to compare and contrast what each social reality gives to religion, thereby generating a specific spatial order negotiated between the state, the city's governance, secular space and the various religious affiliations, including Islam with its sub-groups.

The paper will describe and discuss several European cities' approaches through interviews (with stakeholders, policy-makers, religious associations' representatives), and field visits carried out in the last five years outlining their strengths and weaknesses in the perspective of policy transferability.

"Mosques in Germany on the Way to Postmigration Between – Negotiations of Tension, Transformation and Identity"

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My dissertation examines mosque communities in Germany as specific spaces of (post-)migrant identity negotiations due to there migrant emergence. In these spaces, identity discourses intensify in multilayered and complex fields, which are constituted through ambivalent expectations from inner (community) and outer (society) sphere. Within these dynamics, mosques evolved into multifunctional centres of religious, cultural and social life for Muslim people. Their relevance unfolds both through physical and transnational spatiality – they are simultaneously spaces of the sacred and profane, spaces of negotiation between generations and genders as well as spaces of sphere differences.

The establishment of mosques began with the first generation of migrant workers that came to Germany in the 1960s. Through genealogical transmission, these communities are attended by their children and grandchildren. Thus, three different types of socialization collide through these three generations. The relationship between them is reflected upon and lived out, actively referencing a cultural heritage that is present in a conjunctive experiential space. Retrospective reflections and prospective visions of belonging and identity alternate in an ambivalent oscillation. Furthermore, the context of a post-migrant and post-modern society leads to an increase in contingency.

Here, national policies and political developments towards Muslims must be considered. For instance, the preventing of foreign imams from working in German mosques, the denial of an official public corporate status as religious community or the rising far-right extremism are to mention. Combined with internal generational conflicts, cultural and religious tensions arise in the communities. In my contribution, empirical results and corresponding research designs will be discussed in detail, so that conclusions can be drawn concerning relevance, tensions and transformations of mosque communities in post-migrant societies and policies.

RN34 | T04_01: Theoretical and Methodological Issues and Challenges I

Blueprints of and on Contested Spaces: Developing Methodological Tools for Exploring Constructions of Sense of Safety in Religious Spaces

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individuals, communities, and in societies. However, social, political, and health-related global transformations, and polarization have eroded deeply not only safety but our sense of safety. Religious spaces have a huge potential for creating embodied sense of safety – but also tensions and unsecurity. Thus they form an intriguing context to explore the foundations of sense of safety. Religious embodied social spaces have symbolic weight, and combine layers of emotional regimes (Riis & Woodhead 2011), thus making the contestations related to them observable in lived physical realities.

This paper focuses on the ways in which sense of safety is constructed and contested in relation to, and in religious spaces. Our aim is to develop a methodological approach to explore constructions of sense of safety in religious spaces. We will in first discuss sense of safety and space, specifically in relation to religion, and the need for a methodological approach for investigating it empirically. After that, we will introduce methodological and conceptual approaches from three especially prominent fields, which provide viewpoints of space and sense of safety, that can further our attempt of developing the methodological approach. These are environmental psychology, urban studies, and research on recognition and politics of belonging from political philosophy. After this, we will introduce a preliminary model of investigating sense of safety in religious spaces, and four different empirical cases to briefly demonstrate how the model can be applied.

The Relationship Between Transforming Religiosity and Volunteerism in the Aid Provided to Ukrainian War Refugees in Hungary

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The religious data of the Hungarian census published in the fall of 2023 (KSH 2023) show a significant change compared to the results of previous censuses (Csanády 2023). The general decline that started earlier continued. What is new is that in the last decade, Protestants (Lutherans and Calvinists) have recorded a much smaller decrease than Roman Catholics.

The regime change of 1990 resulted in serious crisis in the operation of voluntary organizations. After Hungary became a member of the European Union (2004), the level of participation in the work of voluntary organizations began to increase again (Marinova 2011). In recent decades, members of churches and religious communities have played an important role in the work of voluntary organizations (Csanády 2022). In the past few years, there has been a fierce political struggle regarding the evaluation of the operation of voluntary organizations. This is especially true for helping refugees since the 2015 refugee crisis.

In the course of our presentation, we will try to find answers to the following research questions: (1) Who are the people (in a sociological sense) who voluntarily help the refugees from Ukraine. (2) What is the relationship between different forms of religiosity, belonging to different denominations and the willingness to help refugees?

Our analysis is based on data from a research conducted in August 2022. We carried out a nationwide online representative survey in Hungary with 1,200 respondents. Among other things, the research focused on volunteerism and the perception of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

During my presentation, I would like to present the correlations between the 2022 census results and our 2022 research results.

A Phenomenological Study on Religious Vegans and Their Experiences of Veganism

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The original aspect of the research was to approach veganism from a specific sample such as “religious veganism”.The phenomena of religion and veganism are analysed through the veganism experiences of religious vegans who have been able to combine these two phenomena.The questions of the research include the way religious vegans define their vegan identities, the processes of meeting veganism and becoming vegan, their approaches to the intersection of their beliefs and veganism, their presentation of their vegan identities in society and the reactions they receive from their environment. The research was carried out within the scope of TUBITAK Undergraduate Students Research Support.

The phenomenon of the research is the “veganism” behaviour, which people have heard frequently especially in recent years but have limited knowledge about its foundations and reasonsIn this study, semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with 12 vegan participants living in Istanbul, who were reached by criterion sampling method. Two focus group discussions were held, which were thought to reveal the common experiences of vegan

participants. The raw data collected from the field were coded in MAXQDA qualitative analysis programme.

Ethical vegans share a sense of responsibility for the earth and all life. While some vegans associate the vegan lifestyle with their identity and spiritual world, others do not seek a spiritual meaning. In this research, it has been observed that the concept of "religiosity" is not inclusive. It is concluded that vegan participants have high motivation to be in common communities, especially through social media. No significant link was found between the phenomenon of veganism and the phenomenon of religiosity.

Experiencing Catholic Primary School as a Muslim Student: School's Project and Children's Adaptations

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What is the experience of Muslim students attending a Catholic school? How do they approach religious education? Catholic schools have been little studied in sociology, to the point that they represent a "secret garden" in the realm of research (Grace, 2002). Yet, delving into their distinctive features, particularly the integration of academic and spiritual formation, offers a heuristic approach to analyze transformations and tensions regarding religious beliefs. This study focuses on the perspective of students who, at first glance, may not seem directly impacted by religious education, aiming to uncover how they navigate these educational practices.

The paper relies on comparative ethnographies of three French Catholic schools: an urban school catering to upper-class Catholic and few Muslim families; a rural school with a mix of working-class Catholic, atheist and Muslim families; and a suburban school primarily attended by working-class Muslim families. Between April 2022 and July 2023, I spent one day a week at each school, accumulating over 1,200 hours of observation. I conducted interviews with pupils (n=50), their parents (n=45) and the educational staff (n=15), all coded using NVivo. Additionally, a survey was distributed in the classes (n=150) and analyzed on Stata.

While all three schools embrace openness and inclusivity, the experiences of Muslim students differ across contexts. In minority situation, they face challenges from teachers and peers who compare practices and beliefs with their own. Conversely, in majority settings, being Muslim can be regarded as an asset among students, while teachers actively promote an openness to Catholic culture.

RN34 | T05_01: Controversies and Challenges in the Catholic Church

Scottish Catholics and the Criminal Justice System

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This paper presents findings from qualitative research which explores Catholics' experiences of the Scottish criminal justice system. There is a long history of anti-Catholic discrimination within Scotland, which can be understood in the context of anti-Irish racism linking back to mass Irish migration from the mid-19th century. Though there has been a significant decline in structural inequalities and in tensions between the Catholic minority and Protestant majority (Devine and Rosie, 2010), Scottish Catholics still lag on a range of socio-economic indicators, are over-represented among experiences of religiously-aggravated hate crime and imprisonment, comprising 23% of the prison population despite making up approximately 14% of the Scottish population (Scottish Government, 2018, cited in Runnymede Trust, 2020). They are more likely to experience poverty, live in poorer quality housing, and have higher morbidity rates (Law, 2016). Data from the authors' respective doctoral research projects (McBride 2018, Anderson 2019) indicate a lack of trust in the criminal justice system both historically and in contemporary Scotland, with Catholic participants reporting experiences of heavy-handed policing and unfair treatment within the criminal justice system more broadly. A 2023 pilot project has explored prison-staff perception of these dynamics within the contemporary prison environment. The authors draw from across these projects and current policy discourse to propose a research agenda for this underexplored area. While focused on the Catholic population, this research has wider relevance in understanding the dynamics of religious and racialised minorities in the criminal justice system in the Scottish context, of particular importance given the dominance of US-based theorising in this area.

The Battle for the Church of St. Francis in Pilsen (Czech Republic) between "Hipster-Culture" and "Tradition" Discourses: Catholic Youths and Civic Engagement – A Case Study

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Civic engagement, as part of the period of life called emerging adulthood, is usually also associated with religiosity. Previous research has suggested that civic engagement increases with higher religiosity. It is also assumed that the level of involvement is influenced by the degree of the hierarchical nature of a particular parish. We investigate the aforementioned area within the relatively time-bounded event (1996–2022) of the planning of the building of the St. Francis Church in Pilsen (Czech Republic). We would like to present the answer to the question: How do particular forms of religiosity enter civic engagement during the emerging adulthood of Catholic youths during the Battle for the Church? Data generation and analysis were carried out by applying the elements of constructivist grounded theory. The analysis of 14 interviews and 36 other documents shows that the degree of civic engagement of Catholic youth is influenced not only by the hierarchical structure of the parish but also by the process of hegemonization of a particular discourse. Although the presence of the so-called hipster-culture discourse in parish leadership promotes active youth involvement, it raises concerns about superficiality, and reinforces tendencies for the dominance of the "tradition" discourse. The tradition discourse, coupled with an emphasis on the technicality and professionalism of church planning, ultimately leads to a diminution of youth activity.

Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church: Insights from Three European Catholic Countries

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This paper examines the evolution of church-related scandals in three Catholic-majority societies, focusing on the Croatian, Irish and Italian cases. Although these three countries represent Catholic-majority societies, they also reflect quite different stories concerning Catholic sex abuse, with significantly more cases in Ireland and over a much longer timeframe compared to Croatia and Italy. The paper proposes a new theory for understanding Catholic sex abuse in different contexts, focusing on the role of historical institutional factors. More specifically, we examine the impact of historical legacies (the (non)experience of communism), legal context (role of legal cultures), state capacities (welfare state development and state involvement in family life), and media landscape (religion-media interactions) on how abuses emerge and develop into scandals. The paper draws on various sources, including Vatican documents, national church documents and media reportage. These data are supplemented with multiple secondary sources. The paper reveals the importance of social contexts in understanding the trajectory of scandal within large-scale religious institutions.

Denouncing the Sexual Abuse Scandals in the Catholic Church through Apostasy

Julia Martínez-Ariño

University of Groningen

Across the world, cases of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church have come to light, generating outrage, disgust and rejection of the institution. In this presentation, I examine the discourses of rejection of the Church by self-identified and formally recognized apostates in Argentina and Spain. While their motivations to leave the Catholic Church formally are diverse and include references to the interference of the Church in politics, its opposition to the recognition of sexual and reproductive rights and its financial benefits, among others, in this contribution I will focus in particular on the references to sexual abuse within the Church. Based on narrative interviews with apostates —that is, people who have formally requested that their personal data be removed from the Church's records— in Argentina and Spain, I will argue that just as with the case of the fight for the legalization of abortion, apostatizing from the Church is seen as a strategy to denounce not only the Church abuse scandals in themselves but also the way in which the institution has dealt with those cases in the two countries under investigation. In these contexts, institutional disaffiliation has little to do with matters of faith and religious practice and more with the implications of belonging to an institution one disagrees with and condemns. Theoretically, the contribution will be framed withing the growing literature on nonreligion and institutional disaffiliation, on the one hand, and conceptual tools from social movement studies, on the other hand.

RN34 | T05_02: Prejudice, Trust and Mistrust around Religion

More Tolerance or More Prejudice? What is the Tendency of In-tolerant Attitudes Towards Other Religious Belongings in Switzerland?

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Longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), a random sample of the resident population, allow us to study personal attitudes in Switzerland towards different religious belongings and worldviews ("Christianism," "Islam," "Hinduism," "Buddhism," "Judaism," and "Atheism"). With four waves of surveys (2012, 2015, 2018, 2021) gathering around 40,000 observations, we are able to measure personal attitudes towards different religious belongings. Moreover, we can also identify the evolution over the last twelve years. Several hypotheses of change will be tested related to age, cohorts, and periods, controlling for socio-economic variables (gender, education, income, migratory background, etc.), religious (affiliation, attendance, personal prayer) and political (ideological positioning, values, partisan choice). The focus of this paper will be the analysis of difference in attitudes towards Christianism and Atheism in a rather secularised country with a Christian tradition. We will also test the attitudes towards Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism, in the context of increasing immigration and inter-community tensions in a society that is progressively becoming multi-ethnic.

Religiosity and mis/trust in contemporary Serbia

Danijela Gavrilovic

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Contemporary Serbia is a deeply divided society with many long-standing and unresolved problems that persist for many years, deepening old and opening new divisions in society. During the socialist period, Serbia was a relatively atheistic country, while after the fall of socialism, religiosity was revitalized (Gavrilović, 2023), merging with the revitalization and escalation of ethnic identification. Thirty years later, religiosity became and remained an important element of social life in Serbia. It is the source of legitimacy of the government and the behavior of individuals. Although it is about traditional religiosity, which is not characterized by a high level of religious practice, religiosity in Serbia stabilizes in this period at a very high level.

This paper deals with the connection between the level and type of religiosity of the inhabitants of Serbia with trust in national and European institutions, individual social actors, as well as interpersonal trust (Coleman, 1988; Giddens, 1990; Putnam, 1993; 2007; Uslaner, 2002). Trust is one of the key social phenomena that affect the functioning of society because it is related to interpersonal relations, cooperation, solidarity, and stability. Earlier research indicates that there is a connection between religiosity and interpersonal trust, but it is reflected in a higher level of trust among those who declare themselves non-religious, agnostic, or atheist (Jovanović & Gavrilović, 2012).

The analyses utilized primary data from the projects "Closing the Gap Between Formal and Informal Institutions in the Balkans" (Horizon 2020, No. 693537; 2016-2019), "European Inventory of Societal Values of Culture as a Basis for Inclusive Cultural Policies in the Globalizing World" (Horizon 2020, No. 870691; 2020–2023), and the European Values Survey 2017.

Temporal Changes in Institutional Trust among Young Refugees in Germany

Daniel Engel

University of Siegen, Germany

While a large part of German public discourse focuses on the integration of refugees and possible obstacles, like religion, there is little empirical data on dynamics of institutional trust, especially among young refugees. This contribution is devoted precisely to this marginalized group of young refugees, which has received little attention in research to date. It helps to gain a bet-ter understanding of the situation of young refugees and their everyday experiences.

This proposal is situated in the context of an ongoing sociological doctoral project, that relies on quantitative longitudinal data, that was gathered in the research project 'Religion as Resource and Risk (ReReRi)'. It focuses on the importance of religion for integration and coping with life. The sample scope aimed for young refugees, age 16 to 24, from the countries Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, who arrived in Germany in the year 2015 or later.

The doctoral project broadened the focus of the ReReRi-study to include the newly designed and validated scale 'Attitudes towards Democracy', which contains the subdimensions 'Institutional Trust', 'Willingness for Political Participation' and 'Political Religiosity'.

The study's longitudinal approach allows for an analysis of temporal changes in trust relations. Results indicate a decrease of institutional trust over time. While religion plays only a minor role, perceived institutional support as well as a sense of belonging to Germany show the largest effects. This suggests, that institutional trust is most strongly affected by experiences in the host country, rather than individual characteristics such as religious affiliation or religiosity.

Tension and Trust in the Professional Blogs of Muslim Women

Gyuzel Sabirova

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The focus of this work-in-progress is a sociological study of the role of social networks as a place of educational and entrepreneurial opportunities for Muslim women represented in the Russophone segment of social media. Through the analysis of individual cases of Muslim women living today in different countries of the West and East, the practices of negotiation of trust will be analyzed. Social networks for Muslim women are becoming a place to maintain a sense of belonging to communities through inclusion in a shared textual and visual space; of educational and professional activity where concept of trust is taking one of the central roles. The topic of the influence of social networks on women's Muslim identities is sufficiently represented in the academic literature. But the case of women from the post-Soviet space deserves special attention. The return of religion after 70 years of atheism, state policies to control Islam and ethnic minorities, contemporary political contexts: these circumstances determine the fluid nature of Muslim identities. We are dealing with an extremely diverse phenomenon. The paper is based on the traditions of social media research, gender theory, the discursive theory of Islam, and methodology of narrative and discursive analysis of blogs.

RN34 | T06_01: Religion, Gender and Sexuality

Second Generations and the Mosque in Italy: Feminisation Without Feminism

Giammarco Mancinelli

EPHE, France

Over the past year, I conducted my PhD research on youth Muslim organisations operating in northern Italy. Based on my fieldwork, I would like to introduce the idea that the return to the Sacred Text is an instrument of emancipation and empowerment for young Muslims women active in the Islamic youth associationism. This contributes to the feminisation of these associations without pursuing feminism.

Firstly, many female interviewees denounce a double standard in treating brothers and sisters and demand a more equitable environment. They do not legitimise their stances based on Western feminism; on the contrary, it is the Quran that is mobilised. Within the framework of a general process of de-ethnicisation (Roy, 2002), young Muslims ascribe the gender barriers, characterising the communal life of the first generations, to the cultural heritage of their parents' countries of origin. (Samad, 2004.; Ijaz e Abbas 2010). Through a re-appropriation of the Coran, considering the opposition between religion and culture, young Muslim women involved in Italian mosques renegotiate their position and roles in communal life (Acocella e Pepicelli 2015; 2018).

Secondly, among the first generations Islamic associations, the presence of women was non-existent in the steering committees (Saint-Blanchat 1995; Conti 2014). When we address to the associations of the second generations, we find that not only are women better represented – and sometimes the majority – in mosque events, but they are also well represented among the organisers, decision-makers, experts and leaders.

Our case is an example of how, in post-secular societies, processes historically linked to secular feminist struggles (equal representation in leadership and representatives' roles; critique of gender-based double standards) can unfold without feminist claims by the protagonists

Living Religion in the Workplace. Roman Catholic Women in Secularising Big-city Work Environments in Poland.

Anna Szwed

Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland

The religiosity of Polish society has been undergoing a noticeable transformation in recent years. Although Catholicism

still remains the dominant religion in Poland, the rates of people declaring themselves as believers are falling, and the position of the Roman Catholic Church in the public sphere and trust in the Church are being challenged. The processes of socio-religious change, accompanied by simultaneous political polarisation of Polish society, are particularly noticeable in large cities.

My presentation sheds light on the problem of navigating faith and work in big-city environments. Its aim is to discuss how Roman Catholic women negotiate the presence of religion in workplace and how they cope with tensions resulting from ongoing secularisation and Catholicism losing its hegemonic position. I refer to the results of the research which encompassed 48 in-depth interviews with educated, devout Roman Catholic women living in big cities in Poland. Using lived religion approach as a theoretical framework I show how religion is lived at work at intrapersonal and interpersonal level. I present strategies religious women use to combine or to compartmentalize religion and work, pointing out how different types of audiences and situational context influence and modify practices of disclosing/hiding religion which result in visible and invisible presence of religion in the workplace.

Muslim Women's Veiling and Unveiling in Contemporary Türkiye

Ayça Demir, Figen Uzar Özdemir

Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University, Turkiye

This study examines the meanings Muslim women attach to their practices of veiling and unveiling in contemporary Turkey. Islamic veiling has been studied by many scholars whereas unveiling of women has recently been given attention in the academia. Most of these studies conceptualize women's veiling as static and women who practice veiling as veiled/headscarved women. This conceptualization sees women as victims of an encapsulating religion/culture and does not leave space for the agency of women. In order to understand women's agency and how women negotiate with patriarchal dynamics which try to dominate them, studying Muslim women's performance of veiling as well as unveiling becomes equally important.

For this aim, we conducted semi-structured interviews with women from different ages, social classes, and professions who use/d the veil in a period of their lives. We asked them the reasons behind covering/uncovering their bodies and the meanings they attached to these performances. We found out that veiling/unveiling is related to Muslim women's life trajectories, their strategies of coping with suppressing social relations, their understandings of themselves as Muslims and women. While turning points in women's lives such as starting university, a new job, and becoming a mother can affect women's veiling and unveiling, spatio-temporal performances based on social roles and interactions also play a role, such as unveiling of a woman while there is no unrelated man nearby or veiling of a young woman around her neighborhood and her unveiling when she goes to the school.

Islam, Science, Gender, and Politics: Religious Muslims' Attitudes Toward Controversial Scientific Issues in Turkey

Mehmet Alper Yalcinkaya, Gülşen Seven

Ted University, Turkiye

In recent years, the perceived popularity of conspiracy theories and what scholars have called "science-related populism" have generated debates about the politicization of science and the factors influencing the credibility of scientific experts. In this context, some religious social and political movements have also been characterized as potentially serving to undermine the authority of science. Therefore, how religious people and religious politicians perceive science and specific scientific perspectives continues to constitute an important area of research.

Studies suggest that attitudes toward science can be informed by religious, gender and political identities, but also that broader perceptions of science may not be identical to attitudes toward particular scientific issues. In this paper, we report our findings from our project on how religious people in Turkey perceive three scientific issues that have generated controversy in recent years: vaccination (especially mRNA vaccines), gender and sexuality, and climate change. Focusing on these three issues, we discuss the ways in which not only science in general but particular types of scientific expertise, including expertise in the social sciences, are perceived by religious Muslims in Turkey, and the degree to which scientists are seen as trustworthy. We compare the views of religious political elites and ordinary religious citizens, and analyze the extent to which elite views shape the views of religious political parties' assumed constituencies. Based on our findings, we discuss the ways in which both political identity and gender may inform religious peoples' attitudes toward controversial scientific topics.

Religion, Gender, and Politics: Transformations and Tensions in contemporary Greece

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Immediately after the liberal political party Nea Demokratia (ND) took power in Greece (June 2023), the Prime Minister announced his intention to draft a bill to legalize same-sex marriage during his term in office. This gave rise to a dynamic debate between those who support and those who oppose the announced reform. Among those in favor are mainly center-right, socialist, and left political parties to be found while among those who are against are conservative right and far-right parties, as well as the elite of the Orthodox Church of Greece (COG). Thus, Greece experiences both a thorny debate and strong multi-dimensional and

multi-level tensions that take place within the religious and the political camps as well as between religion and politics. This paper adopts a feminist and intersectional approach to trace and analyse the intersections of religion, politics, and gender in the political and religious discourses produced by the political and religious elite. It aims, with the use of content analysis, to answer the following research questions: a) which are the loci where tensions occur? b) how does religion, politics and gender intersect and form tensions? c) which are the convergences and divergences of the political and religious discourses about the issue of legalization of same-sex marriage in Greece?

RN34 | T06_02: Theoretical and Methodological Issues and Challenges II

Conspirituality As A Post-Political Critique: Challenging The (Neo) liberal Institutional Order of Modernity Through The Conflation Of Conspiracism And Spirituality.

Suzanne Klein Schaarsberg

Tilburg University, Netherlands, The

As global challenges such as climate change, digitalization and inequality prevail in contemporary societies, critique on the (neo)liberal institutional order of modernity has grown. This paper explores spirituality as a counter-cultural resource that can (and is) being mobilized by social movements to both challenge and offer alternatives to the modern social order. Whereas often spirituality is perceived to be an individualizing practice with little relation to political questions, this paper challenges this assumption by researching how ideas about order are shaped through discourses conflating conspiracy theories and spirituality, also known as 'conspirituality'. Through digital ethnography undertaken with the Dutch movement 'That's the Spirit', it teases out how conspiritualism challenges the modern institutions of religion and science underlying the (neo)liberal order of modernity by putting forward a conceptualization of order based on occultism, spiritual warfare and intergalactic power relations. It highlights how conspiritualism critiques the post-political condition of the (neo)liberal order of modernity by actively re-imagining global governance, political subjectivity and politics. I argue that the (attempted) exclusion of spiritual, occult and esoteric knowledges from post-political public spaces itself signifies a truly political moment (in the sense that it establishes what 'politics' can be) in establishing the (neo)liberal order of modernity. Gaining insight into these conspiritual narratives thus not only allows us to understand what aspects of (neo)liberal modernity spiritual movements perceive as problematic, but also opens our eyes to non-secular reals that are present in today's Western societies that are in themselves challenging the modern imagination of a secular 'politics'.

Theorizing and Mapping Religion and Non-Religion in Norway

Tore Rafoss

KIFO, Institute for Church, Religion, and Worldview Research

My paper explores how one can theorize, typologize, and map variants of religions and non-religious worldviews in contemporary Norway. Norwegian society – like many

other Western societies – is now characterized by a complex religious landscape. Secularization, individualization, and immigration have changed Norway from a largely Protestant country, to a country with a heterogeneous population regarding religion. Many Norwegians still maintain some kind of Christian faith, but there is a growing number of Norwegians who belong to non-Christian religions, and an increasing number of people for whom religion plays little or no role in their life. Additionally, there is a significant group of people who are drawn towards alternative beliefs and practices.

My theoretical starting point is the work of Jörg Stolz et al., especially the idea that religion and worldview are shaped by two underlying dimensions: a religious/non-religious axis and an alternative/non-alternative axis. My empirical starting point is survey data (N = 4024) that examines religion and non-religious belief in Norway. (The survey was conducted by KIFO, Institute for Church, Religion, and Worldview Research, Oslo, Norway, where I work as a researcher). Using both inductive and deductive statistical methods, I have identified five different groups with different types of worldviews: the religious, the somewhat religious, the distant, the non-religious, and those with alternative beliefs. One important goal is to accurately theorize and describe the worldview of the growing number of non-religious Norwegians.

Axial Age/Secular Age: Habermas and Taylor on Social Transformations and Religion

Andrew Peter Lynch

University of Sydney, Australia

Throughout their respective projects, Jürgen Habermas and Charles Taylor attempt to show the impact of social transformations on religion, particularly in the modern era. Both scholars utilise Karl Jasper's theory of the Axial Age in their writings, and they have each made significant contributions for discussions in the sociology of religion about a secular age in the context of modernity. This paper will provide a comparative analysis of how Habermas and Taylor develop theories based on temporal epochs to understand the relationship between religion and social transformations. Specifically, their use of the concept of 'ages', or meta-narratives of social and religious change, and how these help us to understand religion in socio-historical contexts, will be discussed, including their demarcation of religious time into periods such as the Axial Age and a secular age. For Habermas, the Axial Age was crucial for establishing the major world religions. However, he situates current post-secular discourses within the context of post-metaphysical thinking and its impact on the public sphere. For Taylor, a secular age has identifiable traits that demarcates it from previous times, including the Axial Age. A secular age is a temporal and social order in which social agents have greater freedom to choose a (non)religious stance. The paper will argue that Habermas and Taylor's use of temporal periods have key similarities, but also important differences, and it will discuss the relevance of these for each authors' interpretation of the tensions evident in sociological debates about religion in pluralistic and multifaith societies.

Bringing Back the Transversals/ universals: for a Renewed Socio-anthropology of Islam

Francesco Piraino

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The socio-anthropology of Islam has been revolutionized by the "discursive tradition paradigm" elaborated by Asad and Mahmood. These authors questioned Western ethnocentrism and (neo)colonialism present in social sciences, proposing a new socio-anthropology of Islam focused on power and knowledge. This paradigm has been criticized for its rigidity, which does not allow it to grasp emotions (Marranci) and everyday life (Schielke), because it is too focused on power structures (Vicini) and on secular/religious divide (Bangstad). This paper proposes a different perspective arguing that the "discursive tradition paradigm", by focusing mainly on power relations and orthodoxy, artificially separated Islam from other religious and cultural discourses and traditions.

By re-elaborating the ideas of Shahab Ahmed (What is Islam?), this paper will discuss the categories of Text, Con-Text, and Pre-Text. The latter is crucial because it allows to analyze dimensions such as social justice, mystical experience, aesthetics, and philosophy, which are often belittled or considered as secular and exogenous to Islam. This paper argues that these dimensions are transversals/universals, which means that they are part of the Islamic tradition, but at the same time they transcend it, belonging to other traditions as well.

Bringing back these dimensions does not mean to deny the "discursive tradition paradigm" (the Text and Con-Text), but to add another layer – the Pre-Text – able to better situate Islam with other traditions/discourse. This approach will allow a better understanding of phenomena such as the Nation of Islam, the philosophy Abu Zayd, and some trends of Sufism, and contemporary Muslim artists, which put the accent on social justice, philosophy, experience, and beauty rather then orthodoxy.

RN34 | T07: Secularization in Global Context

"Signals of Transcendence." An Empirical Study on Experiences of Breach of Secularized Reality in Organizations, Associations, and Communities Supporting Fragility.

Monica Martinelli[1,2], Benedetta Nicoli[1,2]

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According to Berger and Taylor, modern societies rely on predominantly secularized definitions of reality that appear exclusive and self-sufficient, making the sacred cosmos constructed by religion increasingly implausible. However, even under such conditions, experiences occur that can breach the secularized reality and encourage references to transcendence. After defining such experiences based on relevant literature, the paper presents research that aims at empirically investigating this object in some organizations, associations, and communities supporting fragility (illness, end of life, poverty, migration, etc.), on the hypothesis that the encounter with fragility, under certain conditions, questions the exclusivity of immanent definitions and makes transcendent interpretive frameworks more plausible. By deploying case studies and adopting innovative tools and techniques to reconstruct the lived experience of social actors and their meanings, the research sheds light on the "liminal" conditions characterizing the realities under examination that favor experiences of breach of secularized reality and sustain them through time. Results suggest that the encounter with fragility provides a focus to empirically investigate the antecedents of religious experience and highlight the utility of the concept of breaching experiences for the sociological study of religion.

The Global Expansion of Chinese Redemptive Societies-A Case Study of I-Kuan Tao in Argentina

Wei-Yi Hsiao

National Chengchi University, Taiwan

I-Kuan Tao, one of the largest and most influential Chinese Redemptive Societies since the postwar period, boasts over one million followers in Taiwan. Since the 1990s, it has also spearheaded a wave of overseas missionary work. In Argentina, with its unique national conditions, nearly 4,000 Chinese immigrant missionaries have been drawn to the movement. This article explores how I-Kuan Tao has taken root, developed, and spread in a predominantly Catholic country over 30 years, including through two major financial crises. It investigates how local Argentinians have come to understand and accept the doctrine and religious practices of I-Kuan Tao. We find that many followers converted due to disillusionment with Catholicism, as they felt the church failed to provide adequate answers and thus sought alternative spiritual paths. I-Kuan Tao's family-centric doctrine and ethical practices, bearing similarities to Catholicism's focus on family, help fill a void left by the church, especially in demonstrating the model of a happy family. Additionally, as a syncretic religion, I-Kuan Tao's creative interpretations of the Bible and God initially led local believers to feel not that they were converting, but rather returning to a more primitive form of Christianity. This has allowed them to gain new understandings and fulfillment in their needs for God, family, and ultimate concern. Our research offers new perspectives on the spread of Chinese redemptive religions in predominantly Catholic countries and the localization and development of religious immigrant communities.

Urbanization and Religion in Türkiye: Blurring of the Border between the Secular and the Religious

Ozlem Ulker Shahavatov

Yalova University, Turkiye

In Türkiye, the urbanization experience of the religious people has brought out a hybrid culture in which the secular and the religious are intertwined. In this paper, it will be discussed how religious people have produced an alternative urban lifestyle to the cultural world of the secular city, by adopting the rules drawn by religion. There has been an effort to offer a religious alternative to almost every urban secular cultural activity in which its secular version is not compatible with religion. It has been tried to give an Islamic form to hotels, holidays, beaches, fashion, film, cinema, newspaper-magazine, entertainment centers, restaurants, schools, art centers, banking, financial institutions etc. All these institutional and cultural alternatives have both religious and secular structure. While the city's secular culture transforms the traditional lifestyle and mentality of religious people, the alternative forms transform the secular cultural structure of the city. This paper examines the alternative institutions, spaces, forms which are produced by religious people to explore both their religious and secular structure, what extent they are compatible classical urbanization/modernization theories and whether these alternative forms, institutions are opportunity or obstacle for the encountering of religious and secular citizens in common public spaces of city which is cosmopolis.

Too Many Halal Butcheries". Food, Religion, and Symbolic Boundaries in a Gentrifying Parisian Neighborhood.

Víctor Albert Blanco

ISOR-UAB, Spain

This presentation aims to explore the role of food in shaping representations of Islam and Muslims in French urban space. During the last decades, Islam has become the main religious minority in France and other European countries. Its visibility has often been object of social controversies, fueled by identitarian and far-right political movements. These controversies are not confined to an abstract public sphere but are intricately connected to tangible spaces and locations. Drawing on a qualitative fieldwork conducted in a Parisian neighborhood since 2016 (including interviews, ethnographic observations, and document analysis), I show that food plays a role in the (often negative) representations of Islam and Muslims. In this gentrifying neighborhood, where Islam is present through many worship places and other material and symbolic traces, non-Muslim inhabitants perceive food and its related objects (halal butcheries, halal food in school menus, etc.) as markers of social difference. While these representations are influenced by discourses and debates propagated at national and European levels, they are also inscribed in urban space and in the neighborhood social life and conflicts. The ongoing gentrification process affecting the neighborhood is crucial for comprehending these representations and their associated practices. The presence and visibility of Islam, including objects related to food, are seen as challenging the tastes and preferences of the new (non-Muslim) neighborhood inhabitants. By analyzing these representations and their spatial dimension, this presentation aims to contribute to the literature on the intersection of religion and gentrification taking food as a material object.

RN34 | T07_02: Religion in Different National Contexts

Religious Identities and Practices in Russia under Conditions of Post-globalization

Dmitry Ivanov

St. Petersburg state university, Russian Federation

Religiosity expanded dramatically in the late USSR and post-Soviet Russia. Surveys by the main pollster agencies showed regularly the growth in numbers of people identifying themselves as orthodox Christians and Muslims. Resurgence of religiosity has been mostly symbolic and only in a small part practical. Empirical data provided by recent national surveys reveal the high level of identification with distinct religion (70-80% of respondents) and the low level of involvement in religious practices (10-15% attending temples, praying, fasting etc.).

Now the turn to post-globalization is the change impacting all aspects of social life including religiosity. Post-globalization is a set of tendencies towards: 1) localization of globality in networked super-urban enclaves where flows of things, symbols, and humans made social life really global – open, borderless, mobile, multicultural; 2) widening economic and social gaps between super-urban points of access to networks and flows of resources and surrounding towns and rural areas; 3) rising new barriers (trade wars, sanctions, anti-migrant walls, quarantines, military confrontations etc.) restricting transnational networks and flows.

Post-globalization influences religious identities among Russian people in two ways. Localization of globality in super-urban enclaves is evident in metropolitan areas (Moscow and St. Petersburg) where people (especially the youth) demonstrate relatively weak religious identity being immersed in the intense social life becoming an augmented Modernity. Religious identity is stronger in small towns and rural areas where social life looks like an exhausted Modernity. Facing new barriers and confrontations after Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, people declare stronger identifications with national institutions and traditions including religious ones. The most recent surveys reveal the rising levels of religious identity and more approval of Russian orthodox church.

Reliosity in Italy. A qualitative approach

Roberto Cipriani

Roma Tre, Italy

More than twenty-five years after the previous survey, the results of the new research on religiosity in Italy have been published. The state of religion, or rather religions, in Italy during 2017 was analyzed. This is not just an update of the 1995 survey. This time the more challenging mixed

methodology was used, that is, both quantitative (with 3238 questionnaires administered throughout the country according to criteria of statistical representativeness) and qualitative (with 164 in-depth interviews collected in various Italian cities).

Determinants of Changes in Religiosity over the Life Course on the Example of Poland, Ireland, Czech Republic and USA

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Department of Sociology, University of Bialystok, Poland

We conducted a survey with a quota sample in four countries (N=900 per country): Poland, the Czech Republic, Ireland and the US. The survey took place in December 2022. The aim was to determine the factors influencing the direction of changes in respondents' religiosity at three points in their lives: at age 12, 25 and at present. The study used retrospective questions relating to various aspects of individuals' functioning in society, which, according to theoretical assumptions, could shape respondents' current religiosity. Among the information collected was a range of demographic data, data related to the social environment in which the respondents grew up and information about their caregivers. From the data, we try to determine the conditions under which the change in religiosity occurs and at what point or points in time it happens, distinguishing between the countries studied. Variables, came mainly from international surveys: ESS, WVS/EVS and ISSP, which means that our quota data can be calibrated against population data. These variables were also used for the retrospective component. In the presentation, we will discuss the factors that can influence a respondent's religiosity.

Has There Really Been A Religious Revival In The Ex-Yugoslav States? A Longitudinal Analysis Of Religious Affiliation, Church Attendance And The Number Of Churches In The Western Balkans.

Maruša Novak

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

The role of religion in communist Yugoslavia, especially during the turbulent Balkan wars of the 1990s, has attracted considerable scholarly interest. Numerous researchers (Saggau 2018; Zrinščak 2006; Henkel 2009; Elbasani 2015; Karcic 1997; etc.) have suggested a strong religious revival in the 1990s. However, despite extensive discussions about the religious resurgence, there is still a lack of strong empirical evidence for this trend.

The aim of my paper is to provide an empirical account of religious trends in the Western Balkans from the 1950s to the present day. The discussion will include key aspects such as religious affiliation, worship attendance, and the number of traditional churches.

The paper attempts to answer two research questions: 1) Has there been a religious revival in the ex-Yugoslav states? 2.) If so, what kind of revival has taken place and how is it linked to religious minorities?

The hypotheses are that religiosity increased in the 1990s, with the religious revival being earlier and stronger among religious minorities than among religious majority groups. Data from censuses, international surveys, and opinion polls in individual countries are used.

RN34 | T08_01: Religion, Science and Health

Public/Private Religion in Context: When Psychologists Turn to Religion to Invigorate Their Practice

Orly Tal, Michal Pagis

Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Much has been written on the subjectification of religion, as religion turns inward and focuses on the self. This process has been influenced by the penetration of psychological discourses into the religious sphere turning religion into a private, individual matter. In this paper, we investigate the opposite trajectory in which religion penetrates the psychological sphere and ask: Does this process reflect a continual privatization, or are we witnessing a new dimension of the de-privatization of religion? Based on ethnographic research among Israeli licensed therapists who integrate Buddhist or Jewish traditions into clinical practice, we illustrate that religion is made visible or invisible depending on context. In the context of institutional training and professional forums, religion is very visible and is used to produce a public, social, and moral vision for an invigorated psychology. Yet, in the dyadic setting between therapist and patient, religion is used by therapists to improve their clinical approach and practice while remaining invisible to the patient. We discuss the difference between these contexts as related to formal institutions, professions, and workplaces and the implications of this study to theories on privatization and de-privatization of religion.

Rationalizing the Nonrational: How Science and Islam Interact in Healing from Spirit Possession

Fareen Parvez, Grazielle Valentim

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How people heal from spirit (jinn) possession provides a productive arena to observe the complexity of the relationship between science and religion among Muslims. Drawing on qualitative research in Morocco, we argue that patients and Islamic healing practitioners maintain a respectful distance from biomedicine while also oscillating between scientific and non-scientific approaches to spirit possession. This relationship emerges out of (1) the process of rationalization of the field of Islamic healing and accompanying practices of boundary-making between legitimate and illegitimate Islam and (2) the inability of biomedicine to meet people's spiritual needs. This article heeds the call in the sociology of religion and science to examine non-Christian and non-US societies and to attend to people's actual practices rather than elite discourses and polemics.

The Soul in the Hospital Ward. Religion and Spirituality in Italian Hospitals: A Theoretical Analysis and Practical Implications

Martina Vanzo[1], Stefania Palmisano[2]

1Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Italy; 2University of Turin, Italy

The authors deal with the current role of religion within Italian healthcare institutions. This analysis is based on the findings of a project conducted in Turin, Italy, from 2020 to 2022, focusing on the integration between spirituality, religion and care as well as the management of religious diversity in hospitals. Additionally, preliminary data from a PhD project on palliative care is considered.

Italy, historically a predominantly Catholic country, is currently undergoing a significant transformation in its religious landscape, mirroring broader changes across Europe. This shift is attributed to increased migration and the rise of new spiritualities, introducing variegated religious beliefs and practices.

Public healthcare institutions, particularly hospitals, are a unique point of view for observing the debate on how the management of religious diversity is translated into practice by the administrations; furthermore, these arrangements often create conflicts but also opportunities for dialogue with the religious communities themselves. Multiple initiatives are implemented to uphold the right to religious freedom for patients experiencing suffering. This effort is further contextualized within the ongoing discourse on effectively integrating spirituality and religiosity into the treatment pathways for people facing serious diagnoses.

The COVID-19 pandemic compels us to reconsider these issues, as it has brought to light disparities in the management of different religions and highlighted areas of conflict. Therefore, it is crucial to contemplate the contemporary role that religion plays and assess whether it adequately addresses the needs of both citizens and administrative bodies.

RN34 | T08_02: Religious Communities and Organizations

Unpacking Religion's Role in the Organisational Identity Construction – the Case of Catholic Universities in Poland

Marcin Zwierzdzynski, Dariusz Szklarczyk

AGH University of Krakow, Poland

This paper examines the organizational identity of four state-subsidized Catholic universities in Poland, emphasizing the role of religion in its construction. Through a mixed-methods approach, combining ethnographic research and content analysis with online surveys and individual interviews, the study investigates the interplay of institutional logics, including religion, in shaping organisational identity.

Our findings reveal notable differences within studied universities; for instance, religion's role is perceived differently by students and employees, and its functions vary in development strategies and social media engagement. Differences are also visible between universities: for some, religion is a key identity resource, and for others – an "ornamental addition" to education and research. Consequently, no universal organisational identity or "recipe" for Catholicity emerges.

We address two key questions: how these universities construct their identity in relation to religion and why variations exist. Our hypotheses scrutinize the assigned role of religion, highlighting its dual function in organizational identity as both a tool for formation and a subject of adaptation to the secular world. In this sense, our research complements sociological theories of religion and offers a new perspective on organisations, particularly higher education institutions.

This research contributes significantly to understanding the unique position of Catholic universities at the intersection of institutional fields. It provides insights into the identity tensions faced by these institutions and, by extension, sheds light on the broader role of religion in contemporary society and the public sphere.

Between Faith and Commitment: The Work-Life Balance of the Volunteer Members of The Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

Violeta Yadira Orbea Rea

Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Voluntary work is one of the most powerful tools that religious organizations have to expand their principles, organize filial churches worldwide, and perform social projects that are usually focused on offering social help. Furthermore, those who provide free labor to the church's cause must devote time to this activity plus numerous work and non-work activities that are part of the daily routine. This paper explores the work-life balance (WLB) of eight Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement (SDARM) church members who regularly perform voluntary work in the religious context to determine the influence that volunteer work has on the planning of work and non-work activities. The main question is: how does voluntary work performed in the religious context influence the WLB of the SDARM members? And based on what factors do they build the concept of "balance" in their lives? Through semi-structured interviews, the information obtained shows that: 1. Voluntary work was perceived by them as a commitment of high responsibility, to which time and planning must be dedicated. However, the time allocation for the voluntary work differed between male and female participants. 2. Most of the voluntary activities are performed during the Sabbath, which this community considers a holy day. Therefore, a conviction of faith is linked to helping others and growing spiritually while carrying out this task. 3. The church environment offers a safe place where the participants are allowed not only to perfect their professional knowledge but also acquire new skills, which can be useful for their workplace or other situations. 4. Among the participants, voluntary service to the church was considered to build a concept of "balance". It helped volunteers to plan the amount of time dedicated to work and other non-work activities. This research contributes to the understanding of WLB in the church context and explores the types of voluntary activities between male and female members.

The Separation Wall Has Been Breached

Malki Poryes

Ben Gurion, Israel

Covid-19 accelerated the rise of Internet use in the Israeli ultra-Orthodox society. The ultra-Orthodox leadership viewed this as a break in the enclaved culture and a crack in its protective shell. With its inherent lack of oversight and control over the content, cyberspace offers a chance to experience different cultures and worldviews, and interactions between the sexes. Youth in ultra-Orthodox society are perceived as especially delicate and prone to danger when coming in contact with the outside world,

subsequently youth are distanced from exploration actions. They expected to safely move over the liminal stage of adolescence and commit to the life of a respectable adult in society. Surfing online can risk their future prospects by sanctions such as being expelled and ruining their and their good name. In order to enter this forbidden space, they must take precautions and keep their anonymity. Nevertheless, despite attempts to prevent young people from using the Internet, the age of Israeli ultra-Orthodox surfers is steadily decreasing.

This qualitative study explores Youth studies and identity negotiation in the prism of media consumption. It focuses on internet and social media usage by religious youth risking their social status by doing so. The findings show a new generation of youth with critical thinking toward authority: they perceive religious leadership as an hegemony rather than authority that derives its power from a holy practice and Tora study. They look at ultra-Orthodox practices of separatism as irrelevant to our day and age. Their negotiation brings forth a fresh understating of being part of an ultra-Orthodox community as an identity component rathe then a matter of strictly observing the Jewish law and conforming to society.

Beyond Appearance: The Impact of the Religiosity on Plastic Surgery Among Pious Muslim Women in Turkey

Ece Esmer

Kadir Has University, Turkiye

This paper draws on qualitative research to explore how religious salience affects the perception of plastic surgeries—both reconstructive and cosmetic procedures—among pious Muslim women in Turkey and how these women reconcile potential conflicts between beauty-intensive norms, Islamic values, and their agencies.

The ISAPS Report indicates a continuous rise in plastic surgeries in 2022, with a 41.3% increase over last four years. According to the report, Turkey, as a Muslim-majority country, ranks 9th globally in terms of plastic surgeries. This upward trend in plastic surgeries in Turkey raises question of how it can be interpreted, particularly in conjunction with the Islam, notably cautious among the Semitic religions regarding religious rules and values related to these procedures. According to Islamic law, cosmetic surgery is deemed impermissible when its objective is to enhance appearance of already functional and "normal body" structure solely for the purpose of attractiveness. Despite the Islamic bioethical principles and sharp framing of Muslim women's visibility in public spaces by Islamic law, they personally choose to reshape and make areas of their bodies visible to others in response to cosmetic and aesthetic concerns. This research will use the feminist grounded theory and ethnographic research methods in three plastic surgery clinics in Istanbul, strategically selected with an intersectional approach, and conduct 30 in-depth interviews with pious women who have experienced these procedures in these clinics. The preliminary findings suggest that pious Muslim women in Turkey have to navigate reconciling societal expectations and religious principles when considering aesthetic alterations, thereby contributing to intricacy of their situation. This study aims to delve not only into societal expectations' roots and effects from feminist perspective but also ask how Islam plays role in these conflicts. Additionally, it intends to address how Muslim women's perceptions of the "body", "bodily autonomy" and "choice" take shape in the context of plastic surgery and how pious women negotiate these ideas considering shifts between religious and non-religious values and practices in modern life.

Ece Esmer, a PhD student in Gender Studies at Kadir Has University has not participated ESA PhD Summer School before.

RN34 | T09_01: Religious Communities and Organizations

Mystics in Action: Transformations In The Sociological Study Of Mysticism

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Influential thinkers of the early 20th century like William James went to great lengths to formulate mysticism as a highly personal, indescribable, noetic, and transient experience. Weber famously conceived of mystics as isolated, quietist, contemplates. This definition of mysticism has since been critiqued and relativized from a sociology of knowledge perspective, which led to it falling out of academic fashion 40 years ago. Yet, the term only grew in popularity and research on mysticism, albeit scattered, divided and marginalized, continued across disciplines other than sociology. There is a recent revival of the study of mysticism in society challenging earlier ideas and embedding mystics fully as part of society. Reviewing this recent transformation, this paper proposes a critical realist approach to investigate the societally grounded claims and actions of mystics. It shows that not only are mystics fully grounded in society by virtue of their mystical language and community of practice, but also that they are unexpectedly active in social action, including healing, charity, peace activism, and environmental preservation. When their accounts are studied in detail, in most cases it appears that mystics fulfil their contemplative visions in pro-social action. At the same time, seemingly paradoxical mystical language has often fed mystification and supported unquestioned, extra-rational authority of religious figures. The paper briefly illustrates the social grounding of mysticism as well as the complex social contributions of mystics in both dimensions by way of a brief case study of two modern, cosmopolitan, mystics/ artists and peace activists, Nicholas and Helena Roerich. In this way, the paper shows the benefits in analyzing mysticism as embedded in forms of life and as part of social change.

New age Spiritualities and Sustainability: The Case of Ecovillages

Tiago Miguel Pinto

Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Portugal

This presentation examines the relationship between New Age spirituality and sustainability attitudes and behaviours, specifically within ecovillages.

New Age spiritualities have emerged as a dynamic force in the field of religious exploration, promoting interconnectedness and environmental consciousness. The beliefs associated with the New Age are grounded in a holistic worldview that emphasises the intrinsic connection between humanity and the natural world. This alternative spiritualities fosters a profound respect for the environment, encouraging the adoption of sustainable living practices such as organic farming, renewable energy use, and eco-friendly communal living. These practices are great examples of an emerging ecological ethic, which has a transformative influence that extends beyond individual choices and permeates wider societal perspectives.

The phenomenon of ecovillages lies at the heart of the New Age-environment nexus. In these intentional communities, cultural and spiritual practices intertwine, fortifying a deep connection with nature. Ecovillages prioritize cooperation, resilience, and self-organization, fostering a collective consciousness dedicated to environmental stewardship and sustainable living. Their impact is increasingly evident as their popularity and prevalence rise. Ecovillages are incubators for innovative solutions that transcend the traditional boundaries of community living, embodying spiritual ideals and influencing broader societal approaches.

In this way, an understanding of beliefs is crucial New Age spirituality within ecovillages and its pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future for both individuals and society at large.

Humor against Hegemony: Ridiculing the Serbian Orthodox Church

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University of Niš, Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia

The paper deals with the analysis of the interpretations and “framings” of the Serbian Orthodox Church in comic content shared on the internet.

The Church in contemporary Serbian society is an organization with a considerable reputation among the citizens, endowed with great trust. It has numerous privileges and utilizes a fair amount of resources provided by the political oligarchy. The Church enjoys a prominent public presence, both through the formal involvement of clergy and Church representatives in the work of secular institutions, and through the informal everyday practices of people. The hegemonic position of the Serbian Orthodox Church, as a self-proclaimed moral and spiritual leader, makes it a particularly suitable target for mocking and comic treatment using irony, satire and parody.

The undertaken analysis conceptually relies on Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of symbolic struggles, Gramsci’s notion of ‘hegemony’ and Peter Berger’s constructivist approach to humor. Using netnography as the method, the study will demonstrate the delegitimizing potential of ridicule in social struggles. The analysis data is comprised of visual and textual content that appeared as a reaction to Church related events. Most often thematized were “blunders”, “inappropriate” behavior, “problematic” statements and attitudes of Church dignitaries, as well as the practices of the Church representatives seen as opposed to the Christian teachings and the moralities preached by the Church (material opulence, moralizing and interference in the private lives of the people, aggressive outbursts, supporting

disavowed politicians, superstition, sex misconduct and other scandals).

"The Best Of All friends": Christian Charismatic Empowerment In Times Of Crises

Igor Jurekovič

University of Ljubljana / Faculty of Arts

Lalive d'Epinay, in a pioneering study conducted in Chile, characterized Pentecostalism as a haven of the masses. Our presentation aims to delve deeper into the concept of haven by examining it from the perspective of personal empowerment, which is derived from a person's relationship with Jesus Christ. We will discuss the preliminary results of a field research among Christian Charismatics in Slovenia that was carried out in three different churches: a neocharismatic church, a Pentecostal church, and the Charismatic Renewal of the Catholic church. Semi-structured interviews with religious leaders, semi-structured narrative interviews with believers, and participant observation sessions make up this research. Despite significant differences in some theological and liturgical respects, the fundamental similarity among the aforementioned communities is the individual encounter with Jesus Christ as an immanent being. The respondents frequently discuss this encounter and the ensuing personal relationship with Jesus Christ as a means of achieving self-empowerment. Two primary aspects of this empowerment will be identified and examined: first, self-reported experiences from worship sessions; and second, personal accounts of one's relationship with Jesus Christ. In the first case, we will talk about the weekly worship experience as a means of providing relief, and in the second, we will talk about how study participants build a relationship with Jesus Christ, who over time – and with effort – becomes a friend and a source of empowerment for Christian Charismatics.

RN35 | Sociology of Migration

RN35 | T01_01: Bordering, power and resistance 1

The 'Schengen Laboratory': Retrieving human mobility rights from EU historical legacies, 1985-2015

Cristina Blanco Sío-López

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This paper analyses the relevant role of the European Parliament (EP)'s debates in the critique of the increasing externalization of migration and citizenship policies as part of the historical discussion on the EU's free movement of persons. More particularly, this piece looks at the role, actions and discourses of fundamental players at the European Parliament (EP) articulating differential resilient responses to evolving crises of human mobility rights since the inception of the Schengen Area in 1985. These contributions constitute, indeed, inspiring new points of departure to frame the long-standing implications of externalization when articulating citizenship and migration policies around the respect to fundamental rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, this paper aims to recover empowering historical critiques towards the so-called 'Schengen Laboratory' which could be relevant today to find inclusive ways of responding to the citizenship, asylum and migration external dimension challenges currently being posed with regards to the EU's free movement of persons.

The main questions to be addressed are: What are the evolving modes of exclusion in transnational mobility in Europe and beyond? How can historical critiques be relevant to today's challenges to free movement of persons? What are the neglected differential solidarity and diversity dimensions of European integration? In this light, can we articulate responses to humanitarian dilemmas beyond security-centred conceptions of transnational mobility? And normatively, are narratives on 'shared values' in the EU and beyond, sufficient to mediate countervailing factors of exclusion?

This enquiry on EP sources is based on archival research at the Historical Archives of the EU in Florence, at the Historical Archives of the EP in Luxembourg and at the EP Research Services.

Migrant Mobility, Border Regime(s) And The Politics Of Enmity In South-Eastern Europe

Dimitris Parsanoglou[1], Nicos Trimikliniotis[2], Vassilis Tsianos[3]

1National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece; 2University of Nicosia, Cyprus; 3Kiel University of Applied Sciences, Germany

This presentation focuses on one aspect of the transformation of the European border regime, as it is materialised and specialised in the South-Eastern European border zone, namely Greece and Cyprus. As a starting point we take the finding that daily practices of materialising the border, i.e. of "doing the border", have been decisively transformed in recent years. Violent acts, such as pushbacks have become the de facto norm at many parts of the EU's external borders. The quasi normalisation of violent border practices, resulting to the suspension of the rule of law, can be a starting point to explore social and spatial logics underlying broader political dynamics in the region.

We believe that the multiple and structural violations of international and European law at this part of European borders are not an accident nor a simple deviation of the rule of law paradigm. Rather we argue that due to the failure of the migration management paradigm, as evidenced by the migrations of 2015-16, border control practices re-establish national logics that the European project – and in particular the Europeanisation of migration and border policies – had only superficially suspended in the context of post-national transformations.

In the present phase of the European border regime, formal and informal forms of "politics of enmity" (Mbembe 2016) accompanied with new forms of "ex-territorialisation" (see the recent Italian-Albanian agreement), occupy a growingly significant space. This presentation, which is based on ethnographic research conducted in the Greek-Turkish land border at the Evros region and along the Green Line in Cyprus, re-examines the ways in which "border work" is reproduced in the current, post-emergency period.

EU Border Externalisation and the African Postcolony: A Grounded Theory on the Relationship of Race, Gender, and Nationalism in Postcolonial Contexts

Céline Barry

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

The violence of imperial border and migration regimes is intensifying. Borders racialize, borders sexualize. They delineate the spheres of rights and non-rights, of being and non-being; they shape our participation in economic life and delineate our ability to survive under racialized

capitalism (Walia 2021; Bhattacharyya 2018; Tyzler 2019; Freedman et al. 2023).

Simultaneously, the process of externalizing Western borders into the territories of the South blurs the geopolitical color-line between North and South. This process is particularly evident in the interplay between the EU and African states. Postcolonial, race-critical, and intersectional border and migration studies foreground the entanglement (Conrad/Randeria 2002) of the EU's neoliberal, racialized, and gendered border policies and postcolonial tensions in African contexts (de Genova 2017; 2018; Korvensyrjä 2017; 2023; Derrider et al. 2020; Stock et al. 2019; İşleyen/El Qadim 2023; Erel et al. 2016; Sarahoui 2023; Barry 2017).

The racist crisis in Tunisia in early 2023, triggered by President Saied's discourse on the "great replacement" by black migrants and the subsequent fatal expulsions at the Tunisian-Libyan border, poignantly exemplifies the violent effects of neocolonial bordering in Africa. In this context, Sub-Saharan migrants face intersectional forms of oppression and exploitation along class and gender hierarchies.

Building on these events, my contribution explores the entanglement of postcolonial nationalism, race, and gender in the backdrop of EU border externalization. Drawing on fresh results from my Grounded Theory (Charmaz 2006) on African migrant struggles, I reflect on the Tunesian crisis from a Black Mediterranean, postcolonial-feminist perspective (Smythe 2018; Danewid et al. 2021; Dhawan/Castro Varela 2015). In view of a decolonized future (Fanon 1961), I critically reassess racialized and patriarchal constructs of the African nation.

On The Tightening Connections Between Labour And The (Internal) Border: A City Comparison

Margit Fauser

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The linkages between the labour and the European border regime have become tighter in recent decades. Together with the right to work, the duty to work is expanding for a variety of migrant groups, reflecting internal bordering through which paid employment, and (legal) residence closely together, with greater variation across EUrope. Losing ones' job quickly results in losing ones' papers, and not having a job hampers application or renewal of residence permits, and access to social rights. Yet, while the tightening of restrictive interconnections between legal stay, deportability, municipal registration, access to health care and social services can be observed as a general trend, this is true in largely different ways across Europe.

This contribution aims to shed light on the labour-border nexus through a comparative perspective using data from documentary analysis of legal frameworks and narrative interviews with labour market counselling and training agents and administration in two European global cities, Frankfurt am Main and Madrid. Among other aspects, the analysis shows the different roles played by concepts of formal work, informal work, any work, and good work in narratives and law. At the same times, the analysis reveals that different pathways seem to channel migrants into the same path characterized by low-waged, precarious work. Thus, while international migration is a classical instrument to regulate and control labour, recent dynamics turn labour into an instrument for the control of migration and most notably the migrants.

RN35 | T01_02: Migration and education 1

Exploring Migrants' Contextual Educational Attainment and their Children's Non-Ambitous Educational Choices

Jannike Gottschalk Ballo, Marianne Takvam Kindt

NIFU, Norway

High educational aspirations and "bold choices" among children of immigrants is a well-established finding in Norway and across European countries. While research on high-achievers has received a lot of scholarly attention, less is known about the low – to middle-achievers. This paper asks: what characterizes children of immigrants who opt out of "ambitious" educational tracks? Many will argue that immigrants are not a random sample of the population of the sending country, but rather that they are positively selected. The Barro-Lee international education dataset provides a measure of immigrants' education relative to their same-sex peers in the sending country. Substantial research exists on the relation between parents' contextual educational attainment and their children's positive drive to higher education, but little is known about the importance of relative parental education in shaping children's non-ambitious choices. The objective of this paper is therefore to investigate the role of parental educational attainment relative to educational levels in the sending country in explaining application patterns and enrolment in vocational upper secondary tracks for children of immigrants. The study utilises the Barro-Lee Educational Attainment dataset linked to rich and detailed full-population Norwegian administrative register data. Tentative descriptive findings show that descendants that enrol in vocational education have lower grades than their native majority peers, and that this gap is greater for boys than for girls. Findings regarding parents' sending country and relative educational status are still to be determined.

The "Risky Choice": Children of Immigrants' Narratives About Vocational Upper Secondary Options

Marianne Kindt, Jannike Ballo

NIFU

Children of immigrants have a strong preference for academic tracks, even when they are low performing. As vocational tracks can offer a viable pathway into the labour market for students who struggle in school, it is important to understand the mechanisms behind the ethnic inequality in access to vocational upper secondary options. However, little attention has been given to understand why children of immigrants tend to opt out of vocational education. This article aims to fill this research gap by asking: how do middle-to low-performing students with immigrant background talk about their educational choice, and what social status do they assign to vocational options? We draw on a thorough longitudinal qualitative dataset consisting of 62 self-authored texts (of whom 21 has immigrant parents), 31 in-depth interviews with the same students when enrolled in their last year of academic upper secondary education (13 with immigrant parents), and 21 (8 with immigrant parents) follow-up interviews one year later. By constructing narratives that frame the vocational pathway as "easy and unidimensional" and the academic track as "demanding and filled with future opportunities", students construct the vocational pathway as the "risky choice". However, these narratives are shared by all interviewees regardless of their parents' birthplace. Thus, while negative stigma might be one factor pulling children of immigrants away from vocational paths, it does not necessarily explain the differences between native majority and children of immigrant's educational choices. The possible different mechanisms producing ethnic variety in educational choice at lower levels, warrants further investigation in future research.

An Exploration of to What Extend Digital Engagement Influences the Life Chances of 'left-behind' Children in China

Melody Zhang

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Chinese urbanisation process create many opportunities for migrant workers, however, accompanied with the problems of large number of senior citizens and children in their home in rural areas and small cities, these children are called 'left-behind' children (LBC). The population of LBC is over 40 millions who lives in rural areas out of the total LBC population of 69 million while urban LBC's number growing to 28.26 million from having no formal statistics in government and NGO databases (UNICEF, 2018). This research adopt the idea of digital skills as a form of cultural capital (Paino and Renzulli, 2012; Ollier-Malaterre, Jacobs and Rothbard, 2019; Yates and Lockley, 2020) to explore the LBC's life course experiences under the influences of digital technology.

Based on the interviews with 15 rural LBC and 18 urban LBC, this research argues that despite the digital expansion enables people in both rural and urban areas to access internet, urban LBC are more likely benefits from formal IT education in schools compares to their rural counterparts reported more addition towards social media. This research also interviewed 11 service providers from NGOs to explore their role as external support in LBC's digital engagement and emphasised that although a lot effort, money and human resources being put into addressing LBC's cultural struggles through donating digital equipment and money, training rural teachers to use digital devices, assigning volunteers, their work are stilly profoundly limited by geographical and policy constraints.

Migrant Families and Educational Itineraries: Innovative Approaches for Social Mobility

Fiammetta Fanizza, Fiorella Spallone

Foggia, Italy

In the light of what Mario Draghi defined as "lost generation", this paper considers the young immigrants' effects of social inclusion in southern Europe. In particular, this paper considers the trajectories of personal training and orientation of the children of immigrants in Italy with the intention to propose concrete actions and ways of escaping from social inequalities, especially in little towns and peripheral territories.

In this regard, the paper presents an Italian best practice, called Poliferie, a non-profit association that deals with social mobility through the provision of an innovative high school graduate orientation. According to the point of view of those who are sure that guidance has inherent value still underestimated, Poliferie highlights the advantages of using parental orientation as a tool through which to understand the paths of education, citizenship integration, social mobility.

RN35 | T01_03: Migrant mobilization, (dis)trust and the public sphere 1

'I Do Not Trust Any of Them Anymore': Institutional Distrust and Corrective Practices in Pro-asylum Activism in Finland

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This paper focuses on the question how restriction of immigration policies and deportations of foreigners transform European societies and affect the citizens of deporting countries, in particularly their sense of trust and broader relation to the state. Drawing on qualitative research on Finnish citizens who engage in pro-asylum activism, we examine how institutional distrusting evolves as a reflexive process. By analysing citizens' trust judgements on institutional practices and actions that follow, we argue that distrust in institutions enhances activists' attempts to engage in corrective practices, in other words taking over the functions of institutions when noticing mistakes or unfairness in institutional practices. Corrective practices reinforce activists' distrust in the asylum-related institutions and make them question the 'myth' of Finland as an equal and inclusive country. Despite negative consequences of institutional distrust for individuals, activists continue their work indicating that they continue to trust the democratic system in Finland and its capability to absorb their claims in the long run. Activists continue to defend the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees in the harsh political climate of growing right-wing populism and anti-immigration sentiments indicating that institutional distrust and generalized trust can coexist. We demonstrate, however, that in this political climate activists' demands, though far from radical, are largely unheard by the institutions. We conclude that institutions should be more responsive to their criticism and trust should be taken as a specific development target in public institutions if we want to preserve what is left of the trust-based Finnish society.

From Institutional (Mis)Trust to Interpersonal (Mis)Trust. Asylum Seekers' Representations of Non-Profit Organizations in France

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Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales / Centre Maurice Halbwachs, France

In France, non-profit organizations are key actors in social and legal assistance for asylum seekers. The state finances some of them to provide information and support for accessing social rights and asylum procedures. Some non-profit organizations are thus directly involved in policy-making, collaborating with the state. The complexity of the asylum system tends to blur roles' repartition between the state and the non-profit operators. Many asylum seekers struggle to understand the differences and links between actors. Confusions take place in the context of political tensions regarding migration and general mistrust against asylum seekers (not to be legitimate for the international protection they are applying for). Asylum seekers' status puts them into uncertainty and precariousness concerning their residency or the continuity of social rights. Therefore, the communication suggests that fear of being rejected by France negatively affects institutional trust and interpersonal trust toward social workers. Interactions between institutional trust and the interpersonal trust process need to be explored further so that determinants of mistrust towards social workers will be better understood: Do asylum seekers understand the role of non-profit organizations? Is there a possibility for developing interpersonal trust despite institutional mistrust? How do interpersonal and institutional trust issues reciprocally contribute to each other? What are the socialization processes at stake for trust building in non-profit organizations? Answers to these questions rely on empiric materials from my Ph.D. thesis on social and legal assistance for asylum seekers in French non-profit organizations: 98 interviews with asylum seekers and non-profit workers insist on the reciprocity of trust challenges, and ethnographic observations underline their practical implications for assistance and the way asylum seekers experience it.

Tension, Trust, and Transformation in the Context of Syrian Diaspora Mobilization in Germany

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In recent years, a dynamic Syrian civil society has emerged in Germany, catalyzed by the transformative events of the 2011 Syrian uprising. Initially uniting Syrians abroad in collective efforts for social and political change in their homeland, the escalating conflict and growing sectarianism in Syria (re)shaped the patterns of the Syrian diaspora mobilization.

Moreover, while Germany has long claimed to promote a secure and neutral environment conducive to reconciliation, reflection, and dialogue among diverse entities in the Syrian diaspora and within the German society at large, the reality has proven to be more multi-faceted and complex. In particular, the conflictual relationship between the host country and the diaspora, along with the fragmented nature of the Syrian diaspora landscape, has led to tensions challenging the claimed "social cohesion" and "social inclusion".

Using an intersectional and transnational lens, this research explores trust dynamics, societal tensions, and potential transformations within the process of Syrian diaspora mobilization in Germany. Based on a mixed-methods approach, including mapping reviews, surveys, focus group discussions, interviews, and digital ethnography, this study draws on perspectives within the diaspora literature that conceptualize diasporas as complex, diverse, and dynamic social entities formed through active transnational mobilization processes.

The findings presented here show that the dynamics of (dis)trust and the tensions within the Syrian diaspora in and vis-a-vis Germany are multifaceted and influenced by a combination of internal and external factors that mirror in part broader societal tensions.

Care-Control Relations in Austrian Refugee Services – the Role of Workers' Migrant Background

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The arrival of various groups of asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people to Western Europe in the last decades implied an increased emphasis of integration policies on economic performance, education and participation in the labour market. Consecutively a multitude of institutions have also been created, assisting refugees to obtain language skills, qualifications and ultimately, employment. The creation of such institutions, while having the mandate to channel newly arriving potential workforce towards the labour market, also created further needs for labour. Teachers, trainers, social workers, social pedagogues, as well as a great number or volunteers were recruited in these institutions, a high proportion of whom being themselves of migrant background, and in the case of Austria, arriving from Central and Eastern European countries.

The presentation displays preliminary results of an ethnographic research exploring the relationship between members of various migrant groups in such educational and welfare institutions in Austria, and the reshaping of patterns of solidarities – or the lack of it – in these settings. How do migration and asylum policies translate into institutional discourses and into individual narratives and affects, when institutions responsible for their implementation are animated by persons who are themselves transnationally mobile? What typical affective relations of care

and control become mobilised by workers and what are the implications of such relations on the governance of various migrant groups? How do personal migration experience, migrant background and migrant identities of workers in these institutions shape discourses about other migrants, and their accommodation in Austria?

RN35 | T02_01: Bordering, power and resistance 2

Power and Violence at Europe's Southern Border: Resistance to the Securitisation of Migration in the Canary Islands

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As Europe's southern border, Spain plays a key role in shaping European Union (EU) migration policy. This is observed through the bordering practices and ad-hoc measures it establishes as the status quo, often in border regions such as the Canary Islands, designed to stem migration flows to the Spanish mainland. These formal and informal practices can range from detention and deportation of individuals to more subversive forms such as the introduction of complex administrative procedures to regularise their immigration status or access their rights. What is referred to as the 'securitisation' of migration encompasses a wide-range of techniques of power often underpinned by crisis narratives, which frame individuals migrating as either 'risky' or 'at-risk.' Such representations can create spaces where violence, discrimination and xenophobia are provoked, condoned or protracted against migrants, asylum-seekers and ethnic minorities alike. Combining theory and empirical research, this paper explores how the securitisation of migration in the Canary Islands coalesces into these different forms of violence and how migrants are resisting such dynamics at the micro-level. It investigates the evolving spatial and temporal restrictions for migrants as well as the role of social networks and solidarity organisations in host communities in pushing back against these techniques of power. By examining the different manifestations of resistance among migrants at the every-day level, this research contributes to a growing body of critical literature that aims to reveal the mechanics and techniques of power of the Spanish and EU border regime and its possible social consequences.

Border Control Infrastructures In Ruins And (Failing) Attempts Of Accountability

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The torturing and murdering of a Ukrainian citizen in 2020 by border police officers working for Portugal's border control agency SEF at the detention installation of the Lisbon airport, led to criminal investigations, a political turmoil questioning the government's accountability for human

rights violations and the political decision to abolish the border control agency, and ultimately reorganize the police and migration management system as such.

In this paper, we look into a sequence of breakdown and attempts of inventing a more legitimate border control infrastructure in Portugal. The focus of the analysis centers on the ambiguous socio-material and epistemic practices around the 'crisis event' in the detention center as a particularly delicate, usually invisible infrastructural space of containment in Portugal.

We analyze the different socio-material and epistemic practices at the detention center as an infrastructural space of the state, and how the media and reporting practices of civil and international organizations turn an infrastructural crisis step by step public. We discuss how the attempts of holding security professionals, a border control agency and finally a state accountable and state responses to them foreground and background specific 'matters of concern'. These range from the risk of human rights violation to the need for maintenance of infrastructure in times of permanent security threats.

Overall, we discuss the paradoxes of infrastructures in ruins, attempts to retrofit them into present and imagined future contexts, and how instead of mitigating risks they create new risks when border control infrastructure-in-crisis persists over time.

Temporary Status, Age, And The Future: Temporal Borders And The Separation Of Transnational Refugee Families Across Germany And Turkey

Paladia Ziss

University of Birmingham, UK

This paper analyses how temporal structures in asylum and refugee governance shape the process and experience of separation amongst transnational refugee families. Methodologically, it draws on eight months of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in Frankfurt and Istanbul in 2021 as part of a bigger PhD project on how the politics of time shape refugee reception and settlement across the transnational social field of Germany and Turkey. Specifically, the paper engages empirical material from narrative interviews with 30 refugees from Syria, Turkey and Afghanistan, as well as participant observation with four refugee families with members in both Frankfurt and Istanbul. Theoretically, it builds on conceptualisations of displacement and borders as temporal as much as spatial phenomena (Mezzadra and Neilson, 2013; Ramsay, 2018, 2020; Tazzioli, 2018), and emerging literature on how nation state governance shapes transnational families (Amelina and Bause, 2020). The paper argues that asylum governance in Germany and, to a lesser degree, Turkey, operates as a form of temporal bordering, in which temporary legal status, application deadlines, and cut-off points like age of maturity are employed to govern the spatial mobility and future trajectories of individual refugees. These practices of temporal bordering in turn affect family members living in a different state. The paper shows that, amongst transnational refugee families, spatial separation across Germany and Turkey becomes existentially threatening and harmful, if it is accompanied by temporal separation, a collective sense that the possibility for sharing futures together with loved ones was foreclosed.

Challenges and Perspectives on Migration Policy in EU Border States: A Comparative Analysis of Greece, Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria

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1UAB, Spain; 2UAB, Spain

In recent years, the European Union (EU) has seen an increase in migratory flows, and several Member States on the EU's borders are experiencing difficulties in managing these migratory movements. Because of their geographical position on the borders of the European Union, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, and Greece are more affected by migrants crossing their borders than the other main immigration destinations within the EU. The influx of migrants has raised questions about migration policies and integration programmes, highlighting the shortcomings of existing immigration systems. This article explores the complexities surrounding migration policy in these four EU border states, highlighting three key areas: the dynamics of migration flows, the management of migration, and the perspectives of policymakers involved in developing migration policy.

Drawing on a diverse set of data sources, including 4 focus groups, 17 qualitative interviews and an online survey of 79 respondents, the researchers collected in-depth information directly from policymakers actively involved in the formulation and implementation of migration-related strategies.

Italy, Bulgaria, Spain, and Greece have significant similarities and differences when it comes to dealing with migratory flows. The evolving nature of the migration phenomenon has prompted policymakers in these countries to adapt reactive approaches to migration management. The changing dynamics of public opinion, the country's political landscape, and European migration policy are the main factors that have played a key role in shaping and implementing policy decisions. These policies reflect the complex interplay between domestic policy, the EU measures on immigration, and the need to find pragmatic solutions

RN35 | T02_02: Migration and education 2

Child-Centred Approach to Migrant Children's Integration

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In this article, we will critically discuss the integration of migrant children in educational settings in the European context. From the prevailing adult-centred perspective (of educators, researchers and policy makers), successful integration is perceived as migrant children adopting the local language and cultural values, achieving academic success, progressing to the next grade, avoiding dropping out of school and eventually finding a job. Furthermore, the "traditional" view of integration assumes integration into an imaginary homogeneous national culture. In this paper, we will critically reflect on and challenge all these traditional notions basing on a child-centred approach that recognises (migrant) children as active participants and as the main source of information about their lives and thus about integration (Mayeza, 2017). This means that we shift the focus from an adult-centred perspective to children's experiences of migration and integration, viewing them as experts, skilled communicators, rights-holders and meaning-makers (Clark and Moss, 2005; Fattore, Mason & Warson, 2007). What integration is from a child-centred perspective does not necessarily coincide with adult-centred perspective This is illustrated using data collected as part of the MiCREATE – Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe Horizon 2020 project in eight European countries (UK, Slovenia, France, Poland, Austria, Denmark, Spain, Greece) and Turkey in 2019-2022 through comparative multi-method research. The MiCREATE project used a child-centred methodological approach in the form of participant observation, focus groups and the collection of autobiographical life stories. Children from primary and secondary schools were involved in the study.

Parents' Attitudes Towards Immigrants in the 2022 Edition of PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment): A Comparative European Perspective

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Adults' attitudes towards immigrants are intrinsically enlightening, insofar as they reflect basic community values involving inclusivity and openness to other cultures: but such attitudes also, obviously, contribute to shaping their children's worldviews. The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) focuses primarily on assessing – via a large-scale international sample survey – the competency levels of 15-year-olds engaged in schooling or training; it also collects copious information on socio-economic-cultural circumstances. In a (limited, unfortunately) subset of countries, students' *parents* are also surveyed. This study consists of a secondary analysis of data from the 2022 edition of PISA (released in December 2023) relating to parents' views on immigrants and, more specifically: general equality of rights among immigrants and natives, immigrant-origin children's educational opportunities, immigrants' voting privileges, and acceptability of immigrants' preserving their customs. The analysis adopts a comparative European perspective involving Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, and Portugal (for a total of over 35,000 cases). The paper will highlight differences between these countries, as well as the relationship between attitudes, on the one hand, and, on the other, families' migratory status, parents' educational attainment, households' socio-economic milieu, children's educational outlooks, schools' organizational contexts and countries' immigration profiles. Preliminary analyses show that, unsurprisingly, immigrant parents tend to have more immigrant-friendly attitudes (especially if their children are also immigrants, rather than being born in the receiving country) than natives and that the safeguarding of educational opportunities for children is the most supported provision among those submitted to parents' consideration.

The Comparison of First and Second Generation Migrants' Transnational Ties: Case of Lithuania

Ingrida Geciene-Janulione

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

After regaining independence in 1991, one-fifth of the Lithuanian population emigrated abroad (Migration trends, 2023). While there have been numerous studies on the first generation of Lithuanian migrants who left the country after independence, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the ties of second-generation migrants. Hence, the aim of presentation is to reveal the connections of second-generation migrants with Lithuania in comparison of the ties of the first generation.

Although second-generation migrants have been studied extensively worldwide, the primary focus of research has been on their identity, integration, and upward mobility. Transnational theory offers insights into the growing visibility and transnational claims of the second generation of migrants. While some authors argue that the second generation is less transnational than the migrant generation or engages in different forms of transnationalism (Maruyama & Stronza, 2010; Tie et al., 2015, Agyeman & Kyei 2019, etc.), others suggest that symbolic ties persist through "memories, nostalgia, and imagination" (Glick Schiller, 2004, 458) and continue to influence the transnational lives of the second generation (Levitt, 2009, 1231).

In the presentation the results of project "The connection with Lithuania of the second generation migrants who left the country after the regaining of independence" will used.

During the project it was conducted 24 in-depth interviews with first and second generation migrants in 4 countries (Ireland, UK, Norway and Germany) by using matched interview method. These interviews reveal the nature of transnational connections of both generations and identify factors influencing transnational ties, including aspects such as identities, family and school socialisation, and the timing and context of migration.

Illuminating Migration And Education: Individual And Social Learning.

Thomas Geisen[1], Pat Cox[2], Zvi Bekerman[3]

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If, in researching migration, conceptualizations of migration are separated from methodological nationalism (Glick Schiller/Wimmer, 2002), then there is a need for theories which reflect and analyse this (still) new paradigm (Cox/Geisen, 2014). Whereas migration (international or internal), can be understood as a series of interlinked non-linear processes, which are perfused by issues of intersectionality (Crenshaw 1989; 2015), including (but not limited to) 'race', ethnicity, gender, religious faith. For migrant peoples, the intersectional dimensions of age, education and qualifications reflect their pre-migration experiences, influencing their aspirations for their children's education, and for continuing their own (Morrice, 2021).

In the minority world, the hegemony of influential groups in maintaining dominant knowledge forms in educational settings is frequently occluded (Gramsci, 1971). Education (knowledge transmission) is principally considered to occur in public regulated spaces within schools, colleges and universities, in person or online. Learning may occur in these public spaces or more privately, where self-understandings and alternatives for life in the social world can emerge (Bekerman, 2008).

Mergner's theories of the social processes of learning (2005), wherein the desire to learn is in tension with self-generated learning limits, positions migrant and non-migrant students and educators of every age as both learning subjects and acting subjects, able to recognize and transcend their own learning limits.

To illustrate the relevance of Mergner's theorizing for issues of migration and education, each of the three speakers presents a recent research example: in Switzerland on distant care; on bilingual schools in Israel; on educating refugees as co-researchers on a live research project in the UK.

RN35 | T03_01: Bordering, power and resistance 3

Accommodation Camps or Total Institutions?

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Greece hosted in 2015-2016, as a first reception country of refugee population, a significant number of asylum seekers. First reception took place mainly on the islands of the Eastern Aegean Sea, namely Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros, while their short or long-term accommodation took place mainly in Hospitality Structures in the mainland. These structures were initially characterised of openness and multiple trauma management, while other basic needs, e.g. health, education etc., were added among their functions. The present study focuses on the character of these structures in terms of Goffman's concept of "Total Institutions". Based on ethnographic research conducted at one of the main structure in the area of Athens, we will investigate, on the one hand, the functionality and productivity of the structure as a total institution and as a specifically designed space; on the other hand, we investigate the effects of the organisation of this space on the refugee population, hosted in the structure for a certain period of time, very often much extended than the initial provision.

In this sense, our presentation attempts to disentangle the social relations produced within a total institution, as well as the transformations of the institution in the course of time, particularly during and after the emergency period triggered by the "refugee crisis".

Accommodation Centres for Asylum Seekers as Sites of Conflict and Collaboration: Strategies for the Prevention of Violence

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The escalating use of mass accommodation facilities for asylum seekers by governments has raised pivotal concerns about safety and well-being. These facilities, despite varying conditions across European countries, consistently present risks of violence due to overcrowded living conditions and limited privacy. Recognizing the inherent challenges of mass accommodation, this research underscores the pressing need for violence prevention and resident safety in the era of increasing "campization" (Kreichauf, 2018).

Based on in-depth qualitative interviews conducted in seven languages, involving 20 employees and 60 asylum

seekers, our study focuses on two German accommodation centers. This multilingual approach, carried out by a team of nine interviewers, offers comprehensive insights into the experiences and perspectives of both residents and staff.

Our findings underscore the critical role of institutional responses and collaborative efforts with service providers. We shed light on the often-overlooked contributions of low-level, underpaid employees, including security personnel, who in this case extend their impact beyond their formal job descriptions. Furthermore, our analysis highlights interconnected strategies of staff and residents, stressing the active and vital roles played by asylum seekers themselves in violence prevention. We delve into the intertwined strategies employed by both groups, emphasizing the agency of residents and revealing the previously underestimated cosmopolitan perspectives of low-level employees. In conclusion, we contextualize these findings within the broader discourse of violence and protection in refugee accommodations (Scherr, 2022) and crimigration (Aas, 2011) and offer recommendations for future actions. Our study significantly contributes to a nuanced understanding of violence management and safety provision in mass accommodation facilities for asylum seekers, with implications for improving the lives and well-being of vulnerable populations.

Who is Smuggler? Contradictory Positions and Unsettled Roles in Smuggling Networks on the Balkan Route

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1Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University; 2Koç University; 3Sakarya University; 4İstanbul Medeniyet University

In the last two decades, different ethnic groups, including Afghans, Pakistanis, Syrians, and Moroccans joined the human smuggling network on the Balkan migration route. Expansion of global conflict geographies and border closures in the EU's "humanitarian corridor" following the so-called 2015-2016 refugee crisis, with migration flows persisted, pushing individuals toward more perilous flight ways to Western EU countries, increased illicit economy along the route.

Numerous studies have examined Turkey-to-EU clandestine migration, yet the overlook of the facilitative guides and their role in reshaping migration corridors, the multi-layered structure of smuggling networks, and how migrants perceive these remain a significant gap.

The smuggling network's complexity on Balkan route weaves through diverse practices, challenging the simplistic perception of smuggling as solely the work of "bad guys." To foster an analytical and responsible understanding, we propose two approaches: firstly, acknowledging the smugglers' porous, permeable, and heterogeneous inner world. Secondly, redirecting attention from fixed roles in a potentially criminal and mafia-like smuggling composition to the ordinary actors navigating survival through alternative and flexible channels within the network.

We elucidate this complexity by identifying 4 distinct (and contradictory) positions and roles that make clandestine migration possible and sustainable along the route: organized smuggling networks (executives of operation), independent guides (temporarily recruited migrants), peripheral actors (indirect participants like middlemen, taxi drivers, truckers), and beneficiaries turning a blind eye (law enforcement officers, bus drivers, ticket booth attendants). The study reveals the permeability between the identified positions and roles, challenging the fixed categories of smuggler and migrant.

Our multi-sited field research in Turkey, Greece, Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2022 involves in-depth interviews with smugglers and migrants and participant observations at borderlands.

Bordering Practices And Hierarchisation Of Mobilities: Two Airports Border Case Studies

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The aim of the paper is to study airport border spatiality and temporality in the construction and selection of different categories of travelers. Indeed, despite many recent studies on border control and dynamics of hierarchisation of people on the move, airports remain a less investigated site in the field of Critical Border Studies.

Airports are in fact particularly interesting sites to observe the way in which mobility is controlled and constructed (Adey, 2003). During our observations, airports emerged as liminal spaces and as an opaque threshold which give complexity to the study of border control.

The originality of our approach lies in bringing into dialogue two doctoral qualitative researches dealing with humanitarian corridors and airport transit zones. In this context, our contribution will be based on two observations in 2023: the first one concerns a humanitarian corridor arrival at Roma Fiumicino airport, while the other one regards border practices in Orly airport transit zone nearby Paris. Thus, airports become not only spaces of transit but, in certain cases, places of detention too. Since these places are opaque and difficult to access, we could do our observations through two non-profit organizations which raise interesting methodological questions that may be discussed.

Drawing on these two cases, we will tackle the following questions: why are airports borders important to study? How the temporal and spatial bordering reveal some dynamics of hierarchisation of mobilities?

RN35 | T03_02: Diasporic and intergenerational approaches to migrants' decision making

Immigration of Russians to Serbia: Motives and Consequences

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After Russia's attack on Ukraine, both Ukrainians and Russians are fleeing their homelands. Serbia is one of the main destinations for Russian emigrants. It is estimated that 150,000 (Tanjung, 2023) to 300,000 Russians immigrated to Serbia in a year and a half (Andric, 2023).

Although it condemned the Russian aggression against Ukraine and voted in the UN for a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Russian army from Ukraine, Serbia did not impose sanctions on Russia. At the international level, maintaining ties with Russia is interpreted as direct opposition to the political decisions of the European Union. As a result, the alignment of Serbia's foreign policy with the policy of the European Union decreased from 64% in 2021 to 45% in 2022 (Andric, 2023). Fleeing from the current regime, Russians are immigrating to a country that does not want to impose sanctions on the same regime.

The aim of the work is to indicate:

– Various factors that encouraged Russians to choose Serbia as their future destination.

– Political, economic and demographic changes observed in Serbia due to the immigration of Russians.

Electronic editions of the press published in the Serbian language in the period from February 24, 2022 to the end of 2023 are used as a data source. In addition to the press, scientific and professional literature is also used.

Relevant data were extracted using content analysis method.

The results of the research show that the belief of two brotherly peoples has been shaken. In the prejudices that Russians and Serbs have about each other, there are more negative than positive characteristics.

From Residents to 'New Citizens': Aspirations, Identities and Decision-Making of Internal Migrants in China

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Since China's marketisation in the 1980s, the massively increasing internal migration has been invigorating the economic development of Chinese cities while also posing challenges to urban social governance. By 2020, there were 376 million Chinese migrants (27% of the national population) living in a city other than their de jure city of household registration (hukou) and hence excluded from the obligatory provision of public services by the local states. Since 2011, the central Chinese government has initiated a 'new citizenship' campaign break down the institutional barriers and corresponding inequalities between local and migrant residents, whereby 100 million migrants are expected to access at least education and medical services. That opened the way for municipal governments to establish their own competitive migration programmes, many of which devised 'points schemes' to 'screen out' eligible migrant-applicants from non-eligible ones. Existing research on Chinese internal migration has overwhelmingly tended to homogenise migrants as a uniformly impoverished urban underclass and the state as a unified powerful entity. The 'agency' of both individual migrants and different state actors has been largely neglected. To inquire into the role of agency in this issue, this paper revisited Parsons' action and social system theory to test migrant responses to the local implementation of 'new citizenship' policies: their aspirations, identities and decision-making regarding place of settlement and access to public services. The survey and interviewing data showed a diverse array of ways migrant agency can be embodied, echoing Parsons' tripartite action-orientations though not always organised in a socially 'integrated' way.

Migration as an Individual or Family Decision? Examining Migration Decision-Making through an Intergenerational Approach

Tuen Yi Chiu

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International migration has become a ubiquitous phenomenon. Since migration of the younger generation will affect the extent to which ageing parents can receive old-age care, migration decision-making within the intergenerational care context becomes an important social and research topic. In migration scholarship, few have scrutinized how older and younger generations negotiate migration decisions and make intergenerational care plans in the pre-migration context. This paper addresses this issue by examining the migration decision-making process between ageing parents and adult children in Hong Kong, a place

that is undergoing a new wave of exodus. A mix of qualitative in-depth interviews and visual care mapping are used to capture the views of both generations on migration and intergenerational care expectations. Specifically, this paper discusses whether migration is regarded as an individual or family decision, and whether and how ageing parents and intergenerational care considerations are involved in the migration decision-making process. Furthermore, it examines how the quality of intergenerational relations, filial ideology, and care needs of the generations affect the (non)involvement of ageing parents in the migration decision-making process. Overall, the findings of this paper contribute to the ongoing intellectual debate about the changing intergenerational contract and shed light on the dynamic relationship between migration and intergenerational care. They also help reveal whether ageing parents are embracing or resisting the new trend of independent ageing that has emerged in recent years. Methodologically, the findings illuminate how an intergenerational approach could benefit the analysis of migration decision-making in the family context.

Diasporic Memory and Heritage: Intergenerational Narratives of Kurdistani Jews in Israel

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The State of Israel has been the recipient of two waves of mass migration: first in the 1950s and later in the 1990s. Within the framework of these Zionist homecomings, Operations Ezra and Nehemiah airlifted thousands of Kurds to Israel in the early 1950s. After a traumatic departure from their homeland due to pogroms and threats, Kurdish Jews, along with other Mizrahi migrants, started a new life in Israel. So far, many studies focused on the experience of larger groups of migrants, and "peripheral groups," such as the Kurds, have not received their deserved attention in history books. This paper examines the ways in which the Kurdistani Jewish community mobilizes in Israel and contributes to understanding the cultural trauma that they have endured after their departure from Kurdistan, intergenerational transmission of collective memory, and formation of diasporic identities that are shaped by transnational dynamics. It demonstrates how Kurdistani Jews are linking past and present, and recreating Kurdish heritage in transnational space that is first weaved in the Levantine migration corridors and then enriched by other global/regional trends. The findings are based on extensive multi-sited fieldwork in Israel which resulted in focus group and individual interviews with members of the community.

RN35 | T03_03: Migrant mobilization, (dis)trust and the public sphere 2

Migrants' Precarity And How The Welfare State Negotiates Its Different Roles

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Individual characteristics of migrants (such as lack of local language competencies and low formal qualifications, health) as a key explanatory factor for migrants' lower labour participation and precarity in advanced Western societies. Less is known about how the structure of the welfare system and its underlying institutions may contribute to persistent inequalities. This paper discusses the role of welfare state arrangements in (re-) producing migrant's often precarious work inclusion, based on insights from Norway. In Norway, as in many other Western European societies, the welfare State model has undergone a shift towards increased focus on workfare/labour activation policies and pressure to monitor and reduce costs. The paper offers an analysis of what may be considered as the Janus face of the (Norwegian) welfare state as regards migrants' labour inclusion. On the one hand, it has an obligation to uphold the ideal of equal premises for all to participate and live self-determined lives. On the other, the Norwegian welfare state is a major employer of migrants (women in particular) through its hegemonic role in providing care services for children and elderly people; jobs that are characterized by low wages, high shares of part-time work and loose contracts. Migrant(women)'s available labour force or "hands" thus represents an opportunity for the "care crisis". The tension between the different missions of the welfare state is presented and discussed in the paper. The analysis draws on SLB-theory and institutional ethnography, and empircal insights from ethnographic research (observations and interviews with employees and service managers within the social services over two years) where dilemmas and negotiations in navigating between these different dimensions have been identified.

Forging Links and Advocating Rights: Solidary Mobilisation in a Context of Repressive Migration Policy in Brussels

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Based on the analysis of collective action in the reception of migrants at local scale (Brussels, Belgium), this article

seeks to understand the processes of politicisation of citizens (Vandevoordt, 2020), as well as the local development of hospitality approaches and practices (Deleixhe, 2018), to examine how they operate paradigm shifts and challenge migration policies on a global scale. The experience of citizens' "hosting – at-home" solidary mobilisation (Costa Santos & Garny, 2022) is analysed around two main concepts: Tilly's (1986) "repertoire of actions" to observe concrete participation of citizens as means of politicisation; and "framing processes" (Snow et al., 1986) to investigate the construction of meanings and representations around migration issues through this mobilisation. To take the cognitive analysis (Surel, 2019) further, we studied the evolution of migration categories and their use at local level (Frigoli, 2010); and the personal and individual "concern" of those involved in public policies (Ravon, 2008), who challenge traditional charity practices and moral protest. While identifying the main paradigms of European migration policy (Deleixhe, 2022; Hamidi & Fischer, 2017), based on border control, suspicion and repression of movements, we verified how it gives rise to mobilisations that end up transforming it (Vertongen & Costa Santos, 2022), proposing approaches based on solidarity and forging of social links. Through participant observation in this context, we sought to answer the following questions: how do local actors get politicised through humanitarian practices? How do these local practices contribute to rethink migration policy on a global scale?

Inclusive democracy: Analysing the Role of Opportunity Structures in Migrant Political Participation

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This article examines the participation, mobilization, and representation of migrants in four European cities: Girona (Spain), Sofia (Bulgaria), Avezzano (Italy), and Athens (Greece). The study focuses on two main questions: How do migrants mobilize and participate in the local public and political spheres in these cities? Furthermore, integrally connected with the first goal, the study aims to identify factors that could determine the forms and intensity of migrants' participation and mobilization. Drawing from resource mobilization theory, we posit that the involvement and representation of migrants in the political arena depend on political-institutional opportunity structures.

The data for this study was gathered from diverse sources, including 24 focus groups, 55 qualitative interviews, and an online survey (with a sample size of 148 respondents). These methodologies involved interactions with migrants, members of civil society organizations, and public administration officials. The findings suggest that migrants predominantly engage with migrant associations and the voluntary sector, showing minimal involvement and representation in formal political processes and policymaking.

Two critical factors emerge as influencers of political mobilization and participation among migrants: i) political rights and inclusion policies; ii) repertoire of actions. The study reveals the disempowerment experienced by many migrants due to the challenging process of obtaining legal status, leading to a reluctance to engage in political issues. The second aspect, repertoire of actions, examines the restrictions and limitations placed on individuals or groups in terms of the array of options and strategies available for political participation.

REFUGE-ED Dialogic Co-Creation Process

Teresa Sordé Martí[1], Emilia Aiello[2], Teresa Sordé Martí[3], Teresa Sordé Martí[4]

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An increasing body of literature indicates that engaging end-users in intervention research, encompassing design, execution, and assessment, yields numerous favorable outcomes. These include enhanced intervention effectiveness, longevity, and personal development among collaborators. The significance of this approach, along with the recommendation for researchers to adopt co-creation in implementation and policies, has been acknowledged within the EU Framework of Research Innovation. Moreover, it has been proposed that this strategy is particularly pertinent when working with individuals from marginalized groups, whose perspectives are often overlooked in research and policy deliberations. Despite this recognition, there has been limited exploration of the practical aspects of co-creation. This paper presents a review of the methodological framework employed by the H2020 REFUGE-ED project (2021–2023), conducted in collaboration with migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking communities. The project implemented the 'REFUGE-ED Dialogic Co-Creation Process (RDCP)' in 46 educational settings (including unaccompanied minors reception centers, schools, and asylum camps) across six European countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and Italy. Given the imperative for evidence-based approaches in education and mental health and psychosocial support practices, we posit that the RDCP holds potential for sustainability and replicability in various contexts, specially serving migrant and refugee communities.

RN35 | T04_01: Novel directions in return migration research

Empowering Returns: Unveiling the Transformative Role of Women Migrant Returnees in Shaping Migration and Gender Equality in the EU-MENA Region

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This study investigates the experiences of women migrant returnees within the EU-MENA region, focusing on unraveling the intricacies associated with their return and their crucial contributions to the development and empowerment of local women, fellow migrant women, and potential returnees. Recognizing the diverse challenges inherent in women's migration journeys, such as gender-specific barriers, societal norms, cultural expectations, and legal and institutional constraints, the study asserts that despite these hurdles, women's returns can catalyze transformative processes that amplify opportunities for empowerment and agency.

This transformative potential is particularly evident as these women play a crucial role in connecting knowledge and resource disparities between the EU and MENA regions. They become valuable contributors with the potential to inform policies and practices related to migration, development, and gender equality.

To achieve its objectives, the study employs qualitative research methods, including case studies, comparative analysis, and in-depth interviews. Emphasizing the voices and narratives of women migrant returnees ensures a comprehensive understanding of their experiences, aspirations, and contributions within the context of women's migration in the EU-MENA region. Consequently, this research serves as a valuable resource in shaping a more informed and inclusive discourse on the intersections of migration, gender, and social transformation in the region.

Return Decision-Making as a Process. The Case of Polish Return Migrants.

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Return migration, as defined in this paper, is the movement back to the migrants' country of origin after a significant period of residence in another country to remain in the country of origin, perhaps permanently. How decisions to make such a return are made is still little recognized in migration research. What draws the researcher's attention in this regard is the intentions or plans to return, as well as the declared reasons for return, but not the decision-making process. In my paper, I show this process noting the dual reference point of economic and social conditions of the receiving and sending countries as an essential context; I also identify the reasons for return. I base my analysis on the results of qualitative research; the research method was in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 33 Polish return migrants. Margaret Archer's reflexivity became the theoretical framework for my study. Drawing on the study's findings, I distinguish four stages of return decision-making and show that the process is multidimensional, multi-stage, and lengthy – it can take up to several years. I also demonstrate how return intentions change as the stay prolongs and how decision-making is related to migrants' life stage and ultimate concerns. I further highlight the role of economic and non-economic factors in this process, such as complex intercultural relations, family ties, etc., in the home and host countries.

Return and Readmission Policies in Italy: Evolution and Features of the Preferred Answer to Migration

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In the last two decades, Return and Readmission (R&R) policies have become increasingly important in the political and policy agendas of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, to the point that nowadays they are the preferred answer to the migratory movements from the Global South to Europe. Through the adoption of soft law documents, the EU has developed a common policy based on R&R policies to deal with irregular migration. Despite the EU and the Member States' efforts to promote returns and readmissions, data suggest that the percentage of returns is considerably low compared with the number of undocumented migrants: in 2022 in Italy, 138 420 migrants were found undocumented, 28 185 were issued an order to return, and 2915 were returned to their home country (Eurostat, 2023).

Based on the Horizon Project MORE (Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmission policy: revealing and developing effective alternatives), this paper presents the results of a study on development, characteristics, and trends of R&R policies in Italy in the last twenty years, through the analysis of the following sources: laws which introduced news and change on the topic; soft laws generally related to agreements with third countries, such as bilateral agreements, memorandum of understanding, treaties, and deals; press communications whenever the texts are not publicly available; scientific literature and grey literature; experts interviews. The paper presents a comprehensive sociological study on the little-explored topic of R&R policies, providing knowledge on the subject and contributing to the migration scholarship, specifically on migration policies.

The Interplay of Settlement Intentions and Integration Among Ukrainian Refugees in Germany: A Longitudinal Autoregressive-Cross-Lagged Analysis

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The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 triggered an unprecedented wave of Ukrainian refugees seeking safety outside their country, constituting the largest movement of Ukrainian citizens since World War II. Over one million Ukrainian refugees officially registered in Germany as of 2022.

In our study, we explore the dynamics following the refugees' arrival in Germany. We investigate whether a positive integration into German society within the first year and a half after Ukrainian refugees' arrival increases their intentions to stay in Germany and, conversely, if strong intentions to stay contribute to greater integration. Despite its importance, this nexus remains relatively unexplored. Its investigation provides valuable insights into the determinants of integration and settlement intentions, shedding light on the factors influencing Ukrainian refugees' decisions regarding both settlement and integration.

In our analysis, we employed a representative longitudinal survey of Ukrainian refugees who arrived after February 2022 in Germany and conducted autoregressive cross-lagged analyses.

Our results yielded two main preliminary findings. First, Ukrainian refugees' intentions to stay in Germany were hardly predictive of their integration. Second, integration into German society affected Ukrainians' settlement intentions similarly weakly. Thus, our study suggests that factors shaping Ukrainians' settlement intentions extend beyond societal integration and that their integration progresses independently of their settlement intentions. This research enhances the current understanding of refugee settlement and integration, providing valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners working towards facilitating a successful settlement and integration of Ukrainian refugees into German society.

RN35 | T04_02: Anti-migrant attitudes and protest in the european context

Did the Pandemic Crisis Worse Attitudes towards Immigration? Results from a Quantitative Study on 16 European countries

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The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic – and of its consequent economic crisis – on the intergroup relationships has not been deeply investigated so far, often because of lack of data. Recently released data from the 10th round of the European Social Survey, combined with round 9th, allows for investigating this issue by using data collected before and after the pandemic outbreak. Building on the Group Conflict Theory, the Group Relative Deprivation, and Schwartz's and Inglehart's Value Theories, we aim addressing the following research questions: 1) How do attitudes toward immigration and the perception of ethnic groups as a threat change after the Covid-19 pandemic in EU countries? 2) to what extent contextual factors, such as the Political Opportunity Structure (POS), the economic conditions, and the collective salience given to the topic immigration contribute explaining these changes? Our analysis shows that, after the pandemic crisis and in opposition to our initial hypotheses, negative attitudes towards ethnic groups decreased in several EU countries, but not in all countries and not with the same intensity. The role of contextual factors, such as economic conditions, is crucial to explain this heterogeneity. The consequences of the crisis may have impacted on the priorities of EU citizens and immigration was no longer at the centre of the public debate. Therefore, alongside descriptive statistics, we apply multilevel modelling to contribute explaining these changes while controlling for individual factors.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do? Exploring anti-migrant attitudes among migrants in Europe

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This study investigates the seldom-explored attitudes of migrants towards immigration in Europe, where 12.5% of the population is of migrant background (UN, 2023). Contrary to the focus on natives' perspectives in existing literature, such as competitive threat theory, we examine migrants' viewpoints, essential for understanding community dynamics and political engagement (Just & Anderson, 2015).

Migrants often mirror natives in economic/social preferences and trust levels (Algan et al., 2012; Dinesen, 2012; Maxwell, 2010), influenced by either acculturation to host society values (Gonnot & lo Polito, 2023) or retention of origin culture values (Tabellini et al., 2010). However, the presence of anti-migrant sentiments among migrants presents a paradox: shared experiences may promote solidarity, yet cultural differences can lead to closer ties within specific migrant groups.

Our research examines how migrants' identification with the dominant migrant group in their host society affects their attitudes towards those alike. Utilizing data from the European Social Survey (2004-2019) and OECD migrant inflow records, we created a migrant identification index. This index, combined with socio-economic and cultural variables, assesses immigration attitudes, especially among first – and second-generation and European or non-European migrants.

Findings indicate that stronger identification with the dominant migrant group reduces anti-migrant sentiment, particularly among first-generation and non-European migrants. This highlights the role of group identification in shaping migrants' immigration attitudes.

"Exclusionary Protest" And The Far Right In Ireland: Participant Justification For Opposing Or Supporting Migrant Rights In The Republic Of Ireland November 2022-July 2023.

Barry Cannon, Shane Murphy

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Anti-migration protests, particularly against asylum seekers, and counter-protests, increased substantially in the Republic of Ireland since the mass arrival of refugees to the country after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and a post-Covid 19 spike in asylum applications. This paper reports on a study of people's motivations for attending such protests, adding to sparse existing work on that phenomenon in Ireland. Irish (Peillon 2002; Layte and Landy, 2018; Fanning, 2021; O'Donohoe 2023) and European literature on the subject (Eckardt 2020; Rea and Martiniello, 2019; Gootjes et al. 2021; Grillo, 2005; Hubbard, 2005; Fleischmann, 2020) finds evidence of ideological, political and structural motivations for attending such protests, with substantial slippage between each. In this study, we analysed 144 media articles on such protests from three major Irish print media outlets, published between November 2022 and July 2023, and featuring protestor quotes indicating motivation. We found that anti-migrant protestor motivations were, in descending order, security, resource scarcity, lack of consultation and suitability of sites. Contradictorily, however, many such protestors repeated far right inspired racist and xenophobic tropes while simultaneously disowning the far right and denying racism. Migrant supporting protestors on the other hand professed humanitarian motivations, while sharing similar political and structural concerns with 'moderate' anti-migrant protestors. Our research therefore finds continuity with existing literature on motivations in recent Irish migration related protest, while raising questions on how to disentangle political and structural concerns around migration from racist and xenophobic discourse on the subject.

From Babylon to Portugal: Israelis in Alentejo

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In recent years, there has been a notable trend of Israelis immigrating to Portugal, influenced by lifestyle, political, and economic migration patterns. A significant aspect of this trend is a movement towards rural areas, including Southwest Alentejo, where a counter-culture community, built upon anti-capitalist, sustainability, and post-national values, has emerged over the past decades. To explore this trend, the paper adopts three standpoints developed within migration, culture, borders, and diaspora scholarships: First, territorial and symbolic boundaries mirror their interrelations. Second, such interrelations construct inclusion and exclusion mechanisms. Third, drawing boundaries is a key practice in the construction of collective identities. Rooted in this analytical framework and based on an extensive ethnographic fieldwork, the paper portrays migration experiences of Israeli immigrants in Alentejo, highlighting the ways in which they cross and re-delineate geographic and symbolic boundaries through their interactions with immigrant and local individual and communities. We suggest that, shaped by dialectic relationships with Israeli culture and involved in questioning collective identities, this boundary work contributes to the construction of Alentejo as a radical alternative for what they commonly term the 'Babylonian mindset'—Western-urban-capitalistic culture, prevalent also in Israel. This understanding allows viewing Alentejo as a 'heterotrophic space,' fulfilling both the alternative 'rural vision' and the desire to belong to a concrete locality beyond the surveillant eye of the nation-state—where actual life diverges from utopia. As a whole, the paper lays an empirical groundwork for studying the interconnections between migration experiences and perceptions of belonging and collective identity.

RN35 | T05_01: Diversity, Labour market and precarity 1

Who stands with Ukraine? Labour migration, Social Reproduction and Displacement during Russia's War on Ukraine

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The article offers a longer-term perspective on the movement of Ukrainian nationals focusing on the links between post-2022 movements into the EU nation-states and the prior movement of Ukranian nationals as "migrant workers". The presentist focus on Ukrainian displacement in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion overlooks a much longer history of invisibilized circulation of Ukrainian migrant workers. The article shifts the focus away from Ukrainian refugees as the recipients of humanitarian aid and assistance to show how Ukrainian migrant workers precariously employed in the EU service economies are the ones bearing the costs of social reproduction in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion. As the Temporary Protection granted to Ukrainian citizens gives little access to more expansive refugee protection and welfare rights, coupled with fatigue of 'host societies', the question to be asked is who will reproduce the lives of Ukrainians fleeing the war. Drawing on fieldwork in Warsaw in 2020-2023, I examine how the burdens of social reproduction are effectively displaced on Ukrainian migrant communities confronted with the responsibility to ensure their own reproduction and survival.

Exploring Employment Circumstances, Integration, and Socioeconomic Inequalities: Informing Policies and Support Programs for Displaced Populations

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The displacement of populations due to conflicts presents formidable challenges, especially concerning employment, integration, and socioeconomic disparities. This academic research project aims to delve into these specific challenges to inform the development of effective policies and programs catering to the needs of displaced individuals. Through a thorough exploration of employment situations, social integration, and socioeconomic inequalities, the study seeks to yield valuable insights that can guide the implementation of support measures.

Employing a qualitative approach, the research involves a desk assessment of needs and an evaluation of the situation concerning the forcibly displaced population from Artsakh after the 44-day war in 2020. The study scrutinizes the experiences, challenges, and barriers encountered by the displaced population in accessing and securing employment, integrating into new communities, and overcoming socioeconomic disparities.

The primary goal of this research is to lay the foundation for public discussions among representatives from the public, political, and media spheres, focusing on the specific needs of displaced populations. By addressing knowledge gaps related to employment circumstances, integration, and socioeconomic disparities, the study aims to contribute to the improvement of support measures implemented by relevant stakeholders.

Producing Invisibility: Migrant Perspectives on Gig Work as Invisible Work

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The phenomenon of migrants participating in the gig economy has garnered attention from scholars. Critics view gig work as invisible work that keeps workers out of the public eye and subjected to low wages, particularly for already vulnerable migrant workers. However, most scholarship on this topic has focused on how gig work makes workers invisible; less is known about migrant workers' perspectives on their invisibility at work. This paper aims to contribute to the discussion by analysing empirical data obtained through in-depth interviews with 23 migrant food couriers in Norway and one year of participatory observation involving seven couriers. The findings reveal that migrant couriers in foreign countries face various forms of scrutiny from local immigration and law enforcement agencies, as well as from their remote relatives, acquaintances, and globalised platform companies. In response to these circumstances, it is not unusual for migrant couriers to strategically adopt the role of "invisible workers" and engage in low-profile performances during gig work that often go unrecognised. This deliberate invisibility "produced" by migrant gig workers highlights their unease regarding their immigration status, anxieties related to the gig work they engage in, and resistance to pervasive surveillance from their gig work.Departing from the prevailing exploitation perspective, this paper seeks to comprehend the invisibility of gig work through the lens of migrant couriers. By utilising firsthand data obtained from migrants' work experiences and practices, it explores how invisibility can transform into a "weapon of the weak."

RN35 | T05_02: Gendered perspectives to migration

The Speech Of Migrant Women. Audibility In Public As A Performative Exercise of Citizenship

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The paper aims to reflect on the relationship between citizenship and migrants' recognition by paying attention to the dimension of their public audibility (not only to their visibility). Paraphrasing and reversing the question "can the subaltern speak?" (Spivak 1988), the paper asks whether migrant women' voices are heard, that is, whether their speaking produces listening in the public, whether it makes them recognizable as subjects capable of acting and counting. On the basis of the theory of acts of citizenship (Isin 2008), we also ask whether the words spoken in public by migrant women represent a particular performative exercise of citizenship, in other words, whether speaking makes them citizens, beyond their legal status. To answer these questions, the paper focuses on the speech acts of migrant women observed in an institutional context, the Immigrant Table of Naples (IT) during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, through a long-term ethnographic fieldwork (2018-2022) conducted with visible migrant women in the role of representatives of ethnic organizations and/or communities. The paper shows how migrant women, by making themselves audible in public, create themselves as active political subjects by publicly claiming their membership in the social and political community and transforming their relationship with institutional political power. The words of migrant women at the Table of Immigrants allowed for reflection on the dialectic of recognition and the performative exercise of citizenship, configuring themselves as a particular political act of citizenship. The analysis will show how migrant women are capable of challenging the boundaries of national citizenship by creating new forms of belonging and coexistence.

Bodies As Intimate Border(s)/(ing): Emergent Female Subjectivities Of Female Refugees From Turkiye

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The study explores the emergent subjectivities of female refugees from Turkiye to Canada via Mexico and the USA, representing one of the unique immigration experiences in 2023. While the dominant literature on "refugee studies" focuses on the singular understanding of female refugees, this paper explores gendered migration experiences, encounters and struggles through the lens of theories of border/ing and intersectionality (Biswas, 2022; Chaplin, 2019; Crenshaw, 2013; Misra et. al., 2021; Ustundag and Rose, 2024; Yuval-Davis, 2015) as well as geographies of intimacy (Bunnell et al., 2012; Heinonen, 2022, Kern, 2020; Kosch and Miles, 2021) based on the focus group interviews with female refugees from Turkiye in Canada. By questioning the limits of dualities of migration policies and practices, we contribute to the recent debates on understanding border(s)/(ing) as "gendered struggles" (Mezzadra and Neilson, 2013), as well as questioning the politics of "temporary" migrant conditions and becomings (Bridgen and Mainwaring, 2016; Brun and Fábos, 2015; Yıldız and Sert, 2021).

Navigating Civic Engagement: Examining Women's Leadership in Portuguese Immigrant Organizations

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The civic participation of migrant women within civil society organizations and immigrant associations is a topic that remains relatively underexplored in Portugal. This study adopts an exploratory approach, focusing on female immigrant leaders and the challenges they encounter in facilitating the integration of immigrants into Portuguese society. Through qualitative interviews with eight diverse immigrant organizations in Portugal the research uncovers the nuanced experiences of migrant women. The findings highlight that the experiences and leadership roles of migrant women are shaped not only by their backgrounds and qualifications but also by the challenges encountered upon arriving in Portugal. Despite facing constraints, particularly in terms of organizational sustainability, these leaders contribute significantly to immigrant integration. The study underscores the role of immigrant organizations in providing autonomy and empowerment to migrant women, offering them a voice, visibility, and recognition in host societies and their communities. Ultimately, the research underscores the importance of acknowledging the contributions and challenges of immigrant women, emphasizing the crucial role played by immigrant organizations in fostering integration and advocating for immigrant rights in Portugal. It calls attention to the need for government financial support for these organizations, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping a more inclusive and supportive society.

GenMigra: Polycrisis, Migrant Family Tensions during Pandemic and the Lasting Impacts on Gendered Inequalities and Lack of Trust

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The COVID-19 pandemic has hit during economic and political crises globally, exacerbating existing gender inequalities. Unexpectedly, migrant women around the world were faced with significant care duties, restricted mobility options and increased securitization measures. This paper reports on findings from a four-country comparative study (GENMigra, www.genmigra.org) which examines the compounding impacts of Covid-19 pandemic and other crises (e.g. Brexit, Ukraine war, austerity) in Brazil, UK, Germany and Poland. The paper draws on the concept of polycrisis (Zeitlin et al., 2019) and uses an intersectional perspective to explore migrant women's experiences of poly-crisis, answering two key research questions:

1. What inequalities have emerged or worsened for migrant women since COVID-19 and what role have state policies and interventions played in mitigating or increasing inequalities?

2. What are gender-responsive policy solutions to support the transformation of support for migrant women, especially those most vulnerable?

Drawing on interviews with organisations supporting migrant families in the UK (15 interviewees), migrant women and their families (50 interviewees), we examine the extent to which personal crises (unemployment, bereavement, family breakdown, isolation, slow state violence) were felt alongside colliding structural crises. We examine the elements of tension between transnational family demands and restrictive immigration/pandemic measures, the impact of cumulative crises on tensions in family relationships, the role of the civil society in filing gaps in welfare provision and the consequences for migrant women's increasing lack of trust in state institutions.

We problematize further the gendered consequences of this polycrisis, examine migrant solidarities in a hostile environment and propose that future policies need to adopt an intersectional lens to identify transformative solutions which tackle the loss of trust in governments and state institutions.

RN35 | T05_03: Migration, diversity and the city

Social Integration of China's Internal Migrants into Urban Communities

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The Hukou system, a household registration system related to the legal status of Chinese citizens, presents challenges for the vast internal migrant population in China. This research explores the relationship between Hukou and the internal migrants' social integration into urban communities, which to some extent shares the theoretical context with transnational migration issues due to the similar institutional barrier.

Existing literature often relies on cross-sectional data to analyze this relationship, of which the lack of time dimension complicates the assessment of the impact of acquiring local Hukou on social integration. Furthermore, the prevalent practice of employing Hukou as the sole criterion for determining migrant status can hardly distinguish Hukou effects from other variables affecting social integration.

To address these methodological intricacies, this article adopts a comprehensive mixed-methods approach. Preliminary quantitative analyses utilize panel datasets spanning the Chinese Labor Dynamics Survey 2012 to 2018. The random effects analysis suggests a positive correlation between Hukou status and migrants' social integration level. However, a subsequent fixed-effects analysis underscores the absence of a direct causal relationship between Hukou and social integration.

An in-depth qualitative analysis, grounded in interviews conducted in Shanghai, one of the biggest internal migration destinations, delves into the mechanism of this indirect relationship. Findings indicate that Hukou may indirectly shape migrants' social integration through variables such as children's education, encounters with discrimination, and institutional uncertainty stemming from migrants' Hukou status. Residential segregation, education and parents' education are also found to be related to migrants' social integration.

Moving Lusitalia: the Story of a Place

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Based on our study "Moving Lusitalia" [European Capital of Culture ESCH22] we want to show that by adopting a spatially-defined unit of analysis instead of ethno-national categories such as "immigrants" we can make visible social dynamics and complexities otherwise obscured by the ethnicity bias and the methodological nationalism (Levitt & Glick-Schiller, 2004; Dahinden, 2012). Since its creation, in the 19th century, with the development of the steel industry, the history of the Quartier Italie in Dudelange has been entwined with the one of migrations to Luxembourg.

Constituted by two streets and inhabited by twenty-height different nationalities, this place witnesses the social history of Luxembourg and of the migrations that forge(d) it. By means of a multidisciplinary approach and dawning on comprehensive interviews (Kaufmann, 2016), walking interviews (Kusenbach, 2003), we carried out a rhythmanalysis (Lefebvre, 1992), thinking space and time together. The aim of this paper is three-fold. Firstly, we show how different temporalities (personal, familiar, social etc.) and spatialities (geographical, social, imaginary) connect, (re)defining the Quartier' frontiers, through the inhabitants' (im)mobilities and quotidian rhythms. Secondly, looking at the continuum individual-object, we will make you discover the story of the "inherited furniture" that travelled across generations and across national borders – a story manly told my women. And, finally, as the project consists in an exhibition and a web-app (movinglusitalia.org), we will show how such research approach and output can contribute to transform people's relation to places, reduce local tensions and build trust regarding institutions such museums and cultural institutions.

Enclaves of Non-belonging: Migration, Spatial Segregation and Identity Recompositions in the Altındağ Metropolitan District of Ankara

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In Turkey, the birth of the republic was accompanied by a material and discursive appropriation of space, built on the annihilation of the other in spatial representation through the tactic of renaming and reconstructing places (Jongerden 2009; Öktem 2009), particularly in urban space. The construction of Ankara as a capital city is a case in point, with the idea of Turkishness spatially inscribed through the symbolic and architectural reproduction of the Turkish republican national identity and the exclusion and spatial segregation of those who do not adhere to its principles.

From this perspective, on the basis of my case study of the metropolitan district of Altındağ in Ankara, a marginalised multi-ethnic area that represents both the historic heart of the city but also the 'other of the nation' (Dölek 2019), I analyse the relationship between space, migrants and the identity recompositions that are taking place.

Adopting Stravides' (2016) description of the city as an archipelago of enclaves, enclosed spaces produced by power in a permanent attempt to recuperate surplus forms, we can define Altındağ as an "enclave of non-belonging", a place demarcated by a border in urban space that designates those who live there as not belonging to the description of formally recognised citizens.

With this presentation, I intend to discuss how these places reflect new forms of coexistence through the "quiet encroachment of the ordinary" (Bayat, 2013) and practices of popular solidarity that can challenge the delimitation of national identity by recomposing new configurations and definitions.

RN35 | T06_01: Diversity, Labour market and precarity 2

International Mobility of Social Professionals in a Local Context – Recognition of Qualifications Acquired Abroad for Access and Equal Participation in the Labor Market

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Access to and participation in the labor market is ascribed a central role for integration, especially in terms of economic independence and securing a material basis, residence and social participation. An important factor for equal participation in the labor market is the recognition of qualifications. The legal basis for recognition of qualification is Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Union or, in Germany, the Professional Qualifications Assessment Act (BQFG). The formal recognition of a foreign qualification is mandatory for working in a regulated profession. It not only means a formal assessment and classification, but also forms a source for all further decisions on career planning. It has been shown that the probability of employment increases for people with a migration background, particularly in regulated professions, whose qualifications have been recognized. Despite these positive effects, however, not all people apply for it. The reasons point to obstacles in the recognition procedure. The path to recognition is a question of time and financial resources (Böse & Schmitz, 2022). One way of adapting time resources to the needs is to make the qualification more flexible through modular or part-time models, which improve the compatibility of work, family and compensatory measures or, for some people, makes it possible in the first place. In the presentation I introduce a training program called "International Social Professions Course" (ApaLe) which is intended to facilitate the path to formal equivalence of the professional qualification and talk about the challenges for participants. Furthermore, I discuss the results of monitoring ApaLe (2019-2023) and of a survey of career paths of former participants.

Migration and the Italian Labor Market: Diversity Management Practices in SMEs

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In the current global context, characterized by major economic, social, cultural, and political crises, migration processes are

a key element of profound change. Among the various areas of society where significant changes are emerging is the labor market, which must necessarily deal with an increasingly diverse and multicultural workforce. The literature on diversity management – in its sociological, economic, and critical perspectives – reveals profound differences in the ability of the labor market to attract and integrate immigrant workers in different political and national contexts.

This paper aims to present some preliminary results of ongoing research on policies and practices for managing the cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity of immigrant workers in SMEs in Italy. The sample of companies was defined from a dataset containing 485 SMEs that previously participated in a project (AMIF 2014-2020) for the labor integration of immigrants. Taking into account the intersectional character on the one hand and the risk of essentializing the concept of 'diversity' on the other, 20 statements were collected from managers and entrepreneurs of SMEs and 10 from workers and employees of the same companies. The aim is to examine the practices of multicultural diversity management by placing them in the Italian national, local, and entrepreneurial context. In this way, the intent is to contribute to the sociological literature on this topic with a country-specific perspective to overcome the purely Anglo-Saxon approach to the issue. The research is based on qualitative methods and the data was collected through semi-structured interviews.

Civil Society's Ways of Working to Enhance Employment Opportunities in Conditions of Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Diversity

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This paper will focus on how civil society organisations work to enhance integration or employment opportunities in superdiverse neighbourhoods that face socioeconomic challanges. Countless integration initiatives have focused on the delivery of "employability skills" yet have failed to address the inequalities facing minoritized populations including migrants and residents in areas facing socioeconomic challenges by focusing predominantly on human capital at the expense of structural factors that undermine access to work and integration. We use a broad definition of civil society in our projects to include voluntary 'non-profit' formal organisations as well as informal initiatives, foundations, and social enterprises. Civil society adopts an "employment" approach by using community assets that priorities equipping individuals to cope with structural disadvantages and focusing on the development of resilience through resistance, confidence building and offering hope. There is much to learn from civil society action and ways of working as it engages with key principles of integration and the multidimensional and context-specfic process. This paper will explore types of civil society action and ways of working with help of an extensive material collected over the period 2019 – 2023 in seven neighbourhoods in England and Sweden. Projects are sponsored by two Swedish research councils Forte and VR.

Cumulative Disadvantage? An Intersectional Analysis of Gender, Parenthood, and Immigration Background in Hiring Decisions among German Employers

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Previous research documents that female immigrants from Muslim-origin countries often exhibit lower employment rates. This disparity is likely influenced by the motherhood penalty. Regardless of background, mothers tend to face reduced employment opportunities or lower average salaries. While previous research investigated supply-side explanations, e.g., preferences for family vs. labor market work, the role of employers is often neglected.

Adopting an intersectional perspective, this study asks whether employers exhibit a propensity to hire female candidates less frequently if they have children and migrated from a "Muslim country". To disentangle gender, parenthood, and immigration background (Muslim vs. non-Muslim), we employed a factorial survey experiment involving a representative sample of German employers. Nearly 5,000 firm representatives evaluated candidate profiles, wherein we randomly varied gender, number of children, and whether the candidate was "German" or was born in Syria, Russia, Ukraine, or Turkey.

Our findings reveal marked differences in the simulated hiring decisions. First, we find a motherhood penalty and a fatherhood bonus, replicating a well-documented pattern in earnings inequality research. Second, the motherhood penalty in hiring is more pronounced for lower-end positions, while the fatherhood bonus is evident primarily for specialist positions at the upper end. Third, we uncover a complex pattern of cumulative penalties for Muslim mothers in lower-level positions, while the motherhood penalty for specialist positions is mainly driven by majority mothers. The fatherhood bonus is more pronounced for Muslim – than for majority fathers. This suggests that employers' beliefs may contribute to the intersecting labor market disadvantages of Muslim mothers.

RN35 | T06_02: Discrimination: currenttendencies and ambiguities

Xenophobia As The 'New Racism', Grounded in Racial Capitalism And Mediated By Intersectionality

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This paper comparatively examines the contemporary conceptual definition of xenophobia in the transnational contexts and literatures from South Africa and the UK in order to ground it in its emergence from racism and foundations in global systems of exploitation; racial capitalism and colonialism. Using a relationally comparative approach (Hart, 2014) and drawing from qualitative, ethnographic and creative fieldwork with Congolese and Zimbabwean women in both Johannesburg and London, the analysis departs from the point of establishing how the literatures on xenophobia have emerged in both South Africa and the UK, including their conceptual evolution and distinction from racism, and relationship to violence and histories of immigration. Looking at the similarities and differences between these interrelated concepts and phenomena in the different geographical literatures creates a better understanding of contemporary identity-based discrimination, and enables an interrogation of how they actually relate to the lives and experiences of African women in these contexts. This leads to the argument that not only must the concept of xenophobia be grounded in racism, racial capitalism and colonialism, but its accurate analysis requires an intersectional lens to understand the diverse and multi-faceted experiences of migrants, in particular here, of the different gendered and class-based experiences of African migrant women of different nationalities and backgrounds. In this way, we move closer to a more accurate definition of xenophobia as a social phenomenon grounded in historical exploitative systems and mediated by identity and experience, that can inform policy and practice designed to support migrants living in politically 'hostile' societies.

Tense Or Not Tense?: Highly Qualified Turkish Migrants' Interpretations of Unpleasant Interactions in Germany

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Highly skilled migrants in Europe find themselves in contexts where the rise of far right political actors creates an unpleasant atmosphere for migrants of all backgrounds. Especially non-white highly skilled migrants experience discrimination and bias in their daily lives despite their upper-middle class status. However, they do not always interpret such unpleasant interactions as a reflection of their difference. Many specifically refrain from describing such instances as racist. This engenders a puzzle as to how daily tensions are understood by the actors involved.

Based on semi-structured interviews conducted in 2022 with 29 highly qualified migrants from Turkey in Germany, this paper focuses on how they interpret unpleasant experiences in their daily lives. It analyzes when they understand these interactions as discriminatory and when not. Thus, the paper examines the connection between unpleasant experiences and difference in a post-migration society from the perspective of highly skilled migrants. For this, it uses affect theory. The paper interprets difference as socially constructed, historically situated, and affectively experienced. It considers language, bodily appearance, housing search, and work as major areas where potentially discriminatory encounters of difference emerge. It argues that such encounters shall be conceptualized as intersubjective and affective. Accordingly, the interpretations of these experiences are also contingent upon these intersectional positions shaped by class, gender and other axes of inequalities.

"These Tiny Differences" – Subtle Forms Of Discrimination Experienced By Highly Skilled CEE Migrants in Vienna

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The social phenomenon of deskilling is particularly widespread among migrants, but so far only few studies explore the concrete micro-level processes involved. Applying a qualitative approach in a current research project (https://demico.univie.ac.at/), we strive to retrace "deskilling" from an individual perspective and to examine the phenomenon from different actors' angles. We focus thereby on highly educated migrants from CEE countries in the Austrian capital. Based on the research principles of Constructivist Grounded Theory, we opt for a multi-perspective and longitudinal methodical triangulation, combining a qualitative panel study with migrants, interviews with institutional actors, and ethnographical observations.

Our paper focuses on subtle forms of discrimination that CEE migrants experience at the labour market in Vienna. As recent publications show, CEE migrants in EU countries face racism and are constructed as "others". However, while being less confronted with overt discrimination based on skin colour, religion or legal background, our interviewees face rather subtle processes of exclusion based on migration background and language. These experiences of discrimination are often ambiguous and hard to grasp (and admit) for both our research subjects and ourselves as researchers. In order to give particular attention to the interaction

of various discrimination mechanisms (especially gendered differences), we apply an intersectional approach and aim to move beyond an ethnic lens and instead consider the embeddedness of migration experiences.

We aim not to focus only on discrimination experiences of migrants, but also emphasise the importance of individual agency in its social context and thus analyse strategies employed to counteract discrimination.

"Are We from Third Countries or Third World?": Heterogeneous Experiences and Perceptions of Migration Barriers among International Students in Austria

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Despite the growing number of international students globally, the tensions and contradictions associated with perceiving them as both "desired" and "unwanted" persist (King and Raghuram 2013). In contrast to students from EU/EEA countries who have intra-European mobility, international students from non-EU/EEA countries, commonly known as so-called "third-country nationals", must navigate through more restricted immigration processes to obtain visas and residence permits. Drawing on data from 52 in-depth interviews with third-country national student migrants studying in various universities in Vienna, I investigate the life trajectories and migration experiences of these student migrants. The analysis of narratives examines the hierarchical obstacles in the visa process upon arrival and unequal barriers to settlement during their study periods. The comparisons of experiences among student migrants from third countries demonstrate that they are not a homogeneous group, but rather diverse subgroups with distinct socially constructed disparities. These dimensions of differences are critical in determining who is considered as "desired" and who is treated as "unwanted." I find that third-country national student migrants' perceptions of the barriers to migration are also shaped by their citizenship and country of origin, as well as their race and ethnicity, social class, immigration status, German language proficiency, and previous international experience. The findings challenge a simplistic view of the marginality of student migrants from third countries and provide intersectional insights into the intricate nature of student migration.

RN35 | T06_03: Migration, media and multilingualism

Contesting Linguistic Classifications in Postmigrant Societies

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In postmigrant societies (Foroutan 2008), the diversity of linguistic repertoires is debated both as a hindrance and as a resource for social cohesion. Historically, the standardization of a 'native language' has been at the core of European nation states (Bonfiglio 2010) and their educational systems (Balibar 1991). In Germany, a monolingual habitus (Gogolin 2008) is still deeply rooted in the field of education. This creates a tension between translingual everyday practices and the devaluation of non-German languages.

The study examines how the valuation of being Germanophone is produced and contested through a case study of Berlin schoolchildren: During school registration, students are categorized according to whether they do or do not communicate with their parents in a 'non-German language of origin'. This statistical classification determines the allocation of funds, but also serves as an important status cue, especially for middle-class parents choosing schools for their children.

Through a situational analysis (Clarke et al. 2018), this paper illustrates how the state's administrative infrastructure perpetuates the understanding of multilingualism as a deficit, even in the face of other assessments. Based on participatory observations and document analysis in primary schools, the paper explores the materiality of categorical work (Bowker/Star 2000). The analysis reveals how street-level bureaucrats transform normative orders by adapting procedural logics and alleviating fears. But the administrative framework of the interaction silences the expression of multifaceted linguistic affiliations, while the material artifacts transmit homogenizations and unequal valuations of different languages beyond the interaction. By focusing on the interplay of material artifacts and human actors, the paper advances the discussion on the role of state statistics for diversity politics.

Living with Multiple Languages, Being Forced to be Monolingual: Turkish Skilled Migrants in Norway

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Based on an analysis of 44 semi-structured, in-depth interviews with Turkish skilled migrants living in/around Oslo and Drammen in Norway, this article aims to point out the tension between the monolingual emphasis of public discourses and the multilingual reality of migrants in the context of Norway. It demonstrates that these migrants

perceive the monolingual emphasis as a norm that they are expected to conform to, but that does not take their different life situations into consideration. The difficulty or impossibility of living according to that norm (because of their age, short duration of stay, the will to preserve the mother tongue, their multilingual realities) makes their lives difficult and creates confusion and anxiety in them. While they are trying to do their best to maneuver through the complexities of their multilingual lives, they are facing a system that tends to simplify their linguistic realities. This study demonstrates that there are multiple languages in migrants' lives and many of them see it as a richness that they want to preserve. Migrants also see it as a violation of their right to retain their mother tongue when they see reactions against their speaking of the native language. Overall, the monolingual emphasis in Norway both ignores the multilingual reality of migrants' lives as well as putting unrealistic pressures on them. This study also highlights the importance of a pluralistic approach to a migrant group with respect to their linguistic practices.

Refugees In The Ukrainian Media Discourse: Victims, Heroes, Witnesses?

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Media representations of war victims shape public perceptions of the conflict, the justness of resistance and mobilization. Therefore, they are crucial to understanding the phenomena in Ukraine. According to UNHCR, as of November 2023, more than 6,2 mln. refugees from Ukraine have been recorded globally with 4.2 mln. of them benefiting from the EU temporary protection directive and there are nearly 4.9 mln. of internally displaced people (IDP) currently residing in Ukraine. These numbers highlight the necessity to study the question of the Ukrainian IDPs, its status and belonging policy that has been developing since 2014 and should be taken into account nowadays while developing the long-term refugee migration policies in hosting countries to avoid tensions between the refugee groups due to inequality concerns.

The writing is aimed to analyze the tendency in portraying refugees including IDPs in the Ukrainian media discourse for the periods before and after the beginning of the full-scale invasion to see the impact of various factors on their representation. The method of content analysis (with both qualitative and quantitative components of it, based on theoretical frameworks developed by Teun van Dijk, Ruth Wodak and other experts in the area of discourse analysis) will be used to analyze the published articles by the Ukrainian verified media sources on refugees' topic to support the following research questions: How are refugees and IDPs being portrayed in Ukraine? What aspects of these fugures portrayal are constant and what aspects are changing in the analyzed time frame? What are the main differences in portraying refugees fleeing from Ukraine and those "internal refugees" staying in Ukraine under IDP status?

The research will offer a typology of representations of IDPs (as victims, heroes, witnesses). The analysis is expected to prove an assumption that the following factors are most likely to influence the portrayal of refugees in the Ukrainian public discourse: media sources affiliation, period and language of publications, the Ukrainian military campaign progress, the foreign governments' decisions on the exceptional Ukrainian refugee policies and support packages in humanitarian and military aids for Ukraine.

RN35 | T07_01: Diversity, Labour market and precarity 3

Trends in Precarization of Migrants in Europe: 2000 – 2020

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Although previous research has highlighted the fact that migrant workers are especially vulnerable to precarious working and living conditions, quantitative studies on this subject are scarce. We aim to fill this gap and add to the scientific literature on migrants' precarization in two ways: first, we will give an overview of the trends in precarization of migrants across numerous European countries over 20 years. Second, we aim to identify groups of countries, that experience similar trends regarding migrants' precarization.

For this purpose, we use data from the Labor Force Survey (LFS) as well as from the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) survey. These two large-scale surveys include numerous European countries as well as detailed information on precarization, including unemployment, fixed-work contract, unusual work times, low salaries, poverty, and material and social deprivation. Using these datasets, we will, in a first step, show trends in the before-mentioned indicators within each country for natives and different groups of migrants, like EU/EFTA migrants, European non-EU/non-EFTA migrants, migrants from outside Europe. In a second step, we will compare these trends and identify clusters or groups of countries in which we see similar trends in migrants' precarization.

The outcomes of this research project will be valuable for future research in several ways. The trends will give an overview of how migrants fare during crises, also compared to natives. Additionally, identifying groups of countries will allow for easier analysis in cross-national studies, for example concerning the effects of migrant policies and laws.

Employment of Immigrant Women in Europe: Contextual Effects of Origin-Country Work Experience

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We study the employment probability of immigrant women in Europe, focusing on the effect of origin-country work experience. Based on theories of migrant selectivity and the role of destination-country conditions, we expect that this effect will be context-dependent and matter more when both the country of origin and destination have low female labour force participation (LFP). Data on immigrant women comes from the European Social Survey and is combined with data on origin – and destination-country female LFP from the International Labour Organization. We analyse the data using multi-level regression models with a three-way cross-level interaction between individual origin-country work experience, origin-country female LFP, and destination country female LFP. Results show that individual origin-country work experience substantially increases the probability of having employment, but only for immigrant women both coming from and living in a country with overall low female LFP. If either origin – or destination-country female LFP is high, there is zero effect. For immigrant women, origin-country work experience in countries with low female LFP is indicative of unobserved characteristics that facilitate a transition to future employment. These characteristics matter the most when immigrated to a country that also have low female LFP, implying an absence of gender egalitarian values and institutions pushing all women to employment.

The Commodification of Care in Central and Eastern Europe. The Case of Romanian Transnational Families

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Transnational elderly care services provided by Romanian women have increased in Western Europe after Romania's entry in EU, the intensification of neoliberal policies after the 2008 Recession and the accentuation of labour migration. Thus, women provide 24-hour care for elderly people in the host family. Throughout the paper I will consider women migrating to provide residential care for the elderly in Western Europe, but I also propose an analysis of the local family as the nucleus within which migration is managed – emotionally and economically. The commodification of care is therefore one of the problems of transnational families. This paper aims to provide an answer to the next research questions: How does this work affect the person involved in migration, i.e. how do the dynamics of work within transnational families change and what are their new characteristics? Starting from how exactly migration occurred – the network through which carers entered the elderly care market (reasons for leaving, transition and mobility) – I propose to survey several cases of carers coming from such Romanian transnational families focusing on the distribution of work within the family of origin, specific aspects of migration culture, potential changes in habitus, social mobility acquired as a result of migration, through the perspective of the sociology of migration and the family, transnationality, and feminist intersectionality. The aim of this research is to make a contribution to studies on the reorganization of elderly care in the absence of social care-based solutions, to analyze new arrangements and specific market-based structures (care homes, nursing homes), and to point out the commodification of care in the West as a problematic aspect of transnational families in Romania.

Labour Market Participation of Native and Second-Generation Youth: Exploratory Evidence in Southern European Countries.

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In 2022, Italy (19.0%), Greece (15.4%), and Spain (12.7%) were well above the NEET EU-27 average share (11.7%). Low youth participation is structural of Southern European labour markets, but scarce is the knowledge of the differences between native and second-generation youth, as the latter are only now starting to enter the labour market of these "new" immigration countries. While second-generations could assimilate to native youth's discouragement due to possible harder access to employment and discrimination, they could also develop a stronger labour market attachment, due to ethnic differences in higher education and different expectations and aspirations.

The paper aims to compare the participation of native and second-generation youth (in an extensive definition) in Italy, Spain, and Greece to assess whether assimilation or rather recurrent ethnic penalties can be detected. We exploit a pool of yearly EU-LFS microdata, which, since 2021, releases the country of birth of respondents' parents, allowing proper identification of second-generations (country-born individuals with at least one foreign-born parent). Foreign-born individuals arrived before 14 years old, namely generations 1.50 and 1.75, will be also considered.

The analysis firstly explores differences in the participation rates of native and second-generation youth and differences in the composition of native and second-generation youth by labour market condition (employed, unemployed, discouraged, student, inactive, etc.). In a second step, multivariate models are run to control for socio-demographic composition effects (gender, age, education, area of origin, citizenship, etc.) in order to highlight possible actual differences in the participation choices of native and second-generation youth.

RN35 | T07_02: Emergent spaces of belonging

None, Either One or Both? Belonging to Destination and Origin Countries Among Muslim Refugees from Syria and Eritrea

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A significant discussion in Europe revolves around the incorporation of Muslims into the broader society. A popular argument suggests that their integration is hindered by the incompatibility of the Islamic way of life with mainstream European culture. This debate is fueled by large shares of refugees from predominantly Muslim countries following the so-called Arabic Spring and the Civil war in Syria. We contribute to this discussion by examining the feelings of belongingness among these refugees in Germany.

Our empirical analyses draw on data from the quantitative survey "Forced Migration and Transnational Family Arrangements – Eritrean and Syrian Refugees in Germany" (TransFAR), collected in 2020. With 1,450 respondents, this survey covers two major recent refugee groups to Germany. Refugees from these two countries are not only Muslims but also Christians, who represent a minority group in Syria and a majority group in Eritrea (where Muslims are the smaller group). This design allows us to investigate the role of religion for refugees' feelings of belongingness while controlling for their ethno-cultural origin. Preliminary results show that more than 50 percent report strong belongingness to Germany and weak belongingness to their country of origin. Every third feels strong belongingness to both countries. As expected, we found differences in belongingness by country of origin and religion. Linear regression analyses suggest that these differences can partially be explained by human and social capital factors, i.e., mainly educational attainment and interethnic contact with Germans, and whether they live in East or West Germany.

Queer Diaspora and Belonging: New Wave LGBT Migrants from Turkey to Berlin

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While Germany and Turkey share a long history of migration dating back to the 1960s, according to Çömlekçi and Bozkanat (2019), a new wave of migration has emerged since

the last decade, characterized by differences in the migrant profile and the main motivations behind the decision.

Especially after 2013, the increasing economic and political insecurities in the country led a well-educated and skilled group to look for alternative places to live outside Turkey (Sanchez-Montijano, Kaya, Sökmen, 2018). For many of this group, the main motivations for migration were based on political and ideological concerns based on "political instability, the violation of human rights, societal and political polarization, gender problems, social pressure, lack of ecological consciousness, pessimism about the future of the country, Islamisation, and the absence of welfare policies in Turkey" (Sanchez-Montijano, Kaya, Sökmen, 2018)

The new wave of migration also included a large number of LGBT people, whose experiences were often different from the rest, and whose arrival created new forms of belonging/non-belonging. Based on in-depth interviews and the experiences of 8 participants who are gay men who migrated to Berlin after 2013, the study aims to understand more about the experience of queer migrants in Berlin by asking the following questions: How does this group of young migrants negotiate and create a sense of belonging, community, and identity in the city? To what extent do they feel a sense of belonging to the pre-existing Turkish communities that have a long history in Germany? To what extent is this LGBT-friendly city and its communities friendly to them?

Young PRC-born Migrants' Civic Engagement in Sydney: (Re) construction and Negotiation of Multilayered Senses of Belonging

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The paper explores the dynamic and complex relationships between migrants' senses of belonging and civic engagement through the process of homing, focusing on young PRC-born migrants in Sydney. To unpack the relationships, the paper employs the concept of 'home,' suggesting that belonging is akin to a sense of being and becoming 'at home,' while civic engagement is part of the practices of 'homemaking.' The research centres on migrant individuals' everyday civic engagement, including participation in interest-based groups, neighbourhood activities, and religious practices. Using Bourdieu's concept of habitus along with the theory of affect, the paper examines how multi-layered senses of belonging shape these young migrants' civic engagement in Sydney and the extent to which these practices strengthen and transform their multi-layered senses of belonging. The data were collected from 230 survey responses, 30 in-depth interviews, and 41 hours of observation of civic activities in Sydney. The results reflect a multilayered, interactive and affective relationship between migrants' civic engagement and their 'senses of being and becoming at home associated with their migration trajectories.

Tranches Of Incorporation – High-skilled Migrants And Their Relational Forms Of Belonging

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The search for belonging or feeling part of a group is a universal desire. Every individual seeks to find comfort, stability and recognition across their relationships and within the social units that organise their lives. Sociological concepts such as 'community' or 'belonging' focus on these dynamics and try to explain how, why and when people negotiate relations of belonging. These are underpinned by the production and maintenance of social and symbolic boundaries. Migrants face a potentially more difficult task in this context because of the many upheavals migration entails, but also because differences in citizenship status, ethnic or cultural origin and other institutional arrangements are likely to hinder some of these relations being formed. In this paper, we focus specifically on processes of belonging for 'highly skilled migrants' (HSM) – a growing category of migrants found across many parts of the world. We examine the categorisations that HSM produce to organise, negotiate and justify the social and symbolic boundaries that produce their relations of belonging. We do this by reconceptualising belonging as constituting various tranches of incorporation, drawing on the theoretical lenses of 'figuration' and 'recognition'. This conceptualisation is empirically developed through an analysis of 52 interviews with HSM and their spouses in Denmark. The findings show that recognition, and thus belonging, is found across various figurations of their professional and/or private lives, and that these tranches operate at various scales – local, transnational and/or global.

RN35 | T07_03: Theorizing new issues on migration

Reflexivity on Dominant Perspectives: A Reverse Sociology of Migration

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Heeding the call for more reflexivity in migration research, we develop a new epistemological and methodological approach that we call the "reverse sociology of migration." We anchor this approach in our critical, cultural sociological background, centered on meaning-making. It is a move that privileges the voices and perspectives of marginalized groups and reverses the ethnographic gaze; accordingly, we strive to situate the "mainstream" instead of the "migrants" at the margins. We thus focus our analytical lens on the meaning-making processes of people with a migratory background. In our current, three-year qualitative research project among residents with a migratory background in the Czech city of Brno, we apply this epistemological outlook in every step of our research design. We exercise reflexivity in theorizing established or new migration labels, and the symbolic boundary work performed in the face of such labels, as well as refine strategies for data collection, such as comprehensive and go-along interview scenarios. A reverse sociology approach perceives research participants with a migratory background as active agents of boundary work and allows us to explore how they express their positioning in relation to the institutions of the "host" society as well how they draw boundaries towards different "minority" and "majority" ethnic groups. We assert that the sociology of migration benefits from this reversal in understanding how knowledge about migration is constructed.

A Relational Perspective on Agency within Forced Migration: The Networks of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Romania.

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Agency in the context of forced migration has been studied to contrast the extreme vulnerability experienced by forced migrants in conflict zones, on perilous journeys, and in host countries with adverse migration regimes. While the agency-structure dichotomy remains particularly prominent in this area of research, this paper argues for a relational perspective on agency. Drawing on relational sociological theory, this perspective focuses on both the relational settings and personal networks in which individual actors are embedded in order to understand their 'agency', which is constituted within relationships, interactions and interdependencies that unfold across time and space (Burkitt 2016).

This study of relational agency in the context of forced migration is empirically grounded in a qualitative case study of Ukrainian forced migrants in Romania. A qualitative social network analysis, based on twenty semi-structured interviews and related ego-maps, provides evidence of the composition and geographical dispersion of the Ukrainian interviewees' networks, as well as the flow of resources and support within these networks. By considering several criteria, such as the type of actors (individual-collective), their geographical dispersion (local-transnational), or the type of relationship (personal-institutional) in the ego-networks of the Ukrainian forced migrants interviewed, the data analysis will highlight different relational agency paths.

Considering The Features of Migrants' Legal Consciousness

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The XXI century has been marked by the multilevel scientific inquiry on the topic of migration which also includes studies on legal consciousness. A trendline of investigations has addressed how migrants think, feel and act in the new legal environment. However, there is also a need to put more consideration into the discussion about new residents' interaction with the welcoming system of legalities and the outcomes it produces. Therefore, this research addresses the topic of immigrants' integration with a particular focus on one of the spheres of social life – immigrants' legal relationship in the welcoming country and the features of legal consciousness as a result of this synergy. The main objective of the study is to address this aspect by setting particular tasks of 1) discussing new residents' experiences in the welcoming legal system 2) and the features of legal consciousness as a result of this interaction. The study's design involves literature analysis and derives insights from the set of 54 semi-structured interviews with immigrants while focusing on the case of Lithuania. The conducted analysis reveals that the context and features of Lithuanian migration policy, and administrative and institutional culture, societal interactions provide input toward the features of migrants' legal consciousness. They could be characterized by (but not limited to) the following features of self-positioning, analogy, generalization, retrospection, paralysis, allusion, and transnational legal consciousness. The latter is also informed by the limited range of experiences, self-ascription of individual rights or responsibilities and reproduced behaviour. The features of immigrants' legal consciousness singled out in the analysis enables to identify the new focus for integration policies and ways of strengthening the legal integration of newcomers.

Navigating the Climate Crossroads: Understanding, Addressing, and Cooperating on Climate-Induced Migration

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In the midst of an international context characterized by a permanent state of permacrisis and where the primacy of violence prevails to the detriment of cooperation, this article delves into the consequence of two evolutionary phenomena – climate migration. Recognizing the profound impact of environmental change on human displacement, we navigate the theoretical framework of international relations and migration, focusing on the continuum of the emergence of climate migrants, broadly defined as people who are forced to move for environmental reasons, whether sudden or progressive, temporarily or permanently, internally or externally. Amidst a dearth of protection caused by the lack of recognition provided by the 1951 Convention, climate-induced displacement can be defined as a form of adaptation or a failure to adapt.

The purpose of this conceptual study was to comprehend how migrant movements are affected by climate change and to pinpoint potential remedies. Determine the existing international framework, identify actions done regarding migrant climate change, present general trends on climate change forecasts, and analyze established conceptual methods were the four particular goals that were produced. An elastic approach, which combined qualitative and deductive methods, a literature review, and exploratory interviews, served as the foundation for the study structure.

Employing a comprehensive approach, we assess three international agreements—the Protection Agenda, the Global Compact for Migration, and the Cartagena Declaration—as tools to formulate realistic and effective policies. Ultimately, we aspire for readers to grasp the multifaceted solutions available to address climate migration and comprehend the intersection of human displacement with the adverse effects of climate change.

RN35 | T08_01: Migrants, welfare professionals and institutional ambiguities 1

"I Want You To Tell About Yourself." Producing Simplicity In Asylum Decision-Making

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This paper addresses the way socio-cultural factors affect asylum decision-making. Asylum and related practises are at the centre of building tension and trust. On the one hand, asylum seekers and the legitimacy of their reasons for seeking asylum are at the core of polarised debates on migration and, on the other, the legitimacy of the asylum system is dependent on the trustworthiness of the authorities. Yet this trustworthiness has been put in the question by researchers and activists alike.

Research has found that asylum decision-making is often hindered by cultural misunderstandings. The current paper argues that the misunderstandings do not simply just happen, but are actually produced by authorities through a failure to grasp the complexities of the asylum seeker's experiences and society of origin, that is, through simplification.

Therefore, the paper asks: how is simplicity produced in asylum documents? The data consists of interview records and asylum decisions made for asylum applicants in Finland in the immigrant-politically turbulent years 2016–17. The data is rich in narrative styles and argumentation strategies, yet rare in its kind and hard to access.

The paper contributes to understanding power asymmetries of asylum decision making, as well as their consequences for the asylum system. The findings are relevant also in other European Union countries and in the current time, as the asylum procedure in Finland is guided by the Union level guidelines, and as research indicates that similar features of decision making are persistent over time and place.

Guarantee of a Fair Hearing? Asylum Interpreters' Ambiguous Task of Making the Voices of Exiles Heard and Scrutinized

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Language researchers have demonstrated, with cases studies of multiple national contexts, that asylum procedures crucially rely on language interpreting in the credibility assessment that is at the core of the decision-making process. But this activity has rarely been considered as a policy issue

at the European level. Still, the systematicity of the intervention of interpreters in national asylum procedures can only be explained by its definition as a "guarantee" in the "Procedures" directive within the Common European Asylum System.

Indeed, at the Ofpra (Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides, the French first instance of the procedure), interpreters are now present in 90% of the interviews. But this systematization is recent, and its seemingly protective function is confronted with the inquisitive and accelerated processing of applications. The communication will therefore analyze how the European norms have been adapted to the imperatives of efficiency and accuracy which prevail at the Ofpra.

To this end, I will offer a sociohistorical scope on the institutionalization of interpreters' function, based on interviews with professional interpreters and on (administrative) archive analysis. This will enable to follow the gradual implementation of the provision of interpreters at the institutional level, highlighting how this crucial activity has long been neglected and informally submitted to institutional imperatives. Besides, observations of interpreted asylum encounters provide insights on how interpreters cope with the tension which is at the core if their translative task: giving voice to asylum seekers and contributing to the bureaucratic process which reduces their story to administrative artifacts.

Trusting "by default". Emergency health care for migrants in Amiens (France)

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The paper is based on sociological research (ANRS 2019-2023) into access to care pathways for asylum seekers housed in Amiens. The second largest city in the Hauts-de-France region, Amiens is located on a migration route that serves Paris – Lille and Calais by rail.

Analysis of 60 semi-structured interviews with asylum seekers (a third of whom are non-French speakers), reveals that they resort to interchangeable or « disposable » social ties (Desmond, 2016). These ties characterize brief, fragile, sometimes ephemeral relationships and are based on trust "by default".

Relationships of trust "by default" correspond to requests for help and support from a friend, social referent or healthcare professional in a context of poverty. Another relationship, established with a 'stranger', is disengaged from any recommendation or social network. We will show that the respondents develop these relationships of trust "by default" on their arrival in Amiens. They seek to build their own social security in the face of non-existent or partial health and social care. Based on the experiences of French-speaking and non-French-speaking men and women, we will propose a typology of "default" relationships of trust expressed in health emergencies (According to our survey, a health emergency corresponds to a care emergency in the institutional sense (pregnancy in progress, contagious diseases...) and to an emergency felt by the respondent and experienced most often at night or outside consultation hours (respiratory problem, child fever...). It will contribute to the factors that explain inequalities in access to care.

Sociolinguistic Barriers and Potentials among Ethnic Minority Students in Danish Healthcare Training

Nana Clemensen

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Like other European countries, Denmark experiences a growing healthcare crisis these years, especially in terms of elder care. Sustained by political incentives, a large diverse group of ethnic and linguistic minority students have enrolled in vocational healthcare training, but many drop out before graduation due to language barriers in their encounters with patients and healthcare personnel. Based on linguistic ethnographic data from Danish healthcare training schools and fields of internship, this paper explores such language barriers and how minority students, along with their teachers and other practitioners, respond to them. The paper combines sociolinguistic perspectives on the roles of power, identity and student investments in second language learning (Duff 2011, Cekaite 2020, Norton 2013) with linguistic-anthropological theories of translanguaging and the rise of new healthcare and language learning practices in a globalised world (Jacobs & Diamond 2017, Kim & Kreps 2022, Mao & Ahmed 2018). Through sociological ideas of immigrant drive (Portes 2012), these linguistic theories are are linked to larger concerns of Danish migration policies, interests and demands of Danish society and healthcare institutions, and immigrant students' personal and vocational ambitions in Denmark. Finally, drawing on Foucault-inspired ideas of discursively produced caring subjects (Foucault 1988, Skeggs 2012), the paper explores the precarious role of healthcare workers in Danish society, comprising social concepts of gender, ethnicity and class, and how minority students negotiate such subjectivities.

RN35 | T08_02: Migration and health in the time of crisis

Loneliness in the Afro-diasporic Community in Germany

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This paper aims to examine the well-being of the Afro-diasporic community in Germany in comparison to people of German origin, with a particular focus on loneliness as a key determinant of life satisfaction and social inclusion. Prolonged periods of loneliness are associated with a higher risk of health problems, including physical and mental illness. Research on this topic is relatively scarce in the context of Germany, which is one of the major migration destinations in Europe.

We focus on Afro-diasporic migrant adults aged 18-50 (N=213) and compare them with native Germans (N=14,269) from the German Family Demography Panel Study (FReDA 2021). In a first step, we present descriptive findings on the prevalence of emotional loneliness by origin (Afro-diaspora: 21.1 %, natives: 13.1 %) and cognitive loneliness by origin (Afro-diaspora: 19.4 %, natives: 13.4 %) – gender differences to the disadvantage of women become obvious here. Especially social rejection is reported more frequently by Afro-diasporic migrants (21.30 %, natives: 16.32 %). In a second step, we estimate the outcome variables (emotional and cognitive loneliness) of cross-sectional regression analyses. The models focus on compositional differences between migrants and natives (education, income, place of residence) as well as on cultural factors influencing loneliness (e.g., religion, intergenerational solidarity). Preliminary results indicate that loneliness is significantly higher in the Afrodiasporic community compared to the native German population. In addition, intersectional risks such as low socioeconomic status, being female, and having less education increase the likelihood of higher loneliness.

What It's Like To Be A Muslim Student In Poland –Social Network Analysis Of Students From Muslim Countries in Poland

Maria Stojkow

AGH University, Poland

The speech will concern the social networks and the adaptation experiences of students from Muslim countries at Polish universities. Understanding the characteristics of the social networks of Muslims living in Poland seems extremely important in the face of discrimination and the continued institutionalization of Islamophobia. The presentation will show the extent to which religion and religiosity matter in the friendship choices of Muslim students at Polish universities. Even at diverse universities that provide opportunities for interfaith friendships, Muslim students are disproportionately likely to be friends with Muslims rather than non-Muslims, so it is essential to examine whether segregation in religious friendships results from Muslims' group prejudices or from non-Muslims' reluctance to befriend them.

Examining the social networks of Muslim students in a country that is still very homogeneous will show the barriers they encounter when trying to integrate into Polish society. Even seemingly open groups do not make this integration happen to a significant extent. The social network analysis will focus on the strategies that young people from Muslim countries who came to Krakow to study take up to make friends, get the necessary information, cultivate religious rituals or avoid discrimination. The speech will be based on individual in-depth interviews conducted from September to January 2023 among Muslim students – bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students living in Kraków.

Inherent Vulnerability or Structural Vulnerabilisation? Unraveling Systemic Inequalities Faced by Women with a Migration History Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Pitfalls of 'Fempowerment'

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Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the policy responses concerning women with a migration history have gained significant attention. This presentation, informed by critical policy analysis as well as interviews with experts and women with a migration background, navigates the complexities of these interventions, taking into account the discourse on 'fempowerment'. This perspective frames women with a migration history as intrinsically vulnerable, requiring individual empowerment to deal with their challenging situation. The reflexive policy approach draws on intersectionality theory and postcolonial insights and posits that prevailing policy interventions rely on an individualized conception of vulnerability, inadvertently reinforcing social disparities. By focussing on personal transformation, these structural disparities often remain overlooked, leaving the intertwining dynamics of genderization and migrantization unchallenged.

Germany's pandemic-related measures have intensified social disparities, leaving women with a migration history grappling with employment instability. Often they found themselves in indispensable sectors, yet without the opportunity of remote work options. Using Germany as a case study, this presentation challenges the 'fempowerment' discourse, spotlighting its inadequacy in redressing structural

inequalities. Through an intersectional approach, it highlights that vulnerabilities are more a product of systemic conditions and social processes than the innate characteristics of the supposed deficient agency or 'cultural difference' of individuals. Concurrently, a postcolonial lens illuminates the inadvertent reinforcement of racial hierarchies by policies, deepening exclusionary narratives. In sum, this presentation seeks to deconstruct dominant notions of vulnerability and accentuates the urgency of holistic comprehension of social inequalities that are important in thinking about more just and inclusive post-pandemic strategies.

The Relevance of Multi-level Governance on Contrasting the Structural Inequity Health Determinants of Exploited (or At-risk of Exploitation) Migrant Workers: A Comparison Between the Project P.I.U. Su.Pr.Eme. in the Region of Sicily and the Project Common Ground in the Veneto Region

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Informal labour is prevalent in low-qualified work positions often fulfilled by migrants in Italy. Labourers are often vulnerable to exploitation by working without adequate protection equipment, being often exposed to exploitative conditions, and being underpaid. In the last decade, the country's high numbers of exploited migrants led the central government to implement national policies and actions to contrast the phenomenon and the informal economy (Omizzolo 2023). In the Northern Regions, the multi-level governance was mainly implemented through the project Common Ground, aimed at assisting migrants at risk of exploitation or currently exploited in the regions of Veneto, Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Friuli Venezia Giulia, while in the Southern regions, the project P.I.U. Su.Pre.EmE applied expansive policies to provide integrated social services to migrants living in informal agricultural settlements.

Applying the Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health (Irwin & Solar 2010), this study, through a mixed method research based on administering 70 questionnaires and conducting 15 semi-structured interviews to street-level bureaucrats (Lipsky 1980) of the projects aims at 1) analysing the role of multi-level governance on the facilitation of health endowment of migrants working in an exploitative situation; 2) understanding the recognition of the institutional representation through the private sector implementing the P.I.U. Su.Pr.EmE and Common Ground projects within multi-level governance; 3) comprehending the influence of the regional socio-economic context in the entitlement of migrants in Sicily and Veneto.

RN35 | T09_01: Migrants, welfare professionals and institutional ambiguities 2

Fighting Against Institutional Discrimination. The Role Of Pro Bono Legal Advocacy For Migrants' Access to Welfare At Local Level In Italy

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Institutional discrimination is a typical battleground of local policies of immigration. Welfare benefits represents one of the main fields where ID has emerged in Europe as well as in Italy, especially at local level, where administrations have wide margins of discretion in providing services. In this line, the paper considers ID in relation to welfare rights in Italy and focuses on how it is identified and contrasted at territorial level by pro bono lawyers.

The proposal relies on data gathered for a research project. Starting from a reach dataset on legal disputes, the article presents 15 cases, related to four key welfare areas: housing, health system, supports to family and childcare, emergency bonuses. Data consist of 95 juridical documents and 20 semi-structured interviews with pro bono lawyers who coordinated the 15 anti-discriminatory actions that compose our sample.

The paper examines three recurrent criteria of exclusion, termed as «direct, indirect and semi-direct discriminatory barriers». Secondly, it analyses the sociopolitical reasons behind the introduction of bans. Precisely, these represent «rhetorical tools» that administrations use for conveying a message of protection of welfare against immigrants, in line with the motto «Italians first». Thirdly, we focus on lawyers, examining their point of view, their relations with the context and beneficiaries, the difficulties they face: in particular, why lawyers have expressed solitude and perplexity. The study has indeed identified a series of practical and political obstacles, especially in terms of perception of discrimination and of exposing people and associations to a lawsuit against public institutions.

A Cross-National Study on the Discretionary Authority of Street-Level Bureaucrats in Integration Policy Implementation

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This paper examines the discretionary authority of individuals within administrative bodies, highlighting the interconnectedness of migration, integration, and administrative

decision-making. Building on the theory and concept of Street-level Bureaucracy (cf. Lipsky, 2010; Hupe & Hill, 2021) and utilizing collected qualitative empirical data, this comparative study focuses on the discretionary power of street-level bureaucrats (SLBs) in Berlin and Athens, emphasizing their significance in integration policy implementation.

Employing a relational hermeneutic approach (Straub & Ruppel, 2022; Straub & Ruppel, 2023), the study combines a qualitative content analysis of semi-structured interviews, conducted with individual administrative personnel within integration offices in both cases, with an analysis of policy changes over time. The analysis provides comparable categories between the two cases, giving insight into the discretionary power wielded by SLBs in postmigrant urban settings, while critically engaging with the concept of discretion, challenging the traditional binary understanding of 'law' versus 'discretion' in bureaucratic practice (cf. Loyens & Maesschalck, 2010; Belabas & Gerrits, 2017; Affolter, 2021).

The paper concludes with a discussion on the discretionary power of SLBs in Berlin and Athens, linking this to the broader implications for integration and migration studies, and reflecting on governance responses at various levels, from local to international. With its European relevance and comprehensive methodological approach, this study contributes to the broader understanding of the challenges and dynamics of migration and integration policies in Europe.

The Multidimensional System of Welfare Obstacles for Young Refugees – The German Case

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The German welfare state is characterized by strong links between employment and the access to systems of social security and an „employment centered transition regime" from school into training and work. This creates structurally rooted normality expectations for life courses which can result in tensions between structure and agency.

Taking up the concept of civic stratification, young refugees transitioning from school into training and work are confronted not only with this welfare regime but also with residency law categorizations which are socially constructed. They shape biographies and imply differentiated chances for participation and exclusion. Risks of exclusion arising from this are to be referred to as "welfare state obstacles".

Against this background the proposed paper will examine the question of which welfare state obstacles can be identified for young refugees in Germany and how these obstacles are shaped. Coming from a processfigurational and relational sociological research perspective and taking into account considerations from life course sociology, interdependences, interrelations and processes are of great importance to answer the research question.

Based on a combination of document analysis of framework conditions in Germany and secondary analysis of 55 qualitative interviews with municipal actors in integration policy the findings will show that welfare state obstacles for young refugees transitioning from school into training and work consist of four interrelated and interdependent dimensions: arrangements, accesses, interfaces, and the realization of structural framework conditions. This model of multidimensional welfare state obstacles has the potential to be transferable to other contexts and regions and can therefore contribute to a deeper understanding of mechanisms of exclusion.

RN35 | T09_02: Interconnections between Geographical and social mobility

Brain Drain or Scientific Mobility? Exploring the Strategies of Scientific Migration in Times of Crisis and External Constraints: Some Insights from Russia after 2022

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The authors examine the strategies employed by migrant scientists during times of crisis, with a specific focus on analyzing the associated risks and exploring the potential for their return. The classic theory of "brain drain" (Lee, 1966) suggests emigration from a country without the intention of returning. However, during external threats such as political persecution or economic crises, the duration and planning of migration may be reduced, leading researchers to relocate to other countries as temporary hubs with a potential desire to return. Additionally, highly skilled professionals worldwide tend to develop organizational, cognitive, and community dimensions of careers simultaneously (Gläser, Laudel, 2015), and migration may result in a downshift in these areas.

The empirical data consists of three parts: Firstly, quantitative survey data on migration strategies of highly productive scientists and graduate students were collected in 2022. Secondly, the results of digital analytics were obtained from TG-chats of scientific personnel who migrated from Russia. Thirdly, more than 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with migrant Russian researchers.

The findings reveal that the strategies employed by Russian researchers can be categorized into different types: there are scientists who had long-term plans to leave and already had connections within foreign academia, and external factors served as catalysts for their emigration. Another group consists of scientists who didn't initially intend to leave but were compelled to do so due to external factors, but forced to do so with forthcoming professional challenges. Lastly, a subset of migrant researchers chose to maintain working connections with Russia while residing in two countries, frequently commuting for personal and professional matters. During the presentation, all three groups strategies will be discussed in more details.

Diaspora Engagement in Public Diplomacy: Case of Latvian Diaspora Professionals Working in International Organizations

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Today, diplomacy and international policymaking are primarily a 'game of skill' not simply a game of power in which size, power and geographical location are crucial. In this context, the diaspora network can play an important role and allow policy makers 'punch above their weight' (Beeson and Higgott, 2014 in Stone & Douglas, 2018). Countries with limited financial and human resources can strategically and purposefully increase their international influence and better defend their interests through diaspora engagement in public diplomacy (Pinto, 2022).

Public diplomacy is relatively new concept and new instrument for the implementation of foreign policy. There are very few studies on public diplomacy. This paper will focus on diaspora engagement in public diplomacy, reflecting on new relationships and bonds of solidarity that are built. It explores cooperation of Latvia's diaspora professionals, who are working in international organizations, with Latvia's state institutions, with particular focus on new relationships and networks related to public diplomacy. The study was carried out in the summer of 2022 by conducting a survey of Latvia's diaspora professionals working in international organizations (N = 150), focus group discussions (six discussions, 18 participants) and nine in-depth, semi-structured interviews. The results through light on This study allows to explore and contribute to the understanding of the dynamics of engagement – understanding the structures, policies and methods of creating and engaging diaspora in the public diplomacy, the constellations of actors involved, the communication strategies and visions, new methods of engagement, individual predisposition to engagement.

This paper is developed with the financial support of the National Research Programme "New solutions to study demographic and migration processes for the development of Latvian society" (VPP-LETONIKA-2021/4-0002).

National Class Frames in Motion: Chinese Tradesmen in Boomtime Australia

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This paper proposes the concept of national class frames in motion as an analytical framework to explore dimensions of social class in transnational contexts. National class frames in motion refers to the diverse ways that first generation migrants interpret their own intra-ethnic classed positions, as well as the positions of others, through the lens of homeland class maps and class discourses, while simultaneously

contesting and changing the meanings of those nationally bounded class frames as they move with them through new transnational contexts. Because migrants are socialised into class frames that are formed and forged in homeland national contexts, these same national class frames necessarily have ongoing meaning during and after their movements across borders; they are transported, reformed and reinterpreted in receiving country contexts.

This paper explores this concept through the experiences of trade-skilled workers from China who migrated to Perth, Western Australia, during the exceptional economic conditions of the last resources boom. This unusual cohort of working-class migrants, quite unlike most middle-class Chinese nationals and former nationals living in Australia, provide an excellent case study through which to interrogate class as an analytical lens, assess its validity and test its limits. These case studies further provide new insights into intra-ethnic class contestations, particularly when in contemporary China spatial mobility is now so deeply imbricated with culturalist dimensions of class.

Cross-Border Commuting in the Polish-German Border Region: A Mobility Infrastructure Perspective

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In an era marked by right-wing populist narratives advocating for restricted migration policies, Western democracies struggle with the tension between the economic benefits of open borders while maintaining national sovereignty and minimising the costs of migration (Lutz 2023). The phenomenon of intra-European cross-border commuting seems to be an attractive alternative; (cheaper) workers come temporally to meet labour market demands without the complexities of integration. However, what assumptions underlie these ideas, what challenges and opportunities arise for cross-border commuters, and what infrastructures are in place, facilitating their labour trajectories? Using Polish-German cross-border commuting as a case study, this paper aims to move forward the migration infrastructure approach (Xiang and Lindquist 2014).

The Polish-German border region has been a notable example of dynamic and consistent labour mobilities within the European Union (Morokvasic 1994; Okólski 2001). Traditionally engaged in seasonal work in Germany, recent observations indicate a significant shift in Polish labour dynamics, with decreased involvement in agriculture (Schneider and Götte 2020) and increased employment in the production and service sectors (Bundesagentur für Arbeit 2022). Focusing on the automotive production sector and distribution centres in Brandenburg, Germany, the mobility infrastructure approach offers an insightful framework to analyse the interplay of technologies, institutions, and actors shaping the practices of cross-border commuting. However, the mobility infrastructure approach has thus far paid little attention to the nuances of daily and weekly cross-border commuting. This study argues that the recurrent and repetitive nature of these movements entails distinct needs and facilitation compared to seasonal work. Building on my ongoing ethnographic research, I show the challenges, related to bureaucratic hurdles, negotiations of everyday social lives and bodily exhaustion, while also highlighting the economic opportunities of cross-border commuting in this regional context. By unravelling the complexities of cross-border commuting, this study contributes to advancing the mobility infrastructure approach and offers a deeper understanding of the intra-European labour mobilities to inform broader discussions surrounding migration policies.

RN35 | T09_03: Citizenship and coping mechanisms in the margins

Race, Superdiversity and Migration: the Case of Undocumented African Migrants in Istanbul

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This paper aims to answer how undocumented African migrants make a home in 'superdiverse' Istanbul in the face of racism, migrant surveillance, and everyday policing. The global migration regime has changed, and more people migrate within the Global South than from the Global South to the Global North. Since the rapid increase in migration, not only have the cities in Western Europe become increasingly superdiverse, but also migrant-receiving cities in the Global South have become superdiverse. Racism is the key to understanding structural and social inequalities affecting the lives of migrants, and it has been a real struggle for many migrants during their journey, settlement and adaptation processes, even in some cases, it is the reason for return migration. Focusing on the links between race and superdiversity, this paper explores the processes of racialization in the case of undocumented African migrants in Istanbul. Drawing on in-depth interviews with undocumented African migrants in Istanbul, I explore how they make a home in Istanbul, how they negotiate and interpret their experiences of racism and discrimination in Istanbul, and how they develop emancipatory practices despite the racism they experience. I agree that the experiences of undocumented African migrants in Istanbul are very much related to race that shapes social systems (Bonilla-Silva 2001) leading to racism and can better be understood through long-standing patterns of power – the continuity of colonialism. Race, criminality and migrant background are not mutually exclusive categories as experienced by African undocumented migrants in superdiverse Istanbul.

Living and Working with an Irregularised Status in Highly Regularised Societies: The Cases of the Netherlands and Finland

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European states are more and more exclusionary and hostile in their migration policies and non-citizens are increasingly formally excluded yet present, living in irregularised situations. In this paper we examine how anti-migration policies shape everyday experiences of irregularity. We depart from the understanding that irregularity is a politically and legally produced situation, resulting from state policies and politics that restrict access to residence and fundamental rights while profiting from precarious labour (e.g. de Genova 2004; Sigona et al. 2021). We rely on the conceptualisation of 'irregularity assemblage' to analyse how legal and policy frameworks influence the lives of migrants and examine how irregularity is experienced and how it affects the everyday life of irregular migrants and their families.

This empirical paper draws from findings from thematic policy analysis and semi-structured expert interviews conducted in the context of a research project I-Claim – Improving the living and working conditions of irregularised migrants in Europe (EU Horizon).

The cases of Netherlands and Finland present some notable similarities, both being traditionally strong welfare states yet currently increasingly employing exclusionary policies. The labour markets in both countries are highly regularised, with low levels of informality, and the number of people living and working in these countries in an irregularised situation is relatively low. However, the migration histories and patterns and some key legislations are different. By comparing these similar yet in some ways different contexts, we explore how different policies shape the experiences of living and working in an irregular situation in two highly regularised societies.

Integration and Citizenship for Low Literate Refugees

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As a result of the present geography of conflicts and a prioritization of particularly vulnerable refugees for settlement, Norway – like several other European countries – now settle a higher proportion of low literate refugees. Despite having settled in a peaceful society, these then often find themselves in a difficult and paradoxical situation: They should remake their lives in a society where competence requirements are high and access to employment narrow, while the pressure on them to become economically independent is strong. A parallel development is the turn towards meritocracy in citizenship regulations, and like several other European countries Norway has introduced citizenship tests. This can contribute to jeopardize the political rights of low literate refugees. Meanwhile, arguments against immigration are voiced on the basis of 'failed integration' and growing inequality. This paper asks: How do low literate refugees cope in a society where literacy is the norm? What can their situations tell us about the relations between integration, citizenship, and democracy? The paper is based on qualitative interviews with low literate refugees who have been settled in Norway. They were conducted as part of a 4-year research project focusing on integration and low literature refugees. In the discussion of our research findings, we draw on theoretical perspectives on meritocratic citizenship and integration, and the notions of deservingness.

Growing Old, Feeling Like Citizens? Migrants' Descendants' Trajectories Into Adulthood In Italy In The Light Of Lived Citizenship

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Despite the growing number of migrants' descendants reaching adulthood in Italy – especially young people of North African origins, as their parents were among the first immigrants to arrive in the country – their trajectories have been little researched. This gap is quite striking, as they risk inheriting a marginal economic and professional position, while experiencing processes of social and symbolic exclusion, once again particularly evident for young people of North African origin due to anti-Arab and Islamophobic prejudices (Fullin, 2016).

The paper presents the preliminary results of the research project 'Growing old, feeling like citizens?' developed by the Universities of Padua and Milan-Bicocca (Italy). The project aims to improve understanding of how Muslim young adults of North African origin experience citizenship in everyday life and relationships (Kallio et al., 2020), using this analytical perspective to explore several interrelated social dimensions, such as labour market integration, social exclusion processes, sense of belonging, intimate self-realisation, wellbeing and personal aspirations (Müller, 2022).

The project adopts a multi-site research design and a qualitative methodology. The fieldwork is carried out in Lombardy and Veneto and entails 80 biographical interviews and 8 focus groups, ethnographic observation, and semi-structured interviews with local and national key informants.

The paper provides new insights on how young Muslim people construct and live their citizenship in Italy in their transition to adulthood and on the challenges they face in this crucial process due to their youth, migrant background and religious affiliation.

RN36 | Sociology of Social Transformations: East and West

RN36 | T02: Perspectives on social values and imaginaries

Exchange of Ideas and Interdisciplinary Cooperation. Polish Sociologists and Historians About Social Transformation

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Recently there are a lot of surprising and deeply disturbing trends like new populism, deepening social and political divisions, conflicting visions of reality, intensifying symbolic and discursive struggles, and finally the rebirth of old identities, prejudices and conflicts. Old divisions have returned on the East-West axis of Europe. Social researchers are trying to respond to these new challenges by providing adequate diagnoses and understanding of this dynamic situation.

My paper concentrates on the Polish academic community. I want to describe the explanatory strategies, cognitive and political goals, attitudes and involvement of Polish social scientists. I focus on those who deal with macro-processes of social change, using a long time perspective and a broad comparative approach. I conducted in-depth interviews with young Polish scientists from main public universities who represent two key disciplines: sociology and history. The paper will present results of this research. My aim was to evaluate the scope and character of exchange and cooperation between different academic communities, disciplines and research traditions. By following the achievements and academic careers of young researchers, I also want to determine the role of Eastern European social sciences in global discussions on new transformations. How do they assess the ability to describe and universalize the Eastern European experience? What audiences are they targeting? How do they see scientific communication with the West? What are the difficulties in agreeing on the interpretations of social processes, historical experiences and imaginaries among historians and sociologists in Poland and abroad?

"And I Also Remember How People Were Tracked Back Then": Experiences and Imaginaries of Surveillance in a Generational and Cross-Cultural Perspective

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Most previous studies on online surveillance are conducted in long-time liberal democracies with limited experiences of explicit and intrusive state surveillance. An intriguing question is: What role does the historical legacy of totalitarianism or authoritarianism, embodied in generational experiences and values, play in the formation of attitudes and imaginaries regarding contemporary state and corporate surveillance? We will analyse results from an original study among two generations (born in 1946-1953, and in 1988-1995) in three European countries with different historical surveillance regimes – Estonia, Portugal, and Sweden. The study combined a quantitative online survey (N=3,221) with qualitative focus group and individual interviews (71 participants in total).

Our analysis revealed significant cross-cultural differences in personal and mediated experiences of surveillance. Nevertheless, in all countries, tolerance towards online state surveillance was more characteristic of the older age group, and it was predicted by trustful, obedient, and less individualistic attitudes towards state authorities and other institutions.

Qualitative interviews revealed that participants, especially in the older group of Estonians, clearly distinguished between the historical totalitarian/authoritarian and contemporary "democratic" surveillance regimes, imagining the former as restrictive and dangerous, and the latter as loose and even partly beneficial.

We posit a theoretical hypothesis of the "surveillance survival paradox": personal experiences of the past (totalitarian/authoritarian) surveillance regime do not lead to a greater fear or criticism of the contemporary regime; rather on the contrary. Perceptions of the past surveillance regime as more direct, dangerous, and terrible overshadow sensitivities towards more abstract and covert risks related to the contemporary datafied world.

(A)moral Familism in Poland: the Problematic Legacy of Distrust

Barbara Małgorzata Pasamonik

The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland

Edward Banfield in his book Moral Basis of a Backward Society (1958) introduced term "amoral familism" to describe social relations and values in the southern Italian societies.

Amoral familism is characterized by a sharp division between the public and private spheres, the dominance of the

private sphere and informal ties, presentist orientation, value dimorphism and ethical dualism. These features appear in certain social, economic, historical, cultural contexts. In Poland, researchers began to diagnose amoral familism in the 1980s as a response to the economic crisis and the atrophy of the state (Tarkowska, Tarkowski 1990). Amoral familism is also present in contemporary diagnoses of Polish society (Rychard 2015, Leder 2020). To explore the enduring presence of familism in Polish social reality I propose to abandon the value-laden epithet "amoral" and consider familism as an evolutionary adaptive strategy, predominant in times of shortages or crises, strategy that is still observed in certain geographic regions.

Familism can be analyzed using measures of (1) trust in the private sphere/strong family ties vs. generalized trust (European Social Survey, Public Opinion Research Center, Statistics Poland), 2) family collectivism vs. institutional collectivism (GLOBE), (3) particularism vs. universalism (Trompenaars and Hampden-Turner). I use these measures to investigate familism across Poland and with comparison to other European countries. The uneven distribution of social capital in Poland and Europe, including its low level in poorer rural areas seems to confirm adaptive value of familism.

The Transition From Weekday To Holy Day In Israeli-Jewish Society: Verbal And Ritual Adaptations

Stav Shufan

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This study explores temporal shifts among Jews in Israel, particularly the transition from a Gregorian-universal time perception during weekdays to a Jewish framework on weekends. Employing a multi-sited qualitative phenomenological approach, interviews with 66 individuals from religious, traditional, secular, and Haredi communities reveal a broadly accepted concept of Jewish Shabbat time, validated at personal, familial, and social levels. This concept is enriched with thoughtful verbal and ritual expressions.

On one hand, Friday practices and rituals signify the gradual shift to Shabbat. This includes not just the observance of traditional laws like candle lighting, but also behavioral changes such as completing tasks early and dedicating time to family from Friday evening. These gradual adjustments illustrate a significant temporal movement in mainstream Israeli-Jewish culture. On the other hand, despite a common understanding of Shabbat time, the terminology used to describe parts of Shabbat varies: secular Jews often use terms like "Friday evening," whereas religious Jews prefer "Shabbat eve." Similarly, "Saturday evening" is used by secular groups, in contrast to "Motzei Shabbat" among religious communities.

The study illuminates the varied interpretive spaces prevalent in Jewish culture in Israel. This diversity, along with the tension arising from transitions between distinct temporal frameworks, offers a detailed perspective on time, illustrating that it is not merely quantified but also lived and interpreted within this particular cultural context. The observed alterations in Jewish-Israeli culture exemplify its intrinsic temporal fluidity, acting as a bridge between the concept of time as an abstract, unbiased, and objective phenomenon, and its diverse social roles and interpretational aspects.

RN36 | T03: Transformations of identities

Redefining EU-citizenship for planet-centred morphogenesis

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In the paper, we argue that there is a need for a bottom-up civic change, but framed within proper institutional, structural, and cultural settings. This interlocking relationship between actors/agents and structure is considered on a level of EU, which is a political entity with normatively strong environmental and sustainable orientation, but clearly, facing a certain lack in implementing all policies successfully. While there is a complex intertwinement of factor influencing this situation, we believe that more could be achieved with enhanced civic and political participation of citizens. Accordingly, we suggest a redefined concept of European citizenship, which is seen as a crucial building block of a new European social imaginary. The latter can provide grounds for coherent European Union to successful face current societal challenges. For that purpose, we distinguish between narrative-affectual and performative aspects of citizenship, which we intertwine with the planet-centric awareness.

Russia's War against Ukraine and Polish-Ukrainian Relations: The Impact of Outside Aggression on Mutual Perception

Kaja Gadowska

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This paper examines the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine for Polish-Ukrainian relations with particular focus on the impact of frames of war on the Polish perception of Ukrainian national identity.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has forced millions of people to seek refuge and safety abroad. Of all the world's countries, Poland has hosted the largest number of war refugees from Ukraine (adding to large Ukrainian diaspora of economic migrants already present), and this historic exodus of people has created long-term and far-reaching social, economic, and policy consequences for the country.

Based on analyses of source materials, public polls, and press content, this paper discusses the relations between Poles and Ukrainians in a historical perspective – from the Spring of Nations through the First and Second World Wars and post-war order to the present. Frames forged by the historical memory of the two nations bore drastic differences, which became obscured at the outbreak of the Russo-Ukrainian War by a sense of kinship and shared experience in the face of a common enemy. However, as the war has dragged on, dormant resentments and stereotypes have begun to be revived, hindering the success of policies and measures to integrate refugees into their host communities. This paper will explain how the shifts in public attitudes towards Ukrainians reflect the lingering persistence of pre-existing frames, but also how they affect and are affected by perceptions of the war.

Identity Transformations of National Minorities in Eastern Europe – the Formation of the "third Value" on the Example of Poles in Lithuania

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Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Poland

The paper is a summary of the first part of research project conducted under the grant of the Ministry of Education and Science in Poland POPUL/SN/0304/2023/01.

Presentation is based on research conducted in accordance with procedures of grounded theory methodology, based on IDI with leaders of Polish organisations in Lithuania and creators in the field of literature and art.

It's worth asking the question: how the identity of national minorities evolves after separation with their nation state (as the effect of historical decisions)? Is the assimilation the only scenario, and is the fight against it the only possible activity of minority elites?

The research leads to the conclusion, which is also the main thesis of the speech: despite unquestionable progress of assimilation process, over time, identity develops among national minority, with a strong reference to the country of origin, immersed in the culture of the country of residence, but not a simple synthesis of two identities. Referring to the concept of the Polish-American sociologist Danuta Mostwin, a "third value" of identity is then created.

In case of Poles in Lithuania, apart from historical factors, there are two important time censuses in XXI century: Lithuania's entry into the European Union and the improvement of international communication tools during the Covid-19 pandemic. New generations, with high intercultural and technological competences have "entered the game". Examples of initiatives will be provided. Worth mentioning – different linguistic competences (Polish, Lithuanian, Russian – different media reception) may cause different attitudes towards war in Ukraine.

Similar conculsions were drawn by author during research among Hungarian minorities in Central Europe. The process is worth attention, also with reference to other cases.

RN36 | T04: Resilience in social transformations

Resilience as Success Criterion of Post-Communist Restorations

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In analyzing modern social systems, two types of systemic change should be distinguished: revolutions in the proper sense, driven by the new ideas of social justice, and restorations, driven by the idea of reversal to a past alternative stable equilibrium. In the last case, we have to do with a sequence of three systems or alternative equilibria: original (A), intermediate (B), and restored (C), where C affirms, constructs, or claims continuity with A. Restoration qualifies as complete endurance success, if C endures longer than A and B, avoiding a new revolution or restoration of B. The endurance success of C depends on its performance success: the ability to outperform the original or intermediate system. However, shocks can move to alternative equilibria even well-performing social systems. Therefore, the endurance and performance success criteria, based on the comparison of performance and endurance of A, B, and C should be supplemented by the restoration resilience criterion: A successfully restored social system C is more resilient in comparison with the original system A both in the sense of its capacity for rapid recovery after shocks and its lesser susceptibility to systemic change, shifting it into an alternative equilibrium. We provide a demonstration of how this criterion works, comparing the resilience of Baltic States in 1918-1940 and since their restoration in 1990. They are selected as paradigmatic cases of modern social restorations.

This research has received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT), agreement No S-VIS-23-15

Measuring Food Resilience of thę Baltic Countries in the Long Run

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Food resilience refers to the capacity of a country to withstand and recover from shocks, stresses, and disturbances while providing sufficient and nutritious food for the population. It involves the ability of the food system to adapt and respond to various challenges, such as natural disasters, economic crises, climate change, and other disruptions. Food resilience issues are most salient for developing countries. However, one of the purposes of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU is to increase food resilience of its member countries too. It is the legacy of painful experiences of two world wars, when populations of many European countries starved. Home gardening, alternative food networks (AFNs), food relocalisation, urban and peri-urban agriculture, local food, „locavorism", multi-functional agriculture and food sharing are recent venues to enhance food resilience in the EU. The aim of our contribution is to explore the measures of food resilience, applying them to food supply and food consumption in the Baltic countries since early 20th century. Currently, food balances of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provide a picture in most details. However, food self-sufficiency ratio is most useful summary measure. Depending on available data, it can be calculated after expressing the nutritional value of different kinds of food in calories or using monetary data (the value of production, exports and imports). Baltic countries are selected because prominence of agricultural and food production issues in their modern history, including „Denmarkization" during interwar time, the alleged succeses of their collectivized agriculture during of Soviet occupation, and its collapse in the 1990s.

This research has received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT), agreement No S-VIS-23-15

Democracy Resilience in Comparative European Prospects (comparing Ukrainian, Britain, German, Lithuanian, Russian and Belarussian cases)

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The paper explores the challenging question about social factors ensuring the resilience of democracy, enabling it to resist authoritarian tendencies, and recover from negative influences. We define a resilience as a complex phenomenon of institutional and social quality of democracy, that links the impact of political stress (events and processes) on regime at different levels and domains, with the capacity of democracy to resist authoritarian tendencies and even to empower in the face of extremely unfavorable challenges. If the institutional quality of democracy sets the normative and procedural framework for the regime functioning, then the social quality determines the capacity of sustainable functioning democracy thanks to its rootedness in the value consciousness, in social structure and civic practices. We focus on the social quality of democracy in (pre-)wartime Ukraine in comparative perspective outlined by (1) the stable democracies with different historical backgrounds (such as in Britain, Germany, and Lithuania), and (2) post-Soviet autocracies (Russian and Belarusian). The study is grounded on the socio-spatial and agency-structural theoretical approaches that allows to reveal the key social factors of resilience and tension in functioning democracy. The EVS and WVS integrated database is used for empirical analysis. The all-Ukrainian sociological survey's data conducted during the war are used to highlight the dynamics of the social quality of democracy in wartime Ukraine. Indicators

of legitimacy of violence and legitimacy of illegal practices are added to the arsenal of more traditional indicators of support for democracy that allow deeper understanding the democracy resilience preventing (or not) the autocratization as well as the probable alternatives of further social and political transformations at least of Ukrainian society in comparative European prospects.

RN36 | T05: Borders and (semi)peripheries

Bordering Communities of Post-Soviet Armenia: Re/production of Border-Proximity

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The article examines the evolving dynamics of Armenia's bordering communities in the aftermath of both the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-1994) and the more recent Second Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020. These conflicts, characterized by territorial disputes, ethnic tensions, and geopolitical complexities, have significantly influenced Armenia's border regions, transforming them into lively spaces of border-proximity. Within this context, the study explores how these communities perceive their daily lives and interactions amidst the enduring impact of conflict, where borders extend beyond mere geographical boundaries to become integral facets of everyday life. Grounded in the theoretical frameworks of Georg Simmel and Lefebvre's spatial concepts, my research aimed to conceptualize the border as a multidimensional phenomenon, encompassing physical, social, and symbolic dimensions. Moreover, I endeavored to characterize border-proximity as a routine mode of interaction. The study involved twenty (20) narrative interviews with residents of bordering communities. It reveals the contrasting dynamics of Tavush and Syunik regions in Armenia. In Tavush, residents actively shape the border influenced by historical memory and ethnic identity, whereas in Syunik, external factors like military presence and recent conflicts largely define the border, causing disruption among residents. In summary, the article underscores the dynamic nature of Armenia's bordering communities, emphasizing how residents actively contribute to and adapt to the borders that shape their lives. It illuminates the intricacies of border-proximity and the complex interplay between internal and external agency in border formation.

Unfolding Convivial Futures from Liminal Positions: the Case Study of Transitions in the German-Polish Border Region

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In response to the call to disturb linear reasoning in studies on transformation in Europe, this contribution uses the concept of liminality to discuss the condition and futures of Poles and Ukrainians commuting between western Polish towns and villages and the workplaces in Brandenburg.

Liminality is a useful analytical tool to study the past, present and the future as folded and unfolded in the lives of people in quest for wellbeing and happiness. It is employed here in three ways: First, it is used to analyse the societal state of conditional belonging that results in the region's connectivity and partial rejection. I will argue that the Polish-German border region's position vis-à-vis western Europe is that of liminality, and the promise of belonging to the imagined community on equal terms is a powerful driver for social transformation and individual cross-border mobility. Second, I will follow the anthropological approach to uncover the continuities and uncertainties related to commuters' life trajectories. In this approach, liminality relates to the stage of passage between the old and a new state, and disorientation, ambiguity and incompleteness it encloses. Focusing on liminality helps me also to highlight the mundane daily rituals of passage between home and workspace, work and family, etc. Third, at the interpersonal level, liminality is the psychological capacity to bridge between self and the other. It helps me to understand how the commuters and the locals engage in relationship with (unfamiliar) people, and becoming empathic of their situation, and contribute to everyday east-west (b)ordering.

The Concept Of (Latent) Globalising City. The Case Study Of Polish Second Cities

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The paper will present the assumptions of the project "The (latent) globalising city" (LGC) which is based on a 3 years collaboration between researchers from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan. The concept of the globalising city is related to the second cities from regions considered to be semi-peripheral (Wallerstein 2004), which have only recently been integrated into a global network of flows, and which are developing an institutional sphere and patterns of culture characteristic for "banal cosmopolitanism" (Beck 2002). LGC project proposes a conceptualisation of the "globalising city" with reference to the phenomenon of the transformation of cities by migratory and refugee phenomena. It attempts to understand the mechanisms that differentiate the dynamics of internationalisation of cities, taking into account perspectives less represented in the analyses of sociologists.

The transition processes are described in the form of two antinomies in contrast to the classic concept of the "global city".

(1) Global vs multiscalar perspective (Brenner 2019). In the case of the global city the framework of reference is the global scale. The globalising city, however, is still dominated by the local (nation state) and regional (European or/and Central European) scales.

(2). The Longue durée perspective vs ahistorical modernity. Many studies on the phenomenon of the global city have a rather ahistorical character and rather focus on contemporary processes constituting capitalism. However, a city-centred European spatial order, hierarchy of centre–periphery relations has also developed in the longue durée process (Braudel 1979).

The presentation will use material from the in-depth interviews with migrants and refugees carried out in Krakow and Poznan.

Peripheral Societies in the Global Itineraries of People Movement

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Starting from the 1990s on, following the end of the Albanian regime, the main route of irregular migration was the sea route between Albania and Italy; over time, especially since the experience of the Arab Springs, many other routes developed. One of these is the Balkan route.

The first part of our research (quantitative reconstruction of the phenomenon) is devoted to the issue of the transformation of migration routes through the Western Balkans. The object of analysis is not only the specificity of the Balkan route, but also its interrelation with other migration routes.

In the second part of the research, quantitative research was carried out with the aim of analyzing motives and difficulties that lead migrants and asylum seekers to choose the "overland" route through Albania which found itself changing from being a traditional country of emigration to being crossed by significant flows of migrants in transit. We also explored in detail the impact and governance of the policies and behaviors taken by the authorities toward migrants and asylum seekers that have prompted thousands of individuals to travel the Albanian route and in some cases to make the decision to settle in Albania.

Our starting research question was to explore how and whether reception policies influence the movement of migrants in transit through Albania.

The analysis, launched in 2021 at the Laboratory on Inequalities (LSD) and still ongoing, is the result of ethnographic research partly conducted "in the field," through interviews collected in Albania at the country's main institutions.

RN36 | T06: Gender and parenting

New Forms of Masculinity and Femininity in Post-transitional Croatia: Scales Development and Validation

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This paper discusses how a contextual sensitive femininity and masculinity scales were developed for a more complex analysis of gender identities in recent literature described as “new masculinity” and “new femininity” for a better understanding of the changing gender dynamics in post-transitional Croatia. In this paper we are led by the principles of the theoretical approach known as “gender and development”, according to which gender relations are the best indicator of the development possibilities of contemporary societies and that changes in these structures herald future practices. During the last decades, femininity and masculinity have been measured in Croatia based on gender roles and “traditional” or stereotypical characteristics displayed by man and woman. Considering the results of previous surveys which support the fact that “gender conservatism” has overall decreased in the period of post-socialist transition, the goal of this study was to develop and validate two new scales for measuring new forms of masculinity and femininity in post-transition society. New Masculinity Scale (NMS) and New Femininity Scale (NFS) items were developed based on expert interviews with cognitive elements and focus groups with undergraduates at two universities (University of Zagreb and University of Split). The resulting scale was used in a nationally representative survey. Factor analysis was applied to determine the existence of different subscales of femininity and masculinity in Croatia which were then analysed according to generational differences.

Intensive Parenting and Modernisation Changes in Post-Transitional Croatia

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Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia

Along with other post-Yugoslavian countries except for Slovenia, Croatia was until relatively recently a blind spot on the map of Europe-wide social science and policy overviews of changing gender, work and care arrangements (Roosalu and Hofäcker, 2016; Blum, 2016: 39). In the meantime, the topic of intensive parenting has been addressed by several empirically based publications in Serbia and Croatia (Stanojević, 2018; Trifunović, 2018; Čulić, 2019). However, these have concentrated mostly on one of its forms (new fatherhood) and on the description of the phenomenon rather than on its place in the context of a wider societal transformation taking place in these societies.

This paper attempts to place both forms of intensive parenting (new fatherhood and intensive mothering) into the context of wider modernisation changes in post-transitional Croatian society. It is based on a relational mixed methods approach that includes multivariate analyses of primary data from a nationally proportional survey (N=1200) and excerpts from individual and partner semi-structured interviews (N=20) in which the intensive parenting topics emerged. The results suggest that intensive parenting practices are directly addressed by interviewees of higher socio-economic status, but that attitudes and values connected to parenting have generally changed in a direction that is more compatible with intensive parenting norms than had previously been the case. A contribution of the paper in terms of the general theory of intensive parenting is that intensive mothering can also be an indicator of modernisation changes rather than of retraditionalisation.

The Production of Knowledge on Sexual Harassment of Women in the Media Discourse During Post-socialist Transition in Poland

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On the basis of press discourse and oral history interviews with feminist activists working with various forms of violence against women in the 1990s and 2000s, I will show how the production of knowledge on sexual harassment was a part of the post-socialist transition with the characteristic transfer of American/Western norms, values, identities and institutions. Media frequently portrayed sexual harassment as an allegedly new problem which appeared during neoliberal transformation. Hence these discourses are useful for tracking the genealogy of norms of sensitivity to gender-violence. By analyzing discourses about the American tendency to exaggeration, gendered “oversensitivity”, unreliability of women and male ignorance, I will discuss some aspects of the social construction of sexual harassment and connect them with the normative shift associated with the post-socialist transition in Poland.

RN36 | T08: Inequalities and vulnerabilities

Re-designing Space of Social Services in the Period of Sociopolitical Tensions

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Research "Transformation of the social services system by increasing its resilience to external threats" is funded by the Lithuanian Research Council, contract No. S-VIS-23-11

Background and purpose. Vulnerable individuals are the first to feel the impact of sociopolitical, economic and other tensions. The social service system designed to help them must persist in delivering services despite emerging challenges. The pandemic and the war in Ukraine led to emergence of new social actors engaging in para-professional activities aimed at providing social support. These emerging actors pose a challenge to the social service system requiring it to undertake "boundary work" (Liu et al. 2020), fostering collaboration with other social groups involved in the assistance. The presentation aims to explore how various social actors engage in "boundary work" while responding to the urgent needs of vulnerable individuals during sociopolitical and economic tensions. Study design. We conceptualize the social service system as a social space, with external actors seen as members of other social spaces. The collision of these spaces necessitates "boundary work" when addressing the needs of the vulnerable individuals. Our study involves 20 focus groups with social workers and 10 interviews with professionals from other fields, supplemented by ecological maps to visualize transformative factors. Findings. During sociopolitical tensions, the social service space not only redesigns its models of service delivery but integrates with other social spaces (transportation, culture, etc.). Creative engagement with external social actors is founded on mutual trust, strengthening the resilience of the entire social service system.

Who Were the Victims of China's Zero-COVID Lockdown? Insights from Nationwide Survey Data

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During the three-year COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022, China not only faced threats to the lives and health of its people but also experienced economic downturns and work stoppages due to its zero-COVID policy and extensive lockdowns. This paper examines the victims of China's stringent zero-COVID policy and lockdown measures, exploring who they were and why. We analyzed data from internet surveys conducted in China in 2022 and 2023, encompassing approximately 18,000 cases. The survey results revealed that 37 percent of the Chinese population experienced lower incomes during or after the pandemic compared to their pre-pandemic incomes in 2019. The income-reducing groups included private sector workers, migrant peasant workers, and rural farmers. Conversely, certain groups, such as public sector workers, business owners, urban residents, and Communist Party members, either maintained or increased their incomes during the pandemic. These groups, beneficiaries of China's socialist command economy system, were shielded from economic losses due to their advantaged positions in terms of state sector employment, urban household registration status (hukou), and CCP affiliation. Meanwhile, China's market economy dynamics created a specific victim group during the pandemic; individuals with university and postgraduate education, aged between 35 and 54, suffered more from the pandemic, tending to experience income losses compared to other groups. These higher-income earners were direct victims of layoffs and salary reductions during the pandemic-induced economic downturn. This paper suggests that the victims of China's Zero-COVID Lockdown emerged from social transformations characterized by both socialist command economy and capitalist market economy elements.

Ordinary Recognition Gaps. Worthiness and Disrespect in the Post-Transformation Society

Piotr Kulas

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The presentation delves into recognition gaps in the post-transformation society. The study asserts that people in Poland, whatever their status, claim respect as full-fledged citizens, equally contributing to society. Respondents of different statuses share a similarly egalitarian picture of a worthy person. Moreover, most people in Poland declare middle-class belonging. However, the differences have not ceased to exist. The presentation explores the main instances of misrecognition stemming from economic inequalities and cultural and legal injustices, both exploited by politicians/activists and those social sufferings seen as more personal and hardly translated into political goals. It starts from the first and then turns to the latter, only to show how prevalent and rooted in everyday experience they are.

It finds that the most reported misrecognition forms occur on equal footing, primarily manifesting as intra-class phenomena. They are labelled as "ordinary recognition gaps." They occur in daily encounters in horizontal relations and are often perceived as psychological rather than societal issues. The presentation argues that these ordinary recognition gaps are not individual idiosyncrasies but effects of symbolic boundaries. Interestingly, people's adherence to the purported universality of worthiness obscures awareness of these boundaries.

The presentation builds on Honneth's tripartite theory, Fraser's critical dualism on recognition and redistribution, and uses Lamont's studies on respect and symbolic boundaries. It draws on data from two representative surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021 and tens of in-depth interviews conducted in Poland (2021-2023) with people of working and middle classes (with a focus on those experiencing social mobility), and the intelligentsia. Overall, the presentation contributes to the sociological understanding of the lack of recognition as a pivotal social factor influencing tensions in contemporary societies.

Lagging-behind regions as a source of political discontent? West Gernamy, East Germany, and Czechia compared

Tomáš Kostelecký, Josef Bernard

Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

The paper addresses the question whether and eventually to what extent regional inequality contributes to the rise of anti-democratic sentiment, anti-system and radical political parties. The political radicalisation that may eventually lead to democratic backsliding is observed in many European countries, both in the Eastern and the Western side of the continent. The paper examines whether and to what extent such rise of potentially anti-system phenomena may be related to the territorially uneven development. The paper analyses the data from population surveys conducted in both Germany and Czhechia to measure the regional differences in attitudes on democracy, and potential signs of political radicalisation. Attitudes are analysed in the context of contextual data about the demographic, economic and social development on subnational level and voting patterns (from national elections) to test the hypothesis that regional inequality is significant factor contributing the the rise of radiclised attitudes and support of radical/anti-system/ anti-democratic parties. Data from West Gernamy, East Germany, and Czechia are compared to enable researchers to take into account whether the communist history and post-communist development matter in this respect.

RN37 | Urban Sociology
RN37 | T01_01: Multiculturalism and migration patterns in the urban fabric

How to Study Multicultural Urban Streets? An Inquiry into Lisbon's Rua do Benformoso

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Middle East Technical University, Turkey; University of Aveiro, ICS Lisbon University, Portugal

This study focuses on the socio-spatial dynamics of urban streets from an urban studies perspective, employing field research on Rua do Benformoso, a multicultural street nestled in the heart of Lisbon. With a distinctive migrant population and a rich ethnic profile, Rua do Benformoso occupies a strategic location proximate to key tourist attractions in the city. Through the lens of visual methodologies such as mapping, on-site drawing, and photography, this research seeks to present and learn from the interplay between the physical design of the street and its uses by the diverse inhabitants. The findings aim to discuss the ways in which multiculturalism is manifested in the urban fabric, offering insights into the social interactions and spatial practices that define public spaces. The study contributes to our understanding of how urban streets, particularly those with a multicultural character, function as vibrant socio-spatial arenas within the urban landscape that defy the dichotomies between visibility and invisibility, planning and spontaneity, being in place and being out of place in a city.

New Metropolitan Geographies: The Settlement of the Foreign Population Between Peripheralisation and Centralisation

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1University of Grenoble Alpes; 2University of Bologna

Several studies have shown the growing importance of the metropolitan dimension in the territorial distribution patterns of immigrants in Southern European cities (Martori, Apparicio, 2011; Arbaci, 2019;Benassi et al., 2020; Daconto, Montesano, 2022). The present work intends to analyse the settlement process of the foreign population in the metropolitan city of Bologna, assuming that different moments or phases can be identified. Adopting a diachronic perspective and using quantitative and georeferenced methodologies, census data from 1991 to 2021 are analysed, taking into account the territorial classification between inner areas and poles proposed within the National Strategy for Inner Areas. The empirical analysis conducted revealshow at least three phases can be identified in the settlement process of foreigners in the metropolitan area: a first phase of centralisation, with the foreign population concentrated in the central municipality, a second phase of peripheralisation towards the areas of the Apennines, and a third characterised by the abandonment of the mountain areas and a rapprochement towards Bologna. The third and last phase is also marked by a trend of depopulation of mountain areas involving the entire resident population, both Italian and foreign, which confirms that it is not possible to talk about a process of 'ecological succession' in the bolognese Apennine (Guerzoni, 2018). In general, we believe that the proposed analysis underlines the importance of adopting a situated and contextual approach to the centrifugal and centripetal trends affecting the foreign population. The processes of peripheralisation and centralisation require a multidimensional understanding that takes into account the specificities of territories.

Exploring the Housing–Migration Nexus: an Analysis of Informal Housing Arrangements Between Colombian Newcomers and their Hosts in Rotterdam

Maxime Felder

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

Lodging has long been a response to the housing problem in cities, especially for newcomers. This practice declined during the 20th century in the context of the gradual privatisation of domestic space and increasing control over people's mobility. Formal alternatives emerged, such as residential hotels and migrant workers' homes, but staying with a host remains the default solution for many newcomers to post-industrial cities. While some forms of lodging have received a great deal of attention (e.g. refugees hosted by citizens) and are sometimes encouraged by the authorities, more common housing arrangements are less well known.

Based on interviews with Colombian newcomers in the city of Rotterdam, I will analyse how they experience informal housing arrangements and what forms of reciprocity are involved with their hosts (mostly relatives or fellow Colombians). I will show how these arrangements are an urban phenomenon, shaped by both migration and housing dynamics. Rather than being encouraged as a form of social support or as an efficient use of housing space, I show that accommodation is restricted in different ways. Focusing on forms of reciprocity and obligation leads me to question the sharp distinction made by authorities and sometimes academics between altruistic arrangements on the one hand and commercial or even exploitative arrangements on the other. I will argue that these situations need to be understood within a broader set of transnational relations

and in terms of how the relationship between host and guest evolves.

Fragments Of Citizenship: Contested Mosque Architecture In The North of England

Oznur Yardimci, Daryl Martin

University of York, United Kingdom

In this paper, we examine the tensions underlying the planning process for the construction of a mosque building in the English city of York, in order to examine how it exemplifies changing trajectories of citizenship in the UK. We argue that the politics of religious architecture, and the politics of mosque planning and architecture in particular, serve as a litmus test for the ways multiculturalism is experienced, as well as the divisions associated with new discourses of nativism in contemporary Britain. We explore written objections during the planning process for this mosque alongside contemporaneous letters to a local newspaper, and find that objections ranged around concerns about the effect of the mosque on the everyday experience of urban infrastructure, the symbolic identity of the mosque within the wider city, and how the mosque would affect questions about citizenship within a wider national context. The objections to the mosque application reflect how urban architecture and the built environment plays a mediating role in mobilising shared notions of who belongs and who does not. We conclude by arguing for the need for a rematerialised sociology that takes architecture and urban infrastructure seriously as a way of illuminating the wider politics of public space, its tensions and its exclusions.

RN37 | T01_02: Gentrification and struggle in the reconfiguration of urban spaces

The Ambiguous Role of a Lisbon Grassroots Association Within a Rapidly Transforming City, Exploring Both Its Resistance and (Unintentional) Contribution to Urban Change

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This paper explores the ambiguous role of a grassroots cultural and activist association in Lisbon (Portugal), within the city's rapidly expanding frontiers of gentrification and touristification. The association fights for the right to the city, among other causes such as feminism and climate change. However, in 2014, strong institutional pressure led to the association's displacement from its former location in the gentrified and touristified Bairro Alto to Intendente. Previously characterised by urban decay and poverty, with degraded buildings and racialised, stigmatised and marginalised populations, Intendente was then undergoing urban regeneration. The City Council aimed to attract cultural and activist associations as part of its strategy to change the area's image. Now, the area has been revalued, and the association faces a new threat of displacement due to high rent prices.

By combining documentary research and an exploratory ethnography carried out in 2022, which included interviews with key informants, we take a retrospective view of this association's history of displacement, illustrating ten years of Lisbon's city changes. We explore the tensions and negotiations between multiple actors (City Council, landlords, and activists) and how the association navigates between resisting urban neoliberalism and contributing (unintentionally) to spatial and social changes in this 'grey zone' of the tourist city. We aim to contribute to existing literature on the interplay between urban movements, touristification and gentrification, providing clues to shed light on how grassroots associations resist, survive and/or collaborate within the manifold processes of urban change.

The Subsumption of Rog: From Autonomous Factory to Cultural Center

Nathan Siegrist

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

The literature on post-socialist neoliberalism has highlighted how neoliberal urbanization processes often differ from the well-studied Western European counterparts. This chapter responds to recent calls to shed light on the role of urban movements in re-configuring local implementations of post-socialist neoliberal urbanism. Empirically, it details conflicts surrounding the industrial factory area of Rog in post-socialist Ljubljana, Slovenia. Abandoned in the transitionary period, the factory site was squatted in 2006 and became sustained as a squatted "autonomous zone" seeking to contest the ongoing inner-city gentrification of Ljubljana, up until its eviction in 2021. Parallel to the squat, the municipality launched a public-private regeneration plan for the area, proposing to construct high-end apartments and a hotel to replace the squat. After the 2008 global financial crisis, the economic support for this partnership collapsed and the development plans were subsequently reconfigured into a model self-described as "public-civic", connecting to the legacy of the squatters. Rather than luxury domicile, the area would now be dedicated to artistic and creative enterprises within a new cultural center, explicitly branding Ljubljana a "creative city". However, the squatters firmly rejected the "public-civic" regeneration as an instance of municipally-driven gentrification re-tailoring the inner city for predatory tourism and high-end consumption. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, this chapter connects these conflicts to existing literature on neoliberal urbanism and urban movements while highlighting unique complexities of activist-constructed alternatives to gentrification, and how these can become subsumed under municipal cultural branding strategies seeking to attract capital investments.

Practices of Resistance to Neoliberal Urbanism. The Case of Screamo Independent Music Scene in Milan and in Italy

Valeria Marina Borodi

University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

Neoliberal urbanism is an open-ended phenomenon that exploits and (re-)produces uneven socio-spatial differences and it is characterised by geographical variability, translocality and multiscalarity (Peck, Theodore & Brenner, 2009). Particularly, since the early 1990s, cities have become points of tension and critical nodes in the evolving scalar politics of neoliberalisation.

One mechanism not only unleashed by neoliberal urbanism, but also a symbol of it, is gentrification, which can lead to both the marginalisation of critical culture through a widespread exercise of discrediting, exclusion, and censorship and the co-optation of cultural practices, leading to their neutralisation and depoliticization (Kern, 2022; Tozzi, 2023).

As a cultural product, music itself can be understood as a field of struggle, where practices of resistance – i.e., the activities, techniques and resources performed by individuals to voice their dissent, to regain possession of space, to construct meanings of aggregation and participation, and more generally, to undermine forms of power – are performed. Particularly, I will present the results of the exploratory interviews to privileged witnesses active in independent collectives belonging to the screamo independent music scene in Milan and in Italy. The aim is that of understanding how their independence is enacted and shaped in relation to the mechanisms of co-optation and the geographical distancing from the city centres and from the urban contexts (e.g., through eviction policies against self-organised and self-financed social centres). Indeed, the innovative aspect of the research – conducted with an ethnographic approach through multi-sited ethnography and exploratory and biographical interviews – is that it simultaneously considers the urban features that shape music scenes and their agency in shaping cities and urban contexts.

Residential Changes, Roots and Their Impact on Everyday Life in Madrid.

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1Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; 2Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; 3Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; 4Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Madrid is a city in southern Europe in which roots play an essential role in the development of social life, becoming socio-existential supports against vulnerability. This translates, among other issues, into the fact that housing changes mostly occur in the closest environment, whether in the same neighborhood or in surrounding areas. These residential strategies allow the social fabric that supports socio-residential supports to be maintained in the space. However, in recent years the city has been immersed in a new real estate cycle characterized by the rise of the rental option over ownership and a high increase in its price. This is contributing to promoting residential rotation and making it difficult for individuals to carry out such proximity mobilities in certain places in the city. This research, framed in the period 2010-2019, explores which neighborhoods of Madrid are, as well as their characteristics, in which local residential movements are maintained and which are suffering the consequences of the current real estate cycle. To do this, the mobility matrices and the distances traveled in people's residential changes are analyzed. The results show how nearby residential changes are prioritized, while the number of residential changes towards more distant spaces in the city increases, especially in the central districts as a result of the gentrification and touristification process.

RN37 | T01_03: Citizen participation in the urban space

Making Connections In Urban Planning: A Case Study Of Bubny-Zátory In Prague

Aneta Soukopová

Charles University, Czech Republic

Citizen participation and democratization have recently played an important role in urban planning. This paper explores these phenomena by focusing on the actor structure and citizen engagement in urban planning of the Prague district of Bubny-Zátory, which is one of Prague's largest brownfield sites. This study draws on previous scholarship in the areas of citizen participation and urban planning, theoretically framed by reflexive modernization theory (e.g. Lissandrello and Grin, 2011, Beck and Giddens, 1994). The research aims to analyse the dynamics of urban planning by exploring the agendas of the diversity of actors who participate in the project planning process. The study uncovers the social network structure that connects a particular set of actors and the related perceptions, beliefs, and involvement in decision-making more broadly. The goal is to better understand the form and place that citizen participation takes in the whole process of the Bubny-Zátory project. The main research tool is qualitative network analysis, which reveals different actor groups that are characterized in part by shared history, culture, and collective ties with other actors (Knoke, Yang 2008). The analysis draws on dozens of semi-structured interviews with actors and participant observations. The interviews also involve the creation of visual materials and mental maps of the actor structure. To also understand the online space of shaping discussions about the city, an element of quantitative web analysis was added to the research design to track the actor structure on social networks (Twitter/X). The study reveals the communication and power structures of urban planning in Prague, shows the spaces through which citizens could intervene in the process and, thus, point out the possible limits of the setting of citizen participation in Prague. The research has the potential to have policy implications for the city of Prague. The mixed methodology of the study also opens academic discussions of qualitative network analysis as a suitable tool for exploring broad and complex topics with multiple actors with different agendas, such as in urban planning or other public policy areas. I haven´t joined any previous ESA conference, but I joined RN37 Summer School, in 2023 in Genoa.

Citizens' Assembly as a Tool for Engaging Residents in Adaptive Processes to Climate Change: Analysis of the pros and cons.

Kamil Rafał Brzeziński

University of Lodz, Poland

The proposed presentation addresses two increasingly significant issues: observable climate change, particularly demanding mitigation and adaptive actions in urban areas (IPCC 2021, 2022), and the concept of growing popularity of the deliberative democracy, increasingly practised through innovative participatory mechanisms that enable citizens and authorities to jointly deliberate rational decisions, considering the idea of the common good (Cohen 1997; Bohman 1997; Fung 2007; Mansbridge et al.; Juchacz 2015; Sroka 2018; OECD 2020).

Taking into account both of these elements, the purpose of the presentation is to introduce the idea of a citizens' assembly and analyse its potential advantages and disadvantages as a tool for involving residents in co-decision processes regarding adaptive actions to climate change. The discussion will be limited to Polish cities, particularly Łódź, and the implementation of the second citizens' assembly in this city, focused on the reduction of harmful greenhouse gases. The presented empirical material (evaluation surveys, FGI with panel participants, IDIs with experts) is the result of an interdisciplinary project: "Participatory Adaptation of Cities to Climate Change – A Guide for Effective Action by Authorities and Residents for Polish and Eastern European Cities." The project is conducted by scientists from the University of Łódź representing disciplines such as biology, economics and finance, spatial planning, and sociology.

Urban Actors Mediating Digital Technology and Urban Space in Tallinn, Estonia

Olli Ilmari Jakonen

Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Urban spaces face transformative pressures as digital technologies are embedded into cities as part of smart urbanism. While existing research has considered the role of urban actors in implementing digital technologies as part of the smart urbanism framework more broadly, work on the role that urban space plays for individual stakeholders and the implications this has on how they contribute to digital cities has been insufficient. This article therefore explores the interests of urban actors in mediating digital technology adoption in urban space. It draws on literature on the spatial impact of digital technologies, digital urban growth, and urban governance theory to frame the agency of urban actors to mobilise resources and collaboration to protect their interests. The paper provides insight into how interests in digital technology adoption and in use of urban space

intersect between actors and how these interests converge between local key stakeholders in local technology governance of Tallinn, Estonia. Based on a thematic analysis of interviews with representatives of local organisations, it is argued that the of potential digital technologies to transform and dislocate functionality from urban space should be understood against the backdrop of interests of local urban actors. It is therefore suggested that smart urbanism may also be viewed as a framework through which actors of the city attempt to seize the benefits of digital technologies without compromising their interests in urban space.

Public Sideshow Situations: The Role Of Informal Interactions In Urban Development Projects

Sebastian Koch

Universität Konstanz, Germany

In order to combat housing deprivation and space scarcity, a new climate-neutral and energy-efficient quarter is being realized in the city of Constance, Germany. The planning principles of this urban development measure are developed interactively and practically in planning discussions, workshops, meetings and events within the city administration. Results and further procedures are presented to the citizens in public events like participation workshops, public walks and information events. Citizens' and stakeholders' initiatives, concerns and needs find their way into the thematically predefined public events in an unexpected and unplanned manner. Citizens intercept city officials and start informal conversations outside the formal structure and sequences of these planned public events. Within these spontaneous emerging "sideshow communication arenas", the confrontation with different topics often overwhelms and exceeds the knowledge of the contacted person. As a result of these sideshow situations, some of the adressed concerns are taken into consideration in the further planning process as well as the formal design of future events. The proposed paper focuses on these interactions between city officials and the public, their inherent topics and interactional management, their origins in debate culture, knowledge asymmetries and paradoxical demands of the legal situation in urban planning, and the interactions' future impact. Through an ethnomethodological and interactional focus on these practices, captured and analysed in empirical video based data, the social transformation process is made visible in individual practices and demonstrates their significance in urban transformation.

RN37 | T02_01: Present challenges in urban housing – policies, market, identity and precarity A

Urban Transformations and Socio-spatial Inequalities in Large Housing Estates in Croatia

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The paper compares the layout of socialist and post-socialist large housing estates (LHEs) in Croatian large cities at the neighbourhood level, which depends primarily on existing daily basis equipment and public infrastructure. The main differences occured during the last three decades of transition and prevalence of market-led economy in Croatia, when the construction of multi-family buildings became mostly private and transformed the housing policy as well. The construction of urbanistically planned housing estates as housing units became mostly abandoned at the beginning of 1990s, and the share of public and social housing was significantly reduced. For the analysis, the qualitative methods of semi-structured interviews with experts (N=26) and focus groups with residents (N=5) were conducted in Croatia during 2022. The study analyses attitudes of experts and residents on how socialist and post-socialist LHEs in Croatia fulfill residents' daily housing needs. Both groups of respondents point to elementary differences in these two types of estates at the level of neighbourhood. Basic facilities used daily by the residents (school, kindergarten, public transport, green spaces, etc.) often lack in new estates, making old estates often better equipped with more public and green spaces. Due to a large density of private construction, new housing estates experience a kind of social and spatial inequality caused by reduced residents' needs. The trust in the process of urbanism and urban policy is also generally missing and participation of residents is very low, which is the main critique of the new and market-oriented transformation of urban space.

Housing and Temporalities. Waiting, Disciplining, Capacity to Aspire

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Housing is one of the major challenges faced in urban areas. The housing question has acquired an unprecedented visibility in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is one of the reasons why housing interventions have been

developed in many European countries in recent years, and a growing public debate on how to address evictions and homelessness, and how to provide affordable housing has arisen. In our contribution, we focus on the processes of precarization revolving around housing issues, developing an analysis of its temporal dimension, by looking at how housing policies are implemented at the street level.

Our everyday experience is deeply intertwined with the experience of time and with the multiple ways in which it is represented, controlled, imagined, shaped. Also the relationship we build with the state is structured through representations and practices of time. Precarization can be understood as an indefinite expansion of the present countered by a restriction of future horizons.

Our contribution is based on two qualitative fieldworks in Torino, concerning the reception system for homeless people and the housing policies aimed at evicted people. We observed the centrality of three temporal dimensions: waiting as a tool that concurs to shape the bureaucratic encounters; the discursive regime of emergency; and the institutional category of chronicity. They can be seen as intertwined mechanisms of domination (Auyero, 2012) structuring both the process through which street-level bureaucracies build their "social cases" and the biographic trajectories of poor people. They concur in creating precarization in house-deprived subjects.

Navigating Precarious Housing in the Age of Commodification, Financialization and Rentism: Understanding Tenure Differences and Regional Disparities in Spain.

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The "housing question" has become a major issue in high-income countries. The neoliberalization of the welfare state has unleashed processes of commodification, financialization, and rentierism, with substantial implications for housing conditions. Within this context, the concept of precarious housing has emerged to describe the rising prevalence of insecure and unstable housing situations. Currently, the conceptual development of this perspective has some important theoretical and empirical limitations, most notably regarding housing tenure. This present paper seeks to fill these gaps by exploring the link between housing tenure and housing precariousness, and its connection with the dynamics of commodification, financialization and rentierism. The Spanish scenario is an optimal scenario for conceptual development due to the housing transition that the country is undergoing. We perform a multilevel analysis of pooled cross-sectional data from the Spanish Living Conditions Survey (ECV) 2007-2019 to identify associations between housing precariousness and regional levels of tenure, commodification, financialization and rentierism. Our results show that the distribution of precarious housing, which is concentrated among market rate and social tenants, is only a compositional effect. Our explanatory analysis did not identify a clear distinction between homeowners and tenants. Rather, precarious housing conditions exists across the homeowner/tenant divide. We also find that commodification, financialization, and rentierism have a heterogeneous but substantial impact on average precarious housing levels by housing tenure, thereby paving the way for novel research opportunities.

Reclaiming Public Space For Social And Environmental Transformation: The Estuário Collective In Cacilhas (Portugal)

Patrícia Pereira

CICS.NOVA, Leiria Polytechnic Institute, Portugal

Cacilhas is an old industrial and port area in the city of Almada, just 8 minutes by boat from the historic centre of Lisbon. During the second half of the XX century, the area was associated with middle-class populations, working mainly in the service sector in the centre of Lisbon, and with workers in industrial and naval activities. Recent studies point to a current process of urban transformation, with investment in housing and rehabilitation of public space, intensification of tourism, rising housing and commercial prices and rents, arrival of new residents and displacement of low-income residents.

Estuário Coletivo was created by a group of neighbours out of a desire and a demand: a children's playground and community garden. 5 years after it was built, the collective continues to organize events, activities and projects among neighbours, aimed at strengthening local ties and bringing social transformation.

In this communication, which is part of a broader study of the recent transformations in the area, using ethnographic and walking methods, I will give an account of the complex process of creating and consolidating this informal collective. I will focus on how they are collectively producing public space and increasing political participation through art and intergenerational work.

RN37 | T02_02: Socio-spatial dynamics at the neighbourhood level A

Collective Care Efforts and Social Change in Japanese Cities

Meric Kirmizi

Ondokuz Mayis University, Turkey

This study, based on in-depth interviews with twenty women and five men in major Japanese cities such as Osaka, Tokyo and Saitama about the social aspects of their professional or voluntary work, presents a picture of women's contributions to social change in Japan towards a more diverse, equal and resilient urban society. By examining different cases of social contribution to these shared goals for positive change, it also aims to understand the social reproduction of cities and urban life in Japan. The study examines both the achievements of female (and male) social entrepreneurs in creating social change against entrenched and intensifying discrimination, environmental crisis and social inequalities, and the obstacles they face in their social endeavors. The concepts of feminist city, commons, caring city, neighborhood, coexistence and moral economy are used as a theoretical background to analyse the individual cases studied. It is found that Japanese women of all ages and backgrounds are equally committed to social change in Japan towards a more equal society. However, they have to work in the midst of strong countervailing forces arising from the country's political-economic and socio-cultural context, which slow down their efforts and raise concerns about their future sustainability.

Alienation And Resonance: "Making Home" In Deprived Urban Neighbourhoods

Mary P Corcoran

Maynooth University, Co.Kildare, IRELAND, Ireland

At least some of the current housing crisis in Ireland is attributable to a decades-long retrenchment of the state from its role as a housing provider, compounded by the neglect of housing estates within its remit and the privatization of much of the existing housing stock. Over the years, as social housing became residualised, many urban housing estates fell into a cycle of decline.

This paper interrogates the liveability and lifeworld of deprived urban neighbourhoods, arguing that the vicissitudes of the external environment amplify a preoccupation with home as shelter, safety and security. Enforced privatisation manifests as an "inward orientation" that has implications for associational life, something that has been exacerbated during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. It also raises issues about the decline in neighbourhood social infrastructure (Klinenberg 2018). On the other hand, residents also manage to generate resonance across social, material and existential axes (Rosa 2019), by drawing on an emotional rootedness in their locality, history and heritage, and the desire to sustain community against all odds.

This paper draws on a data set accumulated over four decades from national projects investigating quality of life in social housing in Ireland (3 waves of study); European comparative projects; local collaborative projects on the creative practices of home-making, and a 2023 exploratory project on creating a dashboard for residents' of an inner-city Dublin neighbourhood. I offer an empirically grounded account that centres theorizations of home in understanding how community is achieved, sustained and/or eroded by urban policy-making.

Refs: Klinenberg, Eric, Palaces for People, Penguin, 2018; Rosa Hartmut, Resonance: a sociology of our relationships to the world. Polity Press: Cambridge, UK, 2019

Building Familiarity through Conflict: Neighborhoods as a Lens to Old and New Challenges in the Super-Diverse (Post-)Covid City

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Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

Neighbourhoods as the focal point of everyday life offer interesting insights into the challenges in the super-diverse (Post-)Covid city. Here, the entanglement of structural inequalities and individual problems becomes unavoidably apparent. The COVID-19 pandemic impressively showed that emerging and persistent inequalities and segregations along the common conflict lines of class, gender, and ethnicity, besides the lack of social cohesion and increasing individualization of citizens, eventually reach into our homes – and those of our neighbours.

Based on Norbert Elias' figurational sociology (1976; 1977), our research project focuses on psychosocial conflicts in neighbourhoods as half-public "limbo" spaces, where the personal, intimate life and the public merge, and where societal challenges of our time are negotiated on a micro level of everyday life. Employing qualitative research methods, we investigate how neighbourly interaction is created, lived, and framed, and how neighbours within the German Ruhr-Area navigate through (global) challenges represented by the people next door.

By focusing on the role of emotions and affects in neighbourly conflict dynamics (i.e., the need for connection and belonging), our research shows that besides common conflicts (i.e., noise, dilapidation), some disputes might also foster familiarity between neighbours in uncertain times and reduce individualization and loneliness.

Thus, we argue for understanding social conflicts in neighbourhoods as a productive (heuristic) tool to capture and handle the challenges of our time. Moreover, by interpreting neighbourly conflicts as a resourceful bottom-up approach to (global) challenges, we call for including the

voices and emic perspectives of "deprived" and "left-behind" neighbourhoods in scholarly discussions.

From Sharing Cities to Sharing Neighbourhoods: Evidences on Local Dynamics of Non-Commercial Sharing

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After the economic crisis of 2007/8 many expectations and hopes have been formulated that the rising Sharing Economy will contribute to sustainable urban development and empower civil society. Meanwhile, the concept is discussed more critically. At least parts of the Sharing Economy are referred to as "platform capitalism", with Airbnb and Uber among its most prominent examples. The notion of the Sharing City, which emerged at the beginning of the 2010s, is already critically formulated against the commercial Sharing Economy. The potential of sustainable and just urban development is attributed primarily to non-commercial or "commoning" practices. Most existing studies on sharing, however, focus on commercial sharing and do not take their local settings into account. In our proposed contribution, we ask for the differences between commercial and non commercial forms of sharing and the role of the local context like the neighbourhood. On the basis of qualitative expert interviews and a quantitative survey among residents of neighbourhoods in seven European cities we point out systematic differences between commercial and non-commercial sharing practices in terms of content, motives, organisation and actors. In addition, the neighbourhood emerges as a key entity of non-commercial sharing. We point out differences in terms of actors and organisation of sharing between two types of neighbourhoods and conclude that the potential of sharing for just and sustainable urban development lies particularly on the neighbourhood level.

The empiric research was carried out in the frame of two research projects: „StadtTeilen" and „ProShare", see https://stadtteilen.org/en/ and https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/proshare/.

RN37 | T02_03: Urban Tourism: Actors, Activities, Impacts A

Night Taxi Drivers as 'Culture Brokers': Implications for the Nocturnal Tourism

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This study deepens into the pivotal role of night taxi drivers in shaping Lisbon's nocturnal economy and night experience. Serving as the primary point of contact for tourists and visitors, these drivers emerge as influential "culture brokers" as they facilitate, mediate, and physically transport people through the nocturnal urban tissue. Our research, grounded in an ethnographic approach conducted since 2022, employs in-depth interviews, participant observations with drivers, and a detailed mapping of nighttime activities to unravel this dynamic.

We explore the reasons behind the night taxi drivers' mediation on the tourists' nocturnal experiences, selectively granting access to various locales for dining, entertainment, and nightlife and influencing and shaping their image of the city. Our findings highlight the drivers' intricate relationship with the nocturnal city, often prioritizing personal gains through pre-established connections with nightlife establishments.

The study contributes to a deeper understanding of the night taxi drivers' dual role: as facilitators of urban night experiences and as agents influencing the economic and cultural fabric of nighttime Lisbon. We argue that these drivers play a crucial yet understudied role in shaping urban nightscapes, impacting tourist consumption patterns and the broader nocturnal economy and cultural ecosystem.

Any Chance For a Balance: Between Tourism-Driven Dynamic and Living in Heritage Space?

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The presentation aims to provide an insight into the socio-spatial impacts of tourism in Tallinn Old Town, where the post-socialist neoliberal context has enabled unrestricted tourism growth and increasing vulnerability of the local community. Our study conducted in 2020-2021 reveals that the pre-COVID high season tourist flows into Tallinn Old Town exceeded in relative terms even the numbers of tourists visiting Venice – a destination well documented as

struggling with overtourism (Talk et al., 2023). Quite contrary to the UNESCO claims to preserve the human environment and it's social and functional diversity, the neoliberal laissez-faire attitude towards tourism management paves way towards mono-functionality of historical sites which tend to be consumed rather than inhabited (Minguez et al., 2019). These developments might further enhance emptying heritage sites of residents by simultaneously reducing the attractiveness of a destination as it loses its authentic character where history meets the modern everydayness.

The COVID years, with major break in tourism activities, provided an opportunity to reconsider the strategy for the development of urban heritage sites by seeking a balanced approach in the interest of residents and other stakeholders. Tallinn Old Town case exemplifies the significance of local time-space specificities to be considered in building an understanding of contemporary touristification and its impact on local communities in heritage areas. Possible strategies for tourism impact management will be discussed together with local residents' perceptions about ways to balance the role of tourism and liveability with heritage as well as the cultural and economic vibrance of the area.

Visiting and Living Porto and Barcelona Lessons from a Comparative Overview on the Eco-social Impact of Touristification in Two Southern European Cities

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This communication is framed in research-funded project ECOSOCITIES (2022-2025), which studies eco-social resilient discourses and practices in southern European cities (PID2021-123912NA-I00). In the first stage of our research, we have explore how during the last three decades the economic model of Barcelona has turned more and more dependent of the tourist industry. Thus, in turn, entails its own problems for locals as rents rise and life becomes more expensive. We have also identified that Porto is nowadays at a similar stage Barcelona was around 1990s in terms of tourism development. Nevertheless, after the pandemic, tourist promotion has gained an increasingly role in Porto's economic and urban model. This paper seeks to comparatively examine the consecuences of touristification and gentrification dynamics on urban space social configuration and changes, as well as social movilization and resistance against this transformations. We base the analysis on quantitavie and qualitative data. Thus, we analyse socio-demographic changes of structure and substitution; besides to quantifying tourism and changes of trade and services, and the evolution of the real estate market and access to housing. Data is complemented with a content analysis of the local public policies, and the strategies and discourses of civil society to tackle the gentrification process in the most touristic areas of both cities. We want to map the practices Porto is developing since the pandemic for showing how Porto's approach to touristification, albeit similar to Barcelona's, is socially and ecologically more sustainable.

Using Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods as Urban Laboratories: The Impact of Urban and Sustainable Redevelopment on Affordable Housing in Amsterdam

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Just like many Western cities, Amsterdam faces a substantial housing affordability crisis. Over the past three decades, surging housing costs have forced middle – and low-income households to relocate outside the city while homelessness rates have increased. Notably, the share of social housing has declined by almost 15% in less than ten years, primarily due to the sale of social housing in affluent central neighborhoods on the private market. Concurrently, less prosperous areas such as Nieuw-West are chosen as strategic sites for experimenting with solutions to housing affordability and sustainability challenges. In this paper, we delve into a case study of the Wildeman neighborhood to examine how the municipality, social housing corporations, residents' committees, and residents understand, negotiate, and respond to two intertwined housing development plans. On the one hand, the national masterplan for Nieuw-West aims to improve the area's livability and safety by creating affordable, high-quality, and mixed-income social housing. However, these densification efforts, in practice, involve demolishing buildings and displacing residents without a guaranteed return. On the other hand, the 'Warm Amsterdam' project, initiated by the municipality and social housing corporations seeks to achieve a natural gas-free status by 2040. However, these initiatives undertaken in the name of a more sustainable future are often perceived as a costly threat to the housing situation of current residents. Building on these insights, we contend that housing affordability for the urban poor becomes further jeopardized when disadvantaged neighborhoods are used as 'living labs' for experimenting with urban redevelopment and sustainability policies.

RN37 | T03_01: Present Challenges in Urban Housing: Policies, Market, Identity and Precarity B

Inconspicuous Innovations and Resilience of Urban Housing: The Case of Wooden Prefabricated Houses from the Post-War Period

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The question how to locally address current global problems like climate change or energy crisis often leads to searching for innovative expert-led solutions and strategies to adapt urban living to the situation. However, as suggested by previous research, people respond to these challenges also in their routine practices, everyday lives, and in their existing material settings, including by developing 'unconscious', 'haphazard' (Toole et al. 2016) or 'inconspicuous' adaptations (Ferenčuhová, 2022) in their homes. Such mundane responses of urban residents often escape scholarly interest as unimportant and temporary 'coping strategies', partly because of their limited scale, questionable impact, and a lack of connection to individuals' informed attitudes towards the global issues in focus.

My contribution seeks to explore everyday 'inconspicuous innovations' developed by residents of a specific type of architecture: post-war prefabricated wooden houses constructed in the 1950s in former Czechoslovakia (and across the world). These houses were built as a temporary solution to a different crisis in European cities at the time–that of severe housing shortage during post-war reconstruction. Yet, despite their limited expected lifespan, many of the houses are still standing today, while they have been adapted by their residents to better serve their current needs. Using data from focus groups with residents in several Czech cities where these neighbourhoods are standing (collected in summer 2022), I will study resilience of this specific housing, especially by describing innovations the residents make to the materiality of the houses and to their everyday dwelling routines in face of current challenges.

Affordable Housing In The Sustainable City? A Case Of Swedish Policy Entanglement

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The challenges in making cities both environmentally friendly, economically viable and socially just at the same time, becomes especially visible in housing policy. Housing is a key issue in planning for sustainable cities from an environmental and economic perspective, simultaneously, from an equity perspective housing policy is going in a direction where fewer can afford a home. While this is a global phenomenon, Sweden is an interesting case because of its reputation as one of the world's most equal and socially just countries. Until now, Swedish housing policy have been able to keep housing affordable and accessible for "all" social groups. However, this is now changing. Sweden is one country where the equality gap is widening the most, the housing shortage is acknowledged as an urgent issue, and both social and structural homelessness are growing. Sweden is also known for being a forerunner in sustainability policy. Therefore, this paper aims to give further understanding of the development of Sweden as a green welfare state, by exploring policy assemblages in housing and sustainability policy. This is explored by reviewing Swedish housing and urban sustainability policy since the publication of the Brundtland report in 1987. This paper will show how the discourses of affordable and sustainable housing relate to each other while being developed in parallel. Despite the holistic understanding of sustainable development, the expected outcome of the analysis is that, so far, the Swedish welfare ideal is crumbling while the sustainability discourse become stronger.

The Ambiguous Entity Of Housing Affordability – An Analysis Of Housing Affordability Definitions In The Finnish Housing Policy

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Housing affordability is a global urban policy concern, and there is a consensus that affordability should be promoted to ensure housing rights for all. However, the definition of affordability – and thereby suggested policies – remains somewhat contradictory and ambiguous as academics from different disciplines, policymakers, and practitioners approach the concept from various viewpoints. Confusion leads to misunderstandings and complicates discussions over targets and policies. Furthermore, different approaches often have implicit political-ideological underpinnings. Finland is one of those countries where confusion over definitions leads to problems and conflicts in preparing, monitoring, and implementing housing policy. Using Finland as a case study, I analyse affordability definitions and

illustrate the consequences of conceptual ambiguities in housing policy implementation. The thematic content analysis is based on legislation, policy documents and expert interviews. The main contribution of the paper is introducing a novel theoretical framework identifying three approaches to defining affordability: normative definitions, consumer choice and definition by housing tenure. The results show that normative definitions – which consider affordability as an intersection of household income, housing costs and housing standards – are recognised, but not treated as policy objectives. The main aim of the housing policy – to increase housing supply to support a balanced market – implies that the housing question is primarily to be resolved by the market, and that affordability is therefore defined by consumer choice. Social rental housing is often explicitly described as "affordable". However, limiting the issue to one tenure is problematic, and the conflation of "affordable housing" and "housing affordability" leads to confusion between policy objectives and their implementation. My paper for the Summer School is a combination of the integrative chapter of my doctoral thesis (unpublished) and a research paper published originally in Finnish. I also present a plan how to expand the original article into an international comparison analysing the definitions of affordability in different European countries. I have not participated in the ESA Summer School before, and I am in the final stages of my PhD.

The Rise and Fall of Toronto High-Rises: Normalizing Abandonment as the Common Sense

Elham Akbari

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Abandonment is often associated with decaying and deserted structures, yet Toronto's residential landscape tells a different story. Magic hands at play conceal dying processes behind pale concrete walls and normalize gentrification, segregation, and spatial inequalities within shimmering skylines of all-glass high-rises by the spell of profit and progress. Amidst Canada's escalating housing crisis, scarcity of affordable spaces, and the post – COVID-19 speculative bubble; I explore the integration of everyday processes that prioritize profitability (home as an asset) at the expense of disposing livability (home as a shelter) as the common sense. The first section tells a tale of two life-worlds: a stigmatized story of decay in post-war suburban towers with worn-out rentals, racialized poverty, and crime, alongside a trendy narrative of condo boom with massive gentrification, displacement, ever-shrinking unit sizes, short-term rentals, and speculative vacancies. Building upon the literature that juxtaposes condofication and post-war social housing revitalization in Toronto, I identify a dynamic nexus of physical, financial, and functional abandonment processes across both high-rises and argue that abandonment is a multi-dimensional and dynamic process of transformation beyond the final and static state of vacancy. The next section offers a theoretical review focusing on political economy views, assemblage thinking, and feminist perspectives to conceptualize abandonment processes. Consequently, I highlight shortcomings of structurally deterministic interpretation of political economy emphasizing a need to analyze macro processes and micro interactions from a multi-scalar and relational perspective. This approach reveals the silent role of material objects, affective power dynamics, and marginalized subject-positions that shape evolving forms of abandonment and are shaped by them.

RN37 | T03_02: Urban Transformations: Between New Opportunities and New Inequalities

Urban Regeneration and New Forms of Spatial Inequalities in Southern Italy.

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Starting with the Fascist regime's reconstruction following the devastating earthquake of 1908, the city of Messina became a laboratory for the experimentation of a class division of urban space. Subsequent urban policies consolidated these processes of marginalisation, segregation and stigmatisation. The more recent regeneration interventions have further contributed to transforming some areas (some shantytowns) into a veritable laboratory of urban change. Given these premises, the presentation focused on the analysis of a specific area, that is a former slum at the centre of urban regeneration policies, with the aim of showing the contradictory and, to some extent, unpredictable outcomes associated with the emergence of new forms of spatial marginalisation. The data and cases to be discussed are part of a ten-year field research carried out through a mainly qualitative methodology and in an action-research perspective. We will show the socio-spatial effects, still in the making, of multiple historical, economic and cultural tensions: memorial traces of the outsider art, interventions against poverty (i.e. social cohousing), rapid settlement of large-scale distribution and international brands, maintenance of a popular residential presence and the occupation of dilapidated buildings by new families in a housing emergency, development of a mobility hub. The main results of the research show that if, on the one hand, this overlapping of functions has contributed to restoring a new centrality to the area, on the other hand, it has laid the foundations for new forms of spatial inequality, which appear of great interest for a possible comparison with similar cases in other European countries.

Lost places or Spaces of Possibilities? Inhabitants' Experiences of Urban Voids in Shrinking Cities

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Urban voids, defined as abandoned or underutilized spaces within the urban fabric, are often acknowledged as sites of potential and possibilities in contexts of urban growth. However, the perception of these spaces shifts significantly in shrinking cities, where they are commonly regarded as symbols of failure and burdens for city development. Both perspectives are primarily influenced by economic valuations. Drawing on seminal works such as "Terrain Vague" by Ignasi de Solà-Morales and related concepts emphasizing the social potentiality of abandoned spaces, this presentation explores the dichotomy in perceptions of urban voids from the perspective of local actors in shrinking contexts.

Walking interviews with inhabitants of the shrunken Eastern German city of Görlitz provide insights into perceptions and everyday experiences with urban voids. In contrast to the negative narratives around shrinking cities and vacant spaces within them, the results indicate that notions of potentiality prominently shape perceptions. However, the interviews also reveal that legal, institutional, physical, and financial constraints commonly impede the appropriation of urban voids and thus the realization of potentials for action identified by local actors. As those potentials fail to materialize, the prevalent image of urban voids as symbols of failure is perpetuated.

The presentation concludes by proposing that facilitating access to urban voids for actors in shrinking cities could catalyze local dynamics and bottom-up transformation processes that are not primarily growth-driven but instead focused on increasing agency, place attachment, and ultimately, the quality of life in shrinking cities. By examining urban voids from the perspective of inhabitants, this research contributes to a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding these spaces, offering a pathway for positive transformations in shrinking urban environments.

Accumulation by dispossession as a state project – "Garinim Toranim" and their Effect on Development Towns in the South of Israel

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Processes of urban change based on accumulation by dispossession, need to be understood in their local context. Although many argue that these processes are solely done according to economic principles, we claim that the dispossession from the city led by state logic, sponsored by the stat and acted by its sub-agents. We will demonstrate this through a case study from southern Israel: Since the Israeli government evacuated settlements in the Gaza Strip in 2005, many of the religious Jewish residents' have moved to live in development towns in southern Israe, as Garin Torahani. The Garin Torahani (or Tora side) are religious Zionist movement families organized as NGO. The settlement of the Garinim Toranim in the periphery is a kind of religious entrepreneurial project that has two main goals. The first is "sanctification" of the space. That is, settling the space and making it a Jewish space. One task is directed against the non-Jewish population. The second goal is acculturation, which aims to "re-educate" the local Jewish residents by spreading Torah content. This task is mainly directed toward the secular, Jewish population. In order

to disseminate this ideology, there is a need for resources. And, indeed, “the garinim” have acquired numerous public resources, such as public housing, buildings for schools, and governmental budgets for their activities. The Garinim Toranim settlement and their establishment in the towns create an effect of accumulation by dispossession that excluded the veteran residents, mainly Bedouins and Mizrahim (African-Asian descendants), who are excluded once again, and pushed to the societal, economic, and political margins of Israeli society.

RN37 | T03_03: Socio-Spatial Dynamics at the Neighbourhood Level B

Interethnic Contact and Community Cohesion in European Ethnically Diverse Neighborhoods

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European countries have been receiving growing numbers of international migrants in the last decades. This inspired several studies examining the effects of migration-driven ethnic diversity for the livelihoods and cohesion of European neighborhoods. Overall, these studies have found a negative association between migration-driven diversity and cohesion. However, some works have shown that these negative effects are moderated by the quality of social (mainly interethnic, i.e. migrant-autochthonous) contacts among neighbors. But these works usually consider just one dimension of cohesion (trust), and measure interethnic contact as casual (weak) interactions. I add to this scholarship by uncovering what types of interethnic contact (strong ties, weak ties, conflictual relations; organizationally-driven ties) affect which dimensions (sense of belonging, solidarities, safety, civic participation) of community cohesion. I utilize data from a survey applied to the migrant and autochthonous dwellers of eighteen multiethnic neighborhoods in six European cities (Bilbao, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; Rotterdam, Netherlands; Thessaloniki, Greece; Vienna, Austria; Warsaw, Poland). I find that: (a) weak interethnic ties are positively associated with stronger neighborhood belonging, but have no impact on other dimensions of cohesion; (b) strong interethnic ties are positive for all dimensions of cohesion; (c) negative interethnic ties are associated with lower neighborhood belonging, but do not affect other dimensions of cohesion; (d) the effects of strong interethnic ties for cohesion vary mostly across sociodemographic features, while the effects of weak ties depend mainly on one’s practices; (e) only local organizations that foster both civic participation and interethnic contact have a positive effect for community cohesion.

Neighbourhood effect. Considerations from the Moving to Opportunity experiment

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The cultural and political influence of the theories on poverty concentration and neighbourhood effects in the United States is widely recognised in the American sociological literature, but is still little discussed in a scientific context such as the Italian one, although it is also manifested more

or less consciously in some political approaches and programmes in our country. With the aim of contributing to triggering a debate in our disciplinary sphere as well, this contribution focuses on the largest experiment in geographical and social mobility based on theories of concentration and neighbourhood effects, the Moving to Opportunity, in an attempt to initiate a critical reflection on the implications of the concept of poverty concentration and the neighbourhood effect when these are translated into policies and programmes.

Urban Regeneration, Gentrification and Tourism in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods. The case of El Cabanyal – Canyamelar in Valencia

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This study examines the processes of gentrification that have occurred in the El Cabanyal-Canyamelar neighbourhood, a historically degraded and vulnerable area in the city of Valencia, Spain. Employing a mixed methodology approach, the research involves the analysis of statistical data, the development of semi-structured interviews as the primary technique for qualitative research, and a historiographical review of Valencia. The study aims to identify and describe the fundamental causes and effects of these trends on the social and urban structure of the zone. Additionally, it focuses on exposing and analysing the main experiences and discourses created by the key agents associated with the neighbourhood in relation to its transformation.

Within this context, the results indicate that, whiles the challenges addressed during the environmental regeneration have impacted fundamentally issues related to the urban regeneration of the space, there has been an extraordinary slowdown in addressing questions closely tied to the degradation of social relations. As a result of this dynamic, the rehabilitation of the neighbourhood has encouraged the emergence of new gentrification and touristification trends, leading to the displacement of disadvantaged groups that once resided in the area.

Racialized Perceptions of Place and Lending Risk: A Historic Investigation of Institutionalized Racism in Chicago

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While the racial consequences of Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) residential security maps are clear, how HOLC appraisers perceived the neighborhoods they were assessing through the prism of race is less understood. By investigating the written descriptions and language decisions HOLC appraisers made when discussing the neighborhoods they chose to redline, this study interrogates how discourse on the presence of Black residents was relevant in decisions on lending risk, i.e., redlining, in Chicago. Using a mixed-method approach, including computational text analysis, content analysis, and geospatial analytic techniques, this study finds the discussion of Black residents in neighborhood area descriptions was a better predictor of lending risk than the observed Black racial composition. Analyses indicate it was not simply the physical presence of Black residents within a neighborhood that mattered, but whether spatial proximity to nearby Black neighborhoods was indicative of future neighborhood turnover and subsequent decline. Findings provide insights into the social process through which the racialization of lending risk occurred, identifying the language used in service of preserving neighborhood racial identities. The results suggest that the prism of race is a longstanding feature of Chicago's residential landscape, influencing how housing market actors perceive and interact with the urban environment.

RN37 | T04_01: Socio-Spatial Segregation A

Forms of School Segregation? An Exploration of Students' Allocation Between and Within Lower Secondary Schools in Italy

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The paper analyses the distribution of students between schools and classes in lower secondary schools in a set of Italian municipalities, identifies the characteristics of students/families and schools associated with these two phenomena, develops a typology of schools based on the relationship between school size and catchment area and on the incidence of disadvantaged and/or foreign-origin students.

Italian municipal administrations associate each residential address with a specific public educational institution in order to facilitate the distribution of students between schools. School basins' purpose is to guide students and families in deciding which school to attend, without constraining their educational choice. In such a context, school segregation may be at play.

The data used in the analyses refer to students enrolled in the last year of secondary school in the school year 2014/15 and include the addresses of students' homes, attended schools and all other schools located in the same municipality. The data also include student-related information: students' migration status, gender, parents' level of education, scores achieved on national standardized tests in Italian and mathematics , and other socio-demographic characteristics.

Preliminary findings suggest that, although residential segregation is weak, some forms of between-school segregation are detectable. Students with advantaged and/or native parents residing in poor areas are more likely to avoid schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged and/or foreign-origin students. An uneven allocation of disadvantaged and/or foreign-origin students is also detectable "within" schools.

Socio-territorial Analysis Of School Dropout And Educational Poverty (Erasmus Plus Project). Catania As Case Study

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The essay put forwards an empirical study on the dropping out of school and educational poverty

as part of an Erasmus Plus project. Both phenomena are closely linked. The incidence of social, cultural, and economic poverty all influences a child's educational attainment, along with socio-territorial characteristics, families of origin and social networks. Understandings of the phenomenon of dropping out of school is one of the most urgent policy and practice issues, as increasingly numbers of young people fail to complete their secondary schooling, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, this is an important aspect to reduce the growing spatial forms of inequality in our cities.

In Italy, Catania is an interesting case study as it stands out for its high degree of social and material vulnerability and for a significant rate of school dropout.

We present the main results of research carried out between 2023 and still ongoing. The research is divided into two parts. The first concerns the socio-territorial analysis of the city of Catania to map the distribution of socio-economic fragility in the different neighborhoods. A secondary analysis is carried out on different databases of the National Institute of Statistics with Geographic Information System. The second part is the result of questionnaires administered to students at some high schools in Catania and their parents and it concerns the analysis of the main factors that influence school dropout: socio-demographic condition of the children's families of origin; the context in which they live; the way they spend their daily lives.

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Intergenerational Inequalities in Neighborhood Income Across the Birth Cohorts from 1950s to 1970s in Finland

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The neighborhood context is transmitted from one generation to the next resulting in intergenerational inequalities. This relates to the more general transmission of economic and cultural resources in a society. Despite recognizing this influence, gaps persist in understanding the comprehensive origins impact on adult neighborhood contexts. Even more pronouncedly this is the case regarding the strength

of transmission in relation to interplay of social and genetic origins – an approach that has recently gained attention in the sociological studies of intergenerational inequalities. It is clear that social origins affect neighborhood selection through unequal distribution of economic possibilities and intergenerational transmission of cultural norms. However, interplay between social origins and genetics is as well likely to play a role in the transmission relating for example to inheritance of personality traits affecting housing decisions. It is important to study both factors to cover origins influences in full extent.

This study employs twin models to elucidate the considerable influence of social and genetic origins on adulthood neighborhood attainment. Neighborhood attainment is measured through ranked median neighborhood incomes in economic regions. The analysis explores variations across age groups and birth cohorts spanning from the 1930s to the 1990s. Additionally, two pivotal transmission mechanisms are investigated: childhood neighborhood environment and adulthood income. Preliminary results show significant impact of origins that is not mediated by the income in adulthood indicating some other mechanisms of transmission besides economic resources. In the study, we further uncover the roots of socioeconomic segregation and delineating intergenerational inequalities linked to neighborhood context.

Educational Landscapes and Exploded Urbanism: A Comparative Study of Timișoara and Cluj, Romania”

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In Romania, the educational system, originally designed for inclusivity, faces a paradox: it is affected by segregation influenced by urban dynamics. This study investigates this contradiction in the cities of Timișoara and Cluj. We examine how residential patterns, school placements, and parental choices – often bypassing district regulations with temporary addresses – contribute to educational segregation, a trend particularly pronounced in larger cities of Romania. Our research utilizes spatial regression analysis to probe these trends within the context of “exploded urbanism” (Petrovici, et al., 2023), a concept describing the demographic shift from core to periurban areas that lack social amenities.

Building on Boterman’s (2019) concept of “educational landscape,” our study shows how school segregation both mirrors and intensifies spatial inequalities under “exploded urbanism”. We conduct a spatial regression analysis using lag models to identify the factors influencing the size of educational institutions in Timișoara and Cluj. The research integrates demographic, socioeconomic, and educational factors to shed light on the urban dynamics affecting the pupil-to-school ratio in these cities.

Our findings indicate a significant impact of the residential population within the school’s area, local employment opportunities, and the prestige of schools on student enrolment. We consider variables such as the school-age population, workforce demographics, and school prestige. The study also emphasizes the role of parental choice, particularly among the middle class, in school selection and its implications for educational segregation. Our analysis uncovers an intricate relationship between the educational landscape and urban inequalities, emphasizing the role of economic geography in the context of exploded urbanism in perpetuating educational segregation.

RN37 | T04_02: The Right to the City Today

Urbanidades Comestíveis – Uma Aproximação às Paisagens Alimentares Urbanas e Sua Relação Com o Espaço-tempo Social Produzido em Três Territórios do Rio de Janeiro

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Comer constitui um ato sociológico enraizado nas práticas cotidianas dos sujeitos.

O sistema alimentar é estruturado a partir de condicionantes materiais, simbólicas, culturais e políticas e da mesma forma que configura relações entre os sujeitos (espaço social alimentar) e destes com os espaços (sitopias).

As relações estabelecidas entre sujeitos, territórios e comida, no espaço, ao longo do tempo, compõem paisagens alimentares. As paisagens alimentares são assim produto dos processos de produção do espaço-tempo social enraizados nos cotidianos e nas dinâmicas compartilhadas da cidade. O comer urbano localizado constitui um fato social na medida em que resulta de um conjunto de fatores sociais generalizados, externos e coercitivos que determinam o que se come, onde, quando, de que forma.

Nesta comunicação busca-se, a partir de uma revisão de literatura, investigar elementos estruturantes das paisagens alimentares de três territórios diversos da cidade do Rio de Janeiro e interrogar os processos da sua produção. São identificadas temporalidades, territorialidades e convivialidades produzidas a partir da relação entre sujeitos-comida-territórios.

Perante uma cidade-mosaico de diversidades, produzida e reproduzida a partir da composição de paisagens profundamente desiguais, resultado de um longo palimpsesto histórico de violência e segregação, operacionaliza-se a paisagem alimentar enquanto dispositivo para uma aproximação a invisibilidades e dialéticas existentes na produção/reprodução de urbanidades e no reconhecimento da disputa cotidiana pelo direito à cidade.

The Right To The Creative City: Interdependencies In Cultural Ecosystems

Marianna d'Ovidio

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The paper discusses the concept of interdependencies in the cultural ecology, as a theoretical tool that allows shedding new light on emerging inequalities and power tensions in urban areas and regions. The ultimate aim of the paper is to offer a theoretical lens that can be useful to explore socio-economic inequalities, connected to agencies of cultural workers, and, ultimately, contribute to a discussion about the right to the (creative) city in a (post) crisis context.

Notably, "the arts and cultural ecology" is defined by Markusen et al. as the complex interdependencies that shape the demand for and production of arts and cultural offerings. More recently, the concept of cultural ecosystem has been employed by many authors with the aim of recognising the interplay of all the subjects that are involved in cultural production, offering and consumption, without reifying conceptual boundaries between groups.

The paper mobilises the idea of interdependences to analyse the power tensions in three very different realms of cultural production: the contemporary art system in Milan, the fashion industry in Italy, the culture production in Lombardy. In each of these areas, the paper explores interdependences between territorialised subsystems that rarely have been observed together: independent spaces for contemporary art and art institutions, symbolic and material production in the fashion industry and the digital and the physical space for culture.

It will be shown that the concept of interdependence allows observing power tensions between actors starting from the exploration of available resources, negotiation mechanisms, conflicts, cooperation and interactions embedded in specific urban contexts.

Living Solidarity – Tenant Organizing as a Means to Tackle Social Divisions and Addressing Racism in Urban Communities

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In the face of escalating housing market financialization, rising rental and utility costs, and increased urban precarity, particularly impacting lower-income households, urban residents grapple with intensifying challenges. These issues are exacerbated by the surge in right-wing movements in Europe and the United States. Concurrently, housing movements and tenants' unions are organizing communities to

confront shared struggles for housing equity, exemplified by Berlin's "DW Enteignen" campaign.

Our study examines such organizing initiatives, focusing on two community projects situated in Berlin and an East German city, addressing housing challenges within their respective neighbourhoods. We are interested in the emergence of solidarity within such movements: How do housing movements grapple with issues of racism and other forms of discrimination within their own ranks? And what role does organizing as a strategic practice of building and nurturing tenants' networks play in surmounting prevailing tensions?

Our research is guided by the premise that social divisions cannot be overcome by logical arguments alone. Tenant organizing approaches – when imbued with the ambition of building solidarity amongst *all* affected tenants and empowering those affected by discrimination – have the potential to address the social context in which racism emerges and unite tenants around a shared goal.

Seeking to directly engage with tenant organizing projects, we employ methods of reconstructive social research ranging from qualitative interviews and ethnography to activist research. Our focus lies on directly engaging with the first-hand experiences of organized tenants, seeking to understand the interpretative frameworks that shape their understanding of precarious living conditions.

The Rich and the City: A Situated Intersectional Analysis on High-Income Urban Experiences in Barcelona

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The right to the city is a key concept in urban studies, widely addressed, reinterpreted, and redefined over time. However, the exploration of what occurs with privileged individuals who enjoy this right and can inhabit, utilize, circulate, and transform the city without significant barriers is a less investigated question. Barcelona is a cosmopolitan and diverse city, yet simultaneously exclusive and segregated, where migration has drastically modified both ends of social stratification. Specifically, skilled migration and its integration into the upper classes have impacted the urban fabric and the appropriation of the city, necessitating a redefinition of urban phenomena such as residential segregation and gentrification, among others. A profound understanding of this phenomenon requires adopting an intersectional perspective (Crenshaw, 1991), moreover a situated intersectionality sensitive to geographical, social, and temporal locations perspective (Yuval-Davis, 2015) with a focus on privilege (Ahmed, 2007).

The present research explores the urban experience of high-income individuals in Barcelona, taking into account how class, race/ethnicity, and gender shape this experience and concurrently influence and mutually constitute each other. It employs the Relief Maps methodology (Rodó-Zárate, 2014) as a tool for studying intersectional inequalities, that captures experiences in three dimensions: social (gender, race/ethnicity/origin, class, age, disability, etc.), geographical (spaces), and psychological (emotions). The findings contribute to ongoing discussions on urban studies, intersectionality, privilege, and the multifaceted nature of the right to the city, enriching our understanding of how the privileged and the urban environment mutually shape each other

RN37 | T04_03: Digital Challenges in the City

Unexpected Urban Inclusions: Newcomers and the Hybridization of Space Over Time

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Cities embody dissonances that have the potential to trigger tensions. Furthermore, the emergence of new forms of nationalism and authoritarianism poses significant threats to the inclusivity of urban contexts.

Sociology can contribute to understanding such challenges by acknowledging transformations across time, such as the digitalization experienced by ordinary people in cities since the late 20th century. While sociologists have extensively investigated the phenomenon of digitalization, the multifaceted dimension of inclusion has received comparatively less attention. How does the inclusion of newcomers in cities manifest unexpectedly across macro, meso, and micro levels? What does the multi-level analysis over time reveal about this concept?

This research introduces a 'hybrid inclusion' conceptual framework, developed through sociologically oriented, multi-situated ethnographies in Geneva and Hamamatsu. Exhibiting distinct socio-historical configurations, both cities present some similarities. At the macro level, they promote an ideal of inclusion rooted in diversity and international networks, shaping their policies and visions. At the meso and micro levels, the study reveals an ambivalent disconnection between this ideal and everyday practices. Inclusion manifests in unexpected and hybrid forms, bridging the past and the present, the physical and the digital configurations of space.

During the conference, I will present how the observations from my doctoral research have influenced this framework on inclusion. I will focus on its relation to global and local influences, online and offline practices, and time. Considering urban digitalization as a complex catalyst, my aim is to actively contribute to the sociological discourse on shaping future cities that are more open and inclusive for all.

An urban scenario of inequality: Digital and Spatial segregation in Madrid.

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This article seeks to demonstrate, through a quantitative analysis, the relationship between spatial segregation and digital disconnection in the different districts of Madrid. In the recent decades there has been Growth of socio-spatial inequality, due to neoliberal dynamics, which are concentrated even more in large urban áreas, which is why the hypothesis of this work is that there is an unequal relationship in the districts of the city of Madrid of digital uses that coincides with the disadvantaged and most vulnerable areas of the city. The relevance of this article lies in the lack of studies that carry out the relationship between Internet use and spatial segregation in the city, especially at the infra-municipal level.

To analyze this concept of digital divide, variables have been used socioeconomic, educational, and gender, mainly; and has been put in relation to the spatial distribution of Internet uses, extracted from the National Institute of Statistics of Spain.

The results show that, in the city of Madrid, digital connection and uses are unevenly represented in the different districts. The privileged spaces in the city center have a greater intensity of digital uses, while in the disadvantaged areas of the city, located on the periphery, the Internet is used with less intensity. These results are linked to the level of education or the greater presence of the immigrant or elderly population.

Urban Digital Twins as Incipient Regimes of Visibility: Evidence from Rotterdam and The Hague.

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Advances in digital technologies are transforming how European cities are managed, planned and governed. Urban Digital Twins (UDTs), or technologies aimed at virtually replicating cities, are hailed for their potential to enhance the efficiency of management processes. Cities across Europe increasingly invest in digital infrastructures like UDTs in the expectation that such technologies enable us to see, experience and interact with the urban environment in new and exciting ways.

Scholarly attempts to grasp the significance of this emerging phenomenon are hampered by technical determinism and techno-optimism. Existing literature on UDTs tends to overly focus on definitional questions while offering a rather descriptive account of applications that ignores potential tensions or conflicts. In this paper, we circumvent these pitfalls by combining insights from urban sociology, science and technology studies and public administration to shed new light on UDTs as 'incipient regimes of visibility'.

By tracing the development of UDTs in Rotterdam and The Hague, we investigate how UDTs constitute a virtual order of things that determines which urban processes, spaces, experiences, and communities 'count' – or are left unaccounted for – in the digital representation of city life. Based on extensive qualitative research, we show that the meaning of UDTs is volatile and context-dependent, that technological and socio-technological challenges hamper their development and implementation, and that bureaucrats' internal and external expectations diverge. Extending the lessons learned, we argue that UDTs are still ambiguous

as incipient regimes of visibility and that 'future thinking' about UDTs need to coincide with critical thinking about questions of inclusivity and participation.

A Sociological Exploration of Technological Solutions and Inclusivity in AGH University

Karolina Rożek

AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland

This presentation disseminates research results on the University's infrastructure needs, conducted from February to July 2024 by a student team as part of the AGH Rector's Grant Award. Utilizing diverse qualitative methods and conducting a comparative analysis of smart campuses, the research aims to delve deeper into the matter from a sociological perspective, understanding the contemporary academic community's needs. The outcomes of the previous grant, centered around smart city initiatives and campus research, highlighted the necessity for revising technological solutions within the university. Focusing on inequalities in access to technology and digital skills, the study employs surveys and interviews among students, faculty, and administrative staff to identify discrepancies in technology access and digital skill levels. It includes an examination of institutional policies aimed at addressing digital inequalities and explores how these policies are perceived within the academic community.

Within the framework of Science, Technology, and Society (STS), the study explores how academic communities interpret and shape technological innovations, scrutinizing their influence on social inequalities and digital exclusion. The presentation emphasizes the intriguing observation of how the academic community, wielding influence in shaping technological innovations, translates proposed principles into implementation. This observation gains added significance given AGH University of Science and Technology's role as a technical institution fostering numerous innovations within its walls.

The aim of this presentation is to contribute valuable insights and recommendations for refining technological solutions within academic settings, promoting inclusivity, and enhancing the overall quality of education.

RN37 | T04_04: No City for Young People? Youth Urban Issues

Rhythmanalysis of Freight Graffiti in the edgelands of the Port of Rostock

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The arcticle provides a rhythmanalysis of illegal graffiti on freight trains in the area of the Port of Rostock and its surrounding. The rhythmanalysis according to Henri Lefebvre shows how subcultural practice of illegal spraypainting graffiti on freight trains clings to different timings of linear social times of the harbour and thereby identifies and spatially and temporarily occupies niches in the edgeland zone. This analysis of the timing of the sea port and thereof adjusted timings of spraying graffiti is conducted by methods of ethnographic fieldwork and a comprehensive collection of data from the Port of Rostock.

Much Ado About Sweden – Untangling the Obscure Travels of Concepts "Street Gang" and "Gangsta Culture" into Finnish Policy Doxa

Elina Sutela, Erica Åberg

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The aftermath of the COVID pandemic brought forth a new challenge in many cities: increased restlessness of urban youth and rise in youth violence. In Finland, increases in urban youth crime resulted in an extensive public debate around youth gang culture. To describe these emerging activities, journalists and politicians adopted two concepts new to the Finnish context: "street gang" and "gangsta culture". However, their exact definitions remain ambiguous, and they are attached with a bundle of implicit assumptions conceivably ill-fitting to Finland. As Maloutas (2013) has argued, not all concepts travel well from one context to another, and a prerequisite for mobile concepts is high-level of abstraction. We argue neither "street gang" or "gangsta culture" can be considered such universal concepts, and without proper decontextualisation, their journeys carry a risk of ignoring national specificities. Moreover, as shown by Slater (2018), concepts used by journalists and politicians have powerful political implications that can eventually translate into policy doxa. Using the Finnish public discourse as a case study, and building on Maloutas (2013) and Slater (2018), we analyse how and to what extent these two concepts can travel between urban contexts, and the symbolic power attached to them. We claim these concepts originated from British popular culture and

Anglo-American gang studies and their path to Finnish public discourse was heavily influenced by recent acceleration of armed gang violence in Sweden. Finally, we reflect on whether obscure usage of these concepts overemphasise securitisation of urban space and stigmatise and target ethnic minority youth.

Love Your Neighbourhood and Leave It. How Welfare Professionals Reproduce Cross-Pressure and Marginalize Youth in a Disadvantaged Helsinki Neighborhood.

Lotta Maria Junnilainen

University of Helsinki, Finland

Urban scholars have long observed that citizens´ experiences of living in disadvantaged, marginalized neighborhoods are often complex and ambivalent: a place called home is both "good" and "bad", a source of social support and stigma. Drawing on five-year ethnographic research in Steephill, a neighbourhood in Helsinki, Finland, my paper presents how this cross-pressure gets reinforced on behalf of welfare professionals, who aim to promote the local youth and their opportunities. As teachers, youth workers and other policy practitioners translate current urban policies and ideals of good citizenship into mundane everyday practices, they end up pulling the local youth in opposite directions: toward their neighborhood and away from it. On the one hand, they work hard to produce communitarian citizens, who are community-minded, participate locally and feel attached to their "home area". On the other hand, they promote citizenship that is self-reliant and autonomous, framing the area as a "risk environment" the young people would be wise to leave behind them. The article argues that engagement in these contradictory practices of "attaching-work" and "detaching-work" reproduces cross-pressure the young people already struggle with, and on that account, deepens their marginalized position. It further suggests that cross-pressure should not be understood as emerging from within the neighborhoods only, but relationally in interaction with powerful others.

RN37 | T05_01: Present Challenges in Urban Housing: Policies, Market, Identity and Precarity C

Representations of a "Good Life" in the Post-socialist City: the Case of the New Housing Estates in Vilnius

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Vilnius university, Lithuania

Housing, as the primary component of the urban landscape, plays a significant role in shaping the opportunities, resources, and experiences of individuals and households within an urban context. Its location, spatial layout, and relations with other uses and places of the city facilitate specific 'spatial practices' (Lefebvre, 1991) of urban life. This presentation delves into an analysis of the marketing messages of the new residential complexes constructed in Vilnius, Lithuania, between 1990 and 2022, as a locus of the new urban identity in a city within a temporally and spatially post-socialist context. The post-2000 period of mass housing construction, without a centralized urban development and housing policy, has brought with it a commodification of production and distribution. These newly established estates have significantly altered the city's spatial structure and contribute to a narrative surrounding what defines a good life within a post-socialist city, along with how one's home and the city ought to be perceived and lived. In this research, I approach housing estates as narratives. Firstly, they serve as material narratives that facilitate the appropriate way to live in the new conditions. Secondly, they function as symbolical narratives, conveying stories propagated by real estate developers about a desirable life in a post-socialist city. The study revealed themes reflecting both continuity and discontinuity with socialist "space" (Lefebvre, 1991), cultural salience of the privatism principle (Hirt, 2012)), and highlighted increasing securitization of housing and rupture between the home, tailored to the new middle class, and the city as a shared space.

Housesharing in Spain. An Analysis of the Current Supply of Rooms

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Spain is usually considered as one of the countries in Western Europe with the highest number of homeowners, but after the economic crisis of 2007 and the bursting of the housing bubble, this is changing. Available statistics show that the number of young (and not so young) people living

in rented accommodation has increased, and there are increasingly more non-traditional forms of cohabitation, such as sharing housing with friends or acquaintances. However, the current data do not allow us to analyze in depth the reality of the shared rooms for rent market in Spain. In this paper, our objective is to carry out an analysis of the rental situation of shared apartments in Spain. We present the main results of a research carried out using Big Data techniques; analyzing offers of shared apartments hosted on a website designed for this purpose. We have thousands of offers from the beginning of 2023 to the present. The data allows us to analyze key aspects such as price, size or location of the property. But also, more specific aspects such as the preference for one type of tenant or another (couples, smoker or not, male or female, with or without pets) and expected lifestyles (pre-established rules in terms of schedules or cleanliness).

Unravelling the Trajectories and Housing Experiences of the Brazilian Immigrant Communities in the City of Porto, Portugal

Catarina Figueiredo, Lígia Ferro

University of Porto, Portugal

The city of Porto has undergone intense social and urban transformations linked with the expansion of the processes of gentrification and touristification, which emerged alongside important changes in the housing market, and with the simultaneous substantial growth of the immigrant population, for which the arrival of Brazilian citizens in the city played a central role. In this context, a research was conducted to understanding the trajectories and housing experiences of Brazilian immigrants in the city of Porto. From a qualitative approach, centered on individual semi-structured interviews, it was possible to achieve a better understanding of these trajectories and experiences through the narratives of the immigrants involved. In this paper, we aim to present some of the findings of this research and to contribute to the discussion about the relations between contemporary migrations and urban housing.

Acknowledging the diversity of the Brazilian communities and the trends of its latest immigration wave to Portugal, it was possible to grasp the material and immaterial ways and conditions in which these immigrants live in the city. Through their trajectories and experiences, it was possible to understand the specific difficulties they encounter, as well as the social processes and arrangements built around them by the Brazilian communities, as well as the vital role of social networks in the definition and configuration of these trajectories and experiences. Social networks reveal the complex connections between the local social and urban context and wider transformations expressed in multiple scales.

The Symbolic Capital Of Housing: Theoretical Imagination And Empirical Realities in the Study of Lithuanian Cities

Tadas Šarūnas

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Recently sociologists working in realm of urban studies have received strong arguments to reapproach sociology of P.Bourdieu (L.Wacquant, 2023). Those following this path must engage in application of his concepts – such as social space and symbolic space – for analysis of urban phenomena. They also have to find ways how to link them with analysis of physical space of the studied cities. We already have some inspiring examples of how followers of such research programme could rethink historic specificities of their cases (Marom, 2014). We also have compelling evidence, that these concepts function well in quantitative analysis of symbolic load of urban locations (Rosenlund, 2017). But current operationalizations of housing capital often miss out on symbolic dimensions of housing, described by Bourdieu (Bourdieu, 2005).

This presentation will give a summary of previous attempts to operationalize symbolic capital of housing in urban locations. Through the case of Kaunas – a medium size city, which received a nomination of European capital of culture of the year 2022 – we will discuss challenges, that such operationalizations pose for building of a fully-fledged empirical case study. At the same time we will sum-up new opportunities, that integration of census and property register data provide for empiric analysis of housing capital. This process of data integration, which is taking place in Lithuania and most of the other European countries, provides us with a new source of affordable data. It expands our possibilities for empirical study of relationships between housing capital and urban developments.

RN37 | T05_02: Urban Tourism: Actors, Activities, Impacts B

The Small Town Tourist Bubble – Tourism, local life, and rhythms

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Before the Covid-19 pandemic, overtourism was one of the main topics for tourist destinations, not only in cities, but also in rural areas. Local governments were searching for solutions to deal with tourism related problems and to solve conflicts between tourists and locals. However, it seems that some places bypassed most of the common overtourism problems due to their peculiarity: the existence of tourist bubbles. An ideal example is the famous German small town Rüdesheim am Rhein. While big cities like Venice or Barcelona were much discussed in the overtourism debate, small towns have not been in the focus of research yet. Rüdesheim has a long international tourist tradition, especially because of its wine production, and is well known for the street 'Drosselgasse', where tourist restaurants and wine shops are located, and which forms, following our argumentation, a tourist bubble.

Based on stakeholder interviews, statistical data, and the analysis of local policy and media, we argue that the old town of Rüdesheim represents a tourist bubble, which is rarely frequented by residents, allowing it to be staged as a disneyfied showcase for German tradition, local food and, especially alcoholic, beverages. Businesses in the narrow alleyways of the old town, are heavily dependent on the different temporal rhythms of tourism, not only the tourist season, but also the schedules of river cruise ships. Hence, tourist and local life in Rüdesheim is spatially and temporally separated, which leaves less space for conflict, but also for contact between locals and tourists.

Social Innovation in Tourism: a Two-level Systematic Literature Review

Olga Tzatzadaki, Maurizio Busacca

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In recent years, 'social innovation in tourism' (SIT) has emerged as a key topic in studies on tourism innovation. However, a comprehensive systematization by a literature review is yet to be proposed. This paper aims to fill this gap by presenting the findings of a systematic literature review which selected 65 articles and conference proceedings from Scopus and WOS. The analysis, conducted at two levels, examined, in the first-level analysis, the temporal, geographical, and thematic placement of the papers, while in the second-level one, the focus was to identify the social needs and target groups related to SI, ecosystems and actor networks involved in their production, and, finally, local governance.

At the first level, the results indicate that i) the discourse on SIT follows the general discourse on SI, but intensifies in conjunction with shock events affecting the tourism sector, such as Covid-19, and ii) the debate is more intense in countries with a significant tourism economy, but the case-studies are characterized by undertourism or by spatial conflicts. At the second level, the analysis reveals that a) SI initiatives primarily address employment and income needs, viewing tourism as a sector for job placement; b) the quality of the tourist experience and the quality of relationships with the local context are key strategies for achieving these outcomes through win-win strategies for tourists and the local community; c) the focus is on finding solutions for the development of the tourism sector rather than addressing the economic and social problems created by tourism; d) there is a significant emphasis on the local community, but without specifying the power and interest relationships among community members, turning it into rhetoric.

Instrumentalization of Light Festivals by Portuguese Municipalities: An Ethnographic Perspective (2015-2023)

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Over the past decade, light festivals have become significant cultural events in Portuguese cities, serving as a distinct platform for artistic expression and urban entertainment. This study delves into how Portuguese municipalities have harnessed these festivals, exploring their transformation into instruments for urban development, tourism promotion, and the stimulation of nighttime economies.

This work is a critical analysis of how cultural practices can be co-opted by economic and political interests, more focused on economic development, city branding, and express night-time touristification.

The methodology used was a multi-sited ethnography conducted in Cascais and Loulé from 2015 to 2023. This included semi-structured interviews, online mapping, and documentary analysis. Such an approach enabled a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon from the viewpoints of organizers, promoters, entrepreneurs, participants, and local residents.

The findings of this study are significant, indicating that the commodification of these festivals is linked to the ongoing financial instability and precariousness faced by organizers, as well as to disputes of interest by local governments, which end in a power imbalance. I argue that these conflicts and the continual reduction in specific funding lead to the commodification of the festivals, distinctly illustrated by the shift in focus from cultural programming and mediation

to light installations that prioritize entertainment over cultural value.

Liveability, Foundational Economy and Urban Space of "Cities in the Middle"

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University of Cagliari, Italy

With this abstract, we aim to present the initial findings of a collaborative research project involving three units from the University of Cagliari, the University of Catania, and the University of Salento. This research is funded by the PRIN " GC-LIFES. Grounded cities. Liveability, Foundational Economy and urban Space of cities in the middle". The relationship between the uses of urban spaces, global/local competition, and citizen liveability has been less investigated in small and medium-sized cities without a highly competitive profile. In general, mainly in Italy, urban and territorial studies have neglected "middle" areas: those which are not purely rural or metropolitan, and those made up of small-medium sized cities that, although not lacking in social and cultural dynamism, are not included in major flows of economic and technological innovation. Our study focuses on the cities of Cagliari, Catania, and Lecce, cities neither in the centre nor on the margins; neither in a dimension of full dynamism, nor in one of absolute stagnation; submitted, on the one hand, to areas capable of attracting resources and inhabitants, on the other hand capable of attracting resources and inhabitants from marginal contexts. The purpose of this research is precisely to begin to fill this lack of analysis and knowledge on this medium-size cities, following a twofold path: on the one hand, analysing transformations that have a decisive effect on the well-being and lifestyles of the citizens and, on the other, identifying some conditions for strengthening liveability and fostering a just transition.

RN37 | T05_03: Socio-Spatial Segregation B

Creative Youth in a Changing Neighbourhood: Public Policies, Projects and Associations in a Segregated Area in the Lisbon Periphery

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As part of the PERICREATIVITY project and starting from the ethnographical fieldwork in a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Lisbon, that has undergone profound social changes, this presentation aims to delve into the history and activity of the neighbourhood's projects and associations. Namely, the ones promoted by young people, understanding their complex relations with public policies planned for this area. In the 1960s, this neighbourhood was built as a public housing project in the municipality of Cascais for fishing families. Then, other buildings and temporary homes were constructed to rehouse people living in the nearby precarious self-built areas, many of them of Cape Verdean ancestry. Today, it is a racially diverse community, including white and Black residents, some Roma people, and others. While this neighbourhood was initially situated in an isolated area, it is now nestled within one of the wealthiest regions on the periphery of Lisbon and, in recent years, has garnered attention from the local and state authorities. Today, the neighbourhood suffers from an intense gentrification process that prevents new generations from staying there. Despite having a reputation as a marginal and violent area, this community has seen a remarkable change both internally and in its image to the outside. With a strong dynamic of associations and projects (residents, youth, cultural, sports or welfare), this area has been where young people have promoted urban art and artistic practices through local support of public policies. We aim to understand the complex relations of autonomy and dependence towards the local power.

Analysing Segregation with Agent-based Models on Surveyed Neighbourhood Preferences

Daniel Schubert, Sören Petermann

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Social inequality continues to increase in cities. The issue of segregation is currently being discussed and focussed on considering the shortage of residential space in cities. Inner-city ethnic segregation processes depend on the distribution of neighbourhood preferences. The question to

be answered in the presentation is whether these different preferences lead to segregation.

Most studies refer to the segregation model developed by Schelling (2006). This model assumes that actors perceive their neighbourhoods from their own point of view and leave them if their preferences are not fulfilled. The assumption is that the actors are not aware of the consequences of their individual decisions. The fact that the characteristics of the individual actors influence each other can lead to a connected process of spatial segregation.

The General Social Survey in Germany (ALLBUS) is a representative trend study of the German population. In 2016, a vignette study was used as an in-depth topic to survey neighbourhood preferences regarding the composition of the neighbourhood. To this end, the 13 vignettes with different proportions of social groups were presented to the respondents, who were asked if they wanted to live in this neighbourhood.

However, these preferences do not explain the spatial distribution. To examine these distributions, a segregation model was created in Netlogo. Using agent-based modelling, we can implement these results from the ALLBUS data in models and analyse the results. In a first step, we can investigate which patterns result from the use of individual preferences for the spatial distribution in the model. This allows us to explore whether individual preferences alone are sufficient to explain segregation.

Crime and Socio-Spatial Segregation: An Investigation into Drug Dealing in Sardinia

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1OSCRIM Coordinator; 2University of Sassari, Italy, OSCRIM

The examination of illicit activities within urban settings has been a longstanding focus of urban studies, with an emphasis on the spatial dimension. Previous research has underlined the unique characteristics that either foster or deter crime in specific locations (Brantingham, Brantingham 1978, 1981; Eck, Weisburd 1995). This approach has consistently highlighted the intricate connection between crime, segregation, and spatial marginalisation.

Drug dealing, as a pervasive phenomenon, extends its influence across various urban areas where both illegal and legal activities coexist. This cohabitation often involves the sharing of spaces and resources, occasional encounters, and more frequently, a mutual tolerance. The physical proximity and social distance between these 'parallel worlds' trigger spatial and social segregation, leading to self-segregation. On the one hand, illicit practices in urban areas have the potential to discourage alternative and legitimate uses of spaces. On the other hand, a lack of social control can boost illicit activities, placing vulnerable individuals at risk of engaging in deviant behaviours. The pervasiveness of drug dealing exacerbates segregation and self-segregation, reshaping the peripherality of central urban areas (Petrillo 2013, 2018). This phenomenon challenges the conventional association between crime and spatial periphery. Furthermore, the widespread nature of drug dealing raises concerns regarding the limited opportunities for young people, who may be persuaded by "easy profits" and subsequently recruited into criminal groups. These findings have emerged from an extensive study on drug dealing in Sardinia conducted by OSCRIM (Social Observatory on Development and Crime in Sardinia, University of Sassari, Italy) from 2017 to 2022. The research highlights that urban drug dealing manifests distinct forms of segregation and marginalization in metropolitan cities (Cagliari) and smaller municipalities (Olbia).

Contemporary Socio-spatial Segregation Dynamics in Spanish Metropolitan Areas. Persistence, characteristitics and urban landscapes: An Analysis of Spatial Autocorrelation and Segregation Indices

Miguel Rubiales-Pérez, Cristina López-Villanueva, Fernando Gil-Alonso

Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

This study presents an in-depth analysis of recent trends in socio-spatial segregation within the five major Spanish metropolitan areas (Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Sevilla, and Valencia), employing a methodology centered on spatial autocorrelation indices, but also keeping track of traditional segregation indices such as the Index of Segregation (IS). The research utilizes socioeconomic data from different administrative records and Spain's latest census data recently published.

Utilizing spatial autocorrelation indices to understand the degree of concentration of these groups and their morphology, our analysis explores the main metropolitan regions across Spain, revealing that segregation levels remain consistent across these areas, with a detailed examination of fragmentation processes that are occurring. We discover that in several metropolises, segregation persists robustly, indicating entrenched socio-spatial divisions. The study delves into the complexities of these divisions, uncovering detailed processes of urban fragmentation such as those produced in the urban space that serves as a boundary between the areas of concentration of groups, the islands resulting from singular interventions by the administration, and the fragments of neighborhoods undergoing rapid social transformation. This exploration includes an assessment of how different social groups are spatially distributed and segregated.

Our findings suggest that despite changes in data collection methods and urban dynamics, the core patterns of segregation remain largely unaltered. The research contributes significantly to the understanding of urban segregation in Spain, offering a nuanced view of the persistence and morphological characteristics of segregation in contemporary urban landscapes. It provides a critical foundation for future urban planning and policy-making aimed at addressing socio-spatial disparities

RN37 | T06_01: Urban Transformations: Growth, Memory, and Infrastructure

How To Design The Past? Social Consequences Of Urban Retroversion In Poland

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The main research question of this paper addresses social consequences of urban revitalization plans founded on expert construction of the past. We are particularly interested in so-called retroversion – one of the most extreme forms of reference to history when planning the future of urban areas. This method of city reconstruction has been used since the early 1980s in Poland.

Retroversion is not a literal reconstruction, but a creation: historical in its assumptions, postmodern in its implementation. It is not about historical authenticity, but about the impression of antiquity, expanding public space and recreation of old city ambience: focused on building of attractive center and social functions that satisfy the nostalgic need to be in the city. In other words, it is a creation of working "New-Old Town".

Our case study is Elbląg, a city whose historic center was destroyed during World War II and only after several decades did the reconstruction of the historic center begin on a larger scale. We consider it as a laboratory where modernity mixes with city's past. The paper focuses on not previously undertaken social assessment of retroversion by vital groups of city users: residents, tourists, experts (so far only the architectural dimension was evaluated).

We will discuss the social functionality of urban spaces subjected to these processes exploring questions such as who the city is for, who can use it and on what terms, and what influence individual interest groups have on its creation.

We assume that the phenomena observed in Elbląg can, to varying degrees, also be discovered in other European cities where development plans refer to the imagined local past.

Rethinking Urbicide: Exploring Spatial Destruction, Fragmented Collective Memory, War's Disorientation, and the Lingering Specter Of Death

Sibel Bekiroğlu

İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University, Turkiye

This research endeavors to delineate the boundaries of urban spaces and contemplates the repercussions of transcending these limits through destruction. Urbicide, introduced by urban planners, architects, and researchers, serves as a conceptual tool to comprehend the emergence of a new urban paradigm resulting from the devastation of urban structures during the war. Despite its utility in defining this novel situation in global conflict zones, this conceptual tool remains incomplete in providing a systematic definition. This research contributes significantly to existing literature by conducting a comprehensive examination of the concept of urbicide. The study extensively explores four key elements of the concept—space, time, constitutive violence, and power relations. The objective of this work is to achieve a profound understanding of urban phenomena in areas affected by destruction, employing sociological methodologies rooted in the established body of urbicide literature. Within this framework, it focuses exclusively on the destruction of urban fabric and violence, with a specific emphasis on assessing the impact of a necropolitical approach on collective memory.

FDI-Driven Urban Growth and Spatial Disparities in the Wake of Planetary Urbanism: Examining Romania's Urban Evolution

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Henri Lefebvre's 1970 vision of total urbanization materialized by the 2010s, as urban populations globally outnumbered rural ones. This paper explores Neil Brenner's concept of "planetary urbanism", which advocates for critical interventions that dissolve inherited spatial ontologies in favour of a processual view of uneven urban transformations, considering their historical depth. We use Romania as a case study and employ a longue durée approach to examine how foreign direct investment (FDI) has shaped urban landscapes since 1990, considering the socialist investment landscape from 1950 to 1990 and subsequent investments. Our research, based on OLS regression and unfolding analysis, highlights the dramatic urban transformations in Romania, marked by the emergence of industrial hubs and the concurrent decline of other regions. The global urban condition, exemplified by the rapid spread of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, underscores the interconnectedness of

urban centres. This paper investigates the mechanisms through which cities expand their influence, shaping sub-urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. We provide an analysis of Romania's urban geography during its socialist industrial phase and its subsequent transition. This period witnessed significant job losses in some regions and the concentration of industrial capabilities in others, leading to pronounced urban disparities. The paper argues that the dependent reindustrialization post-EU accession in 2007 was built on the uneven urban and socio-demographic foundations of the socialist era. By examining Romania's experience, we contribute to the broader discourse on planetary urban development, emphasizing the need for sociological research to address the complex, material realities of urban growth and capital accumulation.

Political Preferences And Public Infrastructure In A Post-socialist City – The Case Of Split, Croatia

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This paper will try to contextualize spatial aspects of public infrastructure concerning voting preferences in the city of Split in Croatia. The concept of capability approach as developed by Sen and Nussbaum, but also of exclusion and political geography will be used to discuss voting outcomes in the context of access to the health system, educational institutions, and culture in a post-socialist city.

Addresses of 152 polling stations and different types of public infrastructure (educational, health-related, cultural) were geolocated using GIS, and the distance between the former and the latter was calculated using infrastructure locations as hubs. This data was then used in a regression analysis using voting outcomes in parliamentary and presidential elections in Croatia in 2019. and 2020. Furthermore, cluster analysis was applied to divide city space into three areas: leaning center-left, center-right, and far-right.

There is a positive and significant link between right-wing voting and an increase in distances in all categories of public infrastructure, explaining 25-35% of variance depending on a political option. Thus, a higher density of health, education, and cultural amenities is correlated with left-leaning areas and lower density increases the probability of voting for the right.

It is concluded that the lack of public infrastructure reflects higher levels of social exclusion and reduces the capabilities of the local population, providing an explanatory framework for the connection between lower density and access to infrastructure with right-wing political preferences.

RN37 | T06_02: Urban Well-being and Diversity: Exploring Mental Health, Culture, and Emerging Lifestyles

Urban Flourishing: Unveiling the Intersection of Culture and Well-being in Creative Cities

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Human well-being, integral to the fabric of a flourishing society, is increasingly intertwined with attributes of creative cities – openness and tolerance, strong community, connectivity, cultural diversity etc. Creative cities often are seen as "playgrounds for a hip, young, well-educated, affluent, technologically savvy class of workers – a 'plug-and-playground' for twenty – and thirty-something members of the creative class" (Gertler, 2004, pp. 1). Contradicting this notion and viewing creative cities as urban havens for everyone, we explore their potential as catalysts for elevated citizen well-being. On the one hand, the role of culture and arts in creative cities is socially, politically and economically recognized as significant. Multiple studies have highlighted the impact of culture on various aspects of well-being – social inclusion, social connectedness, self-actualization and other (e.g. Mundet et al., 2017, Perkins, Williamon 2014). Blessi, et.al. (2016) notes that – the more socially significant, accessible, and universally recognized culture in the city and society becomes, the greater its impact on well-being. On the other hand, the research on the impact of culture and arts on individual's well-being is ambiguous and contextual, denying straightforward causality between them. In order to unravel these contradictions, in this paper we aim to explore the relationship between well-being and culture in the context of four creative cities in Latvia. Providing a data analysis of representative survey conducted in 2022 "Quality of Life in the Cities" and data from Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor, we investigate the relationship between different aspects of creative city, culture and resident's perceived level of well-being, and critically examine feasibility of these measurements.

Irrecognizable Neighborhoods. Smart-workers, Immigrants, Flâneurs, Dog-sitters, Riders, ... And Others

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The neighborhoods of our cities are increasingly seeing the presence of figures who do not fit into the more traditional categories. These subjects use public spaces in different ways, claiming diversity in equality, leaving us to speculate about forms of empathy, reciprocity, conflict, distrust, and indifference. We think that the issues of tensions, trust, and transformations not only concern macro, but also micro, everyday urban phenomena and intersect with different uses of space and time. The paper aims to address from a theoretical and methodological perspective some issues related to the changes of cities and the construction of micro communities with high variability. Sociology today must question how to capture the changes that lurk in the interstices (so-called "third places"), including the re-functionalization of them. It must also ask the question of the sensitivity of local governments in relating to and governing these processes or leaving them completely free to reproduce. The traditional themes of gentrification, technology, decontextualization and re-contextualization of action constitute indispensable elements in explaining the origin of certain phenomena, but they must be constantly updated from an analytical point of view in order to capture trends that are increasingly changing because they are less tied than in the past to fixed social and economic frames. While the ethnographic method is probably the best suited to address these issues, it is equally true that new strategies of analysis must be considered today, related especially to the possibility of georeferencing new data concerning social phenomena.

Doing Research on Neurodiversity: a Critical Literature Review

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Referring to neurodiversity means challenging the psycho-biomedical model and to de-medicalize non-normotypical conditions: the expression neurodiversity is meant to emphasize how neurodiversities are atypical forms of brain functioning, independent of a pathologizing negative value judgment (Caniglia 2018).

There is an emerging need within research to embrace an intersectional approach in order to study neurodiversity: neurodiversity theories built on crip and queer approaches seek to challenge the conventional, stigmatizing, and pathologizing approaches that dominate the scientific debate (Vanolo 2023). By using neurodiversity as an epistemological and ethical implication we can decentre dominant perspectives, questioning the compulsory able-bodiedness and able-mindedness as well as cognitive affective and sensory "normates", problematizing the neurotypical domain in institutions and practices by questioning the boundaries the predominant neurotypicals and the "others" (Rosqvist, Chown, and Stenning 2020).

Within urban studies, it is important to focus on how the socio-spatial context can influence the way marginalized groups inhabit space (Valentine 2008) and in this regard Kenna (2023) has emphasized the importance of using a relational lens in studying the urban environment in relation to neurodiversity: the city can be a difficult environment for those who are neurodiverse, and we need to consider the processes and practices through which spaces acquire meaning and can become inclusive or exclusionary.

Through this theoretical paper, the author aims to explore the main existing paradigms in neurodiversity research and how they can interrelate and provide innovative lenses for the study of neurodiversity in urban space. It is necessary to expand research beyond sensory sensitivities and the built environment to consider the broader urban environment and experiences in a range of urban spaces.

Urban Space Transformations as an Instrument for Social (Dis) Integration: Examining the Case of Kharkiv (Ukraine) in 2023

Anna Ivanova

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One of the most visible transformations of Ukrainian public space after the outbreak of the full-scale Russian invasion has become the physical destruction of the urban space. However, the war has not been the only source of change. Prominent transformations happened in the state's memory politics, which focused on "decolonizing" Ukrainian public space from Russian and communist influence. Concentrated primarily on removing undesired symbols, "decolonization" affected all the spheres of public life, including the urban space.

The state's decolonization politics covered the whole country; however, it didn't consider the cultural, linguistic, (geo) political and class dividedness of Ukrainian society. Kharkiv, the industrial Russophone city in the Eastern borderland of the country, expressively visualizes all these cleavages. Holding the leading position in terms of civilian infrastructure destruction, Kharkiv lags behind most Ukrainian cities in the decolonization process in terms of scale and pace. Decolonization discourse appeared to be not universally supported: various counter-discourses emerged on the streets, preventing official political discourse on decolonization from establishing complete hegemony.

My research aims to answer the following question: How do the "decolonizing" transformations of Kharkiv's urban space interact with the cleavages of Ukrainian society? Relying on Lefebvre's approach to space as a triad of representations, practices and material infrastructure, I analyze discourses on space transformation (toponymic legislation and counter-discourses). Applying ethnographic

observation (via de Certeau's "walking in the city"), I capture transformative practices, actors involved, and effects on the urban space.

Referring to illustrative cases from Kharkiv, this research demonstrates how urban space transformations become instrumentalized in a struggle for "the right to the city" between state and city authorities, activists and local inhabitants. This, in turn, contributes to the deepening of cleavages and the growth of social polarization.

All in all, I examine how politics directed at social cohesion can lead to the opposite result in a deeply divided society, focusing on the role of space and everyday life in it. I am applying to the ESA Summer School for the first time. My research will immensely benefit from participation in the school due to the mentoring and networking opportunities that ESA provides.

RN37 | T06_03: Urban Vulnerability and Social Dynamics A

Socio-spatial Patterns of Energy and Housing deprivation: An analysis on Portugal freguesias

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This work aims to infer, through the lens of Spatial Justice and Recognitional Enegy Justice, the different specificities of spatial and local Housing Deprivation and Energy Poverty across the Southern region of Europe, namely in the cities of Italy, Portugal; Spain and Greece. These two topics are analysed together because of their strong interrelation and cohexistence, involving a variety of demographic, socio-economic, infrasructural and Foundational Economy issues. In fact, precarity of housing goes hand – in – hand with a lower capability to satisfy basic energy – related needs.

The main contribution of this research, based on the upcoming EUROSTAT 2021 Census round and other national energy and housing – related datasets and surveys, is to identify if and which are the common representative factors of vulnerability across Southern Europe and which are the different sub – groups of vulnerability between the selected urban contexts. By identifying which are the most representative factors and their spatial allocations, this research wants to anchor an essential socio-spatial dimension to vulnerability concerning Housing Deprivation and Energy Poverty, delineating a structure of spatial and demographic patterns of inequality . Its urban comparative function can add new knowledge to the fields of Urban Sociology and Socio spatial analysis, which have not produced yet consistent comparative works for this european region.

Through the analysis of an ad-hoc index composed by 20 indicators and 185 southern european cities as observable individuals, the work will show the different urban clusters of Housing Deprivation and Vulnerability to Energy poverty across the four nations. A particular focus will be given on gender and age, and which are the additional implications of vulnerability for these groups in the analysed urban contexts.

Photovoice Elderly Seville: Vulnerability, Loneliness And Old Age In The Urban Environment

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Aging in urban settings has been addressed in scientific literature, both internationally and nationally. However, this topic has been scarcely explored from the intersection of variables such as vulnerability, loneliness, and old age in the urban environment using participatory action research such as photovoice. The objective of this research was to study the perceptions of people aged 65-80 living in the districts of Macarena and Cerro-Amate regarding aging, vulnerability, and loneliness within their surrounding environment, and the possible ways to improve their situation. This research drew on the Photovoice technique. The districts of Macarena and Cerro-Amate were selected among the 11 districts in Seville using an ad-hoc index based on sociodemographic indicators. The research will recruit a maximum of 40 participants from these two districts, 20 from each district. Participants can be included in two different photo elicitation groups regarding age (e.g., 65-72 and 73-80). After taking pictures, the participants will discuss their categories and themes in successive meetings based on the pictures they have taken. While the project is still in progress, we do not have definitive results yet. However, we expect to understand how loneliness and vulnerability in old age are affected by socioeconomic vulnerable urban environment through photo elicitation. In addition, we expect to empower participants giving them tools to identify their surroundings and assets that may be improved.

Croissant Pauvre: Navigating Old Tensions Amidst New Transformations

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Brussels (Belgium) underwent historical and economic changes (Kesteloot, 2005, 2013), shaping its socio-spatial configuration and generating a disadvantaged inner city known as the croissant pauvre (the poor croissant). Already synonymous with economic, social, and ethnic tensions and inequalities (Van Hamme et al., 2016; Costa, de Valk, 2018; Van Ham et al., 2021), this area disproportionally witnessed the health, social, and housing repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic (Observatoire de la Santè et du Social Bruxelles, 2020; Verhaeghe, Ghekiere, 2021, 2022). Additionally, further transformations, such as gentrification (Vermeulen, Corijn, 2013), altered the croissant pauvre, modifying its composition and displacing vulnerable households (Van Criekingen, 2008; Godart et al., 2023).

This paper seeks to scrutinize the tensions and transformations moulding these neighbourhoods. The theoretical framework intertwined the concepts of 'abyssal exclusion' (Santos, 2014) and 'advanced marginality' (Wacquant, 2008), providing a more comprehensive understanding of socio-spatial disparities.

This paper adopted a mixed-method approach. The data from Monitoring des quartiers unveils the socioeconomic and ethnic composition of these neighbourhoods. Further, 33 semi-structured interviews, conducted between January and March 2022, with associations and experts working with the most vulnerable population delve into the recurrent socio-spatial tensions and the new transformations.

The results present the socioeconomic, ethnic, and spatial division within Brussels, spotlighting the intersectional segregation in the croissant pauvre. While persistent tensions related to ethnicity and socioeconomic factors are evident, interviews shed light on emerging issues resulting from current transformations. This study contributes to understanding the complexities of urban inequalities and their implications for vulnerable communities.

Assessing The Energy Poverty And The Housing Conditions Of The Migrant Population In The Basque Country

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Urban vulnerability is a significant problem that can have serious health consequences for those living in affected areas, especially concerning energy poverty. However, this issue is not uniformly distributed, instead, it is more prevalent in specific spaces, such as old or lower-quality housing, disproportionately affecting certain individuals or social groups. A dynamic closely linked to the residential concentration of poverty and origin.

In this context, using the data from the 'Foreign-Origin Population Survey,' a statistical operation conducted by the Basque Government's Department of Social Affairs, we assessed the living conditions of the migrant population in the Basque Country, with a particular focus on energy poverty and its associated risks.

The preliminary results of the analysis show that a significant number of migrant households lack adequate infrastructure, experiencing issues such as dampness or cracks in the walls. This is especially true in the case of certain origin groups, such as the African born population, among whom the figures are higher. From a public policy design standpoint, these types of analyses play a crucial role, enabling, among other things, a better identification of critical cases, as well as a more effective allocation of resources.

RN37 | T07_01: The Gender Factor in the City

Urban Mobility As A Key Factor For Gender (In)equality. Unveiling The Socio-spatial Implications Of Gendered Mobility In Cities

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Mobility is a multi-layered concept involving movement, meanings and practices. It is largely acknowledged that men and women do not move in the same way and persistent urban socio-spatial constraints prevent women to be equally socially and spatially mobile. This contribution wants to broaden established thinking on urban mobility showing how and why mobility is gendered in given contexts and understand the interconnections between spatial and social mobility. It aims to reveal how everyday experiences of mobilities enables, disables and modifies gender and subjective identities. As part of my PhD project, this contribution is based on an extensive literature review over mobility, urban space, gender and intersectional studies and will present preliminary results of a place-based qualitative study. Findings show that different mobility patterns between women and men are result of gender roles and everyday life power geometries. Gender division of labour, care and reproductive work, subjective identities, multiple intersectional inequalities and gendered built environment are central to understand the embodied dimensions of gendered mobility and access to the city. Furthermore, the ability to be socially and spatially mobile is strongly shaped by capability and accessibility according to gender, generation and ethnicity. Besides, mobility and space play a central role in the constitution of gender as a social construct. To conclude, gendered mobility can be used as an indicator of gender equality and a category to conceptualize how space is built, reproduced and represented. Power, hierarchies and gender roles are crucial factors to build inclusive, sustainable and feminist cities.

The Dynamising Role of Women in the Local Space

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Everyday life refers to the places where women and men live, work, consume, relate to others, forge identities, confront or challenge established routines, habits and codes of conduct. Among these places, and despite the general consensus about the decline experienced by local environments, in many cases neighbourhoods retain or have developed new relevance as the main context in which daily routines take place and spatio-temporal permanence develops from routine rhythms, circles of social interaction and attachment to place (Vaiou and Lykoggiani, 2006). Reality also shows how, to a large extent, women's activities and practices are more often local in nature than those of men, assiduously constituting the pole around which everyday life is organised in urban neighbourhoods. Using qualitative methodology based on participant observation and 33 in-depth interviews (18 individual and 15 group interviews), our research set out to explore the community role of women in three neighbourhoods with differentiated characteristics in the city of Madrid: a neighbourhood in the central area in a process of transition and change, a second with a medium-high socioeconomic level and a third showing indicators of vulnerability. The purpose was to analyse whether these behaviours occur in a general and majority way or whether they have to do with intrinsic characteristics of the residential areas and the conditions of the neighbourhoods. The results show the prominence of women in the three cases, not only because of their involvement in local associative movements but also because of their participation in collective activities in the neighbourhoods.

Women Walking And Its Potential In (re)affirming Their Right To The City

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The act of women walking through the city provides strategic opportunities for the political rethinking and (re) designing of urban spaces and gender cultural patterns that take shape within them. In this perspective, women's walking takes a fundamental value as political and social challenge. Women observe urban spaces, even today, from the borders, and their specific experiences make them able to grasp both the critical problems that affect it and its potential. Their slow, thoughtful walking can reveal how gender-normative structure is considered normal in the widespread cultural models and how gender order, in its material and immaterial urban structure, tends to confirm the male cultural model.

Women walking and their specific gazes can suggest ways in which established patterns may be superseded opening the city to every difference. Some interesting examples of female physical, urban, common and intergenerational (and intergender) experiences tested in several European cities are Slutwalks, "Take Back the Night", "Women's Heritage Walks", "Gender Walkshops". They have enabled women – and every walker – to recognise the sexed character of urban spaces and to focus on the full reappropriation of them. Women walking, thus, can assume both a political and a social value to regain the full right to the city, living and deciding in one's own city.

These innovative forms of participation movements can reinforce, or activate, a process of wide cultural change carried out by women who work, and walk, together to generate, literally step by step, a transformation of gender patterns and its related inequalities.

Alienating Marginalization. Experiences of Young Women in Marginalized Suburban Areas

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This paper concerns experiences of marginalization among young women living in marginalized (and stigmatized) suburban areas in the south of Stockholm. The paper builds on an empirical material of 34 interviews/"walk-alongs" with 42 young women (16-30 years), conducted in the years 2020-2022.

Three themes relating to experiences of marginalization appear in the young women's narratives: The first theme focuses on how the young women deal with prejudice and discrimination relating to them being young women from a marginalized area. The second theme focuses on how the young women deal with norms and the presence of young men which form part of their everyday life in terms of being young women in a marginalized area. The third theme focuses on different forms of resistance and positive learnings which are also highly present in the young women's narratives.

The young women's experiences of marginalization are understood through the theoretical concept of alienation, focusing on alienation in the sense of being limited in one´s freedom as well as in terms of objectification – a specific kind of limitation which constrains an individual's freedom to emerge as a person. An intersectional perspective is applied, connecting alienation to specific social positions relating to the interplay between social categories such as age, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc. In addition, the potential of positively experienced transformative aspects of alienation are emphasized.

RN37 | T07_02: Inside and Outside the City Borders: Suburbanization Trends A

Mobility Dependency In Peri-Urban Regions: The Case Of Creil And La Roche-sur-Foron

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Over recent decades, improvements in travel conditions have led to socio-spatial transformations in territories. These changes also have led to significant social inequalities accessing amenities, either in terms of access to fast travel modes, which highly depends on personal characteristics (Preston, Rajé, 2007) or to residential locations with good amenities or efficient public transport services. The evolution of urbanized spaces and the social valuing of mobility led to the increase need to travel more frequently, sometimes further, and faster (Kaufmann, 2008). This "mobility dependency" affects precarious social groups in two ways: limited accessibility for those lacking mobility access and substantial financial costs with longer travel times, for mobile individuals. (Fol, Gallez, 2017).

With the climate emergency and rising energy prices, accessing amenities and services in the territory is becoming increasingly challenging especially for the low-income and minoritized people. This is even more relevant in rural and peri-urban areas. We hypothesize that in these areas, the application of urban-centric planning doctrines (i.e., densification, polarization, etc.) tend to aggravate mobility dependency, especially for less advantaged people. In these areas, the railway service promotes the territory with good regional accessibility and a micro-local accessibility neglecting accessibility needs at local and inter-communal levels.

This communication explores the disparities between the vision of local actors (potential accessibility) and the needs and practices of the population, particularly women (effective accessibility). Employing qualitative methods like semi-directive interviews, focus groups and walk-alongs, we draw on two case studies of contrasting urban environments and diverse principles of urban planning-transport coordination in the peripheries of Paris and Geneva.

Popular, Plotting or Provisional Urbanization? Delineating the Socio-spatial Effects of Emerging Peripheries in Belgrade

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Recent discussions on extensive urbanization have brought to light various theoretical challenges in explaining the emergence of urban peripheries, among other considerations. The urban developments on the outskirts of Belgrade, initially established to accommodate waves of refugees after the Yugoslav Wars and currently housing nearly a quarter of a million residents, pose additional complexities. Despite similarities with recently discussed bottom-up popular urbanism and market-driven plotting urbanism, we contend that neither fully elucidates the intricate network of actors involved, especially the role of the state. Instead, we propose provisional urbanism as a distinctive morphogenesis, capable of accounting for overlapping incremental construction, loose, spontaneous, and informal territorial regulation, as well as the emerging commodification of peripheries. Drawing on 2019 ethnographic data, secondary sources, urban plans, and official documents, we present a detailed analysis of peripheralization in four settlements on the northern outskirts of Belgrade (Altina, Plavi horizonti, Belarice, and Busije) since the late 1990s. In delineating this provisional urbanism and its sociospatial effects, we identify three phases: 1) state supply of land, accompanied by popular construction methods; 2) the emergence of peripheral settlements with severe infrastructural deficiencies; 3) a recent shift towards market-driven urbanism. We argue that provisional urbanism yields ambiguous effects. While it perpetuates peripheralization in terms of housing and everyday mobilities, specifically due to infrastructural gaps, it also stimulates bottom-up initiatives and reliance on mutual aid networks. Furthermore, we explore how these evolving peripheries impact existing morphologies and redefine centralities, particularly in the current housing crisis in Belgrade.

The Suburbanization Case of Post-Soviet Yerevan

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The Industrial Revolution marked a crucial phase in modern city development, with industrialization and urbanization progressing hand in hand. This transformative era influenced central cities' growth and expanded into broader urban agglomerations, including suburbs. Post-Soviet Yerevan witnessed suburbanization during its independence, shifting from socialist Soviet urban planning to a capitalist-liberal model, focusing on real estate privatization. Yerevan's capital status is underscored by its disproportionate territorial development.

In the research framework, document analysis and expert interviews were conducted, with the primary method of information collection being narrative interviews. The gathered data underwent analysis using the methodology of narrative semiotics, and the theoretical framework applied was based on Pierre Bourdieu's concept of the spatialization of capital.

Narratives portray "Old Yerevan" as a meaningful space holding the city's treasures in memories. However, the present city loses appeal due to pollution, overcrowding, and facelessness.

A new struggle for physical space, exemplified by suburbanization, emerges. Dominance in this struggle hinges on capitals—economic, social, cultural, and symbolic. Initially, these capitals create the prerequisites and conditions for the migration from the capital city to the suburbs. Subsequently, they allow the realization of various benefits associated with suburban living. Among these benefits, factors such as cleanliness, seclusion, and romanticism (including beauty and closeness to nature) are deemed particularly important.

This transformation results in a shift in the hierarchy of physical space: in the relationship between the city and its suburbs, the latter takes precedence as the place associated with prosperity and positive attributes. Living in the suburbs becomes a means of realizing superior positioning in the competitive social domain.

The Effect of Social Networks on Spontaneous Suburbanization

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Urban development is traditionally understood as an economic process. Local economic opportunities attract migrants, and population growth induces the appearance of services and amenities. Such models of spatial mobility build on historical migration processes in developed central countries, but are harder to apply in other regions, such as post-socialist societies. In large urban zones of Eastern Europe, urban development in some case can start in localities that do not offer much for newcomers in terms of services, housing, or workplaces. Urban researchers call such phenomena as spontaneous development. In our analysis, we argue that such processes can possibly be explained through the ideas of social networks and social capital. Under the circumstances of scarce housing supply and inflexible labour markets, the influence of social factors on migration decisions could get stronger. Qualitative research on this topic has already uncovered many aspects of such migration systems, but large scale, macro level studies are rare in the topic. In a case study of Budapest and its functional urban area in the 2000's, we aim to model migration flows between the city and its neighbouring settlements. We utilize the database of the first online social network site of Hungary (Iwiw), to measure social connections. By merging administrative migration data to this large online database, we became able to test the effect of social capital bridging two locations on the volume of migration flows.

RN37 | T07_03: Urban Identities and Social Dynamics: Methodological Insights and Case Studies

Scouse, Not English: The Widespread Disdain For The UK State Amongst People From Merseyside.

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This paper will draw on twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork (2022-2023) in the area of Kirkby, Merseyside UK. I spent this time with interlocutors who are combining various heterogeneous means of income generating to get by in times of immense precarity. All participants combine state welfare with informal work and many also work formally. One of the key issues that regularly arose during fieldwork was the disdain that people in the area have for the British State, particularly the Government and Monarchy. This disdain often extends to any organisations in which the arms of the state are seen to extend, for example education, health and welfare services. People from Merseyside are widely referred to as Scousers, identifying strongly with the city of Liverpool. I use ethnographic examples from football matches at Anfield Stadium as well as within the area of Kirkby, to demonstrate how Scouse is often pitted in direct contrast to English. At Anfield, the national anthem is met with protest and anti-English rhetoric. This has been the case for many years and has links to events dating as far back as 1911. I explore the commonly expressed notion of 'Scouse, not English' and the systematic state failings that have led to this mentality. Why do thousands of people in Merseyside increasingly not identify as English, despite being born and raised in England and what impact does this have on their daily lives?

Residential Histories and the Study of Home Creation. Methodological Insights.

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Residential histories have only rarely gained a prominent methodological position in the field of urban and residential/housing studies. In the current article, we discuss resourcefulness of this specific methodology adopted for contributing to an understanding of the process of home creation as interrelated with construction of identities, particularly, in everyday life circumstances. We argue that residential histories enable detailed, non-linear interpretation of representations of individuals' entire residential experiences which are intertwined with unique experiences in other fields of social conduct. Discussion on methodological insights draws as on previous research on urban housing/residential histories but more specifically on research which focusses on home creation in intercultural partnership (involving choice of residence and home design). Our study supports the understanding that process of home creation significantly contributes to individual well-being in changing everyday life situation, more in the context where different cultures meet in the privacy of home, assuming adjustments also on wider realm of new culture and society.

The analysis is based on data from 44 individual biographical narrative interviews and on-site (as well as virtual) tours at homes of intercultural couples who reside in various residential settings of European cities, in one of the partner's countries of origin. While we provide insights into possible directions analysis could take, we emphasise the role of local partner and the role of newcomer in a process of home creation where trust is on the bases of partner relations. We also analyse partner's relations with their home spaces to gain deeper understanding of how everyday practices of home design contribute to construction of positive identity and dispositions towards encountering potential challenges along the way of creating home across cultures.

Emotions, Institutions, Architecture – Three Routes on the Spatial Social Map of The City. An Example of the Use of the Walking Interviews in the Studies on Identity, Learning and Use of the City.

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The city can be interpreted as a space of identity, daily life, learning, simultaneous continuity and change. Just as Lynch's image of the city consisted of landmarks, nodes, edges, districts and paths, ours will be three 'routes': emotions, institutions and architecture / urban planning.

We will present the conclusions from the analysis of two small Polish cities with different histories, identities, cultural and educational offers, as well as urban layout and socio-demographic characteristics. In each of them, we carried out 10 walking interviews with the original theme of informal learning in the city space. Due to the participatory nature of this research technique, the theme evolved towards experiencing the city.

Based on the analysis of the research material from interviews and use autoethnography as a complement to this, we outlined three 'routes' on the 'map' of each city. "Routes" are ways of experiencing the city, using it and broadly learning in the broad sense.

The 'route of emotions' is the feelings that the selected points and spaces evoke in participants. The 'route of institutions' is, on the one hand, the public institutions that

support citizens in learning and using the city and, on the other hand, the social institutions that play a similar role. The 'route of architecture and urbanism' is the spatial conditions that influence the possibility and willingness to use the city, its accessibility and aesthetics.

Those routes allowed us to analyse: (1) identity understood as a relationship to tangible and intangible heritage and rootedness in space, (2) elements and features of space that influence the perception of a city, and (3) inequalities in access or willingness to use spaces, institutions and events.

Flows of Change: Riverfront Development as a Catalyst for New Urban Identities in post-Fordist Cluj

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Our paper focuses on the riverfront development and its impact on new urban identities in Cluj-Napoca. After the post-Fordist turn and undergoing socio-cultural transformations, Cluj-Napoca provides a ground to examine the revitalization of its riverfront spaces intersecting with the construction, negotiation, and expression of new urban identities.

The Cluj–Someș river relationship has been rather conflictual than harmonious. Over time, Cluj turned its back on the Someș. In the Middle Ages, the short distance between the citadel and the river was far enough to pose a flooding threat and close enough to be used for activities such as transporting wood, milling, and waste storage. However, long time the Someș constituted a physical and symbolic barrier for the people of Cluj-Napoca between an urban, hygienic, "civilized here" and the opposite "out there." The modernizing city treated the river as a given but unused element just like the socialist regime. Today there is a pressing need to integrate Someș into economic, social, and cultural life.

Our interdisciplinary research, framed by critical theory and supported by surveys, interviews, and focus-groups, reveals how riverbank spaces can become arenas for social encounters, cultural expressions, and the negotiation of new identities (Sennett, 2011; M. Law, 2015; Crawford, 1999). By analyzing opinions and social practices emerging around these spaces and policy proposals, we aim to elucidate the role of riverbank development in shaping the social fabric and collective identity narratives of Cluj-Napoca. The research also targets inclusion-exclusion mechanisms and negotiations embedded in the construction process of identity narratives assuming that the riverbank project can either reinforce or challenge existing socio-economic disparities in the city in line with the economic changes taking place glocally.

RN37 | T08_01: Urban Dynamics: Media, Policy, and Practices in Shaping City Life

The Commodification of Urban Experience Through Out-of-home (OOH) Marketing: the Joint Contribution of Urban Media Studies and Historical Sociology

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Since the birth of consumer capitalism at the turn of the 19th into 20th centuries in North America, urban experience has been informed by the presence of advertising discourse addressed to people engaged in traversing urban spaces, contributing to the commodification of the urban experience. Ultimately, OOH marketing techniques aim to extract value from the "common" represented by urban life, by constituting citizens and city users into urban audiences for their quantification and sale to advertisers.

By analyzing the portfolios of the major players in OOH marketing, especially digital, this paper maps these techniques to understand their main mechanisms of operation and to clarify how they conceptualize their target audiences. Building upon previous work conducted by the authors on the origin of consumer capitalism and urban communication from a sociological perspective, the presentation advances a theoretical framework on how to study the development of out-of-home advertising.

Eleven distinct urban audience-building strategies emerged, each of which mobilizes a particular approach ("breaching," "flow interception," "engagement"), or a combination of them, and conceptualizes its targets from both zoning of the city by consumption bands and the identification of different patterns of mobility in space (that of the "the commuter," "the shopper," and "the tourist"). We analyze these eleven strategies through a historical comparison with their older analog antecedents, and we will show how urban experience since the beginning of consumer capitalism is not only "branded" but also "grammaticalized" – and in some cases properly disciplined – by urban marketing techniques (modern and contemporary).

"Urban Politics" As A Practice: The Nexuses Of Everyday Urban Life, General Understandings And Visions Of Urban Future.

Marta Smagacz-Poziemska

Jagiellonian University, Poland

The main, but also quite general, goal of my presentation is to demonstrate the usefulness of the theory of social practices (Schatzki 2002) in analyzing and understanding urban processes. I want to demonstrate this utility by addressing the question "Where is urban politics?" posed a decade ago by Rodgers, Barnett, and Cochranet (2014) and formulated in the context of the global financial crisis and its consequences for the positioning of cities in power relations. The authors emphasized the need to seek and develop theories that would capture the city in a dynamic, relational arrangement of what is social, environmental, and material; human and non-human. I ask the same question now, as crises and sources of uncertainty become increasingly serious and intertwined (environmental, democratic, economic, geopolitical crises). Using the theory of social practices as conceptualized by Schatzki (2002) to problematize and analyze urban processes, I aim to answer the question of where urban political narratives are anchored and from what sources they draw. Based on the material from mix-methods research conducted in two Polish cities (case studies: Krakow and Walbrzych), I will reconstruct the main features of "urban politics" as a practice: the connections between daily life routines in the city and resources from the past (materialized and present in city narratives) and visions of the future that are interpreted and translated into political programs.

Rodgers, Scott and Barnett, C. and Cochrane, A. (2014) Where is urban politics? International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 38 (5), pp. 1551-1560.

Schatzki, T. R. (2002). The site of the social: A philosophical account of the constitution of social life and change. Penn State University Press.

RN37 | T08_02: Stigmatized Urban Spaces: Tourism, Politics, and Community Dynamics

Gazing at "Le Vele": Ruin Porn and Slum Tourism in a Stigmatized Housing Complex of Southern Italy

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The proposed intervention analyzes the phenomenon of ruin porn (Lyons, 2018) and the peculiarity of Italian slum tourism drawing from ethnographic insights acquired through guided walking tours around the stigmatized housing complex (Horgan, 2020) of "Le Vele" in the neighborhood of Scampia in Naples, Italy.

Scampia, built in the 1960s as part of a public housing program, became internationally popular because of "Le Vele" (the sails), a complex of seven mega-buildings inspired by Le Corbusier architecture. "Le Vele" were illegally occupied during construction (Marelli, 2019), while low building quality, state withdrawal, and organized crime presence fueled a ruination process (Stoler, 2013) that turned them into symbols of failure and urban decay. After decades of heated debate over demolition or preservation, four of the seven "Vele" were torn down between 1997 and 2020. The significative history of these buildings, together with the success of the TV series Gomorrah, fostered guided tours organized by various actors: from neighborhood associations to informal and official tour guides. Starting from participant observation of different guided tours, the analysis of tourists' discourses and the inhabitants' reactions, we will reflect on the specificity of Italian peripheral tourism, examining the contradictions, negotiations, claims and conflicts associated with it. The intervention will also draw on the socio-material meaning of urban ruins (Stoler, 2013). Indeed, gazing at these majestic ruins, tourists experience the fragility of our political and economic system and the ephemerality of human life, while for inhabitants, ruin porn generates a cyclical trauma consciousness (Lyons, 2018).

Doing and Undoing Communities: The Spatial Politics of Józsefváros's Municipalities in 2009-2018 and since 2018

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This chapter aims to contribute to "centring neglected Eastern European perspectives on urban marginality" by focusing on the construction and dismantling of the imaginary "Roma/Gypsy ghetto". It provides analysis and example of governing an urban area that had been historically characterized by high levels of ethnic, religious and social heterogeneity, yet still stigmatized as an ethnic "ghetto" by the mainstream society for several decades. We take the analytical concept of Wacquant's ghetto and anti-ghetto (2008, 2012) and study the interconnected mechanism of invisibilisation and racialization of different local groups. We will show the significance of local approaches to challenging the image of the "Roma ghetto" in an urban neighbourhood where a large Roma population has long shared spaces with other ethnic groups in the district of Józsefváros, in Budapest. The empirical study, which included structured interviews with local municipality and NGO actors, offers an excellent case to compare the working and the consequences of contrasting spatial politics and the opportunities and limitations of local governance in a centralized de-democratizing regime. The first one of FIDESZ's order and border approach to local space in the period of 2009-2018 and the second, is the municipality composed of civil organizations in the period since 2018, that is greatly inclusive and participatory.

The State of the Fragmenting City

Troels Schultz Larsen, Kristian Delica

Roskilde University, Denmark

Over the past few decades, but especially after the pandemic, we have seen an intensification of the political and bureaucratic production of and reliance on forms of stigmatization in the governance of urban marginality. Building on a neo-Bourdieusian approach (Wacquant 2022;2023), our key argument here is that we should not see (territorial) stigmatization as merely the result of discursive struggles (in the media and (populist)politics) or the unfortunate side effects of policies. Rather, we must view them as integral to contemporary forms of urban governance (Schultz Larsen & Delica 2021). Viewing forms of (territorial)stigmatization as integral to the governance of the (post) COVID city, opens a number of new questions and avenues of inquiry. How did territorial stigmatization become integral to urban governance? Is this, in fact, a new phenomenon? How do we link the analysis of the effects of territorial stigmatization and policies of de-stigmatization with the analysis of its production, if this is part and parcel of urban governance? To address these questions, we argue that we must link the study of the urban with the study of the state, as the state is the site for the struggles over not only the urban but also the struggles over the governance of governance, that is, the struggles over the principles of urban governance. In this paper we present our efforts to produce a neo-bourdiusian model which can bring the struggles over the state, the urban and the street in to a coherent analytical framework geared for empirical confrontation. And demonstrate its value in the case of Denmark (and the ghetto-list) and Denmarks surpising transition from humanistic forerunner toward to right-wing inspiration.

On the Unintended Consequence of Area Stigmatisation: Selective Flows of Residents in and out of Swedish Vulnerable Area

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In this paper, we use Swedish register data and regression analysis to estimate the extent to which putting an area on the police-denominated list of vulnerable areas (herein utsatta områden) affects the flow of residents in and out of these areas. We hypothesise that putting areas on a publicised list makes these areas less sought after incentivises residents to move out. Recent research observed that putting areas on the vulnerable areas list is associated with a drop in housing prices (Andersson et al., 2023), this research is an extension of this inquiry and will focus on flows of residents. Even though area policies such as the police list of vulnerable areas list may be well intended with the objective of focusing resources on improving living conditions in these areas, they may unintentionally create a situation where the outcome is a further concentration of poverty, which may only escalate existing problems (Wilson, 1987). Moreover, we address the lived experiences of residing in an area on the police-denominated list and outline key themes that contribute towards explaining the quantitative patterns above. We do so with help of a large-scale qualitative dataset and semi-structured interviews collected 2019 – 2023 with residents, civil society actors and other stakeholders in five vulnerable areas in Sweden.

RN37 | T08_03: Urban Vulnerability and Social Dynamics B

Youth in Vulnerable Neighborhoods of Madrid. Experiences and Urban Supports

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This communication will share the results from an investigation about the experiences of young people living in six vulnerable neighborhoods in the city of Madrid: Embajadores, Bellas Vistas, Moscardó, San Isidro, Entrevías, and Palomeras Sureste. The youth collective is one of the most affected by processes of job precarization. Added to this is the increase in the rental market prices in Madrid over the last decade, which impacts on the problem of late emancipation.

We will discuss the specific risks affecting young people, leading to the formation of vulnerability zones (according to Castel) resulting from urban segregation processes. Through a summary of statistical data, and the analysis of semi-structured interviews with 12 young individuals and 45 key informants, we will show how the studied neighborhoods gather to a greater extent different issues: labor precarity, difficulties in accessing housing, and even a higher prevalence of socioemotional problems. These factors will be framed in the pandemic and post-pandemic context in which the interviews were conducted (year 2022).

We then conclude by addressing how the neighborhood becomes a central support in confronting situations of crisis, such as those experienced during the pandemic period. We propose to study the different urban supports that young people mobilize to absorb the forms of vulnerability they face, but also to establish roots as a form of identification and a sense of belonging that arise from daily practices (Blockland) stemming from the same condition of vulnerability they experience. This communication is part of COMURES project (H2019/HUM-5738).

Neighborhood Social Vulnerability and Cognitive Function in an Older Cohort of Minoritized Adults in the U.S.: A Longitudinal Analysis

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Background: There is limited evidence on residing in vulnerable neighborhoods and cognitive function in diverse older adults. We examined longitudinal associations between four indices of social vulnerability and cognitive function in a cohort of older Latinx adults residing in the Northeast of the U.S. (N=1,500).

Methods: We used mixed-effects linear regression analysis with three waves of data (wave 1, n=1500; wave 2, n=943, wave 3, n=444). Neighborhood vulnerability was measured from the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SDI) developed with 16 U.S. census variables data. Four factors of SDI were included (Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics, Racial/Ethnic Minority Status & Language, and Housing Type/Transportation). Participants were matched to census block groups and linked with SVI. A factor score of global cognition was derived from a battery of cognitive tests administered at 3 in-person visits. Mixed-effects linear regression models were fit to assess changes in global cognition scores (GCS) at baseline and over time adjusted for age, sex, education, health behaviors (smoking, alcohol use, BMI, high blood pressure), and health conditions (heart disease, diabetes, and depressive symptoms).

Results: At baseline, mean age was 57.1 y SD=7.6, and 71.5% were female. In adjusted analyses, no significant associations between GCS and the four factors of SDI at baseline were found. However, a protective effect of Neighborhood Racial/Ethnic Minority Status & Language on GCS was observed in wave 2 (β=0.97, SE=0.05, 95% CI 0.006 – 0.189).

Conclusion: Beyond individual characteristics, neighborhoods with higher proportions of ethnic minorities may positively impact the cognitive function of older diverse adults despite the socioeconomic vulnerability that characterizes them.

Bound by Hybrid Lifestyles: Challenges Faced by Young Generations in Lisbon and Oslo

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Northern European countries have been catalysts of many spatial, generational and social transformation dynamics, including new ways of sharing (e.g., housing, workplaces, mobility, services, etc.). Southern European countries have been following these trends at their own pace, and with the necessary context adjustments. In both, young people navigate spatio-functional, social, and digital shifts, leading to intricate interactions and relationships, often referred to as hybridity. Simultaneously, they grapple with generational tensions and challenges in accessing suitable housing and employment with a proper income. Furthermore, there is a growing expectation for them to allocate increased attention to climate change and sustainable issues.

In general, young adults display heightened receptivity to emerging trends and lifestyles characterized as hybrid, encompassing co-housing strategies with increased mobility, flexible workplaces, diverse spatial arrangements, and various socio-cultural influences, coupled with a pronounced digital dependency. Despite ongoing discussions surrounding hybrid cities, there remains an uncertainty about how

this concept manifests in the lifestyles adopted by young adults who serve as key protagonists in these trends. Additionally, it is unclear how these lifestyles intersect with climate change and sustainable issues, especially in distinct cities such as Lisbon and Oslo.

This presentation seeks to address these gaps through a comparative study between the two cities. By doing so, it aims to illuminate the hybrid nature of new urban lifestyles, highlighting the challenges faced by a generation that, despite being exceptionally well prepared for the demands of the digital transition, finds itself hampered by the extractive economic model prevalent in urban areas.

Body, Mobility On Bicycles And Everyday Racism

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In Lisbon, on 11/18/2023, around 300 young people and children crossed the city on bicycles doing stunts. It was a "Bike Ride" by the Wheelie Gads movement, in Portugal since 2020, with dynamics parallel to those observed in other cities around the world. Almost all participants were male, many were non-white people and lived in peripheral neighborhoods of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Their acrobatic and group crossing made them more visible, arousing interest and applause; other cyclists in the city have a more precarious experience, namely delivery workers, also mostly male, of immigrant origin and racialized. Both groups share an intense use of the city's streets (the first for leisure, the second for work), in a means of mobility supported by their male, young and non-white bodies. In contrast, bicycle users in Lisbon are mostly white people, with greater gender balance (despite the majority being male) and move in more central areas, with better infrastructure dedicated to cycling mobility around their homes, jobs and schools. Bicycle mobility thus reflects coordinates of differentiation and inequality of racialized bodies in the city and the metropolis.

In this communication proposal, based on different ongoing research projects, we intend to discuss and relate issues of urban mobility (especially cycling), including public policies and the way in which they can segregate and make territories and people invisible, and racial issues, enhancing the identification of situations of everyday racism based on mobility.

RN37 | T09_01: Inside and Outside the City Borders: Suburbanization Trends B

The Post-Industrial Metropolis And New Suburbanisms: Placing Almada In A Global Diversity Of Sburubs

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CICS.NOVA, Portugal

The processes of globalization, neoliberalism and post-Fordism have challenged the classic dichotomies between urban and suburban, thereby also changing the suburban landscape. Almada, a suburban city on the south bank of Lisbon with a history of working-class settlement and political activity, has seen major transformations in recent years, now being part of the post-industrial metropolis and being affected by gentrification process. This essay analyzes these changes in the suburban landscape of Almada, in comparison with other forms of contemporary "post-suburbs". However, there is no consensus within academia regarding the notion of suburbia: while some authors focus on the geographical aspects of these territories, others define suburbia by specific sociocultural characteristics. If today we live in a "suburban planet", where the majority of the population live on the urban fringes, we must take into account the different types of suburbs around the world when we define them. To position Almada in this global diversity of suburbs, I first resort to an literature review on the notion of suburbia and the different models of suburban development, from the Anglo-Saxon model to the most recent processes of mass suburbanization in the Global South, also discussing the ideas of global suburbanisms and post-suburbs. In the last part, an data analysis of statistics and official documents that help to classify Almada as a suburb based on its location, density and sociocultural aspects. The results place Almada as a center of business, commercial activities, education and development, and a site of gentrification, challenging the idea of the dormitory suburb. The main contributions of this research are in overcoming the classic dichotomies between urban and suburban, analyzing Almada as a site of suburban gentrification, doing it so with an analysis of the phenomenon on its metropolitan scale.

Who Owns the Streets? Understanding Social Representations Of Youngsters Use Of The Streets In Public Policies, And Their Consequences

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In Portugal during the late 1990s, concerns escalated, fueled by the media, regarding the "uncivilized" emerging youths. The evolution of the urban landscape in the large cities of Porto and Lisbon, influenced by growing migration, gave rise to new social dynamics in the public space, especially in the most peripheral areas. This era proved to be a fertile time for artistic expression in neglected regions, with the particularity of producing opposite social representations: "marginality of the street" simultaneously became identities of resistance and a symbol of conflict and disobedience.

In response to these fears, public policies were implemented to support these young people, whose educational and professional paths were marked by failure. The "Choices" programme emerged as the main policy, designed to take young people off the streets, encapsulating them in a stigmatized image of a rebellious "gang of teenagers" and the Street as a place that produces these "devience".

Over two decades later, amid a recent pandemic that has reshaped public space usage, the same public policy persists in these regions. However, these young people are now portrayed as apathetic and purposeless, even if associated with violence. Intervention programs are now designed to extract them from their homes re-integrating them into public spaces, streets, and communal living.

This paper will present initial outputs from PERICREATIVITY project, such as discursive analysis of institutional documents targeting youth in segregated territories and analyze the changing media representations of youth and "their" streets over the past two decades. Additionally, initial insights from ethnographic fieldwork in a social neighborhood in Porto will be shared. The study follows the daily lives of a group of youngsters involved in a social intervention program, allowing access to their subjectivities and practices in public spaces. These initial findings are crossed with the perspectives from the technicians who monitor them and the participant observation of the territorial dynamics of the area. This serves as a preliminary effort to update the social representations of the segregated youth and its appropriation of the streets, as well as the image of the "streets" in public policies.

Peripheral Portugal: conceptualizations and epistemologies on the Lisbon and Porto's suburban territories

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The notions of suburb and periphery have historically been used to describe socially precarious spaces, highlight urban problems and situate deviant lifestyles. As urbanization processes have intensified, reproducing injustices and reinforcing stratification and social inequalities in cities, those who occupy marginal and peripheral positions in the current neoliberal order have been creating new symbolical meanings to characterize their margins. In Portugal, the debates on these matters started in the 1970s and 80s, a period of strong suburbanization and urban growth. In this paper, we aim to analyze how peripheries and suburbs have been conceptualized by social science over the last few decades in Portugal. We will also analyze the media, political, and governmental narratives that exclusively mark these territories as places of poverty and danger. We pay particular attention to the new debates influenced by recent urban epistemologies emerging from the growing affirmation of anti-racist struggles and peripheral identities in the Portuguese post-colonial landscape.

As part of the PERICREATIVITY project, this paper starts from the theoretical reflection and ethnographical fieldwork in Lisbon and Porto's outskirts to think about the topic of peripheries beyond the apocalyptic and dystopian perspectives, proposing alternative routes of recognition that broaden the production of knowledge about the urban experience.

Young People's Mobilities, Roots and Senses of Place in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods of Madrid

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In this exploratory study, we undertake an analysis of the various senses of place held by young people living in vulnerable neighborhoods of Madrid. The communication is supported by a specific analysis of the empirical evidence produced by the COMURES-CM research done between 2020 and 2023, including a content analysis of the interviews conducted in 6 vulnerable neighbourhoods in Madrid.

Based on a relational understanding of places, spatial life narratives are analysed, paying attention to the combination of mobilities and rootedness. The chapter classifies the

research results around three types of mobility: migrations, residential mobilities and day-to-day displacements.

Local spaces, generators of senses of belonging and attachments, have gained special relevance for young people who live in vulnerable neighborhoods. This is evident in their desire to live close to their friends, the narrative presence of public familiarity, their senses of home, their appropriation of local spaces and participation in neighborhood associations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Beyond the theses that support a detachment of young people from their neighbourhoods due to the hyper-mobility that characterises this group, what is highlighted here is the wide range of the senses of belonging and the different forms of rootedness and tensions in social and everyday life.

RN37 | T09_02: Urban Policies and Social Dynamics: Intercultural, Participatory, and Crisis-Responsive Approaches

The Role of Cities in Intercultural Policies: A Comparative Case Study of Vantaa and Botkyrka's Local Policies

Sarah Khan

Åbo Akademi University, Finland

This research explores how cities shape intercultural policies, focusing on Vantaa and Botkyrka, two Nordic cities in Finland and Sweden, with distinct policy variations. Despite similar governance structures, these cities exhibit policy variations, prompting an investigation into the underlying forces driving intercultural policies.

Diversity, viewed as both an asset and a source of tension, poses challenges in urban areas, necessitating inclusive local government policies to combat discrimination against immigrants and ethnic minorities. This study addresses gaps in understanding these complexities and aims to unravel the intricacies of intercultural policies in cities.

The research addresses "How" and "Why" questions about intercultural policies using a comparative case study approach. Botkyrka, with a high Intercultural Cities index, contrasts with Vantaa, which is currently experiencing an immigration influx. The study explores factors influencing policy variations within both cities' socio-economic, legal-political, and religious-cultural domains.

Employing an interdisciplinary method involving document analysis and semi-structured interviews, the research seeks to uncover the rationale behind each city's policy preferences. Outcomes may include a nuanced understanding of sociological dimensions shaping intercultural policies, identifying drivers like perceptions of outsiders, politicization of immigrants, triggering events, shared identity, and stakeholder influence. These findings contribute to existing literature, inform future studies, and provide policymakers with insights for effective intercultural policies.

The project comprises three main articles. The first examines interculturalism in Vantaa and Botkyrka's policies, the second explores why specific policies are more intercultural than others, and the third identifies drivers and stakeholders behind intercultural policies, comparing Vantaa and Botkyrka.

Policies of the Possible: Top-down Participatory Processes and Space for 'Inconspicuous Innovations'

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Participatory urban governance and the involvement of citizens in local decision-making are being revived in the face of global challenges, such as climate change. Participatory processes are often believed to foster social cohesion and channel valuable local knowledge. However, public involvement is not free from tensions between experts and inhabitants and between formal and informal practices that tend to compromise the desired effects. This presentation considers three decades of the formal attempts for public involvement in urban design and planning in Czech cities to understand how the relationship between the expert approaches and local mundane practices and knowledge has been shaped.

My research is based on semi-structured interviews with expert practitioners (architects, planners, consultants, facilitators) and media analysis (1989-2022). It demonstrates how the position of the locals and their knowledge, as well as the notions of good, innovative, relevant participatory practices, developed over time: Firstly, the early 1990s expert discussion of modes of local administration or conceptual architectural issues have been overridden by NGO-driven emphasis on democratization and small-scale projects in public space. Later, the emphasis shifted from public sector capacity-building to project management and private know-how. Throughout the process, urban policy mobility, mainly from Western cities, influenced how cultures of public participation on the municipal level developed, shaping the policies of the possible in multiple ways.

Through this temporal development, I discuss how the potential for inclusion of the local voices has been selectively constrained to open channels for future recognition of local voices and mundane practices that may be a source of already present 'inconspicuous innovations' (Ferenčuhová 2020, project proposal, https://cescame.soc.cas.cz) potentially helpful in addressing local expressions of global issues.

Urban Policies And More-Than-Human Actors In Times of Crises

Katarzyna Faustyna Krzemińska

Jagiellonian University, Poland

The presentation addresses changes in urban policies during the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and other local crises covering the period 2020-2024. The author will present the results of a comparative study of two cases: Polish cities Kraków and Wałbrzych.

Using social practice theory, the author explores how urban policies are done, in particular by including more-than-human actors in the design, implementation or negotiation of their place in thinking about the city. The interconnected climate and pandemic crises, following inflation and changes in political power make urban institutions operate in a state of constant uncertainty. The pandemic and climate change are affecting perceptions of the role of the city, urban life and urbanity as a practice in terms of green spaces, which are currently the places of increased civic activity concerning more-then-human inhabitants. In particular, there are numerous artistic and grassroots initiatives in Poland's biggest cities towards protecting such areas in order to positively affect city's biodiversity, increase the availability of public spaces etc. The question posed in the presentation is whether this turn in perceiving green spaces (and in consequence their more-than-human inhabitants) by city dwellers affects the process of doing official urban policies – eg. planning, (re)negotiating, and implementing them.

The presentation is based on empirical research in the form of comparative case study using a number of IDIs conducted with executives from different municipal units in both cities. Additionally, the author uses the analysis of strategic documents and interviews with inhabitants of the areas surrounding selected cases.

RN37 | T09_03: Socio-Spatial Dynamics at the Neighbourhood Level C

Becoming 'Digital' Neighbours in Vertical Cities. An Analysis of Digital Residential Interactions in Densely Populated High-rise Condominiums in Central Santiago, Chile.

Vicente Ernesto Yanez Garrido

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Housing verticalisation has aroused multidisciplinary interest worldwide in an attempt to grasp, through local and comparative cases, how contemporary urban configuration affects the way urban settlements are inhabited. Santiago de Chile, commonly regarded as an example of market-driven urbanism, has been immersed in a process of radical housing densification, presenting a mushrooming of high-rise condominiums coupled with an increase in rental tenure. This has been accompanied by a series of concerns, such as loss of attachment, lack of mechanisms to integrate tenants into management, subsequent governance difficulties, and social problems stemming from the high density of construction and co-ownership style, which become some of the key challenges of today's urban management.

Drawing on a year-long ethnography in high-rise condominiums in a densely populated area of Santiago's central district, consisting of participant observation and more than 50 in-depth interviews, I will focus on the emerging digital spaces inside these condominiums. I intend to analyse how digital platforms emerge as instances of spatial appropriation in a context where tenants' opportunities for participation in management are limited and owners, many of whom are private or large investors, are absent. I will show how the digitalisation of relations between residents to some extent disrupts the presumed isolation and detachment of building residents, creating arenas that lead to previously non-existent community relations that ultimately lead to a sense of togetherness. I will also explore how the digital nature of relationships also has an adverse effect on the way residents engage with common issues in high-rise.

"A Concrete Desert?" A Proposal for Answering Questions About Late Socialist Block of Flats (LSBF) in the Context of the Phenomenon of Their Vitality in Poland

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The issue of late socialist block of flats (LSB) has been marked by ambivalence for years (Wiest 2011; Kabish, Possbeck, Soeding, Schlink 2022; Pluciński, Nowak, Błażejczyk-Majka 2022). At the level of public discourse, the sources of this ambivalence was strongly linked to the ideological underpinnings contested since the early 1990s in Central and Eastern European countries.

The object of this article is an attempt to interpret the available research data (referring alongside other studies to the 2018 study carried out in Poznań; Nowak, Siatkowski 2022) to answer questions about the contemporary condition of LSBF. In doing so, we treat the presence of block housing as a natural experiment of a form of housing that has gained mass scale at the regional level since the late 1960s. The results of this natural experiment: elements of the diagnosis, allow us to evaluate the block housing as a form of habitation in a broader perspective of historical and socio-economic-institutional conditions. The context of the contributions will be contemporary trends and forecasts aiming to consider contemporary cities' challenges.

The authors answered 3 questions: what might have determined the relative vitality of the LSBF? What contribution to vitality did and does the housing organisation have? What contribution to this relative endurance is made by neighbourhood relations and the peculiar urban handicap, which was, for example, the preservation of a relatively dispersed building form? The answers aim to indicate elements of a recommendation that take into account the issues of length of residence, the specifics of social management and the needs of redundant spatial development.

Living Among Similar: Residential Compounds as New Ways of Living in Urban Space

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Residential compounds are increasingly present in contemporary cities. The recent emergence of gated communities, a popular expression of a phenomenon dating back to the end of the 20th century in the United States, highlights a trend among the upper and upper-middle class. However, its rapid global expansion has led to the mutation and diversification of this residential phenomenon, seen in both

physical forms (pseudo-gated or symbolic-gated communities) and social forms (middle-class and/or working-class). In Europe, and more specifically in Spain, this residential phenomenon is manifesting itself strongly and in a very diverse way. According to this, this communication aims to concisely present results from over four years of empirical research on residential compounds in Granada's metropolitan area, Spain. First, a quantitative study to determine the magnitude of this residential phenomenon in Granada and its possible impact on the residential segregation of the population according to socio-economic status. Second, a qualitative study, through interviews, which explored residential values, the importance of security, the search for social homogeneity and neighbourly relations between residents in residential compounds. Finally, some of our results show that residential compounds are an increasingly important residential option – 642 compounds were identified in Granada – and not only among the privileged classes. Moreover, qualitative results show residential values centre around comfort and peace of mind rather than security. This explains the proliferation of such urbanizations in countries where citizen insecurity isn't the driving force, as seen in Europe.

From Security Concerns to the Creation of Homophilic Urban Bonds. A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Neighbourhood Watch in the City of Modena (Italy)

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Within the frame of growing socioeconomic inequalities, urban contexts across Europe have seen the emergence of new forms of vulnerability and tensions among residents. This has led to an increase in security concerns, which have become a key issue to be addressed in urban policies. Neighbourhood Watch Groups (NWGs) have emerged as noteworthy community-based crime prevention initiatives, mobilizing residents' engagement in safekeeping and improvement of quality of life in urban areas. The main focus of the present research is on the role played by NWGs in shaping urban bonds among their members. To do so, this study examines the phenomenon of NWGs in the city of Modena, Italy, where 93 groups are present. The present research employs a mixed-methods approach, drawing on both the quantitative data depicting the socio-demographic composition of Modena's population and the qualitative analysis of the interviews conducted with group coordinators, as well as representatives from local institutions involved in organizing the groups. Lastly, the study relies on digital observation of the NWGs' WhatsApp group chats. Our findings reveal that NWGs effectively foster urban bonds among members. These bonds tend to be homophilic, attracting only individuals with similar socio-demographic characteristics and sharing common security interests. Reflecting a broader securitarian discourse prevalent in Western politics since the early 2000s, security is the primary binding factor for NWG members. As a result, NWGs risk exacerbating tensions among residents, calling for the exclusion of vulnerable individuals who are perceived as threats from urban spaces.

RN38 | Space, Society and Rurality

RN38 | T01_01: Rural-urban mobilities and inequalities

Mobilities And Immobilities: Life Trajectories Of Rural Youth In Peri-Urban Areas. A Case Study In A Southern European Region.

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The emigration of rural youth in disadvantaged territories worsens the decline and depopulation of these areas. Disparities in access to opportunities and welfare services are a determining factor in the complex processes of social decapitalisation suffered by rural territories. Inequalities and difficulties in access to resources condition the life transitions of young people towards qualifications and professional insertion, conditioning their life choices of staying in the territory or migrating to a city. Daily mobility intensification allows for hybrid rural-urban strategies, combining commuting and residence, for access to training and employment in distant areas.

In this paper we explore the transitions of young rural adults, aged 16-34, based on fieldwork carried out in a peri-urban district in southern Europe. This research is part of the project "Rural Access" which is funded by the Spanish R&D&I Programme (PID2019-111201RB-I00). In total, one focus group and 32 in-depth interviews were conducted with profiles of young people of various nationalities, experts, and key informants. The interviews have been conducted in 16 locations to cover the territory of the case study.

The daily strategies of residence, training, employment, and mobility, as well as the aspirations and future expectations of young people have been explored. The results obtained show the importance of the sociological approach to understanding the phenomena of decapitalisation of young people in rural areas. The strong interconnections between physical and social mobility are revealed. We show the multidimensionality of territorial structures of opportunities and how they affect qualification, rootedness, or emigration. Finally, we have developed a criterion to analyse four moments of these rural youth transitions, which are also the subject of public policy discourses on social cohesion.

Urban or Rural? Residential Mobilities between Aspirations and Reality

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Urban-rural migration has been increasing in Germany over the past decade. And it is not just suburbs near larger cities that have been attracting in-migrants. Farther located rural areas considered having a less good socio-economic situation are also recording increasingly positive migration balances (Osterhage and Albrecht 2021). For such residential mobilities, housing cost and availability are relevant (Baldenius et al., 2020), leading to new chances and tensions for rural development. Additionally, these mobilities are also an expression of housing desires and normative beliefs regarding "good living" (Peter et al. 2022).

In our contribution, we take a closer look at the interrelation between residential location decisions and the subjectively interpreted spatial categories of "urban" and "rural". We build on empirical material from a larger research project (KoBaLd) that investigates residential (im)mobility decisions of both in-migrants and rural stayers in Germany. As part of a large population survey (n=3,600) conducted in 2020, respondents have been asked about reasons for having moved or stayed in the past and for future moving aspirations, as well as about the perceived degree of urbanity/rurality of their places of origin, destination and aspiration. Results show that while overall there is a preference towards more rural places of residence (small and medium-sized towns, villages), this varies depending on life stages and biographical experiences, including where respondents grew up. We aim to highlight the links between residential choices and images of "urban" and "rural" living, as well as the compromises respondents had to make during their decision process.

Car Dependence, Socio-territorial Cohesion and Rural Peripherialization. Evidences from the Spanish Case

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The car is the most common means of transport used by residents of rural areas in Europe. Indeed, the increase in car-based mobility has been observed in many countries and in a sustained manner over successive rural generations as opposed to urban dwellers. Its diffusion has intensified rural-urban relations, configuring a much permeable territory in which to live and work as well as networks of flows that define new social structures in the territory.

Envisaging future rural scenarios depends to a large extent on understanding how this autonomous, routine and predictable displacement (Urry) define the social life. An issue frequently ignored by approaches to regional development and which the global crisis and the transition towards sustainable economies bring to the centre of the debate.The paper presents the results of a 4-years research project funded by the Spanish R&D&I Plan that explores accessibility in the different rural policy areas (depopulation, services,..). On the one hand, the automobility system made it possible to attract residents and the provision of essential rural services by displacing professionals from the city. On the other hand, for rural the required mobility entails higher cost of access to opportunities and services. The findings show the impact in sociological terms that mobility has on the exclusion and social participation of rural citizens. In conclusion, it is suggested to study the car not as a mere mode of mobility but as a crucial political issue to ensure that rural policies facilitate social and territorial cohesion.

RN38 | T01_02: Rural heritage, memory and modernity

Tension and Transformations in a Mining Community post-UNESCO Recognition – the case of Roșia Montană, Romania

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Existing literature has highlighted the tensions surrounding the concept of heritage and how representations of heritage and its functions are locally negotiated. Notably, a recent shift in ideology from simply preserving heritage to leveraging it for sustainable development brought community engagement and multi-stakeholder involvement to the center stage of the conservation discourse. On the ground, however, research suggests that negotiating multiple stakeholder perspectives often leads to tensions between and within community factions that scholars define as dissonant or contested heritage. Yet, less is known about using heritage as a transformative tool at the crossroads of environmental protection, community development, and identity politics. To bridge this literature gap, we examine the case of Roșia Montană in Romania, which became a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) in 2021, after a two-decades-long conflict over plans for a foreign-run, open-pit gold mining operation. Disagreement over the very idea of seeking UNESCO recognition was the catalyst for heightened tensions in the community, splitting loyalties along an ideological line that separated paternalistic models of development, reliant on the primary sector, from environmentally minded, heritage tourism-centered paths to community development. To ensure the study's trustworthiness, we draw on multiple data sources from a longitudinal study (2019–ongoing): in-depth interviews (n=46), participant observation, and news coverage of the dispute. Our research indicates that despite efforts from community activists to harness the transformative potential of the UNESCO label through tourism microentrepreneurship, former mining-reliant households see the WHS recognition as a means to antagonize their identity and way of life. We conclude by discussing the role of WHS nominations in the context of contentious community interpretations of heritage and its value.

Moshav : a Modern Village – The Story of a Built in Paradox

Avraham Shnider

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In contrast to other countries, modernism in Israel did not lead to the abandonment of farming through accelerated industrialization and urbanization. Until the turn of the

twentieth century, farming in Israel followed a family-based model, akin to other pre-modern societies. The early twentieth century witnessed the establishment of modern agricultural villages managed as cooperatives. Two distinct forms of modern agricultural villages emerged in Israel:

The Kibbutz: collective organization or commune

The Moshav: Operating as a cooperative, it combines individual and collective values, albeit without receiving the same level of attention as the kibbutz.

The social ideal pursued by the Moshavim (plural of moshav) was a settlement form that integrated individual and collective values. In the classic Moshav, each family cultivated a private farm, resembling a pre-modern village. However, activities such as purchasing raw materials, allocating resources, selling crops, and obtaining credit were managed collectively by the cooperative for all Moshav farms. The cooperative functioned as a modern organization adhering to bureaucratic regulations.

For the spatial design of the inaugural Moshav, Nahalal, architect Richard Kauffman selected a geometric shape symbolizing equality – the circle. This design drew inspiration from a conceptualization of Buckingham's modern idea of a utopian city. The distinctive spatial shape, coupled with the amalgamation of pre-modern and modern values, earned the Moshav a place on UNESCO's list of preservation sites.

Presently, the majority of Moshavim have lost their collective organizational structure due to privatization. Some have also shifted away from agriculture, resulting in many becoming rural suburbs. Nevertheless, the establishment of a modern village, combining family farms with a bureaucratic organization utilizing modern architecture, remains a unique manifestation of the modern idea.

Identity and Space: World War II Memorials and Local Political Identities in Croatia

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Which factors can explain the spatial variation in local-level political identities that is a feature of many countries? This contribution suggests that we need to pay attention to the politics of memorialization in general and the role of historical monuments in particular. The case of Croatia is used in order to show that the presence and condition of World War II monuments is an important determinant of local-level political identities, as measured by electoral results. These monuments were built by the Yugoslav socialist regime but were frequently damaged or destroyed during the 1990s. A spatial regression approach is used in order to accommodate the common problem of spatial auto-correlation. A new data-set is assembled which places more than a thousand World War II monuments in roughly five hundred geographical units in order to predict all national elections which took place in Croatia in the past decade. This analysis aims to contribute to the spatial analysis of political phenomena, with a special emphasis on the geographical embeddedness of collective memory.

Structural Amnesia in Hazelnut Production in Giresun Province of Turkey

Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız, İlhan Zeynep Karakılıç, Ayşe Yılmaz

Bahçeşehir University

This presentation will focus on how memory interplays in the structural transformation of the hazelnut production in Giresun province of Turkey. Although hazelnut production holds significant importance due to the unique qualities of the hazelnut variety in the region and its importance in the global hazelnut market, it continues to be done on the family-owned lands with small-scale agricultural practices in the region. However, as a result of migration, structural transformation and aging population, agricultural production and accompanying rural lifestyles changes especially under the influence of global environmental risks and the need for sustainable agricultural practices within the region. This presentation is based on a field research conducted in Giresun province during the summer of 2023. More than 30 interviews were made with experts and hazelnut producers. It was observed during the interviews that structural amnesia was dominating the lives of older generations of producers. Structural amnesia is used by Paul Connerton to elucidate the complex interplay between memory and social dynamics referring to a framework for understanding how social structures and practices contribute to the selective loss of historical or cultural memories within communities. This presentation will examine how structural amnesia manifests in hazelnut production in Turkey's Giresun province. It will also explore the implications of evolving rural memory, particularly in terms of potential approaches to reclaiming rural memory amidst the transformation of hazelnut production in the region.

RN38 | T02_01: Counterurbanization and gentrification

Drivers and Sustainability of Counterurban Mobility in (Post) Pandemic Poland

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Mobility, in almost all its scales and dimensions, is one of the most important aspects of social activity affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the significant short-term changes in mobility behaviours during the lockdowns have been studied in depth, the long-term shifts are still not fully understood. The pandemic had a particularly significant prolonged impact on internal migrations. Numerous quantitative research have revealed changes in counterurbanization, defined as migration from cities to rural areas beyond the commuting hinterland, although these changes have varied across research areas. Multitude and complexity of macro – and micro-scale factors of individual mobility-related decisions raises the need for qualitative research. Few works have so far addressed the topic of post-pandemic internal migration in Central Europe. This constitutes a research gap, as this region is characterised by specific socio-economic conditions.

The talk is a presentation of the conceptual and methodological framework as well as preliminary results of a research project which main objective is to understand the characteristics of individuals and households in Poland making the decision to move from metropolitan areas to the periphery, as well as their motivations and decision-making processes resulting from their life experiences and structural conditions. The main research method used in the project is narrative interviewing implementing a life course approach. The talk includes review of the main findings of internal mobility research in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the life-course approach, an overview of current determinants and directions of internal migrations in Poland and preliminary findings from the conducted qualitative research.

The Rural Wellbeing Advantage Reexamined: An Empirical Analysis of Subjective Wellbeing Components Across European Countries and Settlement Types

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Research into subjective wellbeing (SWB) and its social-ecological determinants shows continued debate on the question whether rural areas have higher levels of SWB than urban areas. Besides findings suggesting potential variations by countries and for specific social subgroups, most studies on rural-urban differences have relied on single-item questions measuring the evaluative dimension of SWB (i.e., assessing life satisfaction). In contrast, sociological theories of rural-urban differences in SWB suggest domain specific variation. For instance, higher degrees of Gemeinschaft (e.g., higher social cohesion and collective efficacy) in rural areas might lead to higher social wellbeing or basic psychological need satisfaction. To contribute to this ongoing debate, we use data (about 40 survey questions and over 50,000 total cases) from the 2012 European Social Survey module on SWB to develop a fine-grained model capturing five major dimensions of SWB (i.e., evaluative, affective, basic psychological need satisfaction, mental resources, and social wellbeing). We construct Mazziotta-Pareto Indices to assess SWB not only across countries but also along the rural-urban continuum and for specific social subgroups. In line with past research, we find support for rural-urban differences in SWB (i.e., rural areas show higher degrees of SWB). However, our analyses help to refine this relationship by highlighting that this is not a clear-cut linear process but SWB differs by types of rural-urban areas and SWB dimension. We, moreover, find that without the consideration of SWB subdimensions, we might receive a distorted picture of rural-urban differences for specific social groups (e.g., some subgroup differences are not universal but bound to specific subdimensions of SWB).

The End of the Rural as We Know it: Theorizing Gentrification beyond the Urban

Gözde Orhan

Altinbas University, Turkiye

This study aims to analyze the effects of the middle-upper class migration from the cities to the rural in recent years by looking at the spatial design and reconstruction in Aegean villages of Turkey. The concept of gentrification is usually theorized on an urban scale; however, gentrification is when the upper classes carry their consumption habits to their new settlements and circulate in these new spaces,

so it is possible to consider gentrification in the rural context as well (Phillips, M. 2002; Gosnell, H. and Abrams, J. 2009). Can the settlement of the middle-upper classes in the rural, the return to the countryside, and the gentrification of village be seen as a move towards living the village life as we know it? Or is this a new urbanization experience on a rural scale, another form of creating a safe space that allows the gentrifiers to create their own class-specific comfort zones? Starting from these questions, the study will examine how the pastoral fantasy (Cadieux, K. V. 2005) of urban "immigrants" is constructed and what their motivations are for transforming rural spaces. It underlines the inclusiveness and actuality of the concept of gentrification by addressing the social and spatial consequences of migrations to Turkey's Western Aegean villages. The focus of this ethnography is on the dynamics between recently arrived upper-class individuals and local villagers in Aegean villages, including the changing perception of "village", instances of cooperation and conflicts, and cultural and social transformations.

The Significance of the Swabian Identity in Rural Gentrification

Kyra Tomay, Tamás Ragadics

University of Pécs, Hungary

Several rural areas all over the world have experienced the inflow of urban better-off. Rural gentrification may take various temporary or permanent forms: lifestyle migration, second home ownership or being a short-term visitor. Scholarly interest in rural gentrification is documented by the growing body of publications. In the framework of the research project „The role of gentrification in rural development" (FK-138098) we are investigating different rural areas, where gentrification has taken place, mainly using qualitative research methods. The theme of our research is the migration of middle class and professional/intellectual groups to rural areas: the study of rural gentrification, and the exploration of its consequences. In this section we will present two case studies from the south-west of Hungary, both settlements are villages with a Swabian identity, traditionally inhabited by German minorities. In the presentation, drawing on some 50 semi-structured in-depth interviews, we will explore what makes a Swabian village attractive to the urban middle class to choose the settlement as their new, or second home? How can the Swabian identity be an advantage for both the immigrants related (Germans or Hungarians with German origin) and those who are completely unrelated? In the meantime, we also wonder how they can integrate into these Swabian communities, and how the community regulates and coordinates immigration, and how it is possible that in none of these cases have we seen the radical transformation of the village by newcomers that gentrification can cause in small villages like these, which is widespread elsewhere.

RN38 | T02_02: Identities in question

Saving the Countryside by and for Whom? Images of Rurality and National Identity in Movements for and Against the Re-industrialization of the Swedish North

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Today we witness how geographical and social peripheries are mobilized as "change agents" in the current industrialization and green development in the Swedish sparsely populated north (Norrland). In this article our aim is to explore how images of rurality and national identity is framed in movements both for and against the establishment of a new 'so called' green industry in the Northern Swedish countryside. The prospect of this new establishment has been vividly debated in the local community, both in struggles for (because of job opportunities) and against it (because of the destruction of nature and livelihood opportunities). Combining digital ethnography with critical whiteness and settler colonial perspectives we analyse what kind of images of rural life and identities that is mobilised in the different standpoints. Our analysis shows that both the resistance to and the mobilization of such ideas of renewal and escape are rooted in both the nostalgia for a pre-industrial past marked by simpler ways of life distant from the dirtiness and immorality of the city, and the welfare nostalgic dreams about industrial investments. It also shows how different development goals are invoking different worldviews and ideas on what is best for the local community, making visible the rural as a conflicted space.

The Crisis of Rurality in Armenia: Modernization or Decease.

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The village's biography in the Armenian history is marked by controversial episodes. The industrialization contrasts the desirable urban lifestyle with the traditional rural existence. The Soviet-Armenian village finds itself in the collectivization's scaffold. The village rolls back and loses effective social positioning's possibility for a long time. Nevertheless, the agricultural production-industrial system became the focal point of the Soviet modernization. The village had modern infrastructures, including schools, cultural centers, and production assets. Soviet State's collapse and the de-modernization severely affects the village and rural life. The winners in this competitive privatization struggle were oligarchic groups. A significant portion of the peasantry, excluded from an imperfect and unregulated market, found

temporary or permanent salvation in emigration. Lands and farms are barren in the absence of previous industrial infrastructures. The life of the peasant is characterized by a short-term perspective and adaptation. The results of the quantitative and qualitative research allow us to find out the alienation from the primary basis of rurality – the land. Failures are at the heart of the told narrative. Peasant renounces his children's rural future. Rurality exists in a simple mythology of traditional positive attachment to place. The anti-oligarchic liberalization of the Velvet Revolution has given rise to a new figure of the peasant—farmer-entrepreneur. He logically triumphs within the realm of capitalist modernization, making profitable competition. We are witnessing the proletarization of the peasants-abandoning lands and transforming into hired workers. However, effective mechanization and modernization pose threats to this evolving role of the peasant too.

English Fox-Hunting and the Countryside Culture Clash

Patrick Finn Lees

University of Warwick, United Kingdom

At the end of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s, cultural conflict in the UK was epitomised by the issue of fox-hunting. For many, fox-hunting was a cruel and barbaric practice, associated with the aristocratic elite, while for others efforts to ban the practice were evidence of an out of touch urban middle class willing to ride roughshod over the interests of rural England, motivated more by class and anti-rural bigotry than genuine concern for foxes.

While the issue receded from national prominence following the passage of the Hunting Act in 2004, tension between the hunting community and their opponents has not gone away. Drawing on my ethnographic research conducted with anti-hunt activists in England, I will explore how those on both sides of the debate understand one another, and the place that rural and urban identity play in forming these understandings.

Drawing upon Imogen Tyler's recent theoretical work on stigma, I will argue that while the rural and the urban are often understood in highly negative terms by opponents and supporters of hunting respectively this is not reducible to mere bigotry, but rather the result of strategic attempts to present a particular side of the argument as legitimate. I will hope to show that, for the anti-hunt lobby, successful transformation of countryside practices relies not merely on the negative representation of rurality, but also often on seeking community with sections of the rural population, leading to fluid approaches not only to interacting with rural people but also to understanding their own identities.

Contingent Whiteness: Race, Class and Political Subjectivities in Peripheral Space

James Pattison

University of Lincoln, United Kingdom

This paper contends that whiteness' contingency in its relation to class and other socio-political factors is significant for the emergence of nationalist-populist politics in urban peripheries. Events such as Brexit are cross-class phenomena, however, a significant proportion of working-class Britons voted to leave the European Union (Virdee, 2023). Some analysis has specified transformations associated with increasingly precarious employment, welfare state retrenchment and decline in trust of traditional politics, while criticising accounts which highlight the role played by racism (Telford, 2022). However, the prioritisation of class over race denies their interconnectedness, reflecting the logic of whiteness and reproducing the invisibility of race as a structuring force (Arkins and French, 2023). Drawing on a long-term project on the deindustrialising English coalfields and theoretical insights from critical race theory (Meghji, 2022), I will trace the historical trajectories of (former) coal mining communities' status within national and imperial identity, which has seen a fluctuation between incorporation into, and exclusion from, the boundaries of whiteness. It is this contingent whiteness, and the rewards and privileges it bestows, which is exploited by reactionary politics. The English coalfields are distinct socio-spatial locations to explore these processes. Often developed in rural areas, deindustrialisation coincides with peripheralization from urban centres compounding disadvantage in the present. Additionally, coalfields have been imagined as bounded communities, belying their racialised construction through British colonialism and interactions with the outside world, which surface in representational struggles and tensions between depictions of a white rural idyll and racially degenerate urban space (Pattison, 2023).

RN38 | T03_01: Depopulation and resilience

Depopulation, Restructuring and Resilience: Unlocking the Conundrum of Transformation in Rural Greece

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In Europe today, there is a debate about population decline caused by low fertility rates and emigration. Depopulation affects countries, regions and sub-regional areas and is defined as a sharp population decline that falls well below an adequate population size and indicates that an area has lost its demographic reproductive capacity. However, there are other trends affecting rural areas, such as the influx of internal and/or international migrants, which play an important role in the restructuring of rural areas and the social resilience of smaller and/or larger areas.

This paper discusses the socio-economic and territorial aspects of rural depopulation in relation to the restructuring and resilience of rural areas. It is equally important to consider the spatial dimensions of such changes. Our study focuses on the changes and dynamics that can be observed at the municipal and regional level in Greece and attempts to discuss in more detail the demographic and socio-economic changes in rural Greece. The main source of demographic data for our study is the Greek censuses (1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021). The demographic and socio-economic trends in Greece are interlinked and show different regional and local dynamics. As a case study, the Region of Central Greece is examined in terms of demographic developments in relation to population dynamics and prospects for resilience. Overall, the general picture of rural decline is compared with the regional and local level of restructuring and resilience in rural Greece.

Integrating Social and Solidarity Economy with Geocreativity to Counter Rural Depopulation

Ricard Espelt

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The presentation will focus on presenting the CULTUR-E framework, a project aiming to combat rural depopulation in Spain by integrating cultural engagement with socio-economic development. The project seeks to assess and enhance the socio-economic impacts of cultural activities in rural areas, including the development of a new statistical index and a scoreboard for quantifying these contributions. Incorporating Social and Solidarity Economy and GeoCreativity disciplines, the framework is contextualized within rural areas, emphasizing community-driven, ethical, and sustainable economic activities that leverage rural cultural assets for local development.

Best practices and successful models of cultural engagement in rural settings will be highlighted, showcasing their adaptability and replicability. These examples will demonstrate the role of cultural activities in fostering community cohesion, strengthening local identity, and contributing to economic vitality. The framework aligns with European policies, particularly the Rural Pact and the Social Economy Action Plan, and Spanish rural revitalization policies, aiming to enhance public policy with strategies specific to rural community needs.

The paper will describe CULTUR-E's use of innovative quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including advanced data management techniques, to analyse cultural activity impacts. This approach is anticipated to offer insights into public policy effectiveness and help address rural depopulation challenges. The presentation will emphasize the project's social relevance and its potential in influencing policies for sustainable rural community development.

Exploring Loneliness Interventions From A Place-based Perspective: A Realist Review

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This presentation discusses the current research on how interventions from a place-based perspective can prevent and alleviate feelings of loneliness. Not only personal features, such as the socio-demographic profile or the life course, affect the risk for loneliness. The place where you live can have an impact as well, both the physical and social environment (Barreto et al., 2023; Diez-Mair & Roux, 2010). For instance, people living in an area with a bigger proportion of green spaces, such as parks, have a smaller probability of experiencing loneliness (Astell-Burt et al., 2022). However, so far little attention has been devoted to exploring how interventions in the physical and social environment can prevent or alleviate loneliness. Nevertheless, understanding how place-based interventions can be meaningful in addressing loneliness would broaden the scope of loneliness interventions.

We conducted a review of international scientific literature on loneliness interventions from a place-based perspective. We applied a realist approach as we aim not only to understand whether interventions from a place-based perspective affect loneliness, but also 'for whom', 'how', and 'under which circumstances'. This review focuses on the contexts (C) that shape different outcomes (O), and the underlying mechanisms (M) that explain how and why certain patterns of outcomes take place (Pawson et al., 2005). After composing a search string to explore databases, screening and appraising documents, 24 articles were included for data extraction and analysis. This resulted in CMO-configurations,

clustered by program activity. The aim of this review is to build a theoretical framework of different types of loneliness interventions from a place-based perspective and their contexts, mechanisms and outcomes that can guide future research, policy and interventions.

Rural Resilience in the Swedish Northern Inland

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1Mid Sweden University, Sweden; 2NTNU Social Research AS; 3Karlstad University

Rural communities worldwide face numerous challenges that threaten their resilience in the face of rapid changes, including demographic shifts, economic disparities, cultural preservation, and social cohesion. Ageing populations and youth outmigration affect the continuity of rural societies, impacting workforce dynamics and community vitality. Economic disparities amplify vulnerability as rural areas struggle with limited access to resources, education, and healthcare, further exacerbating inequalities within these communities. Additionally, the preservation of cultural heritage faces pressures from globalization, technology, and urbanization, leading to identity crises and the loss of traditional practices. However, rural communities also possess characteristics that make them relatively resilient compared to other communities, such as strong social cohesion, local pride, high interpersonal trust, and unique natural and cultural resources. This paper examines threats and strengths related to rural resilience by studying three extremely rural communities in northern Sweden and discussing their implications for building resilience. Through interviews with civil servants involved in resilience promotion, we analyse the challenges and strengths these communities face. Our findings confirm many of the threats highlighted in previous rural resilience research, particularly the vulnerability of certain groups, such as older people. However, our results also suggest that place-based factors and local policies support resilience. Through positive examples, these may even transform deep-rooted societal values and worldviews about the rural world and consumers' preferences and how they link to production systems. The results imply that reviewing how urban-centric policies can be better adapted to rural contexts can create favourable conditions for resilience in rural communities.

RN38 | T03_02: Trust and tensions

Trust in Rural and Urban areas of the EU Countries

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Understood as a firm belief in reliability of others and institutions , trust plays a crucial role in the way people interact and operate in their social environment.While maintaining a distinction between generalized trust and trust in institutions which depends on what entities are given credence to, the paper is designed to reframe the concep of trust and investigate it in socio-spatial perspective.In particular , we aim to analyze its interplay with respondents' crucial life circumstances , including their domicile and rural-urban specyfic employment.

We ask three research questions:

1.What are the levels of generalized trust and trust in institutions in rural an urban areas and rural – urban employment across the EU countries which were subject to research?

2.What are the patterns of consistency of generalized trust and trust in institutions in the EU countries.

3.Which factors most differentiate the levels of generalized trust and trust in institutions in rural v urban areas and rural v urban – specific employment in the EU countries?

Among other factors we examine socioecenomic status of respondents , their sence of belonging to the local community,subjective wellbeing, and level of civic participation. We examine the above basing on the data from 10th round of the European Social Survey(2021).

Educational Centers In Multicultural Rural Contexts: Between Ethnic and Cultural Tensions And Opportunities For Intercultural Coexistence.

Yaiza Pérez Alonso

Universitat de València-Estudi General, Spain

Multiculturalism is a reality that is increasingly present in multiple rural contexts. This multiculturalism originates mainly from the structural needs of the economic sector (agriculture and its industry) and is consolidated by a lower cost of living than in the cities. The presence of new neighbors of different ethnic and cultural origins in rural municipalities pose new challenges in intercultural coexistence that affect the different areas of daily life (social, labor, educational, health, etc.). In our communication we focus on the study of the management of multiculturalism in educational institutions in Carcaixent, a municipality in the province of Valencia (Spain). These educational institutions

(schools and high schools) become spaces of daily interaction and in them you can observe the tensions and distensions in the process of social inclusion, as well as the receptivity of the host society and the social relations between diverse ethnic groups.

This communication will present the main problems observed in the socio-educational inclusion of immigrant students and reflect on the effects of structural racism in the educational field and its social consequences. Likewise, opportunities for educational centers to promote intercultural coexistence in rural contexts will be explored. This communication is part of Project PID2021-124346OB-I00l "Participation, neighborhood relations and coexistence in multicultural neighborhoods in a pandemic. A comparative analysis".

Policy Mobility, Rurality And Trust: Insights From The Baltic Sea Region

Vassilis Kitsos

University of Greifswald, Germany

The paper will situate the concept of trust in transformative processes in rural areas and from a regional perspective. It will further suggest a theoretical exercise by bridging the above with the recent literature on policy mobility.

A starting point for this study has been the observation that, despite a breadth of policy mobility scholarship on the "urban", the "rural" has attracted less scholar attention. This gap is remarkable considering (a) the importance of rural spaces throughout Europe (b) the intensity of both urban and rural transformation and (c) the persistent urban/ rural friction and on a broad range of topics. For that reason, trust becomes paramount for the transformation of the "rural" through a number of processes and in sectors such as health provision, public finances and social innovation.

From the perspective of the region, the Baltic Sea offers a rich terrain in which a breadth of actors and institutes that promote policy sharing face growing mistrust. In this environment, the research scrutinizes the mobility of ideas and policies, discourses and agency in selected rural policies in eight countries, identifies successes and failures and offers recommendations. Since the empirical part of the research lies ahead, the presentation will offer draft empirical findings, and will mainly seek to develop a theoretical argument.

The paper is part of the project "Fragmented Transformations", subproject "Policy mobility in the rural Baltic Sea Region" at the Interdisciplinary Center for Baltic Sea Region Research at the University of Greifswald.

Autonomy And Loss In Small Towns On The Periphery

Pavel Pospech, Ondrej Klima

Masaryk University, Czech Republic

This paper discusses the ways that inhabitants of small towns in a highly remote region of the Czech Republic experience their peripherality. Based on a set of interviews conducted in the case study region, we have identified two key narratives: the narrative of autonomy and the narrative of loss. These narratives are both competing and complementary.

The competing element comes from the different sentiments expressed through the narratives: while the narrative of autonomy comes with self-reliance and optimism, the narrative of loss expresses feelings of decline and disappointment with the community. The complementary element comes from the way these narratives are weaved together to produce a sense of self-identity: our interviewees understand their peripherality as a condition which, despite the decline of the community, can be overcome with individual activity and hard work. This brings about a sense of pride.

These perceptions perpetuate the image of the neoliberal subject who can "pull themselves up by their own bootstraps" in spite of the lack of institutional support. It also fosters a strongly individualistic perspective in other areas, including attitudes towards technologies and similar issues.

The paper is based on interviews conducted in 2023 with inhabitants of two small towns in an inner periphery of eastern Czech Republic.

RN38 | T04_01: Restructuring through tourism

From Agriculture to Tourism and New Urbanite Residents: The Change of Turkey's Rural Western Mediterranean Under Ecosocial Crises

Mehmet Bozok

Maltepe University, Turkiye

This study focuses on the urban-rural transitions that occur in rural Mugla, which is part of the Mediterranean basin in southwestern Anatolia and is currently experiencing the most severe ecosocial crises as a result of preceding four decades of ecosocial crises. Using the concept of "manthropocene" developed by Hultman and Pulé (2019; 2021), based on the multi-stage qualitative studies I conducted in the region between 2018 and 2023, I argue that as the Mediterranean's ecosocial crises deepen, the rural and urban become increasingly interconnected with waves of population movements. This province has long been known for its yielding agriculture, beekeeping, goat herding, and vast biodiversity.

I argue that the first wave of ecosocial crises began in the 1980s, with the development of mass tourism and the construction of three large thermal power plants. While the region experienced its first wave of urban-originated lifestyle migrants during this time, agriculture remained at the center of economic activity. The second wave is the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022), when the urban population migrated to escape the urban problems caused by climate change, 2021 mega wildfires, uncontrolled construction and aggressive mining projects. I argue that as Turkey's ecosocial crises worsened alongside its neoliberal transformation, the rural and urban became more intertwined as urban people arrived to the area as dwellers, entrepreneurs, or officers, and rural people began to abandon traditional agriculture to become low-skilled laborers.

Rural Tourism As a Factor And Outcome Of The Empowerment of Rural Women – a New Conception Of Gender, Space And Rurality

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The subject of the research is the role and importance of the development of rural tourism as a factor and outcome of the empowerment of rural women and strengthening their entrepreneurial, creative and innovative abilities, in the context of new conceptions of rural development, which emphasize the internal development factors of a local community, the active role of all its actors and wider engagement and mobilization of general capital of a rural area. In this way, we analyze the sociological aspects of the relationship between the development of rural tourism and gender-balanced and sensitive rural development, with the aim of empowering rural women and the assumption that there is a strong connection and relationship between these two concepts. One of the prerequisites for the development of entrepreneurship and the strengthening of the socio-economic position of women, as a particularly sensitive group in rural areas, all in the context of the revitalization of rural areas and the revitalization of their everyday life, is certainly the maximum motivation and encouragement of the use of human resources (capital), and continuous work on increasing the importance, support and general interest of rural women in the process of diversifying the rural economy, developing rural tourism and generating income from non-agricultural activities in rural areas.

Exploring Ecological Rural Communities: Insights into Sustainable Living and Rural-Urban Dynamics

Saim Buğra Kurban

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Turkiye

Ecological rural communities have gained increased attention in recent years as there is a growing enthusiasm for sustainable living. Typically, these communities are made up of ecological farms, villages, or rural communes and are increasingly formed through the cooperative efforts of individuals with urban backgrounds and professional occupations. Since the 2000s, there has been a significant rise in these groups within Turkey. This research is founded on fieldwork data gathered from four distinct ecological communities situated in rural parts of Anatolia.

In this context, the main questions posed for this study on these communities are briefly as follows: What motivates and inspires ecological community founders, residents, and volunteers to promote sustainable and equitable ways of living? How do these motivations change over time? Additionally, how do ecological communities put in place economic and governance structures that support sustainability while challenging capitalist norms? However, the influence and interconnections of these communities also play a significant role in their local areas as well as on a broader scale nationally and globally. In that context, what types of tensions and transformations are these communities experiencing?

Furthermore, it could be argued that these communities are also conducive to the discussion of assumptions about the contrast between urban and rural areas. Furthermore, it is important to examine these communities within their wider contexts and connections to understand how we continue to perceive rural and urban regions. These

communities can provide insights into the merging of the rural-urban divide.

Extended Urbanization of Turkey's Eastern Black Sea Valleys: A Case of Fırtına Valley

Onur Açar

Artvin Çoruh University, Turkiye

The Fırtına Valley of the Eastern Black Sea Region of Turkey has a dense rural fabric with numerous forest villages, rivers, pastures and meadows. The valley territory has been undergoing a multifaceted transformation during the twentieth century. After long centuries of its agrarian period, the first round of this transformation was brought by a state-led tea industry by the second half of the twentieth century. While the tea industry influenced mostly villages of the valley closer to coastal line, the second critical transformation has started since the 1980s, targeting primarily the peripheralized inner and higher zones of the valley. The leading dynamics of this latest round of neoliberal transformation process are driven by profit-oriented tourism investments and new spatial enclosures designed by nature conservation institutions. This transformation process, which started with very slow steps in the 1980s, continues to gain speed and intensity in the 2000s with regional-scale tourism projects such as the Green Road. This study analyzes these transformations of this predominantly rural geography as a production of an "abstract space(territory)" within the conceptual perspective of "extended urbanization" developed systematically by Christian Schmid and Neil Brenner. It is argued that this extended urban process increases the connections of the region with various centers throughout the twentieth century, amplifying mobilities of people, goods and images more than ever before. This emerging urbanized landscape has also produced conflictual meanings and uses of land as the place increasingly took an exclusionary character where the potential for radical difference is being gradually tamed by the private entrepreneurialism.

RN38 | T04_02: Food as connection

Rethinking Rurality and Local Food Production Through Women's Experiences in the Hungarian Food Sovereignty Movement

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This study addresses the ongoing scholarly debate surrounding civil society in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), highlighting the need to transcend the limitations imposed by a Western-centric conceptual framework. In particular, our research delves into the realm of food sovereignty in Hungary, revealing the strength and networks of local food-related practices. Our research is based on a qualitative study conducted between 2020-2021, involving 25 semi-structured 'oral herstory' interviews with women actively engaged in food sovereignty initiatives. The objectives of this research are threefold. Firstly, we challenge the prevailing perception that local food production in CEE is merely a necessity. Secondly, we emphasize the significance of rural local food production. Lastly, we aim to contextualize and illuminate the experiences of women within this movement, considering their broader social and historical context. Our findings converge on two focal points: the movement's encounters with the political-economic landscape of the past three decades and the evolving power dynamics within the movement. By doing so, we aim to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of civil society in CEE by inviting scholars to revise the importance of women's positionality in mundane everyday food-related practices, and to reposition CEE marginality in future food-related research.

Food Self-Provisioning in Croatian Rural Areas – Refurbishing a Common Practice into Social Resilience

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Food self-provisioning (FSP) is a long-standing practice in Croatian rural areas of Croatia that could be used to improve the capacity for social resilience of rural residents and help position rural areas as places of good living. This paper presents the results of a nationwide survey conducted among a representative sample of Croatian rural residents (N=831). The aim of this paper is to determine what the possible predictors of this practice are and whether there are significant differences between rural residents who

grow their own food and those who do not. To achieve this, we used the reliable Flourishing Index (FI) and relevant socio-demographic characteristics to find out which of these characteristics are significant predictors of food growing in Croatian rural areas. Using binary logistic regression, we found that the most important and significant predictors of this practice are age and FI, with older and more satisfied rural residents more likely to practice FSP. The most important reasons for practicing FSP are growing fresh and healthy food, followed by protecting the environment, saving money, and believing that the practice is a fulfilling way to spend leisure time. These results suggest that FSP has the potential to increase well-being and life satisfaction, as it could be a way to motivate more rural residents to utilize the natural environment and grow fresh and healthy food. Furthermore, this could be a long-term strategy to improve social resilience and a way to protect the environment in rural areas, as well as help alleviate the financial pressure of rising inflation and provide food security which, with rising global ecological and other challenges, becomes increasingly important for everyday rural life.

Food Self-Provisioning: A Bridge for the Integration of Urban and Rural Development

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Food self-provisioning (FSP) is one of the most important legacies of agricultural civilizations. In today's world of uncertainties, the practice of FSP enhances resilience and promotes sustainable growth. FSP also has the function of creating and altering spaces in both tangible and intangible ways. With the mutual flow of populations and consumption spaces, FSP promotes balanced development and a symbiotic relationship between urban and rural areas.

FSP disrupts and reconnects the dualities of urban/rural and human/nature. Rural life experiences have become increasingly popular among urban residents, who spend their holidays at farmhouses, orchards, and farmers' markets. Farming-related activities bring people close to nature, where burnt-out urbanites rediscover the integration of the mind and the body through unalienated leisure. FSP is thus viewed as a nurturing practice to enhance one's vitality, creativity and mindfulness.

The philosophy of FSP also contributes to community building by educating its participants on virtues such as diligence, thrift, and solidarity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, FSP not only relieved the stress of food shortage for many households, but also promoted mutual assistance and friendship among community members.

This article starts with sociological empirical evidence but then moves further to explore the significance of FPS as a bridge for integrating urban and rural development. The authors will discuss the future potential of FPS in the framework of sociological imagination, the practical challenges of its popularization in China, and the capacity of "space" as an enabling mechanism for social change.

RN38 | T05_01: Reflections on immigrant inclusion

Unraveling The Structure Of Agricultural Labour In Two Contrasted Farming Systems In Spain

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Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

Farming systems have undergone diverse social transformations in recent decades (e.g., the decline of family farms, lack of generational renewal, the increase of salaried workers, etc.). These transformations pose challenges to their social sustainability, significantly impacting rural areas. In this study, I explore the dynamics of farm labour in two contrasting farming systems in Spain. On one hand, the intensive fruit system in Bajo Cinca County, a rural region primarily dedicated to export markets through large distribution, and on the other hand, the Baix Llobregat County, a peri-urban area focused on vegetable and fruit production for national markets. The objective is twofold: first, to comprehend the evolving dynamics of employment relationships based on farm morphology, and second, to identify social hotspots where the well-being of farmers and workers is compromised. This research relies on a series of in-depth interviews with farmers and relevant stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. The results reveal variations in the use of family labour, the involvement of migrant workers, the situation of women, and the profile of farmers, depending on farm characteristics (such as size, marketing channel orientation, production strategy, etc.). While there is a general trend towards a decrease in family labour, even within family farms, this labour becomes formalized and assumes new roles on the farm. Simultaneously, there is an increase in salaried labour, predominantly comprised of migrant workers. Furthermore, beyond common concerns like physical conditions and income, other crucial aspects related to living conditions, work-life balance, and mental health emerge as influential factors affecting the well-being of both farmers and workers. These considerations significantly influence decisions regarding the continuity of the farm.

Rural Cosmopolitanism, The Fragility of Social Ties and The Vulnerability of Immigrant Population

Ion Martínez Lorea, María jesús Rivera

Universidad Pública de Navarra, Spain

The concept of "rural cosmopolitanism" imagines a rural space that is the opposite of the recurrent image of a small territory, closed in on itself, where nothing happens. In other words, it refers to a porous and changing space in which the arrival of new populations gives rise to a multifaceted scenario, with multiple connections and exchanges

at very different scales. However, this view implies that the migrations of foreign populations are secondary or even invisible, especially when they are highly labour-intensive and precarious in nature. The aim of this contribution is to understand the intricacies of rural cosmopolitanism that is the result of the arrival and settlement of a labour force of foreign origin in rural areas. The discussion presented in this contribution is based on the case study of La Valdorba (Navarre, Spain), an area that has experienced a significant increase of foreign population linked to its agro-industrial development. After an analysis of census data, which allowed us to trace and characterise this arrival, the research was complemented by qualitative fieldwork. This consisted of a series of semi-structured interviews and focus groups with the local and foreign population. In so doing, we were able to observe the emergence of a new social space and the positioning of migrant workers within it.

Language, Intercultural Communication and Integration of Migrants in Rural Communities in Ireland

Pilar Luz Rodrigues, Andrea Ciribuco

University of Galway

In 2017, Ireland had the 4th highest share of migrant population in rural areas in the EU with 11.9%, more than twice the EU average (JRC 2019). And although Dublin had the highest number of non-Irish residents in the most recent census (CSO 2022), Ireland has been home to unique cases of migration to rural areas. The town of Ballyhaunis, for example, is the most diverse municipality in the country, with 37% of the population non-Irish. Nevertheless, most of the literature on migration has focused predominantly on migration to cities and urban areas, with less attention paid to rural settings (Morén-Alegret and Wladyka 2020; Woods 2016). In view of such gap in the literature, this paper aims to improve our knowledge of the experience of migrants and refugees living in Ireland's rural areas with respect to integration with local communities. Specifically, the paper examines how language learning among migrants may generate challenges and opportunities for intercultural communication and integration. It explores the linguistic repertoires of migrants and refugees living in rural areas, as well as the strategies they use to overcome language barriers. The study also investigated opportunities for cultural activities where locals and migrants come together, for shared conversation on rural development, including via translation/interpreting. The paper relates preliminary findings from a project funded by the Irish Research Council, with fieldwork and semi-structured interviews conducted since February 2023 with migrants living in the West and South East of Ireland, including areas officially recognised as Irish speaking regions (Gaeltacht areas).

Dreaming of Being 'My Own Boss': The Dynamics of Ethnic Entrepreneurship in Rural Greece

Loukia Maria Fratsea

Harokopio University, Greece

Since the early 1990s, the integration of migrants into the labour market and the employment characteristics and living conditions in rural areas have been the subject of a growing number of studies in Greece. In this context, the employment and living conditions of migrants in rural areas, their livelihoods and the impact of migrant labour in the agricultural sector and in rural areas in general have been at the centre of academic and public debate. Nevertheless, research on the various forms of ethnic entrepreneurship in rural Greece is rather limited, as the entrepreneurial activities of migrant groups have primarily been perceived as an urban phenomenon.

Methodologically, the paper draws on empirical research conducted between 2017 and 2022 with 30 migrants living in villages and small towns in the region of Western Greece. Based on the life stories of Albanians, Romanians and Bangladeshis, this paper takes an in-depth look at their trajectories in the labour market, starting from their place of origin and along their migration journey. Different forms of entrepreneurship represent an important strategy for social mobility in different economic sectors in rural Greece. Survival entrepreneurship in the years after arrival can turn into building successful businesses or into farming and crop cultivation. The participants' narratives reveal their aspirations that drive them to move from what they call "jobs for migrants" to becoming their "own boss", revealing complex hierarchies in the rural labour market. The paper argues for a more nuanced understanding of ethnic entrepreneurship and social inclusion in rural Greece.

RN38 | T06_01: Rural governance

Governance For Local Development – Approaches Regarding Rural Areas

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In the European context, there is a widespread consensus regarding the imperative need to enhance governance practices in public policies. In order to promote territorial cohesion, namely the development of rural territories, agendas call for the transfer of powers to communities and local civil society organizations with more inclusive decision-making processes and more participatory solutions. Following this goal, in the Portuguese context, the State claims the promotion of decentralization, towards territorial configurations and integrated area-based initiatives.

Within this framework, this work considers the evolution of European Union initiatives, such as LEADER, which are designed to support rural development projects with the overarching goals of enhancing the quality of life and diversifying the economy. LEADER operates through a bottom-up community-led approach, wherein local action groups play a pivotal role in designing and executing development strategies. Focusing on a case study in central Portugal, this investigation seeks to contribute to the reflection on the evolution of the LEADER program. It aims to shed light on the dynamics of relationships and the role played by the partnership approach in promoting territorial development.

The primary objective is to analyse how the program has evolved and to understand the influence of various stakeholders in reshaping the local landscape. The research encompasses a comprehensive analysis of different dimensions at various stages of the program, including undertaken initiatives. Employing a qualitative approach, the study incorporates semi-structured interviews with diverse stakeholders. The hypothesis underlying the research suggests a potential restriction of autonomy in the structuring of local development actions, prompting critical reflections on the evolving landscape of governance within this context.

Rural Anchor Organisations And Community Resilience

Ruth McAreavey

Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Across Europe there is evidence that rural space has become more highly desired than before the pandemic as urban dwellers escaped to the perceived safety of the countryside. Whether or not this is a permanent trend remains to be seen, but it has brought to the fore the interconnections between urban and rural space and the diversity across those different dimensions. Increasingly attention is directed towards 'left behind' places and yet the question of why some communities are resilient seems pertinent. Drawing from extensive empirical evidence from a study based in England, the article identifies key traits of a resilient rural community. The research reveals that the process of resilience is not something that can be easily pinned down, nor is it a matter that is ever finished. It shows how the specificity of place, including the existence of anchor institutions, can enhance community resilience. In contrast to urban anchors, in a rural context, a network of local institutions scaffold together to create an anchor network. However, in places with few anchors and weaker community infrastructure the capacity to upturn deep-seated challenges is limited; there is a need for major strategic intervention, including external investment and engagement.

Rural and urban energy transitions: discourses of Local Energy Communities on energy and territory in Navarra, Spain.

Andoni Iso

Universidad Publica de Navarra/Nafarroako Unibertsitate Publikoa, Spain

Energy transition processes have different impacts on territories. The decarbonisation of electricity generation systems is tackled by promoting the installation of low-emission technologies, but these can occupy large areas and generate major impacts, such as dams or large wind or solar farms. These are owned, in the case of Spain, by large electricity companies that preferentially evacuate it to other urban areas.

In this context, European policies, based on different objectives: the involvement of the population in the energy transition, diversification of energy market players, favouring faster electrification or the use of spaces already built, for example, promote the figures of Citizen Energy Communities and Renewable Energy Communities. These are grouped under the concept of Local Energy Communities (LECs).

In Navarra, there are 24 LECs in different rural localities and neighbourhoods of the main city of the region, either in project or operational form. The processes of formation of the LECs are participatory processes with an important weight of training in technical, legal and organisational aspects. Thus, different discursive positions are generated on aspects such as energy models or the sustainability of the territory. This paper presents an analysis of the documentation generated during the participatory process of setting up Local Energy Communities in rural and urban environments. The documentation studied are minutes, LEC statutes, websites, and all audiovisual production generated by the LEC

Future-Oriented Regional Development In The Focus Of Regime Analysis

Alexandra Von Brunn, Dr. René John

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Ongoing urbanization and globalization effects pose new complex challenges for regions remote from agglomerations in Germany such as demographic changes, a shortage of skilled workers, digitalization, climate change, biodiversity loss, economic degradation, and energy transitions. Those often lead to social fragmentation and tensions, even though tensions can be regarded as productive expectations for future discourses instead of solely as conflicts. However, remote regions hold a special function for social change as spaces for experimentation (see new-regionalism, Soja, 2009). They are innovative in their capability to shape options for endogenous regional development and thereby, foster future social change. Thus, the aim of this project is to investigate endogenous development in regions remote from agglomerations and contrast four cases from the north-western and eastern part of Germany. It is embedded in the joint research project "ATRAKTIV – Building transformative capacities to activate regional innovation systems".

To guide the investigation, the heuristic of regional regime analysis will be applied. In this session, we will explain the heuristic alongside the three aspects of (1) regionality in terms of localization, (2) innovativeness via debates on ideas, which then translate ideas into (3) governance practices so they can become binding decisions on future development. On that basis, we will provide first glimpses of empirical data at regional localization of relevant actors as the source for formulations of challenges and solutions. These are inputs for the regional future discourse in terms of mutual debates organized by intermediary actors. Such debates help to pack-up the loose ideas into tight programs for the regional development to be decided through regional governance.

RN38 | T07_01: Class and diversity

From The Countryside To The City And Back? The "Creative Class" Turns Rural

Thomas Doerfler

University of Jena, Germany

Is there a shift in the living preferences of Western knowledge societies – an epochal movement of the creative class out of the city? I will try to track this question by the following thesis: Creativity is an urban phenomenon, when we look at the debate in urban & regional studies since Florida (2002) and Landry/Bianchini (1995). What was regarded as deindustrialized ruins of the past turned to creative laboratories of the future. Cities became the motors of modernisation, due to their unusual and experimental life – and work-styles the ground for nearly all debates about the future of (western) societies (smart, post-growth, just cities etc.).

But the corona pandemic has unexpectedly brought about a movement in the opposite direction, and initial figures indicate that we could be dealing with another, the next fundamental change in Western societies (BBSR 2022; ifo 2021): cities are no longer seen as a promise for a better future, as they have been for almost three decades, but are once again perceived as trouble spots of social and economic ruptures. Within a few months, the public image that the media had painted of 'creative', 'cosmopolitan' cities and centers turned around: The city as a space of opportunity became a prison for the pandemic society. First publications spoke of "pandemic urbanism" in order to emphasize the problematic nature of urbanity in pandemic times (Harris, Connolly, Keil 2022).

By giving examples from from the Berlin region I will show how these developments lead to a ‚flight to the rural', which brings about new social tensions between ‚urbanists' and ‚locals' at the countryside: as the „creative class" turns regional, is there a rural gentrification ahead?

Diversity and LGBTIQ* experiences in Rural Spaces

Carola Bauschke-Urban, Zentgraf Jana-Christina

Fulda University UAS, Germany

Diversity in rural areas differs from diversity in urban and metropolitan spaces, as rural areas tend to lack diversity in terms of social differences and inequalities such as race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and other socially signifying categories. There is evidence that also rural population is diverse, rural spaces and their diversities are highly under-researched. Yet, the backwardness of rural spaces

is generally assumed, which also manifests in a predominance of conservative and traditional values. Anti-diversity politics as well as the growing support and justification of minorities such as LGBTIQ+ people, refugees, migrants and other minority groups, more and more becomes a factor of the growing tensions enforced by extreme right and anti-democratic movements, which tend to enlarge to a greater extend in rural spaces rather in urban and metropolitan areas. Adorno coinded the term 'provincialism' as a mindset that justifies the downgrading of marginalized and diverse groups. The more than 40 interviews, which mostly lasted for several hours, represent qualitative interviews with of rurally situated LGBTQ* persons of all genders, sexualities, ages and sexes. The main findings of this biographical study show that invisibility and strong social exclusion of rural queer people is a shared experience of the queer people in this remote rural area. As everyday interaction is coined by hiding their queerness, their experiences of exclusion highly intersect with age, education and sex. These biographical narrations relate to the potential of diversity for social transformation in rural spaces. The paper will thus discuss the sociology of rural spaces against the background of rural diversity and the experiences of queer minorities.

Unveiling Gender Disparities in Post-Disaster Rural Transformation: A Grounded Theory Exploration of Land Use/Property in Hatay, Turkey

Emek Aydin

Kadir Has University, Turkiye

This research question emerged from the unpublished preliminary findings of the Elazığ field of the TÜBİTAK-funded (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) project. It has been observed the new houses built by TOKİ (Housing Development Administration of Türkiye) after the earthquake in Elâzığ were constructed as multi-story houses in different areas from the pre-disaster settlements, different from the old, single-story settlement pattern of the villagers. Moreover, while the authorities see the transformation as an opportunity to "urbanize rural areas", in Elazığ, where a large proportion of women are propertyless and landless, and property and land ownership is largely in multi-shareholder common ownership; only property owners were able to benefit from the new housing, and its gender implications were not assessed. Since the context of the research in Elazığ was only disaster preparedness, this research is an emerging study that examines the rural transformation of post-disaster reconstruction efforts and land use from a gender perspective in terms of property regime by using grounded theory. The research is based on data from Hatay, a doctoral dissertation field focusing on disasters that have occurred in the last decade and directly affected agricultural areas/land use. Hatay had 1.03% of Turkey's agricultural land, a 16% share in agriculture and gross national product, and a 29% share in employment. It is one of the cities in Turkey most severely affected by the February 6 earthquakes. After the disaster, it was seen that critical agricultural lands in Hatay were expropriated for the construction of buildings such as mass housing and state hospitals with the hasty expropriation. With this respect and within the context of the research question, focusing on the expropriation of olive groves where many women engage in agricultural activities, in-depth interviews will be conducted with at least five affected women. In Turkey, there is limited study examining rural transformation and land use from a gender perspective regarding property regime due to post-disaster reconstruction efforts. In this respect, the research topic is both innovative and original.

RN38 | T08_01: Turbulence in places and spaces

Generations Apart: Transformation Of Childhood And Real Life In Hard-to-reach Rural Areas

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We present a cultural analysis of how people in hard-to-reach rural areas of Czechia use the concepts of "real life" and "childhood." Employing a cultural-sociological framework, we analyse a series of interviews conducted in these regions to uncover the deep meanings and hidden structures of what "real life" is and how it shapes the meaning-making process. Our methodology is grounded in the practice of the thick description, allowing for a deep understanding of the cultural contexts and individual experiences that inform these concepts.

We focus on the ways through which perceived distances between the adult generation and their children are experienced and coded and how references to „real life" are used in this process. We suggest that this divergence in understanding is rooted in cultural, economic, and technological shifts that have differentially impacted rural areas of Czechia. Our findings suggest that variations in these definitions are deeply entwined with the lived experiences and cultural context of the symbolic rural-urban divide.

We contribute to the broader discourse on how rural communities negotiate identity and reality in a rapidly changing world, as well as the discourse on the rural-urban divide. By highlighting the unique perspectives of the rural Czech population, this study provides valuable insights into the complex interplay between place, culture, and generational change. It also offers a critical examination of the role of childhood experiences in shaping adult perceptions of reality, providing a fresh perspective on cultural continuity and transformation.

Territorial inequalities and Left-behindness in Italy. A critical analysis from the "Exit" project

Giorgio Pirina, Fabio Perocco

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

The debate on territorial inequalities in Italy has a long tradition, which has been reflected in a diverse range of terms, such as inner areas, rural areas, mountain areas, depressed areas, marginal areas, sacrifice zones etc. Despite this variety, it is nevertheless possible to link the issue of territorial inequalities and marginality to the lack of investment in infrastructures and services (mobility, education, health, digitalisation, etc.) due to political and economic choices, but also to specific geographical situations and the extremely small size of many municipalities in terms of population.

This paper presents the initial findings of the European project "Exit – Exploring sustainable strategies to counteract territorial inequalities" (Horizon Europe), which aims to anlayse with an ethnographic methodology the factors of territorial inequalities in places that are characterized as "left-behind". Data come from four focus groups with regional and national experts and stakeholders on territorial inequalities in Italy and the (in)effectiveness of public policies to address them, and two ethnographic field studies in two areas: Murano Island, an urban post-industrial area in Venice (Veneto region) and Gennargentu-Mandrolisai mountain and rural area (Sardinia region).

According to the research paricipants, policies to counteract territorial inequalities were implemented through various channels, including EU funding, and interventions took on different forms such as top-down, bottom-up, and place-based approaches. However, the desired outcomes were only partially achieved due to the incompetence of local institutions, reduced public investment in the South, the absence of strategic plans, and limiting factors such as corruption.

Turbulent tides in the Dender: Suburban Tensions, Loss, and Belonging in a Polarized Region

Willemien Van Damme

KU Leuven, Belgium

'Real' rural areas in Flanders (Northern Belgium) are rather rare. Yet Flanders is presented in the minds of its inhabitants as a rural region. In the Dender region, the rural quality has deteriorated over the years, partly as a result of deindustrialization and globalization. The region is mainly known in the public debate because of the strong growth of extreme right-wing populist parties and ethnic diversity. Changing economic and social geographies have given rise to friction and feelings of resentment and otherness between the 'established' and 'outsiders' (Elias and Scotson, 1994). In this research, we focus on the rationales behind subtle, but rapidly accumulating tensions between the two social groups. Based on interviews with established people (16), people who have lived there for generations, and outsiders (11), newly arrived people with a migration background, we explore the meaning of home and the sense of belonging in this polarized region. By connecting Elias and Scotson's (1994) concept of figuration with Hochschild's (2016) 'deep story', we analyze the story of the suburban housing dream to better understand the emotions of loss, hope, and pride and attempt to transcend the polarization between the two groups. This study contributes to social science research on ethnic diversity, whiteness, and the interrelated rural-urban dichotomy by encompassing how the suburban housing dream plays a role in the figuration of established and outsiders and how this is intertwined with their everyday experiences.

RN38 | T09_01: Farming and environment

"For Generations Farmers Have Preserved the Environment, Now You Are Endangering It": Affective-discursive Practices in European Farmers' Reaction to Changes in Agricultural Policy

Melika Mahmutović, Dora Matejak

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The farming sector faces a perplexing conundrum: it is one of the sectors most affected by climate change while simultaneously contributing to around 20% of global greenhouse emissions. To alleviate the pressures of agricultural production on nature and climate, the European Union (EU), and consequently the Slovene government, has positioned farmers as crucial actors in providing sustainable food and safeguarding the environment. Accordingly, it has announced the establishment of new rules and regulations that farmers will have to follow. However, farmers are increasingly contesting these requirements, "defending" themselves and conventional agricultural practices as profitable, just, traditional and thus sustainable, issuing demands aligning with the logic of agrarian populism. Despite the obvious potency of farmers' action, scholarship problematizing its manifestation in the context of the impending climate crisis is scarce. In this paper, through the analysis of 2023 farmers' protests in Slovenia, we illustrate the peculiar tension between farmers' self-representation as both champions of environmental protection and those suffering from overblown environmental rules. Through the analysis of media reports and interviews with Slovene farmers, and by using the concept of affective-discursive practices, we examine the interplay of affects and discourse in meaning-making around the climate crisis among farmers which shows mobilization based on anger, fear and anxiety. The paper contributes to knowledge on the climate crisis and agrarian populism in not just Slovene but the European context, uncovering complexities and intricacies of dislocation of farmers' identity as well as the affective narratives behind their opposition to the increasing environmental regulation.

The Struggle for Liquidity: Shaping Rural Markets through Everyday Financial Resistance

Robin Smith

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

This paper introduces local forms of debt resolution schemes to show how Croatian farmers retain their economic agency and resilience against structural forces by tycoon-owned conglomerates that otherwise dominate the national agri-economy. It shows how rural economies can resist outside pressures to maintain local ways of doing business.

Liquidity is at the center of a power struggle between national conglomerates and family businesses in Istria, a rural agrarian economy in western Croatia. These corporations use their size and dense political connections to coerce smaller clients, like Istrian winemakers, who are also competitors of their various subsidiaries, into financial arrangements that deprive them of cash. Supermarket chains hold the payment of their debts hostage, forcing families into negotiating sub-optimal repayment arrangements that may ultimately still deprive them of the liquidity necessary to make ends meet. These maneuvers threaten to upend longstanding business arrangements, some of which have existed for generations, as families are threatened by liquidity crises.

However, my long-term ethnographic research here demonstrates how families resist through adhering to longstanding values. They devise repayment strategies in-kind or with the help of third parties, so that business can continue despite chronic low liquidity, and rely on verbal contracts and a local economy of trust. By analyzing these informal practices, this paper illuminates how rural economic actors can at once be transformed by external forces while maintaining connections and values that distinguish them from urban, national, and transnational economic actors.

Back to Nature? Future Pathways of Bereg, an Agricultural Area in Rural Hungary

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Many post-socialist rural spaces that have been dismissed by capital experience "emptiness" as their material, social, and political relations are restructuring and as they are heading into an uncertain future (Dzenovska 2018, 2020). Bereg, our case study site is situated in eastern Hungary, where we conducted interviews and surveys among land users and local stakeholders. The inquiry was part of a conservation project that aims to restore wetlands in the area. Bereg is a predominantly agricultural area, where the relative shortage of capital manifested in a decreasing population, the outmigration of the youth, the aging of the farmer population, and the struggle of many farms to maintain their farming activity due to the pressures of the market and the struggles of finding agricultural workforce. This led to the rewilding of some parts of the area, as some of the farmers turned a number of agricultural lands into forests

with the help of subsidies. Other areas were going through spontaneous growth of shrubs and trees due to the abandonment of agricultural activity. As part of the change in human-nature relations, land users also increasingly experienced and struggled with the disappearance of water from the landscape. This was caused by the effects of climate change and the land use patterns of the past, that aimed to drain surplus water from the area to favor industrial agriculture. Restoring wetlands in unprofitable agricultural areas and returning to a previous state of the landscape would be beneficial both for ecosystems and land users. It would also be another step towards rewilding the area, which means an unknown pathway for the local society in a rewilded landscape.

RN38 | T09_02: Land use changes and resistance

From the Portuguese Southwestern Alentejo to the Colombian Guajira: Differences and Similarities in regions affected by large extractive investments

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Different fields have a long tradition of studying extractivism. The concept is related to post-development and political ecology theories and refers to appropriating and exploiting natural and human resources, usually from the Global North towards the Global South. It helps explain how rural regions change due to significant global investments. São Teotónio (Alentejo, Portugal) and Barrancas (La Guajira, Colombia) are two places that can serve as examples of large-scale social and environmental changes following international investments in extractive industries. While São Teotónio has been facing investments in the agricultural sector for the last twenty-five years, Barrancas saw the construction of the coal mine El Cerrejón in 1985, which continues to function today.

While the case studies involve two different forms of extractivism in distant and culturally distinct regions, we may detect many mutual characteristics in the new dynamics of these two places. This paper aims to understand the similarities and differences, departing from data collected during fieldwork experiences in São Teotónio and Barrancas.

Although the discourses of investing companies and governments focus on the importance of these production projects for the development and the economy of populations, regions, and nations, the local population's quality of life has drastically changed. Some issues experienced by the populations of both places include dispossession of the population from their native lands and material resources, displacement, no access to potable water, food crisis, impacts on biodiversity, social division, and deepening of inequalities.

"The Mixed Blessing of Public Employment in Lusatia – Opportunities and Challenges for a Coal Region in Transition"

Annika Runge, Anika Noack

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In 2020 the German government committed to phase out coal by 2038. To support coal-mining regions in transition various measures have been taken. One of them is the relocation of public sector jobs to former coal-mining regions. A significant share of jobs is being relocated to Lusatia – a rural, structurally weak and demographically declining former coal region in Eastern Germany, bordering Poland and the Czech Republic.

While the local population, particularly in more marginalized and lagging-behind areas, expects to significantly benefit from these measures, there are severe concerns within the private sector that public employment could crowd out private sector employment. Lusatia's reliance on both national and international migration to meet labor demands is expected to intensify due to these relocations. If unresolved, this conflict could result in eroding public trust in the transition process and diminishing support for the associated political measures.

This paper, drawing on an organizational survey, investigates the relocations' impact on migration and local labor markets and examines spatial strategies addressing the emerging conflict.

Initial results show that the relocations have not yet triggered much inward migration. This suggests growing labor market tensions and intensified competition for skilled workers. Against this backdrop, strengthening the urban-rural linkages between Lusatia and its neighbouring agglomerations Berlin and Dresden could boost the transformative capacities of the structurally weak region. Initiatives such as the Berlin-Lausitz Innovation Corridor represent steps in this direction.

Reading Rural-urban Linkages through Collective Action against Rent-seeking Policies

Fatmanil Doner

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The linkages between urban centers and rural regions involve many interactions through migration, employment, food networks, land use, service provisioning, and resource management. Nevertheless, the tendency to have a mutually exclusive categorization of poverty, development, and growth as 'rural' or 'urban' especially among policymakers and scholars limits our capacity to understand these interactions as drivers of socioeconomic and political change. Rural-urban linkages provide opportunities for people's livelihood strategies and maneuvering through mobility, migration, and diversification. At the same time, linkages bring about vulnerabilities by the exploitation of labour, land, and natural resources especially when there is a big discrepancy between urban centers and rural outskirts.

This study intends to analyze rural-urban linkages with the critical elements of collective action against rent seeking policies in development combining theoretical and empirical work. The case study will be Istanbul where the Turkish government's strategy to push through its various mega-projects such as Istanbul Airport, Canal Istanbul, Istanbul-Izmir Highway, and Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge etc. threatens the environment, rural spaces, and natural resources. Therefore, possible costs and consequences of these projects have created a sense of collective action linking rural and urban dwellers to resist mega-projects together.

In this regard, this study will examine the perception of development in Turkey, the functioning of rent seeking policies in mega projects, and how the organization rural-urban residents has expanded the resistance against these projects. The methodology will be based on semi-structured interviews and focus groups with the rural residents living in the periphery of Istanbul and the urban based NGOs.

JS | RN001_RN12: Bringing ageing societies with a sustainable future

Building sustainable societies requires attention to ecological, economic, social and ethical aspects. This session asks if and how issues of ageing of populations are taken into account in developing sustainable societies. Debates about climate change as one of the major challenges of our times have moved to the centre of public debates in Europe and worldwide, while in research on ageing many questions remain yet to be investigated in-depth. First, the consequences of climate change on older people are undisputed, in particular regarding the risk of poorer health outcomes, increased mortality, and significant health inequalities. In addition, natural disasters, expected to multiply by climate change, intersect with myriads of other threats to older people's wellbeing and health. Second, older people may develop various coping strategies to deal with climate challenges, such as heat waves or natural disasters. These strategies may reflect inequalities in resources and opportunities of older people. Climate change adaptation plans and policies currently mostly ignore this heterogeneity. Third, older generations are often blamed for being responsible for creating the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and not contributing to climate change movements. The question remains how a social contract across generations could look like to tackle climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and which positive visions of a sustainable future for all generations may be derived. The session highlights the urgency of challenging intra-generational and inter- generational inequalities and the need to develop inclusive innovations to guide more effective and fair research, policy and practice in ageing societies.

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Co-creating Home-based Solar Powered Fall-technologies With Older Adults In Finland

Katri Keskinen, Annika Valtonen, Federica Previtali, Pinja Majava, Sakari Ilomäki, Johanna Ruusuvuori

Tampere university, Finland

In line with care policies in many Nordic and welfare countries, care services for older adults are primarily targeted towards home care and supporting older adults living longer and independently at home. However, falls at home continue to be a common and serious risk for community dwelling older adults. While the selection of assistive technologies has expanded vastly, these devices are often not designed to match the needs and wishes of older users.

Our research on human-centred smart technology design (SOL-TECH) addresses this issue, by adapting participatory research methods with older adults to co-design a person-centred fall-tech device powered by solar and indoor lighting. This presentation draws from qualitative interviews (n=49) with older adults and their close ones, video diaries (n=14) by older adults, observational data from home visits and notes, drawings and other materials produced in three co-creation workshops.

Some of the current technologies foster negative and ageist images of ageing or fall short in their accessibility and usability. Including older adults and their voices in the creative process, our results portray how older adults imagine their futures and what kind of assistive technologies they would prefer to have in their homes and where these would be placed. We conclude the presentation with a discussion on the benefits and challenges of using participatory research to co-design technologies with and for older adults.

Absolute Healthcare Poverty in Bangladesh: Out-of-Pocket Healthcare Costs and Inequitable Healthcare System

Md Sher E Khoda

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The purpose of this study is to shed light on the inequitable health care system in Bangladesh and its impact on older people. The novel concept of care poverty developed by Teppo Kröger and absolute healthcare poverty discussed by Lisa Raiz have been adopted as the basis for understanding the unmet healthcare needs of older people in Bangladesh. Currently, over 14 million people in Bangladesh are over the age of 60 in Bangladesh. However, there is no formal healthcare provision for this population. At the same time, private health insurance is rarely available and excessive out-of-pocket health care costs lead to intolerable health deprivation, especially for the economically poor. Despite this situation, very little research has been conducted by academics, NGOs and the government on health care scarcity and its impact on older people.

To fill the research gap and to address the impact of excessive healthcare costs on this population, empirical interview data was collected from 44 older people in Bangladesh in 2021. The empirical data were analysed using a thematic content analysis method. Ethical approval was obtained and carefully followed according to the guidelines of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK) and the University of Jyväskylä.

The main findings suggest that there is no specific healthcare or public/private health insurance available for older people. Most economically poor older people are to some extent excluded from primary healthcare services due to excessive costs and other factors, including distant healthcare facilities, lack of transport and institutional mismanagement.

Assessing Climate-related Vulnerabilities at the Interface of Health and Social Inequalities

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Austrian National Public Health Institute, Austria

Introduction

The impact of climate change on health exhibits complex interrelationships, varying across time and space. The study highlights challenges in developing quantitative tools for assessment of climate-related vulnerabilities and intersectionality with health and social inequalities.

Methods

Using a framework by World Health Organization as a starting point, we developed the "Climate-Resilience Health Check" (KLIC Health) for Austrian municipalities and regions in two steps: (1) Following a data mapping, a set of indicators on 5 different vulnerability dimensions (demographic, socioeconomic, health, socio-political, geographic/climate) was compiled. Vulnerability indicators were visualized as maps and spider charts to facilitate communication. (2) Participative foresight methods were developed to allow for identification of policy options for strengthening climate resilience of regional health systems.

Results

(1) We created a quantitative tool for research and policy at the interface of climate and health with 28 indicators. Quantification of intersectional perspectives and calculation of an index was not possible to start with. Pre-defined categories on socio-political indicators had to be adapted, calling for equivalent indicators (e.g. related to gender equality). (2) Public participation methods were developed. Mixed methods allowed for in-depth understanding of regional contexts.

Conclusions

We identify several learnings relevant for quantitative climate health adaptation endeavours in other countries, related to data availability, possibilities for intersectional perspectives on climate and health vulnerabilities and the lack of sociological perspectives in climate-health policies. Mixed methods elements with stakeholder involvement have proven successful at the interface of climate adaptation, social inequalities and health system resilience.

Interconnected Gerontology: Bringing In "The Ontological Turn" To Gerontology.

Janicke Andersson, Klara Öberg

Halmstad university, Sweden

Contemporary processes such as climate change and technological developments makes the incongruity of human exceptionalism in gerontological research all too evident. Consequently, in this article a new perspective in gerontology is

suggested: “interconnected gerontology”. This perspective is constructed on perspectives influenced by the “the ontological turn”. This concept provides a theoretical contribution that investigates how altered ontological perspectives can be used to question an anthropocentric worldview as it blurs the boundaries between humans-nonhumans and nature-culture. Such perspectives raise questions that touch upon the direct foundations of human essence, human exceptionalism and rights to nature and resources. At large an interconnected gerontology creates new perspectives of interconnectedness in aging that paves way for important insights and essential questions such as how we live, and age interconnected in sustainable, just, and equal ways.

JS | RN12_RN21_ T01: Methodological Landscapes of Quantitative Environmental Sociology

This joint session aims to discuss methodological solutions and developments that apply in environmental social research. Various reviews show that both qualitative and quantitative methods and their combinations are used in environmental social research. At this conference, we invite you to propose innovative solutions and to discuss issues related to data collection, processing, analysis and use. We do not limit our call to any specific methodology, thus feel free to suggest the topics you are working on. Of course, there are emerging topics, that might ignite more of scholarly attention. Quantitative methodology has recently been full of innovations related to the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning. We welcome abstracts that address the various applications of AI and machine learning in environmental social research. We also invite you to discuss the ethical issues and the implications, as well as impact of environmental social research. Furthermore, we are interested in the processes of open science, data sharing infrastructures and citizen science. All these topics have recently received a lot of attention from the European Commission and the academic community. We are interested in what is being done in these directions in environmental social research, e. g. what citizen science projects are being implemented, what are the lessons and effects of such projects, what data are opened to support the green transition, etc. We also welcome summaries from/about international surveys or media monitoring programs, e. g. European Social Survey or International Social Survey Program module ISSP Environment IV. Let's turn this session into a rich discussion on the ontology and methodology of environmental social science.

Does Information Increase the Acceptance of Carbon Taxes? Findings from a Pilot Study Experiment of the German Longitudinal Environmental Study (GLEN)

Felix Wolter[1], Katrin Auspurg[2], Henning Best[3], Christiane Bozoyan[2], Andreas Diekmann[4], Claudia Schmiedeberg[2]

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The paper presents findings from a pilot study of the German Longitudinal Environmental Study (GLEN), a large-scale panel study starting in April 2024 and scheduled for a duration of 12 years.

Carbon tax is a key measure for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving climate neutrality. However, they are relatively unpopular as "push" measures and, without compensation, burden in particular low-income groups. The situation is quite different, however, for a carbon tax with redistribution of revenues. Will such a tax be accepted to a greater extent than a tax whose revenues flow into the state budget? Does knowledge about redistribution play a role?

We present results of a survey experiment asking about the acceptance of carbon taxes: a control group received no information about what will be done with the tax revenues and a treatment group was informed that revenues will be redistributed to low-income households.

Overall, acceptance of a carbon tax is only marginally affected by information about redistribution. However, interaction effects play a role; for individuals who are very concerned about energy prices, acceptance increases in the knowledge condition. One conclusion from the experiment is that knowledge alone is not enough to reach greater acceptance of CO2 reduction measures

We will also shortly present key features of the GLEN, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The aim of the project is to collect high-quality longitudinal data on environmental behavior, environmental attitudes, acceptance of political measures and environmental inequality. With GLEN, we want to integrate the social sciences as an integral part of climate and environmental research and thus place the "human factor" at the center of environmental and climate protection issues.

The Climate Gluing Protests: Analyzing Their Development And Framing In Media Since 1986 Using Sentiment Analyses And Frame Detection Models

Markus Hadler[1], Alexander Ertl[2], Beate Magdalena Klösch[1], Markus Reiter-Haas[2], Elisabeth Lex[2]

[1]University of Graz, Austria; [2]Graz University of Technology

Recent climate-related protests by the social movements Extinction Rebellion, Just Stop Oil, and others include actions such as defacing artwork and gluing themselves to objects and on the streets. In this study, we employ quantitative methods, specifically sentiment analysis and frame detection models, to analyze a corpus of news articles from the 1980s onward. Focusing on the evolution of gluing protests over time, our research traces the development of this type of protest and its representation in the media. Using a dataset spanning several decades, we examine how gluing protests were initially associated with various issues, including abortion and criminal convictions, before gaining prominence in environmental and climate activism in recent years. Our analysis reveals a predominantly negative media coverage of gluing protests, with comparatively less negative sentiment found in public media. Furthermore, we examine the prevalence of protesters' prognostic frames of 'what to do', which appear to be limited, and with policy and security issues taking precedence. In conclusion, our study not only sheds light on the evolution of gluing protests, but also contributes methodologically to the quantitative landscape of environmental sociology. By employing advanced sentiment analysis and frame detection models, we provide nuanced insights into the media representation of these protests over several decades.

If Not Today, then Tomorrow? Contrasting Present and Future Concerns over Climate Change in Australia

Roger Patulny[1], Rebecca Olson[2], Jordan Mckenzie[3], Fiona Charlson[2], Mary Holmes[4], Andreas Hernandez[5]

[1]Hong Kong Baptist University, Australia; [2]University of Queensland; [3]University of Wollongong; [4]University of Edinburgh; [5]University of New Mexico

Climate anxiety is now entrenched in many societies, though the predictors and motivations behind it vary. Many population majorities now accept climate science, and the serious reality of the threat it poses. However, it is not clear whether such future-oriented concerns are being drowned beneath everyday concerns over material prosperity, particularly in times of high unemployment, rising prices, and housing unaffordability. We use data from the 2022-23 Australian Social Attitudes Survey, a nationally representative dataset, to examine perceptions about the greatest social challenges Australia faces today and into the future (i.e. over the next 30 years), with a particular focus on climate change as the most serious threat. Analysis reveals the importance of political voting patterns (i.e. ideology) over other factors, with left-leaning Green party voters significantly more likely to name climate change as the greatest challenge both today and in future, while right-leaning National Party/Other voters are significantly less likely to do so. However, when looking at 'future switching' - i.e. those who see climate change as the most important future but not present challenge - demographic effects are as important as political ideology. Higher education positively predicts switching to climate change as the biggest challenge, while experiencing financial hardship negatively predicts it, regardless of political ideology. This suggests that while political ideology may drive anxiety (or lack thereof) over climate change today, an informed self-interest (i.e. based on educated, material prosperity) may be starting to drive greater recognition of the danger climate change poses into the future.

JS | RN01_RN13_T04: Diverse Family Structures in Old Age (I)

Family structures have undergone significant diversification, mirroring the changing landscape of societal norms and transformations pertaining to marriage, divorce, and parenthood. While these shifts are widely recognized, there remains a dearth of knowledge regarding their implications for individuals as they advance in age. In response to this gap, this joint session, organized by RN01 and RN13, delves into the intricate dynamics surrounding diverse family structures in later life, including traditional nuclear families, single seniors, same-sex couples, multigenerational households, and chosen families. The objective is to deepen our understanding of how these diverse family setups influence the well-being, health, and support of aging individuals.

The Associations Between Generational and Marital Placements over the Life Course and Wellbeing in Later Life

Julia Sauter[1], Bettina Hünteler[2,3]

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This study explores the intricate association between family and partnership transitions and later-life wellbeing and health. Drawing on life course, family systems, and role theories, the research investigates to which extent transitions into and out of various intergenerational family roles and marital statuses impact individuals as they age. This approach allows to consider the complexity arising from the interconnected effects of multiple life course events. The study mobilizes the concept of 'generational and marital placement trajectories' to capture individuals' vertical positions in their intergenerational family structure as well as their marital transitions over time. Analyzing data from the second and third waves of the Norwegian Life Course, Ageing and Generations (NorLAG) survey (n=2276) through sequence, cluster, and regression analyses, the study examines associations between generational and marital placement trajectories from age 23 to age 65 (individuals born between 1939 and 1952) and two outcomes to measure later life wellbeing, namely self-rated health and life satisfaction. Seven different trajectories were identified. Results reveal that individuals who remained childless and either single or were married had lower levels of life satisfaction than those who transitioned to parent- and grandparenthood. With regards to self-rated health, individuals who had a late transition to parenthood and were mainly married over the life course were better off than individuals in all other trajectories. This research contributes to existing literature by elucidating how the occurrence, timing, and sequencing of transitions in multiple kin relations, family roles and marital statuses throughout the life course are linked to individuals' later-life wellbeing and health.

Older People's Social Networks Across Europe: Families, Families and Families Again?

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In the literature, social networks are often subsumed in the concept of personal social capital, particularly as a source and locus for relational resources. Personal networks are associated with better health conditions and the well-being of individuals and older people. They are a function of family structures and their changes over time (Hollstein 2023), e.g. widowhood affects both the size and the properties of social networks. SHARE data from wave 8 across a total of 25 European countries reveals that personal core networks are predominantly made by family members, either "ascribed" (to the family of origin) or "gained" (through unions and births) and only to a much lesser extent by non-family members (friends, neighbours, co-workers, etc.). Importantly, familial network resources are more persistent through the natural process of network loss that occurs with ageing. This phenomenon becomes particularly noticeable from the age of 75 onwards (especially so for women). The centrality of family-related core relations not only applies to traditionally familistic countries such as the Mediterranean ones but also to the Eastern European, Continental, and Nordic countries (in order), albeit to a lesser extent. From a gender perspective, empirical results reveal that care remains mostly a responsibility -and burden- of the families and especially women therein. Ultimately, personal networks and family structures convey different capacities to afford care. Having or not having a familial social network available is one of the structural conditions of inequality among individuals and older people affecting health and well-being.

Navigating Singular Paths: Parental Care in Chinese Only-Child Families

Ying Shen[1], Oana Ciobanu[2], Matthias Kliegel[3]

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The aim of this study is to investigate how being the only child shapes care provision and care experience evaluation. Using thematic and discourse analysis, we analyzed semi-structured in-depth interviews with 23 adult only children (aged from 21 to 51, 16 females and seven males)

whose parent(s) were in need of care in China. Data were collected in 2023 mainly through social networks and social platform recruiting and snowballing. The analysis reveals four dimensions of care experience evaluation: connection and disconnection, pain and satisfaction, personal growth and emptiness, and pragmatism. The reasons for providing care could be classified into three categories: inherent, intentional, and situational. We observed a connection between reasons and the evaluation of caregiving experiences. Specifically, children who primarily engaged in caregiving due to situational reasons were very likely to encountering negative experiences, including feelings of pain and emptiness. In addition, there was a strong impact of parents' health and care needs on children's life paths in a cross-generation and cross-domain approach. The identity of being the only child makes the gender in providing care secondary. Informed by the family systems theory and the life course perspectives, this paper's findings deepen the understanding of how lacking siblings impact children's care provision, parent-child relationships in adulthood, and children's individual functioning. It potentially sheds light on how the macro-level one-child policy or reduced fertility rate shaped intergenerational interdependence at the micro-level with potential social consequences.

Perceptions of Fairness of Support Between Adult Children and Old-aged Parents

Anna Willems, Anina Vercruyssen, Dimitri Mortelmans

University of Antwerp, Belgium

Contemporary Western family dynamics, shaped by increased life expectancy and reduced fertility, have become more intricate. Smaller family units allow for heightened intergenerational exchanges, yet the oldest old increasingly rely on adult children for support (Vergauwen & Mortelmans, 2021). Amid this complexity, understanding perceptions of familial support is crucial. Exploring family mechanisms and filial support, we examine 'reasonable' support and 'fair' exchanges between adult children and parents using the distributive justice theory (Cook & Hegtvedt, 1983). Through 80 multi-actor interviews with adults (aged 65 or older) and their children, we uncover factors influencing perceptions of (un)fairness in family support and its relation to dynamics.Three prevalent support principles emerge, each tied to distinct mechanisms. Advocates of fair exchanges (equity) often have normative motivations, intrinsic factors, and expect reciprocity. The need principle justifies support intensity differences, while the child's view of equality varies based on relationship quality. Social activities and emotional connections contribute to parent-child relationships. In subsequent analyses, patterns in dyad relationships are explored, cross-referencing child and parent perceptions. This study contributes to parent-child support literature, examining diverse perceptions within dyads through multi-actor interviews. The mechanisms of solidarity among family members constitute a crucial element in the discourse surrounding the responsibility for the support of frail older adults and the determination of the acceptable extent of support individuals are willing to provide or receive.

JS | RN01_RN13_T06: Diverse Family Structures in Old Age (II)

Family structures have undergone significant diversification, mirroring the changing landscape of societal norms and transformations pertaining to marriage, divorce, and parenthood. While these shifts are widely recognized, there remains a dearth of knowledge regarding their implications for individuals as they advance in age. In response to this gap, this joint session, organized by RN01 and RN13, delves into the intricate dynamics surrounding diverse family structures in later life, including traditional nuclear families, single seniors, same-sex couples, multigenerational households, and chosen families. The objective is to deepen our understanding of how these diverse family setups influence the well-being, health, and support of aging individuals.

Financial Support by Older Adults to Family Members: A Configurational Perspective

Myriam Girardin, Marie Baeriswyl, Michel Oris

Unversity of Geneva, Switzerland

Most research on financial inter vivos transfers from older parents to their family members is focused on the giver–receiver dyad, usually between an older parent and an adult child. This presentation aims to investigate older adults' financial support beyond this level of intergenerational dyads using an egocentric network perspective (that is, the configurational approach). Data were from the VLV study, a large survey addressing family life and health conditions of older people in Switzerland. Findings show that older parents' propensity to provide financial support is associated with the density of practical help exchanges within the family (mainly for men) and with the position (mainly for women) and the role they play within their family configuration.

Childlessness and Loneliness in Later Life: A Study Using SHARE Data

Sunwoo Lee

Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic

This study examined the relationship between childlessness and loneliness in old age, exploring how socio-demographic and health variables affect this association. The study employed the individual-level data from Waves 6 (2015), 7

(2017), and 8 (2019-2020) of the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). In total, 51,712 older adults aged 60 years and older at baseline (mean age 71.72 ± 8.27 years; 55% female; 9.1% childless) were followed up over a 4-year period. The analysis included the number of children (ranging from 0 to 6+), the Three-Item Loneliness Scale, socio-demographic and health factors, and the quantity and quality of social networks. Results indicated that childlessness correlates with a higher likelihood of loneliness compared to having one to four children. Childless older adults tend to have smaller social networks, and lower levels of social network satisfaction and social connectedness. Social network satisfaction moderated the association between childlessness and loneliness, but network size and connectedness did not. Within the subsample of childless older adults, those who were married (living together with spouse) or partnered reported less loneliness than their never married or widowed peers. These trends persisted over two follow-up assessments. Among those who remained childless across three measurement points, loneliness did not increase at the first follow-up but significantly increased during the second follow-up, correlating with an increased widowhood rates and deteriorating health. The findings suggest childlessness as a potential risk factor for loneliness. However, its impact might be more nuanced and possibly be mitigated by high satisfaction with social network. Being partnered/married, along with relatively good health appeared to protect childless older adults from loneliness, while transitioning to widowhood may exacerbate loneliness.

Being Never-Married in Later Life – The Process of Making Meaning of a Non-Normative Living Arrangement

Luisa Bischoff

German Centre of Gerontology, Germany

As the diversity of family structures and living arrangements has been growing continuously over the past decades, the share of never-married individuals in older age has been increasing as well. Nevertheless, marriage remains a key milestone in the normatively expected life course – in Germany and other European countries. This societal norm carried even more weight in the historical time, within which earlier born cohorts were growing up. The contribution asks, how older individuals experience and make meaning of being never married in later life.

This question is addressed by analysing narrative processes of meaning making in in-depth interviews with never-married individuals over 50 years of age, who were living in relationships over their life courses. The interviews were conducted as the qualitative part of the mixed-methods project “Becoming Single in Older Age”.

In the data, the interviewees make meaning of their experiences by taking in affirmative or aversive positions towards normative expectations, like the ideal of romantic love and the understanding of marriage in a romantic sense or as a governmental institution. The different patterns of positions are related to how the interviewees identify with devaluing stereotypes of singlehood and to whether being never married is narrated as a self-determinant choice or an inflicted fate. The meaning ascribed to their living arrangement is in turn entangled with their current well-being and the anticipation of their future.

The contribution illustrates what it means to be never married in later life, sheds light on the heterogeneity within this non-normative living arrangement and negotiates the timeliness of societal norms concerning singlehood as well as marriage.

Social Support as Driver for Positive Aging and Warm Solidarity within the Context of Intragenerational Co-Housing of Elderly Persons

Sofie Vanassche, Dries Van Gasse, Elke Claessens

University of Antwerp, Belgium

Intragenerational cohabitation (IGC) of elderly persons is increasingly popular and has the potential to combine care, support and independence in aging. Since IGC of the elderly is a relatively new phenomenon in Flanders, there is little to no empirical evidence on the experiences of the elderly within this new form of living. This study therefore poses the question of how the elderly experience mutual exchange and support within a context of intragenerational cohabitation.

In-depth interviews were conducted with 28 respondents between the ages of 58 and 89 who live with at least one other person over 55 (who is not their spouse or partner). The interview data were processed according to the principles of the Grounded Theory approach. To monitor interpretation-bias, the coding process was run in parallel by 4 subgroups of coders.

Respondents reported several benefits associated with IGC, several of which can be subsumed under the term social support. IGC hereby creates a natural context for providing e.g. practical help to each other, which involves spontaneous social interactions. It is striking that respondents often mention activities that they themselves are good at or derive satisfaction from, in which they can help or involve others. When the necessary preconditions in terms of privacy and personal boundaries, reciprocit, adapted infrastructure and safety are met, IWG can be a catalyst for positive ageing, within which older people feel they can contribute to the community from their strengths and interests, and provide help, support, and experiences to those around them.

JS | RN01_RN16_T08: Towards more resilience after the crisis? Resources, challenges and interdisciplinary perspectives of healthy ageing in Europe

Older people are often characterised as the most vulnerable in our society, while they are also an important resource for resilient societies. Transformation in European welfare states, health, social care and long-term care systems, combined with lack of health workforce, rising prevalence of multimorbidity and tightening public budgets raises the question: What can be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other crisis (e.g. the climate crisi) as regards strengthening the resilience of older people, with a focus on healthy ageing and well-being? This joint session, organized by networks on Sociology of Health and Medicine (RN16) and Ageing (RN01), is dedicated to the problems and perspectives of healthy ageing arising from these transformations. Our objective is to shed light on the challenges faced by older adults, offering perspectives on healthy ageing experiences during and after the pandemic, and contributing to improving the quality of life for older persons.

Older people are often characterised as the most vulnerable in our society, while they are also an important resource for resilient societies. The Covid-19 pandemic posed a serious and specific threat to the physical, mental and social health of the older adult population in Europe, especially those affected by multiple health or socio-economic challenges. Yet, studies across Europe also demonstrate the potential for resilience among older people, partially contradicting the stereotypes of frail and vulnerable older people. With welfare states, health, social care and long-term care systems across Europe being in transformation, due to a lack of health workforce, rising prevalence of multimorbidity and tightening public budgets, the question remains as to what can be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other crisis (e.g. the climate change) as regards strengthening the resilience of older people, with a focus on healthy ageing and well-being. This joint session, organized by networks on Sociology of Health and Medicine (RN16) and Ageing (RN01), is dedicated to the problems and perspectives of healthy ageing arising from these transformations. Our objective is to shed light on the challenges faced by older adults, offering perspectives on healthy ageing experiences during and after the pandemic, and contributing to improving the quality of life for older persons.

Aging in the Digital Era: a Study on the Impact of Exergames on Elderly Health and Wellbeing in Italy

Valeria Quaglia, Alessia Bertolazzi

University of Macerata, Italy

In recent decades, the proportion of elderly people has significantly increased. It is projected that the percentage of people aged 65 and above will continue to rise from 10% in 2022 to 16% in 2050 (United Nations 2022). The development of digital health technologies in recent years has improved elderly people's access to the healthcare system, as well as their possibility to live independently and maintain their health. One relevant approach to health promotion for older adults is the use of gamification, although the literature also highlights challenges associated with its implementation. This presentation is based on a research study from Italy that focuses on an experimentation that involves the provision of 'exergames' (a blend of 'exercise' and 'games') and their effects on the health and wellbeing of the elderly. Exergames are interactive games that use displays, specialized software, and sensors to enable physical exercise and enhance cognitive function. The study aims, on the one hand, to assess the effectiveness of exergames in various settings, including nursing homes, senior groups organized by a social cooperative, and independently living elderly. On the other hand, this study aims also to critically examine the relationship between the elderly, technology, digital games and health. The methodology involved conducting semi-structured interviews with all elderly participants (n.15) and all educators (n.3) involved in the project; furthermore, participant observation was conducted in all the locations of the experimentation. Additionally, documents produced by the educators were analyzed. The preliminary findings indicate that exergames seem to have limited physical health benefits. However, the presentation will discuss their significant role in reducing social isolation, promoting socialization among peers, and improving mental health among the elderly.

JS | RN01_RN16_ T09: Towards more resilience after the crisis? Resources, challenges and interdisciplinary perspectives of healthy ageing in Europe

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Friendships And Social Activities As Stumbling Blocks For The Elderly? The Corona Pandemic, Social Capital And The Association Between Subjective And Functional Health.

Stefan Stuth, Oliver Huxhold

German Centre of Gerontology, Germany

Elderly people often report good subjective health even though their functional health is deteriorating (Spuling, Wurm, Wolf, & Wünsche, 2017). The discrepancies become possible, because individuals combine evaluations of their physical and functional health with the evaluation of their general life situation (Jylhä 2009). These factors compensate for the deteriorating objective health of the elderly. Comfort and happiness is drawn from social relationships, and creative and social activities instead from physical comfort alone (Peck, 1968, p. 91). However, during the Corona-pandemic almost all social and cultural activities were shut down. We assume that the moderating impact of social relationships and social activities on the relationship between functional health and subjective health is precluded due to the corona shut-down. Subjective health ratings should become realigned with the elderly's rating of their functional health.

Analyses are based on the German Aging Survey (DEAS). The DEAS is a nationwide representative cohort-sequential panel-survey of the community-dwelling population in its second half of life (40 years and older). We use the longitudinal data of 2014, 2017, and 2020/21 as a balanced panel to test for moderating effects of time and social capital on the association between functional health and subjective health.

We find the assumed effect for elderly whose social network consists mainly of friends and who were very active in their leisure time. For socially affluent elderly the advantages of social capital became a stumbling block. However, elderly with low social capital or a social network centered around the family were not affected.

We conclude with remarks on healthy ageing, protection measures during pandemics and the role of social capital.

Addressing the Challenges of Ageing and Bridging Gaps through Technology and Intergenerational Bonds: a Quantitative Study on the Elderly Population of Cremona

Cecilia Capozzi, Niccolò Morelli

Università di Genova, Italy

Ageing population poses new challenges to the national healthcare system: on one hand, the need to identify needs before they become chronic and/or severe, and on the other, to anticipate a more effective continuity of care. Studies on self-sufficiency and autonomy of the elderly population play an important role. However, these studies have primarily focused on small sample sizes or individuals with already compromised health. This contribution aims to bridge this gap by presenting the results of a comprehensive survey involving 1,300 individuals representing the over-60 population in the municipality of Cremona – one of the Italian municipalities with the highest number of elderly individuals. The survey considers factors such as age, gender, neighbourhood, and income. Through the questionnaire, we explore levels of self-sufficiency, health status, living conditions, cultural and relational capital, and the relationship with technology.

The results underscore vulnerable situations related to social isolation and early stages of cognitive decline that have not yet been adequately addressed by services.

In terms of technology, four distinct clusters emerge, structured along the lines of the digital divide and the inclination towards using digital services. These clusters exhibit significant differentiation based on structural inequalities and the degree of intergenerational social relations.

These findings advocate for treating old age not as a universally fragile category but as a life phase where biological characteristics, social inequalities, and lifestyles can profoundly impact health and quality of life. Consequently, we propose to target specific groups and design interventions to promote intergenerational relationships, including through social volunteering.

The Essential Parts Of A Caring Neighbourhood

Monica Maria Wouters[1], Dr. Leen Heylen[1], Dra. Manon Steurs[2], Prof. dr. Dominique Verté[2], Prof. dr. Paul Van Royen[3], Prof. dr. Emily Verté[2]

[1]Thomas More University of applied sciences, Belgium; [2]Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB); [3]University of Antwerp

Like in many other countries, Belgian policymakers are facing an ageing population and the impact of the place of residence on the health and wellbeing of their residents. This results in additional and more severe social and health care needs. As an attempt to tackle this situation the policy concept of 'Caring Neighbourhoods' was introduced in Flanders. In these neighbourhoods quality of life is central and all stakeholders involved strive to develop a neighbourhood where residents know and help each other, people with support needs receive support, and services and facilities are accessible and available. The approach contains of three pillars: (1) Neighbourhood participation and inclusion, (2) Connecting informal and formal care and (3) Intersectoral collaboration.

From March 2022 until February 2024 we monitored the process of the 132 Flemish Caring Neighbourhoods, to identify those aspects facilitating or hindering the development of a Caring Neighbourhood. We applied a mixed-methods research design, containing of three research rounds, each addressing a different aspect: the governance, the process and the outcomes. During each round we combined focus groups with the professionals that were in charge of the Caring Neighbourhood initiatives, a focus group with the coaches supporting the initiatives and short online follow-up surveys targeting all initiatives. As a result we were able to define the key steps that comprise a Caring Neighbourhood: (1) neighbourhood-analysis, (2) collaboration, (3) vision development, (4) interventions and (5) reflection. The presenters will reflect on these steps and the corresponding points of attention.

JS | RN02_RN03_T09: Interpreting Lockdown Societies through Biographical, Performative and Art-based methods

Biographical Experiences of Young Musicians and Families Through Musical Walks

Lyudmila Nurse[1], Chika Robertson[2]

[1]Oxford XXI think tank, United Kingdom; [2]Music Mind Spirit Trust, United Kingdom

This presentation is drawn upon the authors' continuous inter-disciplinary research with young musicians and their families in South-East England since 2009, and their recent study the 'Musical Steps' conducted during Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020-21 in England. In the study they recorded ways the young musicians explored new societal landscapes and emotions through learning to listen to the "music within their steps" while walking on their own or with family members. Analysis of self-recorded observations and essays by the young musicians and reflections revealed new cultural perspectives of sound, space and silence on their walks and musical repertoire inspired by the walks (Nurse and Robertson, 2020; 2022) in time of lockdowns.

Methodologically the team adapted the walking biographies method (WIBM) developed by O'Neill and Roberts (2019) to collect biographical and musical reflections on the walks, which contributed to the young musicians' well-being and development of their musical repertoires (Nurse and Robertson 2022). Musical walks examined participants' reflections upon their identities, family's cultural background and personal history and music performances; explored new channels of communication through engaging with others through nature, walking and sharing cultural songs and stories. Work on the musical walks was also evidence-based information that was used in the development of music teaching pedagogy (by Dr Chika Robertson in: Nurse and Robertson 2022) and art-based methods in biographical research.

Exploring Autosociobiographies: An Arts-Based Approach to (Auto-) Biographical Narration

Barbara Wolfram

Film Academy Vienna/ mdw - University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria

In my paper focusing on family dynamics and biographical narration, particularly mothers, fathers, and siblings, this arts-based research traces family trajectories across generations, offering some understanding of our present selves through the practice of autosociobiographical exploration. I want to introduce the arts-based research method of autosociobiographical exploration that I have predominantly developed for and used in the audio-visual arts to explore (auto-)biographical narration. Autosociobiographies, coined by Annie Ernaux, delve into autobiographies within sociological structures such as social class, gender, nationality, age, time, sexuality, and body.

Over the past five years, including the challenges posed by Covid, at Film Academy Vienna, mdw, I've explored cinematic autosociobiographies, drawing from my background in biographical documentary theatre and filmmaking as well as psychology. In four "family" themed cinematic autosociobiography laboratories, I have studied how artistic expressions foster trust and connection within diverse group settings, using arts-based exploration to discuss biographical experiences and societal issues. Autosociobiographical exploration employs techniques like sociological biographical interviews, co-creative focus groups, embodied memories, and artistic translation, predominantly used in audio-visual forms. The goal is to uncover social constructs shaping biographical trajectories and artistic practices, critically contextualizing possibilities and discriminations.

My paper establishes a theoretical foundation for this research practice, builds links to sociological traditions of biographical research and connects to concrete short movies/ artistic artefacts developed in our cinematic laboratories. The paper also provides practical insights into the newly used method of autosociobiographical exploration. Autosociobiographies have the potential to reveal unconscious biases, discriminations, and power hierarchies through artistic expressions. As a group-based artistic research method emphasizing co-creativity and dialogue, it also raises questions about global power hierarchies and advocates for a decolonized artistic practice.

How Covid-19 Affected The IdentityTrajectories Related To Drinking And Mental Health Among Young People: A Qualitative Longitudinal Study

Jukka Törrönen, Josefin Månsson, Eva Samuelsson, Filip Roumeliotis

Stockholm University, Sweden

Introduction: Our starting point is that when the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the established habitual everyday life practices of young people by transporting their lives to home, by limiting their interaction in public venues and highlighting the importance of communication technologies in their lives, it created distance from their pre-pandemic practices, questioned their self-evident nature and opened them up for reformation.

Methods: The data is based on longitudinal qualitative interviews among young people in Sweden who drink heavily or moderately (n = 23; age 15–27 years). The participants

were interviewed three times before the Covid-19 pandemic and twice after, between 2017 and 2023. The data was analysed by exploring how the Covid-19-related lockdown affected the identity trajectories related to drinking and mental health among young people. The analysis draws on actor-network theory, assemblage thinking, and narrative positioning analysis.

Results: The analysis indicates that the lockdown shifted young people's identity trajectories towards processes of becoming authentic, boring, anguished, depressed, normal, stress-free, self-caring, self-confident, and shielded. For some, the lockdown led to engagements with assemblages that promoted replacing drinking with competing, healthier activities. For others, the lockdown integrated them into assemblages where drinking became an influential capital, helping them overcome isolation and mental health problems, and translating the exceptional situation into normalizing forms of social interaction.

Conclusions: The results demonstrate that drinking is a heterogeneous activity. It can either enhance or diminish young people's capacities for well-being, depending on the assemblages and trajectories of becoming in which it is embedded.

JS | RN02_RN07_I_T4: Culture wars I: Democracy in a postruth society

Culture war – The post-race 'Race War' narrative of the German Populist Radical Right

Viola Dombrowski

University of Koblenz, Germany

Over the past year, the 'Culture War' narrative has made a resurgence, not only in Germany but many other 'western' nations, gaining traction even among mainstream political figures and media outlets.

Focusing on the German context, the primary proponent of this narrative is the German populist radical right party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). Based on a discourse analysis of the contents of 169 Twitter accounts of party officials, this presentation explores the integral role of the 'Culture War' narrative in constructing a crisis, in which a complex cartography of demarcations, self-positionings, and other-positionings is fabricated.

To establish this narrative as an imposed threat by 'the elite,' the AfD strategically weaves together two core frames: 'gender-ideology' and 'multi-culti-ideology'. While the former is portrayed as an internal threat, challenging the integrity and defensiveness of the people by purportedly eroding the traditional family model, the latter is presented as capitalizing on this weakened state, by furthering an alleged uncontrolled mass-immigration of the 'Muslim other'. This vulnerability would then ultimately to the demise of 'the people,' referred to as 'Volkstod' (ethnocide).

In this juxtaposition of 'the people' against a 'foreign other', the AfD revives the myth of the 'race war,' clad in new semantics, to construct a collective identity of 'the Germans'. In doing so, they draw upon a long tradition of Kulturkampf narratives by the New Right and 'Konservative Revolution'. Activists and intellectuals of which are now actively sought out for guidance by AfD politicians. The presentation will focus on re-constructing the AfDs 'Culture War' narrative and its functions as well as the re-articulation of 'race-' to 'Culture War'.

The Playful Politics Of War And History. Analyzing Spanish Civil War Boardgames And Creating One

David Manuel Sánchez Sánchez[1,2], Carlos Moreno Azqueta[2]

[1]Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; [2]Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) remains a controversial episode in the history of Spain, embedded between the push to create a democratic memory of the war and subsequent dictatorship and the efforts to maintain it away from public debate or to distort its facts and legitimize the far-right coup. To understand how the civil war is presented in popular culture, we analyzed the board games based on it through the popular website "boardgame geek" and found both an overwhelming majority of wargames and a renewed interest in the topic in the form of new games with innovative mechanics.

We argue that the genre of the wargame presents various risks for the construction of a democratic memory of the civil war: it tends to present the two forces as basically equivalent, reduces ideology to aesthetic components, and erases the memory and experiences of the civilian population. For that reason, we decided to create a new boardgame based on the Spanish civil war that tries to adopt a sociological viewpoint of the historical events and experiences of the people, and we present here the results and struggles of both the analysis and the creation process, with a playable version on our bags. In the game, the players embody journalist relating the war and encouraging the UK intervention in defense of the republic, exploring the common lives of civilians, and dealing with the ethics of journalism. The presentation will both present the results of the analysis and the process of making the game.

Paradoxes of Some Recent Culture Wars in Greece

Sokratis Koniordos[1], Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos[2]

[1]University of the Peloponnese, Corinth, Greece; [2]National Kapodistrrian University Athens, Greece

In this presentation we aim to analyze four recent culture wars in today's Greece. These were wars over vaccination against Covid-19; challenges to Greek identity by the inflow of migrants and refugees; emerging non-conventional family relations and gender identities which have provoked reactions; and national identity challenges posed by Greece's foreign relations, including the 2018 Prespes Agreement and EU-Greece relations. Our research was based on available sample surveys, official documents and four focus groups, one per culture war. We claim that cultural conflicts in contemporary Greece have not grown into all-consuming culture wars. Though embedded in mistrust, such wars have remained at the level of soft conflicts or tensions. Despite voicing traditional views, Greeks adopt a pragmatist stance on cultural conflict. Moreover, in contemporary Greece such wars have started after initiatives primarily taken "from above", i.e., by state authorities. In addition, from their outset culture wars in Greece have been interwoven with on-going, political party conflict.

JS | RN02_RN07_I_T5: Culture wars II: Gendered and contested art

Gender and Culture Wars: Three Case Studies from Italy

Donatella Selva[1], Emiliana De Blasio[2]

[1]University of Florence, Italy; [2]LUISS University, Italy

The phenomenon of culture wars is only partly new, but we are now witnessing a broadening of the spectrum of topics on which culture wars are fought: in particular, from religious and bioethical topics (such as, for example, with regard to the end of life), there has also been a shift towards attributing an identitarian relevance to gender issues. We understand culture wars as specific ways of articulating contemporary political debate, beyond the more or less cultural character of the issues. The conflicts are articulated through three steps: processes of politicisation, affective polarisation and, we could add, domestication of a neoliberal governmentality. In other words, what characterises culture wars are the communicative and cultural processes activated in specific moments by mutable social actors and on variable issues; in such processes, emotions play a key role.

To illustrate this argument, we have analysed three specific episodes occurred in Italy between 2019 and 2023. The first case deals with the gendering of political actors as a device for the construction of positive and negative polarities (heroes and anti-heroes), taking as an example Carola Rackete and Matteo Salvini in the summer 2019. The second case is the debate surrounding the Zan Bill in 2019-2020, aimed at fighting homotransphobia, when processes of affective polarisation arose between conservatives and far-right, from the one side, and progressists, from the other side. The third case deals with Giorgia Meloni's communication about gender issues, such as women's leadership, motherhood, work-life balance and violence against women.

Contested Art. Art Activist Practices in the Context of Brexit

Marie Rosenkranz

Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany

In the US, there already was an activist turn in the arts in 1970s (Sholette, 2022). In Europe however, a comparably influential emergence of activist art practices is only happening now, and it is closely linked to the culturalization of European politics. Many political debates are currently structured along clashing concepts of culture, and - as I would like to argue - this ist playing a significant role in the development that the field of art is also more and more often becoming a venue for political practives and conflicts.

This contribution looks at the phenomenon of art activism from a praxeological perspective: what do artists do when they act in an activist way? How does the culturalization of politics affect the nature of art activist practices? In order to pursue these questions, a series of activist approaches in the art field that emerged around the Brexit referendum were examined – in the period from 2016 to 2020 in the UK –, including image-based campaigns, collectives, and artist networks.

Dance Spaces In Upper-Secondary Schools: What Happens Within?

Joana Mesquita[1,2], Eunice Macedo[1,2], Helena Costa Araújo[1,2]

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This paper establishes a dialogue between the field of education and the one of dance, anchoring the debate on the ethical, aesthetic and solidarity principles of education with the arts; a view in which the arts are a way of life and of building relationships rather than a technical approach.

By associating the expression, movement, balance, and knowledge of the body with relationships with the social environment, dance presents itself as a form of language between people, through movements that arise in space and time, motivated by a body with a history and a voice and which may – or not – relate to other bodies. Recent educational research argues that the promotion of dance in schools can encourage young people to develop inclusive, participatory, and empowering spaces. In this sense, it seems pertinent to understand the social dynamics that take place in dance spaces.

This paper is part of a research that links young citizenship, well-being, and dance, with the main objective of understanding whether and how young people's dance experiences in upper-secondary education can influence their well-being and their view of themselves as citizens. After mapping upper-secondary educational institutions offering dance in the district of Porto, Portugal, 6 public educational institutions were selected for participant observation over 10 weeks. This paper presents the results of this observation, which sought to reflect on: What relationships are established in dance spaces? How do young people organize themselves? What space is there for young voices? What power relations are (de)constructed?

JS | RN02_RN07_III_T04: Transformations in fields of cultural production (I)

The art market is a field for tensions, inequalities and professional networks. These papers approach the field of production within the arts.

Transformations In The Space Of Film Festivals. Competitions, Differentiations, And Their Impact On Films From The "Periphery"

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This paper proposes an analysis of operational principles of the space of international film festivals and their effects on films and their creators, focusing on the case of South Korean cinema in the 2000s. Drawing from Pierre Bourdieu's field theory and Julien Duval's approach to cinema as a field of cultural production, this study delves into the transformations in the space of film festivals as a sub-space of the global film field. Our investigation relies on an analysis of interviews with festival programmers and a study of data related to selected films in film festivals. If the most prestigious film festivals in terms of transnational symbolic power and seniority in the film festival world (Berlin, Cannes, Venice) play a role as the most significant instance of legitimation and consecration of a film and a filmmaker, the pursuit of exclusivity by presenting "world (or international) premiere" films intensifies competition and underscores a hierarchical structure of this space. Furthermore, the differentiation of film festivals into specialized (genre- or region-specific) ones, which functions in part as a survival strategy in the space of struggles, constitutes an alternative instance of legitimation and recognition for a film product from a "peripheric" region, thus contributing to the amplification of film circulation circuits. This research on the transformations in the space of film festivals will contribute to a better understand of the evolving global film field.

Gatekeeping Work: Recruitment of Production Teams in the Performing Arts

Sara Malou Strandvad, Wike Been

University of Groningen, Netherlands, The

With cutbacks to public subsidies, outsourcing of tasks, and an ever increasing influx of aspirants, the centrality of project-based work in the cultural and creative industries has become manifest over recent decades. Research on labor in this sector has argued how the omnipresent precarious working conditions and inequalities are amplified by this practice of a project-based organization of work. Even though the decision making of employers is central to the theoretical reasoning involved, the actual decision making of employers within projects has received relatively little attention. This presentation fills this gap by studying project managers, in their role of employers, and their recruitment practices. In doing so, it sheds light on what underlies the decisions to ask workers to join a certain project and the working conditions being offered to them, paying attention to recruitment decisions around artists as well as support staff.

The presentation builds on empirical data from interviews with project managers of performing arts organizations in the city of Groningen in the Netherlands. Based on existing research (Bechky 2006, Blair 2001), the hypothesis is that reputations and experiences from previous jobs are essential and may overshadow other rationales for decision making. Revisiting the literature on hiring practices in labor sociology as well as the decision making of gatekeepers and intermediaries in the cultural and creative industries, the presentation will help us understand how employers make decisions within a project-based labor market and what consequences their practices have for working conditions and labor market inequalities.

What Makes a Digital Studio? Studying Sites of Cultural Production in the Digital Age

Ronja Trischler

TU Dortmund, Germany

All cultural artefacts are produced somewhere. While the studio has been and continues to be a preferred site of production for some fields, cultural production, as a cooperative endeavor (Becker 1980), is usually distributed in space and time. The degrees of distribution are affected by digitalization, as new modes of designing, sharing, storing and modifying digital products – and of engaging audiences – emerge. This paper addresses the question of 'site' in the empirical study of contemporary cultural production and outlines an analytical framework for digital studio studies. It extends the idea of 'studio studies' to focus on the local, material production (Farías/Wilkie 2015, based on the study of scientific laboratories, see Woolgar/Latour 1986). Therefore, it draws on my ethnography of digital visual effects for film and television (Trischler 2021) and broader discussions in digital ethnography (Pink et al. 2016, Hine 2015, etc.) about a methodological localism of 'field sites' that has been challenged by the mediatization of research objects and practices. The paper proposes a systematic approach to follow cultural objects in the making through the material semiotic practices of production. The specialized production of 'sites' can then be reconstructed as one of the practical methods of cooperative production that contributes to the inclusion and exclusion of certain materials and actors, among others. This practice-based approach bypasses misconceptions of both the digital as immaterial and 'creativity' as a condition of cultural production, which reproduce a misleading binary between 'creative'

individuals and 'rational' technologies. Furthermore, in this view, sites of cultural production can be understood as specialized sites of social reproduction in the digital age.

Dynamics of Heteronomization in the Contemporary Art Field

Lorenzo Sabetta, Matteo Puoti

Sapienza-University of Rome, Italy

How does fields end or, less dramatically, lose their autonomy? Can fields regress to the point of threatening their existence as full-fledged fields?

Bourdieusian field theory is abundantly clear as for the creation and constitution of fields of cultural production, whose development depends on the progressive quest (and struggle) for independence, internal criteria of legitimization, and specific forms of symbolic capital. With regard to the field of visual art, this process started with Manet and reached the apex with the historical avant-garde movements. However, little or nothing have been said regarding the opposite process of heteronomization, through which previously independent fields turn back and begin importing rules, norms, and values from other fields. Contemporary art provides an ideal case-study for illustrating this process, which is still surprisingly neglected in sociological literature (only unsystematic and scattered allusions are offered, mostly by Steinmetz and Lemieux).

Based on 130 semi-structured interviews with Italian artworkers, this paper makes a case for envisioning contemporary artists as more workers than artists, forced to juggle incompatible duties (utterly unrelated to artistic concerns) and increasingly proficient at organizing their careers (following strategies proper of other fields). The variety of non-artistic work roles entailed by successful artistic trajectories is thus analyzed accordingly, as part of a process of losing autonomy owing to pressure from journalistic, fashion, economic, and social media fields. Also, the figure of contemporary curators (acting as brokers between separated domains of social structure) is examined as embodying this force of heteronomization of the contemporary art field.

JS | RN02_RN07_III_T07: Transformations in fields of cultural production (II)

This session features papers that deal with issues of visibility, status and aesthetics in fields of cultural production.

From "Cultural Diving" to "Cultural Surfing": Organic Integration and the Making of Global Movies

Jun Fang

Colby College, United States of America

How do cultural producers balance local particularities with universal appeal in creative production? Using ethnographic data from a global film studio and interviews with rarely accessed industry insiders in Beijing and Los Angeles, I explore how Chinese and Hollywood studios co-develop global movies with Chinese elements. My findings reveal that executives sought "organic" stories to navigate uncertainties, but their understanding of what constitutes an organic coproduction has evolved in an increasingly risky market. Due to perceived risks of deteriorating U.S.-China relations and global cultural markets, executives have shifted away from what I call "cultural diving." That is, in earlier attempts, they favored stories drawing on the historical common ground between the two countries, which were seen as "naturally suitable" to bridge the two cultures profoundly and bind their audiences. Instead, they have resorted to "cultural surfing": primarily developing genre movies that integrate Chinese elements at a relatively superficial level and are forward-looking to attract a younger audience. In this, they rely on genres, such as "sci-fi plus" and animation, that are more "organic" to blend cultures, appeal to heterogeneous audiences, and bypass China's state censorship. Drawing on cultural sociology, globalization studies, and economic sociology, I argue that cultural producers engage in organic integration, negotiating the cultural object's aesthetic properties (i.e., content, genre, structure) to craft a coherent whole that evokes emotional resonance among local and global audiences. This article offers useful analytical tools to explore further the dynamics between local aesthetics and global profitability in the new global cultural economy.

In Search Of Visibility: Gender And Minorities On Stage

Laurie Hanquinet, Carla Mascia

Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

In the quest for success, artists must attain visibility among peers and audiences, a concept explored in this article within the context of Brussels' theatrical scenes. The study

employs a three-dimensional conceptualization of visibility, revealing the paradox of openness coexisting with mechanisms that render non-white and non-male artists invisible. Methodologically, it combines quantitative data on artist profiles and theatre programs (n=539 and n=230, respectively) with qualitative insights from 14 individuals, offering a comprehensive assessment.

The first dimension scrutinizes representativeness, exposing underrepresentation of women and individuals from visible minority groups in the studied theatres. Despite comprising over half the population, women lack proportional visibility, and there are numerical indications of similar disparities among visible minority individuals.

The second dimension, relative contribution, introduces a visibility index, revealing that racial minorities and women receive fewer roles and less stage presence compared to perceived white counterparts. Though no statistical correlation emerges between gender and origin, entry barriers limit non-white and non-male presence in the performing arts, inhibiting voices to denounce discriminatory processes.

The qualitative dimension delves into opportunities based on perceived origins, addressing representation issues. While some artists note a diversity-conscious climate, many, especially women and racialized artists, recount instances of being confined to gender or racial stereotypes. The prevalence of roles associated with white characters without clear justification further underscores the challenges artists face in breaking free from traditional molds.

Real Estate-Led 'Artwashing' in Berlin: From Programmed Gentrification to Tension in Artist Networks

Claudia Seldin

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Since the 1970s, the cultural industry has planned a pivotal role in urban renewal. In recent decades, several scholars have denounced the instrumentalization of the cultural sector within urban branding/placemaking schemes, highlighting negative consequences, such as museification, overtourism, gentrification, and the displacement of artists. Still, the focus of research on cultural urban planning seems to fall on local and regional State policies, only superficially tackling the instrumentalisation of the arts by the private sector as a global trend.

This presentation aims to fill in this gap by discussing the phenomenon of 'artwashing' as a strategy of the real estate market in Europe. It seeks to answer the questions: what are the broader consequences of real-estate-led 'artwashing' for urban space, societies and artists? How do artists perceive their instrumentalization in programmed gentrification schemes? My hypothesis is that the use of temporary art to sell land triggers a type of programmed gentrification able to deepen inequalities and power struggles within artist networks.

To illustrate this argument two ethnographic case studies from Berlin (Germany) will be presented: the 'A-Fence' and 'The Shelf' projects by developers Covivio and Pandion, respectively. Both follow global trends, using temporary art to revamp degraded sites and the very image of their companies, often tied to the city's increasing land and rental prices. One of the cases led to the counter-creation of a resistant artist network with the goal of protesting gentrification while seeking to inform other artists about hidden agendas of real estate 'artwashing.' These examples show us the tensions present in the instrumentalization of art in the neoliberal European capital today.

A Relational And Horizontal Aesthetics As A Means To Popularize Knowledge And Public Initiative In Relation To Environmental Issues

Anna Schober de Graaf

Klagenfurt University, Austria

This paper explores the audience-oriented aesthetics in the work of contemporary Latin American artists and photographers (for example Pablo Albarenga, Cecilia Vicuña, Jonathas de Andrade) who popularize shifting ethical attitudes and knowledge acquired by marginalised communities related to the environment, climate change, construction projects and exploitation of resources in general. All the case studies examined are characterised by a tendency to blur the sharp boundaries between art and activism and to foreground collaborations. This network-character manifests itself in a "horizontal aesthetic" (Linda Nochlin), which attempts to counter hierarchical structures and foregrounds the materiality of the bodies and objects exposed.

The presentation will focus on how the human body and portraits are used to calculate experiences of "resonance" (Hartmut Rosa) for the audience, which are always particular and universal at the same time: they no longer prescribe, or visualise norms, but are connected to a political universal based on knowledge transmission, persuasion, infatuation and the generation of resonance.

Furthermore, the specific "relational" aesthetic of this work will be located within a "long" pictorial tradition of audience address operating through the use of anthropomorphic figures and an aesthetic of corporeality. Religious as well as political-secular motif traditions and stylistic models are addressed – especially those that have emerged from the body-based protest culture of the globalised environmental movement since the 1980s. But also, historic breaks and transformations are discussed by analysing the deviations of these artistic initiatives from the aforementioned pictorial traditions.

JS | RN02_RN07_III_T08: Transformations in fields of cultural production (III)

This session features papers that deal with issues of transformation in relation to engagement with media, technology and the arts.

The Sacralization Of Digital Media

Guido Nicolosi

University of Catania, Italy

Even if it sounds counterintuitive, media, technology and spirituality can be considered as intertwined. As argued by Aby Warburg, because of the elusiveness of natural phenomena, man transforms himself into the cause of those same phenomena. So, by dancing to make it rain, the shaman becomes the cause of the rain. Even today, due to the elusiveness of technological phenomena, man (a passive user who does not know and cannot produce technology) transforms himself into the cause of those phenomena. Jacques Ellul has already extensively developed the theme of the sacralization of technology in a profoundly critical manner. We suggest that the roots of this link can be traced on the relationship between art and spirituality (Gell). Today we have a scientific literature calling new attention to the many ways religious practices and imagination are inextricably bound up with the materialities of media and the labour of mediation, not just textual or iconographic systems of representation, but also much broader terrain of sensorial techniques, tools, material artifacts, etc. We also know that information technologies have always been used for spiritual, mediumistic, extrasensory and extraterrestrial experiences. Probably, starting from the anthropology of art, a new history of technology should be written, considering the close ties between rationality and irrationality or their hybrid roots. This paper is both a theoretical and empirical reflection which aims to study the often denied or underestimated relationship that exists between technologies and religion, with particular attention to new digital technologies. The focus is on the sacralization of devices, the attribution of action capacity to AI, the use of new media technologies for spiritual purposes (memory, death, God, etc.).

Harmonizing Tradition and Technology: The Future of Artisanal Craftsmanship

Yuko Oki, Koki Arai

Kyoritsu Women's University, Japan

In the shift towards a sustainable society, re-evaluating the role of traditional craftsmanship with mass production is crucial. This paper investigates the cultural importance of artisanal skills, advocating their preservation and transmission to future generations. Traditionally, craftsmanship has relied on tacit knowledge transfer, such as observational learning. However, the introduction of modern technology has enabled the fusion of these time-honored techniques with contemporary innovations. This blend results in unique, higher-quality products, thereby expanding market opportunities.

A prime example of this synergy is violin craftsmanship. In Cremona, Italy, violin making is sustained through formal education and apprenticeships with master craftsmen, producing instruments of unique character. In contrast, Yamaha in Japan utilizes advanced technology to analyze historical masterpieces and employs 3D CAD modeling to achieve distinctive quality. This approach demonstrates how combining skilled craftsmanship with technology can balance consistent quality and cost-effectiveness.

This paper argues that for contemporary craftsmen, technology acts as a catalyst for enhancing creativity and skill development. It underscores that modern innovations are deeply rooted in traditional expertise, highlighting the significant influence of past techniques on contemporary creativity. By exploring the relationship between traditional craftsmanship and modern innovation, this study emphasizes their integration's importance in shaping the future of artisanal industries. This integration not only preserves cultural heritage but also propels the artisanal sector towards innovative and sustainable growth. Ultimately, this study reveals that the future of artisanal industries lies in harmonizing traditional craftsmanship with technological advancements, fostering both cultural preservation and sustainable innovation.

Exploring Participatory Engagement Of Young Audiences In Museums: Challenges and Patterns

Baiba Tjarve, Elīna Vikmane, Līga Vinogradova, Laura Brutāne, Lote Katrīna Cērpa

Latvian Academy of Culture, Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies, Latvia

The context of the study is a changing paradigm in museums towards participation and engagement of communities (ICOM, 2022). In museum theory the development towards a more participatory museum has been emphasized for quite some time, but it is widely acknowledged that the actual practice lags behind (Ross, 2004; Simon, 2010; Nomikou, 2015). The authors propose a study of dominant patterns and attitudes towards participatory engagement in museum education and qualitative markers that reveal advancement of relationships from the perspective of youth communities of practice in Latvian museums. In the framework of the research project 'Striving Towards Participatory Engagement in Museums: Inquiry into Museum Education Practice in Latvia (MEET)' three cases studies of youth communities collaborating with museums in Latvia have been analyzed testing several approaches of participatory research (e.g. audio diary and mapping techniques,

negative brainstorming, peer to peer interview) as it allows to experiment with new formats that involve direct interaction, dialogue, and participation in a two-way communication (Haywood & Besley, 2014), where people make their concerns heard to researchers and contribute to setting the agenda for research and interpreting results. Authors have identified the following challenges in museums that use participatory engagement approach: difficulties in managing power dynamics between museum professionals and participants; a need for flexible project management; a lack of specific skills both of participants and museum professionals; a dispute of who represents the museum; a question of responsibility and ethics; and finally - debate on losses and benefits of the participatory engagement of communities.

Framing and Understanding the Transformative Role of Art in Society: Findings from a Research on Building Communities Through Dance Practices

Giulia Allegrini, Orkide Izci, Roberta Paltrinieri

University of Bologna, Italy

This contribution presents a research aimed at understanding the social impacts of artistic practices implemented in the European project "Performing Gender: Dancing In your Shoes". The project wanted to promote social change by engaging communities, cultural organizations, artists, policymakers, and academics (from 8 different countries) in two main areas of investigation. The first was exploring gender, from an intersectional perspective through body practices. The second was exploring the role of the dance practices in building communities through a co-creation approach.

The research assumed the following theoretical perspectives: the arts as a space for the enactment of citizenship, by impacting on the development of cultural capabilities and on a world picture-making process; the role of creative performative spaces in building "singular-plural" communities and the role of identities and one's placements within this process; a critical interpretative approach of participation and artistic co-creation, regarding the role of power dynamics shaped between two poles of transformation and exploitation.

Within this framework we present our findings on the transformative effects of the artistic process. Interviews and focus groups – with community members, dance makers, audience developers, artistic directors – were adopted as qualitative methods to analyse their self-representation, negotiation of roles, identities, positionalities in creating a sense of belonging, trust and community, and the meanings attributed to their experiences in terms of individual and collective changes. On the basis of this analysis, a reframing of social impacts evaluation has been developed and will be presented, particularly in relation to the value generated by collaborative artistic practices.

JS | RN02_RN07_T09: On Becker

Becker's contributions to the sociology of the arts and culture.

Art Worlds 2.0: Extending Becker's Work into the Age of AI

Laura Robinson[1], Jeremy Schulz[2], Katia Moles[1]

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Honouring Becker's legacy to sociological visualization, we pay homage to Becker's impact on visual culture and ethnography in the age of AI. From Art Worlds to methods pieces (1974 in ASR, 2000 Contemporary Sociology), Becker's work is the cornerstone of advancing the incorporation of visual media into ethnographic work and sociology writ large. We bring Becker's arguments to bear on the emergent wave of AI driven image creation such as Open AI's DALL-E2. We probe new ethical vistas generated by digitization to ask questions about the interdependence of digital production and reception that extend Becker's theorization of Art Worlds in the first stages of AI. In light of the 2023 EU AI Act, the research grapples with the interdependence between tech giant's production of digital art tools, the algorithms that feed on digital artefacts to produce "new" artistic content, and the feedback loop generated by human audiences and prosumers. We draw on Becker's analysis of the interplay between institutional power and authority, shifts in the social value accorded to media genres, and audience reception, we examine these dynamics with regard to AI generated art. We engage with questions including: How should ethnographers study processes through which cultural production and reception are being rapidly transformed by AI? What are the ethical implications of studying artifacts in digital venues where they may be disseminated, replicated, and/or edited with increasing ease and anonymity? How must sociologists draw on Becker's work to grapple with the re-imagining of artistic authorship in the age of AI?

Remembering Howie Becker

Mark Douglas Jacobs

George Mason University, United States of America

The only time I met Howie in person was in 2007, at a meeting in Ghent of the ESA Research Network on culture, which had just split off from the Research Network on art, and selected me to be vice-chair. I was also at that time the newsletter editor of the American Sociological Association's section on culture. I was interested to read a notice about Howie's new book, "Art from Start to Finish: Jazz, Painting, Writing, and Other Improvisations." Howie accepted my invitation to speak at the Research Network's mini-conference in Ghent, which would then be featured (along with

statements by his co-authors) in the ASA's Culture Section newsletter.

I had the pleasure of sitting at Howie's table where dinner was served before his presentation. From having read much of Howie's earlier work--"Outsiders,"

"Art Worlds," "Tricks of the Trade," and "Writing for Social Scientists," I knew he was a wonderful writer. Of course, Howie also took the art of photography with the utmost seriousness. In what Gary Alan Fine calls "the second Chicago School," Howie was a charter member.

I was first introduced to Howie's work at Columbia, where "Outsiders" was required in the sophomore sociology course. Howie's description of marijuana use in groups of teenagers made a powerful and surprising argument that the effects of marijuana were more social than pharmacological. His teaching and writing were so powerful in part because they were unusually reflexive. His own intelligence, artistry, and engagement helped the new field of sociology mature. His last work," Art from Start to Finish," opens a line of inquiry into the nature of beauty and the meaning of life.

How Can Becker's Sociology Of Art Be Used To Explain The School Worlds?

Marie David

Nantes université, France

H. S. Becker's Art worlds (Becker, 1982) proposes a new sociological approach to art, artists, works of art and all the activities that contribute to art. This study, which has become an important reference for the sociology of art, led Becker to construct several heuristic concepts for studying art: the (art) world, conventions, support staff, chains of cooperation and bundles of tasks, for example. He also applies concepts from interactionist sociology, notably the division of labour, collective activity and negotiated order.

But this analysis of the art worlds can be used to study things that have nothing to do with art. This is what I did in my PhD (David, 2017), studying the worlds of school knowledge, to answer the question: how is school knowledge collectively constructed? In this study, I am interested in the 'artists' of knowledge transmission, those whose work is considered to be the cardinal activity: teachers. I also look at what the 'support staff' in the transmission of knowledge do: curriculum developers, inspectors, members of recruitment panels, headteachers, and so on. Finally, I look at how the work of the school's 'customers', the pupils, contributes to the collective construction of school knowledge.

In this paper, I will present the way in which I have mobilised Becker's work to study the worlds of school knowledge, in my thesis and in the book based on it (David, 2024), and I will show how my study opens up a new perspective for the study of the knowledge that is transmitted in educational institutions.

Symbiotic Aesthetics: Artistic Tradition and AI-Driven Innovation in the Contemporary Artscape

Koki Arai, Yuko Oki

Kyoritsu Women's University, Japan

This study offers a multifaceted exploration of the profound impact of artificial intelligence (AI), specifically Stable Diffusion and ChatGPT, on the domain of art. It begins by revisiting key art theories, including Becker's distinction between "art" and "craft" and Danto's focus on contextual art. Historical perspectives from the Arts and Crafts Movement to the Renaissance art scene are integrated to examine the symbiotic relationship between artisans and market dynamics. The study also examines the interplay between photography and painting, representation theory, and economic factors affecting the arts. It reassesses AI's impact on artists, suggesting that artists are influenced by AI due to their innate creativity. It also discusses reactions to AI-generated artworks on platforms such as Pixiv, and reevaluates the prevailing view of AI's impact on artists by asserting that artists are susceptible to it because of their innate creativity.

In art and craft, it is appropriate to look back at Becker's pioneering and groundbreaking summary 45 years ago (Becker, 1978). This article positions "art" and "craft" as two contrasting kinds of aesthetics, work organization and work ideology, differing in their emphasis on practicality, virtuosity, and beauty standards.

The key findings of this study challenge the conventional belief that the work of artisans is largely replaced by AI and that the work of artists is less affected. Instead, the study suggests that artists, who rely heavily on sensibility and creativity in their work, may be more affected by AI than craftspeople. (241words)

JS | RN02_RN20_T02: Methods in the Arts: Collaborative and Material Methods (I)

The presentations reflect upon the collaborative aspects of doing qualitative reserach with collectives such as immigrants, young people or artistic audiences.

Blueprint for the Future: Insights from Artistic and Creative Collaborative Research with Migrants and Cross-border Workers

Piotr Goldstein[1], Iepke Rijcken[2], Magdalena Nowicka[1]

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Drawing on our roadmap for a playful exploration of different visual and participatory methods with research participants/partners, this paper proposes an exploration of insights derived from artistic and creative research practices. Drawing from the theories of the play ethic and conviviality, our collaborative approach pushes us to have confidence to be spontaneous, creative and empathic, and centre our research methodology around the passions and enthusiasm of all involved. We advance a convivial research approach, which integrates methods of cooperative knowledge production while enhancing a deeper understanding of how people can live together and cooperate despite differences. Working with migrant and cross-border workers in the Polish-German border region, we organised creative collaborative workshops in our project. Through workshops on story-telling and cyanotypes, an old photo printing and photocopying method (from which the word 'blueprint' originates), we produced meaningful dialogues together with our research participants/partners. Key topics of activism and engagement, identities, recognition of qualifications, and fluid perspectives on the future emerged organically during these sessions. Moreover, the influence of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the relationships formed with Ukrainians appeared to play a pivotal role in shaping the narratives and perspectives of our participants/partners. As we demonstrate, these creative practices led us to non-verbal experiences and emerging topics, which we could not have come up with in advance. Our playful and creative methodology helps to reflexively engage and discover multiple life-worlds and perspectives on the future.

Artistic Collaboration and Sociological Inquiry: Navigating Arts-Based Research

Ance Kristāla, Lote Katrīna Cērpa, Sabīne Ozola

Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvia

This paper reflects on the experiences of seven emerging artists and five early-career sociologists engaged in an arts-based research (ABR) project "The Journey to Utopia". The project aimed to represent artists' subjective views and interpretations of socially significant issues through artworks and analyse how the incorporation of social research methods change the creative process. Based on data from in-depth interviews with artists about their experience in the project, we as researchers engage in reflexivity on the process of ABR, seeking to comprehend the merits and limitations of the approach from the perspectives of both - artists and researchers. ABR is an approach engaging artistic practices at some stage of the research, allowing to uncover new ways of knowing, in comparison to the "conventional" research methods. Therefore, this study identifies collaborative, artistic and scientific outcomes of collaborative ABR projects. The interviews with the artists revealed reflexivity and discussions about social issues as an integral part of this ABR project, affecting the process of creating artworks, forcing the artists to delve deeper into the desired message and concept of the artwork. Simultaneously, involvement in the ABR project and collaboration with sociologists enabled the young artists to reinforce their identity and self-perception as artists. For sociologists, the ABR project provided a comprehensive exploration of nature and variability of the ABR approach, facilitating necessary adjustments in research design in collaboration with artists and contributing to the further interpretation of the acquired data, thereby enriching analytical insights on artists' identity formation, creativity and artmaking.

Methodological Challenges Applying Qualitative Research Methods With Young People In Culture And Arts

PhD Līga Vinogradova, Dr.art. Baiba Tjarve, PhD Elīna Vikmane

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According to the latest data (Kultūras barometrs, 2022), young people in Latvia are active cultural consumers and participants. This group also acquires symbolic and material value as potential market participants, electorate, decision-makers, and audience. However, in traditional social research methodologies adults are prioritised as informants, while opinions of young people are often disregarded. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), young people have a say in matters which affect them; and researchers agree that appropriate methods may facilitate dialogue with young people (Brady

& Graham, 2019; Groundwater-Smith, Dockett & Bottrell, 2015). Our aim is to analyze which qualitative research approaches help revealing opportunities for a more profound exploration of youth opinions. Our analysis is based on several research projects on culture and arts involving the participation of young people carried out by Latvian Academy of Culture (LAC) in 2023-2024. Different qualitative research methods were applied in each of the projects. Focus groups and in-depth-interviews were employed to explore the attitudes and needs of 25 young people (age 15-23) regarding informal education. Young people's involvement in museums (age 15-19; n=16) were studied using participatory research approaches such as audio diaries, reverse brainstorming and creative storytelling for individuals with visual impairments, as well as road maps with students participating in rural museum activities. The results indicate that young people are more engaged in research and better reflect on their experiences if researchers apply (1) participatory methods; (2) creative approaches; (3) peer-to-peer techniques; (4) short time assignments.

A Story We Can Wear. Textile Storytelling and its Social Functions

Kalina Helena Kukiełko

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My paper aims to introduce the concept of storytelling through textiles, encompassing ready-made clothes, tailoring materials, and various handicrafts like embroidery, crochet, and knitting. These elements often integrate seamlessly into clothing or the everyday environment, providing a distinctive and intimate form of expression. Unlike traditional storytelling through words or sounds, here, the narrative unfolds through textiles crafted or repurposed to convey stories by their authors. Clothing and accessories not only serve as objects but become the subjects of a story, offering a pretext to explore a broader social context where textiles play a culturally or socially significant role. This perspective, presented by Leanne Prain in her book "Strange Material," delves into the world of textile storytelling. Prain, known for her involvement in yarn bombing through a popular blog, actively engages in connecting people and building communities through art and craft. The paper highlights Prain's examples of artistic creations within textile storytelling, providing instructions for items fostering integration, nurturing social memory, or bringing joy. I argue that Prain's concept can effectively fuel a discourse on the contemporary importance of fashion, especially in terms of social responsibility and sustainability. The focus should extend beyond consumer awareness of the fashion market to acknowledge the role of textiles in shaping interactions and relationships. This paper seeks to present textile storytelling as a form of socially engaged art, underscoring the potential of storytelling in the social sciences.

JS | RN02_RN20_T09: Methods in the Arts II: Music and Visual Methods

The presentations reflect upon the use of qualitative and visual methods in the fields of music and visual arts.

Stuff, Sounds and Stories: Musical and music-related things as life documents

Ana Goncalves

CRIA, Iscte, Portugal

The biographical research methods mainly focus on subjective accounts of lived experience and personal documents to dig out life trajectories and past events. Family photographs and other particular possessions are among the wide range of life data usually gathered by auto/biographical researchers.

The prime task of this communication is to explore how biographical narratives constitute a unique process that evokes those and other materials that store and elicit lifetime memories. I am especially interested in understanding how musicians' life narratives are constructed around musical and music-related things and how that stuff is so complexly intertwined in their identities.

All these issues will be discussed and illustrated through empirical cases taken from a recent research project conducted in Lisbon, Portugal, based on musicians' life and family (hi)stories. That research was enriched not only by documentation originating in the field (interviews, genealogies) but also by materials from the past (documentary films, vinyl and digital recordings), including the memorabilia safeguarded for generations (family photographs, historical recordings, collections of lyrics and music scores). Such a variety results from a few years of painstaking and patient work, counteracting the dispersion of sources.

Harmony- and sound-oriented Interactions. Potentials of videographic investigation of Making Music Together

Theresa Vollmer

University of Vienna, Austria

When people make music together, they coordinate and synchronize their actions so precisely that they construct an audible collective phenomenon: Shared music. This is an outstanding achievement that is characterized by the fact that a sui generis meaning unfolds in the consonance of communicative actions that extends the meaning of the individual voices.

This form of communication challenges qualitative social research to focus on the simultaneity of sound-generating actions, as well as the hearing (conditions) of the participants during joint music-making. Therefore, the sensuality of communication (of subjective hearing and intersubjective sound) plays a special role. Videography (which includes participant observation) offers a research program that places this communication within a new range of interpretive social research. At the same time, further developments are needed, such as the transcription of interaction coordinated by sound.

Based on my (completed) doctoral research on making music in string ensembles and current research on singing together in choirs, I present and discuss the potential of an videographic research design that integrates the sensual, subjective perspective of the participants (1), the sound-generating interactions (2) and the socio-cultural context of joint music-making (3), in order to be able to analyze making music together in situ. In this way, my contribution can also open up a horizon against which the connection between the methodology of investigating making music together and the significance of "tension" and "trust" in musical communication in particular can be discussed.

Cognitive Abduction as a Resource for Conceptualizing Axiological Data in Ethnographic Fieldwork

Alger Sans Pinillos[1], Dafne Muntanyola[2]

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How do artists attend to perceptually and make specific decisions regarding time and space during their creative process? Our proposal applies cognitive abduction to provide sociology with a solid basis for theorizing about axiological information. Axiological data remains an epistemological challenge because there is no criterion for empirically contrasting the theoretical constructs about values. Artists present a diversity of values with different scenarios in the same context. For example, the impact of digital technology on photographic art makes photographers who grew up and learned from the analog method nostalgic, which involves a cognitive aspect of value when understanding creative decision-making. Moreover, data such as feelings and emotions are crucial because they define and orient the researcher's questions in light of the nuances of the answers received. They also prepare researchers to be open to surprise and uncertainty in the results they may compile. However, it is challenging to characterize axiological information adequately to give it the weight it represents for theories. We propose abduction as both a cognitive strategy and a theoretical resource to address the problem of the objectivity of values observed when analyzing qualitative data collected from artists working in Barcelona. Abduction is the hypothesizing process that provides plausible solutions to anomalous and surprising situations and suggests a course of action for future research. It is an ideal theoretical resource to characterize qualitative field research in sociology.

JS | RN09_RN17_T06: The expansion of AI on employment in Europe

The joint session addresses the impact of AI on the European labor markets. Presenters will focus on how AI is affecting job vacancies and widening the digital divide. Additionally, the development of new forms of managerial control based on AI will be discussed.

Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace: Inequalities in AI Use, Attitudes and Skills

Giedo Jansen, Marie Labussière

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

We are currently witnessing the breakthrough of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the general public. For the first time, the use of AI is accessible to ordinary citizens. Generative AI tools like ChatGPT – which can create original images or text – may help employees automate tasks and enhance efficiency. Yet, the debate on AI lacks granular evidence on the actual penetration of AI in the workplace. Moreover, AI technologies are assumed to necessitate new, AI-specific skills going beyond technical skills ("button knowledge"), including strategic and ethical skills to critically evaluate AI's potential biases and misinformation, or fusion skills to combine human knowledge and machine capabilities within work-processes. But, theoretical and empirical clarity is needed regarding what relevant AI-skill requirements are for ordinary (non-expert) end-users, how to measure these skills, and to what extent workers do (not) possess these skills. This study investigates the actual usage of GenAI tools among the general workforce. Drawing upon theories and measures from the "digital inequalities" literature, the study examines whether there are differences in AI use between different sociodemographic groups (e.g., age, gender, race, socio-economic status, education), and whether these differences can be explained by AI attitudes, AI access/restrictions, and AI skills. In particular, this study develops and validates a new scale for workplace GenAI skills that reflects the multidimensional nature of AI competence. To address the research questions, our study is among the first to collect large-scale survey data (N= 2500) comparing users and non-users of GenAI among working-age respondents (18-67) in the Netherlands.

Is AI Creating A New Regime Of Control At Work?

Alex James Wood

University of Bristol, United Kingdom

A growing body of research investigates the application of AI systems to work and the corresponding growth of 'algorithmic management'. Algorithmic management has in turn been argued to produce novel despotic regimes of workplace control across a broad range of industries (Delfanti, 2019; Griesbach et al., 2021; Schaupp 2022; Vallas et al., 2022). This paper investigates these claims by reviewing detailed case studies of manufacturing, call centres and retail undertaken in the late-1980s–2010s and comparing these to contemporary research on algorithmic management. Doing so highlights how workplace regimes during the late-1980s–2010s often entailed employer-controlled flexibility, surveillance (whether electronic-, customer- or team-based), strict discipline, and limitations on labour protections and that AI and associated technologies do not seem to be giving rise to a distinct control regime. Algorithmic management heightens levels of surveillance (by automating performance monitoring and creating new methods of evaluation), enhances discipline (by automatically selecting workers for sanctions) and strengthens employer control of flexibility while limiting worker voice (by autonomously allocating workers to shifts and tasks via opaque processes). But when understood comparatively it becomes apparent that these tendencies do not constitute a qualitative break from common management trends present, at least in liberal market economies, since the 1980s. The paper concludes that research suggesting algorithmic management is producing a new type of workplace regime overstates the impact of AI-associated technologies in this regard and that algorithmic control should instead be understood as reinforcing and heightening extant tendencies towards 'flexible despotism' (Wood, 2020).

A Double-Edged Sword: Does The Use Of AI And Other Digital Technologies Reduce Or Exacerbate Existing Gender Inequalities In The Labour Market?

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Institute for Employment Research Nuremberg (IAB Nürnberg), Germany

The use of artificial intelligence and other digital technologies (digitalisation for short) has an impact on the labour market and therefore also on existing gender inequalities. There are arguments that they can either exacerbate or reduce existing gender inequalities. We provide descriptive evidence that women are less likely to perform highly substitutable occupations than men. This in no way means that women are more likely to benefit from digitalisation. Not

only do the technological possibilities vary greatly within the professions, but the potential for substitution is not always realised immediately.

The results of the multivariate analysis show that there is a negative correlation between occupation-specific substitution potential and employment trends for women and men. Employment shrank above all in occupations with high substitution potential and a low proportion of women. This leads to the conclusion that digitalisation has the potential to reduce gender-specific inequalities. This will depend crucially on how the new technologies are designed and implemented.

JS | RN11_G8ISA_T01: Emotions and Sciences

From Recipes To Cosmetics: Maternity And The Atypical Uses Of Breast Milk

Cecile Vermot

Supbiotech, France

In recent years, several websites have opened up, promoting the benefits of breast milk beyond breastfeeding (recipes, cosmetics, remedies, jewelry). Some of these web pages or online groups enable women to exchange information on preservation and processing practices. Others are becoming more professional, offering paid services. The aim of this research is to understand how the use of breast milk, beyond breastfeeding, contributes to the construction of motherhood in breastfeeding women, and what these practices say about these women's relationship to this substance produced by their bodies at this specific moment in their maternity. How do these women apprehend their milk? To what extent are these practices linked to their experience of breastfeeding? What are the emotional implications? How are they perceived by those around them? Do these practices involve situated knowledge? The initial results of the empirical survey show that: A) this atypical use of milk is constitutive of an emotional materiality. For them, milk is food, white gold, medicine, an emotional bond (etc.), but it also materializes work (extraction, preservation, processing); B) social networks enable these women to construct situated knowledge about their milk and to exchange in a benevolent space.

The Emotional Fabric of Trust in Scientific Knowledge

Elgen Sauerborn

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Whether individuals trust sciences is not solely determined by the quality of scientific information, expertise, or reputation. Another influential factor in shaping people's perception of scientific knowledge is emotions. Thus, the level of trust or distrust towards scientific knowledge is shaped by both cognitive and affective factors: trust connects what people know (or don't know) with what they feel.

This is particulary evident within two sociological spheres: first, trust in sciences is reflected in people's attitudes towards scientific knowledge. Second, there is a link between trust and actions. However, these two facets do not always perfectly align. Many individuals who claim to have strong trust (or a lack thereof) in sciences don't consistently act in line with those beliefs.

This inconsistency is noticeable in areas such as decisions about vaccinations, medical choices, dietary habits, mobility, and consumer behavior. Emotional and affective elements may explain this discrepancy. Drawing on empirical data from a Mixed Methods study that involved an online survey and in-depth interviews with individuals from diverse educational backgrounds, I seek to explore these emotional dynamics of trust in science.

Epistemic Injustice: an Approach from Feminist Epistemology and the Study of Care

Magdalena Correa, Raquel Latorre, María Teresa Martín

University of Almería, Spain

Epistemology is the field of knowledge dedicated to knowledge. To be more precise, it is concerned with the interrogation of the validity associated with scientific knowledge. Conceptually, it is established in the contemporary era as the theoretical framework or philosophy of knowledge (opposing ontology as the theory of being) in the philosophical works of James Frederick Ferrier.

One of the most important theoretical branches derived from epistemology, alongside the academic work of authors such as Sandra Harding, Helen Longino, or Donna Haraway amongst others, pertains the ways in which the knowledge and being of women have been sidelined in traditional science in order to prioritise the production of knowledge from white, male, abled and western subjects. From this notion of feminine knowledge as less legitimate, female life experience is associated with instinct, nature, emotivity, and myth. In this way, knowledge from and about womanhood is overshadowed, discredited and thrown away. Care as a field of study is one amongst many instances of this phenomenon.

Through this work we seek to explore the notion of epistemic injustice as proposed by Miranda Friker in regards to the production, maintenance, and transformation of knowledge from and of femininity in traditional science, emphasising care as a particularly valuable field of study, and highlighting options derived from situated knowledge.

Race, Gender, and Affective Orientations in a 'Globalized' Vaccine Research Project

Katriina Emilia Huttunen

University of Helsinki, Finland

This paper examines the meanings of race and gender created in a scientific project within a context where the project under study – a diarrhoea vaccine trial – did not focus on questions of racialization or gendering. However, the vaccine project generated both race and gender in its everyday practices.

The subjects and staff of the trial we analyse were Finnish, but the trial involved an important phase that was carried out in Benin, West Africa. Here, we explore how both, affective desires to help 'African children' through scientific

participation, and rationalized trust in science surfaced, and, we argue, were crucial for the trial's success.

The analysis is based on ethnographic fieldwork in Benin in 2017-2019 and interviews with trial participants and staff.

We suggest that in the context of this vaccine trial, the making of gendered orders and racialized Finnishness are closely intertwined and cannot be understood disconnected from global and localized relations of medical knowledge-production. Furthermore, affective orientations and practices are crucial in the making of these gendered and racialized, and biomedical, orders.

JS | RN12_RN22_I_T03: Risk and challenges of nuclear energy in the framework of sustainability and environmental change: unpacking the current debate

The debate on nuclear energy in Europe has been constantly marked by a series of advances and setbacks. The Chernobyl disaster in 1986, a catastrophe that epitomized the risk society conceptualized by Ulrich Beck, put a halt to the first era of large-scale implementation of nuclear technology. In 2011 the Fukushima disaster provided once again a serious reminder of the risks generated by human-made nuclear fission, resulting in significant public opposition, and prompting various countries to switch off their nuclear power plants. The debate has been revived in recent years by geopolitical tensions and economic pressures, paving the way for nuclear power to be accepted as a clean alternative to other fossil energy sources. Nonetheless, the EU's decision to include nuclear power plants in the taxonomy of environmentally sustainable investments has been highly controversial, with social movements and civil society organisations denouncing it as 'greenwashing'. This joint session brings in new reflections and research for better understanding perceptions, discourses, and practices on nuclear power in the framework of sustainable energy transition.

Close To The Problem But Far From The Decision-making: Nuclear Risk Perception, Transboundary Danger And Political Agency In 21st Century Europe

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The growing controversies over nuclear power in Europe are related to heightened geopolitical tensions, climate change policies and energy transition imperatives (Ho & Kristiansen 2019). Added to this is the fact that many nuclear power plants are located close to a national border. Risk perception differences between citizens of countries with nuclear power plants and citizens of countries without reveal a problematic facet of nation-oriented power structures as well as the transboundary nature of modern risk, danger and trust. Applying relational risk and danger theory (Boholm & Corvellec 2011, Christoffersen 2018) and cosmopolitanism (Beck 2005/2016), we intend to explore the extent to which risk proximity coupled with levels of trust and decision-making disenfranchisement influence on people's perception of nuclear risk.

Using data from the International Social Survey Programme module "Environment" (2020-2022), we will map reported risk perceptions pertaining nuclear power in 17 European countries. The data material comprises countries with nuclear electricity production (including Germany, Finland, France, Sweden and others), and without nuclear power plants (Austria, Denmark, Lithuania, Italy and others).

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Constructing national energy futures: SMR-promises in Finland, France, Sweden, and the UK

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The so-called small modular reactors (SMRs) are the latest in the long series of nuclear technology promises. SMRs promise to be a low-carbon solution that is faster, cheaper, safer, more flexible, and more compatible with the foreseen renewables-led energy systems. Successful deployment of any techno-scientific innovation requires the construction of promises, through the juxtaposition of promise-narratives and counter-narratives. Promising is needed to enrol key stakeholders (investors, policymakers, researchers, vendors, and the public at large) and thereby turn the promise into institutional and material realities. Promise-constructors seek to consolidate the image of SMRs as an "obligatory passage point" on the way towards energy transitions, whereas critics deploy counter-narratives to undermine the legitimacy and credibility of the SMR promise.

The paper analyses the evolving discursive battles between SMR promise-constructors and deconstructors in four countries: Finland, France, Sweden, and the UK, which are all either developing SMRs or considering their deployment. We draw on four types of material: 1) reporting in national press media in 2010-2023, 2) expert and stakeholder interviews; 3) policy documents identified through the media analysis or mentioned by the interviewees; and 4) participant observation of nuclear-sector events (including webinars). Using the NVivo software and the socio-informatic toolbox centred around the Prospéro software to assist the analysis, we characterise the narratives and their evolution, key policy milestones, and trends and turning points in the debates.

The analysis pays particular attention to how the actors use past experience, legacies and imaginaries concerning nuclear technologies to justify their arguments. It highlights the scarcity of counter-narratives in Finland, and the general trend towards SMR promise serving as a steppingstone back to the construction of large nuclear reactors.

Narratives Of Local Opposition In Different Nuclear Waste Disposal Contexts: The United States And The Czech Republic

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This comparative case study employs the narrative vector concept derived from P. Ricœur to study qualitatively local opposition against two projects of deep geological repositories of nuclear waste (DGR) developing in different contexts in terms of stage (hosting vs. siting), size ('large' vs. 'small'), and democratic tradition (long vs. short). The transatlantic comparison covers oppositional narratives by local communities against expanding the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in the United States and against DGR siting in the Czech Republic. From 2016, both cases exhibited an analogical phenomenon of an implementer-initiated deviation from the initial DGR project set-up whereby inconsistent behavior on the implementer's side impaired the DGR mission's acceptability for the local population. Identifying narrative elements and vectors in textual data from local oppositional web pages and regional or national news websites allows studying how different contexts shape oppositional narrative interpretations. Against the backdrop of literature on 'participative turn' and 'multi-level governance-ecosystem framework' in nuclear waste management and the NIMBY concept, this paper demonstrates the value of juxtaposing DGR projects with different parameters for a more profound understanding of the governance challenges entailed.

Nuclear Energy, Between Past and Future. Constructing risks and uncertainties of nuclear energy in Taiwan and Poland through the lens of reflexive public reason.

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Taiwan and Poland sit at opposite ends of the Eurasian continent. Both countries are at the forefront of global uncertainties related to the rivalry for global political and technological dominance. However, while some risks and uncertainties related to the state of global affairs are similar on both edges of Eurasia, others are different. This is particularly evident when we look at the discourses on nuclear energy - framed as an old and dangerous technology in Taiwan - and as a future civilising achievement in Poland.

We argue that the differences in perceptions of nuclear energy lie in the construction of risk and uncertainty. This involves the co-production of sociotechnical imaginaries and expert systems, the production of knowledge, and the mechanisms responsible for dealing with risk and uncertainty.

The findings of the paper are based on a comprehensive discourse analysis of newspapers in Poland and Taiwan, complemented by research on energy transition in both countries. The study delves into the intricacies of the sociotechnical imaginaries surrounding this transformative process (Rabiej et al., 2022). In addition, the research draws on the application of reflexive public reason (Rudek, Huang, 2023). Together, these elements contribute to a nuanced exploration of the dynamics shaping perceptions of nuclear energy in the unique contexts of Poland and Taiwan.

Nuclear narratives: the role of value orientations, interests and practices in Epistemologies of Risk in Italian Nuclear Debates

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In recent years, the debate regarding the potential intensive use of nuclear energy has reignited, intertwining with the urgency of ecological transition. This contribution presents an exploratory study aimed at understanding and reconstructing 'epistemologies of nuclear risk' in the Italian debate. In-depth interviews with two categories of key actors—nuclear experts and representatives of environmental movements—allow us to analyze how nuclear risk is recognized, defined, measured, and assessed, the rhetorics justifying (or opposing) the adoption of nuclear energy within the Italian context, as well as the definitions of sustainability they refer to. Part of a more extensive research commitment, our preliminary analysis highlights three main themes as central for the interpretation of nuclear narratives in the debate. First, the importance of the interviewees' value orientations, as well as interests and practices underlying their positions. The analysis revealed that the seeming interaction is essentially a reciprocal shaping of rigid positions, limiting the significance of the debate. Secondly, the different ontologies underlying risk epistemologies, which assume risk as either controllable and measurable or not. Lastly, the emergence of a generational gap on nuclear energy which is perceived as a key for opening up the debate and facilitating a renewed image of nuclear energy within the sustainability project/umbrella, suggesting a promising line of inquiry for future research.

JS | RN12_RN22_II_T05: Environmental risk perception across Europe

This joint session aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of how individuals and societies perceive and respond to various environmental risks, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable futures. This session aims to delve into the intricate dynamics between societal tensions, trust-building processes, and transformative actions within the context of environmental risk perception in Europe. Environmental risk perception plays a pivotal role in shaping policies, behaviors, and attitudes towards environmental issues. Session will include empirical studies using both quantitative and qualitative data, especially with comparative cross-national focus.

Environmental Risk Perceptions of Citizens and their Engagement in Environmental Change at Local Level. A Citizen Science Project Case in Romania, South-Eastern Europe

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Citizen engagement in addressing environmental challenges is pivotal for sustainable change. By actively involving individuals in monitoring, reporting, and participating in remediation efforts, communities become integral contributors to environmental solutions. Public engagement allows real-time monitoring of environmental risks along with the possibility of updating stored information faster and in a shorter time. To enable communities to engage in environmental monitoring, a mobile app was created within a citizen science project. The app is currently operational in four small communities within the Apuseni Mountains region in Northwestern Romania, an area marked by both active mining and promising tourist potential. Despite the region's attractiveness to tourists, environmental challenges persist, including water and soil pollution from mining activities, sewage discharge, extensive littering along river banks, and illegal waste dumping in watercourses. Although a highly active environmental NGO operates in the studied communities, it has failed so far to mobilize a critical mass of citizens and stakeholders to tackle the environmental issues in the area.

To comprehend the promise and pitfalls of citizen mobilization, 21 semi-structured interviews were conducted with concerned citizens. The study revealed that multi-faceted social relations within closed mountain communities, coupled with a lack of trust in local authorities, pose significant barriers to citizen engagement in reporting problems and engaging in collective action. Broader contextual factors and local socio-political dependencies hinder the emergence of a local movement capable of generating environmental change. Our argument is substantiated by data derived from interviews, field observations, and the usage of the mobile app provided to citizens for environmental monitoring. Our results point towards an embedded form of environmentalism, discursively astute but socially fragmented due to local inter-dependencies.

Personal And Public Responsibility For Climate Change And Trust In Public Institutions

Antti Kouvo

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

There is a lot of evidence that a disruptive development phase like the green transition puts citizens' trust in public institutions to the test. At the same time, trust has been considered a significant resource that helps to strengthen justice in the midst of revolutionary developments. We investigate how different types of institutional trust are associated to attitudes about personal and public responsibility in mitigating climate change. Our hypothesis stems from the institution-centered theory. According to that, the trust in the impartial public institutions of society, such as the officials and the judiciary, have a stronger association with attitudes indicating the common good than trust in purely political institutions. Partly because of this, the variation between countries representing different institutional designs is significant as well. We assume that instead of political trust, trust especially in impartial institutions has a stronger association with both expectations towards public institutions and the perceived personal responsibility on the climate. The study examines the associations between trust and climate attitudes between 21 European countries and different demographic and socio-economic groups (European Social Survey 2016, N=5,2147). In addition to descriptive methods, we apply multilevel models to simultaneously examine variation between countries and individuals. Compared with political trust, trust in impartial public institutions has slightly stronger positive association with perceived personal responsibility in reducing climate change. Also, the difference between perceived personal and public responsibility on climate seems to be smaller in countries with high trust compared with countries with lower trust and to be explained better by high trust in impartial public institutions. The theoretical and policy implications of the findings are discussed at the end of the paper.

Risk, Environment And Territory. The Case Of The Pisano Foundries

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Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy

Industrial activities have made it necessary to reflect on the damage to human health and the environment by exacerbating the logic of risk distribution locally and globally. Industrial production activities potentially economically enhance the realities within which they are located, however, the communities most exposed to pollutants do not necessarily benefit from the wealth gained.

Starting from these stimuli, the contribution intends to address the perception of risk in the areas adjacent to an Italian industrial plant considered emblematic for its characteristics, that of the Fonderie Pisano.

The underlying empirical work is configured as an exploratory study by means of a convergent mixed methods research design: a longitudinal analysis of the content present on Social Network Sites (SNS) related to the Fonderie Pisano and semi-structured interviews with residents in the area surrounding the industrial plant. In the first case, the aim is to investigate how individuals shape and respond over time to the unequal exposure to risks related to industrial emissions; the privileged place of observation is Facebook, a context where discussions and information exchanges take place. The interviews provide a detailed understanding of the risk perception of those who live in the area on a daily basis, with a view to integrating it with the findings of longitudinal analyses.

Social Acceptance of Water Reuse For Climate Adaptation: The Case of Lisbon

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Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon

Climate change is an imminent reality, posing significant challenges across various planetary realms, with water resources standing among the most impacted. The European territory faced with higher temperatures and prolonged droughts has been spreading, therefore threatening an increasing number of people as well as key economic sectors. The water crisis requires a societal transformation towards sustainability, which involves maximising alternative water sources to bolster community resilience and reduce vulnerability. The practice of water reuse expands the resource supply but also introduces sustainability principles, closing the cycle of water use within a circular economy. This communication is based on doctoral research that draws from theories of social acceptance to build an interdisciplinary analytical framework on water reuse. The analysis focuses on the critical pillars of the social acceptance theory: risk perceptions, trust, and justice, investigating how these elements are highlighted and interconnected in regulatory documents and policies in the field. The findings are focused on the case of Lisbon and are supported by a policy analysis of instruments related to climate adaptation and water reuse on the European, national, and local levels. The study aims to provide relevant insights for future policy on water management and climate adaptation, which seek to contribute to strengthen the adaptive capacity of cities across Europe.

What Does Decoupling Mean? A Few Points Of Clarification

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As Dunlap put it almost a decade ago, “the current major theoretical cleavage” in environmental sociology “is over the ability or inability of ecological modernization processes to halt environmental degradation” (2015: 802). That remains true today, with some sociologists and other social scientists suggesting that better policies and new technologies could solve climate change and other pressing environmental problems, and others strongly disagreeing.

Scholars subscribing to the latter view suggest that a wider social transformation is required. One such possible transformation is economic “degrowth.” Vocal advocates of this agenda argue that economic growth cannot be “decoupled” from greenhouse gas emissions and other damaging environmental impacts. This claim represents a challenge to the many researchers, activists, and policymakers who believe decoupling is in fact possible, including sociologists who are optimistic about the potential for ecological modernization.

This paper thus responds to recent challenges from the degrowth perspective (e.g., Hickel’s (2020) “What does degrowth mean? A few points of clarification”), and defends the thesis that growth can indeed be decoupled from greenhouse gas emissions and other damaging environmental impacts. The core thesis of decouplers is that economic growth need not lead to increasing environmental harms, if states take appropriate policy measures leading to the discovery and deployment of more benign ways of producing the goods and services we want to consume.

The paper identifies and discusses key propositions distinguishing the degrowth and decoupling perspectives, and a list of (sometimes under-appreciated) commonalities. While degrowth as an agenda rests on some superficially eye-catching claims, in practice advocates of degrowth appear not to believe the strongest versions of those claims. More moderate versions are not so far from decoupling perspectives.

JS | RN13_RN14_T02: Work family dynamics and gender inequalities in post pandemic European societies (I)

Work-life balance in the pandemic and post-pandemic Europe.

Working from Home and Work-Family Conflict: Pre- and Post-Pandemic Evidence

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Objective: This study investigates the association between working from home (WFH) and both work-to-family (WTFC) and family-to-work conflict (FTWC), and whether these associations changed following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic saw a marked increase in the incidence of WFH in many countries, which many argue has been beneficial for families. Convincing evidence in support of this hypothesis, however, is scarce.

Method: Panel data from 19 waves of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey (covering the period 2001 to 2021) are used to estimate fixed-effects regression models of both FTWC and WTFC where the explanatory variable of interest is the share of usual weekly work hours worked from home. The sample is restricted to working parents aged between 18 and 64 years (9,859 persons; 54,893 observations).

Results: For both genders the level of WTFC declines with the proportion of time worked from home. By contrast, the association between WFH and FTWC differs between mothers and fathers, with FTWC lower for mothers but higher for fathers when working mostly from home. These associations remained largely unchanged during the pandemic.

Conclusion: The study suggests that WFH is particularly beneficial for mothers' reconciliation of work and family life but has ambivalent effects for fathers. This in turn may mean mothers will make greater use of WFH arrangements than fathers post pandemic.

Work-life Balance and Gender Equality in Post-pandemic Times. The Case of Local Public Workers of the Cávado Region in Portugal

Margarida Martins Barroso, Sandra Palma Saleiro, Sara Franco Silva

Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

The initial reflections on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were, to a certain extent, optimistic about its transformative potential, predicting long-term changes in the world of work, specifically through the spread of flexible work arrangements. However, in the aftermath of the health crisis, it is still unclear to what extent the pandemic has in fact meant a turning point in relation to previous predominant work-life dynamics, namely those based on rigid work organisation regimes and in an unequal distribution of unpaid work.

Based on the results of a survey applied to 2375 workers from local public administration in the Cávado Intermunicipal Community, Portugal, this article discusses the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on work organisation and its relationship with gender equality and work-life balance. Along with the changes experienced by a significant part of the workers, the results show a pattern of permanence in work arrangements and in the distribution of family responsibilities. The results also reveal that the effects of the pandemic have been felt differently according to gender and occupation, negatively affecting women in lower-skilled occupations, and benefiting higher-skilled men. Our findings are thus in line with previous studies that have already noted the limited scope of the transformations brought by the pandemic, and its reinforcing effect on structural inequalities.

Female Entrepreneurship And Its Influence On Work-Life Balance Among Women: A Qualitative Study In Italy

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For women, the world of work often poses a challenge, both in entry and throughout the career process, due to gender roles and the caregiving burden. Entrepreneurship in many countries presents an opportunity for women to counter gender disparities and manage the work-family balance more effectively. This study aims to understand the various factors driving Italian women to initiate entrepreneurial activities. It is part of a broader multidisciplinary project employing mixed methodologies for data collection. This article focuses on the qualitative aspect.

Four focus groups were conducted, two with unemployed women with a low caregiving burden and two with a high

caregiving burden, all intending to start a business. Additionally, 20 online semi-structured interviews were conducted, including 10 with Italian entrepreneurs and 10 with foreign entrepreneurs. The sample comprises female entrepreneurs from small and medium-sized enterprises, with diverse caregiving responsibilities and belonging to various entrepreneurial sectors. Content analysis using NVivo software was conducted to identify the characteristics of Italian female entrepreneurship. Lemmatic analysis using T-Lab was also performed to comprehend the key factors associated with female entrepreneurs and their work-family balance experiences. The results emphasize the factors promoting the creation of female entrepreneurship, identifying multiple levels, from micro (personal) to macro (institutional, contextual). Furthermore, the findings reveal a discrepancy between female entrepreneurs and unemployed women regarding the perception and experience of whether entrepreneurship acts as a hindrance or a facilitator for work-family balance.

Work-family Balance, Tech-control and Self-efficacy Among Women and Men Lecturers: Teach-experience at University During Pandemic

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Among the sectors most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, "Education and Training" experienced severe disturbances in balances, routine practices, cultural and regulatory models, with serious consequences for all stakeholders. The integration of digital methodologies necessitates proficiency, understanding, and a willingness to embrace emerging technologies; however, not all institutions (schools and universities) and stakeholders are prepared to embrace this transformation. The pandemic required stakeholders (including lecturers) to redesign teaching activities using distance learning methods, even if they were not prepared to do so. In addition to the difficulties of accepting and using information technologies, lecturers faced the challenge of planning and designing new forms of teaching that would ensure students' attendance and guarantee high levels of learning.

The contribution aims to examine how the perception of self-efficacy in academic teaching is shaped by the interplay between technological control and the pursuit of a balance between professional and family responsibilities for women and men. Through an in-depth analysis of the challenges and opportunities presented by technology in the teaching domain, as well as the dynamics influencing the work-family equilibrium for lecturers, this work aims to outline a framework for self-efficacy perception. This paper reflects on the experience of lecturers at the University of Milan Bicocca, discussing the outcomes of a survey administered to them. Data were analyzed through Structural Equation Modelling (SEM), focusing on the impact of two main dimensions tech-control and work-family balance on lecturers' perceived self-efficacy in digital teaching (in light of gender and perception of anxiety).

JS | RN13_RN14_T07: Work family dynamics and gender inequalities in post pandemic European societies (II)

Support for careers and its gendered consequences.

Better At Home? Teleworking As A New Form of Precariousness in Women's Employment

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The use of digital technologies has changed the forms of work and employment, making them more flexible and, on occasions, precarious. The pandemic has boosted telework in the European Union and Spain. This research identifies this progress by considering the gender differences that occur in one of its formulas, habitual teleworking. To do so, a quantitative methodology has been used, based on data from the European Labor Force Survey published by Eurostat for the period 2012-2021, as well as the European Working Conditions Survey of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in 2021.

The results indicate that habitual teleworking has been more prevalent among women than men, although until 2019 the differences were always minimal. However, there are differences between EU countries, which can be grouped into three models: 1) Feminized habitual telework model with an increase in differences in the post-pandemic period (France, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Czech Republic and Poland, among others); 2) Habitual telework pattern feminized after the pandemic, whereas previously it was more male-dominated (Ireland, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, etc.); 3) Masculinized pattern of habitual telework in the post-pandemic period (Germany only).

On the other hand, this intensification and feminization of teleworking is moderated by variables such as the composition of the household, in such a way that living with a partner and having children increase the probability of women's habitual teleworking, increasing the precariousness of women's employment.

Gendered Career Consequences of Caring for a Sick Child

Ayhan Adams, Katrin Golsch

Osnabrück University, Germany

The contribution addresses the effects of work absences due to caring for a sick child on employment outcomes.

Additionally, potential outcome differences between fathers' and mothers' use of absence days due to sick child care are studied. These special absence days represent an understudied aspect of the link between work and family life. According to the idea that children are the key to gender inequalities (Cortés & Pan 2023) and the everyday nature of this phenomenon for working parents, sick child care allows to deepen the knowledge about the compatibility between work and family and gender-specific effects in the work-family interface. The study uses longitudinal data from the German socio-economic panel (SOEP, 2010-2021). It conducts linear fixed effects regressions to analyse the interrelatedness of changes in sick child care days and income, work effort, and supervisor recognition. The first results reveal significant negative within effects of the number of sick child care days on income for mothers but not for fathers. This aligns with the idea of a motherhood wage penalty and a gendered expectation and recognition of care duties in employment.

Cortés, Patricia, and Jessica Pan. 2023. "Children and the Remaining Gender Gaps in the Labor Market." Journal of Economic Literature, 61 (4): 1359-1409.

Mental Health Among Employed Parents with Nonstandard Schedules : the Gendered Role of Work and Family Support.

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An increasing portion of the UE labour force is now engaged in nonstandard work schedules, broadly defined as work outside of the typical 9 am–5pm, Monday–Friday schedule. The increasing prevalence of NSWS reflects ongoing changes in globalized economies, including population ageing and demand for personal care services; the growth of the digital economy; and work-on-demand; and working-time deregulation. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to changes in work patterns and increased felxibility, with persistent trend deviations.

The increasing prevalence of nonstandard work schedules has disproportionately affected women across several countries. While evidence shows that NSWS negatively impact workers' physical health and family well-being, their impact on mental health remains understudied. To address this gap, we conducted a study with a sample of 11,069 employed parents in France. We explore gender disparities in the association between different types of NSWS (early mornings, nights, late evenings, and weekends) and poor self-rated mental health. Additionally, we investigate whether lack of social support in the work and family domains explains these differences for both men and women. Results show a significant link between NSWS and poor mental health, with women being more affected than men, especially in the case of weekend work. The lack of social support explains a substantial part of the association. Moreover, we fint that its role varies for women and men in different social classes. While women managers suffer from a lack of supervisor support, women in lower class jobs are more impacted by lack of family support. These results emphasize the importance of considering the ways gender operates, alongside with class, to shape the effects on mental health of work hours.

Parenting leave futures

Patricia Hamilton

University of York, United Kingdom

In the 105 years since the International Labour Organisation adopted the Maternity Protection Convention, innovation in the parenting leave policy landscape has been limited. Parenting leave policies are constrained by maternalism, especially in Anglophone countries (Baird & O'Brien, 2015; Moss & O'Brien, 2019), and a vision of good parent-citizenship that centres work. Drawing from longitudinal qualitative interviews with thirteen black parents conducted in the UK during the pandemic (April 2020-July 2021), I employ black feminist theory (Combahee River Collective, 1977; Nash, 2021) and parenting culture studies (Faircloth, 2013) to consider what parenting leave policies that prioritise care over work might look like. The paper examines the policy changes proposed in parenting leave scholarship and by the civil sector, including the six-month solution suggested by Kaufman (2020) and the 6-6-6 model put forward by lobby group Maternity Action and their potential to alter seemingly intransigent leave-taking patterns. These policy futures are contextualised within broader transformations in family and work life in the midst of the pandemic and the gendered, race and class inequalities it exacerbated.

JS | RN13_RN23_T03: Family practices in heteronormative societies (I)

Growing Old Outside the Couple: Ageing Imaginaries Queering Shared Living

Chiara Bertone

University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy

The paper draws on the contribution of queer perspectives on relationships of care, intimacy and support to the development of new views of ageing challenging heteronormative representations. It is based on participatory research with women living outside the couple (55-80 years old) exploring their current practices and imaginaries of ageing: a research group of 8 co-researchers conducted and analysed over 40 interviews. A focus on women's visions of their future reveals a strong sense of precariousness in facing a possible loss of autonomy. The solution of shared and collaborative living emerges as an alternative future that could fulfil the desire for sociality and as a possibility of maintaining forms of autonomy even in the reduction of self-sufficiency, but a gap emerges between aspirations and the possibility of translating them into practical projects, in which economic and relational resources play a key role. However, in women's overflowing, often unrealistic imaginaries of shared living, we also find a challenge to a model of domesticity that certain forms of co-housing reproduce, in which sociality is assumed to take place primarily in the private space of the household, in stable long-term relationships. Queer perspectives can help to read other logics in their aspirations, such as those associated with friendship, the porosity of boundaries between public and private, and the contingency of relationships, for the construction of broader imaginaries of ageing.

The Everyday Life of LGBT Families in Slovenia: "But Who is the 'real' Mom?"

Nina Perger, Alenka Švab

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Slovenia

This paper presents the preliminary results of a sociological study on the everyday life of LGBT families in Slovenia. The study was conducted in 2023 with five focus groups including 17 individuals from LGBT families. Three main thematic areas were covered: 1. perceptions of family and family practices, especially those related to family formation, parenting and the division of family labour; 2. family members' experiences with interactions and relationships in different social settings and with different institutions, and 3. the challenges and coping strategies and the role of support networks available to them, including the significance of legal changes.

In this paper, we focus on the distinction between biological and non-biological parental status within LGBT families, given the socially prevalent notion of family as biologically related. The data show that these distinctions are made socially relevant. As such, they tend to be present in the LGBT families, even if only in the form of concerns that only later – through affirming interactions – turn out to be irrelevant. For some LGBT families, however, this distinction can greatly shape the experience of "doing" the LGBT family. Namely, the distinctiveness of biological and non-biological parental status tend to be be socially enforced, either by the immediate social surrounding – which is particularly the case for reorganised LGBT families, where one of the partners was previously in a heterosexual relationship –, or internally, by taking seriously the social verdict inherent in the ever-haunting and polymorphous question "But who is the 'real' mom?".

Failure, Privilege, and Power: A Critical Examination of Family in Contemporary Social Policy Literature

Volkan Yilmaz

Ulster University, United Kingdom

This paper critically examines the prevailing tendency in contemporary social policy literature to uncritically regard the family as an unwavering haven in a heartless world. While theories of market failure and government failure are well-established, the notion of family failure appears conspicuously absent from the literature. We routinely invoke market failure to justify the implementation of social policies and government failure to identify shortcomings in social supports and services. Yet, there remains a curious lack of scrutiny when it comes to the family. This paper is an empirically informed conceptual intervention that challenges an overly optimistic view of families in contemporary social policy literature. The paper addresses the following questions: When does a family fail? How, and for whom, does it fail? How should the discipline of social policy approach the unit of the family in a way that also speaks to contexts where family formation is a privilege for some (e.g. heterosexuals), where family formation sometimes occurs through forced marriages and sexual abuse of children, and where divorce is financially or legally challenging for women to initiate? This paper seeks to offer a more nuanced and power-conscious social policy approach to the notion of family.

'You Have Much More Pressure to be Liked'. Discrimination and Normalization for LGBT*-families in Germany

Mona Motakef[1], Julia Teschlade[2], Christine Wimbauer[2]

[1]TU Dortmund, Germany; [2]HU Berlin, Germany

Over the last 20 years, LGBTQ+-families have become more visible, in politics, law, and social science research and everyday life. Furthermore, conceptions of what constitutes the family have pluralized and legal recognition of same-sex relationships and families has increased in many democratic countries. In Germany, same-sex marriage is legally recognized since 2017. However, legal barriers for LGBTQ* and multi-parent families still exist. Starting from these developments and observations, this presentation draws from qualitative interview data conducted as a part of the DFG research project "Ambivalent Recognition Order? Doing Reproduction and Doing Family beyond the 'Nuclear Family'". We focuses discriminations and day-to-day practices of normalization of LGBTIQ-families. We argue, that normalization practices of LGBTIQ*-families are arduous efforts within heteronormative societies. The work of demonstrating one's family relationship as genuine is more complex and requires more "work" on the part of the LGBTQ+ parents. The need to display family is significantly increased for the families we interviewed. The narrative of "feeling pressure to succeed" is a powerful summary of what many LGBTQ+ families experience in their everyday life. By highlighting "work" which is usually not recognizes as work as such, we make a contribute to the debate of discrimination of LGBTQ+ families in Germany. While LGBTIQ*-families display their normality, family norms are widened – not only by overt political struggles, but by everyday sub-political practices.

Teschlade, Julia/Motakef, Mona/Wimbauer, Christine (2023): Discrimination and normalization as an effortful social practice: an analysis of LGBTQ+ families in Germany. In: Sexualities : studies in culture and society.

JS | RN13_RN23_T05: Family practices in heteronormative societies (II)

Marriage According To The European Court Of Human Rights: A Right Or "A Margin Of Appreciation"

Alexandra Sipos

HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary

„Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right" states Article 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) – but what does it mean in practice? The paper posits that the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) interpretation of the ECHR on how partnerships and kinships can or should be recognized reflects tensions and transformations within the legal field and society too.

The paper gives an overview of the development of the ECtHR's extensive case law on same-sex partnership recognition in comparison with marriage equality. This refers to the state in which both different-sex and same-sex couples have access to the institution of marriage, thus the abolishment of the distinction based on sexual orientation in the exercise of the right to marry. Indeed,

To examine the case law development, three cases are selected due to their relevance in shaping such development. Firstly, Schalk and Kopf v. Austria (2010), where the question of marriage equality was examined by the Court. Secondly, Oliari and Others v. Italy (2015) in which the State obligation to provide recognition to same-sex partnerships was scrutinized. Thirdly, Maymulakhin and Markiv v. Ukraine (2023) where the ECtHR stated that the non-discrimination clause is violated if no legal recognition is provided for same-sex couples. Preliminarily, it can be concluded that some examined decisions were not fully consistent with the previously established case law of the Court. Furthermore, the ECtHR was reluctant to rely on Article 14 on non-discrimination regarding same-sex couple recognition.

Virtual Bonds: Mapping the Landscape of Queer Informal Care in Digital Spaces

Ekaterina Osipova, Laura Wiesböck, Ella O'Connor

Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Austria

This paper emphasizes the importance of incorporating digital practices into the academic discourse on informal care. Informal care can be understood as (1) unpaid arrangements and support systems that are (2) provided by non-professional individuals and (3) tailored to the specific needs

and experiences of persons, whose condition or wellbeing would deteriorate or not improve without the assistance of others. With the growth of digitalization, spaces of care are fundamentally changing due to altered relations of proximity and distance. However, considering that dominant narratives on care largely neglect digitally mediated relationship constellations, a substantial amount of informal care carried out virtually remains largely invisible to society.

This is especially the case for individuals situated within queer contexts, whose approaches to care are not centered on heterosexual nuclear families within the domestic sphere. Given the challenges arising from care disparities of formal state support structures, systemic discrimination, and violence, as well as rejection from traditional care modalities, such as the family of origin, many queer persons resort to and engage in a variety of community-based informal care practices online. Consequently, the research project QUEERDEM (funded by the Cultural Department of the City of Vienna) is aimed at conducting a comprehensive virtual ethnography to explore forms and practices of informal care in digital spaces, which play a vital role in fostering community, facilitating the exchange of social support, and providing access to vital resources. In this paper we will present first outcomes of the study.

Beyond the Role of Men in Families: Drivers of Family Policy Change in Less Developed European Societies

Attila Bartha

HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary

This study investigates the drivers of family policy change in less developed European societies. The main research question is the following: what have been the major societal and policy factors shaping family policy reform trajectories in more fragile societies of Europe (mostly Southern and Eastern European countries)? The research attempts to bring some conceptual, methodological, and empirical novelties as well. While previous studies concentrated on the lived experiences of women related to the perception of family policy ideas, this research has a focus on the lived experiences of men; we consider men not only from the traditional heteronormative as well as male breadwinner perspectives but also remaining open to diversity of masculinities and male roles in paid labour, care, and family settings. In addition, while previous research concentrated on North-Western Europe, this study investigates societal factors driving family policy changes in the less developed European societies. The main method of the empirical research is congruence analysis: first we (re)construct theoretically anchored ideal types of family policy changes and then, by using official documents, legal sources, and publicly available international institutional data we investigate the closeness of the more fragile European societies to the particular ideal types. The preliminary findings of the research underline two indirect factors that might be the drivers of family policy changes and shape the role of men in the change: the relative status and prestige of public education employment and the strength of collaborative governance mechanisms in shaping broader family and gender equality policies.

RN23_T05_02: Reproductive Rights and Contraception

Correlates Of Pregnancies Ending In Induced Abortions: A Population-Based Analysis From The Life-Stage Perspective

Aidée Baranda Ortiz[1,2], Mikolaj Stanek[1]

[1]University of Salamanca, Spain; [2]University of Basque Country, Spain

Induced abortions (IAs) constitute a fundamental element contributing to women's reproductive sexual health by granting them control over their motherhood, allowing them to decide whether they wish to avoid, postpone, space, or conclude their motherhood. The objective of this study was to analyze the sociodemographic variables influencing women's decisions to opt for an IA based on their life stage

For this research, records of IA, births, and late fetal deaths were combined, providing comprehensive information on all pregnancies and their respective outcomes. Binary logistic regression models applied to each age group (15-19, 20-29, 30- 39 and 40-44 years) revealed that in the early reproductive stages, the probability of opting for IA was higher in women who did not have a partner than in those who had one. In contrast, in the later years of the reproductive cycle, women with more than 2 or 3 children are more likely to undergo an IA.

In conclusion, delineating women according to their age groups and other sociodemographic characteristics that make them particularly susceptible to unwanted pregnancies, combined with a detailed analysis of the personal motivations influencing the decision to opt for an IA, could guide the formulation of specific public policies aimed at these specific strata of the female population.

JS | RN13_RN23_T07: Family practices in heteronormative societies (III)

Asymmetric Attitudes Towards The Rights of Gays, Lesbians And Same-sex Couples in Europe

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[1]Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary; [2]HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Institute of Sociology

There is a vast literature on how various socio-demographic characteristics can shape attitudes towards the rights of gays, lesbians, and same-sex couples. Most studies assume that support for and opposition to these rights are the endpoints of a single scale on which variables have a symmetric effect. Our paper examines whether the effects of the individual-level variables are asymmetric. To disentangle the support and opposition effects, we apply a new method, asymmetric ordered logistic regression.

We use the European Value Survey (EVS) and the European Social Survey (ESS) to focus on items whether homosexuals are as good parents as heterosexuals (EVS), whether gays and lesbians should have the right to adopt children, and whether they have the right to live their lives as they wish (ESS). We find that many socio-demographic variables including gender, cohort, age, and parenthood shape the support for same-sex rights, but do not seem to shape opposition. Religiosity, often seen as the main counteracting force against the advancement of same-sex rights, increases opposition and decreases support at the same time. The effect of political ideology is two-faceted: identification with the left increases support (but does not decrease opposition), while identification with the right increases opposition (but does not decrease support). Evidence on the effect of education and relative income effects is mixed and sensitive to the attitude under study. These results suggest that the understandings of the opposition against and the support for the rights of gays, lesbians and same-sex couples may require different theoretical explanations.

Consensual Non-Monogamies, Polyamory and Parenting. Critical and Queer Perspectives

Daniel Cardoso[1], Christian Klesse[2], Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli[3], Michel Raab[4], Cornelia Schadler[5], Mimi Schippers[6]

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This contribution explores key themes in current research on Consensual-Nonmonogamies (CNMs), polyamory and (multi) parenting from international perspectives. The paper highlights modes of oppression and discrimination and heteronormative and mononormative societies around the themes of exclusivity, gendered parenting roles, relational development framed as intimate growth, and a pervasive reproductive futurism. CNMs and polyamorous parenting practices negotiate a complex social terrain shaped by social and health policies, law, housing development, creating new avenues for parenting roles, and the (re)organization of care work and the division of labour in child-rearing. Reflecting on the key findings presented in a novel special issue of the journal Sexualities on CNM and parenting that will appear in print in June 2024 as issue number 27(4), which is comprised of studies from the USA, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Austria, the paper argues that critical knowledge on CNMs and Multi-Parenting is an important and necessary ingredient of an exciting evolving queer sociology of kinship, familial practices, and intimacy.

Exploring the Intersectionality of Identity and Culture in Sexual Consent Practices

Sarah Zreim

McGill University, Canada

When we teach students about consent, we often focus on the verbal aspect of it, “yes means yes” and “no means no”. Simplified mantras such as these fail to take into consideration how power and identity intersect, or the potential for people with marginalized identities to experience harm or victimization before, during, and after a sexual encounter. In this sense, identities—and culture more broadly—are often overlooked when students learn about consent. Within the context of sexual consent, there is a growing need to add nuance to consent education to ensure students are aware of the complexities of consent, rather than ignoring the influence of identity and culture. Students must also recognize the intersectional nature of consent, namely, how consent relates to identities and operates as a cross-cultural communication tool. I investigate the cultural context of sexual consent; through conducting a scoping review to identify and synthesize empirical research on sexual consent practices. This research aims to answer the

following: “To what extent do identity and culture impact sexual consent practices?” The findings provide a robust foundation for developing action research initiatives aimed at creating more inclusive and culturally sensitive consent education programs.

JS | RN13_RN23_T07: Family practices in heteronormative societies (III)

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When we teach students about consent, we often focus on the verbal aspect of it, “yes means yes” and “no means no”. Simplified mantras such as these fail to take into consideration how power and identity intersect, or the potential for people with marginalized identities to experience harm or victimization before, during, and after a sexual encounter. In this sense, identities—and culture more broadly—are often overlooked when students learn about consent. Within the context of sexual consent, there is a growing need to add nuance to consent education to ensure students are aware of the complexities of consent, rather than ignoring the influence of identity and culture. Students must also recognize the intersectional nature of consent, namely, how consent relates to identities and operates as a cross-cultural communication tool. I investigate the cultural context of sexual consent; through conducting a scoping review to identify and synthesize empirical research on sexual consent practices. This research aims to answer the following: “To what extent do identity and culture impact sexual consent practices?” The findings provide a robust foundation for developing action research initiatives aimed at creating more inclusive and culturally sensitive consent education programs.

JS | RN23_RN29_T08: Affects, Encounters and Silences

Can Queer Theory Teach Us About X? Intimacy, Affects, and "Sexuality"

Martin Stempfhuber

Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg, Germany

Pace the insistence of some of its leading proponents that queer theory (or queer theories) "teaches us nothing" (Lee Edelman), some motives of queer theorizing continue to haunt diverse projects of theorizing in the social sciences. In this paper, I want to address two of these motives that seem to be central for the project of queer theories as critical theories of intimate and/or public life. The more influential impulse is the insistence on the importance of affect (and affects). Queer theories offer unique vocabularies for the affective dimension of contemporary social practices and dynamics. The impetus of this insistence is a critical one and seems to be ideally suited to address questions of tension, (dis)trust, and transformation. The second suggestion concerns the role of queer "sexuality" – not only for private and intimate relationships or "intimate publics" (Lauren Berlant), but also as a critical theoretical figure that can help to disturb and stimulate projects of social theorizing: sex as "the unbearable" (Berlant and Edelman). This paper proposes that these two motives can indeed offer crucial contributions to some of the most urgent debates in the social sciences – can, indeed, teach us something. Queer affects and "sexuality" address the problematic reduction of intimate and public life to questions of identity politics. They insist on the irreducible role of negativity and contradiction for the theorizing of (anti-)sociality. And they hint towards queer "ontologies" that can enrich projects of sociological research with an interest in critical theory.

Secrecy, Intimacy and Power: Challenging the Dichotomy of Consensually and Non-Consensually Non-Monogamous Relationships

Christian Werner Klesse, Jenny van Hooff

Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

This paper explores the role of secrets in the creation, maintenance, and disruption of intimacy. It engages a dialogue between key insights from within the research and theoretical work on consensual and non-consensual non-monogamy to highlight the 'power of secrets' in mobilizing or disrupting intimate relationships. The distinction between consensual non- monogamy (e.g., polyamory) and non-consensual non-monogamy (such as affairs) tends to focus on mutual disclosure and transparency as key markers of difference. The lack of disclosure is read through morally charged concepts such as lying, deceit or betrayal. This paper challenges the dichotomy of secrecy and transparency, showing that strategies of secrecy are implicated in the production of both monogamies or non-monogamies, whether consensual or non-consensual. We argue that the model of 'disclosing' intimacy has been over-used and conflated with intimate and sexual ethics, at the expense of a critical investigations of the power relations that structure the terms of discourse and interaction. We demonstrate that consensual and non-consensual non-monogamies are closely connected by potentially sharing an investment in operations of secrecy, and that a focus on practices of secrecy needs to be placed right at the heart of the critical study of intimacy to allow for more nuanced and complex understandings of the ways we can build and maintain intimate bonds.

Intimacies At The Bar Top: A Socio-Spatial Approach To The Public Sphere from its Everyday Practices

Francisco Javier Rueda Córdoba

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

This work stems from the results of a PhD about bars, restaurants and cafeterias in a European city: Madrid. The theoretical purpose of the research was to question the hegemonic liberal notion of a rational, reflexive and abstract Public Sphere (which emerged in 18th Century Coffee Houses according to Jürgen Habermas), and to propose an embodied, situated and ordinary depiction of it. On the other hand, the methodological purpose was to apply an empirical and socio-spatial analysis to allegedly abstract political concepts such as Democracy, Conflict, Publicness, or Power, analyzing how the city inhabitants use them and how they come into live phenomenologically, in a constant interaction with bodies, things and situations. Bars were chosen as a case study due to their everyday relevance and "intermediate nature": private spaces with public concurrence and the right to refuse admissions.

Exploring this "intermediate nature", three key concepts that often appeared in the fieldwork (consisting in semi-structured interviews, observations and cartographies) constantly challenged public atmospheres: privacy, domesticity and intimacy. Each of these concepts was applied to different situations and sets. This contribution focuses on the latter (intimacy), and will explore how intimacies are constructed, allowed and monitored in these semi-public spaces. It will delve into how intimacies can even appear among strangers; who has the right to create intimate atmospheres and who suffers from them; how finally the production of intimacies is often a key strategy used by marginalized groups to create resistance choreographies, propose counter-publics, and question the violence of hegemonic public and semi-public spaces.

Diversity in Intimacy Relationships in the context of (forced) migration

Vanessa Maria Rau

Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Germany

With the arrival of large numbers of refugees since 2015, urban diversity in Germany has increased. Throughout the last year and especially since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, large numbers of Ukrainian refugees have further diversified German society.

The question of sexuality and romantic relationships of refugees has barely been addressed in academic research. In the case of refugees from Arab speaking or African countries, refugees' alleged sexuality has been discussed in the context of sexual assaults, not seldom bearing orientalist and racist stereotyping. My study of intimacies between refugees and permanent residents looks at the lived experience and negotiation of difference, diversity and boundaries in terms of status, race, class and gender, religion and the negotiation of power and hierarchies in Love relationships. Taking the biographical example of couples, this paper demonstrates how differences attract but also distract each other and severely challenge a relationships and livelihoods. While often focusing on 'cultural differences' as the obstacle for 'Love' to work, I rather suggest, that the migration regime and structural inequality predominantly affects intimacy in the most severe ways. In my paper, I will show how the concept changes in the course of migration trajectories and the experience of intimacy in diverse relationships and migrants and migration influence existing societal ideas of relationships and intimacy. Focusing on the individual biographical experiences of refugees and permanent residents and their negotiation of differences, I will discuss the power relations and hierarchies involved in practice of relationships and Love as well as the negotiation of the (internalized) norms that emerge from specific socio-political environments.

JS | RN13_RN30_06: Family and intimate lives of young adults during multicrisis (I)

Ongoing and emerging social crises have multiple implications for the lives of contemporary young adults (18-35-year-olds). This session spotlights intimacies and families, looking at the relational dynamics among European younger generations. The JS reflects the conference themes by seeking new empirical and theoretical perspectives on transformations of family transitions (i.e., partnering and parenting patterns) and young people's choices around love (including meanings of trust). We also invite authors to explore how intimacies and family lives of young adults are shaped by multi-layered tensions, e.g., those evident in gender politics, intergenerational conflicts and relational implications of risk during multicrisis. "Family and intimate lives of young adults during multicrisis" is organised in two parts: Part I on 29 August and Part II on 30 August.

Gendered Intimacy: Young Adults Talk about Emotional Relationships

Smiljka Tomanovic

University of Belgrade, Serbia

The focus of the paper is on how are emotional relationships perceived in social biographies of young adults in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. The analysis and interpretation will be based on case studies of 24 to 28 years old young adults from the longitudinal qualitative study that followed 20 subjects from their preschool age to their mid-twenties. The research was done in several research waves every seven years via semi structured interviews that aimed at reconstructing main areas of their life trajectories: education, work, housing, family and social relations, and emotional life during the period prior to the interview, and at their perceptions, reflections, feelings at the moment of the interview. Besides reflecting on their emotional relationships in the past and present, respondents also talked about their future partnership and anticipated family formation through methodological tool "future life timeline" that prompts them to "imagine adulthood". I will analyze and interpret their accounts in time perspective – connecting past, present and future. My argument is that the young adults perceive and interpret their experience of emotional relationships within the anticipated female and male (family) roles associated with their more or less typical gender (gendered) identities. The more their gender identity is detradionalized, there is a greater feeling of dissatisfaction with their emotional life. I also argue that (hetero)normative gendered identities are reinforced by the context of prolonged (chronic) post socialist crisis that comprises re-patriarchalization of gender relations.

Low Fertility Cultures: Reading young people's reactions to falling fertility under compressed modernity in China

Ruth Holliday, Qiqi Huang

University of Leeds, United Kingdom

Since the 1990s low fertility and even population decline has begun to affect many countries around the world. Three main factors are said to contribute to this – lower infant mortality as poorer nations develop better healthcare, feminism (women staying longer in education and having better access to the labour market) (Vollset et al. 2020) and austerity (young people unable to achieve secure employment or access housing or childcare) (Hall 2019). Many studies draw attention to the causes of, and policy responses to, low fertility rates, however, this article charts some of the ways that falling birthrates impact on young people's cultural expectations and reactions. In particular we explore the stubborn refusal of Chinese birthrates to increase, despite the end of China's infamous One-Child Policy, and the introduction of subsequent pronatalist policy initiatives designed to boost reproduction. We argue that exploring a "compressed modernity" (Chang 2022) like China, brings to the surface cultural shifts (shocks) that are harder to identify in slowly evolving western modernities. By carefully examining Chinese online subcultural reactions, we hope to show how reproductive cultures can rapidly change, undoing normative ideals of the aspirational, heterosexual, carer/ breadwinner family and creating "trouble" for both gender and couple relationships. We use this material to reflect back on the UK case where a romantic ideal of intimacy and family endures - for the moment - and ask: what are younger people's orientations to work, family and intimacy likely to be in the low fertility cultures of the future?

Let's Adopt a Dog! A New Stage for the Young Couple in the Frame of Family Life Course Studies

Dr Magdalena Anita Gajewska, Dr Magdalena Anna Żadkowska, Dr Natalia Treder- Rochna, Dr Elżbieta Chruściel

University of Gdansk

Our research project, 'Couple and Dog: Relationships and Interspecies Ties in Private Life and Public Space,' delves into the intricate dynamics between childless couples and their canine companions, framed within the context of life course studies (Aeby and Gauthier 2021; Cooney 2022).

The sociology of couples (Kaufmann 1993, Żadkowska et al. 2018) tends to observe the couple's trajectory. In sociological perspectives on couples' trajectories, we explore

the transformative impact of dogs on daily practices and relational bonds within young couples (Finch 2007; Schmitt et al. 2018).

Building upon existing studies on couple and animal companionship (Irvine & Celia 2017, Simpson 2021), our study, employs an interdisciplinary approach(sociology & psychology). The initial phase comprises 24 online conjoint interviews with young couples. The subsequent stage involves 13 childless couples and their dogs. It included: interviews, and cortisol level measurement (animal and human companions), coupled with surveys assessing depression, relationship patterns, and interpersonal reactivity.

Our presentation aims to shed light on the pivotal role that companion animals play in the life stage of young couples (Gajewska & Żadkowska 2023). We delineate how daily practices related to dog companionship influence the relational and intimate bonds, drawing parallels to the life course studies framework. Specifically, we investigate how the presence of a dog engages partners in building a shared life transforms their experiences into an embodiment of adulthood (Arnett 2005), and shapes their responsibility for the well-being of canine companions. We explore how couples navigate conflicts and challenges related to the care of their furry family member, offering insights into the nature of interspecies relationships within young couple dynamics (Żadkowska 2016, 2024).

JS | RN13_RN30_08: Family and intimate lives of young adults during multicrisis (II)

Ongoing and emerging social crises have multiple implications for the lives of contemporary young adults (18-35-year-olds). This session spotlights intimacies and families, looking at the relational dynamics among European younger generations. The JS reflects the conference themes by seeking new empirical and theoretical perspectives on transformations of family transitions (i.e., partnering and parenting patterns) and young people's choices around love (including meanings of trust). We also invite authors to explore how intimacies and family lives of young adults are shaped by multi-layered tensions, e.g., those evident in gender politics, intergenerational conflicts and relational implications of risk during multicrisis. "Family and intimate lives of young adults during multicrisis" is organised in two parts: Part I on 29 August and Part II on 30 August.

"Intergenerational Perspectives on Leaving Home in Migrant Families. Findings from Young Polish Adults and Their Parents in Germany."

Zuzanna Kapciak[1], Paula Pustułka[1], Justyna Bell[2]

[1]SWPS University, Poland; [2]Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

The paper addresses the topic of transitions-to-adulthood and intergenerational relations. Successful transitions during adulthood are increasingly connected with extensive family assistance. In the article, we will discuss intergenerational support in transitions-to-adulthood in Polish migrant families in Germany, with the focus on young migrant adults leaving the parental home. Focusing on this often-first and crucial big transitional marker, we aim to capture scope and types of support flows from parents to children. Moreover, the paper will verify whether the recent typologies of leaving home offered by Sørensen & Nielsen (2021), as well as by Pustulka et al. (2022), can be applied to understand pathways to housing autonomy in the context of migrant/transnational families.

The data stems from the IRIMTA project (funded by the Polish National Science Center, no: 2022/47/O/HS6/00976). The study employs a multi-perspective qualitative research design, with 20 intergenerational dyads consisting of young adults (18-29 years old) and their parents interviewed. This will result in 40 interviews with individuals who have

migration experience as Poles in Germany. The dyads enable mapping out intergenerational family support in a multiperspective manner: from the young adult child's and the parent's perspectives, thus offering a nuanced understanding of familial assistance in transitions-to-adulthood in migratory settings. The analysis specifically intersects the types of young adult figures (i.e., temporizer/gymnast/protector/runaway - Pustułka et al. 2022) with the typology focused on the characteristic of parental involvement (i.e., the bulging heart/the soft nudge/the slammed door; Sørensen & Nielsen 2021).

Housing Orientations And Lifestyles Of Young People In Times Of Crisis.

Andrea Orio, Stefania Leone

University of Salerno, Italy

The emerging changes in housing-related phenomena are closely tied to the impact of economic crises on the labor market and the housing sector (Lennart et al., 2016), new housing features linked to climate and pandemic crises (Rogers and Power, 2021), and the uncertainty of young people about their future (Woodman, 2011; Leccardi, 2020), shaping an ever-evolving scenario.

These changes, on the one hand, challenge a "home-centric" family model (Eve, 2009) but, on the other hand, give rise to new housing preferences among young individuals in line with evolving lifestyles (Zarruba et al., 2021). Some key trends are the perception of home ownership as a risk (Fuster et al., 2019), more time spent outside the home (Nuvolati, 2008) and residential aspirations more connected to nature (Leone and Orio, 2023).

The aim of this research is to provide new empirical and theoretical perspectives on transition models toward family life and housing choices among young adults. The research questions are: 1) in a scenario characterized by multiple crises, which uncertainties, risks and opportunities affect young people's emerging housing orientations? 2) what connections exist among housing orientations, family transitions and lifestyles?

Data were collected through a structured survey administered to a sample of young adults aged 18 to 34, exploring their conceptions and meanings of house in personal, family, and public spheres, as well as the role house plays for the new generations. Statistical analysis of the data is conducted through a mix of techniques within a multivariate analysis framework.

War and the Military Service in the Post-Collapse Communist Bloc: Which Impact on Marriage and Divorce?

Sara Tafuro, Elena Bastianelli

Università degli Studi di Firenze, France

A large scientific literature explores the correlates and determinants of union formation and dissolution around the world. However, a want of knowledge is evident for what concerns the impact on marriage and divorce of such a stressful and all-consuming event like war is. The implications of active participation in the conflict (namely, serving in the army) are even less explored, and that is often due to a lack of data. In the working paper we propose here, we use a unique data source: the Life in Transition Survey (LITS), i.e. a longitudinal dataset providing data for individuals in former soviet countries (mostly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia) from 1989 to recent times. Hence, during and after the collapse of communist regimes and its ensuing wars.

We test how the interviewee's yearly participation in the military service impacted on him marrying and divorcing on the years before, during and after that. Preliminary results show, most interestingly, that serving in the army corresponded to a lower chance of divorcing in the next few years. We also compare the effect of serving in the army with the effect of experiencing war in one's environment (i.e. in one's country at a given year) on marrying and/or divorcing at various years: the results are similar to those observed in the previous part of the study. We also propose a socio-cultural interpretation of these results, which contradict the findings of the few existing studies, all conducted in the US.

JS | RN13_RN35_T02: Kin-keeping within transnational families

Defining Transnational Families across Countries and Time: Analysis of Academic Discourse on the Phenomenon between 2003 and 2023

Irma Budginaitė-Mačkinė[1], Isabelle Albert[2], Heidi Martins[3], Mieke Schrooten[4,5], Dragan Stanojević[6], Anna Wojtyńska[7]

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Families separated by geographical borders yet bound by a sense of familyhood represent a complex family form receiving growing academic attention. Notwithstanding the growing attention to transnational families across diverse academic disciplines and increasing internationalisation of the higher education and research institutions, the endeavour to establish comprehensive definitions and conduct multidisciplinary and multi-local research on "transnational families" remains a formidable task. This paper explores the evolving concept of transnational families (TNFs) in today's globalized and digital society and aims to reveal how differing regional conceptualisations of the nation-state, migration regimes and family norms shape the understanding of "transnational" and "family". Drawing on Goffman's (1986 [1974]) theoretical framework, we analysed academic publications on TNFs from 2003 to 2023 in multiple languages and disciplines. The study was inspired by the discussions within the COST TraFaDy network and was conducted by a multidisciplinary and multilingual team analysing the academic discourse on TNFs in Belgium, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal and Serbia – and represents variation in terms of migration waves, migration regimes and family norms. The analysis reveals distinct imagined orders (frames) within the depictions of transnational families in different contexts. The study contributes to ongoing academic debates, highlighting the evolving understanding of transnational families amidst changing global dynamics.

Affinities Matter. A Novel Orientation for Studying Potent Personal Connections as Forces Shaping Transnational Mobility and Family Life

Anna Simola[1], Vanessa May[2]

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Existing studies on the 'drivers' of intra-European mobility focus overwhelmingly on individual life projects and economic rationales, leaving largely unexplored the significance of people's personal connections with their kin and places of origin. Our paper introduces and develops an orientation for conceptualizing and studying human mobility that builds on Jennifer Mason's (2018) work on affinities defined as personal connections that have potency. Our argument is that such potent connection not only have an enormous influence on people's experiences of moving-in-the-world, but matter also in directing and patterning their movements. We draw from in-depth interviews (N=33) with Spaniards and Finns living in Belgium to offer insights into how an affinities orientation can be applied to better understand transnational (family) life in conditions of free mobility. Bringing the affinities orientation into dialogue with existing migration literature, we suggest that it offers a genuinely relational, multidimensional, multisensorial, and anti-categorical way of understanding people's living connections. These do not only take shape in relation to people's significant others, but also the places, environments, and other elements that matter to them. Crucially, we consider affinities of positivity as well as of alterity and negativity, thus highlighting relational complexity and the ways affinities can form conflicting crosscurrents in people's lives. Furthermore, the orientation is sensitive to the ways people's personal lives are experienced and remembered in historically changing social, cultural, and natural environments, thus allowing a contextualized analysis of the unfolding of people's personal lives over time and the intergenerational dynamics of such processes.

Better Together? Migrating as a Family in Covid and Brexit Times

Elisabetta Zontini

University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

In the UK the COVID pandemic coincided with another major challenge for migrant and transnational families, namely Brexit. How did migrant families navigate this double challenge to their mobilities? How did they maintain resilience and cohesiveness in these turbulent times? How did they narrate their experiences?

This paper draws on a collaborative project undertaken with an Italian NGO for a video-documentary on migrants who moved to the UK as part of a family/couple project with insights from the practitioners who advise migrants in a rapidly evolving policy context. The transformative aim of

the collaborative project was to highlight the challenges of family migration while simultaneously documenting their ordinariness and resilience, offering lessons, and pushing for more humane and family friendly policies. The documentary highlights the challenges and opportunities of family migration (broadly understood) and the strategizing that that involves. It also shows how forced immobility (imposed by Covid and the hardening of borders) affected transnational relationships and impacted participants differently, mainly according to their generation/life course stage.

The paper discusses the tensions between the trust participants have in the potential for social mobility offered by the receiving society and the reality of everyday experience of family life across borders. While Covid restrictions have receded, Brexit-related immobilities and separations are increasing, sharpening some of the challenges and contradictions highlighted in the paper.

Intimacy Lost? Ruptures, Affect and Perception of Distance Among Polish Migrants in Iceland

Anna Wojtynska

University of Iceland, Iceland

Expansion of communication technology allows people to stay in almost constant touch at far, creating impression of immediateness that led some to talk even about death of distance (Cairncross, 1997). The new media has been extensively utilized by members of transnational families to maintain a sense familyhood and collective welfare (Bryceson and Vourela, 2002; Madianou & Miller, 2011). Some of the recent studies about migrants' transnationalism describe how frequent contacts enable migrants to feel simultaneously at home and participate care exchange in a satisfactory way (White and White 2007; Baldassar 2016). King-O'Riain (2015: 256) pointed out that regular usage of communication technology allows families to create "space of transconnectivity (home/away space)" as they practice "simultaneous and ongoing belonging across significant temporal and geographical distances". Similarly, Liccope (2004: 136) concluded that by using mobile and home telephones individuals manage to create a form of virtual connectedness that might efficiently substitute for physical co-presence and so "boundaries between absence and presence eventually get blurred" (cf. Laurier 2001). These studies, however, tend to overlook (or depreciate) inevitable ruptures and discontinuity inherent in transnational living (Werbner 2013). Geographical distance, especially in times of uncertainty, turbulence and multicrises, can become acute challenge for transnational families that may be in need of additional assistance and emotional support. Based on the ethnographic research among Polish labour migrants in Iceland, I focus on the notion of risk and loss of intimacy related to periods of separation that emerged as significant issue in migrants' accounts. In this presentation I present migrants' narratives of distance and proximity in order to critically engage with somehow too optimistic picture of new media communication.

JS | RN13_RN35_T03: Social protection of transnational families

The Problem Of Social Protection Of Transnational Families In Europe

Vida Česnuitytė

Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

The presentation is inspired by the issues studied within the working group WG3 "Social rights and social protection of transnational families" of the COST Action CA21143 „Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe (TraFaDy)". As a result of global mass migration, lot of families in nowadays are forced to organize their lives across the state borders. One of the main tensions raised by such situation is social integration of so-called transnational families in the countries of destination. The phenomenon of social integration is multi-layered, therefore, the presentation is focused on selected social integration aspect only – social protection of transnational families' members in European countries. The problem is that most current social protection schemes were created for the citizens of national countries, and are based on social solidarity and social transfers at national level. When members of the family migrate to other country, a question emerges: who protects them in case of social risk – home country or country of destination? In case of social risks experienced by the migrants – European Union citizens, the latter question is more or less solved. Though, for social protection of migrants from Third countries, schemes still need to be transformed and adapted.

The presentation is based on the systematized social protection documents existing at national, international and supranational levels. Also, illustrations on social protection of immigrants settled in Lithuania provided.

Social Protection of Migrant Workers and Their Families in Migration Regimes between the Former Yugoslav Countries

Sanja Cukut Krilić[1], Jelena Predojević Despić[2]

[1]ZRC SAZU, Slovenia; [2]Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

Continuing economic disparities, the collapse of key industries, skills and demand mismatches on the labour market and political instability have been among the key drivers of emigration from the former Yugoslav countries in the last decades. Within these flows, Slovenia represents an important country of immigration due to existing historical, cultural and linguistic ties, geographical proximity and existing migrant social networks. There exists a continuous reliance on labour migration and on posting of workers in Slovenia as both a receiving and a transit country to other

countries of the EU. The posting of third-country nationals, particularly citizens of the former Yugoslav countries, has also increased significantly since 2010, especially in the construction sector. In this manner, the social protection issues of migrant workers have become an area of increased research interest. Nevertheless, less attention has been paid to the implications of such migration flows for transnational family lives. Drawing on statistical data and qualitative interviews with posted/migrant workers and their families from the former Yugoslav countries (especially Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia), the paper would explore the social protection issues created by this channel of labour mobility and migration using the life course perspective. Not neglecting the importance of formal social protection mechanisms, it will point to the importance of informal networks in living transnational family lives. It will explore how migration and employment policies produce hierarchies of vulnerabilities (for instance, labour rights violations, cultural, language and information barriers, economic dependencies, work place safety issues, lack of labour rights enforcement, conditions for family reunification) that are a product of various mechanisms in sending, transit and receiving countries.

Investigating Separated Families: Towards A Transnational Analysis of Policies, Bureaucracy And Everyday Life

Laura Odasso[1], Milena Belloni[2], Mieke Vandenbroucke[2]

[1]CY Cergy Paris Université, ICM, France; [2]Antwerpen University, Belgium

Family migration has become the dominant legal mode of entry in Europe in the last four decades. Several studies have analysed the policies and practices regulating the right of different kinds of families (migrant, mixed, refugee) to be reunited. However, these policies have mostly been investigated within the frame of a specific state. This project, instead, topicalises the policies and related bureaucratic/administrative practices transnationally. We do this by focusing on two aspects: 1. The material culture of migration bureaucracy; 2. Family and community resources to navigate the complexities of procedures. These two aspects, we argue, are key to understanding the contemporary process of family reunification and can only be fully understood if they are analysed interdisciplinary and with a transnational lens. In order to advance the research on this topic, this paper brings together three disciplinary angles (sociology; anthropology; linguistics; development studies), in different national contexts (Italy, Belgium, France, Ethiopia, Uganda). The exchange between empirical research and different theoretical perspectives, will allow us to draw some conclusions for a future agenda on the study of this topic.

Family Reunification and Administrative Citizenship: A Transnational Perspective

Milena Belloni, Gert Verschraegen

MIGLOBA, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Whereas literature on migrant family reunification primarily examined the relationship between migrants and policies of destination states, typically located in the Global North, this chapter investigates the process of applying for family reunification through a transnational lens. Drawing on multi-sited ethnography among Eritrean refugees, we focus on the case of family members, who await reunification in the first country of asylum, and show their limited capabilities to perform what we term “administrative citizenship”. This concept sheds light on the material processes of identification and documentation that shape legal membership. As this chapter illustrates, refugees’ life circumstances compel them to interact with different state systems, administrations and identification systems. Their interactions are often marked by limited opportunities to perform their administrative identity due to deficient or discriminatory registration systems at home and in exile. As we show, lack of documentation – or accepted documentation – by the assessing state emerges from refugees’ unique social, political and administrative position of outsiders in relation to their country of origin, their often precarious status in their first countries of asylum, as well as from the limited capacity of their bureaucratic dossier “to travel” across borders.

JS | RN13_RN35_T04: Transnational families in turbulent times

Emerging Challenges in Turbulent Times: A Comparative Analysis on Discrimination, Social Protection and Coping Mechanisms of Transnational Families in Europe

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Crises such as pandemics, war, and mass migration are special periods that leave states in a security and human rights dilemma. From a human rights perspective, it is evident that vulnerable groups such as immigrants are more affected in these periods when discriminatory policies are on the rise. Analyzing these problems faced by immigrants in many areas such as education, employment, and health is also important in terms of their impact on transnational families. This study aims to analyze how these discriminatory problems are experienced by transnational families migrating from Turkey, Albania, and Cyprus to European countries and how they are reflected in academic studies focusing on turbulent times in terms of discrimination and social protection mechanisms. The bibliometric analysis method will be employed to analyze academic studies within the timeframe of 2011-2023. The search will focus on keywords such as anti-discrimination, emigration, Turkey, Albania, Cyprus, TNF, and social protection. The discussion will center around the problems faced by these families in the context of discrimination. A comprehensive search strategy will be conducted in major electronic databases such as Web of Science, Eric, Scopus, and Proquest to locate relevant studies. This study will also be significant in comprehending the coping mechanisms used by transnational families in turbulent times.

Transnational Families in Crisis: Examining the Impact of COVID-19

Judit Vegh[1], Alexandra Deliu[2], Anna Wojtyńska[3], Armela Maxhelaku[4], Bogdan Voicu[5], Brunilda Zenelaga[6], Dorit Olenik Shemesh[7], Iulia-Elena Hossu[8], Magdalena Ślusarczyk[9], Margarida Martins Barroso[10], Martina Wilsch[11], Sviatlana Karpava[12], Tali Heiman[7]

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This review paper analyses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on transnational families (TNFs). Based on an extensive scoping review of 104 publications retrieved from Web of Science and ERIC databases, we inspect the potentially lasting effects of COVID-19 on TNFs and their implications for future global crises.

Subsequent to a screening process, we analyzed a subset of articles to derive insights into eight main themes that piqued academic interest in TNFs before the pandemic: communication, social networks, psychological aspects, children's education, language policy, uncertainty, uses of time, and care. We scrutinize the changes brought about by the pandemic in each of these areas, shedding light on the altered communication patterns, shifting social support networks, psychological well-being, educational challenges, language practices, and evolving coping strategies. Our findings suggest that the pandemic catalyzed a significant shift in the way TNFs communicate, emphasizing the importance of technology and innovative solutions to maintain relationships.

Navigating these new challenges, we offer a nuanced analysis of the lessons learned, potential areas for improvement in family policy, and the ways in which TNFs evolve to meet the demands of an increasingly uncertain world.

Our research is based upon work from COST Action "Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe (TraFaDy)". The review was conducted by members of the Working Group 1 – Kinkeeping within TNF.

Ukrainian Refugees in Turkey: Experiences and Struggles

Faruk Çam

Aydin Adnan Menderes University, Turkiye

This study aims to reveal the relationships between the daily life practices and social security policies of Ukrainians who came to Turkey as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war. While the majority of refugees passed to neighboring countries and European countries through these countries, some of them came to Turkey based on their personal backgrounds and networks. Turkey continues to implement geographical limitation to the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol. In Turkey, refugee status is given only to foreigners who come to the country because of events that took place in Europe. Although there are no legislative obstacles to granting refugee status to Ukrainian refugees, when looking at the statistics regarding Ukrainians, it is seen that Ukrainians received residence permits to stay in the country. Looking at the literature, there is a gap regarding Ukrainian refugees in Turkey. In order to fill this gap, semi-structured interviews were conducted with Ukrainian refugees living in Manisa and Aydın provinces, and comprehensive information was obtained about their daily life practices, their relations with social security, and the effects of their legal status. Ethics Committee Approval was obtained before starting the study. The temporary nature of Ukrainians' legal status causes their stay in the country to be based on temporariness. It would be necessary for the literature to conduct more detailed studies according to age, gender, marital status and profession in order to shed light on the problems faced by Ukrainians living in Turkey and being within the country with a residence permit.

Ukrainian Forced Migrant Youth Negotiating Family Relationships Across the Borders in the Times of War

Anastasiia Mykhailova, Anzhela Popyk, Sofiia Horova

Universuty SWPS, Poland, Poland

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine forced many young Ukrainians to seek safer places beyond the borders. Poland become a major destination place due to its proximity and cultural/linguistic similarities.

Living on different sides of the border with their family members, who stay in Ukraine, became an everyday practice in their young lives. Cross-border lives, however, bring multiple changes and challenges to the already familiar family practices. This paper seeks to demonstrate how Ukrainian Forced Migrant Youth negotiate family communication and relationships across the borders in times of war, which brings uncertainty, bewilderment, loss and grief.

The project was held in June 2023-June 2024 in international collaboration with the University of Birmingham in the UK and the University of Viadrina in Germany. It aimed to study the forced migration experiences and visions of post-war reconstruction of Ukraine among the youth in Poland, the UK and Germany. Young Community Researchers were trained and navigated in doing the research at every stage: designing, recruiting/running, data analysis, and disseminating.

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of Birmingham.

JS | RN13_RN35_T05: Parenthood in transnational families

Child Custody Across Borders. Methodical Challenges in Examining Cross-Border Custody Conflicts in Transnational Families

Ulrike Zartler, Johanna Kiermaier, Viktoria Parisot, Marlies Zuccato-Doutlik, Agnes Dürr

Universität Wien, Austria

In light of rising mobility and increasing numbers of transnational families, questions and conflicts about cross-border custody in transnational post-separation families are becoming increasingly relevant. So far, this issue has mainly been studied from a legal perspective, while essential sociological questions have remained unanswered. Aside from the complexity of the issue, this research gap is also related to methodical challenges.

In our presentation, we show how we tackle the methodical difficulties within a qualitative study on the subject. We introduce the approach of the study "Child Custody Across Borders", that is being conducted in Austria since spring 2023. The study provides systematic insight into the reasons, experiences, practices, and consequences of trans- and international child custody and residence negotiations. Theoretically, it is based on the divorce-stress-adjustment perspective, the praxeological approach ('doing and undoing family'), and the theory of ambiguous loss.

Methodically, this study relies on several research strands. In the presentation, we will focus on the methodical challenges and our experiences within two major approaches: (1) case studies of families who experience(d) international child custody conflicts, based on interviews and ecomaps (n~36) with parents, children, and other members of cross-border post-separation families and their social networks, analysed through the Grounded Theory coding scheme; (2) an in-depth analysis of court records involving return applications (from parents intending to relocate a child currently living in Austria to another country) to Austrian courts from 2011 to 2021 (n~250 by means of a thematic analysis, n~30 by means of a situational analysis). Furthermore, ethical questions of these research approaches will be discussed.

Are Multi-ethnic Children From Transnational Families Mitigating Ethnic Segregation In Friendships? Evidence From Four European Countries

Ruonan Ji

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Despite the growing number of multi-ethnic children from transnational families across Europe, limited research exists on their friendships and their potential role in understanding ethnic segregation. Previous studies on ethnic segregation in friendships have assumed individuals possess a clearly defined singular ethnic identity, neglecting cases of multi-ethnic children born into transnational marriages, who inherently cross ethnic boundaries. Utilizing survey data on general and classroom friendships of teenagers in four European countries and employing multilevel models, this paper investigates how multi-ethnic children differ from mono-ethnic children in terms of who they make friends with and the extent to which they mitigate ethnic segregation. Building on a binary categorization between native and immigrants, the paper distinguishes between four categories: mono-ethnic native, mono-ethnic immigrant, multi-ethnic native, and multi-ethnic immigrant. Results indicate that, when controlling for other factors, there is no significant difference between multi-ethnic and mono-ethnic children in terms of the total number of reported best friends, challenging the marginalizing perspective. Additionally, multi-ethnic children contribute to mitigating ethnic segregation between native and immigrant populations, with both multi-ethnic native and multi-ethnic immigrant children having more native friends than their mono-ethnic immigrant counterparts within or outside the classroom opportunity structure. In highlighting the friendship dynamics of multi-ethnic children from transnational families, this paper emphasizes the need to recognize their unique social positionality. Recognizing and understanding the social integration role played by multi-ethnic children can inform policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to foster inclusive environments within educational institutions and communities.

Single-Mother Families, Family Policy, and Migration

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The paper critically examines the profound impact of social construction and family policy design on single-mother families, encompassing goals, tools, and rules. Informed by social construction and policy design theories, it vividly illustrates the diverse perceptions and approaches towards single-mother families across the Welfare States. Special attention is given to the challenges and opportunities faced by these families when mothers and children live in different countries due to maternal emigration.

A comprehensive literature review scrutinises how single mothers and their children are systematically constructed as policy targets in various Welfare States. Using Lithuania as a case study, empirical findings from legislative analysis and interviews with single mothers exemplify how policy design in this post-Soviet Welfare State directly impacts opportunities and the well-being of these families.

The findings underscore that the perceived value and morality of single-mother families significantly influence political narratives and the selection of policy tools, either supporting or burdening these families. The paper highlights how welfare states contribute to a divisive categorisation between deserving and undeserving families, emphasising that the lack of investment and trust conveys a negative message to the latter, perpetuating a cycle of dependency, poverty, and citizen passivity.

Moreover, interview findings suggest that being a single mother in Lithuania often leads to migration, resulting in mothers and children residing in different countries at least temporarily. This additional aspect places an extra burden on these families, a phenomenon further explored and presented at the upcoming conference.

New Masculinities in Transnational Digital Fatherhood? Information and Communication Technologies, Transnational Families, and Long-distance Fatherhood

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Transnational parenthood, where a parent and their children live in different countries, is now largely mediated through information and communication technologies (ICTs). Existing studies have primarily focused on ICT use in transnational motherhood, with scant attention given to ICTs in transnational fatherhood. However, several studies have examined other practices of transnational fatherhood. Focusing mainly on male migrant sending countries, they identify migrant fathers primarily as emotionally distant breadwinners, maintaining mainly economic connections with their children. Interestingly, in the meantime, another line of research on the paradigm of “new father” identifies a new hegemonic masculinity of caring, child-oriented fatherhood in many societies, challenging the preexisting normative breadwinner fatherhood.

This study addresses this, exploring masculinities in ICT-mediated practices of transnational fatherhood by interviewing Taiwanese fathers working as professionals in the Netherlands, mainland China, USA, and Vietnam while their children remain in Taiwan. Has the paradigm of new father arrived, at least in this particular cultural, class, and national context? How is this new paradigm practiced through various uses of ICTs?

The findings suggest they predominantly embrace a caring, warm, child-oriented masculinity as normative, thus portraying their physical absence as guilt and failure. Daily and extended ICT use with children is portrayed as compensation for this. None of them identify with the role of a disciplinary, authoritative father, which had been considered the norm. This is partly shaped by the affordance of ICTs, as the temporal and spatial limit of ICT-mediated interaction makes it difficult for them to enact a disciplinary parenting style.

JS | RN13_RN35_T08: Migration and transnational families

Being Treated as a Failed Citizen: Gendered Misrecognition and Cultural Violence in Migrant Mothers' Encounters with a Neoliberal Welfare State

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Merging political discourses that frame migrant women outside the labour market as lacking social value with neoliberal politics that emphasise active citizenship produces a disadvantaged position for women migrating for humanitarian or family reasons. Drawing on a longitudinal ethnographic study of non-working migrant mothers' encounters with welfare state bureaucracies in Finland, the paper considers how the broader dynamics of stigmatisation become visible at the street level in the context of a neoliberal reframing of social programs in the Nordic context. It argues that, rather than disappearing, social engineering has become reshaped through activation approaches considering immediate labour market potential as a fundamental criterion for successful citizenisation.

Accordingly, the aim was to examine how advanced liberal engineering structures the research participants' citizenisation trajectories. Firstly, we analysed organizational scripts, finding that service users' failure to autonomously navigate the institutional context and adjust to its logic resulted in disruptions and exclusion from societal support. Secondly, we analysed instances of cultural violence, finding that the paternalistic treatment of migrant mothers, ignoring their social context and shaming them for failing to follow scripts of integration, stemmed from both interpersonal and institutional racism. Juxtaposed with the misrecognition of non-working migrant women's social value, the optimising of public sector professional work results in the overburdening of public officials left to cope with inflexible and insufficient resources. We conclude by arguing that advanced liberal engineering hampers citizenisation, and that this institutionally produced precarity is exacerbated by public officials who have lost belief in the value of their work.

Interreligious Islamic-Christian Marriages in Italy: An Ethnographic Exploration

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In the context of global migration, interreligious marriages transcend individual unions, evolving into encounters between nations, cultures, and diverse worldviews, impacting family dynamics. In Italy, Islamic-Christian marriages predominantly involve Muslim men of North African origin marrying Italian women. However, political, cultural, and religious constraints often dissuade Muslim women from engaging in exogamous marriages, with the additional complexity of many Islamic countries requiring non-Muslim men's conversion for marriages involving their female citizens.

This study focuses on Muslim women in Italy navigating these challenges, examining the transformation of cultural practices, roles, and identities within family relationships, emphasizing issues of conflict arising from diverse cultural backgrounds, communication styles, and immigration statuses. Conducting semi-structured interviews with 50 couples comprising women from Muslim-majority countries and non-Muslim men across Italian cities, the research highlights pre and post-marriage challenges discussed by women and emphasizes non-Muslim families' reactions to husbands' conversion to Islam.

The paper sheds light on obstacles and opportunities for Muslim women in these unions, exploring the impact of forced conversions on non-Muslim men and delving into changes in relationships with families of origin, cultural practices, intercultural dialogue, and the re-conceptualization of culture and family bonds. Grounded in a socio-constructivist approach, the study critically analyzes how encounters between individuals' beliefs, religions, and behaviors are socially constructed and enforced by customs and codes.

The analysis incorporates Islamic law on women's exogamous marriages, offering a comprehensive understanding of power relations and resilience within interreligious marriage pairs. This research contributes valuable insights to the European Sociological Conference ESA 2024 in Porto, JS_RN13_RN35 on Transnational Families in the Context of Global Migration.

The Caregiving Practices Of Nicaraguan Transnational Families

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University of the Basque Country, Spain

Families constitute one of the basic social institutions, responsible for actions such as primary socialization or maintaining the wellbeing of their members. Since the first transnational studies, different works and perspectives have investigated the way in which transnational families

organize and provide care work for both their migrant and non-migrant members. In this context, the present work seeks to contribute to this growing transnational literature by analysing the way in which said transnational families negotiate and adapt to their roles, and more specifically, what are the elements and reasons that influence the choice of one caregiving strategy over another.

This work focuses on the case of Nicaraguan transnational families with members in the Basque Country. This origin shows very specific migration patterns, with the majority being women who emigrate to work in caregiving roles. Through a qualitative approach, 24 Nicaraguan women in different situations (legal, employment, personal situations, etc.) and with close ties to their home country were interviewed, as well as their relatives either in Nicaragua or in other countries.

In the context of migration, this work makes two key contributions. First, it proposes a typology of care strategies encompassing the wide array of arrangements these families display. Second, and based on said typology, the research shows that, when choosing between different strategies, families' preferences for care strategies are shaped by the recipients' needs, rather than the caregiver's attributes. As a result, this work highlights the high degree of resilience transnational families' display.

JS | RN13_RN35_T09: Integration of transnational families

Unveiling the Nexus of Media, Mobility, and Integration: Transnational Families as Pioneers of Global Inclusive Dynamics

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In European public discourses and sociological research, migration and integration are often intertwined, a connection that appears to intensify during periods of increased migration figures. During these phases, research is predominantly conceptualized within the framework of integration policy, considering the nation as a cultural entity and the state as a social unit.

However, in the context of recent migration and refugee events, it has become clearer than ever before how strongly migration is interwoven into communication technology networks and, how much it depends on access to these networks. Applying a media and migration sociological perspective, this paper examines the significance of communication technologies for migration processes. For this purpose, a concept of migration is proposed that focuses on the interplay between physical, medial, and social mobilities (Greschke 2016). It investigates, on a case-specific basis, the ways in which mobility possibilities, aspirations, and practices are embedded in globally stratified structures of order, how they react to them, and simultaneously modify them.

Using the example of transnational families, the implications of the interactions between migration and media practices for migration and integration research will be examined. Transnational household strategies, I argue, can be understood as micro-politics of redistribution (Greschke 2018). These strategies are rooted in the mismatch between "being" and "belonging" (Levitt/Glick-Schiller 2004). Consequently, it must be questioned to what extent the integration paradigm, insofar as it ties residency rights to exclusive social (and cultural) expectations of belonging, can adequately address the integration performances of transnational families.

Critical Approaches of Integration: Schooling Experience Narratives of Transnational Families

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Our paper is an empirically informed one, which talks to the critical stream of integration studies, more specifically, taking account of critical migrant perspectives of (state) institutional practices of integration in an EU member-state (of public schooling in Vienna).

The proximity of the two countries, Hungary and Austria (Vienna) divided only by a few hundred kilometers, creates a situation in which close connections between the country of origin and Vienna are maintained. People travel between the two places for work, families stretch across the two sides of the border. During these processes situations of 'in-betweenness' are created due to simultaneous attachments, socio-cultural connections to both localities.

Since our research focuses on families with children, in-betweenness has clear limitations when it comes to schooling of children. Children need to get enrolled to school in Austria. Schooling is the main terrain of social integration and schools often become primary sites of disciplining the new arrivals, "molding children" into society. Experiences of parents with children of schooling age contribute to the critique of integration on various levels, tell about the policy practices of the state in the name of 'integration', about ethnic hierarchies and structural discrimination manifesting itself through schooling trajectories of first or second generation immigrants, but also about an EU state's imaginary about a desired society characterized by homogeneity where locally and historically there is plenty of diversity.

As a research method, we use individual interviews, focus group interviews, also innovative participatory video making methods to address students' and parents' experiences of migration and integration, as well as to empower them to share their own narratives through creative audiovisual tools.

Tensions Between Transnational Aging Caring And Adult Children's Individualistic Life: The Discussion Among Chinese Migrants In Portugal

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Aging poses a significant social challenge in China, particularly for Chinese migrants in Portugal who grapple with the conventional expectations of self-sacrifice in caring for senior family members left behind in their home country. This paper aims to explore, in the global mobility context, the multicultural impact on the reconfiguration of senior caring support and the pursuit of individualistic life. Drawing on the individualization thesis, the paper explores concepts of filial piety, cultural adaption, and the impact of migration on transnational familial dynamics, the research employs a qualitative method to capture the nuanced patterns of practicing filial responsibility across different generations. Thematic analysis is employed to identify recurring patterns, conflicts, and coping mechanisms related to the transnational aging caring dilemma. Ethnographic observation and in-depth interviews with 21 Chinese migrants in Portugal, representing diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds (ages 22 to 67), shed light on the practical dimension of aging care and the struggle to balance filial responsibility with individual aspirations. The analysis reveals that aging parents' attitude towards filial piety and government policies on welfare shaped the decision-making process of young Chinese migrants. Limited care support resources in rural area of China compel these migrants to provide significant financial support to their parents, exacerbating the tension between filial practice and individual life. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between cultural expectations and the challenges faced by Chinese migrants in navigating transnational aging caring responsibilities within the multicultural context of Portugal. It suggests that younger Chinese migrants prioritize their individualistic lives over filial obligations, necessitating the development of effective solutions to align with the expectations of care support.

Navigating Boundaries: A Qualitative Exploration of the Well-being, Health Policies, and Social Dynamics of Syrians in Turkey

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Acıbadem University, Turkiye

The presentation delves into the intricate landscape of transnational families within the specific context of Syrian refugees in Turkey. Focusing on their well-being, the health policies implemented by the Turkish government, and the reception of these policies by the local population, the study offers a qualitative perspective on the experiences of Syrians living in İstanbul, Turkey.

The qualitative research draws on interviews conducted with Syrian refugees, healthcare professionals operating in centers catering to Syrians, and residents of districts in Istanbul predominantly inhabited by Syrians. Through these narratives, the presentation aims to shed light on the nuanced dimensions of the transnational Syrian experience in Turkey.

Key areas of exploration include the conceptualization of well-being among Syrian refugees, their interactions with the Turkish healthcare system, and the impact of government health policies on their overall health. Additionally, the study examines the social dynamics within Turkish communities, exploring how the local population responds to

the presence of Syrian refugees and the policies designed to support their health and well-being.

The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by transnational families, specifically Syrians in Turkey, and offer insights into the effectiveness of health policies in meeting their diverse needs. The presentation ultimately seeks to stimulate discussions on refining existing policies, fostering social cohesion, and enhancing the resilience of both Syrian refugees and the communities hosting them in the dynamic landscape of global migration.

JS | RN15_RN28_T09: Boundaries, Barriers, and (Multiple) Belongings through Sport

Athlete Activism And The Political Polarization Of Sport Audiences In Germany

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Many scholars believe that sport has the capacity to promote integration, social cohesion and collective identification, both through active participation and mediatized sporting events. Run-ning counter to these notions, however, recent diagnoses assume an increasing politicization of sports. One aspect of politicization is the rise of athlete activism that ranges from symbolic actions (e.g. Colin Kaepernick´s anthem protest against racism in the U.S.) to more disruptive actions (e.g. the strike of Spanish female soccer players for higher wages). Athlete activism and other forms of politicization of sport have the potential to create boundaries, foster polarization and may result in a fragmentation of sports audiences along political lines.

While political polarization is a sociological concept that has not been extensively studied in sports sociology, it is important to consider its implications. This paper thus aims to provide a more thorough conceptual understanding of polarization as well as an empirical foundation for studying political polarization in relation to sport audiences. Conceptually, we identify three readings of polarization and examine these in relation to the sports audience. Precisely, we describe to what extent specific (either more progressive or more conservative) forms of political activism in sport divide people into strong supporters and strong critics. We further analyze, if the support or rejection of athlete activism reflects established ideological factions and political cleavages. Finally, we explore if politicization leads to a disintegration and fragmentation of the sports audience, for instance, because people prefer watching sports events only with those acquaintances, who share their own political opinions. Analyses are based on survey data (N=1.000; collected online) representative of the German adult population.

Beyond Borders: the Cultural Nexus of Suburban Football in Luanda (1950s-1980s)

Pedro David Gomes

CICS.NOVA (New University of Lisbon), Portugal

The spread of suburban football in Luanda between the 1950s and 1970s responded to the growth of the colonial city, as well as to the intersection of two major cultural fields: a) sport policies and sporting competitions organized by colonial powers, many of them influenced from the mid-1960s onwards by the Lusotropicalist thesis; b) the globalized urban popular culture, particularly through football-related media, especially Brazilian football.

Supporters of suburban games formed their club identities, their fan culture, around four connections: with neighborhood teams; with federated clubs in downtown Luanda; with major clubs in the metropolis; and sometimes with international clubs/teams, notably from Brazil. Black suburban players also played, sometimes simultaneously, for downtown clubs; several would even play in the Portuguese championship, and becoming part of the sociability networks of the African diaspora.

Despite apoliticism being a common “survival” strategy for footballer in the metropolis (Cleveland 2017), and in the wake of using the black footballer’s body as an alibi for Portuguese colonialism (Cardão 2018), in some diasporic leisure spaces, another nationalist dimension – anti-colonial and pro-independence – was imagined and forged in opposition to the nationalism of the portuguese government. After independence, many players joined the “Caravana Havemos de Voltar” [We Shall Return Caravan], returning to Angola to help rebuild the new country.

Starting from the idea that nationalism and cosmopolitanism are “poles of a dialectical relationship” (Cheah 1998; Van der Veer 2002), this presentation seeks to explore to what extent these players, navigating between different cultural references, constituted distinctive forms of cosmopolitan cultural capital. And if this cosmopolitanism can be considered “nationalistic”, and in opposition to / or converging with the “cosmopolitanism of downtown.”

Scouting For New Nationals: How Globalization Reshaped The Membership In National Sport Teams

Pippo Russo

Università di Firenze, Italy

Globalization had a big impact in a field so deeply carachterized by the nationality element as the sport field is. More and more we see a general process where national teams are formed by non national born athletes, with a new national acquired status that makes them available to play for a different national team. This great transformation is due to a whole cultural redefinition where citizenship as a legal

profile has been reshaped from an essentialist basis to an integrative one. This change had consequences too on the logic that run the sport talent selection for the composition of national teams, and in particular we had a third criterion in addition with the ones of formation and rectruitment: the criterion of scouting. The presentation aims to show this new model features and how it fits with the culture of globalization.

Becoming a Young Woman in the High Atlas Mountains: A Study of Experience and Embodiment through the Lens of the Yoga Practise

Jordan Ashley Katz

Goldsmiths University of London, United Kingdom

This paper explores how the experience of yoga (learning both the practise and how to teach) can operate as a sociological method, creating an innovative portal into the lives of adolescent Amazigh girls in the High Atlas Mountains in Asni, Morocco. Amazigh - meaning 'free people' in Tamazight and used here in preference to the less favoured identifier Berber, which translates as 'Barbarian' from Latin - are the indigenous population residing in Northern Africa (Maddy-Weitzman, 2015).

While girlhood studies conducted in the Global South have mostly focused on processes that young women experience such as traditional markers (Switzer, 2013) to punctuate "becoming woman" (i.e., menstruation, sexual activity, marriage, etc), my research explores how "becoming" through embodiment (connecting the internal and external world) might be experienced, felt, and reflected upon through mindfulness techniques (meditation, breathing exercises, self-care, and journaling) which the yoga practise offers. In turn, these create a dialogue exchange on the individual experiences of being a teenage Amazigh girl in the context of their shared experience of residing communally in the same boarding house.

In addition to using yoga (through in-person training and weekly Zoom classes across 16 months) as my primary research method, I employ other qualitative research methods to assess the journeys of the young women in the yoga teacher training programme, including group and individual interviews, observation, 'place-making', and personal reflection. My research examines how teenage, Amazigh girls understand their own identities growing up in a traditional landscape and creates a space for them to examine their dreams of independence, individuality, and self-expression through the imagining of their future selves.

JS | RN16_RN22_T01: Algorithms in action: opportunities, risks and perspectives in medicine (I)

Beyond the Silicon Valley scene, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has started to be integrated in public health, ranging from cardiology, neurology to radiology. Algorithms might be used to mitigate healthcare-associated infection (HAI) risks, promote accurate hospital-wide surveillance and to improve infection control performance in real time, making treatment faster and more effective in clinical settings. Moreover, algorithms are gaining a fundamental role in the diagnostic and the prognostic processes, supporting clinicians work. However, remarkable gaps are often discovered between the intended and actual applications of algorithms designed for different purposes. Sociological analysis has highlighted that AI can suffer from bias, which has striking implications for patients and their needs. This session brings together empirical and theoretical papers addressing the following issues and other related topics: • Rationales for using algorithms in the healthcare domain; • Analysis of current AI practices in different health settings; • Algorithmic justice; • Algorithms and the 'omics' medicine; • Algorithms and social discrimination; • Sentiments and emotions in algorithms; • Integration of algorithms in clinician work; • The future of work: will clinicians be replaced by algorithms?

Exploring Determinants of Acceptance and Adoption: A Study on Medical Doctors' Perspectives Towards Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

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As AI continues to reshape various industries, its impact on healthcare is of particular interest. The attitudes of medical doctors (MDs) towards using AI in their practices play an important role in terms of the penetration of AI to healthcare. This paper aims to investigate the factors affecting the acceptance and intention to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications among medical doctors in Turkiye.

The methodology employed for this research involved an online survey conducted with 275 MDs in Turkiye, utilizing a convenience sampling technique. The study leveraged Partial Least Squares-Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) for theory confirmation, with SmartPLS 3 facilitating data analysis. Descriptive statistics were computed using SPSS 25 software.

Key findings indicate that Trust emerges as the most influential positive factor ($\beta = .651$; $t = 25.876$; $p < .01$) in enhancing the intention to use AI applications. Additionally, Perceived Usefulness ($\beta = .613$; $t = 22.851$; $p < .01$) and Perceived Ease of Use ($\beta = .644$; $t = 14.577$; $p < .01$) significantly predicted Intention to Use. Notably, Technological Anxiety ($\beta = .067$; $t = 1.014$; $p = .093$) and Facilitating Conditions ($\beta = .071$; $t = 1.041$; $p = .102$) did not emerge as significant predictors for Intention to Use.

In conclusion, this research highlights the essential role of trust, perceived usefulness, and perceived ease of use in determining MDs' acceptance and adoption of AI applications. The findings suggest that increased knowledge and experience with artificial intelligence may enhance trust and ease of use, fostering greater utilization of AI in the healthcare sector.

Digital Health Coaching For A New Human Tech Perspective - Humanistic Pragmatic Support In Uncertainty-Transformation Transition

Stefano Luca Patania

Associazione Italiana Health Coaching, Italy

We present a Human-Tech combination for Healthcare AI application in this moment of Uncertainty, activating Transformation through Humanistic Trust. Crozier said: "intervention in a crisis situation is based on the shock of the facts... that calls into question the vision established by the system and the obscure interpretations usually given". This "awakening" allows a sociological strategical analysis and systemic approach, supported by new evolutionary Health Coaching. The Digital Humanism Manifesto overcomes competitive medical-AI overlapping. A new model of Human-Tech synergy and complementarity drives heuristic thinking enhancing those new skills required by social transformation, through a digital ontological Health Coaching. A maximum enhancement of one's humanistic qualities fosters a common action in favor of Health objectives. This provides a self in transition from the bureaucratic to the interactive frommian social character in a Learning Health Organization. Through Health Coaching we support clinicians to the fulfillment of their creative potential imagination, through language, performative acts and intention, integrating the notional academic preparation. Objective Humanistic Ethics was inserted as part of social philosophy to complete this new coaching session model, overcoming cognitive individualism and bureaucratic silos prison. We demonstrated to transversally enhance many deep skills, applying digital Health & Executive Coach. Authenticity big

growth underlines the deconditioning power of this approach. Emotional Regulation and Centeredness, requested to address Risk and Uncertainty was improved, too. This greatly increased the reality perception oppressed by social acceleration. We applied Mc Luhan's tetrads as an impact predictive model of this healthcare worker development innovation

Algorithmic biases and socio-digital inequalities: the Socio-digital Walkthrough of the App Campania in Salute.

Francesco Amato, Biagio Aragona, Mattia De Angelis

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Digital applications and services such as the Campania in Salute App allow citizens to access numerous digital health services such as the choice of the general practitioner, income self-certification, exemption from co-pays, and consultation of electronic health and vaccine records.

The analysis of such technologies requires the development of specific methods that takes materiality seriously. We propose an interdisciplinary method, born in Human Computer Interaction, the Socio-Digital Walkthrough (SDW), which points the interaction between users and technologies to address how the complex intertwine between individuals and platform characteristics may lead to socio-digital inequalities.

We argue that through the application of SDW, it is possible to detect how demographics, levels of digital literacy, and prior knowledge of the individual interact simultaneously in the relationship with technology, its affordances, and its ethical-privay principles. Furthermore, SDW allowed us to detect the attitudes, emotions, and feelings that arise in the experience of interaction between the individual and technology.

This method applied to healthcare applications can highlight the algorithmic risks embedded in these digital technologies, tackling the emergence of socio-digital inequalities and unexpected outcomes.

Enacting Algorithmic Technologies In The Co-design Of EHealth Interventions

Riccardo Pronzato

University of Bologna, Italy

Recently, the co-design approach has emerged as a fruitful strategy to produce technologies for health interventions that can empower patients and caregivers and address their needs (Dietrich et al., 2021). Within this framework, eHealth interventions are often provided through digital platforms, which have become infrastructural elements in societal dynamics (van Dijck et al., 2018). While computational systems operate in ways that can seem neutral and helpful, there is consensus among scholars that these technologies are not neutral intermediaries, as there are specific socio-cultural norms, business goals and political relations embedded in their design and functioning (Schwennesen, 2019; Pronzato, 2023; Torenholt and Langstrup, 2023). In this regard, following a STS sensibility (Mol, 2002), Seaver (2017) claims that algorithmic technologies can be considered "as culture", i.e., artifacts "culturally enacted by the practices people use to engage with them" (p. 5). By bridging health sociology with perspectives from critical algorithm studies, and focusing on the co-design of an e-learning platform for informal caregivers of patients with dementia (project AGE-IT, PNRR PE8 "Age-It"), this contribution argues for the merits of investigating how co-designed algorithmic technologies are enacted by the practices and interpretations of different stakeholders, e.g., IT designers, public institutions, caregivers, doctors, etc. By "re-politicising co-design" (Huybrechts et al., 2020), this approach can help explore how forms of social discrimination potentially arise from algorithmic production (Eubanks, 2019), promote algorithmic justice and indicate ways to co-design AI systems where the perspectives of workers, caregivers and patients are involved (Donia and Shaw, 2021).

JS | RN16_RN22_T08: Algorithms in action: opportunities, risks and perspectives in medicine (II)

Beyond the Silicon Valley scene, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has started to be integrated in public health, ranging from cardiology, neurology to radiology. Algorithms might be used to mitigate healthcare-associated infection (HAI) risks, promote accurate hospital-wide surveillance and to improve infection control performance in real time, making treatment faster and more effective in clinical settings. Moreover, algorithms are gaining a fundamental role in the diagnostic and the prognostic processes, supporting clinicians work. However, remarkable gaps are often discovered between the intended and actual applications of algorithms designed for different purposes. Sociological analysis has highlighted that AI can suffer from bias, which has striking implications for patients and their needs. This session brings together empirical and theoretical papers addressing the following issues and other related topics: • Rationales for using algorithms in the healthcare domain; • Analysis of current AI practices in different health settings; • Algorithmic justice; • Algorithms and the 'omics' medicine; • Algorithms and social discrimination; • Sentiments and emotions in algorithms; • Integration of algorithms in clinician work; • The future of work: will clinicians be replaced by algorithms?

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Medical Trust in Morocco: Sociological Study among Doctors in the Cardiology, Intensive Care and Oncology Departments in the University Hospital Center of Rabat

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Through this article, we aim to identify and explore the impact of artificial intelligence on trust between doctors and patients in the medical healthcare in Morocco. Therefore, the first objective of our article is to show the positioning of artificial intelligence in the medical field in Morocco. The second objective is to present the results of the sociological study among doctors working in the following departments: cardiology, intensive care and oncology in the university hospital center (CHU) of Rabat. This quantitative study approached doctors' perceptions of the opportunities presented by the introduction of artificial intelligence into their medical practice, as well as their perceptions of the risks linked to medical diagnosis and therapeutic trust with their patients.

Finally, we aim to present the analysis of a set of statistics related to the departments mentioned above. These statistics are taken from datasets published by the Ministry of Health in Morocco. This data concerns the number of deaths, the number of healing in each department, the used treatments, the used technologies, etc. Subsequently, these statistics were the subject of a comparative study with data from the sociological analysis whose objective is to show the role of artificial intelligence, in particular Machine Learning and Deep Learning algorithms, in the healing of patients and the correct diagnosis in the Moroccan context.

Use, Trust And Perception Of Artificial Intelligence In The Clinical Practice

Chiara Binelli, Laura Sartori

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The paper investigates trust, confidence, awareness, and socio-technical imaginaries of artificial intelligence (AI) in the clinical world using an innovative survey instrument and in-depth interviews.

The survey targets several groups of medical professionals with different professional exposure to AI and tech expertise, and elicits information on the risks and benefits, hopes and fears, and possible impacts of AI tools' adoption in the clinical practice.

The analysis of the survey data will allow to reconstruct the instances and interests of doctors who accept (or not) the introduction of an Automated Decision-Making system based on Machine Learning in their daily work routines. The socio-technical imaginaries that influence choices and shape perceptions will allow to assess power asymmetries, the potential of reproducing bias and social inequalities, and the variety of institutional contexts where AI is used.

In addition to a detailed battery of questions on AI acceptance and use, the survey includes a randomized experiment to assess the impact of providing information on the type of AI tools in use on the likely acceptance and better use of the AI tools themselves and uses quantitative subjective expectations to elicit the subjective expected future impact of the adoption and use of different AI tools. In addition to the survey, we will conduct in-depth interviews to provide a fine-grained picture of the factors that build (or prevent) trust and acceptance towards technological innovation in the clinical world along with specific socio-technical imaginaries that support the rationales for using AI tools in the healthcare domain.

Project Europe. Remaking European futures Through Digital Innovation Politics

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Amidst the unfolding of global economic and geopolitical challenges, the European Union (EU) has increasingly projected its future as tightly interwoven with its 'power to innovate'. From Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Blockchain, from Digital Health to Personalized Medicine, emerging fields of digital innovation have been targeted for major investments as well as governance and regulatory efforts from the part of the Union. EU-driven initiatives in digital sciences and technologies, cutting across other prominent innovation sectors such as the life sciences, are widely seen as holding the promise to address complex societal challenges and transform the way we live, move, communicate, and are cared for. Moreover, while they aim to provide the knowledge and material infrastructures for an ever more closely integrated and globally competitive European knowledge economy, they are heralded as the 'European way' to digital innovation, tailored on what are framed as distinctive European values and principles such as privacy, solidarity, and fairness.

Bringing an STS-inflected approach, we explore how the constitutive elements of our 'post-digital' societies, such as AI algorithms and genome sequencing, increasingly take up the role once assigned to coal and steel as building blocks for the European integration process. Through a comprehensive mix of substantive theoretical reflection and empirical case-studies, we tackle the issue of how novel digital orders are co-produced along with distinctively European social, political and economic identities, institutions and practices, and provide an understanding of how 'Europe' is re-imagined and recast, or contested and unmade, alongside the emergence of novel digital worlds.

Vulnerability Assemblages – Situating Vulnerability in the Political Economy of AI

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Next to bias, transparency, and fairness, vulnerability is one of the terms recently used to discuss ethical aspects of AI However, current discussions on AI vulnerability, tend to individualize vulnerability, largely neglecting its political dimensions, that are rooted in systems of inequality, discrimination, and disadvantage. This paper explores how notions of vulnerability underpin the development and implementation of AI. It uses AI systems for older adults in long-term-care institutions (LTC) as one example of how AI for groups that are constructed as vulnerable is created, marketed, and implemented. The paper draws on data from a multiple-perspective qualitative interview study (Vogl et al. 2018). Results uncover how AI designers use narratives around missing data on vulnerable populations as justifications for the creation of synthetic data, which was artificially manufactured rather than generated by real-world events. While this was a profitable business model for AI development companies, these practices of synthetic data creation ultimately situated LTC residents as voiceless in the development of AI. This contribution shows how vulnerability is situated in a political economy of AI which understands the absence of data on vulnerable groups as a possibility of value creation, rather than a chance of fostering inclusion and equality. The paper ends with a critical outlook on a research program of a sociology of AI, that puts vulnerabilities at its center to analyze risks and precarities that emerge when designing and implementing AI systems in diverse contexts, particularly in domains where groups generally are vulnerabilized, like in long-term-care or healthcare.

JS | RN16_RN24_T02: Digital Landscapes of Health Commuication: Trust, Tensions and Transformations

In an era where digital technologies have reshaped healthcare delivery as well as the way we access and share health information, the concepts of trust, tension, and transformation have taken on new dimensions. This session aims to explore the intricate interplay between health, communication, and emerging technologies while addressing the associated challenges and opportunities. These include but are not restricted to: how technological innovations are transforming patient-provider communication, and public health messaging; the influence of Internet and social media platforms on shaping health-related communication, knowledge sharing and information dissemination, and associated tensions; the role of transparency, trust and truth within online health communities and patients groups; the importance of accurate health information for empowering individuals and the risks of misinformation and fake news, and their impact on public health perceptions and behaviors; ethical and risk-related issues posed by the collection and sharing of personal health data (privacy issues); the communication strategies of healthcare organizations and official authorities in the digital age (e.g. health education programs, disease prevention initiatives, vaccination campaigns, health literacy initiatives); how digital platforms may facilitate social mobilization and activism in the health realm, thus contributing to transformation and social change; the impact of social media and digital technologies on mental and physical health, as well as personal wellbeing (e.g. body image, peer support, etc.). This session welcomes empirical and/or theoretical papers that engage with these issues related to the evolving landscapes of health information and communication in the digital age, and their profound implications for contemporary society.

A Contextual Approach to Understanding the Determinants of Internet Users' Willingness to Share Personal Health Information Online

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This study explores the intricacies of internet users' decisions to share their personal health information (PHI) online. Acknowledging the significant influence of context and involved actors, a conceptual model was developed to elucidate how users' willingness to share their PHI online varies across three distinct online contexts with different actors: e-commerce (organizations only), social network sites (organizations and peers), and instant messaging (peers only). Drawing on the dual privacy calculus theory, the model incorporates privacy concerns, perceived benefits of information sharing, and perceived privacy control as antecedents of willingness to share PHI online. These factors were examined at both the organizational (e.g., concerns about organizations' privacy practices) and peer level (e.g., concerns about peers' privacy practices). The proposed model was tested on a large, nation-wide sample of 1,666 internet users aged 18+ from Slovenia using structural equation modelling. Carefully translated and tested instruments from previous literature were employed. Perceived monetary (tangible) and social (intangible) benefits were found as the most significant factors influencing willingness to share PHI. Notably, privacy concerns and control related to peers were important only in the case of instant messaging, while privacy concerns and control related to organizations were important in all three contexts. This study has at least three important contributions. First, it empirically demonstrates the complexity and contextuality of decisions to share PHI online. Second, it underscores the importance of perceived benefits regardless of context. Third, it highlights the role of organizational surveillance in shaping online health communication, even in peer-to-peer settings.

Citizen's Willingness To Share Health Data: A Matter Of Trust?

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Ernst-Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena, Germany

The use of personal health data for research purposes has become increasingly important in recent years. The digitalisation and availability of large amounts of data open up new opportunities for medical research and the development of treatment approaches. In Germany, the Medical Informatics Initiative (MII) and the electronic patient file offer great potential for combining, sharing and using health data. The EU's current intentions for the European Health Data Space will also have a further impact on the design of data sharing in Germany. However, many people have concerns about data protection and privacy. Especially in Germany, the willingness of the population to share health

data is well below the EU average (Eurobarometer 87.1, 2017). We will present a sociological analysis to explain the willingness to share health data and its influencing factors, based on a new representative survey conducted in Germany. The CATI survey is part of the "AVATAR" project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Our analysis will focus on the role of trust in determining whether and under what conditions citizens are willing to share their health data. Based on this, we will derive appropriate communication structures, e.g. between data donors and data trustees, in order to strengthen transparency and trust in data sharing.

Online Depression Forums: Beyond Medicalization and Psychologization Discourses

Domonkos Sik

University Eötvös Loránd, Hungary

Online depression forums are emerging platforms of e-mental health communities. They provide unique opportunity for analysing the lay discourses surrounding depression, including the interpretations, attributions and suggested solutions of those actors, who are affected by depression either directly or indirectly. Tensions and trust issues related to the hegemonic biomedical discourses and institutional praxes are also discussed in these platforms, which prove to be central if we would like to understand the transforming public perception of depression. As a research group (ELTE - Research Center for Computational Social Science, Discursive framing of depression in online health communities research group), we have been analysing online depression forums in the last five years with both qualitative and various natural language processing methods (e.g. topic modelling, word-embedding). In the presentation, some general conclusions will be drawn from this research. Firstly, the medicalization and psychologization tendencies will be confronted with the discourses on 'social suffering' as an alternative, sociological framing of depression. Secondly, the pre- and post-COVID narrative universes are compared, so that the pandemic's impact could be explored. Thirdly, those socialization processes are briefly described, which occur during the online interactions. Besides focusing on the substantive conclusions, the presentation also aims at demonstrating how natural language processing methods can be used in a meaningful way for addressing key questions of the sociology of (mental) health.

Digital Natives, Yet Unskilled in E-health Navigation: Exploring the Relationship Between E-health Literacy and Perceived Trust of Medical Sources Among Romanian Students

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Background: The e-health literacy levels among young people reflect a critical need for targeted educational initiatives to enhance their digital health literacy, ensuring they can navigate and critically assess online health information effectively. Objective and method: Given the absence of formal health and media education in the national elementary and high school curriculum for Romanian students, challenges in navigating health-related information may arise. Throughout a survey (N=500 Romanian students, aged 18-30 years), we investigate the relation between students' e-health literacy (the Romanian version of the DHLI Instrument) and their perceived trust in various sources of medical information, including health authorities, health professionals, NGOs, and the mass media. The survey covers the DHLI, sociodemographics, health status, health literacy, use of the Internet for health information, use of health apps, and the level of trust in health information sources. Additionally, we explore students' e-health literacy in the context of a specific health behavior, such as self-medication for minor headaches. Results: The findings indicate that, overall, Romanian students have low trust in health authorities and health professionals. They also demonstrate a higher level of operational and navigator skills but suboptimal skills in evaluating the relevance of online health information. Among mass media, the Internet (50.6%) emerges as the most trusted source of health-related information, followed by TV (25%), newspapers/magazines (13.7%), and radio (10.7%). Conclusions: There is a significant demand for public policies and strategies addressing communication in medical education and improving e-health literacy levels among the young population with limited skills in evaluating health information.

JS | RN16_RN24_T09: Digital Landscapes of Health Communication: Trust, Tensions and Transformations

In an era where digital technologies have reshaped healthcare delivery as well as the way we access and share health information, the concepts of trust, tension, and transformation have taken on new dimensions. This session aims to explore the intricate interplay between health, communication, and emerging technologies while addressing the associated challenges and opportunities. These include but are not restricted to: how technological innovations are transforming patient-provider communication, and public health messaging; the influence of Internet and social media platforms on shaping health-related communication, knowledge sharing and information dissemination, and associated tensions; the role of transparency, trust and truth within online health communities and patients groups; the importance of accurate health information for empowering individuals and the risks of misinformation and fake news, and their impact on public health perceptions and behaviors; ethical and risk-related issues posed by the collection and sharing of personal health data (privacy issues); the communication strategies of healthcare organizations and official authorities in the digital age (e.g. health education programs, disease prevention initiatives, vaccination campaigns, health literacy initiatives); how digital platforms may facilitate social mobilization and activism in the health realm, thus contributing to transformation and social change; the impact of social media and digital technologies on mental and physical health, as well as personal wellbeing (e.g. body image, peer support, etc.). This session welcomes empirical and/or theoretical papers that engage with these issues related to the evolving landscapes of health information and communication in the digital age, and their profound implications for contemporary society.

The digitalization of 'Individual Plan' – Norway's answer to integrated care

Sigurd Eid Jacobsen

Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

The article is about the digitalization of 'Individual plan' – Norway's answer to integrated care. 'Individual Plan' is a master-plan intended to increase user-participation and provide better coordination of measures for patients in need of extensive and long-term health-care services. Previously written on paper, different digital platforms have during the last decade been developed to facilitate the management of the plans. In this paper, I examine the use and non-use of individual plans with a particular focus on the transition from paper plans to the use of digital platforms. To this end, I draw upon a longitudinal qualitative dataset of fieldwork and interview data. The sample consists of 12 families with disabled children and 39 municipal services coordinators who are responsible for creating and updating the plan. I find that the use of the plans is declining and point to three reasons: the parents do not see the plan as a useful tool, other professionals do not get involved in the planning work and the technical tool is described as cumbersome. The findings further suggest that the digitalization has transformed the plan from being a coordination tool to also being a communication platform described as too time-consuming by professionals within their current resource situation. On a more general, theoretical level, the article thematizes the active role of technology as well as how the plan is interpreted, used, and rejected as a digital interaction tool using concepts from script analysis and STS.

Fat And The Digital Space: A Study Of Mediated Body Shapes

Rui Liu

Lund University, Sweden

This study looks at imaginaries in the digital space around ideal body shapes. I draw on an empirical case of newly developed weight loss medications and the immense anticipation on the internet surrounding them. While public debates are mostly centred on who should have access to these medications and how to financially reimburse them, one can also ask: what fuels such anticipation and what is the success of these medications really about?

Our perception of body images is both historically associated with class, gender and social status, and is, in contemporary times, closely linked to hopes assigned to advanced biomedicine to transform bodies. While knowledge is rich regarding how fatness is represented and discussed on social media, less known is how mediated discussions affect the way people relate to body shapes and get one's body in shape. This study adds such knowledge. As a pilot study, I will collect two types of empirical material. First, publicly available documents including pharmaceutical marketing material and media reports. Second, observations on chat forums and social media. In combination, the material

will help to answer: How do people evaluate their bodies in relation to possibilities opened up by new weight loss medications?

Imaginaries here are used analytically. They are both affective and material. Studying imaginaries in the digital space provides an analytical entrance to examine the links between individuals' lived experiences with one's body and broader public discourses on body images.

Contested Expertise and YouTube Health: The "Liebscher & Bracht"-Controversy and its Reception

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Universität Salzburg, Austria

To explore the often-messy situations in which health expertise and trustworthiness are negotiated in social media contexts, this contribution investigates the public controversy surrounding the admission of German YouTube-channel "Liebscher & Bracht" into the "YouTube Health"-program of the platform as a case study.

According to YouTube, its "Health"-program was launched in an effort to counteract misinformation and provide better access to health-related contents from reliable resources. Channels deemed worthy of admission would gain a visible certification and preferential algorithmic visibility on the platform. "Liebscher & Bracht", popular for its physio-therapeutical advice videos, was one of the first channels admitted when "YouTube Health" was introduced into the German-speaking market in early 2023. However, legacy media outlets soon highlighted that the channel would spread medically unsound advice with exaggerated healing promises, and that it had to delete more than one hundred videos to even be admitted into YouTube Health, raising concerns over the platform's quality standards. The controversy soon spread to YouTube itself, where other content creators have been criticizing "Liebscher & Bracht" for their supposedly unsubstantiated claims for a long time.

By employing an integrated mix of interpretative and digital methods, this contribution analyzes the positions taken towards "Liebscher & Bracht's"-content within this controversy as well as the competing claims for expertise and authority the involved actors engage in. Furthermore, it takes the perspective of the audience into account, as it analyzes and maps the discussions in the comment sections of YouTube videos and news articles, where audiences weigh the presented critique and its claims of scientific evidence against their often very positive personal experiences with the content of a channel they are already trusting.

JS | RN16_RN28_T07: Sport, physical activity, health and medicine

The sociology of health and medicine and the sociology of sport deal with a number of narrowly intertwined topics and social processes. This session aims to bring together scholars from both subdisciplines to discuss these connections. The session convenors welcome contributions focusing on any topics including, but not limited to, fitness culture, sports participation, physical activity and health, sport and doping, sport and injuries, digitalisation of health and sports, physical activity and ageing, sports medicine and health care professionals or medicalisation and pharmaceuticalisation of amateur and professional sport. Studies focusing on the connections between physical activity or sport and health in the context of neoliberal responsibilisation, commodification and globalisation are particularly welcome. Attention will be given to conceptual and empirically-driven contributions drawing on qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods approaches.

The Role of Physical Activity and Other Sources of Workplace Stress and Resources in Wellbeing of University Teachers in Central and Eastern Europe

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[1]University of Debrecen, Hungary; [2]University of Nyíregyháza, Hungary; [3]University of Pécs, Hungary

While previously a university education career seemed like a predictable, relatively stress-free, flexible, socially recognized profession, which protected its teachers from all sorts of workplace sources of stress like uncertainty, low work control, this today is no longer the case. Thus, it is important to discover what work-related and personal stress-sources and resources affect academics' well-being. In our study, we would like to answer this niche question by examining Central and Eastern European (Hungarian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, Romanian, and Serbian) university teachers. In order to come up with research questions, the Job demands and resources theory (JD-R theory) was used. The JD-R theory is a theoretical framework that helps to explain and understand the relationship between workplace characteristics and employee performance and well-being. For

our analyses, we used the CEETHE 2023 research database, in the framework of which, with the help of an online survey, we mapped teacher work characteristics of Hungarian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, Romanian, and Serbian higher education institution teachers (N=821). According to our results, emotional exhaustion is the most critical negative predictor, while commitment to work is the most important positive predictor of teachers' well-being. In an indirect way, physical activity contributes to well-being by decreasing certain sources of stress. If the university would like to improve its employees' well-being, then it would be equally important to emphasize institutional management support, which would provide clear-cut expectations and tasks, transparent institutional strategy, goals and plans.

Adapted Physical Activity in Addiction Clinics: Undergoing, Over-investing, and Discovering.

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Adapted physical activity (APA) is a supportive treatment offered in the context of care provision for chronic illness or ageing. In France, its use is increasing exponentially, including in the addiction clinics which form the focus of this proposal. Taking inspiration from Anselm Strauss's work, we analyse 'illness trajectories' and the different forms of work done in this context by the residents of these clinics.

Our investigation looks at two clinics, where interviews were conducted with 7 health care professionals and 33 residents. Additionally, a series of observation sessions were carried out, over a period of 8 months.

We show that the discrepancy between the residents' behaviour and the professionals' expectations have an impact on care provision in the clinic, but also, in the longer term, on addiction trajectories. Health care practitioners assess patients' ability to show that they are 'committed' to and 'serious' about their care. In this context, APA can be considered a sentinel activity which serves to monitor residents' commitment to their treatment. Furthermore, this health care work in APA must also be analysed from a processual perspective in the broader context of patients' addiction trajectories, their prior experiences with medical and social care, and the feeling of being worn down which can result from being confined to these clinics.

Between Sport And Physical Activity: Ambiguities In EU Policy And Regenerative Actions

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Over the years, EU policies have evolved to promote and support citizens' engagement in physical activity and participation in sport. This paper analyses the different dimensions of EU policies related to sport and physical activity. It analyses the initiatives promoted, the programmes implemented and the objectives for the future, even in the face of the "cosmic catastrophe" of COVID-19.

In the first four decades of European integration, EU policy in the field of sport was fragmented and almost completely absent. Since the mid-1990s, governments in many Western countries have developed strategies to encourage their citizens to adopt a more active lifestyle (Waddington 2010). This process has been labelled "the new public health" and has led to a shift in health policy from a focus on "care" to "prevention".

In our analysis, we will first outline the EU policy on sport and physical activity, which initially aims at the psychophysical improvement of European citizens. We will then analyse the ambiguous reception and use of the terms "sport" and "physical activity" by the EU in official documents and guidelines of the European Parliament and the Commission. The focus will shift to new lifestyles shared by more and more people in most EU Member States and to "regenerative actions" taken especially during and after the pandemic. Finally, we will see how, through this - albeit slow - development of jurisprudence, an attempt was ultimately made to promote the mobilisation of territorial institutions and organisations to protect and promote the psychophysical and social well-being of individual European citizens and communities.

Physical Activity and Sport in the Context of Visual Impairment : Issues, Obstacles and Social Functions for Young People with Visual Impairment

Valentine Gourinat[1], Lina Danusevičienė[2], Lisa Gittel[3], Erika Guastafierro[4], Francesca Incagli[4], Martina Lanza[4], Aggée Célestin Lomo Myazhiom[1], David Le Breton[1], Hélène Dollfus[5]

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Growing up in a social world where sight is an hegemonic sense (Grüsser & Grüsser-Cornehls, 1989) raises many adjustment difficulties for the young person and the social bond as a whole (David Le Breton, 2017). Despite this singularity, children and adolescents with visual impairment are keen to take part in physical activities and sport. While their disability may limit the ways in which they can participate (Greguol, Gobbi & Carraro, 2015), it does not spoil their desire and need to take part in it.

By focusing on people's abilities (in their uniqueness), and moving away from a defectological approach to illness or

disability, the aim is to use motor skills to help people become aware of and/or reappropriate their bodies. While physical and sport activities are intended for recreation and leisure, enabling excluded people to achieve personal accomplishment, socialisation and social participation, the purpose of this paper is to examine the meaning and essence of physical and sport activities (Lomo & Reichhart, 2017) for young people with visual impairment at a time when they are building their identity.

This contribution will be based on field data from the European SeeMylife project (semi-directed interviews with visually impaired young people, their families and carers), in order to highlight the way in which sport is essential, although sometimes still too difficult to access, for this population. Through individual experiences, we will present some more general thoughts on the issues involved in practicing sport in the context of sensory impairment, particularly among young people.

JS | RN17_RN30_T02: Tension and Transformations in Contemporary Labour Market in a Youth and Generational Perspective (I)

Youth, Employment, and Social Protection in Portugal: a Relational Analysis of Young People in the Multidimensional Space of the Labor Market

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Currently, despite Portuguese society benefiting from the most qualified youth workforce ever, a set of vulnerabilities resulting from job precariousness hinders the integration and permanence of young people in the labor market. As a group particularly susceptible to moments of crisis, young people were the most affected by unemployment during the Covid-19 pandemic, representing 70% of workers who lost their jobs between 2019 and 2020 in the country. However, are all young people equally vulnerable to job instability and insecurity? What dimensions structure the social space of the youth labor market in Portugal? To what extent do their perceptions of institutions in the world of work vary depending on their position in this social space? The main objective of this communication is to present a relational analysis of young people in the labor market developed from the examination of responses given by 5076 young people, aged 18-35, surveyed in 2023 in Portugal. Using different methods such as Multiple Correspondence Analysis and Cluster Analysis, the structuring dimensions of the multidimensional space of the youth labor market will be identified, and the privileged associations between diverse indicators highlighting differences and inequalities among young workers in the country will be examined. In addition to being unprecedented in Portugal, this study aims to contribute to the deepening of sociological knowledge about a population particularly affected by changes in the labor market, as observed through current tensions between work and social protection.

Job Insecurity and Life Courses

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The study focuses on the interplay between subjective perception and objective dimension of workers' job insecurity and how these two dimensions impact on their life course's transitions.

Issues of objective and subjective job insecurity in Europe are framed in the context of the life course, investigating the relationship between a) job insecurity and transition to adulthood, b) its repercussions for mid-career employees and c) its consequences for older workers.

Indeed, the relationship between unstable work careers, family transitions into adult life and mid/end-career transitions can vary according to the welfare state system of the country but, of equal importance, are the subjective perceptions of one's own situation in the labor market and in the society.

Drawing from interviews and survey data across the EU and the UK, this in-depth study explores how worker instability is perceived and experienced, and how this 'perception' in turn affects individuals' economic and social situation. Using intersectional analysis and a unique focus on different life stages, the authors identify groups who are more prone to labor market risks and describe their relative disadvantage.

Focusing on both objective and subjective dimension of job insecurity and its impact on life course transitions, this study also provide evidence to inform policy measures internationally in several social domains related to work, employment and society.

Flexibility Vs. Regularity. Young Workers' Experiences of Precarious Work in Restaurants and Warehouses

Lotta Haikkola

Finnish Youth Research Society, Finland

This presentation examines young workers' work ethos and experiences of work in two sectors in the urban service economy, namely restaurants (hospitality) and warehousing (logistics). Using theories of precarization (Kalleberg & Vallas 2017) and consent (Burawoy 1979), it argues that precarization affects groups of young people differently. In both sectors, work is low-skilled, physically demanding and turnover is high, but employment relations and work organization differ. The restaurant sector uses non-standard contracts and agency work and the trade union is weak. Work is unpredictable, hard to routinize and often understaffed. Warehousing, on the other hand, uses a combination of stable workforce and temp workers and the union is still strong. Work is routinized and standardized. The

different work organization leads to different work practices and work ethos. In the restaurant sector, workers are extremely flexible in the attempt to endure the fast-paced and chaotic work. In warehousing, workers seek to retain control of their work effort, benefiting from the standardized labour process, pay structure and the autonomy of the routinised work. The paper concludes that precarization is not a uniform process, but affects different sectors in a different way, leading to diverse conditions and experiences of work for young people. The presentation is based on ongoing ethnographic research on young people working in hospitality and logistics.

Youth Precarity in Greece

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This presentation is based on ongoing research on youth precarity, conducted by the Centre for Social Theory and Empirical Research of the Department of Sociology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, for the Eteron – Institute for Research and Social Change. The main aim of the research is to map the situation of young people's (aged 19-34) employment in Greece and to identify patterns of precarious labour in different sectors. This research adds on previous work (Parsanoglou et al. 2023) in an effort to contextualise precarity both as a sector and age phenomenon, and to measure precarious labour within the labour market. To do so, we use specific indicators of precarious employment, drawing from the rough data of the Greek Labour Force Survey: part-time (and particularly involuntary part time) employment, temporary employment, lack of medical insurance, need for additional sources of revenue etc.

In this presentation, we will focus on specific sectors where precarious employment is extensive and we will discuss potential divergences occurring between different socio-demographic variables, such as gender, educational level, area of residence etc. By doing so, we hope that we will contribute with additional empirical evidence to the ongoing theoretical and political discussions around the present and future of youth employment.

JS | RN17_RN30_T03: Tension and Transformations in Contemporary Labour Market in a Youth and Generational Perspective (II)

Educational Credentials As Young People's Entrance Ticket To The Labor Market: How Employers' Valuation Of Educational Credentials Determines Job Opportunities

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Due to structural changes of the labor market and the expansion and diversification of education in most European countries, successful and stable labor market integration has become more challenging for young people. Employers increasingly prefer older, more experienced applicants. Furthermore, competition between school leavers with different types of educational credentials has increased. In the Swiss labor market, several credentials qualify for the same jobs within specific occupational fields. However, there is little research on how employers valuate different credentials in the hiring process. Thus, this contribution explores how employers' valuation of educational credentials is shaped by individual, occupational and firm characteristics.

Following economic theories, credentials signal trainability and productivity. Sociological approaches emphasize perceptions of fit, social closure mechanisms and the legitimation function of comparisons and categorizations. Based on these complementary theories I assume that different recruitment goals (e.g. trainability, immediate productivity, team fit) intersect and shape the valuations of educational credentials. For young people without work experience, employers' valuation of their credentials determines their hiring chances.

We conducted 30 semi-structured interviews with employers in six occupational fields. With a constructivist critical approach using reflexive thematic analysis, we question the reported experiences of recruitment processes. We code the transcripts in a more deductive, latent way and aim to find themes that capture patterns of meaning in the dataset.

Preliminary results suggest that educational credentials of labor market entrants are important for most of the interviewed recruiters. However, they associate different meaning with credentials, and valuation processes depend on the context.

Quality Of Occupational Returns Of Master Graduates In France And Italy: Do Professional Experiences Help To Reduce Inequality?

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This paper compares the labour market situation of master graduates in France and Italy, analysing in particular the quality of occupational returns such as, employment / unemployment, type of contract and mismatch (over and under education gauged with subjective and normative measures) 5 years after graduation. Both countries have undergone a process of flexibilization and segmentation of the labour market, and share a similar degree of fixed-term employment. However, they differ in terms of labour market policy for youth and in some critical points: lower employment rates, women participation in the labour market in Italy for master graduates (OECD 2022).

We expect social class will affect more the quality of job occupation of Italian than French graduates due to the largely Italian 'familialistic' policies. We also want to explore if experiences abroad and internships during the graduation have a similar effect on job quality in the two institutional and policy contexts. In France the share of graduates with experience abroad is higher than Italy, on the contrary Italian graduates tend to engage more in internship experiences.

For France we use the Génération survey (Céreq), a well known panel survey to study the labour market entry of young adults after leaving the school system. For Italy we use AlmaLaurea census data, to which almost all Italian universities participate, providing information on the graduation and employment characteristics of jobs. For both countries we focus on the generation having left university in 2010 with a Master Degree and compare their position five years later.

Expert Or Professional: Negotiating Academic Competence

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Transformation in contemporary labour market is commonly characterized by increasing flexibility and atypical work relations like part-time work, project and temporary work, and self-employment. As a result of these changes, it is becoming more difficult for young people to make long-term sustainable decisions and choices about working life. Even a university degree doesn't guarantee permanent, full-time employment, and even young university graduates are at risk of unemployment, under-employment, and social exclusion. In addition to the diploma, young graduates are expected to be able to communicate their competence to potential employers. Assistance for the career-decision-making and job search process is often provided in form of career counselling.

In our study, which is part of a research project SPIN (2022–2025), we examine career counselling sessions with a focus on the in situ meaning-making practices: the negotiation concerning the definition and implications of competence and expertise. Our initial data consists of 21 video-recorded counselling sessions, of which two represent the focus of our analysis. With the means of discursive psychology and a micro-analysis of turn-to-turn interaction, we examine cases where the counsellor and the university student negotiate the definitions of competence in relation to expertise and professionalism. In this pattern, the counsellor forms a contrast between their own definition and the definition presented by the student, and ultimately promotes their own definition as a more useful way of adopting an expert identity to succeed in the present work life.

JS | RN17_RN30_T08: Tension and Transformations in Contemporary Labour Market in a Youth and Generational Perspective (III)

Remote Work, Young Adults in Poland and Labor Market Transformations – a Long View

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Although remote work is possible only in selected professional contexts, its popularization during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent consolidation in new labor laws influenced transformations in the contemporary labor market. However, little research has been devoted to the generational perspective, particularly young adults, who had limited experience working remotely before the outbreak. This study aims to partially fill this gap by investigating the remote work of young Polish employees documented in qualitative longitudinal research.

Theoretically, the analyses are inspired by the boundary theory rooted in reflection on remote work and the life course perspective, which sensitizes to the effect of the stage in biography. They aim to answer whether the young generation rejects long-term remote work or accepts it as compatible with their needs and values. The empirical basis comprises 78 semi-structured interviews with 26 young adults who worked remotely during the research period. Each respondent was interviewed thrice between 2020 and 2022.

Despite the early stage of their careers, the study participants indicated the need for flexibility at work, an individual approach to shaping the boundaries between work and non-work, and to control how and when their work was performed. Both coupled and single respondents regarded remote work as a primarily friendly solution. At the same time, they preferred hybrid variants that allowed them to maintain some direct mentorship and professional contacts. Overall, the findings contribute to a better understanding of work-related generational values in the context of young adults' personal situations, close relationships, and career plans.

Regional Displacement of Low-Qualified Youths: The Role of Regional Competition and Technological Change in Shaping Access to Vocational Training

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Numerous cohort studies highlight the growing trend of low-qualified youths facing exclusion from vocational education and training (VET). Yet, the rising significance of labour market characteristics driving this displacement remains largely unexplored. This study investigates the factors influencing the access of low-educated youth to VET in Germany, focusing on unravelling the role of regional competition and the impact of technological change on the labour market.

We used data on school-to-VET transitions from the German National Educational Panel Study, integrating it with district-level regional data on competition, digitalisation and automation. To address time-dependent associations and account for the clustering of observations within training market regions, we employed multilevel mixed-effects complementary log-log regression.

Our findings indicate that a higher regional share of high-qualified apprentices negatively affects the probability of low-educated youth entering VET, suggesting displacement dynamics. However, digitalisation and automation had a small but positive impact on their transition chances. Subgroup analyses by migration background reveal that competition as well as digitalisation, mitigates disparities in VET access between migrants and natives. However, results indicate widening differences in transition probabilities in favour of natives as automation potential increases, indicating selection effects in production-centred local economies. Significant effects are observed primarily during the initial search phase, suggesting signalling effects associated with prolonged search durations.

The study highlights the importance of regional opportunity structures in either fostering or mitigating social inequalities among low-qualified youth. The study also underscores the need to address the migration-related barriers to VET access and to promote the growth of local economies capable of accommodating both high- and low-educated labour.

The Role Of Precariety In Shaping A Career Path. A Qualitative Approach Within The Video Game Industry.

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Over the last few decades, Spain has suffered different processes of precarization that have led a significant number of people to fall into what Robert Castel (1997) termed "zones of vulnerability." One of the groups most adversely affected

by this situation is the youth, who encounter numerous challenges in their quest for independence as they try to transition into adulthood (Furlong & Cartmel, 2007). The individualization of young people's transition paths has led to a prolongation of the youth phase, resulting in a desynchronization of transitional markers (Merino & Miranda, 2023).

However, research on this issue has mostly focused on groups already in structural positions of vulnerability. This contribution aims to shed light on how young people from middle-class backgrounds face these waves of precarity. We present the findings of a qualitative study that focuses on the career paths of workers in the video game industry, with an emphasis on the precarity they face during the early stages of their professional journey, which may be considered necessary in order to develop a career that enables them to insert themselves and stabilize within a "passionate work" (McRobbie, 2016).

This research is based on a discursive analysis of 14 semi-structured interviews conducted with video game industry workers aged between 25 and 34, along with insights from 4 key informants from this field (related to the recruitment process). The results of our research illuminate how the precarization experienced by these young people influences the formation of their career paths.

Analyzing New Types Of Work Through Bourdieu's Theories Of Capital: The Case Of The Artisan Courier in Turkey

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This study investigates the artisan couriers as a case of transition jobs through a qualitative fieldwork. As the model of platform work spread out recently, especially young people are oriented towards jobs such as driving services, food delivery, etc. These jobs are defined as "self-constrained employment" in which a person is forced to start their own business or work independently. Moreover, they are seen as "transition jobs" for many young people. They often serve as a transition point for the person to develop specific skills, gain experience, or transition into a new industry or career path. Transition jobs can often be temporary or low-paid jobs and are not seen as a long-term career goal. However, they provide a platform for people to gain a new opportunity or experience.

The aim of this study is to investigate the motivations, working conditions and labor market expectations of the young artisan couriers in Turkey. To this end, in-depth interviews will be conducted with couriers who are also university students. Especially students choose to work in delivery jobs during their education and see it as a form of transition job which provide them social and economic capital to be used after graduation. By emphasizing the interconnections between capitals, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of the working conditions, capitals and social positions of artisan couriers; how artisan couriers are shaped as part of an ever-increasing labor market; and how young people are able to survive and thrive in today's changing world of work.

JS | RN17_RN30_T09: Tension and Transformations in Contemporary Labour Market in a Youth and Generational Perspective (IV)

Beyond Crisis: An Analysis of Micro- and Macro-level Determinants of Subjective Job Insecurity Among Europe's Youth

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The paper investigates various micro-level and macro-level determinants influencing subjective job insecurity among young Europeans, both before and after the Great Recession, assessing how these influences shift over time. Our research focuses on the change in the relative importance of macro-level factors compared to individual-level concerns in shaping job insecurity perceptions among young individuals in Europe. The scarcity of job opportunities and heightened competition significantly contributed to the pervasive job insecurity experienced by young individuals during and after the economic downturn. Moreover, based on research indicating that the economic and labour market conditions of a country shape individuals' perceptions of job insecurity, and considering the impact of the crisis on these conditions, we argue that macro-level factors have gained increased significance. To address this issue, our paper integrates both macro and micro-level factors into a comprehensive job insecurity model. Utilizing data from the 2nd and 5th waves of the European Social Survey, covering 22 countries, we examine the years 2004 and 2010 to assess the impact of the economic crisis on determinants of job insecurity among young individuals. Our analysis employs multilevel models that account for both individual and contextual factors. The preliminary findings partially support our hypothesis, revealing that while macro-level determinants have indeed grown in importance, micro-level determinants remain the most influential factors in shaping the perceived job insecurity of young people.

Exploring the Expectations and Aspirations of Youth in the Contemporary Labour Market

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University of Naples Federico II, Italy

The focus of contribute is the relationship between young people and work and, in particular, it is intended to outline

the image that young Italians have of their future work and thus of the future society they envision.

The study is framed within the framework of the sociology of the future (Mandich, 2012) and presents the results of a survey that investigated on different dimensions of Italian youth such as mobility, political participation, transitions, entrepreneurialism, migration experiences and education. The reflection follows two different interpretative frames. The first one investigates whether family of origin and socio-economic status still weigh on young people's work choices and, therefore, guide them; thus, we talk about social mobility, investigated from the aspirations and expectations of young people declined according to socioeconomic and cultural background of appearance.

The second interpretive frame, on the other hand, relates occupational and social stratification by assuming that the former is a proxy for the latter (J.H Goldthorpe & K. Hope 1974; A. de Lillo, Schizzerotto 1985; M.L. Bianco & de Lillo, 2007).

Building upon these considerations, one can assumed that to understand the idea that young people have on the future society, it is possible to assess the weight that they attribute to the evaluation criteria in determining the classification – hence the stratification – of employments.

Central to the interpretive scheme, therefore, are gender and generational dimensions with specific reference to sociocultural capital of origin of the young people.

Employment Of Young People With Disabilities In Finland

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Section 18 of the Finnish Constitution protects the right to work and obliges public authorities to promote employment without any discrimination. Article 27 of the CRPD provides for the right of persons with disabilities to work on equal basis with others. This is a fundamental dimension of their dignified life.

The presentation discusses on how and why Finnish young people with disabilities face severe difficulties in accessing labour market and are to a great extent excluded from it. Exclusion starts to develop already in the education system.

The presentation is based on interview material which we have collected as part of the research project on "Disability and Dignity" funded by the Academy of Finland. We have interviewed about forty young people with different disabilities. In these interviews, we have asked about their experiences and views on the disability pension system, working life and disability. Based on the interviews, we have built profiles, which we use to structure the different paths of young people with disabilities into and out of working life. In our oral presentation, we will present these profiles.

The presentation will focus on the disability pension system, which is built for securing the livelihood of people with disabilities when they have not been able to work. We will argue that the disability pension system has become arbitrary and inappropriate from the point of view of today's young people with disabilities. The disability pension system includes numerous discriminatory mechanisms, such as the treatment of blind people and wheelchair users as automatically entitled to a disability pension, regardless of their actual ability to work.

Adult Children's Transition to Adulthood and Old-age Employment of Parents in Taiwan: A Linked Lives Perspective

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As its population ages rapidly, Taiwan is predicted to become a superaged society in 2025. While the burden of long-term care arrangements makes headlines, recent statistics show increases in labor force participation of the older population and the average retirement age. Meanwhile, studies found a change in pace in the transition to adulthood among Taiwanese young adults. Due to postponement of employment and marriage, today, the younger generation relies on parental support well into adulthood. In contrast to Western societies, in Taiwan, the value of family underpinned by filial piety prescribes adult children to support their parents in their old age. However, the prolonged transition to adulthood sees a rise in the opposite direction of intergenerational exchange. Parents assume the active roles of financial providers for their children. While the public disparages young adults depending on parental support as parasite singles, the interdependence between the younger generation and their parents embodies the principle of linked lives, the interconnectedness of the life courses of family members. The intimate relationship between parents and children is epitomized not only in the exchanges of resources but also in their respective life choices regarding employment or retirement. However, studies that address the employment status of parents or young adults rarely account for the interconnectedness between family members. Drawing on data from the Taiwan Longitudinal Study in Aging and the Panel Study of Family Dynamics, this study aims to fill the gap by incorporating the principle of linked lives to examine the relationship between young adults' transitions to adulthood and parents' employment and retirement decisions.

Changing Inequalities in the Attainment of Material Well-being Among the Youth Minorities, in CCE, 2001-2020

Valér Veres

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Since the mid-2000s, EU accession has created a new set of relations in the CEE area, especially in most parts of the Carpathian region. As a conceptual framework, we started from Castells' concept of a global networked society, as the

centre-periphery approach had become outdated The data sources for this research are Mozaik2001 and the Hungarian Youth surveys from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia Serbian Voivodina and Ukrainian Transcarpathian regions (2001 and 2020). The analysis is multivariate, based mainly on OLS regression, principal component analysis and index building techniques. The study of youth, the social position of the young generation, is a major methodological challenge. The youth labour market position, as we know, is not permanent and can change rapidly, so the focus of this study is not on occupational position but on the material status of young people, which may be related to their active labour status, but is also influenced by the social position of the parental family.

The specific contribution of the study is that in conditons of inequal socioeconomic situation and life chances, the relative social exclusion experienced by some minority youth groups, how these factors changed in time in last 20 years, especially in conditions of EU accession or exclusion of some countries for CEE area. In each of the countries studied, the odds of achieving good material status are significantly determined by low education, a background with many children and being of Roma origin, and this did not change significantly between 2001 and 2020. There are structural disadvantages in achieving a good financial situation among theminority youth communities, which make it likely that they will be in a state of permanent deprivation or precariat.

JS | RN20_RN21_T05_: Beyond quality and quantity: integrated strategies to analyze media content

Since its inception, social research has relied on texts, videos, and audios as a relevant source of information. To study both social processes of impact (see, for example, migration), and public opinion on such processes, sociologists have collected, organized, and analyzed various types of media content: books, newspapers, diaries, correspondence, movies, tv programs, etc. For some decades, the online world has further enriched the variety of media sources potentially useful and significant for sociological research. Over time, various techniques have been developed and refined (with related software) to analyze media content, both with a quantitative and qualitative approach. With this call we want to encourage presentations that illustrate, also through actual research experiences, the potential, limits, and conditions for application of integrated and innovative research strategies, which aim to combine qualitative and quantitative tools for the analysis of media content.

Integrating Fabulation Index and Visual-Verbal Video Analysis (VVVA) method to study online war narratives

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The fabulation index – derived from Jedlowski's (2022) conceptualisation and operationalisation of the concept of "fabulation" – is a tool that seeks to go beyond the mere analysis of the "truthfulness" in online war narratives to evaluate their efficiency, moving to a more phenomenological level. It consists of five dimensions: "polarisation", "actantial structures", "emplotment", "meta-narrative action" and "memetic potential". The index was developed as part of a research project about the social-media dimension of information wars (Giungato et al., 2024 forthcoming). In order to test its validity and reliability, it was applied to a sample of Telegram posts related to the Russian-Ukrainian war, proving to be a useful tool for analysing online war narratives. Although our research to date has mainly focused on written communication (cf. Mezza, 2022; Bennato et al., 2022; Turco, 2022), a deeper reflection on the paradigms of transmediality (Jenkins, 2006), memetic warfare (Giesea, 2015; Iorio, 2022) and post-truth (Floridi, 2014) – together with direct observation of the ongoing phenomenon – leads us to also consider visual forms as a determining element of armed conflict communication – which are increasingly fought in a video-centric environment where users and other actors produce and share audiovisual content with AI assistance. (Cuesta-Valiño et al., 2022; Clack & Johnson, 2021). The Visual-Verbal Video Analysis (VVVA) method adapts Multimodal and Visual Grounded Theory in order to organize and evaluate video material (Fazeli et al., 2023), providing a remarkable tool for our systematic coding and interpretative approach. We'll therefore present the results of the development of the research (Giungato et al., 2024 forthcoming) integrating fabulation index and VVVA.

Investigating Z Generation through Visual Analysis: Uncertainty, Hypersensitivity and Self-Narration

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While Gen Z is often described as a snowflake o strawberry generation – emotionally fragile, anxious and unfit to face difficulties and disappointments – it is also very sensitive about environmental and social issues and often capable to capture the attention of politics, media and public opinion. From a sociological perspective, these tendencies seem to point at a general hypersensitivity, that is, an extremely high aptitude to react to what happen around, foremost formulating affective and also normative expectations and claims, leaving the cognitive approach on the background. In this sense, the world-society's uncertainty and contingency – especially related to the future, increasingly conceived as threatening – generates different forms of psychological and affective-emotional distress (depression, anxiety, self-cutting, and so on), widely spread in the West.

This study analyses, from a qualitative, quantitative and visual perspective, the post-pandemic experience of young students from the Sapienza University of Rome, their personal expectations and claims, through their own self-narratives. The approach is based on the semi-structured interview technique and an experimental visual method which situates interviewees in a comfortable and "safe" environment where they could tell about their experience, biography and life without feeling judged and influenced by the interviewers. The hypothesis is that precisely the affective dimension of individuality could more clearly emerge through this method, highlighting the adaptive reactions to contingency and uncertainty of society.

Text Mining and Network Analysis in a Joint Perspective for the Quali-quantitatve Study of Complex Communication Dynamics: the Case of Echo Chambers.

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The study presented in this abstract aims to define an innovative mixed-methods, quali-quantitative, research design for understanding complex communicative dynamics, such as the so-called echo chambers, that occur among users of Social Network Sites (SNS).

Given that communication exchanges among social media users are typically studied by separately observing interaction dynamics and message content, this work aims to investigate communicative flows by combining text mining techniques to attribute tags to messages (sentiment, theme, and type), and network analysis techniques to identify patterns/models of dissemination and reinforcement of opinions and information among users.

Starting with a sample of 32,180 tweets related to the Russian-Ukrainian war published during the first year of the conflict, first, the network of post authors based on mentions made or received is reconstructed, and within this network are identified: 'source' nodes, which originate the information spreading in the network; 'mediator' nodes, which retransmit messages received from sources; 'target' nodes, which receive content without contributing to its dissemination. Subsequently, three distinct corpora composed of post texts attributed to source, mediator, and target nodes are analyzed. Using text mining techniques, the texts are labeled with respect to the treated topics, then associated with each user. This analysis allows for the investigation of whether specific relational patterns within specific communication flows, identifiable as echo chambers, are defined around specific contents.

Quantified yet Contextual: Integrating Quantitative (CADS, NLP) and Qualitative (CDA) Methods for Media Content Analysis

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The excess content in the hybrid media system (Chadwick, 2013) prompts researchers to adapt and multiply their traditional methods. With an increasing number of texts published daily, researchers should apply more than conventional methods of qualitative text analysis based on the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach. Despite the advancement of CAQDAS software (e.g., Costa et al., 2023), these tools primarily assist in organizing texts and streamlining coding and analysis processes. However, they do not fully address the inherent limitations of conventional methods in handling the growing volume and complexity of textual data.

This paper uses quantitative methods to organise and reduce extensive text collections at an initial research stage. Achieving this involves Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (Baker, 2006; Gillings et al., 2023) and Natural Language Processing (Törnberg & Törnberg, 2016). In the first step, I present the functions of one of the CADS support programs – SketchEngine (Kilgarriff et al., 2014). Then, in step two, I describe using topic modelling, sentiment analysis, and term extraction in studying online content and the utility of tools provided by Clarin ERIC (https://www.clarin.eu/). In the third step, the content that has been organized and structured undergoes in-depth qualitative analysis. This analysis may incorporate concordances, coding, or transferring data to CAQDAS programs like Atlas.ti or QDA Miner. This approach allows mixed methods analysis, enabling classical approaches like CDA. Thanks to this, we attain the unique opportunity to apply a qualitative study to the entire discourse, interpreting texts in relation to their social and cultural contexts.

To illustrate the efficacy of the analysis, each step will be exemplified with case studies from the content analysis of the Polish press and websites.

JS | RN21_RN24_T08: Using AI tools in sociological research

Artificial Intelligence in Analyzing Internet-Mediated Documents for Social Research

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This presentation explores the intersection of social research and artificial intelligence (AI), focusing on the paradigm of documentary analysis in the context of internet-mediated contents. Documentary analysis, as an approach to understanding social reality, harnesses the informational potential embedded in various products created by individuals or groups during their activities. Such contents arise spontaneously for purposes unrelated to social research and encompasses personal documents like diaries and private letters, cultural artifacts such as paintings, books, and songs, as well as institutional documents like laws and regulations and media documents such as news, films and TV series. In the contemporary landscape, these documents are increasingly disseminated through new technologies, collectively referred to as internet-mediated documents. Examples include online diaries or blogs, social media platforms, and digital publications, which uphold continuity with traditional documents while presenting new challenges.

This contribution addresses key questions in the analysis of internet-mediated documents, such as selecting the corpus, contextualizing the content, and navigating ethical challenges. The presentation advocates for the integration of artificial intelligence, specifically exemplifying the use of programs like ChatGPT as tools for analyzing internet-mediated documents. Practical examples will be showcased, illustrating how AI can facilitate both qualitative and quantitative thematic analyses. By delving into the capabilities of ChatGPT, we aim to discuss its potential in addressing methodological dilemmas and ethical considerations associated with the evolving landscape of internet-mediated document analysis. This exploration contributes to the ongoing discourse on the symbiotic relationship between social research and artificial intelligence, offering insights into innovative approaches for navigating the challenges posed by contemporary data sources.

JS | RN20_RN30_T05: Youth and Political meaning 1: methods puzzles and issues

Visual Research Methods as Cultural Practices: The Politics of Visual Culture in Youth Research.

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Visual methods are widely used in research with children and young people, notably because they are presented as being more engaging and child-friendly than traditional qualitative methods. They are said to give young people more liberty in choosing what to represent, be best suited to capturing an emic perspective, and support cross-cultural work. As such, they are considered key in promoting young people's political voices and shifting research power dynamics. But the creative outputs of visual research (photographs, films, drawings, etc.) notoriously puzzle researchers with their meaning(s) and interpretation. Thus far visual outputs have primarily been valued as conversation prompts, with a focus on their content rather than aesthetic framing. Yet, wider scholarship in visual research (e.g. Sarah Pink, Gillian Rose) has highlighted the potential role of visual mediums, visual culture, and traditions of image-making in shaping the images produced by participants. Considering visual research methods as cultural practices, we use images of food created by young people aged 12-24 in 7 cities across the world (Christchurch, NZ; Dhaka, BD; Makhanda, ZA; London, UK; New Delhi, IN; São Paulo, BR; Yokohama, JP) in the context of a project on sustainable lifestyles to ask what can be learned by interrogating visual products in their own right. How do visual cultures: a) shape the outputs of visual research and b) guide the processes of meaning-making enacted through visual research? We explore the tensions between the emancipatory goals of visual research methods and their reliance on – often unacknowledged and unquestioned – cultural visual norms.

Longitudinal Qualitative Research into Adolescents' Experiences of Social Change

Kate Pincock, Nicola Jones

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Time, especially in relation to space, has long been recognised as important in understanding human agency and social transformation. Yet due to the complexity of capturing temporal-spatial interactions and their effects, time is often framed in research as the neutral, linear medium within which events unfold. Longitudinal research can offer a means to address this challenge by generating insights into the social construction of time in different contexts at the micro-level which can be triangulated with data about macro-level dynamics.

A temporal-spatial lens such as this is particularly useful for researching adolescence, which is itself both an empirical reality as an interim, transitional period of time between childhood and adulthood, and a social construction contingent on context. The past two decades have been a period of prolonged social, political and economic upheaval; to properly understand the effects for adolescents and young people in contexts where recent crises have been layered upon existing inequalities and tensions requires attention to different dimensions of time, including sociohistorical dynamics, individual-biographical experiences, and intergenerational shifts.

In this paper, we draw on our experiences of conducting longitudinal qualitative research with adolescents in Jordan, Lebanon and Ethiopia undertaken as part of the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) programme to show how considering the relationship between time and space in the ways made possible by a longitudinal approach can help to make sense of the interaction between individual and wider contextual trajectories, and elucidate change and continuities in adolescents' lives at different scales.

Capturing Political Meaning Among Younger Generations: Qualitative Methodological Puzzles and Possibilities

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The detachment between young people and politics is a common assumption in the political studies community, based on the usual young people's lower electoral turnout and residual affiliation in political parties measured by survey data. When qualitative methodologies are used, the scenario of young people's political participation and meanings attributed to it turns richer and diversified (O'Toole 2003, Pickard 2019).

This difference among young people's political engagement practices was measured and confirmed using a sample of young people in Portugal in 2012-13 (1200 questionnaires/60 interviews), demonstrating a low political engagement when quantitatively measured in contrast with a plural participation when qualitatively observed.

The qualitative data on political participation was subject to a thematical analysis followed by a crisp-set qualitative comparative analysis procedure (Ragin 2017), revealing rich and complex sets of engagements between young people and politics, later enriched and clarified with sociodemographic data and illustrative quotes from the interviews.

This aims to contribute to the discussions on the limitations of survey data among specific subjects and segments of the population, on the conceptual and methodological shortcomings on quantitative measures of political engagement

among young people, and finally on the development of new procedures aimed to enhance classical data analysis.

Balancing Preconceived Methods And Methodological Flexibility In A Large Scale Collaborative Comparative Research On Youth: A Processual Methodology

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University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

In the history of research methodology, a persistent tension has existed between preconceived methods and methodological flexibility, often resulting in the dominance of one over the other. This tension is amplified in four distinct circumstances: firstly, in research projects in which fuinding is based on research proposals, in larger-scale research projects involving extensive qualitative data; secondly, thirdly in comparative or multi-sited research; and fourthly, in collaborative research projects where multiple researchers co-operate.

This article shows our reflections on addressing and pragmatically reconciling this tension within the context of a research that encompasses all four circumstances—the CO-CREATE project.

In this Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR), 199 adolescents in 5 countries were tasked with formulating policy proposals to prevent adolescent obesity. To assess the PAR process, we created and collected over 1500 pages of field notes, subjecting them to collaborative and comparative qualitative analysis.

To organise and structure the data collection, management and analysis, we adopted a methodological approach conceptualised as a dynamic process, aligning with a pragmatist and perspectivist orientation. Anticipating potential challenges at the project's inception, we prepared for foreshadowed problems, while also confronting unforeseen obstacles along the way. Reflecting on this methodological journey, we offer a nuanced exploration of the implications of methodology as a dynamic process within the context of collaborative qualitative projects employing pragmatist and perspectivist perspectives. To preconceived methods and methodological flexibility we propose two strategies in doing research: Predesigned Methodological Reflexivity and Collaborative Moments of Iterative Validation.

JS | RN20_RN30_T06: Youth and Political meaning 2: creative methods

From Subject To Expert: Narrative Identity Work Of Youth That Made Use Of Youth Care

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An increasing number of youths who made use of youth care services in the past are later engaged in policy making and advocacy organizations as experts by experience. In doing so, they attempt to improve the youth care system and care practices. However, little is known about the way former youth care users who are confronted with stigmatization and coercion in youth care become experts by experience. In particular, how they conduct identity work to make sense of their transition from subject to expert is unknown but critical to understanding the contemporary role of experts by experience in the youth domain. Understanding the narratives of youth helps to unravel these transitions and developments during the life courses of youth. Narratives reflect how youth make sense of impactful events. By narrating, youth learn to deal with, express and make sense of feelings related to traumatic events in their pasts: it is a form of identity work.

In the study, the following research question is answered: How do youth who made use of youth care services apply narrative identity work to give meaning to their transformation from subject to expert in youth care? This research question is answered by analyzing narrative life story interviews which are conducted in The Netherlands. By analyzing these interviews, it is showed how former youth care users regain agency that was lost by becoming a 'youth care subject' as they apply narrative identity work and regain narrative agency.

Re-imagining Feminist Futures: Working with the Archive to Forge Intergenerational Knowledge

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In this paper we draw on learning and resources generated by the ESRC funded 'Reanimating Data: experiments with people, places and archives' project which sought to save, digitise and share a 'classic' data-set of qualitative feminist sociology (the Women, Risk and AIDS project 1988-9). One of the experiments involved in the project was working with

a student theatre society, focusing on three interviews recorded with former drama students in 1988, talking about their loves, relationships and sexual negotiations. In this paper we explore the collaborative work that took place between the original researchers, the three archived interviews and a new generation of young women who worked with this material, taking inspiration from the original study to tell their own stories. Drawing on ideas and methods from queer history and feminist sociology we consider how the creative methods employed in the project forged 'time-binds' that enabled us to bring together past and present in new ways that escape familiar narratives of social change, generating intergenerational insights that could be surprising, disruptive and illuminating. The paper will be illustrated with material from the creative working process and documentation of a final performance.

Young Community Researchers Negotiating the Politics of Migration/ Integration and Research Practices

Sofiia Horova, Anastasiia Mykhailova, Anzhela Popyk

University SWPS, Poland

Seeking to refer to the 'methodological pluralism' (Lamont & Swidler, 2014) by contributing to the field of qualitative methodology, we demonstrate how the young (18-25 y.o.) Ukrainian Community Researchers captured the political meaning of forced migration experiences of Ukrainian young adults (18-29 years old) in Poland. The project was held in June 2023-June 2024 in international collaboration with the University of Birmingham in the UK and the University of Viadrina in Germany. It aimed to study the forced migration experiences and visions of post-war reconstruction of Ukraine among the youth in Poland, the UK and Germany. Young Community Researchers were trained and navigated in doing the research at every stage: designing, recruiting/running, data analysis, and disseminating.

This paper seeks to reflect on the CR's experiences in enriching the social qualitative methodologies, as well as to point to their process of negotiating migration policies and politics with the researcher's practices.

The paper demonstrates how young migrants can enrich qualitative methodology, science and practices through running the Community Researchers study.

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of Birmingham.

JS | RN20_RN30_T08: Youth and Political meaning 3: meaning making and participation

Open an Ethnographic Toolbox for Studying Youth Socialisation and Political Meaning-making,

Claire Balleys

Université de Genève, Switzerland

We propose to open the ethnographic toolbox of an ongoing investigation into the socialisation processes of young people who hang out in urban public spaces and on social media. Our methodological design takes place in 5 successive phases: collaborative observation, urban walking interviews, digital walking interviews, online ethnography and, last but not least, focus groups in a reception setting.

The contribution we propose focuses on how the appropriation of urban spaces meets political meanings. What do young people consider being a legitimate way of occupying urban public space, and how do digital capture and sharing practices intersect with these perceptions? The young people in our corpus (15-25 years old) occupy urban spaces on a long-term basis, sometimes coming into conflict with other actors in public space. They skilfully structure their socialisation in a continuum of face-to-face and mediated interactions.

Our contribution therefore aims to shed light on the political dimensions of urban youth cultures. For example, participation in a feminist demonstration and the resulting digital recording and sharing practices give us access to political meaning-making.

Our preliminary results show a highly sensitive relationship with the social rules of public space occupation. Both on the streets and online, young people collectively negotiate what public behaviour is and isn't socially acceptable. We'll see how gender and class interact with social perceptions of political action in public.

Looking Between the (head)lines of youth civic participation

Maria Bruselius-Jensen

Aalborg University, Denmark

This presentation explores how cutting qualitative analysis in new ways can look behind the obvious and identify underlying social dynamics. The study focus on the dynamics of becoming a young Danish activist, including dealing with questions of equal access to participation. While the vast majority of studies concerned with youth civic participation are concerned with identifying the key public agendas defined through their participation, this study gives the

backseat to the political agendas. Inspired by concepts such as 'everyday makers' and 'lived citizenship' it is argued that everyday micro actions and political agency are interwoven and that in order to study access to youth political participation it is central to also focus on the underlying normative ideals that guides how the young people internally negotiate and practice what it means to be a good activist.

The presentation draws on interviews with 85 young people in their early or mid-twenties who can be defined as 'very engaged' at the time of the interview. They represent in 19 youth organizations selected to represent a variety in aims, forms and sizes. To identify modes of participation and motivations guiding the activist internal practices and negotiations, a cross-cutting abductive analysis of the whole empirical dataset was performed inspired by hermeneutics (Gilje, 2017) and thematic analysis (Schreier, 2012). The presentation will explore and discuss what it means to apply a new cross-cutting analytical lens to a dataset. What insights can it contribute with and what is lost?

The Politization of Everyday Life - Polarization, Emotions, and Young People's Political Engagement

Jonas Lieberkind

Aarhus University, Denmark

In the Nordic countries, research shows that the younger generations meet the democratic expectations of knowledge, political efficacy, and citizenship education.

Nevertheless, polarisation and political division are becoming an increasingly prominent dynamic. A growing number of young individuals perceive society as fragmented and polarized, many young people experience an escalation of the 'us versus them' rhetoric. Various groups of young people—whether in high schools or vocational schools, urban or rural areas, pursuing careers or outside work and education, with different ethnic backgrounds, etc.—are finding it progressively challenging to comprehend and reconcile each other's experiences, attitudes, and values. Against this backdrop, this paper aims to investigate the dispositions that form the basis of Danish young people's political engagement and how this engagement is rooted in affective experiences of everyday life.

The paper is based on a qualitative design: 77 individual interviews with young people in two age cohorts, aged 19-21 and 26-28. The distribution of interviews throughout Denmark ensures representation across very different groups of young people, allowing to identify patterns in their storylines and their corresponding attitudes toward society and fellow citizens. On this basis, the paper aims to explore two research questions: 1) how the political engagement of young people, including the politicization of everyday life (means of transport, consumption, origin, lifestyle, gender, family constellations, etc.), shifts from what is conventionally understood within the 'political domain' into the 'cultural domain'. In this context, Andres Reckwitz's theoretical interest in culturalisation is employed. And 2) how this culturalisation is linked to logic and dynamics about emotions. Arlie Hochschild's methodological focus on the significance of emotions for political engagement is utilized in addressing this question.

JS | RN20_RN32_T07: Quantitative Approaches to Populism

The aim of the joint session is to discuss present theoretical and methodological approaches that enable the analysis of far right-wing populism, paying particular attention as to how less-than-conscious habits, emotions, and gendered performances can be theoretically framed and empiri-cally analyzed. This session is the second part of JS-RN20-RN32.

Between Policy-oriented Criticism and Structural Opposition – Civil Society Advocacy in the Age of Populism

Cecilia Santilli, Roberto Scaramuzzino

Lund University, Sweden

With the wave of right-wing populist parties coming to power and gaining influence in recent years, civil society has been hit by increased ideological resistance from outside. The paper explores how key civil society actors react to policy changes by national governments influenced by right-wing populist parties. The aim is to understand how the rise to power of right-wing populist parties affect the relations between the state and civil society.

The relation between right-wing populist parties and civil society is often conflictual. A common feature of populist actors is their attempt to create and promote a direct connection between their representatives and the people, rejecting the idea of all intermediary bodies, included civil society. Moreover, right-wing populism is often based on mobilization in civil society and has allies in specific collective actors that share their (thin) ideology, such as conservatism and ethno-nationalism, while most established CSOs have their origin in social movement that are opposing to right-wing actors and their agenda in favour of solidarity, human rights and minoirty rights.

The paper focuses on the way in which main civil society actors in Italy and Sweden have reacted on the latest budget legislation by their national governments. The analysis focuses on the content of the advocacy and the level of conflict/opposition implied in the advocacy: from non-structural opposition to major structural opposition. The paper compares two different national contexts: Italy and Sweden. Both countries are since the fall of 2022 experiencing new government coalitions that include right-wing populist parties. The aim is to understand how the rise to power of right-wing populist parties affects the relations between the State and civil society.

The Dangerous Effects of the Normalization of the Far-Right in Germany

Mirjam Weiberg-Salzmann, Sabrina Zajak, Fabio Best

German Center for Integration and Migration Research, Germany

Radicalized actors/ideologies and the mainstream are usually considered opposing poles. The mainstream is often portrayed as moderate and centrist in terms of its convictions and policies and placed in opposition to the far-right and far-left. However, with the recent rise of the far-right in many countries and regions worldwide, a rapidly growing body of research is exploring how the electoral successes of the far-right are enabling parties, social movements, agendas, and discourses to move from the fringes to the mainstream. This body of research focuses predominantly on far-right actors and how they strategize, in other words on whether and how far-right parties and movements adapt their narratives, rhetoric and repertoires of action to move closer to mainstream norms in order to appeal to the majority. In this context, the mainstream is predominantly seen through the lens of its interaction with fringe ideologies being adopted or absorbed, which Wodak (2020) has dubbed "shameless normalization". In spite of that, the mainstream is only rarely considered as an agent beyond the conceptual framework of an interaction with the far-right. This presentation draws on novel insights from a quantitative population survey looking into attitudes of different social groups in society vis-à-vis far-right actors and the consequences of their electoral successes in Germany, including perceptions of threats on one's own future and the future of society. It brings together research that pays particular attention to "the mainstream" as a heterogeneous agent accommodating, aligning, and normalizing far-right actors, actions, and attitudes, as well as specifying those continuing to fight against it.

Sexism towards Women in Politics and Radical Right Support: An Experimental Look Through the Spanish Case

Álvaro Calvo Rodríguez

University of A Coruña, Spain

Academic evidence suggests that sexist attitudes are an important factor in contemporary voting for radical right parties (RRP) (Christley, 2021 or Anduiza & Rico, 2022). Furthermore, RRPs embracing strongly anti-feminist stances on gender issues exhibit a more significant gender gap favoring male voters, compared to their more moderate counterparts on gender issues (Campbell and Erzeel , 2018). Nevertheless, there is limited evidence regarding the implications of these attitudes on the descriptive representation of women within these traditionally masculinized parties.

One perspective, exemplified by Catalano Weeks et al. (2022), argues that RRPs strategically increase their female political representation for electoral gains. Conversely, studies such as Chueri & Damerow (2022) posit that the descriptive representation of women within radical right parties doesn't significantly influence female voter preferences for these parties.

This research aims to contribute new insights to this discussion. By employing an experimental survey in the Spanish context, it investigates whether male political overrepresentation has a more pronounced impact on the level of agreement with proposed public policies among VOX voters compared to other political parties.

Far-right Populism and Anti-climate Sentiment: Interaction of Emotions of Inequality, Climate Emotions and Gender Identities (Part of CIDAPE EU Project)

Linda Coufal, Ondrej Cisar

Charles University, Czech Republic

Evidence suggests that personal identities, more specifically gender identities, foster a strong emotional response to climate change narratives. Climate denialism and anti-climate mobilization have been linked to populist views because current narratives of climate change strongly tap into populist anti-elitist sentiment. Furthermore, white cis western conservative masculine identity fosters strong feelings of fear and anxiety, that then translate into far-right populist inclinations, climate denial and even anti-climate mobilization. It has been suggested that both climate change and far-right populism tap into emotions of inequality and climate emotions, which are deeply gendered. Our research dissects the multi-dimensional relationship between these emotions, which we call political emotions since they stem from both individual and collective sources. They involve shared experiences, values, and concepts of morality. We research the intersection of political emotions and gender identity in response to political communication through deliberative techniques. Deliberation is uniquely suited for this research intent because: it allows us to give citizens agency and a feeling of empowerment in their reactions; to observe reactions and further investigate their emotional background; and to observe how reactions are shaped by other members of the public and their emotions. Deliberation in the modernist paradigm has been framed as a rationalized procedure opposing emotions. In line with feminist epistemology, we argue that the emotions elicited through public engagement are crucial for framing and reframing of political discourses and that identities, including gender identities, contribute to the emotional framing of values, endorsed or criticized through these discourses.

JS | RN20_RN32_T09: Populist Discourses and Gender

The aim of the joint session is to discuss present theoretical and methodological approaches that enable the analysis of far right-wing populism, paying particular attention as to how less-than-conscious habits, emotions, and gendered performances can be theoretically framed and empiri-cally analyzed. This session is the third part of JS-RN20-RN32.

Thirty Years Of Gender And Immigration In Italian Far-right Discourses: A Comparative Analysis Of The Lega And Fratelli D'Italia Parties

Francesca Scrinzi[1], Alberta Giorgi[2]

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The entanglements of gender and immigration have a prominent role in far-right discourses. Scholars have taken the analysis of their articulation in two directions: on the one hand, far-right actors combine anti-feminist and nativist claims, by depicting those advocating gender+ equality and reproductive rights as colluding with migrants in undermining the traditional family; on the other, the issue of women's rights is co-opted in anti-migrant and Islamophobic narratives targeting the racialized Others as misogynist and sexist.

In this contribution we explore the role of gender and immigration in the discourse of two Italian far-right parties, the Lega (League) and Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy), by focusing in particular on the issue of migrant demographics, framed as a threat to the traditional family. Migrants are blamed for the Italian declining demographics: while migrant women are targeted for their high fertility, migrant men are portrayed as hypersexual men whose masculinity has not been weakened by the spread of feminism.

Drawing on content and visual analysis of the parties' publications (such as brochures, leaflets, proceedings of public meetings, political manifestos, the leaders' autobiographies), we analyze the parties' discourse on these topics from their origins until the present day, shedding light on discursive critical junctures and showing the role of both internal (e.g. the changes in the organizational structure and leadership, distinctive ideological traditions) and external (e.g. party competition, discursive opportunities) factors in the evolving and interconnected framing of gender and immigration. We argue that a retrospective and historical discourse analysis is key to understanding both current trends and future developments of Italian far-right politics.

Giorgia Meloni Between Discourse And Policy: The Reworking Of Neoliberal Feminism?

Noemi Ciarniello[1], Emiliana De Blasio[1], Donatella Selva[2]

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For the most part, samples of neoliberal feminism are drawn either from industry or from the star system. Here, instead, we want to study how neoliberal feminism can be interpreted in the political sphere, taking Giorgia Meloni as an example. Meloni's statements are full of references to her ability to recognise the inequalities between men and women, which may be considered the very essence of feminism, being one of the few recognisable elements in all its waves. What is different, in neoliberal feminism, is that the diagnoses and solutions are found in women's individual behaviour, far removed from structural forces.

We take the case of Giorgia Meloni in order to answer two questions: (1) how neoliberal feminism is put into practice in the political arena and (2) how neoliberal feminism consistently combines with conservative positions - not only neofascist - on various political issues. To answer the first question, we examined Meloni's stance on gender issues such as women's leadership, motherhood, work-life balance and violence against women; for the second question, we proceeded more inductively to highlight Meloni's agenda in order to identify problems and solutions to current events. For both questions, we have performed a frame analysis aimed at understanding: diagnosis, prognosis, motivation, rhetoric figures, lexicon. We have retrieved and analysed all statements, public interventions and press interviews given by Meloni covering a time-span of two years, since July 2022, for a total of 36 pieces.

Discomfort And Resentment- On The Affective Politization Of Care

Paula-Irene Villa Braslavsky

LMU Munich, Germany

Contemporary neolliberal societies both generate and process multiple crisis. Among these, one of the most persistant and relevant is surely the 'care-crisis', i.e. the inability of capitalism to (re)generate the very reproduction necessary for production and the increasing impossibilization of care due to the colonization of intimacy and relationships by economic, managerial logics. Sociology - esp. in its critical strands such as feminist, gender, postcolonial perspectives - has long analyzed the multiple dimensions of the intersectional externalization of care and ist intimate entanglement with hegemonic social order.

Rooted in this vast research, and drawing from scattered empirical observations, my paper will focus on the salient politicazion of the "normal family" as core element of authoritarian, "right-wing populism". Taking the German case as main empirical context, I will argue that a) there exists a generalized discomfort produced by contemporary

societies as to the increasing structural erosion of care, and b) this is easily politicized by authoritarian populisms due to a lack of progressive framings of care.

The paper will further argue that sociology needs to adress and serisouly engage with the affective dimension of populist 'promises' and framings, and that progressive politics need to develop positive, radical visions of "caring democracies" (Tronto), already partly envisioned in e.g. (queer) caring communities.

The Alliance of Anti-Genderism and Right-Wing Populism: Global Commonalities and Local Manifestations

Melike Bozdogan

Baskent University, Turkiye

Since the early 2010s, the alliance of right-wing populism and anti-gender movements has been influencing politics in a way that threatens the gains achieved within the scope of gender equality. This study problematizes the relationship between the emergence of anti-gender movements and the rise of right-wing populism. Then, it discusses the global similarities and local manifestations that emerged as a result of this alliance. The study defines anti-gender movements as an opposing social movement organized against gender equality and gender mainstreaming. It examines the common and different movement frames of anti-gender movements through the examples of Türkiye, Hungary, and Poland. In this context, this study first discusses how anti-gender campaigns are organized as a social movement. In this respect, it questions the relationship between anti-genderism and right-wing populism. Then, it evaluates the transnational dimension of anti-genderism through its global commonalities and diversifying localized dynamics. The study uses qualitative research methods and relies on critical discourse analysis. Based on the analysis, the study argues that even though anti-gender campaigns in these three exemplifier countries develop similar discourses in terms of challenging gender equality claims, they gain local dynamics based on the actors involving the anti-gender campaign. The alliance between anti-genderism and right-wing populism has led to the emergence of intersecting backlash areas and the development of new political collaborations.

Sociological Implications of Anti-gender Mobilisations against Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Europe: the Case of Spain

Mar Venegas, Francisco J. Molina, José Luis Paniza

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Far-right politics has spread to democratic societies, including Europe, where anti-gender mobilisations pose a challenge to democracy because of the moral crusade led by the 'global right' to mobilise 'moral panic' against gender and sexuality. Two different arguments have been developed to explain this phenomenon: 1) the economic and social crisis, which reveals the weaknesses of neoliberal economics and democracy; 2) the progress of liberal democracy and human rights, which challenges traditional values and promotes secularisation. This paper develops an explanation that draws on these two rationales to offer a comprehensive explanation of the phenomenon. To this end, the paper presents the results of a project whose general objective is to identify and analyse the discourse of anti-gender movements on the so-called 'gender ideology', as well as their mobilisations against sexual, body and gender equality policies in education in Spain. A mixed methodology was used, based on documentary analysis and in-depth online interviews with a total of 25 participants, 7 anti-gender and 8 feminist organisations. The results suggest that anti-gender mobilisations against 'gender ideology', more specifically Comprehensive Sexuality Education, have a double sociological implication. On the one hand, cultural, since these actions are part of the cultural war instigated by ultra-conservative groups in order to mobilise 'moral panic' in society. On the other hand, political, since this cultural war is a moral crusade against gender politics in the field of sexual and intimate citizenship. These two dimensions are involved in ultra-conservative campaigns to destabilise liberal democracy in Europe.

JS | RN21_RN24_T05: Methodological and theoretical challenges in digital methods

Do Digital Social Sciences Need a Sustainability Assessment?

Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

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The digital social sciences have been rapidly developing over the last years, opening up new horizons for research methods. Big Data provides rich information, and advanced computational methods allow for extracting insight from it. Universities offer an ever-growing number of study programmes in computational social sciences to harness these opportunities. However, recent research documented that computational social sciences are electricity-intensive. The high number of computational processes demands a high amount of energy. This circumstance draws attention in times of energy crisis and growing environmental consciousness. It raises the question whether these methods should also be included in energy saving and environmental protection schemes. This article explores whether it is possible to assess advanced computational methods in the framework of these discussions. It utilizes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which often guide discussions on what to consider in environmental and social sustainability. A content analysis of scientific journal articles on advanced computational methods in the social sciences is carried out. It summarizes the discussions on the environmental and social effects of these methods. The findings are compared to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The comparison shows that the discussions are dominated by environmental concerns, which tie in with three Goals. However, the discussions pay less attention to the social consequences, which tie in with four more Goals. Thus, advanced computational methods in the digital social sciences do relate to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. University teaching on digital social sciences might consider addressing sustainability in its curricula.

Disrupting Societies. Towards a Social Theory of Algorithmic Inequalities?

Justyna Stypinska

WZB Social Science Research Center Berlin, Germany

The disruptive power of algorithms has become a pressing issue discussed in society, media, business and in the social sciences. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) systems are perceived as capable of outpacing humans in many cognitive tasks. At the same time, AI entails a number of risks, relating to opaque decision-making, threats to privacy and democracy, structural inequality and social discrimination. There is increasing academic and journalistic evidence that the variety of implicit biases and latent stereotypes encoded in algorithms contribute to the exclusion and marginalization of various disadvantaged groups. This presentation explores the emergence of "algorithmic inequalities", a term coined to describe the novel social disparities resulting from the widespread deployment of AI systems, especially automatic decision-making systems (ADMs). The paper will outline key concepts: algorithmic bias, algorithmic discrimination, and algorithmic inequalities, aiming to clarify their relationships, empirical manifestations, and societal significance. The associations between those concepts pose additional challenges when extended to novel, amorphic groups, such as "dog owners" or "sad teenagers", created as an effect of obscure, algorithmic classifications. The way those groups are formed, based on large amounts of behavioral data, poses a question about the role of classical socio-demographic characteristics, such as gender, race, class, age, income used for our present-day explanations of social structuration processes and social inequalities. The aim of the paper is to initiate a discussion on whether sociology ought to update, innovate, re-visit or construe new theories of social inequalities in the era of big data and algorithms.

Matters of Trust and Knowledge: On Tensions Between BigTech and Social Research

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Advanced artificial intelligence (AI) programs may open unprecedented possibilities with the potential to fundamentally change social research methods. Simultaneous, its development is currently dominated by venture-backed 'BigTech' companies and it's once again a winner-take-all race.

A key concern with AI for sociologists is how to evade methodological black boxes and resist the illusion of Emily Bender's stochastic parrots with their potential risks of hidden biases. This might be avoidable by gaining understanding of the AI systems' training models and data. However, our understanding of large language models (LLM) and their training data is often limited by proprietary information and business secrets. In consequence, we can almost only trust companies with what happens to our data.

Therefore, activists on the digital frontier are advocating new laws (e.g. EU AI Act) to make the principles within these machines understandable by obliging transparency. However, grasping (arithmetic) biases can be difficult, despite their well-documented existence. Thus, sociologists could shift to truly open AI, which allows examining source codes and training data alike.

Discussing awareness of (arithmetic) biases questions knowledge and resources. Who can really understand LLM? Where do sociologists find resources and time for such an

endeavour on top of their research? Should sociology trust computer science with this issue to bridge epistemological differences with another discipline?

Hence, this paper focuses on trust within the discussion of AI in societal analysis: Trust in AI service and cloud storage providers, their terms of service and claims; trust in university data centres with much smaller expert teams and arguably different expertise. Additionally, it will explore what a feasible sociological AI application might look like.

Retracing the Narratives of Emerging Technologies through Digital Methods.

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The black-boxed nature of emerging technologies poses a substantial challenge to understanding how these technologies work and the impacts that may have on individuals and society. Unpacking the assemblage of these technologies is fundamental to anticipate the effects that they deploy and to understand the role of the actors involved in their production and deployment. An important part of their assemblages are the narratives, which drive investments and policy intervention.

The analysis of the narratives may reveal on the one hand the socio-technical imaginaries they rest upon, and on the other hand to understand the potential purposes and domain of application.

Our study employs a quantitative approach, using digital methods to reconstruct and analyse the narratives related to emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Twins, and High Performance Computing (HPC) in Italy. By focusing on major social media platforms, such as X and YouTube, we explore the performative aspects of these narratives, acknowledging their role in co-creating digital futures.

We traced and analysed the evolving narratives surrounding emerging technologies, considering the actors, the domains, the technologies, and the applications within the public discourse. Research on narratives offers insights into the dynamics and patterns that characterise discussions about these transformative technologies. Our research findings provide a compelling perspective on the intricate interplay between social perceptions and technological innovation.

JS | RN21_RN24_T06: Novel methodological approaches to digital social data

Causal Machine Learning and Sociological Research

Giuseppe Alessandro Veltri

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Like other areas of the social sciences, sociology has faced a crisis concerning the effect sizes of research findings. Various solutions have been proposed to address this issue. This paper will focus on analytical strategies developed in computational social science, specifically causal trees and forests, designed to capitalise on the heterogeneity of effects in both observational and experimental data. These techniques, which combine theoretical and data-driven approaches, are well suited to taking advantage of the wealth of information provided by large studies based on probability samples and are particularly suited for data from randomised controlled trials (RCTs). We will discuss the features of these methods and their theoretical underpinnings and provide an example from empirical work and simulations to demonstrate their utility. Specifically, we will explore the heterogeneity of treatment effects from an empirical study and in two scenarios of RCT-generated data using causal tree and causal forest methods. Additionally, we will examine the use of causal discovery algorithms in the context of Bayesian networks and how they can be beneficial in developing complex causal models from observational data.

Enhanced Representation Learning: A Novel Heuristic for More Stable, Fast, and Precise Political Image Categorisation

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University of Helsinki, Finland

In the evolving landscape of social science research, the analysis of visual data, particularly images, has become integral for studying various social phenomena. Traditional methods of manually annotating and labelling these images are not only labour-intensive but also require considerable expertise and resources. In response, our research introduces an innovative approach that significantly enhances zero-shot learning through advanced embeddings for automated image classification. Our novel contribution centres on strong CLIP embeddings with cosine similarity, demonstrating a marked improvement in zero-shot classification. This paper compares various models like image hashing with hamming distance, ResNets, EfficientNets, ViT,

and RegNet and highlights, through this comparison, a new technique to enhance zero-shot learning models. Tested extensively on a diverse dataset of political images from social media, our method shows significant improvements in accuracy, f1-score, and stability, with reduced reliance on extensive manual labelling and resource-intensive neural network training. The key innovation lies in a heuristic that effectively filters the noise from embeddings, enhancing the accuracy and stability of zero-shot classification, particularly in classifying images with socio-political content. While the comparative analysis of different models is a secondary contribution, it underscores the superiority of the CLIP-based approach for this task. Our findings offer valuable insights for social scientists, enabling faster and more efficient analysis of large visual datasets with minimal machine learning expertise, thus offering them a novel lens to understand the transformations in sociopolitical landscapes through advanced image classification. This research highlights the potential of advanced representation learning in transforming visual data analysis in sociological and social science research.

Reflections on using Computational Methods for Sociological Analysis of Textual Data

Stefan Knauff

Bielefeld Univeristy, Germany

Social media platforms have made significant amounts of digital trace data available for computational sociology analyses. Due to the lower publication barrier on social media compared to traditional media outlets, individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds can publicly express their opinions, providing a broad perspective. Additionally, online and offline interactions are often interconnected. Offline events can have an impact on online spaces, just as online discussions can affect the analog social world. Analyzing large amounts of unstructured data can provide additional insights into social phenomena and complement or contrast traditional empirical analysis methods.

This talk provides insights into the process of analyzing large amounts of digital trace data for sociological research designs, using the example of measuring stereotyping within Twitter data (rebranded as X). This presentation shares the lessons learned from an ongoing research project that operationalizes regional differences in stereotypes within a dataset of over 2 billion German tweets using embedding models. The study investigates the emergence and usage contexts of stereotypes on Twitter by linking regionalized stereotypes with regional indicators from official statistics or survey data.

Connected Society and digital context: An Agent-Based Modeling of Trust in Information Dissemination

Elvira Celardi, Vincenzo Miracula

Università di Catania, Italy

The increasing interaction and interdependence between the real and the virtual contribute to creating a new social environment for the individual, characterized by belonging to multiple networks of relationships, both physical and non-physical.

In this digital context, social media gained popularity and created a virtual reality where people can express their thoughts and feelings about products, services, brands, individuals, personalities, or any other matter. In that connected society, understanding the dynamics of trust in information is crucial for comprehending the complexities of decision-making and opinion formation. This study employs an agent-based modeling approach to simulate the intricate interplay between individuals, information sources, and trust dynamics within a dynamic social system. Agents, representing individuals with diverse characteristics, beliefs, and information preferences, navigate through a landscape of information sources, assessing trust based on credibility, consistency, and past experiences.

The model explores scenarios such as the spread of misinformation, the efficacy of intervention strategies, the emergence of information hubs, polarization, and responses to crisis situations. Through dynamic interactions, social reinforcement, and evolving trust levels, the simulation captures the nuances of how trust in information shapes individual and collective decision-making. The analysis aims to unravel insights into conditions fostering trust in reliable sources, factors contributing to the persistence of misinformation, and strategies for cultivating a more informed and trustworthy information environment. This agent-based model provides a valuable tool for researchers and policymakers seeking to comprehend and address the complexities of trust in information dissemination within contemporary societies.

JS | RN21_RN24_T08: Using AI tools in sociological research

Comparing the Accuracy of Instant AI Research and Traditional Surveys

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This study explores the integration of AI in measuring public opinion, focusing on how AI can enhance our understanding of societal trends and behaviors.

While technological advancements and AI integration have revolutionized data collection, making survey responses readily accessible, their accuracy and reliability are debated. Although most research is not focused on LLM (large language models), evaluating other types of AI for reliable societal insights is essential. The study compares the accuracy of AI respondents with real respondents in traditional online surveys, particularly in capturing societal and market trends.

Data were collected from digital respondents (Lakmoos AI, n = 350) and a traditional online panel (Ipsos Instant Research, n = 315) answering seven housing preference questions (e.g. Where would you like to live?). Quantitative answers were compared with t-tests and chi-square tests, one qualitative answer was compared for word count, nonsensical answers, and semantic proximity.

The results indicate no significant difference for AI and traditional respondents in five out of six quantitative questions; in one, AI respondents underestimated “baugruppe” term awareness by 12%. For the open-ended question, AI respondents matched and superseded topic richness, generated longer answers, and had fewer nonsensical or vulgar responses compared to traditional respondents. Overall, AI respondents gave the same answers as their real-world counterparts in six out of seven questions.

Initiating discussions about the possibilities and limitations of instant research using AI is crucial, marking a step to pioneer instant research with accountability and transparency.

The Social Space according to ChatGPT :

Gilles Bastin

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With the launch of the conversational agent ChatGPT, one of the most complex algorithmic infrastructures of today — large language models (LLMs) — was put into the hands of academic researchers and the general public. The chatbot, which is capable of generating well-reasoned answers to user queries, has already been widely deployed for various tasks. It has sparked intense debates on issues such as copyright, integrity in knowledge production, the displacement of skilled human labor and misinformation.

Some recent studies have highlighted possible biases that could raise doubts about the neutrality of the chatbot and question its ability to fairly represent the social world. Nevertheless, the lack of information about its training and validation processes makes it difficult to explain these biases. Furthermore, the idea of bias — a central concept in the computer science literature on LLMs — has limitations such as an exaggerated focus on a very limited number of variables (notably political leaning).

In this presentation, I propose an alternative approach that shifts the focus from describing the biases of ChatGPT to exposing the underlying social world’s representation of the chatbot. For that purpose, a multiple correspondence analysis of over 6000 portraits of individuals generated by ChatGPT will be presented. These portraits are distributed according to geographical, social, gender, and ethno-racial criteria based on city names and first names in France. The aim is to unveil the underlying model of society learned by the chatbot in order to gain a better understanding of the potential impact of its future use as a social classification or a social sorting tool, whether in the academia or in other parts of society.

Unraveling Societal Frontiers: AI, ChatGPT, and the Challenges of Interdisciplinary Convergence

Berenika Joanna Dyczek

Uniwersity of Wroclaw, Poland

In this presentation, I will explore the dynamic intersection of sociology and artificial intelligence (AI) with an emphasis on the transformative role of neural networks. Nowadays, terms like Digital Sociology and Computational Digital Sciences are frequently mentioned, highlighting the relationship between AI and sociology. However, there remains some puzzle as to how these fields collaborate (ask Lupton and Selwyn).

As individuals from the technology and hard sciences domains begin to engage with these concepts, it raises a question; should I integrate these disciplines more closely to create something new? This is where ChatGPT takes the stage. It is not merely a tool; instead, it serves as a bridge that connects the realms of sociology and computer science. Nonetheless, using ChatGPT presents challenges along with profound philosophical inquiries. What are the implications for our world when we increasingly interact with AI?

Furthermore, I will delve into real-life instances where AI, through Big Data analysis and machine learning techniques, uncovers previously unseen patterns. And there is more to it. I will closely examine ChatGPT itself. Is it merely a tool? Is it evolving into a player in our social sphere? I will delve into its impact, its autonomy, and what it signifies to have an AI as a part of our exchanges.

Come along as I unravel these captivating intersections between AI and sociology and venture into the horizons they are paving the way for.

Artificial Intelligence in Analyzing Internet-Mediated Documents for Social Research

Laura Arosio

University of Milano Bicocca (Italy), Italy

This presentation explores the intersection of social research and artificial intelligence (AI), focusing on the paradigm of documentary analysis in the context of internet-mediated contents. Documentary analysis, as an approach to understanding social reality, harnesses the informational potential embedded in various products created by individuals or groups during their activities. Such contents arise spontaneously for purposes unrelated to social research and encompasses personal documents like diaries and private letters, cultural artifacts such as paintings, books, and songs, as well as institutional documents like laws and regulations and media documents such as news, films and TV series. In the contemporary landscape, these documents are increasingly disseminated through new technologies, collectively referred to as internet-mediated documents. Examples include online diaries or blogs, social media platforms, and digital publications, which uphold continuity with traditional documents while presenting new challenges.

This contribution addresses key questions in the analysis of internet-mediated documents, such as selecting the corpus, contextualizing the content, and navigating ethical challenges. The presentation advocates for the integration of artificial intelligence, specifically exemplifying the use of programs like ChatGPT as tools for analyzing internet-mediated documents. Practical examples will be showcased, illustrating how AI can facilitate both qualitative and quantitative thematic analyses. By delving into the capabilities of ChatGPT, we aim to discuss its potential in addressing methodological dilemmas and ethical considerations associated with the evolving landscape of internet-mediated document analysis. This exploration contributes to the ongoing discourse on the symbiotic relationship between social research and artificial intelligence, offering insights into innovative approaches for navigating the challenges posed by contemporary data sources.

JS | RN21_RN24_T09: Doing sociological research on digital platforms

Does it Still Make Sense to Use X in Social Research? An Application on the Italian Case of Chatgpt-4

Caterina Ambrosio, Vincenzo Laezza, Ciro Clemente De Falco

University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Twitter, now X, has played a significant role in social research, with numerous studies conducted on this platform. However, recent publications have increasingly highlighted critical aspects, ranging from the lack of geographical information to the closure of APIs. In this context, the present study aims to examine the current effectiveness of X as a source of big data for social research. The case study chosen to address this question focuses on Italian posts on ChatGPT-4 between March 31st and April 28th; during this period, due to a privacy restriction imposed by the regulatory authority, Italians did not have access to ChatGPT-4.

The empirical phase revealed some critical issues related to the use of X. Firstly, following the closure of the APIs – which brought its own set of challenges – data collection was carried out through an algorithm that operates on both the web page structure and the HTML structure. This system can collect a greater number of records compared to the previous methods but with significantly lower informational quality. The lower informational quality is evident in the lack of metadata and an abundance of NAs. The main consequence relates to the limitations of analysis techniques that are confined to being text-based. Another reflective aspect concerns the role of images in X communication: there is a growing need to develop tools capable of analyzing them and incorporating insights from visual sociology.

In conclusion, this work provides a critical perspective on the use of X in social research, exploring challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions.

Sociology by Platforms? The Segmentation of Society in Google's Targeted Advertising System

Adrian Kopps[1,2,3]

[1]Humboldt University of Berlin; [2]Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society; [3]University of Bremen

In recent years, digital platform companies such as Google and Meta have ventured into sociological territory by publishing research on topics such as social cohesion, economic inequality, and patterns of human mobility and migration. Drawing directly on sociological concepts such as social

capital, they are seemingly aiming to position themselves as knowledge producers outside of their direct business interest.

While many social science accounts have focused on the risks that are associated with the increasing corporate digital datafication of the Social and have largely remained at a theoretical level, this study takes a different approach by providing an empirically grounded investigation of the link between the ways in which platforms are datafying their users and the sociological identification of social groups and behaviours.

Using "Google Ads", Google's system for targeted advertising, as a case study, the paper shows how the company draws on traditional sociological categories and reasoning when categorising and segmenting its users for the purpose of targeted advertising. Based on a qualitative analysis of this technical system, the study discusses the potential and limitations of digital datafication for societal analysis and examines how Google's segmentation of its users relates to earlier forms of (corporate) social research.

The paper advances the argument that digital data, such as Google's, enables a more fine-grained mapping of social patterns such as social stratification, geographical segregation, gender roles and the pluralisation of lifestyles than ever before but has not yet produced any categorically new sociological insights and potentially represents a new stage in the privatisation of social research.

Unveiling Gender Disparities in High-Skilled Migration: Insights from LinkedIn Data

Daniela Perrotta, Elizabeth Jacobs, Tom Theile, Emilio Zagheni

Max Planck Insitute for Demographic Research, Germany

International high-skilled migration represents an increasingly important component of migration streams with a significant impact on the global flow of skills and on migration policies. Understanding the factors that explain why highly skilled workers move, and where they go, is of paramount importance in migration research, but generally difficult to measure and model. In this study, we leverage a largely untapped data source, the LinkedIn advertising platform, to retrieve the mobility patterns of professionals across countries in Europe and characterize the gender disparities among professionals migrating within Europe. This research extends our prior work, which also utilized this dataset to characterize the mobility patterns of professionals in Europe and assess the relative attractiveness of European countries for high-educated workers. Here we present preliminary findings that highlight substantial variations in gender composition across countries and age cohorts. Notably, older high-skilled migrants exhibit a pronounced male presence. We also plan to include further analyses by industry categories to deepen our understanding of gender differences in various job areas. This research aims to shed light on the utility and challenges of employing LinkedIn data to offer new insights into the gender differentials in high-skilled migration in Europe.

From Duets to Debates: The Evolving Relevance of TikTok to Social Scientists

Alex Miltsov

Bishop's University, Canada

TikTok has quickly become a popular platform for sharing short videos, with a significant impact on the way millions of people interact online and engage with art, culture, and politics. This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the studies conducted on TikTok, highlighting the growing academic interest in understanding the platform's social effects. Social scientists have employed a wide range of methodological approaches to investigate user experiences on TikTok and the platform's societal implications. This paper summarizes the most common approaches and presents the most effective research strategies that have emerged in TikTok studies. Additionally, it provides a detailed examination of several specific research projects to showcase the various ways social scientists use TikTok for research purposes. Finally, the paper offers recommendations and directions for future research in this rapidly evolving field. By doing so, this work contributes to the larger discussion on the role of social media in contemporary society and its potential for social scientific research.

JS | RN21_RN28_T07: Quantitative research on sports and physical activity

We invite papers opening to an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary or postdisciplinary sociology-based approach, moving quantitative or mixed methodologies, aimed at understanding the relationships/interactions between sports and physical activities, or focusing on one of these topics.

Variations in the Meaning of Sport in the German Population: Findings from a Survey Experiment

Michael Mutz

Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Germany

Sociological research on the level and frequency of sporting activity largely relies on large-scale surveys. However, self-reports of sporting activity are sometimes criticized, because of the vagueness of the term 'sport'. Critics doubt that there is a common understanding in society of what 'sport' is, or what physical activities people subsume under this term, when responding to questions. Therefore, researchers need to consider the variations in the meaning of sport in society and how these variations could affect responses.

To assess variations in people's everyday understanding of the concept of 'sport', I use a survey experiment based on 28 vignettes. Each vignette presents a brief description of a physical activity, and respondents were asked to rate them on a Likert scale ranging from 1='definitely not a sport' to 5='definitely a sport'. Respondents were also asked to report their own level of sporting activity. The vignettes and other questions were part of an online survey (N=1.002) representing the German population (+14 years, with internet access). The survey was conducted in October 2021.

Results show that Germans do not have a common understanding of what sport is. A majority has a rather broad, inclusive understanding of sport, but a minority has a narrow, exclusive understanding. Controversy surrounds in particular the classification of light, non-competitive and informally practiced activities such as yoga, darts, dancing, or leisurely cycling that are not consistently understood as either 'sport' or not. Despite these differences, the understanding of sport does not significantly affect the respondents own reported levels of sport activity.

Assessing the Transformative Power of BaskIN through Social Network Analysis

Luciana Taddei, Ilaria Primerano, Anna Milione, Paolo Landri

IRPPS CNR - Istituto di Ricerche sulla Popolazione e le Politiche Sociali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy

BaskIN is an inclusive sport inspired by the classic basketball game sharply changing the rules and the playing space. It offers a new philosophical and pedagogical perspective in sports practice (Andriola, Bennici & Bianchi, 2023). It was founded about twenty years ago in Cremona (Italy) and it has had an increasing development in recent years, not only in Italy. Given its peculiarities, it can be configured as an important tool for participatory social innovation (Russo & Della Sala, 2023; Mumford 2002): it redesigns individual participation letting each gamer contribute in his/her way according to his/her possibilities (e.g. dis/abilities, migration, gender, etc.), and has a strong impact on individual and collective well-being (Bianchi, Taddei, 2023; Black e Stevenson 2006).

Our research takes into consideration a BaskIN team recently founded in a little village in the South of Italy, to assess how the introduction of this game has had a positive impact on individuals, families, and community. To assess the transformative potential of BaskIN, we use a mixed method methodology (Taddei, 2022; Amaturo & Punziano, 2016; Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2010; Creswell & Plano Clark, 2007; Johnson, Onwuegbuzie & Turner, 2007), combining deepen interviews with a social network analysis approach for Ego-Nets (Salvini, 2005), able to detect the so-called interpersonal goods (Donati 2011), that enable society to make equitable and sustainable progress (Orsi, 2003).

Content Analysis Of Digital Texts About Sport: The Case Of #IStandWithGary On Twitter

Paolo Diana[1], Giovannipaolo Ferrari[2]

[1]Università di Salerno, DISUFF, Italy; [2]Università di Salerno, DISUFF, Italy; Université de Lille, CeRIES, France

This contribution demonstrates the integration of content analysis (CA) in examining digital texts on sports, utilizing digital methods such as automated extraction of text data from platforms like Twitter. The focus is on organizing this data into structured datasets and leveraging metadata as methodological resources. Using a case study involving the Gary Lineker and BBC controversy, the operations are showcased.

CA employs non-invasive observation techniques to explore socio-cultural meanings in textual data that are not directly observable, allowing for the swift collection of large or small data sets. The USA and the Anglo-Saxon world have a rich tradition of using CA in sports sociology research,

analyzing corpora from various sources, including sports media, official documents, and digital content. This method unveils insights into relationships between sport and various societal issues.

Widely employed in sport studies, CA is pivotal in communication and media studies, shedding light on media discourse about sports. It unravels how the media shapes perceptions of sport, athletes, and teams, reflecting the influence of commercialization and commodification on these portrayals.

In essence, CA facilitates a deeper comprehension of messages, values, and representations associated with sports and the athlete condition. It serves as a tool to understand how these elements shape diverse audience perceptions.

Leisure-time Places in Young People's Everyday Lives: Validity and Reliability of a New Measurement Instrument for Survey Research

Barbara Mataloni

University of Vienna, Austria

The literature highlights that there is a trend away from organised towards informal sport and leisure. Informal relations and engagements are more difficult to capture but they still have their own time and place. They draw attention on places such as urban public places, semi-public places, and private places. The presented new measurement instrument measures the conditions characterising the place in which young people spend most of their leisure time as perceived by themselves. The generated items allow to assess the extent to which leisure-time places (1) allow for 'correspondence', (2) facilitate 'experimentation', and/or (3) require 'adaption'. The measurement instrument was developed in the context of the mixed-methods, longitudinal study 'Pathways to the Future'. This project followed the lives of school leavers from so-called 'New Middle Schools' (grade 8) in Vienna for five years. Theoretical references and qualitative insights were used as point of departure for the development of the measurement instrument. After a thorough pre-test phase, the instrument was inserted in wave 3 (2020) and wave 5 (2022) of the quantitative panel. The aim of this paper is to provide evidence of the validity and reliability of the instrument. The internal structure of the items is analysed with exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses. The reliability of the sub-scales is assessed with Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Overall, the reported evidence suggests that the instrument can be used according to its intended use, i.e., to characterise the qualities of the places in which young people spend most of their leisure time.

JS | RN27_RN37_T01: Tackling the housing crisis: a view on urban homelessness from the south of Europe

Getting access to a house can be considered as one of the more challenging issues in many European cities. Since the economic crisis in 2008 and also during the pandemic and the lockdowns, affordable and social housing are strongly back into the public debate: from 2010 to 2022, average rents increased by 19% and house prices by 47% in the European market (Stare of Housing in Europe 2023 - https://www.stateofhousing.eu). This growth has consistently outpaced the one in incomes and growing evidence of people living in temporary, unsafe, or poor-quality housing can be found in many European cities. How have Southern European cities been affected by this scenario? Are there other processes that can be investigated as, for example, gentrification and changes in the real estate markets connected to tourism? How is it possible to monitor and prevent the risk of homelessness in European cities? And which kind of policies can be considered effective? This Joint Session welcomes presentations focused on these research questions, with attention to the housing crisis and urban homelessness in Southern Europe

To Move and Where to Move? Geographical Mobility Along The Life Course In Italy And Later Housing Circumstances

Giovanna De Santis[1], Tiziana Nazio[2]

[1]Università Politecnica delle Marche; [2]University of Turin, Italy

Residential movement decisions are complex, shaped by life course events and macro circumstances. When movements also involve geographical displacement, educational and/or occupational attainments may follow, but -depending on the distance- they may also undermine situated social support networks like friendship and kin that strongly contribute to later life circumstances in southern European societies. With retrospectively collected data from the first wave of Italian Lives (ITA.LI), a representative household panel survey of the Italian population (16+), we dynamically describe the patterns of residential (im)mobility relative to the municipality of 'origin' at schooling age. Using sequence analysis and clustering techniques, we detect typical patterns of residential mobility through the extent and frequency of moves from and towards the location of residence at age 14, when essential social networks have been grounded in school and early life. We then explore associates of the current housing characteristics with indicators from earlier geographical mobility and salient family circumstances (e.g. social origin, union disruption) to assess differences of various residential mobility trajectories over the life course in relation to housing outcomes.

Taking Care of the Unaccompanied Foreign Minors Starting from the Housing

Giuseppina Tumminelli, Vincenzo D'Amico

University of Palermo, Italy

In Italy the subject of the rights of unaccompanied foreign minors (UAMs) is not an easy one. UAMs are increasingly becoming "victims of collateral damage" due to the risks of urban marginalization (Bauman 2011). Collateral damage is the result, on the one hand, of inequality and, on the other, of an increase in human suffering. Although discomfort and suffering are connected to the individual, they relate to place, and thus individual fragility becomes an expression of urban fragility. The condition of social fragility is, therefore, dictated by a combination of a series of elements that are not related only to housing, but also to the absence of basic resources that might ensure decent material conditions of life (Townsend, 1979). It is of primary importance to trigger considerations and interventions that may promote effective policies aimed at accompanying people at the risk of extreme marginality, starting from individual projects and taking overall charge of the individual. Stability of accommodation is, sure, one of the conditions for guiding people towards self-sufficiency and the response should be geared towards the planning of case management (i.e. taking charge of the person) and the adoption of housing-led and housing-first approaches, based on the principle of swift rehousing, i.e.: housing first, as a basic human right. The paper will focus on analysis of experiences of HF as a possible strategy to reduce the risk of social marginality, e.g. for unaccompanied foreign minors who have become newly legal adults and consequently are leaving the reception system in Italy.

RN27_T01: Transnational families and care arrangements

Transnational Families, Care Strategies and Public Policies in a Post-pandemic (Im)mobility Regime

Laura Oso, Raquel Martínez-Buján, Paloma Moré

Universidade da Coruña

This article analyses the social protection strategies that transnational families have deployed to cope with the new regime of (in)mobilities that emerged after the Covid-19 crisis. It reflects on how the pandemic has restructured the articulation of the family welfare model and the migration regime in Spain. From a theoretical point of view, it combines the analysis of family strategies of "transnational social protection" with the approach of spatial and social (in)mobilities. The article also includes a multilevel analysis (macro, meso, micro) of the connections between care and migration. A mixed methodology was used: 1) the exploitation of secondary sources to show the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on Latin American immigrant families in Spain; and 2) an analysis of ethnographic material consisting of in-depth interviews (n=41) with various members of transnational families (n=13) residing in Spain (n=27) and in their countries of origin (n=14). The results show that after the Covid-19 crisis, an "assemblage of spatial and social (in)mobilities" was generated for the immigrant population. They highlight the social blockages that the immigrant population had to face: legal, residential, occupational and care, and also how informal arrangements to solve these immobilities are led by women. Those families who were further along in the migration cycle or who had social capital (relatives in Spain) were less affected by the impact of the crisis.

Birth, life and death of transnational families: A multi-sited ethnography across Colombia, Spain and France.

POlina Palash[1], Andrea Souto[2], Laura Oso[2], Virginie Baby-Collin[1]

[1]Aix-Marseille Université. Telemme; [2]Universidade da Coruña. Esomi.

This work focuses on transnational care and social protection arrangements in families scattered across their origin context of Colombia and their migration contexts in France and Spain.

It analyses the gendered caring practices among three generations of mostly female family members, in their evolution over large time frames, applying a life course and trajectory perspective. We draw on a multi-sited ethnography conducted in several localities in France, Spain and Colombia, between 2018 and 2023, comprising 37 members from six transnational families originating from Colombia.

The results of the research allow us to discover the transnational family from several points of view. On the one hand, it reveals the process of construction of the "transnational family space" through the different contexts in which the family members considered for this study find themselves - "here", "there" and beyond - using multisite ethnographic methods. Moreover, it shows the different intergenerational perspectives of younger, older and older respondents, as well as the different stages in the evolution of transnational family ties and socio-spatial trajectories over time.

Thus, our work displays how care and social protection arrangements in transnational families evolve over time, reflecting their birth, rise and dissolution, at while disclosing the underlying tensions

Growing Old Between Cuba And Spain: An Approach To The Transnational Reconfiguration Of Care In Cuban-origin Families

Laura Suárez-Grimalt[1], Montserrat Golías[2]

[1]Universidade da Coruña, Spain; [2]Universidade da Coruña, Spain

This paper examines the mobility of the Cuban population, with a focus on care dynamics for older adults in transnational families.

The presence of the Cuban population in Spain has gradually increased since the 1990s, along with the primary destination, the United States. The direction of these migrations has been determined by legislation on nationality, in the case of Spain, or by immigration policy in the case of the United States.

The Cuba-Spain-United States triangle is a clear example of crossed mobilities (Oso, Cortés, and Sáiz, 2017), historically built within these transnational families. However, this proposal suggests analyzing the constant migratory exchange in these three spaces, beyond economic and political interpretations. This is because the health crisis has invited us to focus on the well-being of families and place care at the center (Solís, Martínez-Buján, and Paredes, 2018).

Empirical observation points to a reconfiguration of the flows of Cuban transnational families. In the case of Spain, there has been an increase in the group over 50 years of age (INE data, 2022). The objective of this proposal is, therefore, to analyze the reconfiguration of care in Cuban transnational families. Our contribution intends to analyze the organization of care among the different members of the family, specially considering older adults, and understand them as a space in which to (re)define migration and mobilities.

To achieve this goal, we will analyze secondary sources and conduct two "family life histories" These histories will be constructed from a biographical, multi-methodological, intersectional, gender and longitudinal approach.

Between Cuba and Spain: Patrimonial Care and the Re-organisation of Transnational Families

Alba Vázquez López, Laura Oso Casas

Universidade da Coruña UDC, Spain

In recent years, there has been an intense scientific production that addresses the issue of migration and care. Beyond the perspective of global care chains,which propose, with a uni-directional vision,the transfer of care from the Global South to the Global North, the “circulation of care” approach (Baldassar and Merla,2013)has brought to light the exchanges in which transnational families participate.

In this paper we analyse a dimension of care that has been less addressed in the literature and that has to do with patrimonial goods. By this,we refer to the care of property, homes, pets, as well as the maintenance of burial plots of family members who are no longer present. To this end,we take a gender and intergenerational approach,bringing to light how this type of care re-organises the dynamics of transnational households, as well as families´strategies for mobility and immobility.

The research takes as a case study the migration of women from Cuba to Spain and, specifically, to the region of Ulloa ,in Lugo.This migration is explained by the demand for labour for domestic service,due to the progressive ageing of the population in rural Galicia.This, in turn, is connected to and structured by the demand for care in the host context.

The methodology used is based on multisite fieldwork.The first phase of the study involved conducting biographical interviews with families of Cuban origin located in the town of Monterroso, a village in the province of Lugo, Galicia. Subsequently,visits were made to their relatives in Cuba (areas of Camagüey, Sancti Espiritus and Havana).A total of 25 people were interviewed during the fieldwork.

JS | RN27_RN37_T01: Tackling the housing crisis: a view on urban homelessness from the south of Europe

Getting access to a house can be considered as one of the more challenging issues in many European cities. Since the economic crisis in 2008 and also during the pandemic and the lockdowns, affordable and social housing are strongly back into the public debate: from 2010 to 2022, average rents increased by 19% and house prices by 47% in the European market (Stare of Housing in Europe 2023 - https://www.stateofhousing.eu). This growth has consistently outpaced the one in incomes and growing evidence of people living in temporary, unsafe, or poor-quality housing can be found in many European cities. How have Southern European cities been affected by this scenario? Are there other processes that can be investigated as, for example, gentrification and changes in the real estate markets connected to tourism? How is it possible to monitor and prevent the risk of homelessness in European cities? And which kind of policies can be considered effective? This Joint Session welcomes presentations focused on these research questions, with attention to the housing crisis and urban homelessness in Southern Europe

The Housing Issue And The Gentrification-Touristification-Financialisation Nexus: Lessons From Milan (Italy)

Veronica Conte

KU Leuven, Belgium

This paper aims to understand the housing issue as the result of three phenomena: gentrification, touristification, housing financialisation (Aalbers 2019), a nexus that is central to contemporary urban dynamics especially in southern European cities (Tulumello & Allegretti 2020). To this end, I examine Milan, a city that is in the midst of a severe housing affordability crisis driven by wage stagnation and a steady rise in property prices, that is affecting both the underprivileged and the middle class (Bricocoli & Peverini 2023). The case of Milan is an exception in Italy: although embedded in a southern welfare state, housing regime and labour market, its economy and real estate market have for decades been embedded in the international circuit of capital investment, a factor that brings the gentrification-touristification-financialisation nexus to a much more global scale, with serious consequences in terms of socio-spatial and housing inequalities. I argue that this double territorial embeddedness is key to interpreting the housing crisis not only in Milan, but also in other southern European cities with a similar development trajectory. The paper is based on secondary data - collected through policy analysis, press articles and attendance at public events and real estate congresses - and primary data - collected through semi-structured interviews with policymakers, civil servants, housing agencies, real estate consultants and operators, property managers, tenants' unions, civil society groups and experts.

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the result, on the one hand, of inequality and, on the other, of an increase in human suffering. Although discomfort and suffering are connected to the individual, they relate to place, and thus individual fragility becomes an expression of urban fragility. The condition of social fragility is, therefore, dictated by a combination of a series of elements that are not related only to housing, but also to the absence of basic resources that might ensure decent material conditions of life (Townsend, 1979). It is of primary importance to trigger considerations and interventions that may promote effective policies aimed at accompanying people at the risk of extreme marginality, starting from individual projects and taking overall charge of the individual. Stability of accommodation is, sure, one of the conditions for guiding people towards self-sufficiency and the response should be geared towards the planning of case management (i.e. taking charge of the person) and the adoption of housing-led and housing-first approaches, based on the principle of swift rehousing, i.e.: housing first, as a basic human right. The paper will focus on analysis of experiences of HF as a possible strategy to reduce the risk of social marginality, e.g. for unaccompanied foreign minors who have become newly legal adults and consequently are leaving the reception system in Italy.

The Responses Of Social Movements And Local Institutions To The Emotional Consequences Of Housing Precarity. Insights From Barcelona And Bologna.

Gabriele D'Adda

Università degli studi di Catania, Italy

This paper aims to address the strategies developed by grassroots organizations and local institutions to deal with the psychological, emotional, and relational impact of housing precarity in southern European cities. An extensive literature has pointed out how long-term processes of commodification, deregulation and financialization of housing have increasingly jeopardize the right to housing. The material consequences of the resulting housing precarity are the expansion of homelessness, a dramatic increase in evictions and foreclosures, the growth of rents and the expulsion of the middle and working classes from inner-city areas (Madden and Marcuse 2016; Carr, Edgeworth, & Hunter 2018; Rolnik 2019; D'Adda 2021; Tosics & Tulumello 2021). While a consolidated literature focuses on the material impact of the precarization of housing rights, both its emotional and health consequences (stress, depression, anxiety, but also a sense of shame and personal failure) as well as the responses to this kind of impact elaborated by social movements and local institutions remain under-researched. Based on the preliminary results of fieldwork research carried out between Barcelona (Spain) and Bologna (Italy) during the last three years, the paper aims to offer some reflections on how urban social movements and local institutions have (re)organized themselves to respond to these issues in the post-pandemic context.

JS | RN27_RN38_T02: Resilient places and communities in times of turbulence: views/ perspectives from Southern Europe

Resilient Communities: Adaptation and Resistance to Territorial Stigma in a Rome's Neighbourhood

Francesca Messineo, Maria Grazia Galantino, Matteo Finco

University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy

The concept of territorial stigmatisation highlights how the dissolution of the Fordist-Keynesian capitalism has pushed increasing segments of the urban population towards a condition of 'advanced marginality' and a livelihood into ghetto-neighbourhoods. Despite some valid criticisms, the concept proves to be useful to grasp both the forms of production of stigma and the strategies of adaptation and/or resistance in the case-study of the present paper: the Roman neighbourhood Quarticciolo. Once emblematic of working-class forms of cohesion, it is now characterised by fragmentation and conflicts due to high unemployment, street crime, housing crisis, and lack of services. Yet, in line with the Southern European culture of grassroots local activism, civil-society actors are at work in the neighbourhood countering discursive stigmatisation, providing services, and monitoring the municipal administration's decisions.

The paper presents the results of an exploratory research aimed at mapping the practices of civic activism of Quarticciolo residents by using qualitative and participatory methods (semi-structured interviews, participant observation, participatory workshops). Bottom-up forms of resilience are unpacked, eliciting the coexistence of strategies of infra-stigmatisation, lateral denigration, adaptation, reframing, civic activation, and resistance. Top-down 'circuit of production' of territorial stigma are investigated focusing on the journalistic field, specifically on two news stories that involved Quarticciolo in 2021 and 2023 and made national headlines.

Media content analysis together with field research results allow to unveil the role of different actors, both internal and external to the territory, in promoting or countering stigmatisation. Thus, providing further elements to the analysis of new forms of active citizenship in Southern European countries.

Organizing, Demands And Limits Of The Housing Rights Movement In Spain: A Case Study In A Working Class Neighborhood In the periphery of Madrid

Myriam Aarab

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

This presentation aims to reflect on the main characteristics, practices and debates that make up the movement for the right to housing in Spain. To this end, the provisional results of a case study of an organization belonging to the movement in a neighborhood in the periphery of Madrid will be presented

The study, part of a broader doctoral research on participation and social exclusion in the city of Madrid, consists of material collected during a year of participant observation and in-depth interviews with activists and affected people. Along with the analysis of the case study, the aim is to describe the moment of strong crisis of access to housing in which it is inserted, especially in the urban contexts of Spain: with skyrocketing rents, difficult access to social housing, and proliferation of evictions, a large part of the population is left precarious and unprotected.

After reconstructing the origins and development of the movement, we will proceed to describe its functioning: based on principles and praxis of mutual support, the participation implies, within horizontal structures, the involvement of the affected people themselves, generating an organization able to build resilience seeking solutions to social emergencies, empowerment for the affected collectives and articulate political demands on the right to housing. It is also intended to reconstruct the main debates within the movement's demands, seeking to reflect on the limits and challenges it faces, in terms of room for maneuver and action, repression, as well as its institutional relations and incidence.

Transformative Rurality: Infrastructure And Connections Of Migrant Agrifood Workers In Rural Southern Italy

Alessandra Corrado

University of Calabria, Italy

Agrifood and migration transformations are changing rural areas. These transformative dynamics deriving from the confrontation between restructuring and regulation processes from one side and subjective and relational responses from the other side can be detected in the composition of local population and workforce, in the reorganisation of rural settlements, agrifood supply chains and production relations.

In Italy, migrant agrifood workers often live in informal settlements, many of which are of a permanent nature. In most cases, these settlements lack essential services, social and health interventions, public transport and inclusion services. However, through these housing solutions, migrants meet their reproduction needs. The areas with the greatest presence of informal, temporary or stable settlements, where migrant workers subject to various forms of exploitation live, are located in Southern Italy. Over the past 15 years, institutions have responded to the housing malaise according to an emergency approach, installing, outside the inhabited centres, container camps and tent camps that generate passivity, isolation, stigmatisation, divisions, socio-environmental degradation, and conflict with the local population, progressively converting into new slums. However, alternative transformations are emerging on the initiative of migrant workers and private actors.

Nature Based Solutions and Community Engagement: Notes from an International Research Project

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One of the main challenges for community resilience refers to the way they are involved in the debate and design of the future. This comunication examines the growing consensus around the use of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to address societal challenges such as climate change. In fact, NBS incorporates ecosystem restoration, sustainable water management, green infrastructure, and other methods that work together with nature to mitigate issues such as floods, fires, and extreme heat. It is considered that leveraging biodiversity, NBS can enhance the quality of life for communities. However, implementing NBS requires a multidisciplinary framework that involves dialogue between cultural elements, environmental considerations, sociotechnical factors, and political dynamics. This communication presents the outcomes of a study conducted in the context of the NBSINFRA project, which focuses on the community adherence and participation in the co-creation and co-design of NBS solutions in different European cities. The findings suggest that successful NBS implementation depends on the active involvement of local communities and the consideration of cultural, environmental, sociotechnical, and political factors.

JS | RN28_RN33_T01: Sports, Bodies, Gender and Sexualities

Physical Education From Lesbian, Gay, And Bisexual Teachers' Perspective. A Systematic Review Of Qualitative Studies

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Prior research has shown that homophobia is widespread in schools, some studies even indicate that the prevalence of harassment towards lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) indivi-duals in schools is higher than in other social contexts. Numerous studies have examined physical education (PE) in this respect in the past. However, prior research on sexual diversity in PE focuses primarily on students and rarely on teachers. Against this background, this study takes a look at teachers and explores the question of how LGB teachers experience PE. The study was conceived as a systematic literature review of qualitative studies published between 1990 and 2022. The processual study selection was carried out according to PRISMA. A total of nine studies were identified that met our inclusion criteria. We analyzed and compared the findings of these studies. On an overarching level, our analysis shows that the identified studies predominantly focus on the challenges and problems associated with the sexuality of LGB teachers. Furthermore, our analysis shows that the PE teachers interviewed in the studies perceive and anticipate school as a homophobic context. From the teachers' perspective, PE is a special subject that they experience as particularly risky due to their sexuality. Against the backdrop of these experiences, many PE teachers use protective strategies, which mainly consist of hiding their own sexuality and ignoring the perceived homophobia. Selected findings from the study will be presented in the talk.

Do I Have to be Hungry All My Life to be Happy? A Qualitative Study of Experiences of Obesity

Irena Wolska-Zogata

Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Poland

Background:

Social media usage is at an all-time high among young women, and Instagram is one of the most dominant mediums influencing users' attitudes and behaviours. Even though the World Health Organization recognized obesity as a disease, obesity is still not only socially unacceptable, but is systematically stigmatized across the world. Obesity is considered "repairable" by exercise, nutrition, or medication, and therefore a reflection of willpower. Innumerable internet profiles are purporting to offer the most successful ways to perfect the body, but all correspond to the diet culture. Although Fitspiration intends to promote a healthy lifestyle, research indicates that Fitspiration is similar to Thinspiration as both idealize thinness and exercise for appearance-related reasons, and lead to disordered eating thoughts and behaviors, and inflict punishment through exercise or restriction.

But the evidence suggests that these variables combine in a pernicious cycle. Weight stigma leads to stress. Stress leads to increased eating behaviours and HPA axis dysregulation, which synergistically yield more weight gain and additional stigma. Sadly, many experts still seek to motivate through embarrassment.

Recently, many social media platforms have begun providing the opportunity for users to challenge rigid and unattainable messages regarding beauty, and to promote diverse body sizes and appearances.

Method:

The purpose of this research is to examine the experiences of diet and fit culture through theme analysis of Instagram posts. The 'keyness' of a theme is not necessarily dependent on quantifiable measures, but on whether it captures something important with the overall research question. I have analyzed body-positive content (posts and answers) on Instagram accounts of at least 10,000 followers and that do not sell or promote any products.

Negotiating Normative Boundaries: Iranian Women's Engagement in Sports and Physical Activities

Reza Arjmand, Zahra Termeh Eskandari

Linnaeus University, Sweden

This study explores the nuanced lived experiences of Iranian women in sports spaces, unveiling a complex interplay of societal norms, cultural expectations, and individual agency. The negotiation of bodily practices reflects a dichotomy between tradition and modernity, where women engage in physical activities while adhering or appropriating to broader cultural and political contexts. The tension between Islamic values, symbolized by the compulsory hijab, and the desire for sports participation illustrates the intricate balance these women must maintain. The female body becomes a site of political contestation, shaped by the theocratic state's ideological apparatus. Socio-economic status, cultural capital, and embodied practices intersect, manifesting distinctions between various groups of women, reflecting broader societal structures. The agency of Iranian women in sports emerges as a nuanced interplay between resistance and conformity, with recent events highlighting ongoing transformations. Beyond the sporting realm, this research offers insights into symbolic gestures during sports events, unveiling the multifaceted nature of women's identity within Iranian society. By navigating these complexities, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolving role of Iranian women in public spaces, intricately intertwined with ideological norms and societal expectations.

Between Concealment and Exposure – Menstruation in Professional Sport from a Sociological Perspective

Honorata Jakubowska

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Menstruation in professional sport is rarely the subject of research in social sciences, including sociology, and the current analyses derive mainly from sport science. Meanwhile, it is an exceptionally interesting and important topic of social research related to women and sport taking into account the centrality of the body, its constant display and the privileging of the male body. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the main factors that shape the status of menstruation in professional sport. These factors are (1) the culture of concealment, (2) the nature of sport, including sex segregation, (3) the mediatization of sport and (4) menstrual activism. As a consequence, on the one hand, menstruation is rarely the object of communication, especially addressed to a wider public; on the other hand, menstrual activism contributes to some changes, as well illustrated by the case of the dress code at the Wimbledon tournament. Showing that the (in)visible status of menstruation in sport is shaped by the characteristics of sport, being an athlete, being a woman (both inside and outside sport) and a broader socio-cultural context, the author will point out why it should be the subject of sociological analysis. Adopting a sociological perspective may not only fill the knowledge gap but also have a social impact and contribute to better communication, development of education regarding menstrual issues and better institutional support for female athletes.

JS | RN30_RN35_T01: Decolonizing youth mobility: beyond the normative youth/mobility nexus (I)

Applying for Citizenship Was Quite Humiliating. Young People on the Move Between Belonging, Transitions and Discrimination.

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In recent years, an increasing contamination between youth studies, migration studies and mobility studies has opened up fruitful areas for reflection on the biographical trajectories of young people, their visions of the future, sense of belonging, as well as their transition paths to adulthood. In particular, youth mobility is suggested by many scholars as a possible new marker of contemporary transition to adult life.

These reflections nevertheless seem to be harnessed within a Western epistemological framework whose implications in ethnocentric terms are its most risky outcome. On the one hand, there is often little problematisation of the very concept of youth and young people on the move to which a normalising view of being young is attached; on the other hand, the debate often uncritically reproduces the dichotomy between mobility and migration. Last but not least, looking at their sense of belonging appears to be essentialising.

Starting from a 5-year longitudinal qualitative research on young people in Italy (ITA.LI Italian Lives, 2018-2022) which collected 3 survey waves with 120 young adults, we analysed the biographies of 11 young people (for a total of 33 narrative interviews) with 'multiple origins' - a descriptive term that aims to broaden the exclusively ethnic meaning of origins.

The analysis shows the complex reflexive configuration of their sense of belonging as well as its processual and changing character especially with reference to the biographical (also in the family sense) experiences of movement. What emerges more, are the everyday politics of belonging and mobility that take shape in their biographies and reveal the scenario of coloniality (Quijano 2000; Mignolo 2007) in which these young people with 'multiple origins' struggle in growing up.

Participatory Research In Jordan In The Shadow Of The War In Gaza: What Are The Implications For Young People's Political Identities?

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The prolonged occupation of Palestine has had a significant impact on young people in the Middle East, who have grown up witnessing repeated waves of violence, denial both of citizenship or the right to return for refugees, and inaction by the international community. In October 2023, Israeli bombing of Gaza in response to attacks by Hamas led to mass protests in Jordan, where 3 million Palestinians currently live, a fifth of whom lack citizenship. The Jordanian government has reiterated its commitment to keeping its border closed to deter further forced displacements.

In Jordan, the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) programme, a major longitudinal mixed-methods study on adolescence in lower- and middle-income countries, has been exploring the experiences of adolescents and their families in Palestinian and Syrian refugee and Jordanian host communities since 2016. The study has generated a rich range of in-depth evidence on a range of issues from young people's mental health to family and community violence, but until war broke out in Gaza in 2023, young people have been reluctant to express their views on politics or their own sense of citizenship and identity due to strong social norms that discourage these conversations.

Drawing on participatory research from before and after the 2023 conflict, we discuss how crisis may offer an inroad into exploring political and civic identities and create space for resistance to social norms that historically result in young people's political self-censorship. Participatory research that forefronts an ethic of care can further supports young people to discuss politics in ways that feel appropriate and safe.

Rethinking Global South-North Student Mobility: The New Wave of Migration from Turkey to Germany

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In the last decade, high-skilled young people from Turkey have been moving to Germany in increasing numbers. Constituting a considerable part of the "new wave Turkish migration" in Germany, these young individuals are experiencing their (temporary or permanent) move to Germany in a variety of forms and processes, including educational field as masters or doctorate students. The grounds for seeking

mobility chances in Germany are far from just about gaining international educational competencies, but rather triggered by increasing socio-economic and political grievances in Turkey having drastic impact on young people's lives. In that sense, graduate student mobility from Turkey to Germany offers an important case study for rethinking the dynamics of global South-North student mobility.

Reconciling youth studies and critical perspectives in mobility-migration nexus, this paper will scrutinize how moving and being mobile between borders/communities/spaces relate to ways of navigating transition to adulthood. Going beyond normative notions about youth mobility, this paper gives "methodological primacy" to mobility and investigates how mobility "creates and transforms different worlds" (De Genova et al. 2022). Based on ten in-depth interviews and two online focus group discussions conducted with young individuals who have moved from Turkey to Germany with educational purposes since 2014, this paper will discuss: How are everyday practices of young people shaped by experiences of mobility? How do they reflect on the relationship between being young and being mobile/migrant? How do the notions of mobility and movement involve in their future projections/imaginations about adulthood, which is normatively thought to be sedentary?

Young Migrants Transitions to Adulthood and Their Geographical Mobility: Developing a Critical, Decolonial Perspective from Ethnographic Observations.

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Young migrants can be regarded as global subjects who undertake two interconnected mobility trajectories: their transition to adulthood and their planned migrations. In particular, young and underage migrants from North and Sub-Saharan Africa, who are forced to face further retrenchment in welfare policies due to neoliberal reforms in education and labour, and structurally adverse opportunities for their transition to adulthood, and eager to respond both to family expectations of social mobility and their own aspiration to overcome social marginality, may undertake high risk journeys towards Europe in their attempt to realize their expectations for a better future. A decolonial perspective on youth mobility can help to unveil the intrinsic ambivalence in the intertwining between the ideoscape of a global lifestyle projected towards marginal countries outside Europe, and the real landscape of violent border management and the unfolding of entrenched social discriminations in Europe itself. Since 2021, we have conducted qualitative research work in the field, carrying out thirty in-depth interviews and ethnographic observations of former unaccompanied migrant minors of sub-Saharan origin employed as workers in the horticultural sector in the Barcelona-Milazzo district. The ethnographic investigation is being further enriched by fieldwork carried out in Messina, which also includes young North Africans. In both research contexts, the trajectories to adulthood of unaccompanied foreign minors and young migrants have been investigated both in the fields of education and work, including some cases of addiction, showing how the reproduction of borders impacts young migrant conditions also within the host societies.

JS | RN30_RN35_T06: Decolonizing youth mobility: beyond the normative youth/mobility nexus (II)

Decolonising Intra-EU Mobility Studies? An Intersectional Analysis of Black and Minority Ethnic Italian Mobilities

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Drawing on 30 narrative interviews conducted between late 2023 and early 2024, this paper discusses the international mobilities of Black and minority ethnic Italians, particularly their experiences of 'emigration' towards the UK and, in some cases, 'return' towards Italy.

The paper presents preliminary findings about three main themes: 1) the role of the Italian 'culture of migration' in shaping participants' decision-making processes; 2) the centrality of structural and everyday racism to participants' narratives of emigration (and sometimes return); 3) how intersecting structures of race, class, gender, age and legal status shape participants' unequal experiences of mobility.

We argue that while intra-EU mobility studies remain centred on 'white' EU citizens (and on hierarchies of Eastern-Western whiteness), mere inclusion of Black and minoritised Europeans is not sufficient to 'decolonise' this field. Without additional theoretical resources, a politics of epistemic 'inclusion' risks to homogenise an otherwise diverse and unequal population. Drawing on intersectionality, this paper seeks to unravel key intersecting inequalities among 'mobile' Black and minoritised Italians, while highlighting the centrality of racism to participants' experiences.

The paper connects literature on intra-EU migration with scholarship on Black and postcolonial Europe. By focusing on a mobile population that remains invisible in both areas of debate, and by drawing on intersectional theory, it provides both an empirical and theoretical contribution to growing debates about 'unequal Europe' and mobility patterns between its cores and peripheries.

Mobility Aspirations amongst Young Chinese, Brazilian and Ukrainian Descendants in Portugal

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Future is the prerogative of youth and a vast field open to imagination and revealing aspirations. Based on in-depth interviews with youth in Portugal aged 18-35 of Chinese, Brazilian and Ukrainian descent, we examine comparatively how young people of migrant origin engage with the future in terms of (im)mobility aspirations. If their parents exercised extraordinary migration agency and a capacity to aspire to a different future, what kind of aspirations do their descendants put forward in terms of mobility or permanence/immobility in Portugal? Once having the capability and resources to move or to stay (de Haas 2021), where do they place their choices? By looking at how they frame aspirations in terms of what, where and with whom, we reflect on the contents, the projected space-time horizon as well as the relational embeddedness of the aspirations that the youth expressed. Based on their testimonies, we have distinguished three possible trajectories: a). permanency in Portugal, b). onward intra-EU mobility/remigration to a third country and c). "return" to parents' origin country. We found out that the "freedom and ability to choose where to live" is significantly impacted by distinct kinship moral regimes and the perceived degree of belonging in Portuguese society.

Examining the aspirations of migrants' descendants gives us insight into their subjective sense of belonging and their perceived capability to succeed in the current structure of opportunities, against their family migration history, social context, education and employment prospects. Not least, given that migrants' descendants in Portugal articulated visions from the present standpoint, we make the case for a time-sensitive approach to aspirations which would reflect how they evolve over time according to changing circumstances and revised life plans.

Youth Immigrant Audiences's Pessimistic Sentiments: From Communication to Social-Based Concerns

Margarida Maneta, Maria José Brites, Teresa Sofia Castro, Mariana Müller

Lusófona University, CICANT, Portugal

The study of young people and news has been dominated by a Westernized research-centred view of the youth's relation with the news and their life contexts. A crucial subject

that demands more research is the context of migrant youth (Clark & Marchi, 2017; Leurs et al., 2018).

Within a financed project conducted in Portugal on young people and news, the initial review of the literature evidenced a need for a decolonisation of the Western universalistic view of media and news contexts (Treré et al., 2020) as it pointed to a distorted map of the world that places the academic literature mostly in the global north context.

For this presentation, we focused on the national and representative survey (n=1300, in 2023) that was applied under the same project and tried to address this identified gap. We relied particularly on a cohort (n=102) that covers the non-western respondents from Angola, Cape Vert, Mozambique, Brazil, Guinea, São Tomé, Bangladesh, Japan, India, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and their answers to two open questions: How do you construct the image you have of the world around you? and How do you imagine the news in the future?

Early results analysis denotes negative feelings towards the speed at which information is produced and circulates, opening the way for the increasing of manipulative, and untrusty information production as a result they claim more trustworthy news while, at the same time, they see a pathway for the news that in their own words has no salvation.

Co-production of knowledge by young Ukrainian immigrants in Finland

Arseniy Svynarenko

Finnish Youth Research Society, Finland

Within the context of a broader discussion on epistemic rights and migration, this paper will examine aspects of epistemic capabilities of young Ukrainian immigrants in Finland through the prism of their communication practices and immigration narratives. These practices reflect on young immigrants' access to information and communication platforms, media culture and information literacy. Recent studies in Ukraine demonstrated that for 18-29-year-old Ukrainians the common sources of news were social media channels (for 87%) and friends/relatives (36%) - these are essentially interactive channels for production of knowledge that also tend to form echo chambers. This paper is based on focus group interviews with young Ukrainian immigrants in Finland. The discourses about trust and understanding/translation were central in the descriptions of consumption and production of information in Finland. In the multilingual environment where young immigrants live, their interaction with service providers was often mediated by translation human or machine translations. Furthermore, many young Ukrainians have recently undergone a linguistic conversion (switching from Russian to Ukrainian language in public domain). In Finland, the broad accessibility of information and translations services in Russian language adds another layer of complexity to realisation of epistemic rights of Ukrainian immigrants. Accessibility of information and ability to exchange/co-produce the knowledge in the native language is one of important factors for building the trust between the involved parties.

RS01 | Institutional Ethnography
RS01 | T05: Turns to Institutional Ethnography

Turning to IE

May-Linda Magnussen

University of Agder, Norway, Norway

I aim to write a text about my journey towards and into institutional ethnography, and about how the 'luggage' I aquired along the way, shapes how I do and write institutional ethnography today. In the mentioned journey, I will explore how ruling relations pushed me towards IE, but also how other forces – such as a desire to understand the complexity of social life – pulled me in this direction. My meeting with sociology at the university, and the role that class and gender probably played in this meeting, is central to my journey. The same goes for Norwegian sociology of family, work life and gender that I was taught and entered into, and which was an essential part of the cross-disciplinary «women research» («kvinneforskning») that grew from the 1970s and onwards. My experience from doing commissioned research and development projects about gender equality in a regional research institute will also be reflected upon, as well as my relation to research that grew out of the «women research» in Norway: Highly theoretical «gender research» on the one hand, and action-oriented «gender equality research» on the other. The text will also include my experience of working my way into institutional ethnography, and of 'sneaking' IE insights and tools into more conventional research. The last part of the text will be about how the mentioned experience shapes how I do and write IE today.

Institutional Ethnography and the recovery of Historical Materialism in sociology.

Senzio Sergio D'Agata

University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

The theoretical potential of IE is the main reason why I became interested in it. Starting my journey as a PhD student in urban studies, I was looking for a method that allowed me to critically perform my research. Coming theoretically from a Marxist background, I was not satisfied with mainstream methodologies, either qualitative or quantitative, mainly for two reasons: firstly, it seemed to me that mainstream sociology, spanning from "pure" forms like new institutionalism to "hybrid" ones such as political ecology, could not strongly link theoretical assumptions with empirical findings in terms of critic potential; secondly, I was unsatisfied with the extreme segmentation of empirical researches in urban sociology and the inability to conceive a project suited for going beyond the vacuous multi-level conception.

In other words, what led me to search for an approach like the IE was the following broad question: how is it possible for local processes to happen in international institutional structures? Is it possible to find structural features or processes that make visible the contradictions between the remote order and the proximity order referred to by Lefebvre?

So, I chose to use IE because it was the only approach to conceive an inquiry method coherent with historical materialistic premises present in Marxist literature and I share Smith's urge to re-found sociology. In this journey, I find difficult to communicate IE with other researchers and that is why I feel like an impostor. I strongly believe that efforts to better communicate and confront IE with other "methodologies" are needed in order to expand the european network and gain access to the legitimate realm of marxist urban research.

My Long Journey In Institutional Ethnography – Experiences And Reflections

Marjo Kuronen

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

I consider myself as a feminist, sociologically oriented social work academic. I first became to know IE already 30 years ago, at the beginning of my doctoral studies at the early 1990's, in a seminar where Dorothy Smith had been invited as a speaker. I got interested in it because I was doing ethnographic research on health services for mothers. I learned that ethnography in IE means something more fundamental than just a method. That notion was a turning point in how I saw ethnographic research. Another, more substantial reason was Dorothy Smith's work (together with Allison Griffith) on mothering and schooling. More recently, I have reflected the value of IE in my own discipline, social work, especially when doing research on welfare service experiences and needs of women in vulnerable and marginalized positions in society. As I see it, IE offers a framework to analyse women's experiences and their encounters with professionals connected with a wider institutional context. Also, the way in which Smith underlines the role of texts in how the ruling relations work is important in social work where different texts have a crucial role in defining the life of service users and regulating the work of professionals. Thirdly, I find Smith's materialist and realist commitment to tell 'how things actually work' important to make research a tool to improve the service system for women. Finally, IE fits into emancipatory and empowering aims and ethical values of social work research and practice, especially those of feminist and critical social work. Primarily, IE has provided me a feminist lens and approach to study social work related issues.

AITA – The Researcher's Life Experiences And Following The Breadcrumbs

Joanne Azevedo

York University, Canada

This presentation will delve into my experience of using IE for my PhD research. My PhD research seeks to better understand the institutional mechanisms that work to maintain oppressive practices in child protection social work settings. However, this paper will delve deeper into my experience of using IE as my method of inquiry, with a look at the experience of being an 'insider' transformed into an "outsider" to the system of child protection. A looming sense of being an 'imposter' lived with me throughout my research, as I grappled with the enduring feeling of shame of having been terminated from my employment from the field of child protection. The experience of being expelled from the community I had previously loved, left me feeling discredited and uncertain. Throughout my research project I questioned my location, and I questioned my ability to provide credible research findings. As my research progressed, I found myself mired in an iterative process, cycling back to review what I saw/experienced and the disjunctures I was aware of. This process continues, even as I prepare for this presentation. Taber (2012) argues that it is impossible to separate the researcher from their life experiences, and that it is important to recognize that those life experiences inform the research in a crucial way. Ultimately, I came to accept the autoethnographic data is an important part of my research. It is through the autoethnography that themes of complicity in oppressive social relations emerge. Ultimately, I came to understand that my experiences were indeed valid data, providing insights into social relations that have not been brought forward in this way before.

RS01 | T06: Institutional Ethnography and Resistance Studies

Institutional Resistance to Activism Against Sexual Violence. The Experiences of Students, Researchers, and Professors in Montreal Universities.

Alice Farneti

Bielefeld University, Germany

What are the institutional mechanisms that prevent universities from adequately addressing the problem of sexual violence? Thanks to the efforts of the feminist movement, several organizations, including universities, have adopted policies against sexual harassment and violence. However, complaint systems are not sufficient strategies because they ignore the institutional barriers that prevent students from filing complaints. In recent years, a student-led feminist mobilization in Quebec has exposed the lack of adequate institutional responses to sexual violence in universities. As a result of this mobilization, Quebec passed a law requiring all universities to implement policies against sexual violence and educational programs for all members of the academic community. Although the introduction of the law represents a victory for the feminist movement, there is a risk that universities will reduce policies to marketing strategies by excluding activists' perspectives from the policy-making process.

My PhD research draws on Institutional Ethnography to examine how institutional resistance to addressing sexual violence operates in the organizational context of the university. I examine the experiences of activists – students, researchers and professors – involved in the mobilization against sexual violence at different universities in Montreal. In this presentation, I show that the social organization of the university is implicated in perpetuating sexual violence by delegitimizing the students' perspectives. I argue that institutional power operates through various institutional strategies that silence people who denounce power inequalities. Finally, I discuss how Institutional Ethnography can benefit from the contribution of phenomenological approaches to institutions.

Towards a Feminist Abolitionist Institutional Ethnography?

Órla Meadhbh Murray

Durham University, United Kingdom

This paper will reflect on Institutional Ethnography and feminist abolitionist discussions around policing and prisons, considering how abolitionist strategies and critiques

disrupt reformist and apolitical impulses in some versions of Institutional Ethnography. Drawing on my PhD research and current monograph project – an Institutional Ethnography of UK university audit processes – I consider how academics' reading, writing, and performing of 'boring' bureaucratic processes can both reproduce institutional inequalities and potentially disrupt them, but that there are limits to this sort of reformist responses to institutional demands. Using abolitionist thought, I consider the carceral logics inherent in audit culture, and attempt to find abolitionist responses, alongside highlighting the direct connections between UK universities and carceral systems.

Researching Emerging Movements with Institutional Ethnography

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We present a new research design that seeks to investigate "emerging movements" in welfare contexts by bringing together insights from Institutional Ethnography (IE) and Resistance Studies (RS). We ask, "how do individual, everyday resistance and more organised forms of collective resistance reinforce and influence each other, and what role can researchers play in this?" Within RS, the links between individual acts of everyday resistance and more collective resistance such as social movements have been identified as an important area where more research is needed. We suggest that IE might offer insights into understanding how movements emerge. In particular, we develop George Smith's specialised version of IE, Political Activist Ethnography (PAE)(Hussey, 2012; Bisaillon, 2012). PAE aims to accompany social movements in their work for social change by investigating how ruling relations work and how this information can be used to make the work of movement activists more effective (Withers, 2021). PAE is thus a sociology for social movements and for activists (Kinsman, 2006). In particular, we will present how PAE's approach of "mapping social relations of struggle" can help us understand resistance work within the context of emerging movements, when practices might differ from the usual ones we encounter in RS, further contributing to a more "fluid" understanding of resistance work as an ongoing process.

A Broaden Understanding of Referrals to the Child Welfare System

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For children and their families at risk to get in contact with the child welfare system (CWS) there needs to be sent a referral. I have used Institutional Ethnography to explore referrals to the CWS seen from young people's standpoint. The scope of the paper is to get knowledge about young people's experiences of getting in contact with the CWS, and as a part of this also contribute to a broaden understanding of referrals. My main finding is that the young people had many experiences, both good and bad, before there were sent a report of concern to the CWS. From the young people's standpoint, these experiences were of great importance for their first meeting with the caseworker. In the contrary, the caseworkers I interviewed and the political texts I analyzed, did not emphasize how young people's earlier experiences with help-seeking could impact their meeting with the CWS. This shows a disjuncture between the youth's experiences and the employees of the CWS understandings and handling of referrals, a disjuncture that might function as an obstacle for young people to receive the help they need. These findings can be seen in relation to trust, where young people's experiences of not receiving help may cause distrust in the CWS. It is therefore important to try to develop the service in a way that incorporate young people's experiences.

RS01 | T08: Institutional Ethnography and Education

"They Always Say 'It's This New Thing We Have To Do', When… It's Been There For Years!": An Institutional Ethnography of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Work in a Norwegian University.

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University of Bergen, Norway

Following equal rights and anti-discrimination legislation, higher education institutions around the world have signalled their commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), developing a range of policies and initiatives. In Norway, gender equality and gender balance have been high on the political agenda for decades. Concurrently, diversity and inclusion have increasingly been emphasized in higher education arenas, finding their place in central strategy documents and national programs. While a considerable body of research on EDI work comes from Anglophone-speaking countries in the Global North, little is known about the practice of EDI work in Norwegian higher education.

Drawing from Institutional Ethnography (IE), this paper offers preliminary findings from my ongoing PhD project investigating the everyday doing of EDI in a Norwegian university. Following my fieldwork, including observations of institutional events, document analysis, and semi-structured interviews with staff and students involved in EDI, I demonstrate how central strategy documents circulating in the institution enable the case study university to proclaim its proactiveness and vision of itself as an inclusive and forward-looking institution. Additionally, I reflect on how EDI workers use and learn the language circulating in the institution in order to speak to the institution in an attempt to gain legitimacy and currency.

This paper aims to foster critical discussions on IE as an approach for investigating equity work in the Norwegian context, where EDI is less centralised than other contexts and where the trust in public institutions and the welfare state shape practices and discourses around society and social transformation.

Ruling Relations and Grades as Texts: How IE Illuminates Contested Space of Grades in Higher Education

Sharon Ann Ultsch

Independent Scholar

This study begins to map the role grades (marking in international contexts) play as

regulatory text mediating ruling relations within U.S. higher education institutions.

Taking an IE approach, this study aims to illustrate how grades are "activated" as an

institutional regulatory text that constitutes the context for academic staff actions, decisions, and thinking. IE mapping helps explicate how grades discursively organize academic staff's experience consistent with a neoliberal regime of accountability. The author argues that traditional "grades" (A-F) and by extension Grade Point Average (GPA in U.S. universities), not only erases aspects of the actual labor of academic staff involved in preparing and teaching their modules but also creates a conflict of professional values for staff as they navigate institutional surveillance through assessment policy.

Conceptualized as a "regulatory text" in the IE framework, the preliminary findings in this paper illuminate how this "text" (grades) shapes faculty work tasks in higher education to

shift academic staff's professional knowledge and interests (often unknowingly) to the interests of ruling relations from afar. Employing IE methodology from an academic staff's perspective, this study illuminates how grades, when conceptualized as a text, coordinate staff activities, decisions, and sequential events to accomplish the coordination and control that supports neoliberal higher education institutional interests. This article demonstrates how IE provides a way forward for those interested in "re-visioning" HE to understand how neoliberal social policies shape and infiltrate academic staff's daily experience. To transform HE and in alignment with Dorothy Smith's belief, we first need to explicate social experience if we want to change experience in HE. This study begins that process of explication from an academic staff's perspective.

School Stress And Coping-Work Among Adolescent Girls

Janne Lund

University of Agder, Norway

Performance related stress in school is a well-known and increasing challenge in the Nordic countries (Anniko et al., 2019). Moreover, it is a particular challenge concerning adolescent girls and it is related to mental health problems. Some research has connected the increase of school stress to reforms in the educational systems emphasizing testing and assessments (Högberg et al., 2021). In stress theory, coping and stress is closely related, and research often concentrate on how people cope with different types of stress.

Coping is explained as the ways we deal with different challenges and stressors. In this study I take use of the analytical concept work from Institutional Etnography (Smith, 2005) in order to expand the term coping into coping-work. The term work from IE includes what people do in their everyday life, meaning peoples intended actions or doings, both physical and mental doings. The constructed term, coping-work (Lund et al., 2023), includes the coping itself, but also the intention of the coping, and the context, or the everyday life, where the coping takes place. The study is based on 22 ethnographic interviews with 10 girls aged 14-16 about their everyday life. When using coping-work as an analytical lens, and the understanding of peoples' lives as socially organized (Smith, 2005), it is interesting to explore the issue of school-stress among girls and how the school stress can possibly be understood as a reasonable coping-work when dealing with institutional demands.

Collaborative IE Analysis

Ann Christin E. Nilsen[1], Morena Tartari[2], Órla Meadhbh Murray[3], May-Linda Magnussen[1], Janne Lund[1], Eric Kimathi[1], Senzio Sergio D'Agata[4], Kamilla Petschnig[5], Gabriela Wale Soto[6], Helle Winum[7]

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Analysis is arguably the most difficult part of any research project, including studies that use IE. Smith and others have argued that in an IE study, analysis is an integral part of the research process from the very outset. Deciding which standpoint to start the inquiry within, what problematic to pursue, which traces to follow, which texts to look for etc are all analytical questions. Hence in IE, analysis cannot be reduced to techniques. The role of the IE researcher has been compared to that of a detective: it requires us to turn every stone upside down, looking for traces at unforeseen sites, listening to the people who are involved, and keeping our presumptions at bay for a while. But whereas detectives often work in teams, researchers are often left to do their investigations alone. In this paper, we will share our experiences with collaborative analysis. At a workshop in November 2023, ten researchers with different knowledge of IE – some were PhD students and newcomers to IE and others had many years of experience with IE – met to experiment with collaborative analysis. Each of the PhD students were invited to present one or a few analytical dilemmas, followed by a prepared commentary by a more seasoned IE researcher, before we all engaged in a conversation about the dilemma addressed. The question we address in the paper is how collaborative analysis can strengthen and challenge both our projects and ourselves as researchers.

RS01 | T09: Institutional Ethnography, Front-Line Workers, and Services

Institutional Ethnography and Feminist Studies of Technoscience: the Politics of Observing Nordic Care

Riikka Homanen

Tampere University, Finland

My presentation is about doing politics in theory. Specifically, it is about how and what institutional ethnography (IE) and feminist studies of technoscience (FT) allow us to observe. I ask how one might conduct studies that explore normativity, not only in the researcher-author-subject relationship but also in the subject matter. What kinds of (observed) realities might be viewed as politically acceptable? I tackle these questions by combining IE with FT in an effort to discuss how the support provided by public Nordic maternity healthcare can be viewed as both controlling and enabling motherhood. I show that combining IE with certain insights from FT offers a better grasp on why the subject of care, in the context of Nordic care services, cannot and ought not to be reduced to a disciplined product of idealised governmentality. The politics inherent in IE and FT are widely applied by researchers studying institutions, science, technology and/or medicine. Drawing on ethnographic material from maternity healthcare clinics in Finland, this paper demonstrates how IE and FT can be combined in a hybrid text in which the theoretical repertoires coexist, although not (always) simultaneously. I conceptualise IE and FT as two modes of ordering in the form of theoretical repertoires that relate to each other but cannot, and need not, be synthesised or conflated if one wishes to apply them both. In my analyses there are simultaneous narratives from both orderings that are ultimately coordinated: they hang together, but not as one. As I show, irreducible differences in ontological commitments boil down to the (in)coherence of institutional agency and power: the political orders observed, and the alternatives arrived at, are different in nature.

The Social Organisation Of Integration In Norwegian ECEC Centres – Refugee Parents' Perspectives

Eric Kimathi, Ann Christin Eklund Nilsen

University of Agder, Norway

This conference paper reports on the findings of an institutional ethnographic study on the social organisation of integration work in Norwegian ECEC centers conducted between October 2019 and October 2021. By taking the standpoint of 15 refugee parents, we explore how different refugees relate to welfare state civic requirements for integration in ECEC centers. We explicate why it is easier for some refugees to conform to the civic integration ideals as they search for a 'smoother' integration process, while other refugees struggle to find a balance between the integration ideals/requirements and their cultural ideals. Informed by institutional ethnography, the analysis is focused on mapping the accounts of parents to trace how their experiences are hooked into trans-local and ruling relations, and how these relations influence the experiences of the refugee parents. The focus will be on the link between the local experiences and the connection with the institutional complex that shape those experiences, thus, revealing how the integration experiences of refugee parents are socially organised.

Institutional Ethnography, an Opportunity for Activist Social Work

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Social work is both a profession and an academic discipline. In this tension between social work as a profession and social work as an academic discipline, there is an ongoing debate regarding what is considered social works strength, but also how social work should move forward as a research discipline, as some critics claim that social work does not have its own theoretical foundation (Brottveit, 2008). Research on social work are used in social work education, and it is vital that it is grounded in peoples everyday experiences. It is also important that the core of social work, not only focus on social work as a profession, aiding marginalized people in their everyday struggles, but strengthen its ambition to also entail political activist endeavors. It is our claim that these endeavors are entangled, and that a promotion of social works activism, through the methodology of IE, can be a fruitful answer to both the debate on what is considered the strength of social work as well as its theoretical basis.

The social is the very core of institutional ethnography (Smith, 2005) and forms both the starting point for the study as well as the topic. Often, institutional ethnographies will provide descriptive, thorough descriptions of how fault lines and problematics arise, and these descriptions in turn form the basis for empirical claims that can be used as a basis for promoting change. This is the promise and the ambition that comes with using IE in our research, and in this paper we discuss how this can represent an opportunity for promoting activist social work research.

RS02 | Sociology of Celebration

RS02 | T01: Celebration in Changing Social Context

"My best friend is 23!": A Study of Birthday Celebration on WeChat as a Ritual Performance among Middle-Class Chinese Youth

Kunchi Wu

London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

With the growing importance of social media in our daily lives, almost all aspects of our lives are digitalized. However, an important but underrated type of activity has not been given enough attention: the social rituals in our everyday lives. It is not new to study ritual in the context of digitalization. However, birthday celebration, as a notable ritual in people's social interaction and marking point of life course, has not been studied thoroughly in a digital context while digital birthday celebrations are increasingly viewed by internet users, as an essential aspect of social interactions, and in some cases, even more influential than offline rituals. Therefore, this study aims to explore how social media platforms, as mediums of ritualistic performance, shape the fundamental meaning of birthday rituals and how this transformation influences people's attitudes towards birthdays as a ritual.

This research applies Victor Turner's theory of rituals, examining birthday celebrations on social media among middle-class Chinese youth as performative acts loaded with meaning and societal impact. It explores how these digital rituals mirror participants' mindsets and respond to social conflicts in a digitalized society. Drawing from Turner's concepts of social drama and communitas, the study investigates how these online birthday rituals foster community and equality, addressing societal tensions. Additionally, incorporating Bourdieu's theory, the study probes the role of cultural capital in these interactions, analyzing how youths use social media to display and accrue cultural capital, impacting their social standing.

Collecting data by conducting interviews and participant observation, this study takes critical discourse analysis (CDA) as the primary analytical perspective, dissecting the understanding of the underlying meaning systems behind the expressed content behind digital birthday celebrations.

Resilience and Ritualization: A qualitative exploration of the celebration of Romanian Orthodox Easter during the first Covid-19 Lockdown.

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As a researcher dedicated to the sociology of celebration, the Covid-19 pandemic provided me with a valuable opportunity to observe how people experience celebration in times of crisis. Simultaneously, it offered me the chance to assess the power of ritualization in everyday life. Hence, in April 2020 I conducted a study that aimed to explore how Romanians perceived and engaged in the celebration of Easter during the first Covid-19 lockdown.

The data analysis considered the premises of Knottnerus' Structural Ritualization Theory (SRT) regarding deritualization and reritualization associated with disruptive social and personal life events. According to SRT, the disruption of ritualized symbolic practices (RSP) due to natural disasters, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, is believed to have negative repercussions on individuals' social and affective lives. This impact is implicitly reflected in Easter mood and Easter satisfaction, which are central indicators in this study. On the other hand, the recreation of ritual practices is seen as a resilience factor, alleviating psychological and social stress and contributing to the restoration of socio-emotional stability. Therefore, it plays a crucial role in the recovery of individuals subjected to disruptive events. This study confirms the SRT thesis that (re-)ritualization is an important resilience factor in times of crisis triggered by events that lead to disruption of the daily lives of individuals/communities.

Data were collected using the solicited diary method, involving a purposive sample of 73 participants aged 16-80 years, from various areas of Romania.

The Impact Of The Pandemic On The Celebration Culture Of Students At The University Of Turku

Marianne Silvan-Lempinen

University of Turku, Finland

To learn about the effects of the pandemic on the social relations of young adults we studied the celebration culture of Turku University students and how it changed during and after the pandemic. By a survey, we wanted to find out how the student life differed from the expectations for the freshmen and in what direction the celebration culture might change. Did old traditions return, did new models emerge?

The survey data was collected from March 2022 to the third episode of the corona epidemic. A stratified sample of altogether 2000 students representing all faculties was emailed

the request to participate the research. The response rate was around 30 per cent.

The survey answers showed clearly that the pandemic affected the creation and maintenance of social networks for all students. The freshmen could not integrate with the older students. Meetings and events moved online or in small groups. Large student events were prohibited. This affected everyone's quality of life and celebration. However, celebration culture continued despite the pandemic.

Alcohol use and its purpose changed shape during the pandemic only partially returning to its former state, after the lifting of the imposed restrictions. Traditional ways of celebrating were joined by new, more diverse ways of spending time together. The events have partly moved to outdoor events. Alcohol-free game nights have also become more frequent. Some of the changes seem to have been temporary, while others may have become more permanent.

Transforming Beauty: Relevance, Role Models, and Representation in the Rose of Tralee Pageant

Rebecca Finkel

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There is insight to be gained by examining the way a society celebrates (Finkel et al., 2018; Dashper & Finkel, 2020; Barriere & Finkel, 2020). Celebrations of all types show off the values of a community and what and whom is considered important as well as marginal. Drawing on the work of Goffman (1967) with regard to social rituals and Bourdieu (1986) with regard to status and social capital, this research focuses on an understudied type of special event, beauty pageants, and more specifically on the case study of the Rose of Tralee Pageant in Ireland. This pageant has been selected for investigation because it has been on a journey to reflect and respond more relevantly to contemporary societal norms. Tensions surrounding beauty pageants are not new; these events have faced criticism for decades for being sexist, oppressive, and reinforcing heteronormative performative femininity (King-O'Riain, 2007). However, perhaps due to representations in movies such as Miss Congeniality and shows such as Dumplin', beauty pageants have more recently been reframed in a more positive, empowering light with a focus on community service and personal accomplishments (Magee, 2021). The Rose of Tralee Pageant seeks to be the latter type of event, with an emphasis on pageant participants as role models and national ambassadors. Qualitative methods include visual ethnography, in-depth interviews, and observation of live and televised pageants. The location of the festival in Ireland, which has seen many social transformations in the past decade, provides a compelling landscape for considering what these events can tell us about collectively accepted attitudes of how women are viewed and valued.

RS02 | T08: Institutional and Societal Perspectives on Celebration

Who Is Interested in the Etatisation of the Latvian Song and Dance Festival?

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The study "Etatisation of the Latvian Song Festival" (Daugavietis 2024 [accepted manuscript]) preliminarily points out that these festivals are most etatised right now, under the democratic regime and mixed-market economy in Latvia. This is in line with Szymon Chodak's theory of the etatised state, in which he argues that in contemporary Western post-capitalist countries, citizens increasingly delegate duties and responsibilities to the state until society becomes a social structure highly controlled and regulated by the state (1989). The Latvian Song Festival is a good illustration of this etatisation. Etatisation has not stopped with the collapse of the totalitarian state, the USSR. In fact, by abandoning only the 'principle of forced voluntary participation' in the festival process, and in amateur art in general, and ideologically revising the content, new spheres of state intervention are found. Chodak writes that etatisation is supported by certain interest groups, such as the new elites and the salariat. There is a certain consensus in the Song Festival scholarship about its sustainability – the Latvian cultural elite of various scales has never lost interest in it (Klotiņš 2003, Kruks 2018). By analysing press materials (interviews, opinion columns, news stories), public documents of organisations involved in the Song Festival process and other sources, I will try to understand who these particular interest groups are, where their interests lie and how they get their way.

At the Crossroad of Sacred and Public Spaces. Emile Durkheim and Hannah Arendt on Appearing and Disappearing During Illegal Raves

Mart Willekens

Ghent University, Belgium

On Friday, April 28, 2023, a number of young people entered a warehouse in the military domain of Brustem (Flanders). In a short time span, they transformed the location into a massive rave party, attracting a crowd ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 participants. To comprehend the theoretical significance of this event, insights from Hannah Arendt's political theory on public spaces and Emile Durkheim's social theory on sacred rituals can be used to develop a more comprehensive understanding of what occurs during these

events. Claiming a local space to form a temporary community has a foundational element that Arendt deems crucial for the formation of a public space where people can appear and speak as free political actors. However, most people who go to illegal raves show little interest in making a public appearance or speak as political actors. Instead, they tend to emphasize the act of 'disappearing' while listening and dancing to the music. In other words, they seem to form an interaction ritual in the Durkheimian sense, rather than a political community as envisioned by Arendt. Nevertheless, there is an element of civil disobedience that introduces a political dimension and the foundational aspect may be easily overlooked when these events are strictly interpreted as interaction rituals. This paper explores how the concepts of appearing and disappearing can serve as a bridge between two very different authors. This exploration offers a promising avenue for studying the nature of both legal and illegal celebrations.

Recent Past, Memory Building and Social Transformation in Post-Socialist Rural Romania: Caşin Commune Celebrations (Bacău County)

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The research investigates the new local festivities in the commune of Caşin, Bacău county, Romania, in the post-socialist period, aiming to illuminate hidden, forgotten narratives of a recent traumatic past, in order to envisage perspectives for social transformation and sustainable society, relevant in the context of contemporary social dynamics (internal and external migration, etc.). In a constructivist perspective, memory is built up by the cultural practices of the individuals, a legitimation of the personal memories (souvenirs) and the implication on the community identity construction, having a performative dimension, as rituals and ceremonies (Jasinski, 2001, Inglis, 2005). In the aftermath of the 1990's, as in other local communities of the Romanian rural areas, the Caşin commune residents, with the support of the authorities, revived a local fair (Târgul de Sântămăria) and put in place a festival, the "Caşin Commune Celebrations", taking place yearly on the 15th of August, a major religious celebration in rural Romania. The celebrations stage the memory of the recent past (a horse-driven tilt carts parade, "traditional" way of making a living, turned clandestine during the communist regime), as well as local ethno-mythological strata, built upon the symbolical past of the village. The methodology consists of participative observation, interviews with authorities regarding the history of the village and the new festive ceremonies, as well as with residents (nine interviews), and visual documentation. Beyond "invented tradition" (Hobsbawm, 1983), the festivities are rather a way of negotiating the past (Vultur, 2011), social and cultural memory revival (Halbwachs, 1950, Nora, 1986, P. Ehrenhaus, 2008), contributing at building community's identity, intergenerational dialogue, cultural empathy, local pride and self-esteem, and future social change.

State of the Art of the Sociological Study of Celebration. From Elementary Forms to Formative Elements and Back?

Ismo Juhani Kantola

University of Turku, Finland

In his masterwork on elementary forms of religious life Emil Durkheim argued that religion, and rituality in general, are society's expression of itself. The recent twenty years of sociological study of celebration has kind of changed the focus from elementary forms to formative elements. How do new forms of having a good time together emerge, can we single out their vital elements?

The project has distanced itself from the functionalist as well as class conflict explanations of culture. Although celebration is conditioned by material assets and physical forces at the same time it is reducible neither to them nor their laws.

The presentation re-elaborates the question about the interrelations of society and celebration. In the light of the research presented and discussed in previous meetings of the Research Stream, would it make sense to crystallize celebration simply as an ideal of society?

We have focused on the crucial elements of a good party, feast, and festival. We have learned that gratification in celebration is not only the outcome of a successful obedience of emerging constellations but of timely investments and hard work as well. Can we now take the next step and maintain that everyday toil, drudgery and hard work – accomplished by individuals as well as organized collectivities – is there only to ensure celebration – consciously or unconsciously?

The paper will elaborate these questions by making use of theoretical advancements in the field of cultural studies (Raymond Williams; Antoine Hennion etc.) as well as the research presented in the Stream.

RS03 | Interpretative Interactionism: sociology of Interactions and Meaning

RS03 | T02: Interpretive Interactionism 1: Introduction and Theoretical Contributions

The Obstructive Activity of Experience. A Phenomenological Approach to Aspiring in Contexts of Adversity

Evelyne Baillergeau

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

This presentation questions aspiring, hence the process though which people frame the desirable representations of the future that inspire the things they do. While aspiring for change is key for populations living in adversity, aspiring for change is far from self-evident, as suggested by the idea of adaptive preferences (Elster, 1983; Sen, 2002): individuals tend to adjust their 'wants' to adverse circumstances, leading them not to project themselves in favourable living conditions. However, some people living in adversity do aspire for change. So why is that? Building on a discussion of the works of Alfred Schutz (1951 & 1953) on projecting and those of Pierre Bourdieu (1977) on habitus, I posit aspiring as an essential but distinctive attitude towards the unknown to come that is affected by social and cultural processes and I propose lines along which to appreciate lived experiences as the locus where power-suffused social relationships (operating at different levels) concur to condition aspiring work in various ways. Therefore I use illustrations from the case of how Dutch vocational school students project themselves as prospective citizens.

Time, Potentiality, and Interaction Ritual Theory

Iddo Tavory, Nicholas Hoynes

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The notion of "Interaction Ritual" is one of the most cited, but least developed, contributions of micro-sociological theory. This paper first clarifies what interaction rituals are. As we argue, while Goffman's interaction ritual theory was incredibly fertile in outlining a sacred dimension of self and interaction, it has been boxed into an overly delimited situational context. We thus outline three approaches that transcend such a delimited situation: (a) Collins' Interaction Ritual Chains framework, which substitutes Goffman's approach to the sacred with a focus on micro-macro mechanisms; (b) a literature that pushes interaction ritual theory in time by focusing on their unexpected intersituational consequences, and; (c) the intersituational aspect of interaction ritual, which focuses on the way actors evoke potentiality. Last, we argue that clarifying these approaches provides sociologists with both a more precise way to understand interaction, as well as a way to approach the social distribution of interaction rituals.

The Communicative Forms of Violence

Rene Tuma

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The theoretical and methodological approach of communicative genre analysis and the social theoretical framework of communicative constructivism offer a sociological-interpretive understanding of concrete interaction sequences. This approach is therefore particularly relevant to the analysis of situational violence. My paper discusses the extent to which this perspective makes it possible to address problems of situational centrism in current microsociological research on violence without losing touch with concrete forms of interaction. The analysis of communicative genres and forms makes it possible to consider both the institutionalisation and the situational openness of violent sequences. It helps to understand how actors themselves produce, negotiate and institutionalise violence communicatively, and what resources they use in the process. Two aspects are relevant: first, the specific knowledge of what constitutes an adequate and therefore legitimate form of violence in a specific context, and related to this, the ambiguities and meta-conflicts about where the boundaries of violence lie, are a central point of reference for the analysis. The article begins with a discussion of the concept of violence, then presents examples of the levels of analysis of street fights, before concluding with a discussion of the potential of such a communicative, genre-analytical research programme for the study of violence.

RS03 | T04: Interpretive Interactionism 2: Inequalities

The Making and Un-Making of (Global) Racial Identities: The Case People of African descent

Nicole Sommer

Bielefeld University, Germany

This paper explores the complex process of constructing categorical belonging of individuals, specifically examining the interactional dynamics that contribute to the formation of the category "People of African Descent" (PAD). The term, which originated at the UN's Third World Conference Against Racism in 2001, encompasses individuals in the African diaspora, primarily descendants of victims of the transatlantic slave trade. The study challenges the notion of pre-existing collective identities, arguing that the categorization of People of African Descent is the result of multiple knowledge processes.

From an interactionist perspective, I propose that the creation of categorical belonging is not an objectively given entity, but rather emerges through multiple practices of knowledge, including ongoing social interactions. A key focus is on categorical belonging to racial identities, and thus to the category of people of African descent, which is continually shaped through face-to-face interactions. Importantly, I argue that even in global contexts such as UN conferences, physical co-presence remains a significant factor in the delineation of categorical boundaries.

This paper draws on ethnographic observations conducted at UN conferences in Geneva and New York that provide insights into the interactional mechanisms that contribute to the construction of categorical belonging. By highlighting the role of face-to-face interactions in shaping People of African descent identity, this paper aims to advance our understanding of the socio-political implications surrounding the categorization and inclusion of People of African Descent in international forums.

Marriages of Convenience and the Temporal Politics of Migration Control – An Interpretative Interactionist Approach

Steph Marie Hanlon

University College Dublin and Carlow College, Ireland

Despite the criminalising and punitive discourses associated with unwanted marriage migration, and the use of crime control strategies to prevent such marriages from occurring, 'marriages of convenience' are not a criminal offense in Ireland. While An Garda Síochána (the Irish Police) are unable to prosecute people over marriages alone, this has been navigated by granting extensive discretionary power to civil registrars and immigration authorities to identify and report 'suspicious' couples. This paper addresses the sites of contestation and resistance from the perspective of civil registrars at the street level of migration governance. This is achieved by taking a multi actor asessment to how anticipatory logics are created, interpreted and acted upon, and conceptualises interpretation in terms of the spaces and times where intersections of anticipatory actions, discretionary implementations and ambiguous policy become manifest.

The paper proposes a tentative analytical framework that combines anticipation (Anderson, 2010), goal ambiguity (Bastien, 2009) and pre-crime (McCulloch and Wilson, 2016). The paper presents a mixed-methods qualitative research design. It traces the theoretical and empirical debates in the literature, making the case for an interpretive research approach. Lastly, it illustrates the value of examining pre-emptive criminalisation from an interpretive interactionist perspective and highlights how the interpretive process can inform research on the temporal politics of migration governance and the (re)making of citizenship.

Social Class In The Psychotherapeutic Treatment Of Work-related Suffering

Alexander Herold

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I will present the first conclusions from my PhD Project, in which I study the role and salience of social class in psychotherapy from the professional's perspective. In social epidemiology literature, class is repeatedly identified as a central factor in the distribution of mental illnesses and diagnoses – but is often overlooked in research on psychotherapy itself. However, Joanna Ryan (2018), for example, describes class as "silent but omnipresent" in therapy, because it plays a decisive role in structuring working relationships. Additionally, as works by Eva Illouz (2020) and others show, the therapeutic culture itself produces new forms of social inequality.

In this work, I reconstruct how practitioners use class-related frames to interpret the stories of their patients. In doing so, the analysis faces the challenge of reconstructing the meaning of class as a mostly implicit social phenomenon in the interactions and micropolitical negotiations.

I address this question using ethnographic research in several psychosomatic clinics and with the help of individual and group interviews with doctors, therapists, nurses, social workers, and complementary therapists. On the one hand, I reconstruct the significance of different orientations towards work and career in the course of treatment and, on the other hand, how emotionally and socially competent patients are distinguished from incompetent patients. The research was conducted as part of the project "Psychotherapeutic Treatment of Work-Related Suffering in Germany" at the University of Education Freiburg and the Institute for Social Research Frankfurt am Main.

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Navigating Power Dynamics in Healthcare: Informal Exchanges as a Counterbalance to Medical Authoritarianism in Post-Socialist Romania

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In post-socialist Romania, the healthcare system is characterized by a deeply entrenched medical authoritarianism and structural violence. This paper, through an interpretative interactionist lens, explores how informal exchanges within this system act as a strategic response to and a counterbalance against medical dominance, while providing an anthropological analysis of the nuanced interplay between healthcare professionals and patients.

The present study focuses on the function of informal exchanges as more than mere economic transactions; medical informality emerges as a vital interactional tool, enabling patients to navigate the rigid hierarchy of medical practice and all the system's neuralgic points. Gift-based informal practices facilitate a form of agency for patients, allowing them to negotiate care and personalize the clinical encounter. The research adopts a qualitative methodology, utilizing in-depth interviews and observational techniques to uncover the rich, complex motivations driving these informal interactions.

Significantly, this paper uncovers how these exchanges are not random acts of corruption or desperation but are deeply rooted in the cultural and historical fabric of Romanian society. They represent a form of resistance and adaptation to the structural violence inherent to the medical system, showcasing the patients' resilience and ingenuity in the face of institutional power imbalances.

In conclusion, the study offers a critical perspective on the socio-anthropology of interactions and meaning in healthcare settings. It highlights how informal exchanges function as a grassroots strategy to humanize and democratize medical encounters, challenging the traditional authoritarian medical model. This research not only contributes to our understanding of medical informality but also illuminates the broader socio-cultural dynamics at play in post-socialist healthcare environments.

RS03 | T07: Interpretive Interactionism 3: Body and Experience

Disembodied Expertise and Embodied Practice – the Boundaries of AI-enhanced Expertise in Rock climbing

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We are interested in exploring the limits of the incorporation of artificial intelligence into human practices. Two professional climbers have set to test AI in climbing and asked AI to set crack Boulder suitable for elite level climber in a youtube video Will Ai Destroy Rock Climbing? In the video, the professional climber prompts AI to advice how to construct an elite level crack boulder challenge with 10 movements. The climber's reactions, both verbal and gestural, to AI suggestions are then available in the video. Finally, the climber does the climbing of the challenge with the help of AI coaching the movements. Rock climbing is an extreme case of an embodied task, and in that way our example demonstrates the challenge of embodiment to the disembodied artificial intelligence. Notably, human-LLM interaction is embedded into human interactional competencies with the help of which 'intelligence' is ascribed to a machine. In embodied practice, the disembodied advice from AI is enriched with human embodied vision. We will apply ethnomethodologically inspired video analysis to specify and detail the sense-making practices in the video, in which the human-AI interaction is presented to the overhearing and seeing audience. For a discussion, we will aim at disclosing the emerging sensibilities that appear in the world where human practices are augmented with disembodied expertise, whose scope of knowledge is almost infinite, but which lacks embodied sensibility.

Overcoming the Overwhelming. Three Accounts of the Bodily-emotional Experiences of Street Violence.

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Prevailing social-scientific and phenomenological explanations of street violence tend to see it as an outpouring of overwhelming and uncontrollable emotions. In stark contrast, criminology's influential notion of the "code of the street" posits that young men intentionally and strategically perform aggressive responsiveness. Grounded in ethnographic research among youths in the Netherlands, we

report on three different accounts of the bodily-emotional experiences of interpersonal conflict and violence. In the first account, intense emotions narrow sensory perception, cloud mental acuity, and lead to a loss of control. However, youths also claimed they can hide and change their fear into a readiness to fight through body work and mental preparation; they also reported being able to read their opponents' bodies to infer their emotional states. Finally, youths who had the most experience with interpersonal conflict and violence emphasized their situational awareness to assess the risks and seize the opportunities that emerge in the dynamic constellation of a fight. Our findings bridge apparently contradictory ideas about the role emotions play in violence and alert us to useful insights on body/emotion work from the sociology of emotions to study interpersonal conflict and violence.

Tango Your Age Away. How Interaction in Tango Aesthetics is Associated with Experiences of Agelessness

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People practice tango as an everyday aesthetic pursuit and some tango practitioners talk of tango aesthetics as transcending age. Tango aesthetics refer to all aesthetical qualities in tango culture, including body movements, music, clothing, milieus, and language. Transcendence is a quality ascribed to (and sometimes understood to define) aesthetic experience by individuals and groups. Everyday aesthetics is a research field about beauty embedded in everyday life. In this presentation we seek to show how transcendent qualities are bound up with interaction in and around the dance. We interview 10 tango practitioners in Sweden that are at least 65 years old, to examine how dis/connected beauty from and to age in various ways. We argue that while structural factors, such as middle-class habitus and classed notions of transcendent aesthetic, are important, local interaction, both around and within the dancing pair, is central to when and how age is experienced in tango aesthetics. These findings link interactionist research to the thorny issue of aesthetics as a transcendent experience.

Making Meaning Through The Body: Understanding The Yoga Experience Through Embodiment, Interaction And Culture

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The experience of yoga practitioners is often described with reference to their body and emotions. Through a sustained engagement with yoga, practitioners develop an enhanced embodied awareness and, over time, this can lead to a spontaneous and sustained openness to one's embodied, emotional and relational dispositions: an embodied self-reflexivity. However, this process is assisted by a dialogical form of self-reflexivity which takes place through an internal dialogue, and whereby the experience is interpreted not only in relation to embodiment and the yoga setting, but also in the context of social interactions in a variety of social networks, and through cultural understandings available in the wider cultural landscape.

This paper analyses the experience of yoga practitioners in contemporary Ireland. It adopts a phenomenological-symbolic interactionist theoretical approach. Phenomenology, and in particular Merleau-Ponty's concept of being a body brings focus on the embodied dimension of yoga practitioners' experience. Symbolic interactionism, and especially Mead and Goffman's theories, locate the experience within networks of social interaction and of cultural frameworks. Through a narrative methodology, this paper explores the accounts elaborated by yoga practitioners and analyses the meaning-making process they engage in.

In this paper I will show how, in the act of interpreting one's embodied experience, the intimacy of such a personal dimension meets the public realm of cultural frameworks and social interactions. Yoga practitioners' interpretation of their experience is elaborated in and emerges from their embodiment, the yoga setting, their networks of social interactions, and the diverse cultural knowledges and understandings available to them.

RS03 | T08: Interpretive Interactionism 4: Professional and Institutional Interaction

Interaction on digital platform – Case higher education

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In this article, the impact of digitization on interaction during the pandemic is analyzed when teaching in higher education has switched to the digital online platform zoom. Changes in society that during the covid-19 pandemic create breakthrough times and good opportunities to study fundamental change processes in society. One such change became prominent when we moved to zoom. We are sometimes expected to be able to control and control our emotions, so even in our work environment, teachers, and students. These reflections and learnings are based on teachers' observations from several different university courses during 2020-2022. These findings have also been discussed after the pandemic at seminars about visible and un visible borders how we create our everyday life. The analysis is interpreted based on the sociologist Erving Goffman's dramaturgical approach with particular focus on the anterior and posterior regions. Zoom constitutes the social context in which the social interaction is expected to take place. The article makes visible how the digital tool zoom can be understood as the front and back region in contrast to traditional classroom teaching. The interaction between people in higher education constitutes everyone at the same time both audience and actor in that we direct our own performance to maintain a certain self-image, which also presupposes honesty in one's own performance. Neither society nor the school has any objective structure, but it is an interaction between actors who meet in different social situations. In higher education, digitization creates great opportunities but also challenges.

Exploring A Binational Negotiated Culture Through The Lens Of Alfred Schütz: The Case Of A French-Italian Organisation

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Through the lens of the social phenomenology of Alfred Schütz, and in particular in light of The Stranger (1944), this contribution investigates the cognitive process through which knowledge is questioned, adjusted and reworked in a French-Italian company responsible for the construction of the Lyon-Turin railway line. Data were collected through fifty semi-structured interviews with top and middle managers and by means of ethnographic notes accumulated in the course of six meetings. Adopting an interpretivist perspective, the analysis shows that, at the individual level, employees found the binational context challenging and potentially conflictual during interactions. Two postures were identified, and they were labelled 'reflexive' and 'resistant' according to how employees were willing to make sense, learn and adjust their implicit knowledge deriving from their national culture. At the organisational level, after analysing the construction of four binational artefacts (a glossary, a geographical information system, a call for tender, a planning document), two types of such artefacts were identified and labelled as 'shared' or 'contested', being interpreted as the outcome respectively of a cooperative experience and a conflictual one. Even if their nature was different, all the artefacts were embedded in what we have called, following Schütz, the 'organisational stock of knowledge', this being considered the material assets of the 'negotiated binational culture' of the studied company. We propose a framework which highlights our theoretical contribution connecting individual and organisational levels, finally discussing similarities and differences with respect to Schütz's analysis.

"'Does That Work For You?' A Post-Recruitment Practice

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This paper is based on conversation analysis of a corpus of audio-recorded telephone calls between members of hospital personnel in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. The calls focus on recruiting a colleague: the caller secures the involvement – assistance, cooperation, or contribution – of the called person in the realization of a course of action. The paper examines a form of post-expansion of the base sequence achieving recruitment. Following their acceptance of the initial recruiting move, the recruitee checks the suitability of their response. They open the sequence with a minimal utterance such as "okay?," "all right?," or "does it work for you?" to which the recipient responds affirmatively with utterances such as "okay," "all right,", or "yes that works." The initial utterance voices the recruitee's concern over the recruiter's agreement with their response to the recruiting move. The sequence balances agency between speakers. The recruitee, who has been mobilized by a colleague to do something, displays that they are themselves setting the terms for the future action as well as showing their awareness that this action is nevertheless contingent on the recruiter's own agreement. At the same time, the initial utterance has a strong preference design towards a yes response and functions as a first step towards closing the call. The analysis examines ordinary practices through which interlocutors move coordination work forward and show concern over their partners' support of their moves. It contributes to the study of post-recruitment practices, a subject that has not yet been explored in conversation analytic research.

Role Performances in Mediated Encounters: Social Workers' and Vulnerable Clients' Welfare Encounters Via Phone

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Welfare encounters are increasingly conducted using communicative devices comprising mediated encounters. This article contributes to research investigating the integration of mediated encounters into social work practice. The study takes a symbolic interactionist perspective and is based on interviews with 24 social workers and 17 vulnerable clients. It examines the role of phone mediation in social workers' and clients' role performances in mediated welfare encounters that lack non-verbal communication. Using Goffman's concept of retrospective fatefulness, the study discusses the stakes of welfare encounters for social workers and clients: While a professional work role and organisational goal attainment are at stake for social workers, vulnerable clients' livelihood depends on the welfare encounter and the social and economic support such encounters provide. The study argues that phone mediation visualises these unequal stakes, often taken for granted in routine face-to-face welfare encounters, and alerts the participants to the uncertainty welfare encounters hold. The study also finds that mediated encounters may provide a confidential distance, which can be used to support hard-to-reach clients and social work practice. However, mediated encounters can also risk being insignificant for clients' trajectories and restricting social workers' and clients' roles. Overall, the study highlights everyday technologies, such as a phone, that hold importance for welfare delivery, service, and clients' welfare trajectories. It argues for including everyday technologies in future research agendas that examine the digitalisation of social work and further investigating the importance of (the absence of) non-verbal communication in mediated interactions.

RS03 | T09: Interpretive Interactionism 5: Professional and Institutional Interaction continued

Making Sense of Organizational Failure: Interactional Work on Delineating Prosecutor´s Accountability and Responsibility

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In a period of intense institutional crisis, for example, when a serious organizational failure occurs, not only the public but also the involved participants try to make sense of what actually happened. In 2020, in Slovakia, the first public inquiries of the candidates for the highest position of prosecution were held. This new procedure, incorporated into the election process, resulted from corruption scandals of high-ranking officials at the Prosecutor's Office. These inquiries have served as interactional settings in which both the institutionalized logic and the lived organizational practice were publicly contested and scrutinized. The pressure to conceive of the hearings as arenas for accountability produced complex and situationally tailored accounts of bounded responsibility for purported organizational failure. This paper draws on the official recordings and offers an analysis of the public inquiries as phenomena in which organization-related experiences, accounts and explanations emerge as a product of situated sensemaking and interactional practices. Both aspects of this empirical material, that is organization-related data and interview-performance aspects, have been examined from the interpretative, sensemaking, processual, and ethnomethodological perspective. The paper focuses on the ways the participants themselves handle and manage public accountability, interrogation, and responsibility attributions. The aim is to highlight the strategies which the candidates apply in order to both signal and document their professional conduct as well as to steer the imposition of new criteria by which the committee members aim to evaluate prosecutors´ careers.

Observing the Inter-body Dynamics of Interaction. The Contributions of Pragmatism and Ethnomethodology

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In long-term facilities that care for older people suffering from dementia, the ethnographer's bodily and emotional engagement is a sine qua non for any hope of interpreting what goes on in care practices. Dementia affects the ability to act and communicate: memory problems are accompanied by changes in language (aphasia), recognition (agnosia) and gestures (apraxia). Hence, the « order of interaction » (Goffman, 1983) between residents and professionals has little to do with the world of everyday life and resembles an « open-ended and unpredictable adventure » (Kitwood, 1993). More precisely, with regard to illness-related disorders, the professionals'ethnomethods that enable contact with residents are marked by the prevalence of inter-body relations and the performativity of the senses. So the ethnographer can only observe them in the first person, as a « sensing subject » (Straus, 2000). But how can we move on from the regime of lived experience to the register of objective reporting to others (including in writing), which implies a disengaged third-person position? In other words, how is it possible give an account in discourse, in a position that privileges the third person, of the observation of the sensuous and emotional dimensions of such interactions, that are « experienced, expressed and fundamentally given in the first person » (Genard, 2020b)? Drawing on the contributions of pragmatism and ethnomethodology, our paper will look at the operations that make it possible to carry out a rigorous ethnography of what happens when the study of interactions requires a first-person position.

Creating 'Windows Of Opportunity': How Police Officers Sense And Generate Momentum For Gaining Control In Police-Civilian Interactions

Laura Danique Keesman

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

This article examines how police officers generate momentum and create opportunities for gaining control in – what they perceive as – potentially violent interactions. Theoretically, the article aims to add to interactionist sociology by illuminating the mechanisms through which participants anticipate and create shared meanings of future possibilities for an encounter to take, building upon insights into the function of social interaction for future configuration proposed by interactionist scholars since the 1960s. The empirical contribution is to challenge explanations of officers' attempts to gain control as mere cognitivist decision-making, ignoring the embodied dimension of anticipating. Drawing on 94 elicitation interviews with Dutch officers on violent events and field work observations of police-civilian interactions, findings show that officers argue they sense opportunities through an awareness of civilian distraction. To create opportunities for actions that enable gaining control, they refocus civilians' attention. Officers do this by acting in ways a civilian does not readily anticipate through bodily-spatial positioning and by using material objects, what I refer to as 'positional play'. By detailing how officers act upon momentum, I illustrate that embodied sense-making and attunement towards serendipitous circumstances is key for police action. The article enriches interactionist scholarship by showing the mise en scène of how the police realize control on an embodied level.

Facework In Career Counselling

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In this study, I explore the ways in which participants of institutional interaction engage in facework. Career counselling is a form of institutional interaction in which counsellor and counsellee work together to support counsellee's work transitions and career. A central feature of career counselling is respectful and confidential interaction between the counsellor and counsellee and an integral part of respectful interaction, for one, is facework coined by Erving Goffman (1955). Facework refers to acts that enable interaction partners to protect each others' face, i.e. positive social value. Previous research on facework in institutional interaction has focused on the ways in which counsellors protect their clients' face and to a lesser extent on facework done by the client. However, clients' facework is an important part of respectful institutional interaction. It can also be seen as a negotiation or "discursive struggle" of power (cf. Donaghue, 2021). The present analysis examines career counselling sessions from the perspective of facework done by the client to see how they participate in constructing respectful interaction. The aim of this study is to discuss the findings in relation to the wider context of young adults' employability and career transitions. The data of this research consists of 22 videoed career counselling sessions that are analysed by employing conversation analysis and discursive approaches with a focus on multimodal interaction. The paper will contribute to recent discussions of face and facework as relational, interactional and situated phenomena (e.g. Arundale, 2006; Donaghue, 2021).

RS04 | Social Sustainability

RS04 | T02: The concept of social sustainability

Take It Or Leave It: Why Researchers (Do Not) Include Social Sustainability in Their Research

Jarkko Levänen, Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

LUT University, Finland

The broad nature of sustainability is widely acknowledged, but still most research in this area focuses either on environmental or economic dimensions. Much less attention is being paid to 'third pillar' of sustainable development, i.e. social sustainability, meaning features of societies that enhance justness and the quality of life for both current and future generations. We explored reasons for this circumstance by observing two focus groups with researchers from different disciplines. The groups discussed reasons for (a) including, and (b) not including social sustainability in scientific studies. Transcribed discussions were subjected to qualitative content analyses.

Our findings show that the reasons for including and excluding social sustainability are interwoven and result from multifaceted and underdetermined nature of the concept. Social sustainability can be moulded to fit into very different scientific contexts, making it a quasi-universal add on. Underdetermined nature of social sustainability can also lead to misunderstandings and inconsistencies in scientific argumentation. For example, mentioning social sustainability in grant applications was considered advantageous by researchers because it can increase the relevance of the application and thus improve its review scores. However, this same strategy was considered counter-productive for article submissions because of rather narrow scope of many journals.

The concept of social sustainability has distinct features that can simultaneously create advantages and challenges for scientific studies. Therefore, it is important for researchers to consider different aspects when dealing with social sustainability.

"Without Trust You Cannot Resist". Trust as a Complexity Reduction Tool for Social Sustainability

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The concept of trust holds a major place in the history of sociological thought. Trust has been attributed multiple meanings resulting from the growing awareness of its importance within contemporary society, characterised by extreme complexity and uncertainty, in which the actor has bounded rationality. It has a positive meaning that arises and develops in an environment that is anything but positive.

This proposal will attempt to show the interconnections between trust and social sustainability, intended as a set of actions to ensure high levels of wellbeing for all citizens (including future generations) by fostering social equity, cooperation, valorisation of diversity, social justice, and safeguard of rights. We submit an extensive empirical sociological study carried out at the Department of Human Sciences of the University of L'Aquila between December 2022 and January 2024. It reports a qualitative research study covering the entire Italian national territory, with more than 100 focused interviews with significant respondents. It investigates the topic of trust on four main areas: trust in oneself, interpersonal trust, systemic trust (institutions and organisations) and trust in the future, both personal and of Italian and global society in the next 10 years.

The study investigates, in several areas, the meaning of self-confidence and trust in others, empathy, cooperation, resorting to general thematization and specific biographical episodes.

It is evident that trust is central not only to social interaction, but especially to 'tighten' the social fabric: society would disintegrate if trust was not stronger than logical and ocular verification.

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Unveiling Social Sustainability. A Comprehensive Sociological Exploration

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In an era marked by rapid global changes, the pursuit of social sustainability has become a crucial focus within the discourse of the social sciences. Social sustainability is defined as the capacity of social systems or societies to foster social integration, encompassing processes that generate trust, socio-emotional bonds, and social capital (Pieper et al., 2019; Eizenberg and Jabareen, 2017). This paper delves into the multifaceted landscape of social sustainability, examining its implications for contemporary societies. The study focuses on the intricate interplay between social structures, community dynamics, and the pursuit of equitable development.

We explore the challenges and opportunities inherent in fostering social sustainability, recognizing the diverse perspectives and experiences that shape the fabric of our societies. Drawing on theoretical analysis, we investigate the conceptual links related to the principal dimensions of social sustainability, including social participation, community

cohesion, diversity, and equity (Woodcraft, 2015). Furthermore, our research emphasizes the need for interdisciplinary collaborations, as social sustainability intersects with environmental and economic considerations. We argue that a holistic understanding of sustainability requires a comprehensive examination of the social dimensions that underpin resilient societies.

In conclusion, this study contributes to the ongoing sociological dialogue by providing insights into the complex web of factors influencing social sustainability. By illuminating the challenges and proposing actionable strategies, we aim to enrich the current debate on social sustainability and its implications for social policies.

'Social Sustainability' Or What Else? Normative And Cognitive Representations In The Sustainable Finance Framework.

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The paper explores the relationship between social sustainability and sustainable finance, focusing on the European regulatory process. The research aims to understand how social sustainability is conveyed in this context, while also looking at the historical developments that have led the financial sector to embrace socio-environmental issues. Which normative and cognitive representations of social sustainability do the European Commission's advisory groups put forward? And how do these representations shape the conceptualization of social sustainability? The study starts with a literature review that lays out the lack of an unambiguous definition of social sustainability, then shifts focus to the historical evolution of the financial world's approach to sustainability, focusing on Agenda 2030, the Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth, and European regulatory initiatives like the Social Taxonomy. The core section introduces an empirical analysis of two artifacts produced by the Sustainable Finance Platform: the Social Taxonomy Report and the Final Report on Minimum Safeguards. Following the référentiel approach (Jobert & Muller 1987), the analysis highlights the main cognitive and normative representations (Surel 2000) that influence the experts' worldview (Muller 2003) in the regulatory process. The findings suggest a worldview that promotes social sustainability as a tool for economic growth rather than overall well-being. The latter interpretation, considering the ambiguity of different definitions of social sustainability and the increasing relevance of sustainable finance to the SDGs, could become the naturalized definition of social sustainability, potentially influencing future sustainability policies and practices.

RS04 | T05: Social sustainability, tradition and nature

Perceptions of Energy Transformation in Polish Society: From the Sociology of Coal to Renewables

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Background of the study

The ongoing energy transformation, characterized by reduced reliance on fossil fuels and increased energy efficiency, poses significant global challenges and opportunities for societies. Our study explores the perceptions of the Polish population regarding the justness of the energy transition process. This is an extremely important issue because the EU's Green Transition policy aims for climate neutrality by 2050.

Conceptual approach, methods and data

In the study, we rely on the sustainability transitions approach. Our research is based on an original survey conducted on a representative sample of Poles in April 2023. The distribution of opinions on critical aspects of the energy transformation and the potential for sustainability, such as equal benefits, shared cost burdens, citizen participation in decision-making, and the concept of prosumption, is examined.

Expected outcomes

This sociological inquiry delves into the dynamics of public opinion shaping policy decisions concerning transforming fossil fuels into sustainable energy sources. The context of Poland's predominantly coal-based energy mix, comprising approximately 79% of total energy production, adds complexity to societal perceptions and significantly influences climate and energy policies. Understanding public sentiments becomes crucial against Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the sharp increase in electricity prices during the winter of 2022/2023. Our presentation contributes valuable insights into the multifaceted perceptions of Polish society towards the ongoing energy transformation, offering implications for policymakers and researchers engaged in the intersection of energy, climate, and sociology.

Dutch Agriculture and Society: Identifying Factors with Which the Social Sustainability of Agriculture Can Be Assessed

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The Dutch agricultural landscape and Dutch place-based identity are inseparable; approximately half of the Dutch land is zoned for agriculture, and the Dutch identity and continues to be strongly linked to the agricultural sector and the goods it produces. At the same time, the role farmers have played in Dutch society has changed over past century.

The consolidation of farms in the Netherlands has had important social impacts. Some have associated it with the deterioration of rural areas and the production of so-called rural islands. Concurrently, agro-ecology, food forests and organic agriculture are increasing. The result is a fragmented rural landscape demonstrated by recent farmer protests that made international headlines. This highlights the diverse expectations placed on the agricultural sector, and the conflicting perspectives on how socially sustainable agriculture is envisioned in the Netherlands.

The aim of this paper is to establish factors with which the social sustainability of farms can be identified. A sequential mixed methods design was used. First, an online survey identified perspectives regarding the social roles of the agricultural sector. Subsequently, interviews with a visual mapping element were conducted with representatives of key stakeholder groups to identify how these factors related. This analysis uncovered 8 social factors that influence how the social sustainability of the Dutch agricultural sector is assessed. The paper shows that there are diverse perspectives regarding the social sustainability of farms between stakeholder groups. A recurring theme was the role of farmers as primarily entrepreneurs, as well as a notion that farms have become more disconnected from general society.

Sustainable Food Production and Social Economy: A driver for social wellbeing and integration in rural areas

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Nowadays, the social economy is becoming more and more valued at the European and global levels. The reason for its popularity and political support is that the actors of the social economy are playing a growing role in the management of social and environmental problems. This paper looks at the nexus between sustainable food production and the social economy and examines its impact on the sustainable consumption habits of marginalised communities through the lens of social well-being.

Over the past decade (Kiss 2014, Kiss 2016, Kiss-Rácz 2019, 2022, Molnár et al. 2018, Pálné 2019, 2021, Váradi 2015, 2016), local economic development in rural areas has been characterised by a continuous expansion of the role of local governments as farmers and a focus on economic coordination and market organisation tasks. In Hungary, a new model of the social economy has emerged, which is closely intertwined with organic farming and sustainable food production.

This paper aims to analyse the influence of social economy based organic farms and local food workshops on stakeholders' knowledge, attitudes, and actions towards sustainability, especially for people belonging to underprivileged social groups. The analysis is based on qualitative case studies of social economy farms from various regions of Hungary. By exploring how sustainable agriculture models within the social economy contribute to the social integration of marginalised communities, the research sheds light on the broader implications of these initiatives for the promotion of sustainable development and well-being in rural areas.

Back to Sustainable Production? Traditional Professions for Future Sustainability.

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This study is based on a qualitative study conducted with twenty people continuing and recreating traditional forms of production related to the processing and use of objects and devices made of wood in Poland. The interviews were conducted using visual sociology methods in the form of documentary films. An important context of the study were changes in technology and economic conditions in which a given activity takes place.

In the past, many everyday items were made of wood, especially in rural communities, within the household. In such cases, they did not enter into trade, apart from sporadic cases. Traditional products made of wood and distributed on local markets did not cause problems related to the production of waste that was difficult to remove and did not generate transportation costs. Over time, a process of changes took place from independent production (natural consumption) to consumption mediated by the market.

Although wooden products have gone out of common use, replaced by plastics and metal, they are coming back as products with symbolic and decorative meaning and as products with today's desired features such as eco-friendliness, traditionality, reference to the past, but also exclusivity. Changing the ways of using and perceiving wooden products is an opportunity to maintain the transmission of traditional skills, which in themselves are beginning to be perceived as a value, as part of the intangible cultural heritage.

The aim of the study is to show what opportunities lie in returning to traditional forms of production, but I also show what barriers and difficulties appear in the activities of people who try to continue traditional forms of production in changed social and market conditions.

RS04 | T06: Social sustainability in society

Childcare and Wellbeing in Times of Crisis: Towards Sustainable Care Solutions

Ingela Naumann

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When the Covid-pandemic hit in 2020, social distancing rules led to the temporary closure of childcare facilities and schools in many countries. While important public health measures, "lockdowns" also gave gloomy evidence to the negative effects the absence of childcare and education services can have on family and community wellbeing, on child outcomes, and on gender equality (Naumann et al. 2022). However, the Covid-pandemic not only highlighted the importance of childcare and education infrastructure for social wellbeing and social sustainability, but also shed light on already existing gaps in care and education provision which were exacerbated during the Covid health crisis.

We live in turbulent times with the risk of health or other crises hitting also in the future. The question how core social services such as childcare and education can be made more sustainable to weather such crises is paramount to ensuring social wellbeing and prosperity of societies today.

This paper discusses findings from the UK-based ESRC-project on "Childcare and wellbeing in times of Covid-19: developing crisis-resilient care solutions" that explored the effects of childcare and school closures on family wellbeing via survey data analysis and 60 interviews with parents, and in a second step, conducted two co-production case studies in areas with persistent childcare and early education services gaps, one in a remote rural community, one in a socially disadvantaged urban area, with the aim to provide insights on how childcare infrastructure could be made more sustainable within the UK system, particularly with respect to areas with persistent services gaps.

Foundational Economy, State-controlled Companies, and Social Sustainability: Lessons from the Rivatized Oundational Economy in Italy

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The waves of privatization happened in the last decades within foundational economic sectors have crucially impacted on social sustainability. As the Foundational Collective (2018) has highlighted, this is a term referring to all those activities that are key in influencing social inequalities and the liveability of territories, such as healthcare, education, public transports, post services. Despite the interest of critical scholar on neoliberal privatization, very little research has been devoted to the crucial role of former State-owned and State-controlled corporations in these sectors. The goal of this presentation is to fill this gap, stressing the need to study the role former State-owned/controlled corporations in terms of social sustainability.

This will be done presenting three case study from Italy. Firstly, that of Poste Italiane, where privatization started in 1998, that nowadays appear more focused on providing financial services than on their traditional services. Secondly, it is the case of Trenitalia, where the presence of market logics are evident in the remuneration of managements, conditioning their investment and producing a lack of infrastructure in the southern part of the country. Finally, we will look at Autostrade, privatized during 80s and that nowadays, following the incident of Ponte Morandi in 2018 in the city of Genoa, is facing a unique project of re-publication imposed by the Italian government. Empirical data will come from shareholders kalepine, company strategic plans and interviews with management and trade union representatives.

Enhancing Eco-Social Sustainability through Diversity and Inclusion in the Labour Market

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The social and ecological questions have become increasingly intertwined in face of environmental crisis. Whereas a key sustainable development goal is to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, not only we are far from the notion of "decent" in face of work precarisation trends worldwide, but also various vulnerable and disadvantaged groups continue to be marginalized in this ambition. Drawing on fieldwork conducted with social economy organisations dedicated to the social and labour integration of these groups in Portugal, this exploratory study shows contradictory results. On the one hand, these organizations struggle to aligning themselves with the green transition, in face of limited resources. On the other hand, they are at the forefront of eco-social innovation. By embracing the complexity and diversity of profiles that enrich both professional and societal contexts and reframing groups commonly labelled as vulnerable in terms of their unique potentialities and resources, they contribute to a new paradigm of sustainable development – one that respects a pace more aligned with planetary boundaries, while simultaneously reducing inequalities and democratising societies. The main findings of this exploratory research underscore that more diverse and inclusive labour markets play a pivotal role in achieving eco-social sustainability.

Transformative Learning Processes in Community Repair – Lessons Learned from Living Labs

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The connection between collaborative repair, care work and responsibility for sustainable development has only received little attention in research so far. Connecting the different perspectives, however, opens up new spaces for thought and action that can potentially support the achievement of various sustainability goals, such as promoting sustainable consumption, reducing (global) inequalities and combating climate change. In communities of repair, individual and collective processes of change take place that can be described as forms of transformative learning (Singer-Brodowski 2016). Transformative learning concepts describe how learning processes enable adults to transform their previous meanings and know-how and thus to engage in critical thinking and autonomous judgement. Our assumption is that transformative learning as a concept could bridge the current gap between social and individual insights into the necessity of socio-ecological change and the ability of taking care of the (global) future through solidarity-based action. The paper will look at transformative learning processes taking place in the context of community repair and identifies challenges and conditions for learning. It will provide first answers to the following questions: What kind of learning processes happen in people engaging in community repair for the first time? How is solidarity-based action learned in this context? Do the experiences and learning processes also influence other areas of life and encourage sustainable consumption and solidarity-based action beyond the repair of objects? To answer the questions living labs were conducted in which the participants visited different Repair Cafés over a ten-month period of time and documented those visits.While learning processes foster openness to further repair and experimentation, there's limited evidence that communal repairing sparks thought-provoking impulses beyond repair, inspiring additional solidarity-based actions.

RS05 | Active labour market policies: implementation, challenges and innovation

RS05 | T01: Active Labour Market Policy Design and Discourses

Being able to do a 'real' job – institutional narratives within and about Local Labour Market Programs

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Local Labour Market Programs (LLMPs) at the municipal level in Sweden is a part of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMP). The LLMPs are aimed at enhancing people considered to be distant from the labour market, with particular complex problematics, opportunities to be self-sufficient and assume a place in the labour market. People with functional variations, immigrants and young people have difficulty entering the labour market, a problem exacerbated by the pandemic crisis. In this article we explore how ableist discourses operates in institutional narratives about work, the worker and abilities in relation to participants in LLMPs. The article is based on interview with managers and local politicians in charge of the LLMP units in eight Swedish municipalities. In the interviews we explore the mechanisms of the LLMPs and analyses them in relation to ableist norms. The managers and politicians' narratives conceptualize skills and measures of productivity intrinsically excluding people who are not seen as being able to undertake productive work in line with the imposed requirement. The study shows that the LLMPs reproduce disability inequality but at times also create spaces of inclusion by questioning the idea of a 'real job'.

Policy Idea in Flux: The Case of Youth-Oriented Active Labor Market Policies in Finland

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Unemployment and social or economic exclusion of youth has been one of the most pressing issues for welfare societies in recent decades inflicting both economic and wellbeing costs. Active Labor Market Policies (ALMPs) that target

youth, such as the EU's youth guarantee and national versions in member states, have established a position as a go to solution to address the issue of youth unemployment and exclusion. We examine the adaptation of the idea by studying the case of youth oriented ALMPs in the context of Nordic welfare state. The data consists of legislative initiatives made by Finnish government between years 1992 and 2021(2022). We use qualitative content analysis to investigate how, and trough what kind of policies the idea of Youth-oriented ALMP embedded to Finnish labor market policy. Secondly, we study the evolution of the idea by following different policy objectives and alternatives emerging and changing through the analysis period. The aim is to clarify the picture of youth as a target group for labor market policy and shed light to the process of global policy ideas merging in to the national policy forming.

Strengthening Responsiveness through Innovation and Co-creation of Knowledge between Employment Services and Research

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Developing employment services that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable unemployed poses a continual challenge for street level bureaucrats and management (van Berkel et al. 2017). The role of knowledge, derived from both research and practical experience, plays a pivotal role in addressing this challenge. However, there is still limited research on understanding the processes of knowledge mobilization (Davies et al. 2015). This paper explores a collaborative and innovative partnership spanning over more than four years, where social science researchers closely collaborated with six municipalities to enhance responsive employment services through processes of knowledge mobilization.

This approach represents a novel perspective on innovation within the context of street level bureaucracy. Utilizing extensive ethnographic and qualitative data researchers engaged in repeated visits to the municipalities. They also established platforms for knowledge exchange in an explorative and innovative process.

The paper aspires to address the implementation challenges associated with developing more responsive services in Active Labour Market Policy (ALMP) organisations in Denmark and beyond. The analysis delves into how knowledge is co-created in dialogues between frontline workers and researchers, how conceptual knowledge challenges and transforms practical understandings, and how dilemmas and problems in practice find their way into research.

The findings suggest that co-creating knowledge has the potential to support the development of more responsive welfare services. It empowers frontline workers to cultivate collective, reflective practices and propel research towards deeper insights into the dilemmas of practice within the field of ALMP.

Active Labour Market Policies And Undeclared Work. Reflections On An Understudied Relationship

Anna Rio, Diego Coletto

University of Milano Bicocca

The contribution aims to provide insights into how employment services and, more specifically, active labour market policies (ALMPs) deal with the phenomenon of undeclared and informal work, something which has received limited attention in the literature. We are interested in analysing the relationship between the concept of employability – which is at the core of ALMPs – and undeclared work, which is often represented in the public debate as bad and low-paid. After unpacking ALMPs into their fundamental components (activation, conditionality, personalization), we aim to examine how they intersect with and confront undeclared and informal work. Activation relates to it according to a socio-educational normative framework – assisting individuals entrapped in irregular working conditions to find better solutions. Conditionality mechanisms target and punish people exploiting public benefits while earning undeclared incomes. Meanwhile, personalization, grounded in evaluating an individual's history and needs, should recognize skills acquired through any job and personal experience.

Using these analytical outlines, we seek to explore recent developments related to both active labour market policies and undeclared work, implemented under the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan. We present some preliminary findings from exploratory research based on documentary analysis and fieldwork involving operators who implement the ALMPs in three Italian regions. Specifically, we highlight actual links, regulatory gaps, and normative contradictions on one side; on the implementation side, we delve into how and to what extent undeclared work is considered in daily employment services activities. We conclude by proposing a comparative research agenda.

RS05 | T02: Access and Bias in Implementation of Active Labour Market Policies

The Hidden Irony Of Activation Policies. Findings From Further Education in Germany

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The provision of further occupational training and active inclusion programs for jobless people are gaining importance as an essential infrastructure for ALMP, given current economic and societal transformations. Nonetheless, this sector is largely below the radar of academic (labour market) research. As part of a broader trend of activation policies over the past few decades, the sector has been identified as a key source of human capital building, while at the same time undergoing a process of ‚marketization' and NPM governance. The latter is based on formalised output control and short-term measures which involve precarious employment conditions at provider organisations. Hence, the mandate of service providers has become highly ambiguous – between meeting the (social and skill) needs of users, and business goals of enhancing cost-efficiency and (quasi-)market success. Drawing on own qualitative research in Germany and other field studies, the paper discusses implications of this constellation for service-providing organisations and their mandate. Illuminating in particular the role of emotional dynamics, the findings reveal that the institutional framework conditions entail strong tensions for educators and management, leading to permanent pressures to square the circle of inconsistent demands. Those involved must cope with frustration, anxiety or anger, which undermines motivation and fuels staff turnover. All this is detrimental to the clientele, with creaming practices neglecting vulnerable groups with special needs. This suggests a hidden irony of current activation policies in Germany and beyond: disempowering providers expected to empower people. Finally, it will be discussed which public policy innovations could overcome this imbroglio.

Activation policies in Marseille and Turin : international differences and 'Matthew effects'

Anouck Manez

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This paper will review the results of my recently defended thesis, in which I propose to take seriously the activities of the unemployed and their schedules, and to examine the differentiated symbolic and material valorisation of 'work' outside paid employment by institutions, the individuals themselves and their acquaintances

The study is based on biographical interviews with around sixty unemployed people living in Marseille and Turin, and offers a localised comparison, supported by secondary statistical analyses of the Labour Force Survey.

One of the main differences between France and Italy lies in the implementation of activation policies towards the unemployed. In Turin, although they enshrined in national legislation, they remain symbolic. Informal work and family solidarity, in a context of poorly developed social policies and a labour market that has been brutally liberalised over the last twenty years, play a predominant role in the experiences of unemployment recounted, and work is associated above all with paid work and employment that is lacking.

In France, activation schemes play a central role in the experiences of people, particularly those occupying the least privileged positions. The model of the 'nomadic executive' and the 'skills' logic (where all activities, paid or unpaid, are likely to be valued and rewarded on the labour market) promoted by activation policies is in fact only accessible to certain profiles, in particular well-to-do managers. Conversely, the many out-of-work activities of the less privileged escape any form of symbolic and material recognition.

Is The Access To Activation Programs Still Gendered? Welfare Recipients' Participation In Programs From 2008 To 2021

Veronika J. Knize

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Across welfare states, welfare recipients can participate in "activation" programs to improve their chances of finding employment. While a few studies have found that women's participation was far lower than men's during the 2000s, we do not know whether program participation has changed over the last years amid normative changes in gender roles and the rise of individualistic policies. I attempt to fill this research gap investigating whether, how, and why program participation in Germany changed from 2008 to 2021. Preliminary findings show that the gender gap in program participation has been declining. Since women's reduced participation translates into lower chances of (re) training and employment for them, a real decline in the gap would be an advancement toward gender equity. I shed light on whether the change is due to quantitative changes (e.g., women's participation would increase if relatively fewer mothers collected benefits) or qualitative changes. Are today's parents of young children more gender egalitarian, meaning that being available for job search is no longer as gendered? Are public employment services more gender neutral in what they promote? I consider the dimensions of policies, public employment services, and family and individual in the analysis. Empirically, I draw an inflow sample from administrative data every year from 2008 to 2019 and apply regression methods on each year to explore program participation within the two following years. A key

distinction is made between parents and non-parents of younger children. Ultimately, this paper studies whether gender is becoming less definitive in the welfare state.

The Implementation Of A "Social Labour Market" – Subsidized Employment For Hard-To-Place Unemployed Persons

Dr. Claudia Globisch, Dr. Peter Kupka

Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany

For a long time, subsidized employment schemes have been an important – though often contested – part of active labour market politics. While its supporters claim that it is better to pay for employment than for unemployment, critiques refer to high costs, lock-in effects and possibly better suited forms of ALMP like further training.

After the German labour market reforms were passed in the early 2000s, all ALMP schemes were strongly judged by their effectiveness in the way of transition into regular employment. Only one type of scheme – the so-called social labour market – did not follow that logic because its target group were persons with no realistic chance to find unsubsidized employment. This active labour market measure addresses the criticism that benefit recipients with better opportunities receive preferential treatment by being reserved for people who are considered to have no chances on the labour market without support.

We will present findings from our implementation study of the Participation Opportunities Act (POA) which has been in force since 2019. The scheme offers subsidized employment in order to provide social participation but also integration into regular jobs. Results show that even within this scheme for persons very remote from the labour market, some creaming takes place due to its implementation as either more labour market or more social policy oriented. We show the use of discretion of frontline workers, depending on the job centres emphasis either on the social or labour market aspect and on the financial resources of the job centre.

RS05 | T08: Impact and Implications of Active Labour Market Policy

Subsidised Employment Programmes: (Temporary) Social Inclusion for the Long-Term Unemployed?

Miriam Raab

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Some active labour market programmes aim at (re)introducing the long-term unemployed to the labour market by offering wage subsidies to employers and coaching to programme participants. An additional goal has become to improve the participants' social inclusion. However, positive effects might only be short-lived due to the fixed duration of these programmes. This makes the (premature) end of the subsidised employment relationship a critical point and the successful transition into unsubsidised work the crucial marker for the programmes' long-term effects. By using the example of Germany's "Social Inclusion Act" ("Teilhabechancengesetz"), an ALMP introduced in 2019, this paper aims at presenting the key drivers for both a sustainable labour market integration and social inclusion of formerly long-term unemployed programme participants. Based on biographical-narrative interviews (first and follow-up) with 33 programme participants, I analyse the participants' experiences with their subsidised jobs considering their (employment) biographies and work attitudes as well the impact their employers and coaches have. This paper contributes to the research on the implementation of ALMPs and the debate on the (un)sustainability of their effects with a qualitative longitudinal perspective and provides policy recommendations.

Evaluating the Long-Term Impact of Skill Investment Policies: Insights from a Competencies Development Programme in Poland

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The objective of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs) is to enhance the alignment between available positions and job seekers. Nonetheless, the efficacy and impact of these policies are the subject of extensive debate and skepticism. Investigations into various initiatives for skill development frequently indicate minimal to no substantial influence on employment or income rates. This phenomenon can be

ascribed to the efficient functioning of labor markets, which exhibit fewer market failures than previously assumed (The World Bank Research Observer, 2017; Jelonek 2022). Typically, the impact of such interventions is evaluated at a specific point in time. It is worth looking at such policies in the long term by answering the question of what effect investments in competencies have in the long run.

This study aims to present the outcomes of an evaluation of a public program initiated in Poland in 2014. This program, focused on the enhancement of student competencies, intends to align them with employer requirements, thereby augmenting their career prospects.

Employing data from a survey of intervention participants (n=400, panel data), administrative records on the employment outcomes of graduates (ELA – Graduate Tracking System) and qualitative information (IDI, FGI), this paper explores the short-term and long-term effects (one year and several years post-graduation) of this intervention. Specifically, it examines not only the impact on employability but also on the career progression of the beneficiaries.

Data Collection and Use in Italian Employment Services: Organizational Determinants and Impact on Internal Processes

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In the last decade, digital public transformation has become a salient topic both in academia and public institutions. The adoption and successful use of digital means within public organizations leads to a double examination of both determinants and impacts on internal processes. In this context, the role of data is a peculiar one, as its availability can both account for a determinant – as their use may lead to a transformation of internal processes – and a result – its collection requires infrastructure, administrative capacities and skills. While data management is an understudied topic in labour policy, employment centres have been progressively asked to collect and use data for e-guidance, profiling and job matching aims.

Given the framework, this working paper examines organizational determinants and impacts on internal processes of data collection and use in Italian employment centres. Italy is a peculiar case, as it constitutionally recognizes a high degree of autonomy for regions in labour policy – which leads to a high degree of regional variation. The initial phase of the research will consider two neighbouring northern regions, i.e. Lombardy and Emilia Romagna, to seek for organizational drivers of success and empirical changes, if any, in processes related to e-guidance, profiling and job matching. Their comparison appears relevant as they are both economically developed, and are high performing based on preliminary results from the regional DESI (Politecnico di Milano, 2022). The design of the research foresees the use of qualitative interviews with managers and operators from employment centres belonging to the two Italian regions.

Counselling That Overlooks The Client? Unemployed Researchers Under The Influence Of The Employment Office

Susanne Wollin-Giering, Markus Hoffmann

TU Berlin, Germany

The international debate on the usefulness of employment agencies has recently produced ambivalent results, including results that suggest that they have no effect at all.

In this presentation, we aim to demonstrate how unemployed researchers who attempt to continue the research from their previous employment by incorporating benefits from employment agencies as resources and continue to work specifically on their research careers during periods of unemployment, negotiate demands and benefits from employment agencies with officers of these organisations. This process is largely determined by the officers' interpretive frames, which do not sufficiently differentiate between the work of specific professions.

Our argument is based on interviews with 20 researchers from various disciplines (including ethnology, sociology, plant biology, biomedicine) with experience of unemployment and with 13 employees of employment agencies in various locations in Germany. We show that

(1) phases of unemployment are actively and partly strategically utilised for the continuation of the research career;

(2) the influence of the employment agencies on the strategic use of unemployment phases depends on their organisational structures; and

(3) that this influence also depends on the officers' understanding of differences between 'normal work' and research work.

Employment office offerings rarely match the specific needs of unemployed researchers. The same applies to counselling, which that depends on the individually varying interpretative frames of the officers.

As a consequence, successful integration is only marginally attributable to the employment agencies. In most cases, it is achieved by researchers themselves who have to resist the agencies' placement activities.

RS06 | European intimate lives and reproductive choices in the face of planetary crises

RS06 | T01: Reproductive choices and family futures

”The World is Getting Worse”: Networks of Significant Others and Desirable Family Life in a World under Crises

Anna-Maija Castren, Aino Luotonen

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

This paper presents preliminary results of an ongoing international study focusing on young adults' networks of significant others and on their reflections on desirable family and intimate relationships in a world under global crises. European societies have shown concern about changes in people's reproductive behaviour causing a decrease in fertility. Young adults postpone parenthood and fewer children are born. NETREP, an international research project carried out in Finland, Portugal, and Scotland, interviews young and youngish adults in three countries about the intimate relationships and family life they consider desirable, on their social networks, and more generally on their concerns about the future of the planet. This presentation draws on the data collected in Edinburgh and Helsinki and focuses on the interviewees' networks from a configurational perspective. We investigate the composition of the networks embedded in which research participants live and make decisions regarding their intimate life. Analysed data consists of interviews and networks mapped with name generator questions in qualitative research interviews of 40 young / youngish adults aged 25 to 40 years. We ask who are the significant others our research participants rely on in everyday life and in major life decisions? For example, to what extent do young adults follow traditional family life course of previous generations drawing on heteronormativity and the couple-norm, despite uncertainties related to crises like global warming and despite the many alternatives to heterosexual family form available, like single parenthood, non-monogamy, and inter-species families etc.?

A Cross-national Perspective on Young Adults' Attitudes Towards Family and Gender in Portugal, Finland, and the UK

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In turbulent times marked by global macro events and ongoing trends, such as the pandemic crisis, economic inflation, climate change, and housing market collapse that have been affecting the transitions to adulthood in Europe, it is crucial to understand young people's perspectives on family and gender. Also, the continuing trends of de-standardization of the lifecourse and the pluralization of family, intimate, and parenthood relationships and practices – with the increase of reconstituted families, lone parenthood, friendship co-parenting, polyamorous arrangements, medically assisted procreation, and gender fluidity – call for the study of the dynamics of continuity and change in young peoples' normative expectations. Therefore, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive cross-national perspective on the attitudes towards family life and gender relations among young people living in three distinct national contexts with different welfare arrangements and socio-historical backgrounds: Portugal, Finland, and the United Kingdom. We will draw on representative quantitative data from cross-national surveys, such as the European Social Survey (ESS) and the European Values Study (EVS), by focusing on individuals aged between 18 and 40 residing in the 3 geographical areas. Findings show that there are both variations and commonalities in the attitudes to family and gender across the three countries, as well as a complexity of attitudinal profiles combining egalitarian and non-egalitarian attitudes to the segregation of gender roles, division of paid and unpaid work, LGBT+ rights, and parenthood models. Finally, these divergences and convergences in the attitudinal profiles across countries are shaped by cultural, structural, and biographical factors.

Climate Change Concerns and Fertility Desires: A Comparative Vignette Study among University Students in Belgium and Italy

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Centre for Sociological Research, Ku Leuven, Belgium

This research investigates the potential impact of climate change concerns on fertility desires through an online vignette study conducted among university students in Belgium and Italy. Respondents who were not in the control group were exposed to either a pessimistic or a more optimistic climate change scenario. Following the exposure to climate change scenarios, participants were questioned about their fertility desires. Additionally, respondents were asked about their attitudes towards climate change, including their level of concern, awareness, government satisfaction, and sense of responsibility. In line with previous studies, we found that Italians on average perceived lower personal responsibility in tackling climate change compared to Belgians, and they also expressed higher dissatisfaction with their national government's actions on climate change compared to their Belgian counterparts. Multinomial logistic regression was used for hypothesis testing. From the vignettes, we found that, when exposed to a pessimistic scenario regarding climate change, Belgian

and Italian respondents have a higher probability of reporting low fertility desire compared to their control groups. Following the optimistic scenario, only Belgians have a higher probability of reporting high desire, while Italians experience effects similar to those exposed to the pessimistic scenario. These differences are mediated by feelings of personal responsibility and trust in government. While the results should be approached with caution due to the non-probabilistic nature of the sample and the limitation of online data collection, they emphasise the importance of taking climate change concerns into account when analysing fertility desires.

RS06 | T03: Parenting in times of complex planetary crises

Good Parenting: a New Risk to Reproductive Decisions?

Vanessa Cunha

University of Lisbon, Portugal

From 1970s, Portugal has been facing fertility decline, based on childbearing postponement and small offspring. This reproductive pattern reflects major changes in society, especially since the Revolution: in family life and gender relations; in the universal and increasingly extended education and feminisation of the labour market; in reproductive, maternal and infant health.

During the Great Recession, Portuguese births and fertility severely dropped to historic lows, highlighting the impact of economic deterioration and insecurity in reproductive decisions. Recently, Covid-19 Pandemics has also hit births and fertility, albeit over a shorter period and to a lesser extent. What these two crises shown was that times characterised by high uncertainty trigger an aversion to risk in terms of reproductive decisions, and that fertility recovery is not always as swift in demographic terms, or even possible in individual terms.

In addition, new perspectives on parenting, defined by childhood experts and European directives translated into national policy-making, may be reinforcing the low fertility pattern. By requiring a wide-range of requisites and competencies to fulfil the well-being of children and their integral and individualised development, “good” parenting is becoming highly demanding and harder to achieve, and ultimately configuring a new risk when reproductive decisions are at stake.

This presentation brings findings from a research on parenting and reproductive decisions concluded in 2022. Drawing on interviews with parents of school-aged children, it focuses on their sense of demand, how they cope with difficulties and uncertainties that “good” parenting encompasses, and how it reflects in their present reproductive decisions. As fieldwork took place during Pandemics, the presentation also seeks to understand how this crisis challenged parenting as much as reproductive decisions.

Framings of Reproduction and Family Building in Finnish Population Politics Publications in the Era of Declining Birthrates

Jenna Siivonen

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The trend of rapidly declining birth rates in Europe has led to a rise of population political discourse in reproduction and family politics. This shift is particularly evident in welfare states, such as the Nordics, in which institutional support for family and parenthood has previously been largely motivated by values of equality and justice. In this paper I discuss the contemporary population political framing of reproduction and family building motivated by the declining birthrate, drawing on my analysis of the 2020 Finnish population policy programme and 2021 prime minister's office's population policy report. The focus of the presentation is on the problematization of people having less children and addressing the presented causes for this shift and the suggested policies for affecting the number of children being born. I reflect on the limitations, silences, and tensions of the population political framing of reproduction in relation to the culturally shared hopes, uncertainties and complex meaning making surrounding childbearing and family building choices. I analyse how population political discourses reflect norms regarding reproduction and family building and, furthermore, how these discourses contribute to the institutional and legislative conditions for organising intimate relationships. This paper is a part of an ongoing doctoral research studying contemporary Finnish reproduction regime(s) on the levels of population policy and young adult's accounts on reproduction, family, and intimate relationships.

Reproductive Journeys in Unsettled Times

Marjaana Jones

Tampere University, Finland

Fertility rates have been declining in several countries, which has led to discussions about a demographic transition and even a 'fertility crisis'. In Finland, the 2022 fertility rate was at the lowest point since records began. Various factors are contributing to childbearing intentions with people choosing to live child-free or postpone having children. Other factors include economic concerns and precarious employment. It has also been argued that modern parenting requires more energy and time. Additionally, recent studies have indicated that eco-concerns are playing a growing role in reproductive decision-making. Indeed, some people are choosing to have less or no children partly due to anxieties over the future of the planet.

Behind every country's fertility rate, lies a myriad of fertility decisions taken by individuals. Through dyadic interviews, I will explore the journeys of new and expectant parents and the choices they face as they decide to have children in these unsettled times, against a backdrop of falling fertility rates. The issues explored with these parents will include matters such as reproductive timing, eco-reproductive and economic concerns, as well as their wishes and needs regarding the support and care they receive during pregnancy. This research is part of a wider ongoing research project that looks at both the reproductive choices of today's parents; explores the fragmentation and marketisation of the Finnish maternity care system; and investigates how parents navigate the expanding pregnancy care market. In my presentation, I will present some of the preliminary findings based on parental interviews.

RS06 | T08: Visioning future families

A New Family Member or the Latest Sign of the Family Decline? A Research on the Family Life of Italians and Their Pets

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Women and men always lived together with animals, but in recent years some important changes can be noticed in western societies: the number of pets in our houses is increasing, just like the expenses dedicated to them; moreover, many people began to bring their nonhuman companions outside the home, in supermarkets, restaurants, public transports and holidays. Vegans and groups for animal rights are becoming most popular.

Some people think that this new kind of relationships with animals is an advancement of societies in social justice and morality; others consider these new habits as a symptom of the excessive individualism and hypocrite capitalism, linked to search for uncommitted relationships and to the declining of birth rates.

Our paper proposes the outcome of a research investigating humans and animals relationships in intimate live. Our goal is to come to light the new practices concerning pets that are spreading in everyday lives, and the meanings that women and men give to these relationships : How people consider animals with which they live? How much the choices concerning pets affect the family plans? Are there significant differences between women and men, or depending on social class and age? We have collected and analyzed more than 130 in-depth interviews to Italian women and men of different ages and background, and a similar number of pictures of their animals. The impressive consistency of the stories confirm that a deep change is happening in family cultures and intimate lives. Due to the lack of empirical research on this topic, we imagine that our evidence may offer suggestions to other analysis and international literature.

Reproductive Imaginaries of Italian Youth. Aspirations, Desires and Fears for the Future in a Time of Global Crisis

Caterina Satta

University of Cagliari, Italy

Based on qualitative future-oriented research with childless Italians (aged 24 to 35) with mobility capital and experiences, the paper investigates their reproductive imaginaries, ideas of companionship and parenthood in the face of planetary crises. Younger generations are recently emerged into the public arena through movements such as Fridays for future claiming, even in the terms of intergenerational injustice, a future for them and the planet. At the same time, they are held responsible (whether not blamed) for our future in relation to their reproductive choices and, especially for Italy, the declining birth rates. Structural and socio-economic conditions are not irrelevant in shaping their choices, as reported in literature, but in order to grasp the ongoing transformation in younger generations' intimate life we need, not only to reconceptualize the meaning of these socio-economic determinants (i.e. in this unstable context, which is the current significance of work in their lives? How does it shape their intimate relationships?), but also imagine new research methods, concepts, and perspectives. Given that procreation has to deal with "the not yet" and with an "affective" dimension likewise the future – which is strictly connected with people's plans but also feelings of hope, fear and desire and so on – intimate lives and reproductive choices are deeply imbued with imaginaries and feelings of the future at micro and global level. I'll discuss the findings, underpinned by speculative and inventive methodologies, focusing on youth modes of engagement with their future intimate life and reproductive imaginaries in the context of complex planetary future.

Building (also Queer) Intimate Futures: Finnish Young Adults' Perceptions of Couple Relationship

Aino Maria Luotonen, Anna-Maija Castrén

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

In recent years, several crises have shaped the context in which young adults make their plans and decisions about partnership, intimacies, and family building. While multiple ways of living in intimate relationships are becoming more recognized, the prevailing ideal of adult intimate lives reflects the couple-norm that highlights exclusivity, commitment, and cohabitation, and is connected to expectations regarding reproduction (Roseneil, Crowhurst, Hellesund, Santos & Stoilova 2020). In our presentation we ask: how do young adults who have a partner navigate expectations regarding family-building, and imagine their intimate futures? How are future plans and imaginaries connected to gender and sexual orientation? How is the awareness of planetary crisis connected to ways of imagining intimate lives in the future? The presentation is based on an ongoing qualitative study that investigates how adults aged 25–40, living in Helsinki metropolitan area, Finland, plan and imagine their future intimate relationships. They are in either a different-sex or same-sex couple relationship, and some are in a polyamorous relationship. Based on an analysis of individual research interviews, accounts of couple relationships are scrutinized in the context of individuals' networks of close relationships. The analysis shows a variety of ways in which young adults build and imagine their intimate lives, sometimes by following more conventional paths to family-building, and sometimes by imagining alternative queer futures (cf. Holmes, Jamieson & Natalier 2021).

Negotiating Having Children in the Uncertain Futures of Climate Change

Charlotte Herbertz

University of Kassel

Discourse on climate change is confronting European youth with perspectives of catastrophic global development and substantial uncertainty, impeding their ability to project themselves into closed and non-malleable futures. Previous research on future-making has mostly focused on technologies or institutions while little is known about the ways imaginations of climate futures are shaping intimate lives. This paper presents findings from a qualitative study that has explored the question of generativity in its most proto-typical setting: The communicative processes of confronting the question of whether one can still bring a child into this world. Drawing on empirical data from narrative interviews with German young adults (25-35) struggling with this question, I will outline patterns of describing the problem of future-production in their temporal structures before presenting communicative practices of re-opening the future. These include 1) focusing on one's practical agency, 2) finding ethical loopholes and 3) relativising mankind's capacity to make such a decision. The results suggest rethinking approaches that propose ethics of care as a solution to the problem of assuming responsibility for future generations. The paper contributes to advancing an understanding of the restrictions of life planning in the temporalities of climate crisis and sheds light on the contradictions of decision-making processes.

RS07 | Politics of engagement and new social pragmatism

RS07 | T02: Institutional engagements: politics and tests

Struggling with Participation: Moving in and out of Institutionalized Tests in Wind Turbine Controversies

Daniel Nordstrand Frantzen

DTU – Technical University of Denmark

Public participation has long been heralded as an important factor in increasing the social acceptance of renewable energy technologies, and hence as a means to advance the green transition (Gross, 2007; Wüstenhagen et al., 2007). This paper questions this enthusiasm for participation by pointing to the difficulties of coordination that both planners and local residents encounter when hearing processes for wind farms are conducted.

Applying a pragmatic lens, these hearings are understood as 'formatting' participation in specific ways (cf. Meilvang et al., 2018) by outlining legitimate ways of putting the projects under hearing to the test. This perspective is advanced through Boltanski's (2011) work on institutions that allows for an analytical distinction between institutionalized tests and alternative tests which are not accepted by the 'planning institution'.

By analyzing qualitative data from six case studies of Danish wind farm projects, this paper explores how civic participation moves in and out of the institutionalized tests of the public hearing format. The paper outlines that apart from adhering to the institutionally accepted forms of participation, locals build critiques of wind farms through two alternative types of tests. First, 'potentiality tests', where locals are trying to establish that other solutions than the project under hearing are both possible and more desirable. Second, 'de-legitimation tests', where locals try to repurpose the institutionalized tests as instruments for cancelling the project under hearing e.g. by finding and communicating grave faults in the project's environmental impact assessment. The paper suggests that examining these alternative tests can both help in clarifying the present state of the planning institution and imagining how it could be altered to become more inclusive.

Pragmatic Sociology And The Moral Worth Of Animals. From Common Humanity To Sentient Commonality?

Tomi Henrik Lehtimäki

University of Helsinki, Finland

This presentation focuses on the issue of how to build commonality between humans and nonhuman animals. I examine how pragmatic sociology can contribute to the study of animal politics, but also how the issue of human-animal commonality challenges pragmatic sociological approaches. Animals are commonly accounted through the premise that they are unable to speak, and cannot therefore 'voice their concerns' in issues related to their wellbeing. This perspective therefore explores ways that we could understand how the 'voice' of animals gets heard, or how it could be heard. How to account for animals in new ways is a central issue for current changes in contemporary societies, whether one considers topics such as the environmental crisis or emerging pandemics. But aside from these at times rather human-centric problems, the question of how to build commonality with animals also deals with the status of animals as intrinsically valuable beings. In terms of pragmatic sociology, how can animals be part of the common good, not only as objects but as experiencing subjects. The perspective examined here focuses then on the issue of animal sentience, and how sentience could possibly operate as a form of commonality. In addition to the focus on human-animal relations, this question also examines the place of affects or emotions in pragmatic sociology. Empirically, the presentation builds on a project focused on animal (welfare) law, and how the law operate as a 'tool' for the classification and evaluation of animals, which is significant for their treatment and overall status in society.

Predator Politics And The Moral Entanglements Of Interactions: Reindeer Husbandry In Finland Under Pressure For Change

Tapio Nykänen

University of Lapland, Finland

Reindeer husbandry is a vital livelihood from the cultural, social, and political perspective of the indigenous Sámi people. In Finland, it is not only practiced by the Sámi but also by ethnic Finns, who constitute the majority of reindeer herders. I am investigating the evolving pressures on valuations in reindeer husbandry across various reindeer herding cultures in the Finnish region, starting from the late 20th century, due to the increasing populations of large predators. Specifically, I am examining how the rise in damage caused by predators to reindeer and the compensation paid for such damages alter moral valuations associated with work practices, other reindeer herders, and animals.

In my research, I primarily draw from the theory of moral valuations formulated by Stefan Bargheer in his book "Moral Entanglements: Conserving Birds in Britain and Germany" (2018). Bargheer's theory originates from the Chicago school of pragmatic sociology, particularly the work of John Dewey. Following Bargheer, I complement Dewey's theoretical toolkit with a theory on institutions and their impact on moral valuations.

I view contemporary predator politics as an institutional change that is likely to shift the internal logic of reindeer herding toward what Bargheer defines as work-like action. In play-like, "uninterrupted" action, valuations are associated simultaneously with means and ends. In contrast, in work-like action, values are emphatically associated with ends. In many reindeer herding cultures, values associated with means and ends (in-view) have traditionally been strongly entangled. Hence, predator politics represents a potentially significant cultural change.

Tensions in Norwegian Education: A Pragmatic Exploration of Inclusive Pedagogy and Neoliberal Critique

Eli Smeplass, Jan Frode Haugseth

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

This paper navigates the tension between inclusive pedagogy and neoliberal reforms in Norwegian education through a pragmatic lens. It traces the historical lineage of education in Norway, underscoring its nation-building role (Helsvig 2014). Post-millennium policy shifts, influenced by OECD recommendations, introduced results-oriented practices, generating tensions with traditional pedagogical norms (Norwegian Official Report 2000:19; Thuen 2010). Utilizing Thévenot's framework, the authors analyze curriculum designs across different periods, hypothesizing a shift towards instrumental and justice-oriented paradigms (Thévenot 2007, 2014). Employing qualitative text and content-analysis, the study examines policy documents alongside subject-specific descriptions from the reforms R87, R97, and LK06, and extracts from textbooks in Norwegian language and Social science across these periods. This inquiry unveils evolving logics and values shaping educational practices and policies, illuminating the nuanced interplay between inclusive pedagogy and neoliberalism within the Norwegian educational scenario, accentuating the implications of quantification tools introduced in the early 2000s (Nilsen & Skarpenes 2022).

RS07 | T03: Engagements in diversity from insitutions to interaction

Connecting Local Activism to Global Hierarchies: a Trust Reading of Synodality and Community-led Local Development

Katalin Fuzer

University of Pecs, Department of Sociology, Hungary

The paper offers a trust reading of participative practices in two very different settings which share a commitment to creating mutual understanding and building common ground locally. 1. The Catholic Church has recently set out to walk a synodal path calling all baptised to (re)discover their vocations by interacting in small local groups, bringing new impetus to their own religious practices as well as to traditional church hierarchies entangled in clericalism and shaken by abuse scandals. 2. The participative turn in the World Bank's Community and Local Development programs in poverty-ridden low-income countries and disaster areas, or the European Union's Community Led Local Development programs call on local actors to interact in co-planning, co-creating, implementing and sustaining complex local development interventions in rural and urban areas in sharp contrast to the co-dependency that evolved in infrastructure-only investment interventions planned and implemented chiefly by international/global development agencies.

Based on the author's prior work on trust, social capital and local development, this paper suggests that we need a more thorough understanding of how interpersonal and institutional trust mechanisms intertwine in a commitment to realize organisational objectives via the emphatically "lay" collaboration of "locals." What kind of trust in "locals" is at the base of these participative processes? Does interpersonal trust evolve among "lay" actors or do participative processes thrive solely on pre-existing interpersonal trust dynamics? How is trust in abstract systems, expertise, professionalism reconfigured in the course of participative processes in these two settings? How can "project class" actors enable or inhibit participation by lay locals in local development and synodal processes? Debating these issues in RS07 would promote the sociology of trust.

"A Holy Discourse Of Secular Orders Of Worth"

Øystein Egeland

University of Stavanger, Norway

The paper presents an analyzis of the Norwegian Church` strategies and rhetorical tools when aiming to change and challenge the migration control policy in to a more liberal direction. The church has been providing church asylum to rejected asylum applicants, offered support to Christian converts, advocated for amnesties, legal rights to work and healthcare services for irregulars. The data draws on in-depth interviews with church officials and volunteers. Combining theorethical frameworks of norm theory and Boltanski and Thevenot`s perspectives on justification and regimes of engagement, the paper aims to analyze central issues of conflict in a broader migration debate.The research field is opting to change institutionalized and entrenched norms on the asylum field when acting as norm entrepreneurs, and in the manners they re-present their antagonists and norm antipreneurs – the migration apparatus and law makers. I discuss how the actors strive to change well-established norms by re-presenting the overall asylum policy and individual cases in certain manners, justified by Boltanski and Thevenot`s different orders of worth. Existing norms and legislation are perceived problematic, which justifies the norms to be undermined. The research field grounds its criticism from within the migration bureaucracy system, highlighting flaws and deficiencies in the asylum procedures. The church navigates between different orders of worth; "inspiration" (religious), civic (rights) and industrial (bureaucratic). The paper illustrates how religiously founded ethics and morals play a less dominant role compared to arguments based on a critical representation of errors within the migration system.

Non-White Meta-Categories in the US and UK: Unpacking the Language of Diversity and Racial Justice

Mari Jose Sanchez

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My research offers a comparative-relational study of what I call "non-white meta-categories" – umbrella categories that encapsulate or refer collectively to populations considered not white – in the US and UK. In the US, non-white meta-categories include "people of color" (POC) and "minority"; in the UK, these include "Politically Black" and variations of "minority ethnic" such as "Black and Minority Ethnic" (BME) or "Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic" (BAME). While racial justice and State actors have used non-white meta-categories in both countries since the 1960s, the categories have increasingly become unsettled by progressive and conservative actors leading up to 2020. I examine these changes by focusing on the production and reception of the categories. For the production side, I interview 40 civil society actors in each country, including activists, intellectuals, social media influencers, and other public figures, who are actively creating, transforming, and debating meanings about the categories. For the reception side, I look at the government bodies that have responded to changing meanings of non-white meta-categories by proposing new guidelines around their usage. Specifically, in the US, I examine updates announced in 2022 to the Office of Management & Budget's Statistical Directive 15, including guidelines to avoid use of the term "minority"; in the UK, I examine the Cabinet Office's Race Disparity Unit 2022

standards for government departments on how to communicate ethnicity data, which includes the recommendation to eliminate BAME. I argue that non-white meta-categories shape assumptions about the commonalities and differences of marginalized communities, illuminate certain racial inequalities while obscuring others, and inform pathways to achieve racial justice.

To Whom The Racialised Turn: Telling Minority Vs Majority People About Incidents of Ethnoracial Stigmatisation

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The last decade has seen a surge in studies on how ethnoracial minorities respond to stigmatisation through different strategies, spanning from confrontations to withdrawing (e.g. Lamont 2016). Yet, surprisingly few studies have examined how people rework these experiences in the aftermath, like through seeking support and consolation from significant others. In a study of minorities' negotiation of ambiguous ethnoracial stigmatisation (N=20), we explore the reworkings of stigmatisation in backstage contexts. A key finding is that interviewees typically refrain from discussing them with ethnic majority individuals, whether these are friends, colleagues, or others. Rather, they share their experiences with minority peers. The reasons that our interviewees give for their ethnic/racial separation of audiences and distinguishing between interlocutors, include suspicions that majority individuals may trivialise or not understand their experiences. Even if one expects majority persons to be genuinely sympathetic, the interactional labour of explaining ethnoracial dynamics to someone without similar experiences, may require too much effort, especially when what one seeks, is immediate support. From other minority individuals, in contrast, participants report to experience and expect emotional support and self-confirmation. We propose a theoretical interpretation of these dynamics that centres interaction ritual, formulated differently by Goffman ([1967] 1982) and Collins (2004). Whereas a "nervousness" in prospective minority-majority storytelling resembles Goffman's interaction ritual, the minority-minority situation is closer to Collins' version, which highlights shared focus and emotional mood, and subsequent formation of solidarity.

RS07 | T04: Engagements and affordances of activism

The New Power of the Masses – Internet Communication as an Ordinary User's Tool of Influence

Agnieszka Kampka

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

The paper addresses whether social media can be seen as a new power tool for ordinary people, similar to the people's voice in democratic elections or crowd pressure in protests and revolutions. Moreover, if so, how can ordinary users use these tools to deal with the experiences of recent times, crises, and global challenges? A single individual can influence the opinions, attitudes and actions of others on social media when they 1) witness important or shocking events, 2) become an influencer, and 3) are part of a large, interacting online community. The latter case will be the subject of this paper.

Using the fandom of the Korean band BTS as an example, the author describes new opportunities for communicative influence by ordinary social media users. Based on a literature review and an analysis of the fandom's activities, the author discusses the specific challenges of media competence in social media. Then, the author refers to selected contemporary concepts on the masses, showing how they can explain the communicative cooperation phenomenon of online collectives. The author argues that these new online forms of social interaction and influence, based on trust and a commonality of emotions and experiences, can be considered a transformative force in the public sphere.

A Pic is More Than a Proof: Unpacking the Polysemy of Climate Images on Instagram through Plural Forms of Valuation

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In the era of public space dominated by visual content, understanding how images politicize societal issues has become crucial. Yet, images are still mostly evaluated through their documentative value, ignoring the many different ways in which they can make grievances recognizable, valid and actionable. By unpacking the polysemy of climate change images on Instagram, this paper contributes to the recognition and identification of the plurality of visual politicization, asking: how is the climate emergency politicized through social media images in Europe? Using a novel, ethnography-trained machine learning scheme to recognize and categorize political action (Maltezos, Luhtakallio & Meriluoto, in review), this paper takes the results of a computational categorization of over 20,000 climate-hashtagged

Instagram images from four European countries (Finland, France, Germany, and Portugal) as a starting point for qualitative analysis. With the toolkit of French pragmatist sociology (Boltanski/Thévenot 2006; Thévenot 2001; 2007; 2014; 2015; Eranti 2018)., analysis with empirical examples reveals how different ways to engage with climate emergency cohabit the public sphere, some reaching towards the legitimation through common good and others relying on more personalized and intimate valuations. In practice, three grammars of communality (Thévenot 2001; 2007; 2014; 2015) public justification, individual interest, and familiarity, are operationalized to break down the plurality in visual politicization in online climate activism. This way, the paper moves beyond the indexical relation of images and "truth" towards an understanding of politicization through other forms of valuation.

War's Effect: A Case Study of Environmental Activism in Russia Before and After the Full-scale Invasion of Ukraine

Svetlana Erpyleva

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Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine not only led to thousands of victims in Ukraine but also significantly impacted the political climate within Russia. Anti-democratic laws, severe censorship, and growing repression were implemented to suppress public dissent. These measures affected civil society and grassroots politics in Russia at large; any form of contentious activism, not just anti-war sentiments, began to be perceived as increasingly risky by activists and the wider public. This paper examines a specific case of grassroots activism in Russia—the Russian branch of the international climate movement "Fridays for Future"—to observe how the war changed it. The paper relies on a holistic study of the movement conducted in both 2021, a year before the full-scale invasion, and in 2024, two years after the invasion. In both cases, in-depth biographical interviews with activists were collected. How did the war impact the organizational structure of the movement and the meanings activists attribute to their activities? How did it alter the biographical trajectories of the activists? This holistic case study of a single movement aims to identify mechanisms that reveal how large-scale military conflicts affect grassroots politics in an already depoliticized authoritarian context.

Being The Change You Want To See. Prefigurative Democracy In Radical Social Movements

Georg Mikael Boldt, Heini Salminen

Univeristy of Helsinki, Finland

Many of the contemporary practices for citizen participation in public governance can be traced to the procedures and conventions developed for deliberation and decision-making in social movements from the 1960s onward. Despite political and bureaucratic acclaim for participatory democracy in public governance, participants and researchers have often been critical about these processes. Nevertheless, far from abandoning the hallmark of popular inclusion, new methods for building common ground are continuously being developed and practiced within social movements.

In this paper, we describe the utopian ways in which democratic practices are prefigured in contemporary social movements. Based on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork in radical social movements in Finland, these findings are situated in a particular cultural context. However, as the paper demonstrates, the various tools, such as the establishment of guidelines for safer spaces in queer activism and the incorporation of deliberative decision-making practices in environmental movements, are globally diffused through activist networks and publications. These practices are a response to perceived repression, inequality, and the capitalist logic of competition, and their application is imaginative and contextually dependent.

We use this case to argue that these methods showcase a desire to create horizontal decision-making structures, reflexivity on the use of power, and expansion of the political community through recognition and avoidance of exclusionary closure. The findings bridge the gap between what is and what could be by showing how movement actors solve the problems they identify in democratic processes by developing new ways of finding commonality. This both highlights shortcomings in common democratic procedures and offers potential solutions for solving conflicts also outside of radical social movement deliberation.

RS07 | T05: Engagements in politics & citizenship

Dancing In The Cells: From The Prison To The Stage...Without Leaving The Cell

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The CORPOEMCADEIA project was implemented between 2019 and 2022 at Linhó Prison, organizing contemporary dance sessions with a group of inmates with the aim of empowering them for social integration. From the ethnographic research that accompanied these sessions, we realized that dance invites participation in the common, anchored in body listening, energetic-affective attunement and kinetic-rhythmic contagion. Here we focus on the first part of the public presentation of the choreography (and its rehearsals), focusing on the objects summoned to establish sensory-perceptive commonalities. Each inmate goes on stage dressed in their prison clothes, but carrying a bag with their artistic clothes and a chalk. After changing clothes, they draw their cell on the floor, exploring it through the dance language and expressing their emotional relationship with that space. We argue, based on empirical data, that the inclusion in the dance of concrete objects (the bag, the clothes, the chalk), but also imagined ones (the cell and what makes it up), unfolds, through the bodily involvement they arouse, the meanings, hidden between the walls, of the commonplaces summoned represented in the show, thus opening up a public denunciation of the living conditions in prison. This criticism, however, rather than through argument and justification, communicates through the sensitivity of the danced gestures in which the bodies explore and express themselves poetically, thus affirming their common humanity.

Citizenship As Battlefield And As Common Work

Giovanni Moro

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To address the complex dynamics of contemporary societies without regarding common citizens just as victims or beneficiaries either of the State or the market, employing citizenship as a standpoint could be of the utmost worth. The scientific community's renewed focus on citizenship since the 1990s has not led to a shared thematization, as shown by the proliferation of "hyphenated citizenships" that characterizes Citizenship Studies. However, the massive amount of material produced in theoretical research can be used to conceptualize citizenship as a phenomenon. In this way, citizenship can be defined as a device of inclusion, cohesion and development, composed of belonging as status (legal and social) and identity, rights with related duties, and participation. This device is defined and transformed not only in the norms of constitutional rank and in the "repository" of secondary norms, procedures, public policies, judgments, civil regulations, but also in citizenship practices. With the aid of this conceptual architecture, it is possible to research the material configurations and changes of citizenship, reflecting its dynamic, contextual and conflictual nature. Examples coming from research on citizenship in Italy – regarding migration, forms of political participation, establishment of new citizenship duties, management of Covid-19 pandemic – show how citizenship configuration is both a battlefield and the place of a continuous, common work of definition of the political community.

Democracy Without Political? Constructing Hegemonic Consensus on Finland's NATO Membership

Janne Petteri Lehtonen

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Following Mouffean understanding of plural democracy, continuous conflict is a core feature of democratic systems. Any established order is a hegemonic articulation, and thus essentially contestable. Attempts to constitute a hegemonic order can be understood as pursuits to depoliticize an issue, yet normatively, room for political (re)contestations would seem a necessary condition for true plural democracy. In cases of security policies and articulations of an outside crisis, however, democratic systems can be particularly susceptible to diminish the space for the plurality of contesting views.

To understand construction of hegemonic order in times of crises, I examine the case of public discussions in Finland during its process of joining NATO after the Russian full-scale invasion to Ukraine in 2022. The public opinion in Finland turned quite literally over one night from opposing NATO membership into supporting it, and consecutively, political leaders started to advance Finland joining NATO. I ask, how mainstream newspapers as public actors interpreted and constructed the novel conversation climate concerning Finland's security and NATO membership, and how space for political conflict and democratic values were represented.

Conducting post-structuralist discourse analysis of Finnish newspaper editorials, I detect an intriguing image of democracy without political. Democratic deliberation over NATO membership was highly valued in the editorials, yet simultaneously, they depict a pre-determined outcome of this deliberation: a wide commitment and unified, non-political support for Finland joining NATO. Interestingly, here democratic deliberation becomes a process of committing everyone behind a hegemonic consensus, and thus rather legitimating the decision than forming it.

Towards a Pragmatist Theory of Politics

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This paper builds the sociology of engagements frameworks towards a theory of political action. It argues that in order to meaningfully employ the framework for political analysis, we need to develop its conceptual tools to account for tools of creating conflict alongside tools of creating commonality. To do so, we need to focus on how political subjects, and conflict situations are created, in addition to focusing on how arguments are built and justified.

Boltanski and Thévenot (1999) use the example of a car crash when illustrating how conflicts emerge. In their imagination, conflicts are situations that happen on their own, and whose relevant actors are obvious. However, conflicts in democratic politics are actively created, and their subjects are deliberately constructed, and only then can be solved through coordination of common action.

This paper builds on our recent work (Eranti & Meriluoto 2023, Meriluoto 2023), joining sociology of engagements with post-foundational political theory. We deploy the latter's concept of hegemony to understand to understand how and why conflicts need to be purposefully created. The concept of hegemony also has a complicated relationship with the core pragmatist concept of critical capacity.

By joining the the two traditions, we build a pragmatist theoretical scaffolding for political analysis – a framework that recognizes that the potential for both creation and resolution of conflicts need to constructed.

RS07 | T06: Engagements in deliberation and community

Different Criticisms Towards Established Associations in Finland

Maija Elina Jokela

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Registered associations have traditionally been thought of as the primary form of action that, in pragmatic terminology, can be considered as civic in Finland. This paper is based on ethnographic data about two civic groups in Helsinki, Finland: an urban neighborhood movement called Kallio movement and the Finnish supporters of Right to Live, an asylum seekers' protest. Both are examples of loose and unofficial groups, organized in social media, that differ from the Finnish tradition of registered associations. Both groups also posed criticism towards established civic organizations and rooted for "free civic action" in stead, but for different reasons. In the presentation, I will explore these reasonings with the help of pragmatic sociology.

Kallio movement members criticized the very idea of registered associations because of the associations' hierarchical power relations and the lack of freedom and creativity of individuals whereas "free civic action" was seen as a more dynamic and equal form of action. This kind of critique is a combination of civic order of worth and liberal grammar. The supporters of Right to Live criticized the traditional volunteer organizations working with regugees with a vocabulary stemming from the familiar regime. The supporters perceived that organizations such as the Red Cross intentionally prevent personal relationships between asylum seekers and the volunteers, therefore dehumanizing the asylum seekers. In contrast, the supporters of Right to Live highlighted the friendships that had formed between the asylum seekers and the supporters by calling the protest "Right to Live family".

I ask, do these critiques change the valuation of registered associations as the vehicles of civic order of worth and how?

Lay Engagement with Interconnected Environmental and Social Crises: Complexity, Voice and Deliberation in Comparative Perspective

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It is widely recognized that the interconnected crises of climate change, ecological collapse and extreme inequality cannot be addressed without inclusive, creative and democratically informed interventions to transition away

from high carbon energy and social arrangements towards sustainable ways of living. However, in current policy framings and political narratives there is limited scope for citizen engagement in forging such interventions, particularly amongst disadvantaged communities. Relatedly, 'the public' are often positioned as naïve or misinformed and there is insufficient recognition of nuance within lay understandings. This shortfall in democratic engagement gives oxygen to populist claims about what "the people" really think and stalls political and policy action on climate change and related inequalities.

We examine new research evidence on complexity in citizens' engagement with the climate and ecological crises, bringing into comparison examples from England, Scotland and Australia. These focus on minoritized groups' perceptions of climate policy and the cost of living crisis in England, local deliberative engagements in energy transitions in Scotland and indigenous sustainability practices and land stewardship in Australia. Across these varied cases we interrogate parallels both in research participants' recognition of, and engagement with context and complexity and in how their perspectives are marginalized in mainstream political and policy discourses and practices. We draw from these cases to explore ways in which community voices and practices might inform more democratic, relational and collaborative forms of policy making which, in turn, could accelerate transitions to a low carbon and more equitable future.

Expert Engagements with the Imaginary of 'Community Energy': the Case of Portugal

Ross Wallace

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This study investigates the formation and interpretation of new laws for "Renewable Energy Communities" in Portugal by experts from legal, scientific, political, and economic fields. Utilizing pragmatic sociology and discourse analysis, it scrutinizes legal documents, policy frameworks, and expert interviews to understand how these new constructs are construed as viable solutions for energy transition and climate change. The research probes into the institutionalization process of these laws, examining how future-oriented engagements influence them. It inquires into how various institutional practices, types of expertise, and social representations have shaped these laws, exploring different orientations towards the future (such as possible, probable, hoped-for, or feared outcomes) and their relationship with distinct regimes of engagement.

In particular, we treat new energy laws as the site of struggle between a plurality of competing social representations of the common good, which are constituted by, among other things, imagined publics and expectations of the future. In the case analysed here, social representations of "active" versus "passive" citizens, and of "communities of place" versus "communities of interest" are playing a pivotal role in the transposition of Renewable Energy Communities in Portugal, as are representations of security, liberty and fairness. We highlight how technical experts navigate these discursive tensions, reinterpreting key attributes of energy communities,

This analysis reveals that despite critical tensions, a stable and conventional approach to energy transition is discursively sustained. This conventional path involves scaling up community energy, anchoring it in dominant institutional logics and neoliberal ideologies. The study thus sheds light on the complexities of institutionalizing Renewable Energy Communities in Portugal, demonstrating the interplay between forms of engagement, orders of worth and social representations in shaping energy policies.

How Confident and Extreme Opinions Can Challenge Deliberation Processes: a Case Study of a German Mini Public on New Genomic Techniques

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This presentation will discuss current deliberative trends in finding ways for society to "build commonality". In particular, it will shed light on the potentially problematic role of participants advancing extreme opinions in public deliberation processes. Drawing on literature from philosophy and social science together with empirical data from a German consensus conference on new genomic techniques, we discuss how deliberation events tend to attract individuals with more extreme and confident opinions. We also provide evidence that participants, in our case, became significantly more confident in their opinions, that confidence and extremity of opinions correlated, and that participants changed more extreme opinions less during deliberation. This, we argue, may in turn have problematic implications: it may promote group polarisation, impede consensus, and prevent policy impact. We will close with an outline of potential strategies to address these issues and areas for further research for deliberative participation and societal consensus finding overall.

RS07 | T07: New Social Pragmatism

Pragmatist-inspired Sociologies and Disaster Studies. Understanding the Moral and Political Complexity of Repairing

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In this paper I argue for the relevance of pragmatist-inspired sociologies in the field of (critical) disaster studies. In particular, I show the interest of sociological tools that are sensitive to the diversity of modes of engagements with the environment in exploring the tensions surrounding the definition of damages and their repairing. Such a sociological perspective reveals the diversity of forms in which "reparation" can be defined and can occur in disaster situations. In particular, I highlight three different logics of repairing that become visible in the aftermath of disaster. Repairing as a demand for justice; repairing as fixing infrastructures so that they are functional again; repairing as the practice of taking care of damaged (social and material) ecologies. This approach is based on the assumption that every disaster situation is, first and foremost, a problematic situation marked by uncertainty and the need for inquiry on the "whatness" of what is going on. The nature of the event as a disaster and the damages it caused are defined through a series of valuation processes and claims for recognition. Struggles to assert certain interpretations of the situation determine the realm of possible futures. In this sense, ways of repairing are intertwined with different ways of preparing (for) the future. The emphasis on the technical dimension of recovery and the urgent need to get infrastructures up and running again – recovery as « building back better » – turns recovery into a moment of decision about the future which, without taking the time to deliberate collectively on desirable futures, irreversibly erases certain futures from the horizon of possibilities, what Tony Fry calls defuturing.

Places of Engagement and Engagement in Places: How Similar Rural Communities Construct Dissimilar School Communities

Ove Skarpenes, Kirsten Horrigmo

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This paper aims to clarify the huge variety in school assessment results in two similar rural municipalities in Norway. We conducted a statistical analysis that included 420 of the country's 429 municipalities. The statistical analysis adjusted for the three most important variables and a regression model showed deviations from actual and expected results in the national tests. Against this composite backdrop, two places were chosen for comparison. In Sunplace the pupils scored much higher than expected, and in Woodland, the pupils scored much lower than expected. The reproduction thesis did not fit well with the cases discussed in this paper since the "reproduction variables" are adjusted for. Thus, we searched for other cultural differences. In these two cases interviews with eight key persons (three in Sunplace and five in Woodland) who together represented a certain breadth of local knowledge both from civil and public affairs were conducted. In addition, we did six focus group interviews with teachers and pupils (three in each municipality). Theoretically informed by Laurent Thévenot's work our contribution sketches some differences in how people participate with different forms of engagement and construct different forms of commonalities in the two rural school communities. Our findings show that the differences in sense of pride and community are communicated into the school cultures. The consequence is varying degrees of discipline and inclusion at the schools.

New Social Pragmatism

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This presentation introduces a new theoretical approach to political action, the New Social Pragmatism. This approach combines conceptual tools from the French pragmatist tradition (in particular Boltanski & Thévenot), and American cultural sociology (in particular Swidler, Eliasoph and Lichterman). We suggest that such combination is beneficial for considering how people strive to create commonality in today's complex societies, offering a widened perspective to analysing how the political emerges through an array of activities. Furthermore, the approach positions conflict at the centre of inquiry to make sense of the different ways people engage in society.

NSP provides tools for understanding simultaneously the structures of social life, and the conditions in which social life changes. In the presentation, we exemplify how this approach helps address social life flowing smoothly, resulting from people's constant action of engaging in ways that aim at ensuring the flow, and crises interrupting the flow and people's contextual tools to solve the crises, either returning to smoothness or laying out new landscapes: in sum, efforts and activities building the common from essentially pluralist starting points.

To present New Social Pragmatism, we revisit the concept of participation in social scientific debate. We argue that the concept needs both clarification free of normative weight and widening of scope to grasp types of societal action currently often passing under its radar. These aspects are joined in connecting the concept of participation, the actions taken to create commonality, and a broad understanding of the political under the idea of 'doing society', referring to the constant engaging, imagining and acting taking place on a scale from everyday situations to larger social transformations.

RS07 | T08: Engagements with altered agency

Being In Dementia: At The Limits Of Existence, Are There Still Commonplaces?

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When individuals affected by dementia seclude themselves and resist leaving the places where they freely circulate, in a relaxed manner, within the disoriented comfort they create with objects that affect them, such behaviors raise perplexities among social support professionals who accompany them daily. Their observations in the face of scenarios of this nature lead us to confront multiple dilemmas, as they indicate resistance from these actors in implementing the normative guidelines referenced in public policies aimed at caring for and protecting individuals at the limit of their existence.

In this communication, we present reflections that we have been conducting in research that has been physically accompanying individuals incapacitated by dementia. Faced with these incapacitations, it is from their corporeality that we take note of how these actors react when activities requiring leaving the environments they inhabit as living beings are proposed to them. Based on data collected through prolonged ethnographic observations in various environments they navigate, we gather information where the connections of their personality in those contexts are made through the mediation of intermediary objects that make possible the production of commonplaces affecting their existence.

The sensitive aspects of the proximity between these individuals and elective objects have led us to overlay the analysis on their dependencies as living beings, and through them, the tensions they exhibit and that resonate in expressions through their bodily gestures, clearly deviating from one side of the grammars that support intentional action and, on the other side, from the aspirations of languages that underlie empowering purposes in the pursuit of autonomy.

Putting Situationnal Citizenship To Music

Simon Lemaire

Unamur, Belgium / Dune

Based on a doctoral research, my contribution rely on an ethnography of politics and participation (Cefaï, D., Carrel, M., Talpin, J., Eliasoph, N., & Lichterman, P., 2012; Berger, 2018) about groups of people living with young onset dementia. The canonical analysis of participation risks being reduced to the classic observation of democratic deficit (Zask, 2011) in those dementia activist groups. A Goffmanian perspective however invites us to go beyond this observation to dwell on the interactional efforts developed in these spaces where political and care wills are mixed. Through an interactional work aiming to allow people living with dementia to share the cognitive relationship embedded in each situation, the moral and political identity of the people affected is restated. I linken this interactionnal attention that I qualify as “setting to music” with a form of citizenship that I define as “situationnal”, and I question the coupling of this goffmanian citizenship with forms of agency of the individual on his private or public environnement, using a Deweyan pragmatist approach. The sociological analysis I suggest paves the way between the political philosophy of democracy and concrete situations of participation in the specific case of a vulnerable public, and it therefore adresses in a very pragmatic way the question of “How to create and maintain mutual understanding and build common ground without excluding or taming down differing voices?”

Politics, Elections, Disabled People: Disabled People in Turkey in the Context of Local and General Elections

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The fact that people with disabilities often lack equal access to education, health care and rehabilitation services and employment causes them to be excluded and marginalised from socio-economic,cultural and political life(Groce,2018:724).However, problems such as the low visibility of the issue of disability, which is complex and has a very wide factual plane, and the fact that they are not included in the target audience by politicians are quite common. Political parties have the functions of socialisation and social mobility, focusing on a specific issue and bringing together micro-scale problems. This ground first of all enables disabled individuals to provide socialisation and social mobility by using political parties as a tool in social integration. In the context of the “human rights model” that we use to make sense of the social place of the disabled, the fact that the parties are in a political structure that “represents” the disabled is seen as important in their social integration and in expressing their problems. In the context of disability and political parties, this study focuses on the place and representation of the disabled in the electoral policies of the General Elections of the Republic of Turkey(2023) and the local elections of the Republic of Turkey(2024). Within the scope of the study, the posts about the disabled and disability policies in party texts and social media accounts will be analysed by critical discourse analysis and content analysis method. In addition, equal access of disabled people, whether they are socially excluded or not, and in which context they are included in the texts are other points examined in this study.

RS07 | T09: Urban & spatial engagments

Contesting The Compact City: Hyperdensity As A New Meta-critique

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Inheriting from the social urban struggles of the sixties and seventies, new urban contentious forms are being analyzed in western cities, going from protest camp to public renaming, combined to more traditional forms of protests. Among these, disputes about the "compact city" and its high density are fairly less talked about. Regarding our case-study of Geneva, contested urban "hyperdensity" is becoming the hegemonic topic in the public sphere, problematizing "saturation" effects (Pattaroni, Drevon & Piraud, 2019).

Investigating recent mobilizations against densification project, we will attempt to account for the contemporary renewal of urban struggles in a double context of a financialized and guaranteed urban development. Indeed, the mobilization against hyperdensity opposes urban projects that have often a large political support as they reflect the compact city compromises – those of the "sustainable neighborhoods" forged in the beginning of the 2000, between market, civic and green principles. In anchored situation of urban resistance to densification projects, conservative small private owner associations are joined by radical ecological activists forging new alliances around the preservation of biodiversity and a partly renewed criticism of metropolis (Faburel, 2020).

This politicization of urban development, reinstate the issue of the City as a political project of commoning and reneighboring between human beings and living entities. The renewal of urban struggles will allow us to question the place not only of new assemblages (Blok, 2013) in renewed urban commonalities but also the way broader meta-critiques of contemporary capitalist development find their way in new situated critical engagements along alternative ways of testing – and accounting for – what could constitute a viable future.

Domestic Space and Emergent Markets Rival Each Other – Towards Renewed Rules for the Division of Welfare

Jutta Elisabet Juvenius

University of Helsinki, Finland

This presentation is based on large interview material that is collected both from the urban dwellers from Helsinki as well as from housing specialists working in the biggest cities of Finland. In the presentation I look how changes in the housing system – that has been one of the key sites for the Nordic Welfare State – have shaped the conditions for division of welfare. I show how home has remained its status as special place and source of ontological security, challenging recent neoliberalist comments framing apartments as tradable consumer goods. Same time cities – being key actors drafting housing policies – aim to adapt to changing operational environment. Based on data, all cities participating into study still recognize social mixing and social housing as key welfare interventions, though the number of latter has shrunk drastically. Nevertheless, even cities declaring anti-market policies pass recent notes on market-oriented housing policies' tendency to weaken urban dwellers' ontological security and create new societal hierarchies. This requires new coping strategies with which residents aim to secure continuity of their dwelling conditions. Finnish social policies have historically based on universalism, so public good is targeted for everyone regardless their social status. However, these developments create a situation in which urban dwellers are either expected to secure their own welfare or be in weak enough socioeconomic position to enter circle of social housing. Altogether this means that there is a need for discussions on the values steering societal development and how these values are implemented in urban dwelling.

The Devil Is In The Details: Solidarities In Shared Spaces

Akofa laetitia Boglo

Universiteit voor Humanistiek, Netherlands, The

Solidarity needs people to exist between, and sometimes objects or events to organise around. But what about a space to organise or emerge in? This paper looks at particular spaces in which people share – physically – common ground, and asks how they can be spaces within which solidarities emerge, converge, and sometimes compete.

Drawing on participant observation and interviews in community centres in two Dutch neighbourhoods, this paper asks what happens if we approach community centres as more than containers within which people can participate in low-threshold activities or find social support, but as spaces with significant potential to act upon and shape the interactions that take place within them.

In a further step, the organisation and in some sense curation of these spaces by volunteers and professionals is considered. The way these spaces are filled in, and the process according to which this happens, is argued to reflect particular cultural repertoires which set up norms and create boundaries around proper and 'improper' use which can then become imbued with symbolic meaning.

This pattern appears through an examination of (small) details ranging from opening hours and programming, to types of beverages available, and furniture and toys in common areas. It often appears that these spaces take shape through a haphazard process of repair and replacement over time, and programming and accessibility are subject to financial and organisational constrains. However, an

argument is made that these details and the meanings attributed to them, though they may appear of little consequence, can influence how people come together and affect the types of solidarities which emerge within these shared spaces.

RS08 | Enacting solidarity and citizenship across social fields and scales

RS08 | T01: Performative Citizenship and Beyond

Horizontal Citizenship and Solidarity. How Urban Movements Create Alternative Ways of Being Political

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In the face of the polycrisis, citizens in Europe are experiencing the restrictions, failures or absence of state institutions. These institutions hardly provide adequate responses to the crises, and their post-democratic constitution leaves little room for the articulation of dem-ocratic alternatives. In this context, progressive movements tend to relate less to the 'imag-ined community' of the nation-state and a bounded community of citizens than to cities, neighborhoods and communities. And they do not limit themselves to participation, protest and demands vis-à-vis the state, but engage in prefigurative practices of solidarity, care and commoning. However, what significance does citizenship still hold in these contexts and how can we reconceptualize citizenship to consider these changes? To examine the remain-ing emancipatory potential of citizenship approaches with regard to social movements lo-cated at urban scales, I propose the concept of 'horizontal citizenship'. Detaching citizen-ship from a narrow focus on the state, I explore the enactment of citizenship through rela-tionships of solidarity in civil society and social movements. I emphasize how, against ne-oliberal individualization and isolation, collective political subjects emerge that often con-stitute themselves transversally by crossing national boundaries or the public-private-split. On a theoretical level, I critically review sociological and political concepts of citizenship in relation to contentious politics. I discuss approaches of insurgent, performative, and urban citizenship. Challenging the persistent focus on legalistic notions and state institu-tions in citizenship studies, I re-articulate the concept of citizenship with concepts that are currently resonating in both academic debates and social movements: solidarity, care, and commoning. Theoretical considerations are combined with empirical analyses based on the recent history of social movements in Europe and selected case studies of the ECSEuro project.

Inhabiting the City. Solidarity Practices in Urban Mobilizations in Italy

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Activists increasingly frame their engagement in contestations at the urban level around notions of "inhabiting" rather than "housing", thereby also creating new collective identities and political subjectivities as "inhabitants", dwellers and citizens at the same time. It is around this definition that coalitional practices develop around an idea of embedded solidarity. This contribution explores such practices of "inhabiting" as they emerge through mobilisations "from below" in a variety of urban initiatives, spanning across issues of housing, migration and care. Using in-depth and site-specific ethnographic data collected in Florence and Palermo, we show that initially, practices of mutual aid create forms of solidarity which are localised and tailored to the necessities of specific neighbourhoods and constituencies. With time, however, these practices tend to expand beyond the boundaries of their geographical origin and link otherwise disconnected urban areas. Theoretically, we draw on the concepts of mutual aid (e.g. Katz, 1981; Kropotkin, 1902; Spade, 202; Travlou, 2021), the commons (e.g. della Porta, 2024), and intersectional solidarity (e.g. Ciccia, della Porta, & Pavan, 2021; Ciccia & Roggeband; 2021) to address both the microlevel dynamics, the production of alternative economies, as well as the question of the broader transformative potential of these entangled practices. Empirically, we aim at singling out in a cross-city perspective the specific adaptation of solidarity practices to the different political and discursive opportunities in the two different contexts, seeing them as embedded in specific territorial political subcultures which also affected the social movement development.

Love Against Borders – Articulations of sexual citizenship in cross-border and transnational protests

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Many countries are experiencing war or growing authoritarianism based on heteronormative nationalisms, forcing LBTQIA* populations to migrate. For example, Russia's anti-LGBTQ* policies, manifested in increasing repression and bans on so-called "homo-propaganda", as well as similar policies in some former state-socialist countries in Europe, are one of the reasons for the increasing migration of queer people. At the same time, local resistance emerged in countries such as Poland, articulated in protests that deploy alternative imaginaries, while local protests in migration hotspots such as Warsaw or Berlin are transforming through the involvement of new activists. The activist landscapes are changing and we can observe new articulations of dissent, such as the cross-border protests between Słubice and Frankfurt Oder on the Polish-German border. They are an example of activism that challenges both national and European scales and identity bordering. Drawing on empirical research, including participant observation, media analysis and interviews, this study examines the negotiation of sexual citizenship in the discourses and actions of the Słubfurt Pride or through transnational demonstrations in the urban centers of Warsaw and Berlin. It explores how these gatherings transcend national, gendered and sexual boundaries.

(Re)articulating Acts of Citizenship in Times of Multiple Crisis – The Field of Housing and Activist Tenant Citizenship

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The concept of "acts of citizenship" (Isin 2008) accounts for the interventions of those who are not considered political subjects because of their precarious legal status or social position, but who constitute themselves as citizens by becoming public and making rights-claims. We argue to extend the debate on acts of citizenship 1) theoretically, by re-articulating activist citizenship approaches with concepts of care and solidarity, and 2) empirically, by analyzing cases of activist citizenship in the field of housing. First, we discuss how the definition of acts of citizenship is fundamentally linked to a specific understanding of politics that is based on becoming public and claiming rights as well as negation/rupture, which Isin (2009) conceptualized by distinguishing 'active' and 'activist' citizenship. Even though this understanding of politics is crucial, we are also stressing the importance of close social ties, mutual help, and solidarity for the emergence of collective political subjectivities. Second, we substantiate and advance this theorization through our empirical research in the field of housing. We examine politically organized tenants' assemblies and struggles by focusing on the movement Almen Modstand, which emerged in 2018 in reaction to the commodification, privatization, and territorial stigmatization of non-profit housing in Denmark through the Danish government's 'Ghetto Law'. This empirical intersection of housing, care, migration, and anti-racist activism makes this struggle a unique new case to advance the concept of citizenship acts by examining its emergence in a social and political space (non-profit housing) where it is commonly not discussed in these terms.

RS08 | T02: Migrant Solidarities and Transversal Alliances

Precarious Migrant Solidarities and Spaces of Witnessing in the Aegean Carceral Archipelago

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Since 2020, the Aegean archipelago has witnessed the growing criminalisation of citizens who assist illegalised migrants and the construction of a new highly securitised, EU-funded carceral facilities – 'Closed Controlled Access Centres' – for containing 'undesirable' migrant populations. Drawing on long-term ethnographic research on citizen-led migrant solidarity initiatives on the Greek islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, and Kos, this paper documents how citizen-volunteers navigate this changing terrain.

Located at the intersection of debates on 'citizen humanitarianism', migrant solidarity, and 'acts of citizenship', the paper first identifies three tactics deployed by the state – (1) physical erasure of autonomous spaces of solidarity; (2) silencing of political speech; (3) and racialised segregation – and their ambivalent effects on the ability of grassroots volunteers to enact solidarity and engage in practices of witnessing to violence against incarcerated migrants. It details how this has blurred the boundaries between solidarity initiatives and the state-sanctioned humanitarian/bordering apparatus on one hand, while also generating subversive, if highly precarious, forms of clandestine solidarity on the other. The paper argues that attempts to eviscerate solidarity are not just assaults on the ability of grassroots actors to provide humanitarian aid. Rather, they constitute attempts to foreclose the possibilities of camps in the Aegean from being transformed, once again, into spaces of witnessing; symptoms of a bordering apparatus that seeks to stifle and choke transgressive solidarities between citizens and non-citizens. With the Aegean islands a long-standing site of infrastructural experimentation for disciplining unruly mobility, the implications of this extend far beyond Greece.

Doing Solidarity in Urban Borderlands: Grassroots Initiatives and Migrant Support in Athens and Thessaloniki – Exploring Care Practices, Community Spaces and Networking

Chiara Martini

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In recent years, solidarity grassroots movements and autonomous organizations have become pivotal in responding to the exclusionary EU migration policy, both at Europe's borders and within its member states. The present study focuses on the Greek context, a crucial entry point in the EU and an important nexus of the Balkan Routes, where a dynamic network of individuals and organizations from below has undertaken diverse forms of support for those attempting to reach Europe. Drawing on an ethnographic research conducted in the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki while participating in various pro-migrant initiatives, the paper delves into the practices of local and international grassroots organizations that have engaged in mutual aid, care, and "direct social actions" (Zamponi, 2017) in these contexts, offering alternative, non-hierarchical approaches to assist people on the move. Focusing on urban spaces as significant arenas (Bauder, 2020), the study examines the "de-bordering" practices (Ambrosini, 2022) of these actors which, although not always explicitly contentious, have proven crucial in challenging border regimes and constructing alternative alliances that contest prevailing migration policies. Therefore, the study underscores the role of urban spaces in the proliferation and reinforcement of borders, as well as in their contestation, fostering forms of solidarity and resistance. Secondly, it unravels the dynamics and outcomes of these practices, assessing their role in forging alliances and networks that actively challenge the current migration and border regime. Additionally, it explores how these initiatives contribute to creating new "safe" spaces conducive to encounters and exchanges, promoting a perspective that seeks to address and alleviate oppressive and exclusionary policies.

Solidarity Networks and Places of Hope: Addressing Housing Issue of Persons under International Protection in Ljubljana

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The main focus of the paper is to address the challenges of finding housing in Ljubljana by persons under international protection, and to discuss the emergence of alternative forms of participation and practices of solidarity within the local community. In addition to being affected by the high

demand for accommodation and rising rent and real-estate prices on the free housing market, refugees face discrimination based on their background. Their everyday lives are severely affected by the inconsistencies of the Slovenian integration and housing policy. Immediately after obtaining the refugee status, they must leave the asylum home and look for accommodation in the free housing market. Due to deficiencies in the mentioned areas, they seek solutions beyond state politics. Through ethnographic research, we mainly observe two strategies that help to address their housing issues. The first is the use of a few private apartments the knowledge of which is spreading by word of mouth. These apartments are places of hope, yet a reminder that the authorities should address housing accessibility for refugees on a systemic level. The second strategy is mutual assistance in finding accommodation and sharing information about empty housing capacities, which takes place in the private environment and on the premises of NGOs. Both strategies show innovative ways of networking between refugees and the local community to find temporary solutions to deficient integration and housing policy. With an ethnographic approach, we discuss the experiences of refugees and homeowners, and show how solidarity networking strategies create new places of hope.

The Affects Of Solidarity

Niki Kubaczek

transversal texts, Austria

2024 looks like another year where ultra right wing political parties gain even more momentum and consensus than the years before. The years of (the mostly Spanish) municpalism and the different struggles for a solidarity city seems to be moving further and further into the distance. The paper will discuss to what extent the notions of municipalism and the city as site of solidarity (Mokre / Kubaczek 2021) could be of use against the looming authoritarian, racist and fascist tipping points of the present: What are the possibilities of undermining the narrative of migration as threat, that works so well over the last years and decades? What could struggles for a solidarity city contribute to the question of social movements and insitutions? What is the difference between charity , solidarity and care? And how could struggles for a solidarity city contribute to a movement, in which intersectional analysis transform into a transversal solidarity? With solidarity city movements as an example, the paper will focus first and foremost on the question what affects lie in the heart when solidarity takes place, when we enact solidarity. Therefore the paper will connect the notions of affirmation that Ferdinand Tönnies developed in Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft. Abhandlung des Communismus und des Socialismus als empirischer Culturformen an connect it to recent notions of an affirmative politics as proposed for example by the feminist philosopher Rosi Braidotti in various recent writings.

RS08 | T03: Care as a cross-cutting concept: practices, communities and struggles of care at urban scales I

Solidarity Neighborhoods In Berlin and Hamburg: Building Relations Of Care, Communities, And Commons In Local Struggles Around Housing And Migrant Rights

Mouna Maaroufi

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Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in the neighborhoods of Kreuzberg in Berlin and Wilhelmsburg in Hamburg, this paper examines solidarity initiatives and the relations of care, community, and commons that are being formed in ongoing struggles around housing and migration. In these neighborhoods shaped by gentrification, displacement, privatization, and precarization, it analyzes the approaches of several initiatives in addressing and transforming the prevailing crisis-ridden conditions ‘from below’ and asks to what extent the local context of the neighborhood helps to forge long-term relations of care and solidarity, thus facilitating the intersection of different struggles. In Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg, we focus on two initiatives which are mainly active locally and maintain close relations among each other – despite different political and community backgrounds. In Berlin-Kreuzberg, the research centers on a collective non-commercial kitchen and space of encounter and organizing for heterogeneous people. The cases show how communities and commons are built in neighborhoods around shared spatial and social contexts in which relations of “autonomous solidarity”, “mutual aid”, and collective care practices arise in the everyday life (Agustín & Jørgensen 2019, Spade 2020). The initiatives are involved in a continuous process of commoning of “infrastructures of solidarity”, in which responsibilities and resources are as best as possible distributed collectively and democratically (Schilliger 2020, Caffentzis & Federici 2014). In this way, the initiatives enact lived alternatives to privatized and commodified ways of social provisioning and to the disciplining and differential inclusion of (municipal) institutions. Establishing such alternatives on a local scale entails working against the prevalent individualization and isolation, overcoming the constructed distance and divisions in contemporary crisis-ridden city life and in doing so, building solidarity communities, neighborhoods or even cities.

Abolitionist Community Care Against the State

Melanie Susan Brazzell

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The concept of 'community' is frustratingly vague, rarely defined yet often invoked by sociologists and political actors as a local counterweight to state models of governance. This presentation tackles the slipperiness of the term through an ethnography of movements for abolitionist care and transformative justice in London and Berlin. I examine their concept and practice of 'community' as a non – or anti-state alternative to the criminal legal system for safety and justice, particularly for gender-based violence.

While transnational bodies like the EU evacuate some elements of national sovereignty, others are reconfigured by neoliberal governance: through austerity in the caring social sector and expansion of the carceral state. Reproductive care work is outsourced to private sector, precaritized migrant workers (who are then disciplined by a "crimmigration" (Stumpf 2006) regime) or to third sector "shadow state" (Wolch 1990) non-profits, where an unwaged community replaces the state as service provider through "community capitalism" (Van Dyk 2018).

Yet 'community' is also deployed by a range of political actors as a figure of opposition to the state and capital. Among them are transformative justice practitioners in London and Berlin who draw on Black, indigenous, queer and crip feminisms to provide mutual aid to community members experiencing violence. This abolitionist care (Medel 2017, Boodman 2020, Thompson 2021) drags 'kitchen table' support out of the feminized private sphere, not into the public (the state) but into the "third space" (Federici 2019) of the commons. I ague that these movements reimagine community through a framework of care as interdependent relationality and shared denizenship, and mobilize community to contest the carceral state, whose sovereignty and citizenship is framed as disintegrative of social bonds.

Embodied Solidarity : Feminist Care and Vulnerability in Parisian Squats

A. Tancrede Pages

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This article examines the practice of everyday solidarity within a squat in the Parisian banlieue (suburb). It focuses on the tensions involved in everyday life within a heterogeneous collective that embodies a wide range of differing precarities and identities from illegalized migrants to transpersons and from persons with substance abuse disorder to neuroatypical persons. Based on months of ethnographic fieldwork in two Parisian squats – one which was self-described as being an LGBT+ space – I explore the concept of embodied solidarity as relying upon a shared common space in which interpersonal relations of care may occur. In particular, I break down how squats can serve as sites of (de-)re-constructing the meanings of deservingness, belonging, and precarity of a multitude of socio-political struggles into an amorphous collective identity rooted in everyday interpersonal interaction. The article concludes by emphasizing the way in which embodied solidarity opens up the possibility for a prefigurative politics, namely presentist democracy, which allows for claims to a right to the city be made by heterogeneous socio-political actors.

RS08 | T04: Care as a cross-cutting concept: practices, communities and struggles of care at urban scales II

Claiming and Commoning Care in the City. Solidarity Practices in/through the Feminist Strike Movement in Zurich and Bern

Sarah Berit Schilliger

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Particularly since the pandemic, it has become evident that nation-states and markets have failed to create care infrastructures that guarantee good care and offer decent working conditions. This structural carelessness, manifested above all at local level, has been increasingly addressed by feminist strike movements in recent years. In Switzerland, around 300'000 women took to the streets on 14 June 2023. However, the feminist strike movement is by no means limited to this event but can rather be understood as an ongoing process (Gago 2018) with different forms, scales and sites of politicization of care.

Based on activist ethnographic fieldwork within the feminist strike movement in Bern and Zurich, I explore how childcare workers, networks of mothers and neighborhood collectives challenge the ongoing crisis of social reproduction by both claiming the expansion of public childcare infrastructures and by creating self-organized, collective structures and spaces of childcare within the city. Solidarity between paid and un(der)paid care workers for the expansion of public care infrastructures and self-organized care commoning in the neighborhood are both elements of a multiplied process of feminist striking. At the micropolitical level, these initiatives can be seen as practical interventions answering to immediate needs in the context of an ongoing care crisis, but also as experimentations with collectively and self-organized forms of care, based in affirmations of interdependency (Tronto 2013) and intensified proximity (Roth/Russell/Thompson 2023). On a broader societal level, these solidarity initiatives not only question the hegemonic division between the public and the private spheres, but also the neoliberal "care fix" strategy which attempts to bridge the care crisis by "offloading the cost of care" to less privileged sectors of society (Dowling 2021).

Domestic workers and the Covid-19 pandemic: Who cares?

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Women working in the domestic sector have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic due to their precarious working conditions in private households and the unstable legal status many of them hold. While the value of other forms of care work was at least symbolically recognized, domestic workers experienced a further invisibilization and vulnerabilization. In an ongoing research project we study the effects of the pandemic on these women's lives in Switzerland. Not only do we inquire the different ways they have coped with this exceptional situation, we are also interested in the support infrastructure that was available for this group during the Covid-19 crisis. Our contribution is based on 58 semi-structured interviews with representatives of political authorities, as well as civil society actors providing alimentary, financial and administrative support in four cities (Zurich, Bern, Fribourg and Geneva). These are complemented by a first set of narrative interviews with domestic workers. Preliminary results show that they could rarely access support measures by the state during the pandemic, and the responsibility to care for them was passed on to the city level and smaller civil society actors. Thereby, the management of the pandemic reveals the low value the state attributes to domestic work, but also new forms of solidarity by non-state actors on the local scale. In this context, we aim to discuss the potentials and risks of rescaling responsibilities in times of crisis and show how local initiatives challenge and reproduce nation-state logics at the same time.

Cooking, Caring, Communing from Below: Grassroots Community Kitchen Initiatives in Five European Cities

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In this paper, we examine collective cooking initiatives in five European cities, highlighting the importance of fostering mutual care and commoning spaces in the realm of social reproduction within contemporary urban social movements. We argue that the communal act of cooking and eating serves as a powerful counter to the precarious

conditions of urban life, creating a sense of commonality, care and working against divisive and hierarchical power relations.

Our analysis positions grassroots community kitchen initiatives as forms of resistance to the neoliberal city, characterized by a commodity-oriented aestheticization that often leads to gentrified urban atmospheres, including the gastrofication of public spaces and various tastes of gentrification (Stock 2013; Alkon, Kato and Sbicca 2020).

In response, we explore the politicization of eating practices as a means of commoning reproductive activities (see Federici 2019; Zechner 2021) in unconventional, non-commodified ways.

Using a multi-sited ethnographic approach, our study includes:

1) The Kiezkantine initiative in Berlin, which promotes weekly community meals in a non-commercial neighbourhood store.

2) The Medina Community Centre in Bern, adjacent to the Reitschule cultural centre, which facilitates encounters between people through cooking and eating together.

3) Sister's Cuisine and Trampolinhuset in Copenhagen, known for preparing meals in refugee justice community centres.

4) Popular canteens in Florence, established by (trans)feminist activists from the Non una di meno movement, providing food for street-based trans sex workers.

5) A repurposed former workers' canteen in Ljubljana, redefining eating practices as a political act by reviving a space once dedicated to the working class.

RS08 | T06: Urban re-articulations of state and civil society: cases of new municipalism I

Urban cosmopolitanism.: Towards Multiscalar Networks of Solidarity and Hospitality Cities

Óscar García Agustín, Martin Bak Jorgensen

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This presentation seeks to conceptualize a dialectical and critical understanding of cosmopolitanism from below from the potential of the cities to forge an inclusive cosmopolitanism. It does not mean that the cities guarantee per se the existence of diversity and inclusiveness. In our conceptualisation of urban cosmopolitanism, the city becomes the site to foster translocal solidarities, connecting dialectically particularism and universalism, and expanding the political community. Moreover, this framework allows us to analyse new forms of global networking of Solidarity/Sanctuary cities. We argue that such networks may have a transformative potential based on local solidarities, and the ability to both develop new imaginaries and materialise these through practices. We use two cases to illustrate this point, namely the Fearless Cities movement and the World Social Forum on Migration.

Scaling Across: A Microsociological Perspective on the Political Outcomes of Neighborhood Activism

Anna Zhelnina

Utrecht University, Netherlands, The

Social movements attain a variety of incremental gains as they strive to achieve their primary goals. Even if a movement does not achieve its primary goals, the accumulated gains can pull people further into new arenas of collective action, transforming the configuration of larger political fields.

The literature on movement "spillover" and intermovement interactions has laid the groundwork to further our understanding of how movements influence each other and the situation in which they operate (through overlapping activist communities, tactical diffusion, and discursive change). While plenty of evidence exists that movements generate new social networks, identities, and worldviews, a fundamental question remains: Why do such gains sometimes "travel" across movement causes and arenas and sometimes not?

This paper describes the microlevel mechanisms enabling or blocking the transfer of gains across political arenas:

individual players simultaneously negotiate and assess potential gains and losses at multiple levels (in their private lives, relevant small groups, and city and national politics). Individuals' choices reveal how the personal and structural dimensions are connected and how personal and collective outcomes are interrelated.

The empirical material includes data collected during an urban renewal controversy in Moscow and its spillover into electoral arenas in 2017–2019 (interviews, observations, and digital ethnographies of online communities created to organize supporters and opponents of the renewal proposal). I identify the microlevel mechanisms facilitating and blocking the transfer. I also demonstrate that individual players simultaneously assess potential gains and losses at multiple levels: in their private lives, civic communities, and national politics.

Enacting Local Solidarity for the Displaced People and the Emergence of New Municipalism in Authoritarian Political Environment. The Hungarian Case with special reference to Budapest

Margit Feischmidt[1], Violetta Zentai[2], Ildiko Zakarias[1], Csilla Zsigmond[1], Eszter Neumann[1]

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Recent migration studies reveal that citizens, civil society, and subnational governments, often backed by transnational networks fill the gaps in refugee protection left by national authorities (Agustin and Jorgensen, 2019; Vandevoordt 2019). The pandemic crisis in 2020 also drew attention to that social solidarity and mutual assistance between people on everyday matters had significantly increased, local governments and solidarity activists became increasingly valuable allies for each other. Inquiries dwelling on authoritarian political environments have also found that, even in a shrinking space for civil society, solidarity actors may generate new political alternatives (Della Porta and Steinhilper 2022, Jacobsson and Korolczuk 2017).

By unveiling how solidarity for people displaced by Russian invasion of Ukraine is organized in Hungary and the helping rationales are framed by local and municipal actors, our analysis centers on the way how solidarity becomes localised. Through examining the scales of locality, we consider discourses, institutions and alliances that play a central role in the construction and maintenance of local solidarity constellations. Our paper explores how in these constellations new municipalism as a political alternative is emerging and sustained. Our research team has been scrutinizing the patterns of Hungarian solidarity mobilisation in crisis situations since 2015. Most recently, we have conducted 30 interviews and ethnographic observations in Budapest and four rural regions of Hungary to explore bottom-up solidarity mobilisations with displaced people from Ukraine. For this presentation, we will work explicitly with data from Budapest.

Practicing Solidarity with Artists at Risk: Conditions and Contours of City-based Initiatives

Andrea Ilse Glauser

mdw –University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria

This paper focuses on city-based and trans-locally connected initiatives aimed at protecting artists (writers, musicians, visual artists etc.) who are facing persecution. In many countries and regions of the world, artistic freedom is severely restricted; in authoritarian or totalitarian regimes, artists are often among those actors who are particularly exposed and at risk due to the (public) nature of their work. In response, a complex and heterogeneous network of initiatives has been developed, mainly sustained by municipal and civil society organizations and interest groups, and specifically geared toward creating an infrastructure of exile for persecuted artists. Through a long-term empirical study based on ethnographic observation, interviews with involved parties and document analyses, this contribution analyzes the conditions and contours of such initiatives with a focus on Polish, Austrian, and Swiss cities. This paper will pay attention to how the actors involved deal with the tightening of border controls and mobility regimes of the respective nation states and the European Union. Furthermore, this paper explores how these forms of practicing solidarity relate more generally to the state level—in terms of conflict and/or cooperation—and how the city-based activities are intertwined with trans-local networks. The empirical findings are brought into conversation with theoretical debates concerning new municipalism and the "city as a site of solidarity" (Kubaczek/Mokre 2021).

RS08 | T08: Urban re-articulations of state and civil society: cases of new municipalism II

Bridging the Gap: Local Initiatives and Health Care Activism for Undocumented Migrants in Germany

Ilker Ataç

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Undocumented migrants in Germany face substantial barriers in accessing regular health services, despite international agreements guaranteeing for their healthcare rights. Control policies, social law exclusion, and economic considerations impede the realization of emergency care rights. Consequently, civil society actors and welfare organizations play a pivotal role in delivering healthcare to undocumented migrants, operating parallel to the mainstream healthcare system. These entities serve as frontline advocates, building trust and facilitating access to essential services. Throughout various German cities, dedicated volunteers and activists contribute by providing free and confidential healthcare services to counteract exclusion, giving rise to novel forms of solidarity.

In this presentation, I will explore the innovative strategies employed by activists in framing health services for undocumented migrants as essential citizenship rights, rather than mere humanitarian endeavors. The focus will be on local initiatives, their organization, outreach strategies, and collaborations with other local stakeholders. A critical examination of how activist organizations navigate the delicate balance between offering health services for migrants and advocating for these services as inherent citizenship rights will be undertaken. This discussion will delve into the practical implementation of political ideals, the social and institutional relationships utilized at the local and regional levels, and the ways in which activists challenge humanitarian parallel services. Drawing from interviews and participatory research, this presentation aims to shed light on the evolving landscape of health activism in Germany and its transformative impact on redefining citizenship rights within the local context.

Getting Appropriate Public Services: Empirical Evidence on Indigenous' Relations and Practices in Canadian Multilevel Governance

Julia Dahlvik

University of Applies Sciences Vienna, Austria

My multilocal case study focuses on the challenges of providing and accessing public services and the rights associated with these services (housing, health, education etc.). Preliminary findings from the Northwest Territories in Canada provide insights into civil society-state-relations, their transformation, and their multi-scalar entanglements. The particularities of this case – over 50% of the population being Indigenous, a combination of different orders of government in place (municipal, regional, territorial, federal, band and self-governments), a vast territory and a nonpartisan consensus government – importantly contribute to how the social relations between actors and authorities are shaped.

My research is based on qualitative interviews with citizens and Indigenous community members, government representatives (of the different orders), other experts as well as document analysis.

After centuries of colonization and domination, the relations between the Indigenous peoples and different orders of government are slowly developing into a more empowered position for the Indigenous peoples. Enacting this way forward 'from below' is an important part of it. "We know who we are and what we need," an Indigenous' quote illustrates the core principle: instead of paternalistic decision-making, involve those who are concerned and let them decide. Regional and Community Corporations, governed by Indigenous peoples, are an institutional way of arranging their relations to other orders of government. With federal and territorial funding, they provide the – culturally appropriate – services to their community members, with whom they consult regularly; these include housing, health, education, and other services. Tensions, trust and transformation are key elements in this context.

Findings from this research also allow for learnings for European contexts.

Possible session: "Enacting solidarity and citizenship 'from below': transversal and translocal relations"

Possibilities and Limitations of Introducing a City ID Card for Berlin

Stefanie Kron

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The Berlin Senate has committed itself to having an expert study on the possibility of introducing a municipal ID card (Berlin City ID Card) that is independent of residence status. The aim is to enable the estimated 50,000-100,000 people living in Berlin without a residence permit (undocumented migrants) to participate more fully in the life of the city. Several other cities in Europe, including Berne, Zurich,

Barcelona, and Paris, are currently considering the introduction of a city ID card or have already introduced one.

The author of this abstract was commissioned to prepare the Berlin report. Some preliminary results will be presented and discussed. The methodology includes the concept of "urban citizenship" since the municipal ID is considered as the most far-reaching instrument to implement "urban citizenship" (not only) for undocumented migrants. Empirically, the report is based on qualitative interviews with counseling centers, migrant self-organizations, senate administrations, and academics. Health, education, housing, and work are the main areas examined regarding the existing restrictions and offers, as well as the potential of a Berlin City ID for undocumented migrants. The focus is on the following questions:

– To what extent can a Berlin City ID overcome the specifically German legal restrictions on access to social rights for undocumented people and actually enable more urban participation or even "urban citizenship"?

– What is the role of Berlin's civil society and its translocal networks in providing and negotiating support for undocumented migrants with state institutions?

– What are the differences and similarities between the models of the City ID in different European cities?

Maintaining Communicative and Political Infrastructure in a Depoliticised Community – Lessons From a Deindustrialised Slovenian Town

Marko Ribać

Peace Institute, Slovenia

Paper attempts to evaluate how specific organizational modes, activities and practices of a small activist initiative Iniciativa mestni zbor (short: IMZ; eng.: City-Wide Assemblies initiative) contribute to sustenance of communicative and political life in a small deindustrialised Slovenian town of Maribor. Paper combines literature and research on phenomena like commons, care and solidarity infrastructure (see Tronto, Simone, Gutierrez Sanchez) with theorising on the "right to the city" (Lefebvre, D. Harvey) to evaluate initiative's abilities to facilitate deliberative, democratic and horizontal participation in the city. Author also draws conclusions from his ethnographic research to propose how initiative attempted – historically – to combat widespread political and communicative dispossession of the city's residents. Ethnographical field notes show how activists laboriously try to re-create and maintain contemporary places of »isonomia« (Arendt) in the town: by maintaining a communicative and political network of spaces devoted to deliberative and participatory practices of citizens "from below" (weekly plenums, community garden(s), city-wide participatory budget etc.). In this sense initiative sustains and reproduces communicative and political infrastructure that continuously facilitates "immaterial commons" in the dispossessed community: communicative and political life in the city devoid of channels and avenues for meaningful municipal and urban participation. Paper in the end outlines some dangers on the political horizon: it problematizes the routine nature of maintaining the communicative infrastructure where author recognises immense labour devoted to the role of this informal public stewardship "from below" but acknowledges the dangers of depoliticization when the political spaces are gradually becoming devoid of people.

RS10 Producing, Contesting, and Reconfiguring Urban Sustainability

RS10 | T03: Producing, contesting and reconfiguring urban sustainability: session 1

The goal of this Research Stream is to set up an international forum for theoretical and empirical research providing new perspectives and insights on the production, contestation and reconfiguration of urban sustainability.

Reframing Urban Sustainability: Politics and Contestation through DIY Infrastructuring in Global Cities

Manisha Anantharaman

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Sustainability is quickly emerging as a dominant ideology and framework for material action in global cities. As cities around the world invest in green urban infrastructures as both a climate and urban competitiveness strategy, research has shown that these sustainability actions can displace and dispossess working class and racialized communities. Further, the technocratic and managerial precepts of sustainability mean that it can function as an anti-politics machine, some scholars argue. In this paper, I complicate this narrative by showing how the very amorphous quality of sustainability discourse and practice makes it a potent vehicle for politics, despite its apolitical and technocratic framing. Combining theories of social reproduction, urban political ecology and intersectionality, this paper examines how urban sustainability infrastructuring, i.e. the creation of infrastructures to solve environmental problems, functions as a "terrain" or "contact zone" bringing together the state, business, middle class environmentalists, and sections of the urban poor. Drawing on a long-term, ethnographic study of "zero-waste" transitions in Bengaluru, India, I show that infrastructures become the site of political contestation where diverse actors adopt, contest, and modify neoliberal sustainability's emphasis on market-based solutions, behavior change, and the aesthetic conflation of "clean" with "green". Emergent forms of "communal sustainability" and "DIY infrastructuring" challenge dominant narratives of eco-modernization that posit teleological accounts of change, instead illustrating the transformative potential of collective action projects that cross lines of class, caste, race, and geography. The paper ends by proposing a novel theoretical framework to study participation and collective action in urban sustainability through an interdisciplinary situated, relational, and intersectional approach.

Addressing Urban Inequalities Through Sustainability Planning: A Focus on Bologna and Its Neighborhoods

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Climate change and other environmental challenges compel cities to reassess their urban spaces and the daily lives of their residents. An important step towards a "carbon zero" city can be achieved through the reduction of carbon emissions from cars, creating "people-friendly" neighborhoods where essential needs can be met within a walkable distance. The distribution of public services within neighborhoods plays a pivotal role, not only enhancing the quality of life but also reducing reliance on polluting means of transportation.

By addressing public services distribution and accessibility, urban planning towards sustainability can contribute to fighting pre-existing spatial inequalities that make a difference in residents' lives, fostering social inclusion and stronger community ties on the micro-urban scale, reaffirming density as a fundamental urban feature.

Using GIS tools, we focus on the case study of Bologna (Italy) and its spatial inequalities (regarding urban services), crucial for the challenges Bologna is facing and the policies adopted (such as the EU Mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030"). Using information on urban service provision and census tracts data, we analyze the spatial distribution of public services across neighborhoods, to measure service provision and accessibility within walking distances of 5, 10 or 15 minutes. Results show that while Bologna offers a good provision of services within a 15-minute walk, there are significant differences at the neighborhood and intra-neighborhood scales. Furthermore, we analyze the geography of socio-economic fragility within the city, to understand "who" can benefit from service proximity.

Finally, we emphasize how effective urban sustainability projects must address urban inequalities, mitigating the risk of assuming inequalities as a given and unalterable structural condition, thus ending up reproducing them.

'Good' Public Spaces And What They Look Like In The Context Of Contemporary Urban Challenges: An Urban User Perspective.

Mollie Isabel Wilson, Anastasia Loukianov, Zoe Harris

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Efforts to determine the impacts of privatisation on public space quality have produced variable outcomes, exacerbated by the difficulty of generating consensus on what 'good' public space actually looks like. Focusing on urban public spaces, we contextualise public space quality in the broader needs of the urban community through exploring what 'good' public space delivery looks like in consideration of contemporary urban challenges. We ask: firstly, what does the urban community perceive these challenges to be?; secondly, what are the preferred qualities of urban public spaces according to urban users?. A social constructivist approach is taken in recognition that qualities and overall quality of public space are socially constructed and may vary between communities and individuals. This paper presents the findings from focus groups and individual follow-up interviews in three English cities with diverse members of the urban public. Focus group data includes transcripts and outputs for three activities: group selection and ranking of perceived urban challenges; group selection and ranking of most desirable attributes for an envisioned public space development; and an individual choice matrix using public space cases with different described attributes. These activities are expected to highlight desirable public space attributes and reveal any patterns between preferred attributes and perceived needs. Furthermore, the results are expected to give insight on how responsiveness to urban challenges can be comprehensively integrated into design and governance of the city's shared spaces from the perspective of urban dwellers for a more sustainable and community-oriented approach to urban public space delivery.

Urban Environmental Governance and Citizens Participation: To Win The Climate Challenge, An Entire City Is Needed

Monica Bernardi

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The upcoming Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) report on cities underscores their pivotal role in addressing the climate challenge. With 57% of the global population residing in urban areas, contributing to 70% of carbon emissions and 80% of wealth production, cities are at the forefront of climate action. Their increasing relevance is highlighted by the intensification of recent extreme weather events, by the pressing need to understand how major demographic, social, and economic centers will respond to rising levels of extreme shocks, and by the interconnection of risks and vulnerabilities (Bai, 2023). The IPCC cities study will explore biophysical aspects, impacts and risks, development modes of mitigation and adaptation projects, energy and emissions, policy and governance, and civil society's contribution to the climate challenge.

This work focuses on the latter two aspects, examining governance strategies and citizen engagement in the context of the European Mission on 100 cities aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030. The case in point is Florence, one of the 9 selected Italian cities, with a rooted commitment to climate action. Specifically, the study delves into the "Firenze per il Clima" strategy, which aims to raise awareness among citizens about climate actions and encourages active participation from organizations and individuals. The city environmental governance framework is analyzed within the theoretical framework of urban and multilevel climate governance (Bulkeley, 2013; Bulkeley & Betsill, 2003); and the citizens' involvement processes are deepened by analyzing the process of democratic innovation implemented in its first start-up phase, including the establishment of an advisory body of citizens for climate-related decision-making, the Climate City Assembly.

RS10 | T06: Producing, contesting and reconfiguring urban sustainability: session 2

The goal of this Research Stream is to set up an international forum for theoretical and empirical research providing new perspectives and insights on the production, contestation and reconfiguration of urban sustainability.

Exploring Multiple Challenges in Sustainable Urban Mobility Governance: Insights from Padua, Italy

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Urban mobility systems are essential for the economy and society, yielding noteworthy implications for the environment, urban sustainability, citizen health and well-being, as well as the productive and commercial fabric of territories. In recent years, the exacerbation of the climate crisis has amplified attention toward urban mobility issues, particularly in the pursuit of innovative solutions, including within smart city projects. However, this attention has predominantly focused on the technical infrastructures supporting mobility systems, frequently overlooking their social, cultural, and even economic components.

Moreover, responses to tensions among diverse stakeholders, including businesses, city users, workers, tourists, professionals, and environmental movements, have not consistently succeeded in fostering negotiation logics between divergent interests while simultaneously endorsing sustainable and socially inclusive mobility models.

Drawing on an ongoing study in Padua, Italy, this contribution highlights the political-economic and socio-cultural factors hindering the progress of sustainable urban mobility projects. In particular, it examines participatory practices in this domain, the perspectives of retailers and other relevant stakeholders, and scrutinizes the influence of politics and expertise on outcomes.

The study integrates sociological and political economy research on urban mobility and car dependency with studies on urban governance and participation. Employing a mixed survey methodology, it includes qualitative interviews with key stakeholders, an analysis of documents from a 2019 Agenda 21 participatory process related to a project of urban renovation and mobility, a newspapers content analysis, and a questionnaire directed at Padua's shopkeepers aimed to explore their mobility habits and perspectives on sustainable urban mobility.

Controversies on Sustainable Urban Mobility: Contestation, Polarization and Climatization

Emiliano Scanu

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Sustainable urban mobility projects and infrastructure are today very widespread as means to improve local transportation and at the same time mitigate climate change and foster economic growth. Despite good intentions, these policies do not always produce the expected results and may face resistance from actors who see them as a "war on cars". Recent research has well highlighted this "contestation of sustainable urban mobility", and more widely trends towards a discursive polarization between supporters of active and public transportation and promoters of automobility. By combining insights from environmental discourse analysis and urban theory, this paper presents an empirical study of a sustainable mobility policy in Quebec City, Canada, which has given rise to a controversy opposing two divergent perspectives on urban transportation as well as on climate change. The first is an ecological modernization discourse advocating for the decarbonization of the urban transportation system through the improvement of public transit infrastructure. The second is a promethean counter-discourse which opposes public spending in transportation and supports the unconditional growth of urban sprawl and the use of the car, be that gas-powered or electric. In addition to showing that urban transportation policies can face resistance even when these are cast from a neoliberal perspective axed on sustainability and urban growth, the results highlight that polarization in transportation is increasingly climatized, that is to say structured around claims, storylines, technologies, and knowledge specific to the field of climate action, whether to advocate change (e.g.: energy transition) or status quo (e.g.: denial and skepticism). These phenomena of polarization and climatization can be considered as two important recent trends in the making and unmaking of urban sustainability.

The Customers Perspective: Attaining Sustainable Last Mile Delivery with Parcel Lockers In An Urban Environment

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University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna, Austria

Urbanization intensifies spatial density, impacting not solely the inhabitants and their multifaceted activities but also exerting influence on the logistical dynamics responsible for supplying urban domains. As parcel volumes rise originating in the increasing e-commercialization, simultaneous challenges in social, environmental, and economic realms emerge, particularly in the context of deliveries to private households. Sustainable city planning necessitates a focus on sustainable logistics, especially addressing the

inefficiencies inherent in the last mile (LM) delivery to end consumers. Parcel lockers (PL) are one innovative way to improve the sustainability of the LM. Prioritizing the customer perspective as the focal point is imperative for realizing sustainable market implementation, as the acceptance of a lot of innovative solution for urban sustainability hinges on their endorsement. Customer attitudes play a crucial role but are not yet emphasized in the research field. Therefore, a dataset of n = 530 was collected via questionnaire from Vienna residents of the 23rd district and analyzed using logistical regression analysis to predict which customer attitudes influence the probability of using a PL. The six key attitudes "reliability", "anonymity", "flexibility in daily routines", "consumer safety", "minutes to PL" and "minutes to post office" and the control variable "parcels per month" were. Notably "environmental benefits" and the control variable "age" had no effect on the probability. To conclude: urban sustainability efficacy necessitates embracing and comprehending the perspectives of the people. Thus, sustainability can organically evolve from grassroots levels, integrating into practical enhancements in everyday life.

Urban nature in Paris. Individualisation, representation and global competition

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Urban nature is a crucial element in the definition of citizens' 'quality of life'. Although this object of research is not new to sociological studies of the territory, with the rise of the new global climate challenges, it has also taken on a renewed centrality in the debates on urban space, a centrality that is still little investigated.

Starting from a multi-sited ethnographic analysis of urban greenery processes that have appeared in recent years in Paris, carried out between 2015 and 2019 with the Laboratoire Architecture Anthropologie, the contribution will focus on some recent socio-political trends affecting the city through the enhancement of nature, here understood with particular reference to vegetation. The case of Paris is particularly interesting in this respect, as it is one of the few cities where urban vegetation has been part of the urban development agenda since the 18th century.

This contribution will show the main trends emerging from the analysis of recent urban vegetalisation processes: individualisation, representation and global competition. These trends have strong, albeit not always obvious, links. On the one hand, there is individualisation, conceived as a new scale within which we attempt to frame contemporary processes of citizen participation in the care of urban vegetation; on the other hand, representation, as a means through which to capitalise on and valorise the fragmented and individualised actions of urban vegetation; and finally, global competition, in which urban nature, from a simple sphere of local public action, becomes an international political arena, an arena in which some cities seek to assume leadership.

RS10 | T07: Producing, contesting and reconfiguring urban sustainability: session 3

The goal of this Research Stream is to set up an international forum for theoretical and empirical research providing new perspectives and insights on the production, contestation and reconfiguration of urban sustainability.

Smart City and the Four Spheres of Neoliberalism

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Smart city is a controversial subject. Despite not being clearly defined, it impacts upon policymaking across the world by promising cost-efficient solutions to urban and environmental problems. An interdisciplinary literature in social sciences, however, regards smart city not as a profoundly new concept, but as a technologically framed extension of neoliberal urbanism. In this paper, we contribute to this debate by examining the process through which city-smartening develops and attracts power. By studying and building upon the literature critical of smart cities, we identify four spheres of city-smartening – discursive, market-building, governance and distributional spheres – and analyse interdependent actions of corporate and political actors in these spheres. We argue that when considered together, the workings of city-smartening in these spheres form what we call fuzzy mechanics, reinforcing each other and enabling mobilisation of resources for smart city projects. We also suggest, through examples, that two forms of action in particular; establishing primacy of means over ends as desirable outcomes of urban governance and initiating constant-sum competition at different levels of agency, provide movement and momentum within these workings.

Navigating Sociotechnical Transitions: Adapting to Low-Carbon Future Technologies in Mănăștur's Socialist Legacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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This research explores the concept of "sociotechnical transition" (Geels and Schot, 2007), aiming to understand local efforts to reduce carbon emissions via the implementation of low-carbon technologies (LCTs). It examines the interplay between technological innovation, institutional frameworks, and societal shifts at various levels, and how these factors collectively influence LCT adoption (Geels, et al., 2018).

Acknowledging the recent "sociotechnical agendas" on place-specific analysis (Sovacool, et al. 2020), we conduct a case study in Mănăștur, a socialist-era neighborhood in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. To inquire about the LCT adoption, we employ semi-structured interviews with different stakeholders such as the neighborhood inhabitants, engineers, architects, owners' associations, business actors and the local council. Additionally, we review plans for restructuring the neighborhood's infrastructure.

Our key findings are linked to the conflicting perceptions surrounding LCT adoption. A central path dependent issue of the sociotechnical transition consists in the socialist legacy of central district heating and the subsequent shift towards deregulated household energy consumption through privatization, which positioned the individual homeowner as the primary decision-maker. Our research reveals that the adoption of various LCTs is contingent on specific policies, demonstrating variations among different stakeholders and technologies. Homeowners show a strong preference for solar photovoltaic rooftops, while this presents challenges for local governments as an institutional gatekeeper due to increased energy production in the national grid. Furthermore, smaller retrofits are more readily accepted, as they have minimal impact on homeowners' lifestyles, albeit offering limited carbon emissions reduction. Consequently, home refurbishment may not prioritize the most effective technologies.

Towards a Sustainable Urban Future. Assessing the Impact of Citizen Science in Socio-Ecological Transitions

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Nowadays, climate change has irreversible implications on human well-being, territorial health, and resource accessibility. Achieving an equitable Socio-Ecological Transition and fostering a sustainable perspective in urban spaces requires collaboration among stakeholders identified in the Quintuple Helix of Innovation. Civil society, as a crucial force in innovation projects, seeks to democratize knowledge and research in the environmental domain. The H2020 I-CHANGE project focuses on demonstrating the potential for collective behavioral change by engaging civil society in citizen science initiatives, employing the Living Labs methodology. This contribution proposes an empirical evaluation framework for measuring sustainable behaviors and climate awareness resulting from citizen science participation. The framework follows a two-phase process. The initial phase involves a pilot survey inspired by the COM-B model, exploring key elements within capabilities, opportunities, and motivation relevant to local communities engaged in Living Lab activities. Case studies in Bologna and Hasselt reveal the interplay of technical, cultural, and socioeconomic factors influencing behavioral changes related to air quality and mobility practices. Preliminary findings underscore the significance of individual experience, education, cultural norms, and economic incentives, with gender differences highlighting the need for gender-sensitive communication interventions. The iterative second phase assesses behavioral changes resulting from increased climate awareness due to citizen science engagement. The evaluation tool gauges impact on participant groups, with a control group providing a baseline for estimating the effectiveness of citizen science activities. While the adoption of the COM-B model poses risks and potential limitations, this evaluation framework represents a significant challenge for projects addressing behavioral change towards more sustainable lifestyles, offering practical applications to standardize procedures and tools in different social, political, and economic contexts within the Living Lab approach.

RS11 | Sociology of Spatial Mobilities

RS11 | T02_01: Residential Location Decisions

Contextualizing Residential Preferences And Spatial Mobility Decisions: Insights From A Geocoded Discrete Choice Experiment

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When confronted with a decision to move, people can rarely realize their preferences to the full extent. The set of available housing options, individual means and discriminatory behavior of landlords narrow their opportunity set to what is available and affordable. Nevertheless, even in this case, there is often room to pursue one's preferences, which comprise aspects of the housing unit as well as its surrounding neighborhood.

Using data from a discrete choice experiment, implemented in a large, representative survey in Switzerland with about 3'600 respondents, we examine how people balance – among other things – different contextual characteristics of housing alternatives (e.g., social and ethnic composition of the neighborhood, local social network, distance to school and work). What is more, the survey is geocoded, and its sampling allows for the identification of door-to-door neighbors as well as a linkage to register data at various geographic scales. Consequently, we are further able to examine the extent to which people's preferences are spatially and socially interdependent, and how they are linked to presently experienced neighborhood relations and conditions.

The results from conditional and mixed logit models suggests that people consider contextual characteristics of the surrounding neighborhood, namely its composition and the presence of friends therein, and balance the spatial distance to work and school when looking for a new place to live. Moreover, the tastes for different types of neighborhoods are heterogenous and can be related to the small-scale neighborhood conditions and networks that people currently experience, reinforcing existing inequalities in housing preferences.

Explaining Migration Dynamics: Even Big Data Fails When Looking Through the Wrong Lens

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We examine internal migration patterns in Germany from 2000 to 2017 and model migrant flows between districts. We stratify migrants into five age groups. Our approach distinguishes between modeling of variation across periods and variation across space. For both, we consider all age groups. Confirming Beyer et al.(2022), we observe that gravity models fail to explain changes across periods. However, this deficiency we do not attribute to the model. Rather, when the number of origin-destination pairs is high, there is almost no variation within these pairs. There is nothing to explain. In contrast, modeling variation across space is typically considered very successful. We consider several hundred predictors for modeling of spatial variation. We use LASSO for feature selection. Compared to the simple gravity model, additional predictors improve model fit only slightly. This we attribute to something that might be considered a statistical artifact: The very high explained deviance of the simple gravity model. The explained deviance of 0.8 of the simple model we ascribe primarily to huge differences between region pairs. When stratifying region pairs along population sizes and distance to account for these, explained deviances of the simple model vary from 0.03 to 0.9 between strata. Stratifying region pairs essentially means choosing different comparisons. We argue that depending on the research question, sometimes looking at all the data means looking through the wrong lens. Since migration data are often of similar structure, we think our findings generalize to international migration as well.

Residential Mobility of the German Baby-Boomer-Cohort

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Our presentation focuses on the residential mobility of baby boomers in Germany. These exceptionally large birth cohorts, born between the mid-1950s and mid-to-late 1960s, will begin to retire in the next few years. This poses major social challenges, but also offers opportunities in a number of ways. Given the severe housing shortage in Germany, the baby boomers are of particular interest, as many of them have completed their family phase and are living in large apartments or houses. Their greater willingness to move would mean that these numerous dwellings could be mobilised for the housing market.

We combine data from the representative German Socio-Economic Panel with a survey conducted as part of the "Ageing Smart" project, which focuses on the needs of baby boomers in seven pilot municipalities in Germany. Both datasets are used to outline (1) the residential mobility patterns of baby boomers in the years just before retirement, as well as (2) their subjective expectations and demands

regarding their future living situation and (3) their willingness to be mobile. On this basis, we try to predict (4) the mobility behaviour of baby boomers in the following years.

To address the current debate on housing supply, we design different relocation scenarios that empirically address issues such as the willingness to reduce living space and to sell the long-occupied property. In terms of spatial mobility, one scenario addresses the willingness to move from an urban, suburban, or rural area to another type of location.

Our current findings suggest an overall low propensity for residential mobility among baby boomers, particularly among homeowners, rural areas, and poorer households. How does the debate need to change?

"The Classical German Dream" – Investigating The Relevance Of Normative Beliefs In Residential (Im) mobility Decisions

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In residential mobility and migration research, the motives for internal migrations have been extensively analysed, but somehow reduced to pragmatic considerations including life course events. Only scarce research has hitherto pointed to the relevance of normative beliefs such as mobility imperatives (e.g. Cook/Cuervo 2020) or the perception of a 'normative housing ladder' (Lux et al. 2018).

Thus, our contribution aims to enhance the knowledge about normative beliefs in residential (im)mobility decisions. The empirical material is part of a larger research project, which analyses residential location decisions both in urban and rural areas in Germany. Based on 30 in-depth interviews complemented by a large population survey (n=3,600), both on residential (im)mobility decisions, we analyse these decisions more comprehensively as recurring, revisable or at least adaptable decisions directed towards the future, but made in the context of biographical experiences, including housing and mobility experiences, economic and cultural resources, social embeddedness, situational and emotional aspects as well as normative beliefs (Peter et al., 2022).

Our empirical material allows an in-depth analysis of the underlying normative beliefs within residential (im)mobility decisions and emphasises that residential (im)mobility decisions are strongly influenced by normative beliefs such as the idea of a housing career over the life course. These social norms about mobility and housing are interlinked with other normative beliefs, e.g. of good parenthood, and perceived expectations of relevant others. Methodologically, we reflect how normative beliefs can be identified in qualitative interviews and how and when people position themselves to social norms within residential (im)mobility decisions.

RS11 | T02_02: Life Course, Transitions and Vulnerability

Exploring the Impacts of Virtual Access on the Mobility and Livelihoods of Marginalized Groups: A Comparative Study in Dortmund, Sao Paulo, and Cape Town

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Mobility serves as a pivotal determinant of the livelihoods of individuals in cities by shaping their access to social, healthcare, and economic services and opportunities. The outbreak of the pandemic underscored the major reliance on mobility as a conduit for accessing essential services, yet it also unveiled the potential for enhanced resilience in the form of virtual access. While conventional notions of accessibility encompass four interconnected dimensions, namely individual characteristics (individual choices, preferences, activities, and socio-economic circumstances), spatial attributes (spatial layout/land use), modes of mobility, and temporal dynamics of mode availability and activity, the pandemic ushered in a fifth dimension: virtual access. Our contribution is based on international interdisciplinary research that compares three diverse urban settings: Dortmund (Germany), São Paulo (Brazil) and Cape Town (South Africa). This research sheds light on the intricate ways in which the pandemic impacted the lives of marginalized groups in each city. This impact manifested through direct restrictions on physical mobility and indirect consequences stemming from reduced mobility, which affected the functioning of other infrastructures, services, and access to income-generating activities. Most importantly, we examine how marginalized groups navigated these challenges through virtual access, the livelihood opportunities they found and the difficulties or barriers they faced when shifting parts of their everyday activities into virtual spaces. Through a mixed-methods approach that involves household surveys and interviews with key experts in the mobility, social, health and employment sectors, the research explores the changing roles of physical and virtual access for urban marginalized groups and their livelihoods. Drawing from these analyses, the research intends to recommend measures that support and improve the resilience of marginalized groups through equitable physical and virtual accessibility.

Beyond Linked Lives: The Dynamic and Multidimensional Nature of Polish Migrant Women's Mobility Experiences in Leipzig, Germany

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The paper examines empirical manifestations of the concept of 'unlinked lives' (Settersten et al. 2024, Nico et al. 2021), a recent development of the concepts of 'linked lives' (Coulter et al., 2016; Elder et al., 2003; Settersten, 2015) and 'social convoys' (Webster et al., 2022) as pillars of the life course approach in mobility studies.

The research problem is set in the context of international (from Poland to Germany) and residential (within Germany) mobility and focuses on why and how 'un-linking' is experienced by Polish female migrants currently living in Leipzig and how it is connected to different life domains and different levels of social reality (Bernardi et al., 2019, 2020).

The analysis is based on eighteen episodic narrative interviews (Flick, 2000) conducted between September and December 2023, transcribed, and analysed using thematic analysis (Gibbs, 2018).

Preliminary results suggest a dynamic and multi-dimensional character of unlinking.

Its dynamics can be observed in "un-linking" as a factor in the past (breaking of relationships becomes a condition for mobility); present (influencing relations during mobility events); future (anticipated unlinking as a result of timing and current experiences). Its multidimensional character is illustrated by the variety of life domains in which unlinking is experienced (family life, friendships, neighbourhoods, nation) and by the levels of social reality in which informants located key explanatory factors for disengagement (from the intra-individual to the macro-structural level).

The academic contribution of the paper lies in the empirical illustration of the concept of unlinked lives, and in providing data-based arguments in the current discussion on the application of principles of the life course perspective in internal and residential mobility studies.

Having a Child But Not a Car: Mobility Biographies and Social Practices of Couples Who Do Not Increase Their Car Use After Childbirth

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Childbirth is regarded as one of the key events which transform mobility in the life course (Lanzendorf, 2003; Müggenburg et al., 2015). Although it tends to increase households' car use (McCarthy et al., 2017; Oakil et al., 2014; Prillwitz et al., 2006), it is not a universal pattern (Lanzendorf, 2010; McCarthy et al., 2021). People who don't increase their car use, and especially those who reduce it after childbirth, remain understudied, despite being a very policy-relevant category.

To fill this gap, we describe the dynamics, drivers and challenges of this pathway of mobility transitions into parenthood. Answering the calls to make up for more general shortcomings of the mobility biographies approach we analyse these pathways:

(1) In the perspective of the whole life course to account for the socialisation effects (Rau & Scheiner, 2020) and the intersection of individual mobility biographies with changing social and infrastructural context (Greene & Rau, 2018);

(2) As a product of competing meanings, skills and materialities, as well as social practices which are or are not linked to automobility (Kent, 2022; Sattlegger & Rau, 2016).

The presentation is based on a mixed-methods research conducted in two Polish metropolitan areas (Poznań and Tricity) in 2023-24, including a geo-questionnaire and individual in-depth interviews with both parents of kids aged 0-6.

A Matter of Time and Place? Changes in the Willingness for Spatial Mobility of NEET Youth Seeking VET in the Context of Regional Disparities in Germany

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Many young adults encounter difficulties making the school-to-VET transition and often end up in NEET status (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), with detrimental consequences for their life course. Spatial mobility is an important means of overcoming NEET and facilitating

successful transitions to VET, especially for youth from disadvantaged regions. However, the development of mobility willingness over time and influencing factors remain unclear.

Following the Agency-Structure Debate and Subjected Expected Utility Theory, school-to-VET transitions and concurrent occupational and mobility decisions are understood as adaptive processes depending on time, individual agentic preferences and structural opportunities. Next to individuals' occupational aspirations, their (mis)match with available regional opportunities and the overall attractiveness of the region are decisive for job-related mobility decisions.

We use data from the National Educational Panel Study, applying multilevel growth curve models to analyze changes in the mobility radius (distance to applied-for training positions) of youth seeking VET for up to three years. We linked administrative geospatial data (NUTS-3) to map individuals' regional opportunity structure (person-environment mismatch, general unattractiveness).

Our findings reveal a significant increase in the mobility radius among VET applicants over time. Regional context plays a significant role, with youth from regions with higher person-environment mismatch and higher unattractiveness maintaining an expanded mobility radius over time. Subgroup analyses underscore a robust positive correlation between status aspirations and mobility radius, particularly in highly unattractive regions. Moreover, within these regions, especially youths with high-status aspirations expand their mobility radius during their search, highlighting pronounced agency in pursuit of their goals.

RS11 | T03_01: Refugees and Spatial (Im)mobilities

Locus of Control, Social Networks and Secondary Migration of Refugees in Germany

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Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany

This paper seeks to improve the understanding of refugees' secondary (within destination country) mobility after arrival. So far, there is no empirical evidence on the role of personality traits and how they interact with regional factors. In this context, the paper examines the interplay between local refugee networks and refugees' Locus of Control in shaping secondary migration. LoC denotes the degree to which a person believes that events in his or her life are determined by own actions (internal LoC) or by external circumstances (external LoC).

To rule out endogeneity concerns due to regional sorting, I exploit the plausibly exogenous initial assignment of refugees over districts by authorities. I show that – once mobility restrictions have been lifted – refugees with internal LoC more often out-select from districts with large pre-existing refugee networks than externals. This result is robust to inclusion of a whole set of individual demographic pre – and post-arrival variables as well as further personality traits that have been found to affect mobility and labor market prospects.

Further evidence suggests that out-selection of internals is the result of intentional job search outside of refugee networks: First, refugees with internal LoC, inter alia, search for or have found jobs with support of German friends more often than externals. Second, this translates into higher job quality; internals who have moved earn higher wages in the medium and long-run. Contrary, mean wage trajectories of refugee stayers do not differ depending on LoC, suggesting that unobserved factors are not driving my results.

Longer Term Impacts of the School Ethnic Composition : Assessing the Nest-leaving Behaviour of Refugees and their Descendants

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A considerable literature has addressed the effects of school segregation and school composition on individual level outcomes such as educational achievement, delinquency or employment. Studies have also addressed how school choice relates to residential segregation during childhood. However, we continue to know less about longer term impacts of the school ethnic composition on neighbourhood

attainment during young adulthood (first independent residence), as well as how this differs by migration and ethnic background. Using longitudinal Swedish register data, we follow individuals born in 1987-1992 from age 16-28, distinguishing between three distinct generations–G1.5, G2 and G2.5–of refugees and the mainstream Swedish population. We address the research questions: To which extent does the proportion of foreign-background schoolmates at age 16 (during the last year of secondary school) impact individuals' residential outcomes during their late twenties? And, how does this interact with the neighbourhood context during adolescence? Our findings indicate that refugees tend to leave the parental home later than the Swedish mainstream population. Among girls, we also observe sizeable differences across generations in the timing of nest-leaving. G2.5 refugee girls tend to leave the parental home about one year later than G1.5 refugee girls. In contrast, generational differences remain minor for boys. We also find that a high share of immigrants in the school is negatively related to nest-leaving. This relationship is particularly strong in neighbourhoods with high shares of immigrants. Analyses distinguishing by neighbourhood attainment indicate that the school composition, more so than the neighbourhood composition, impacts the likelihood of moving to a neighbourhood with a high socioeconomic status. These patterns are similar for males and females and robust to controls for parental socioeconomic status.

Residency Restrictions and their Consequences for the Health of Refugees in Germany

Laura Goßner

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Individuals seeking protection in Germany are geographically distributed by authorities after their arrival. In the assigned region they are obliged to live in reception centers and shared accommodations until the asylum procedure has been completed. Originally, residential restrictions were lifted once a protection status was granted. However, since the so-called Integration Act came into force on the 6th of August 2016, freedom of movement is restricted further and refugees can be subject to a residency restriction for up to three years after they were granted protection. Depending on the federal state they live in, this restriction can be as narrowly as on the district or municipality level. This paper investigates how residency restrictions affect the health of refugees. It is hypothesized that for example through feelings of exclusion or disenfranchisement or regional differences in the availability of health services, residency restriction can have an impact on health outcomes.

The paper relies on the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees and methodologically employs an instrumental variable approach where the timing of protection status (pre or post the reform) is used as an instrument. Additionally, the paper leverages the exogenous distribution of refugees across Germany upon arrival and state-level variations in implementing the restrictions.

With the paper, a more precise understanding of the extensive effects of limiting the spatial mobility of individuals is enabled. Since health is a basic prerequisite for labor market participation, ways of how the holistic integration of refugees into the labor market and society can be improved will become apparent.

Drivers of Agency: Im-/mobility Aspirations of Rejected Asylum Seekers – Insights from a Mixed-Methods Respondent Driven Sampling

Randy Stache, Lisa Johnson

BAMF Research Centre, Germany

The number of rejected asylum seekers has been continuously high across Europe over the past decade. Rejected asylum seekers are legally obliged to leave the country, yet many are tolerated to stay for reasons of non-deportability. This frequently results in a state of limbo between regularity and irregularity, often for lengthy periods of time. After several years of im-/mobility, people are caught between integration and deportation, while at the same time not being able to return to their countries of origin. How migrants deal with this process, what aspirations and capabilities they have is scarcely known, as they are hard-to-reach and hard-so-survey at the same time.

At the BAMF Research Centre, we conducted an app-based Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) with rejected asylum seekers from anglophone West Africa from June to December 2023. The app contained all elements necessary for running an RDS, including a factorial survey, and did not require any personal data from the participants. The survey was preceded by an extensive 10-month formative assessment, which included ethnographic fieldwork and qualitative interviews with "seeds" who later spread the RDS as initial respondents into the target group. In addition, randomly selected people from the target group were drawn from the Central Register of Foreigners and invited to take part in the app survey.

In this contribution, we bring together the results of the qualitative interviews and the factorial survey, which asked respondents to recommend hypothetical people in hypothetical situations whether they should stay, return or migrate onwards. This innovative mixed-methods analysis allows new insights into the negotiation of im-/mobility processes among rejected asylum seekers and potentially contributes to a more informed policy making.

RS11 | T03_02: Cross-border Mobility, Migration and Immobility

Rethinking "Spatial" Mobilities In The Light Of The Mutations Of Carcerality

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Our presentation aims to interrogate the concept of "spatial mobilities" by delving into a contemplation of the nature of space. Consequently, our reflections will be grounded in an examination of the parliamentary documents pertaining to the Belgian penitentiary law. This 1200-page corpus constitutes a cohesive effort to reevaluate the prison system in light of contemporary discussions on incarceration. It encapsulates prevailing notions of carcerality and endeavors to formulate a legitimate prison model in accordance with 21st-century standards.

The analysis of this corpus has been facilitated through the use of NVIVO. Central to these documents are themes of space, time, and mobilities, which will serve as a foundation for proposing a novel perspective on these concepts and, more broadly, their significance in both physical and non-physical realms.

We aim to illustrate how the prison, with its considerations of (im)mobility, porosity, openness, social inclusion, as well as the circulation of goods, services, and culture, enables us to contemplate the interconnection of spaces, whether physical or otherwise. Through this tangible example of a spatial and mobility dispositif, we intend to advocate for a reevaluation of our understanding of these categories.

Everyday Life and Alienation at the Border: The Case of Artvin Çoruh University Students

Esin Hamdi Dinçer[1], Gülşen Çakıl-Dinçer[2]

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Sarp Border Gate, Turkey's gateway to the Caucasus and Central Asia, is 15 km from Hopa, which has a population of 28000. Although Hopa is a small-scale settlement in terms of surface area and population, it is a district with constant movement since it is a border city. In addition, since there are two faculties and a vocational school affiliated with Artvin Çoruh University, it is seen that the young population is also included in this movement. The subject of this study covers the everyday life experiences of university students who study in a border city. While discussing students' everyday life, the theory that Thomas Nail calls kinopolitics, which offers a different perspective on migration philosophy, will be based. Accordingly, the expulsion mechanisms that students, whom we will consider as immigrant figures, are exposed to will be determined. Nail claims that immigrant figures reveal the pedetic power as resistance in response to the kinopower, which consists of the expulsion mechanisms implemented by the government. In his theory, Nail assumes that every kinopower will give rise to a pedetic power and excludes the possibility of experiencing the alienation conditions of everyday life. We can re-evaluate this possibility with Henri Lefebvre's critique of everyday life. This study aims to identify the transformations occurring in the everyday life of university students, who are figures, and to reveal their relationship with alienation, taking into account the recent crises experienced in Turkey with the pandemic, earthquake, and increase in inflation. For this purpose, we will use the data obtained from in-depth interviews with 30 senior students studying at Hopa Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences and Faculty of Theology.

RS11 | T04: Remote Working and Spatial Mobility

Remote Work and Internal Return Migration to the South of Italy: Insight from Ongoing Empirical Research

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University of Milan – Bicocca, Italy

With the recent spread of remote work, an increasing number of workers are being able to perform their jobs from areas that are distant from their companies' headquarters. This is especially the case in Italy where remote work only spread recently with the Covid-19 pandemic (INAPP 2022). The use of remote work and hybrid working modalities (Countouris et al. 2023) permits those who practice it to move and recontextualise their work closer to relatives, returning to places that were left behind because of the lack of employment opportunities, such as in the South of Italy (South working 2020). In this regard, Italy has been characterized by a significant territorial divide between the South and the North part of the country, with several migrating from the South to the North to look for employment opportunities and leaving (part of) their families behind (Biagi et al. 2011; King 2015).

Our research aims to analyze the extent to which remote work is fostering internal return migration to the South of Italy. How do workers relate to the place where their employer is based and to the area where they perform distant remote work? What impact does this multilocal practice have on their well-being, and their social and professional relations? How does this mobility relate to care responsibilities?

The project investigates the phenomenon using a mixed methodology, which combines interviews, secondary data analysis, and participatory video making. Our contribution will focus on the preliminary findings emerging from 25 interviews with remote workers and relevant stakeholders.

Working From Home During the Pandemic in Germany – Prevalence, Associations, and Methodological Issues

Thomas Skora

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In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, non-pharmaceutical interventions such as contact restrictions and stay-at-home orders were introduced in many European countries, leading to a significant increase in virtual mobility as many workers started to work from home (WFH). The high interest generated by this shift among scientists and policymakers led to numerous surveys being launched to gain insights into the prevalence of and social differences in WFH. These surveys were often based on non-probabilistic online samples with self-selection of participants. However, self-selection raises concerns regarding the possibility of biased results, as it can adversely affect both the estimation of the prevalence of social phenomena and the estimation of associations. So far, however, studies that systematically investigate to what extent and in what direction the results are influenced by the study design are lacking. The present paper aims to address this gap. It relies on a pooled data set of around 30 individual-level surveys that were conducted in Germany between March and December 2020. Based on theoretical considerations on the expected biases, I) the prevalence, II) the relationship with selected, often considered covariates (e.g., education, gender, age) and III) the influence of different survey design aspects on these estimates (sampling procedure, interview mode and measurement instruments) are established using techniques of multilevel modelling. The findings of this study can help to better assess the accuracy of existing empirical findings on WFH, considering the applied survey design, and to avoid shortcomings when planning new surveys.

Telework, Flextime and Daily Mobility Behavior Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Switzerland

Fabienne Wöhner

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Switzerland's transport infrastructure is increasingly reaching its capacity limits. Additionally, transport is one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Switzerland. Therefore, reducing traffic is necessary to address the Paris Climate Agreement and to mitigate congestion. This study brings together three social phenomena: Firstly, traffic congestion and climate goals as a starting point. Secondly, the digitalization of the labor market as a possible solution. Thirdly, the COVID-19 pandemic as an unforeseen event that has strongly influenced the previous two aspects.

Commuters are particularly affected by congestion and traffic jams but are also partly responsible for the problem. But the digitalization of the labor market increasingly allows workers more spatial and temporal flexibility in the form of telework and flextime. It is hypothesized that working flexibly could reduce traffic by avoiding commuting or rush hours. However, pre-pandemic analyses show that telework does not reduce traffic, because saved commutes are offset by trips for other purposes in Switzerland. During the pandemic, the usage of telework spread rapidly and the virus drastically affected daily mobility patterns. This raises the question of how the coronavirus has influenced travel behavior (e.g. distances travelled, mode choice) and whether pre-pandemic findings on the rebound effect of telework are still valid. These questions are answered using the latest

Swiss Mobility and Transport Microcensus (MTMC) from 2021. One key finding is that there was no longer a rebound effect in non-work travel, which can be attributed to a lack of opportunities to leave home other than for work.

The Impact of Working from Home on Households' Residential Location Decisions

Verena Gerwinat

TU Dortmund University, Germany

Since the covid-19 pandemic, the proportion of remote workers in Europe has risen sharply. Recent studies have shown that working from home (WFH) has an impact on residential mobility (e.g. Moser et al. 2022; Dolls/Lay 2023). Even if there is no talk of an 'urban exodus' in Europe as there is in the USA, studies show that suburbanization processes are intensifying. Still, there is a lack of qualitative approaches to understand what influence WFH has on the decision of whether and where a household moves. This paper aims to make a contribution to filling this gap.

Based on guideline-based interviews with various households before and after a relocation, which took place between 2020 and 2023 as part of the recently completed 'STAWAL' research project, the paper explores the role that WFH plays in the formulation of housing preferences and the subsequent location choice. The spatial focus is on the three German metropolitan regions of Berlin, Munich and the Ruhr area, where the tight housing markets severely restrict the available housing choices.

The findings show that WFH is only one of many influencing factors of relocation decisions. Despite or even because of the possibility of WFH, individual lifestyles and life stages are decisive for the choice of residential location. WFH has become an opportunity for suburban oriented households to move to the suburbs, and for urban oriented households to live in inner city neighborhoods regardless of their workplace location. These results confirm the strong influence of lifestyle and life course on residential location choice and invite further discussions about the implications for residential segregation.

RS11 | T05: Commuting and Transportation Options

The Effect of Long Commutes on Civic Engagement: An Analysis With German Panel Data

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Forms of regional mobility such as long-distance commuting and multi-local living, i.e. second homes, have increased in Germany and other countries. These forms of commuting between regions are seen as alternatives to internal migration. On the one hand, regional mobility is important for the functioning of labour markets and is positively related to individual wealth. On the other hand, increased spatial mobilisation could lead to uprooting and isolation as individuals become detached from local social relations. This paper examines the effects of regional mobility on civic engagement using the example of long daily commutes, with civic engagement being an important dimension of social capital and cohesion. Based on theoretical considerations, including the Civic Voluntarism Model, we expect a negative relationship between commuting distance and the extent of volunteer work. We apply fixed effects (FE) panel regression to longitudinal data for 1997-2019 from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) (N=102,171 observations, 23,517 individuals). First results show that medium-distance commuting (25-49 km) and especially long-distance commuting (≥50 km) are associated with a reduction in volunteering compared to short distances. The negative effects of both medium and long-distance commuting tended to be more pronounced in sparsely populated regions. This is particularly relevant as it is in rural areas that important public services are often provided by volunteers. Overall, the findings suggest that while regional mobility is important from an economic perspective, it could have a negative impact on social capital and cohesion by reducing civic engagement.

Commuting and Residency Choices – Investigating the Transition to Higher Education in Germany

Dennis Oliver Kubitza

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The transition from school to university involves critical decisions—choosing a major, selecting a university, and

deciding whether to move or commute. The inclination to commute and relocate varies based on socio-economic backgrounds, financial situations, and regional contexts, complicating efforts to estimate policy effects. Questions arise about the effectiveness of current public transport subsidies and whether housing subsidies serve as viable alternatives for commuting, and for whom.

To address these issues, we examine differences in travel times among German university students by exploring binary movement decisions based on their anticipated commuting times. Our analysis employs logistic regression models using individual data from the MESARAS survey (Weisser, 2016) (N=2589). To assess various influences, we integrate personal information with regional contexts and utilize the availability and range of public transport subscriptions for students as of the year of enrollment. Combined with the geo-referenced mobility episodes (provided by MESARAS), we can incorporate commuting times by different transportation modes (Google Distances API) for our key dependent variable and estimate the effect of the availability of student tickets on the decision between movement and commuting.

Literature

Weisser, R. (2016). Mesaras 2013: Mobility, expectations, self-assessment, and risk attitude of students.

Differences in Accessibility and Motility For Car and Non-car Users and Their Social Consequences in Two Metropolitan Areas in Poland

Filip Schmidt[1], Michał Czepkiewicz[1,2], Dawid Krysiński[1,3]

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Accessibility is one of the key concepts in transport and mobility studies studies (Jones & Lucas, 2012), which has a significant impact on people's well-being and life chances (Martens et al., 2019). However, accessibility studies often focus on time and distance between home and specific destinations, yet there are many other dimensions of accessibility (Halden et al., 2000; van Wee, 2022). The concept of motility (Kaufmann et al., 2004; Kaufmann & Audikana, 2020) allows us to capture the potential to be mobile in a broader sense.

We propose measurements for different dimensions of motility, such as the ability to be mobile (based on residential characteristics, economic resources and mobility-related skills), the ability to choose the mode of transport and the ability to substitute mobility by satisfying needs online or with the help of others. Responding to the call (Kaufmann et al. 2004: 752-3) to focus on how motility is moderated by conditions and structural constraints, we analyse differences between motility and mobility-mediated need satisfaction between people who have free access to car use and those who do not. We show that while for the former most components of motility do not translate into increased need satisfaction, for the latter other aspects of motility (skills, available mobility options, opportunities to substitute mobility) are highly correlated with their mobility-mediated well-being.

The presentation is based on a survey and GIS analyses conducted in a mixed-methods research project in two Polish metropolitan areas (Poznań and Tricity) in 2023-24.

Long-distance Commuting Mothers in Europe and Their Affective Experiences

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Long-distance commuting (LDC), as any other forms of employment-related mobility, is highly gendered. Consistent with prevailing gender norms, research shows that women are less likely to combine LDC and parenthood than men, because long commutes interfere with household responsibilities. In a mobilities approach that not only focuses on norms and preferences but also on power and constraint, this study examines the important but understudied question of how the selective group of LDC mothers affectively experience their long commutes, what individual meanings they give to LDC and the degree of choice they have in their mobility. It analyses how this experience varies according to their travel, work and household situation, their career-family and gender-role attitudes. We used data from the Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe survey including a pooled sample of 251 mothers from six European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Spain and Switzerland) spending one hour or more everyday commuting to their workplace and living with partner and minor children. Results show that mothers' affective experience of commuting strongly depends on the child age, work schedules and attitudes toward work and gender but is only weakly associated with socio-economic status and support for childcare and housework. Career-oriented mothers having flexible working hours and egalitarian gender-role attitudes tend to perceive their commute positively and as an opportunity. Conversely, low-income mothers with traditional gender-role attitudes perceive being forced to commute. Mothers of small children and those living in Spain tend to experience their commute negatively and as a need.

RS11 | T06: Spatial Mobility, Contextual and Neighbourhood Effects

How Do Involuntary Relocations Affect The Labor Market Integration Of The Unemployed In Germany?

Sebastian Bähr, Katja Wolf

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In Germany, the government pays the housing costs of individuals receiving basic income support ("Bürgergeld", formerly "Arbeitslosengeld 2"), who are often unemployed, up to a locally determined limit. If the actual costs exceed this limit, recipients must find cheaper housing or fund the difference from their often tight budget. Given the tense housing market in Germany, relocations to cheaper housing might push individuals to deprived neighborhoods, which may negatively affect their chances of finding employment and end benefit receipt.

We use new administrative data of all individuals relocating within the German basic income support scheme from 2015 to 2020 and self-collected data on the historical local payment limits. This data allows us, for the first time, to identify households with housing costs above the threshold and to study their mobility behavior and subsequent labor market outcomes. We consider moves of this group as involuntary relocations, which might be less selective than general mobility. Since we have geo-coded information on the street address, we can identify every move by address change. By combining this individual-level data with 500m grid-level data of the socio-economic structure of the neighborhood, we can incorporate the characteristics of origin and destination grid cells to assess and compare the quality of the neighborhoods. Finally, we analyze how these neighborhood quality changes affect the probability of finding employment and exiting benefit receipt. Our results help to inform the current discussion about inner-city gentrification, the displacement of poor residents, and the prolonged payment of housing costs for benefit recipients.

Deprivation and the Development of Bridging Social Capital for Young Adults in Switzerland

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Social capital theory emphasises the benefits of forming relationships and social networks. In particular, access to different places and social circles enables the development of so-called bridging social capital that is crucial for the educational and professional attainment of young adults. However, opportunities to meet other people and form relationships are unequally distributed and depend on residential characteristics and available resources. Despite the recognised significance of place for social relationships, limited research explicitly examines how residential and individual deprivation hinders the attainment of bridging social capital for young adults. In this study, we analyse how different forms of deprivation are associated with the network characteristics of young adults in Switzerland, in terms of geographical and social dispersion as indicators of spatial mobility and bridging social capital. We use personal network analysis and multilevel models to analyse the 2020-2021 subsample (n = 15,770) of a cross-sectional survey of young adults (aged 18-20) in Switzerland, including the full cohort of young males, conducted as part of the Swiss Federal Survey of Young Adults (CHX-YASS).

We find higher residential deprivation to be associated with smaller personal networks, fewer bridging ties, and more locally clustered networks but also that residential population composition and the distribution of infrastructure are linked to network characteristics in a more nuanced way. This study highlights the imperative of studying social networks and place together to better understand their interdependence and the intricacies of social life.

Analysing Segregation with Agent-based Models Based on Surveyed Neighbourhhood Preferences

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Social inequality continues to increase in cities. The issue of segregation is currently being discussed and focussed on considering the shortage of residential space in cities. Inner-city ethnic segregation processes depend on residential choices that are based on neighbourhood preferences. The question to be answered in the presentation is whether these residential choices lead to a segregated city.

Most studies refer to the segregation model developed by Schelling (2006). This model assumes that actors perceive their neighbourhoods from their own point of view and leave them if their preferences are not fulfilled. The assumption is that the actors are not aware of the consequences of their individual decisions. The fact that the characteristics of the individual actors influence each other can lead to a connected process of spatial segregation.

The General Social Survey in Germany (ALLBUS) is a representative trend study of the German population. In 2016, a vignette study was used as an in-depth topic to survey neighbourhood preferences regarding the composition of the neighbourhood. To this end, the 13 vignettes with different proportions of social groups were presented to the respondents, who were asked if they wanted to live in this neighbourhood.

However, these preferences do not explain the spatial distribution. To examine these distributions, a segregation model was created in Netlogo. Using agent-based modelling, we

can implement these results from the ALLBUS data in models and analyse the results. In a first step, we can investigate which patterns result from the use of individual preferences for the spatial distribution in the model. This allows us to explore whether individual preferences alone are sufficient to explain segregation.

Mobility Intentions of International Graduates in Germany. Individual, Institutional, and Regional Conditions

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Demographic change and the resulting shortage of skilled workers challenges the economy and social welfare system in Germany. International students can help tackling those challenges, once they stay after graduation. It is especially important whether graduates are willing to stay in the region of their university or plan to move forward. Conceptualized as a decision on continued internal migration, staying in Germany can be seen as an investment based on specific cost-benefit considerations. We explore the conditions of students' mobility intentions, both at an individual and structural level. To investigate these conditions, we use recent data of a large-scale survey with international students in Germany, enhanced by spatial indicators on socio-economic conditions. Multi-level modeling is used to account for differences at the country level and to examine possible cross level interactions with individual characteristics. The importance of contextual conditions can also be compared between the country of origin and the host country. As expected, perceived career prospects have a strong and stable effect on the mobility intentions. This effect is moderated by the specific ratio of spatial indicators, such as the gross domestic project. Students whose profile meets the professional demand of the German labour market are more likely to stay. Further individual drivers on the mobility intentions are the subjective satisfaction and the social support during studies. While the analysis confirms the overall importance of economic preferences and structural opportunities, it particularly points to the direction that the special constellations between regional conditions of the countries should be examined more deeply.

RS11 | T07: Spatial Mobility and Subjective Well-being

The Effect of Spatial Mobility on Subjective Well-being: a Longitudinal Couple-level Analysis

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There is a large body of literature focusing on the economic effects of spatial mobility in the context of partnerships, highlighting the potential for conflicting (re-)location preferences and the complex decision-making processes that shape couples' relocation behaviour. In this context, it has often been suggested that partnered men have greater economic benefits from work-related moves than their female partners. There are, however, also other aspects driving the migration decision – besides economic benefits. In this con-text, studies using subjective well-being (SWB) as a more comprehensive measure of migration outcomes show positive migration returns for men and women. We argue that considering SWB gains as outcomes of mobility allow to test economic theories of family migration (such as the new home economics and bargaining theories) more precisely, since individuals ultimately strive to improve their utility (captured through SWB). This allows us to get important insights into the within-couple dynamics underlying and the specific outcomes following spatial mobility.

In this paper, we use data from the German Socio-economic Panel Study (SOEP) and deploy fixed effects panel regression models. By exploiting the household structure of the dataset, we add to the existing litera-ture (which mainly focusses on individual-level SWB effects) by explicitly considering the evolution of within-couple differences in SWB and the sum of SWB within the household. Moreover, we also consider which partner benefits more from migration in terms of SWB. Distributed fixed-effects models allow us to estimate how persistent the SWB patterns are.

Effects of Internal Migration on the Life Satisfaction of Apprentices

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Spatial mobility can have far-reaching implications for individuals' life satisfaction trajectories. To date, previous

research has mostly examined how spatial mobility influences life satisfaction in reference to middle-aged adults. Moreover, it has sometimes disregarded the influence of other important life events preceding, accompanying, or following spatial mobility. Consequently, its conclusions are not readily transferable to individuals in other life stages and their age-specific life events. To narrow this research gap, we examine how migrating within Germany during the transition to vocational education and training (VET) influences the life satisfaction trajectories of apprentices. Using data from the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS), we estimate fixed-effects panel regressions to deal with selection into VET-related migration. We find positive long-term effects of VET-related migration on apprentices' life satisfaction; these are, however, moderate compared to the large positive baseline effect of transitioning from school to VET. The effects of VET-related migration hardly vary contingent on apprentices' pre-migration VET opportunity structures. Moreover, these effects are only slightly more beneficial for apprentices migrating towards high-status (versus low-status) VET positions and to urban (versus rural) areas. These results suggest that lifestyle-related rather than strictly VET-related factors explain the life satisfaction gains of internal migration during the VET life stage. Overall, our study illustrates the need to consider the specificity of life stages and coupled life events when analysing effects of spatial mobility on life satisfaction.

The Return of the Failed? A Panel Study on Subjective Well-being of German Return Migrants

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In many economically highly-developed countries, a relevant proportion of the population emigrates annually. This group is often assumed to experience increases in subjective well-being (SWB) because of the benefits accompanied with migration. A signifcant share of emigrants, however, return back home at some point. Little is known about returnees' potential costs and benefits, and SWB. From a neoclassical economic persepctive, returneesare conceived as 'failed emigrants' who return due to unmet emigration expectations. This would suggest that returnees experience decreases in SWB during their time abroad, and possible increases after they returned back home, e.g. due to occupational improvements and better social embeddedness. In contrast, new economics of labor migration (NELM) see returnees as successful migrants who return because they achieved their goals abroad. From this perspective, returnees' SWB should increase abroad and remain stable with the return because of improved individual utility levels.

We tap into the research gap by investigating shifts in SWB of internationally mobile German citizens in the course of (i.e. before and after) their return to Germany. We apply fixed effects (FE) panel regression models and impact functions to probaility-based data of the German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS), which is representative with respect to the studied group. Results reveal that returnees' SWB decreases slightly abroad but remains stable overall during the course of return (B = – 0.05, SE = 0.072, p = 0.463). However, the outlined contrasting theoretical assumptions and preliminary evidence suggest that return motives cause substantial heterogeneity in how returning affects SWB.

Social Inequalities in the Effects of Spatial Mobility on Life Satisfaction

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We systematically assess the interplay of social origin and educational attainment in shaping returns to internal migration. We draw on cumulative inequality theory and argue that parental and own resources increase returns to migration. To assess the subjectively scaled overall returns to migration, we examine subjective well-being operationalized through life satisfaction. To test how social origin and education affect life satisfaction returns to migration, we closely follow the estimands approach: (1) We define the theoretical estimands, i.e., the total effects of social origin and education on life satisfaction returns to migration, and the controlled direct effects of social origin if we emulate interventions to fix educational attainment at different levels. (2) We discuss the assumptions needed to identify these effects. (3) We outline how different versions of stratified fixed effects panel regressions with dummy impact functions can deliver empirical quantities that speak to the theoretical estimands. Drawing on a sample of adults aged 18–65 years from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), we confirm prior findings that migration leads to long-term gains in life satisfaction. We expand on these findings by showing that individuals from high social origins and with high levels of education benefit more and over a longer time from migration. Preliminary findings suggest that the lion's share of the total effect of social origin on returns to migration arises because of origin-specific differences in educational attainment. Overall, our study makes important theoretical and methodological contributions to the literature on mechanisms of cumulative (dis-)advantage in life course processes.

RS11 | T07_02: Everyday and Urban Mobilities

Sustainable (im)Mobility and Accessibility in Italian Peri-urban environments. First results from a 4 case studies research

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Nowadays urbanisation process is characterised by a significant increase in built-up areas and the territorial dispersion of residential, productive and commercial settlements between urban centers and their rural hinterlands. Reasons behind are several and can be summarized in the transformations of the production, reproduction and distribution system of contemporary societies, that increase complexity of urban/metropolitan areas. Within these, new forms of territorial organisation go beyond the centre-periphery model to become more polycentric, mobility patterns are more intense, multidirectional and multi-use, and access to services and local opportunities is more problematic. The causes refer, first of all, to the choice of younger families to settle in municipalities outside the main cities in search of larger, affordable, comfortable and safe environments, and to the opportunities linked to mobility systems structures and new commercial and work-related arrangements tendencies ongoing in fringe areas.

Within the broader functional urban areas, peri-urban contexts in particular benefit from their proximity to cities but suffer as well from the effects of uncontrolled expansion of the built environment: transport congestion, decline in landscape quality, forced mobility, high reliance on private transport. All these aspects often end in a potential higher social exclusion, result of the immobility of the more deprived people.

This work aims to explore mobility and accessibility of peri – urban environments with the related (im)mobility challenge, focusing on the first results of a national project on mobility and accessibility to services and territorial opportunities in four Italian peri-urban areas analysing spatial data through GIS techniques.

Navigating Disruption: Unraveling the Cascading Effects of COVID-19's Impact on Marginalized Communities through Public Transport in South Africa, Brazil and Germany

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Recent global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have brought to light the intricate connections between spatial mobility, societal structures, and crises-induced disruptions. This research delves into the multifaceted impacts of COVID-19 disruptions on marginalized groups in the public transport sectors of Ruhr, Germany, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Cape Town, South Africa. What happens if public transport can no longer be used, not allowing people to reach essential services? The overarching research question explores the indirect effects of critical infrastructure and service disruptions on the livelihoods of marginalized households before, during, and after the pandemic.

By focusing on critical sectors, including healthcare, food and nutrition, social work, education, and childcare, this study employs a criticality assessment approach by analyzing cascading chains to anticipate the ripple effects of disruptions in each field. These chains were validated through expert workshops in the respective countries, considering impacts on staff, service users, patients, students, and their families. Furthermore, the research investigates the potential of virtual mobility and online services as substitutes for in-person services during disruptions.

The presentation focuses on spatial (im)mobilities and their implications for sociological issues contributing to understanding the unequal distribution of access to spatial (digital) mobility, particularly across gender, ethnic, and class lines, magnified during crises. In the context of the global theme, the findings shed light on mobilities and inequalities during the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the interconnectedness of spatial mobility, societal structures, and crisis-induced vulnerabilities.

Urban Mobility Dynamics in Cluj-Napoca, Romania: Activity Spaces, POI Accessibility, and Socio-Economic Integration

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The patterns and practices of urban mobility are an important aspect of creating liveable and equitable environments. They significantly influence the quality of life, sustainability, and the broader socio-economic organization of cities. This study uses the concept of "activity space" (Cagney, Cornwell, Goldman, Cai, 2020) as a framework to combine an analysis of Points of Interest (POI), city structure, and land use, providing a holistic perspective on patterns of urban movement.

We research Cluj-Napoca metropolitan area and leverage Call Detail Record data (Phithakkitnukoon, et al. 2010) to calculate mobility flows. We use GIS and mobility analytics to map areas based on their proximity and accessibility to POIs, including employment centers, recreational venues, and educational facilities while considering how "activity spaces" factor into mobility patterns.

Key findings indicate minimal segregation and high mobility within Cluj-Napoca, pointing to an integrated activity space across socio-economic groups. This is consistent with the hypothesis of "exploded urbanism" (Petrovici, Poenaru, 2023) of demographically decreasing core and increasing peri-urban areas. However, a concentration of POIs, especially employment in the new globalized outsourced economy of secondary business processes, increases the mobility flows toward these locations, which in turn, contributes to congestion and mobility challenges. These findings resonate with a broader urban trend where the disjunction between employment and housing geography impacts mobility patterns. The study's implications for understanding the city-region geography where low investment in housing and high need for work availability of an emerging globalized economy plays a key role in urban growth.

RS11 | T08: Spatial Mobility and Social Mobility

The Impact of Social Origin on the Spatial Distance Covered at the Transition from School to Vocational or Higher Education, with Consideration of the Type of Programme

Tom Behringer

RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany

In the contribution, I examine for the first time whether there is an effect of social origin on the spatial distance covered by young adults at the transition from school to vocational education. Previous studies have already found an effect of social origin on the spatial distance covered at the transition from school to higher education but have used inadequate methods for their estimation. Hence, I also revise this estimation. Furthermore, the studies have not differentiated the effect of social origin by the type of higher education. Therefore, I distinguish in my analyses of the effect of social origin on the spatial distance between three post-school educational programmes: vocational education, higher education at a university of applied sciences ("Fachhochschule"), and higher education at a university. For addressing the three mentioned research desiderata, I use longitudinal data from starting cohorts 3 and 4 of the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) and compute multiple linear regression models. The central finding is that in all three types of transitions (vocational education, higher education at a university of applied sciences, higher education at a university) young adults on average cover a greater distance if they have an academic background compared to having a non-academic background. Depending on the type of programme, the effect of social origin is between 17 km (vocational education) and 25 km (university) and does not differ significantly between the three types of transitions.

Of Fathers and Sons: The Intergenerational Transfer of Return Premium in Children of Returnees

Jose David Lopez Blanco

University Carlos III, Spain

In the rapidly evolving dynamics of global migration, the phenomena of return and temporary migration have emerged as pivotal subjects. While the economic sociology of return migration—particularly the concept of a "return premium" and how return migrants may capitalize on their experiences post-return—is gaining traction, the potential for intergenerational transfer remains significantly under-researched. Our study delves into this relatively

uncharted area, focusing on the social mobility of children who were either born abroad and returned with their families during their childhood, or those who migrated and later returned with their parents. We explore two primary mechanisms that could contribute to this mobility: the acquisition of diverse human capital during their education abroad, and the increased mobility rates that these children may have 'learned' or acquired from their past migration experiences. Employing data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), our analysis encompasses the varied life paths of these individuals, mapping the complete migration histories—including commuting, long-distance internal migration, and international migration—of return migrants' children from seven European countries historically involved in guestworker programs (Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, and Finland). This research aims to illuminate the complex effects of return migration, highlighting its ramifications for migrants and their progeny alike.

Spatial Mobility and its Significance for Scientific Careers. Results of a Mixed-Methods Study in Germany

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Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany

The current state of research shows that spatial mobility plays a major role in scientific careers. Career-related relocations or regular commuting play an important role for academics just as conference trips or longer research stays abroad. This raises the question of which mobility behaviour people have in different career phases (also from a development perspective) and under which conditions they rate it as an opportunity or a burden.

This contribution presents results from our completed research project "Academics 'in motion'", a mixed-methods study conducted between 2020 and 2023 at TU Dortmund University and Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences and Arts, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The project combined quantitative data collected in an online-survey and qualitative interviews, which traced scientific career paths in a retrospective manner. We differentiated spatial mobility patterns among other aspects according to career phase and discipline.

The results show quantitatively that the career phase in particular plays an important role for spatial mobility. The majority of postdocs are constantly or even increasingly mobile. At the same time they rate mobility as a requirement, while doctoral students and professors tend to rate it more as an opportunity. Furthermore, some selection effects suggest that spatial mobility supports careers. Qualitatively, we distinguished three types with different mobility behaviour and attitudes. In addition to the degree of orientation towards science, the anticipated duration of (long-distance) mobility in connection with support in the couple relationship was significant. Seeing mobility as positive in the long term was highly conditional; science therefore does not necessarily socialize people to perceive spatial mobility as normal. Qualitatively and qualitatively, a dynamic time perspective thus proved to be relevant.

Changing Class, Changing Space: The Geographical And Symbolical Significance Of Distance.

Clara Gutleben

University of Tübingen, Germany

In A Man's Place, Annie Ernaux depicts the train journey as a metaphor for social trajectory, and characterises the passenger (who represents the "class defector") as an immigrant from the inside (the inside of a country and the inside of oneself). The notion of distance, applied to social mobility, thus takes on a double dimension, between geographical distance and cultural as well as mental displacement.

This proposed contribution forms part of the studies carried out by the 'Doing Transitions' group, which is interested in the constitution of transitions over the life course. It will be based on narrative biographical interviews (part of which consists of a food biography) conducted in France with ten "transclasses" (Jaquet; 2014). We will examine the role played by space in the discourse of transclasses as regards their positioning in social space. To do so, we will look at the effects of distancing between a sense of here and a far-off elsewhere, and of assimilation for example through the designation of a place as 'home'. We will also consider the adaptation of cultural (in particular food) practices according to the type of space in which they take place (Bourdieu; 1979), as a manifestation of spatio-normativity. Finally, we will study the contrast drawn by transclasses between the (national, international, professional, leisure, daily) mobility they value and the stagnation they associate with their social class of origin.

The study will draw on the sociology of culture, the Bourdieusian theory of distinction and Chantal Jacquet's concept of the ethos of distance.

RS11 | T09: Crises, Residential Preferences and Spatial Mobilities

Residential Mobility and Geographical Polarization of Party Supporters: Is There Evidence for Self-Selection into Politically Compatible Regions in Germany?

Stephan Schütze

Bielefeld University, Germany

There is a broad controversy regarding people's preference to live among politically like-minded others, causing a polarized political geography driven by selective residential mobility and the spatial concentration of political beliefs. However, current research on this issue has predominantly focused on democracies or referendums with majority voting systems and has come to contradictory conclusions. This study aims to close this gap for multi-party systems by investigating the extent to which party supporters in Germany sort themselves into politically more compatible regions when changing their place of residence. Using individual survey data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and official regional statistics provided by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs, and Spatial Development (BBSR), logistic multilevel analyses are conducted for German NUTS-3 regions. An expected outcome is that party supporters move to regions where their preferred party enjoys electoral success and their ideological worldview is no longer in conflict with the region. Furthermore, it is expected that distance and differences in urbanization between origin and destination regions are central to residential choices, with a positive relationship in favor of politically congruent regions. This analysis not only sheds light on the impact of political circumstances as pull factors in residential decisions but also explores the transferability of theoretical considerations on geographic sorting to proportional representation systems. The findings bear implications for democratic coexistence, suggesting that its core values, such as consensus and cooperation, are compromised when geographic polarization and tensions between politically homogeneous regions contribute to societal divisions.

Crisis of Middle-Class Housing? Experiences of the Residents of Warsaw and Gdańsk, Poland

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University of Warsaw, Poland

This presentation addresses one of the most important contemporary challenges: growing housing disparities and their relationship with socio-spatial inequalities. Over the past decade, housing costs have outpaced income growth in cities across different contexts, leading some scholars to declare a "global crisis of urban housing affordability" (Wetzstein, 2017: 2). As a result, an increasing number of urban residents have been confronted with heightened financial pressures related to housing. This applies not only to low-income households but also to the middle class. This phenomenon is particularly visible in large cities, where real estate prices reach their peak.

This presentation aims to explore the experiences of housing insecurity among the urban middle class in Poland. Previous research has shown that housing for these classes plays a special role – it is a significant element of their identity and the main component of their wealth (Bacqué et al. 2015; Benson, Jackson, 2017). Drawing on Bourdieu's theory, this presentation seeks to answer the questions: What are the middle classes' strategies to cope with changing housing conditions? How does housing insecurity influence their perceptions of urban space?

The speech will be based on empirical research conducted in Gdansk and Warsaw (2023), which involved 20 biographical interviews with individuals aged 30-40, including private renters and mortgage holders. Findings indicate that the middle class employ diverse forms of capital to secure housing, willingly making significant sacrifices to reside in habitus-aligned neighbourhoods. These insights extend beyond the Polish context, offering broader insights into the relationship between urban space, housing status, and social inequalities.

Embedding Cross-border Labor Mobility into Socio-Ecological Transformation: Exploring Mobility Infrastructurization At The German-Polish Border

Kyoko Shinozaki, Iepke Rijcken

University of Salzburg, Austria

When the issue of sustainability is debated, we tend to think about climate change, the energy transition or recycling, of which mainly natural sciences and engineering science have been forefront. So, what has got Sociology to do with it? While Sociology may be argued to be a late comer in these debates, considering the anthropogenic nature of climate change, the relevance of Sociology to the theme is more than evident. Sociology has here a lot to

offer to critically assess and theorize the capitalistic ways of living and consumption as well as collective action. The UN's SDGs encompass a wide range of issues pertaining to the socio-ecological transformations from a holistic perspective for the sustenance of our earth. Amidst the sugrge of rightwing populism, European societies are experience challenges related to ageing population and labour shortages, for which mobile workers and migrants are often seen as part of the solution. There is an urgent need to improve job quality as an enabler of increased labour market participation, fair working conditions and equality – contributing to sustainable work over the life course.

The aim of this paper is to rethink cross-border labour mobility at the German-Polish border in the context of socio-ecological transformation. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with a convivial approach, we analyze the process in which the complex interplay of technologies, institutions, and actors facilitates the practices of cross-border commuting from west Poland into the automotive production sector and distribution centres in Brandenburg.

RS12 | Linking Ages - Towards a Sociological Theorizing of Age Constructions Across the Life Course

RS12 | T01: Linking Ages – Towards a Sociological Theorizing of Age Constructions Across the Life Course

The Conceptualisations of Ageism, Childism and Adultism in Research on Intergenerational Encounters: A Scoping Review

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This article is based on a scoping review of how ageism, childism and adultism have been conceptualized in research on intergenerational encounters. A central premise of many studies on intergenerational encounters is that regular interactions between older and younger people should counteract ageism. However, with its origins in social gerontology, the concept of ageism has been traditionally focused on older people. Thus, for example, in childhood studies, ageism is less common and is used alongside concepts, such as childism and adultism. Studies on intergenerational encounters that cover a wide age range and relate to both gerontology and childhood studies offer a lot of potential for exploring how the concept of ageism is used alongside the concepts of childism and adultism. Focusing on reviewing the empirical studies of intergenerational encounters, in this article, we investigate definitions and mechanisms of ageism, childlism and adultism alongside considerations of groups that are targeted by these forms of discrimination. Our preliminary findings show not only the dominance of the concept of ageism used in studies on intergenerational encounters, but also that ageism is usually understood as targeting older people. While some studies highlight both children's and older people's perspectives, ageism is still mostly defined as affecting older people. We discuss these findings in relation to the recent developments in discussions of ageism, childism and adultism. We propose that ageism as an overarching concept capturing age inequalities can be strengthened and developed using important insights from conceptualizations of childism and adultism.

Age As a Subject of Disputes and Performances

Pascale Garnier

Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, France

This presentation would like to underline the importance of linking sociology of childhood and children and sociology of age and to discuss how to think their links. As it has been demonstrated a long time ago (Sacks, 1974; Atkinson, 1980; Widmer, 1983), age categories, such as childhood, cannot be thought of separately. They form a system that is deeply embedded in social and cultural "chrono-normativity" (Freeman, 2010). Our approach intends to show that this system is also a moral and political order (Garnier, 1995; 2014). And, for studying what we call "classements d'âge" (age rankings), we analyze empirical "disputes" about what is "good" (or not) for children and what they are "able to do" (or not), in many historical or nowadays practices. Explicitly or implicitly what is at stake in these "disputes" are the "economies of worth" (Boltanski & Thévenot, 2006) between ages and the equivalences between them as human beings.

Closed to this approach, Passuth (1987) sheds light on "age hierarchies" among children. Age is often a matter of "disputes" among them, for example distinguishing throughout material culture what is for them or for "babies" and what they want for becoming "big ones" (Garnier, 2021). This approach leads also to consider age as "performance" (Butler, 1993): age is not just an externally prescribed category but a greatness that must be realized. Even young children have to perform their age, fulfill the expectations linked to their age (Garnier & al., 2016). Doing his or her age is also a process where the futur is accomplished in the ongoing present.

Age is More Than a Number: Developing an Integrative Conceptual Framework on Age

José Manuel De São José

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Age is omnipresent in our lives and a fundamental element in the organization of human societies. Age relations, like other power relations (e.g.: gender relations) generate social inequality. However, sociological theorization/conceptualization on age is still scarce and dispersed, compromising empirical research on this relevant topic. This article systematizes the theoretical/conceptual work on age carried out so far in the field of social sciences and, based on this systematization and other relevant literature (with emphasis on general sociological theory), proposes a conceptual framework that integrates and expands this work. This integrative conceptual framework on age is expected to promote empirical and theoretical work on this topic, bringing us closer to the volume and quality of work that has already been done on gender, race/ethnicity, and social class.

Is 20.4 the New 19.3? Transformations of Perceived Age Boundaries in Early and Late Adulthood

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Age plays a major role in the differentiation of people. But how do we know – that is, having acquired an implicit, internalized understanding of – whether a person is to be categorized as 'young' or 'old'? This paper is concerned with assessments of age boundaries from youth to adulthood on the one and from adulthood to old age on the other margin of life. We argue that, despite developments of de-standardization of the life course, most societies still maintain a strong system of chronormativity. Such chrononorms, age boundaries and ageisms are the result of historically, socially and culturally contingent and dynamic social processes and practices. In this paper, we thus pose the question how assessments of age boundaries change over time and differ between cultural contexts and social groups. We thereby contrast age boundaries in early and late adulthood from a 'Linking Ages' perspective to see if such changes and differences are 'linked' across the life course. We draw on data from the European Social Survey (ESS) wave 3 (2006/7) and wave 9 (2018) for multivariate data analysis. Results show that women are assessed to age 'faster' then men, but there in an increase of age boundaries between the two waves that narrows this gender gap. Moreover, differences in social position (e.g. education, income) and country of residence shape age assessments. We discuss these findings at the backdrop of theories of chrononormativity, the institutionalized life course, and the double standard of ageing.

The Effect of Past and Current Financial Vulnerability on Older Adults' Financial Planning Horizon

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Among the economic decisions that people expect to make in their lives, some relate to the need to establish priorities for their activities and when to undertake them. To satisfy the ongoing need to assure the older population an optimum standard of living, a deeper understanding of the determinants and considerations that may assure individuals and their households an appropriate economic horizon and quality of life is needed. The study focuses on mapping and understanding the set of characteristics that determine older adults' financial planning horizons.

The study yields a deep and broad picture of the determinants of the financial planning horizon of people aged 50+, using data from four waves of SHARE that elicit information

on older adults' present and childhood (n=35,719 at baseline, 52.69% female, age 50+).

The study shows that individuals' financial hardship and/or exposure to hunger in childhood lower the probability of preferring a lengthy planning horizon for their future saving and spending; people at a high cognitive ability tend to plan their saving and spending to the long term; and individuals' and households' economic decisions hinge on their households' economic capacity. Among those of working age, a perfect substitution is found between individuals' characteristics in childhood and their economic characteristics and cognitive ability in the present.

Given the steady upturn in life expectancy and the ongoing need to assure the older population an optimal standard of living, the study provides insights and a better understanding of the full set of determinants and characteristics that may assure individuals and their households an adequate economic horizon and quality of life.

RS12 | T02: Linking Ages – Empirical Insights into Age Constructions Across the Life Course

Age, Body, Transitions: Exploring the Relation of Age and Embodied Transformations Through the Method of Age Blinding.

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Throughout the life course, our bodies change and undergo transformations. Drawing on the theoretical notions of embodiment and social practices, two arguments can be put forward: first, the meanings we create around (ageing) bodies are socially constructed and thoroughly interwoven with multi-layered discourses, institutional norms, and social values. Second, these bodies themselves are constituted in social practices of "attribution, addressing and staging" (Nägler/Wanka). Regarding this interplay, we are interested in the question of the entanglement of bodies and age(ing) throughout transitions, asking "How does the social category of age shape our everyday and scientific constructions of the body?".

The proposed contribution is based on a joint reflection of four PhD projects pursued in the German research training group "Doing Transitions" that focus on diverse phenomena – class mobility, abortion, hysterectomy, family care – and age groups. Applying the methodological approach of "age blindness" and "interpretation under different premises" (Freutel-Funke et al.) to the empirical material of these four projects, we will investigate the relationship between age and body phenomena, for example in the social negotiation of pain in different age groups, asking "Who is allowed to express pain and to what extent? Whose pain is accepted? And whose pain is also associated with learning experiences?"

We conclude that this methodological approach unveils the significant role played by the construction of age and bodies in the life course trajectories of individuals, and, beyond, adds to reflexivity in the interpretation process. Finally, we propose to apply a 'Linking Ages' agenda to other categories of social difference, such as class or gender.

Linking Moves –Relocations To Assisted Living Arrangements Of Young And Older Adults

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How "age" as a powerful category of difference structures society is particularly evident in age-segregated places. Such places, like kindergartens, youth clubs, or care homes, are designed exclusively for certain age groups, while typically being supervised by (pedagogical) staff of a different age.

The project presented here focuses on relocations to (pedagogically) supervised, age-segregated living arrangements for young adults (case 1) and older adults (case 2) and uses an ethnographic approach to "follow" the relocation process at both ages, while continuously relating them to each other.

First findings show how age differentiations come to matter in the interplay of relocation, housing and pedagogical practices on the basis of realms such as privacy, independence, care and hygiene. For example, independence is framed as a competence that needs to be acquired in young adulthood and maintained in older adulthood. In different ways, both show an orientation towards the ideal of an autonomous, independent adult.

On the basis of the project and the preliminary findings, it will be discussed what a "linking ages" perspective offers for research on the constitution of age and age differentation: What other things do we learn about 'age' and the emergence of this category of difference? What blind spots are there, what might eventually get lost?

Sex, Drugs, and Rock-n-roll? Aging Hippies Reconstructing Old Age

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Based on 40 in-depth interviews with lifelong, returning, and past residents of an intentional community founded by a group of hippies in 1971, this study explored continuity and change between youth and old age among aging hippies. Of the hippie sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll triad, the latter seemed significantly less influenced by time and aging processes. In contrast, some people testified that as they got older, they experienced some liberation from the centrality of sex in their lives, and many reported decreased use of psychedelics and a transformation in the purpose of cannabis use from 'spiritual' to 'instrumental.' Interviewees' involvement in other activities was diverse. Still, social and physical activities seemed to be the most dominant activity types, and two specific activities—taking long walks and gardening—were common to most participants. In addition, several people reported involvement in various forms of 'serious' leisure. The continuity of the ethics of play, in general, and activities that maintained study participants' identity, in particular, are consistent with previous research demonstrating a tendency for continuity in later life. Still, the present study emphasizes the importance of combining continuity and change. Allowing for modifications in both intensity and meaning may result in an activity repertoire that better fits the older individual's interests and circumstances. This combination, along with the dominance of physical and social activities and the many 'serious' leisure activities, suggests that aging hippies present a new model for reconstructing old age and making the most of later life.

Reinterpretation of Age-Systems in the Migratory Context

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In this paper, I aim to present an alternative approach to studying age within the context of transnational migration. This approach explores how migrants reinterpret, accommodate, and challenge age systems learned and practiced in their 'anthropological home' in the new migratory context.

While existing academic publications on migration and age treat age as an absolute chronological socio-demographic variable or analyze how specific age groups, especially youngsters, integrate into the migratory context, my approach suggests that age constitutes a meaningful social system that shapes power relations among members of different generations and that, consequently, the accommodation process to different age systems also involves challenging sociocultural constructions of age in both the origin and migratory contexts.

Specifically, my paper will focus on three main issues:

1. How migrants reinterpret age systems in the migratory context in terms of behaviours, achievements, expectations, self-identifications?

2. How inter/intra-generational solidarity and reciprocity are manifested in the migratory context?

3. How age intersects with other social constructions such as gender, social class, status, and ethnic and racial constructions?

In addition to reviewing sociological and anthropological literature on sociocultural constructions of age, this paper incorporates informal interviews with West African, Bulgarian, Moroccan, and Ecuadorian women living in Burgos (Spain) and known to the researcher through their participation in other research projects.

Twilight Love: Examining The Demands For Intimacy And Choice In Re-partnering In Later Life Among Chinese Elderly From a Life Course Perspective

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As life expectancy rises, seniors enter an “additional stage of life” after retirement. This phase brings significant changes in family dynamics and social networks, with spouses becoming the primary source of support. Urbanization and the pandemic have intensified loneliness among single seniors, leading to a greater desire for intimacy. However, limited sociological research focuses on such demand, particularly in China, where familial responsibilities take precedence and the intimate needs of the elderly are marginalized. To challenge age discourse and open possibilities for elderly intimacy, this study aims to explore the intertwined trajectories and pathways that lead to the choice in re-partnering among elderly individuals while also investigating the various factors considered in partner selection and tensions within the kinship system. Since the choice in re-partnering in later life is influenced by both enduring traditional norms and the transformative nature of modern intimacy, a life course perspective that incorporates individual, generational, and historical temporal dimensions is meaningful. Qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, photo elicitation, and narrative analysis, are used. Preliminary findings suggest that the potential partners’ quality of life is a key consideration in mate selection, with physical and mental health playing a significant role. Individuals who possess a greater understanding of health preservation knowledge exhibit higher levels of attractiveness within the dating pool. Meanwhile, health can be viewed as a form of life course capital that confers cumulative advantages for later-life intimacy. Individuals with higher socioeconomic status, who are not required to sacrifice health for work, or who have employed health care actions in response to suboptimal health in early adulthood, are more likely to find compatible partners and experience higher well-being in later life.

RS14 | Experiencing and Representing Precariousness: Emerging Labour Configurations and Worker Agency

RS14 | T02: New subjectivities at work

Precariousness And Ontological Insecurity: An Analysis Of Self-reflexivity of Precarious Workers In Portugal

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the consequences of the flexibilization of labor relations which had been growing mainly since the 2008 financial crisis, highlighting that precariousness affected the world of work and other dimensions of life, such as family, housing, support networks, health, and well-being. Several authors, such as Anthony Giddens, Margaret Archer, and Bernard Lahire, have analyzed the way in which individuals reflect on themselves with reference to the contexts in which they are inserted. According to this approach, self-reflexivity is activated to deal with contingencies that affect the routinize nature of everyday life, threatening their established ontological security. Therefore, how do precarious workers, behave in the face of high levels of permanent instability and insecurity in the labor market? How do they perceive precariousness? The objective of this paper is to present the results of an analysis focused on the individual agency of 53 workers from different sectors of activity, interviewed between 2019 and 2020 in Portugal. The analysis addresses the ways in which these individuals activate reflexive skills to manage themselves in the face of alife condition characterized by a state of “ontological insecurity”. This presentation will discuss how vulnerable workers reflect on themselves and attribute meaning to their lives with reference to the level of precarious working conditions and the persistence of insecurity and uncertainty. The results led to the development of a three-level typology of self-reflexivity among precarious workers: reflexivity dominated by precariousness, reflexivity rooted in precariousness, and reflexivity uprooted from precariousness.

A New Algorithmic Subjectivity? Notes on Power and Resistance in Platform Labour

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The last decade has been marked by the pervasive spread of digital technologies. The rise of digital platforms and algorithmic management is transforming both the sphere of production and of social reproduction, as well as their previous interdependencies. Algorithms not only exercise an augmented despotic power with consequences in terms of labor intensification and constant surveillance. It functions, above all, as a positive power that operates by defining new subjective features and providing platforms the necessary social ground for their functioning. In this perspective, algorithms combine discipline and governmentality establishing platforms not only as a new business model, but as a social infrastructure that insists on the formation of new "forms of life." However, the borders of algorithmic expansion are surrounded by labor and social conflicts that are showing an unexpected ability to challenge platforms' power. This highlights how the processes of digitization are not flat or linear. On the contrary, a fundamental ambivalence persists on algorithmic subjectivity, marking a difference from previous phases of post-Fordist precarisation where unionization and labor conflicts appeared limited. The aim of this presentation will be to investigate genealogy of the operations that characterize this ambivalence intrinsic to emerging algorithmic subjectivity. Our analysis will be based on combining theoretical understanding of the new subjectivity at work with empirical data: interviews with platform workers and data taken from the participatory observation within Riders Union Bologna, one of the numerous informal unions that have developed in recent years in the food delivery sector.

Labour In-Between Gift And Commodity – Reproducing And Resisting Precarity In The Digital Games Industry

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The paper investigates the phenomenon of double exploitation in 'passionate work', where workers are exploiting themselves in their dedication to work and colleagues, simultaneously as being exposed to exploitation by employers and the industry at large. The study is based on an analysis of semi-structured interviews with game developers employed in the Swedish digital games industry. The digital games industry has been highlighted internationally as an industry that obscures precarious working conditions behind the passion for creating games. Drawing on the relational work perspective in economic sociology, the analysis identifies the expectations and subtle norms in different socio-economic exchange systems, as well as the ambiguities and mismatches when the norms of gift exchange and market exchange intersect. Through the analytical notion of 'labour as gift versus labour as commodity', the study highlights the interactive social processes through which self-exploitation are sustained as well as questioned and resisted. It is argued that although work performed within the framework of an employment is to be considered a commodity in a structural meaning, it is not solely a commodity. Friendship reciprocity and favour exchanges are regarded as beyond-work-relationships as well as being integral to the formal labour relationships. The paper discusses the interactive dynamics of friendship and collegial exchanges, accounts of non-reciprocated gifts, as well as self-blaming and guilting practices. It is demonstrated how the mismatches between different forms of socio-economic exchange evoke reflections on the value of work, which paves the way to voice and potential exit from the industry.

Legitimising Frames for Adverse Working Conditions of Seasonal Workers in Croatia

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This paper examines the legitimizing frames for adverse working conditions experienced by seasonal workers in Croatia, a European semi-peripheral country with seaside tourism monoculture that emerged in the aftermath of the post-socialist dismantling of other industries.

Working conditions within the tourism sector are characterised by long working hours without appropriate daily and weekly rest periods, presentism, substandard accommodation and food provision, and low remuneration, contributing to the broader context of precariousness. The precariousness experienced by seasonal workers is not only confined to their employment status but also extends to other dimensions of life, particularly in disrupting the normal life flow and lacking social protection, including regulatory measures and welfare provisions. Despite this, there is a notable absence of labor unrest within this sector.

Focusing on workers' subjectivity, this paper aims to explore how workers interpret and legitimize those working conditions and the repercussions of those legitimizing frames on collective forms of agency. The paper draws on insights from 23 semi-structured interviews conducted in 2021, encompassing a diverse sample of seasonal workers in Croatia. By concentrating on a specific country case, this paper seeks to enhance the understanding of embeddedness of those legitimizing frameworks and workers' subjectivities in this social context. It also explores their diversification based on different life and work trajectories of seasonal workers, attempting to comprehend the impact on the potential for collective action within the tourism sector.

RS14 | T04: Between Precarious and Entrepreneurial Subjectivities

Entrepreneurship and Precarious Work: Experiences and Meanings Among Young People from the Urban Outskirts

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In a context of high unemployment, more flexible labor relations and loss of rights, the implementation of a neoliberal agenda has the spread of entrepreneurship as an important resource for social legitimization, especially among young people. A wide and diverse range of workers have been labeled as “entrepreneurs”, covering up precarious work situations. This article presents the results of a quantitative and qualitative survey, supported by FAPESP and CNPq, carried out between 2021 and 2023, comprising 208 young people from the urban outskirts of São Paulo and working as “entrepreneurs” in different areas: culture, communication, food, aesthetics, clothes production, among others. It is based on literature focused on the construction of neoliberal subjectivity in Latin America, which has contributed to the development of conceptual and methodological tools as an analytical resource focused on the relationship between structural conditions and individual forms of agency, as highlighted in the works of Danilo Martuccelli and Kathia Araújo. The results show how young people understand and experience their work as “entrepreneurs”, marked by reflexivity and the creation of new strategies and practices, including collective ones, as opposed to the dissemination of individualizing solutions in the world of work.

Precarisation Of The Self: The Role Of The Social State

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This paper aims to broaden the understanding of precariousness in the Global North by moving beyond its association with employment conditions, and by framing it as socio-political regulation. Contrary to the prevalent discourse suggesting a crisis in the social state, the paper argue that the social state functions as an agent to the production of both precariousness and agency, with an increasing individual responsibility and precarisation of the self. This is discussed for the Swiss case by analysing legal documents on unemployment from 1890 to 2010, outlining changes in the management of precariousness.

The paper posits that the social state is undergoing an ambivalent reorganization of social security so that precariousness becomes internalized within individual agency. On one hand, the social state no longer seeks to stabilize capitalist processes through centralized and collective risk management; rather risk management is shifted onto individuals, therewith intensifying subjective assessment of precariousness in the population. On the other hand, the social state emphasizes a shift from compensatory to preventive logic; it aims at preparing individuals to minimize the risk by requiring them to work on their skills, emotions, motivations, and perspectives.

Instead of viewing precariousness as an obstacle to agency, this paper suggests it is nurtured through the capacity to act, think, and feel. This raises questions about how precariousness today can become a form of solidarity and collective agency within the rationality of the social state, where precariousness is mandated to be internalized, shifting the collective struggle into a personal one.

Creating an Illusion of Control in Gig-work: Analysis of Bolt Food Communication to Food Delivery Couriers in Riga

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With the platform economy on the rise, an increasing number of people across the globe choose platform work as their primary or supplementary source of income. Platforms attract workers, promising unprecedented autonomy and flexibility, and present them as self-employed entrepreneurs. Yet, the use of algorithmic management and asymmetric distribution of information between a platform and its workers leave the latter with very little control and creates rather precarious working conditions.

In this paper, we shed light on the everyday realities of food delivery gig-workers by critically examining the communication of a food delivery platform, Bolt Food, to its courier partners in Riga. Through quantitative and qualitative cultural sociological analysis of 4135 Telegram messages Bolt Food has sent to its food delivery couriers in Riga from 2021 to 2023, we analyze the intensity and content of communication, use of persuasive means of expression, and asymmetrical provision of information, and thereby provide an insight into how platforms create an “illusion of control” (Woodcock 2020).

The present analysis is part of an ongoing research project, “Meaning and Practice of Autonomy in Gig-Work: Sociocultural Inquiry in Experience of Wolt and Bolt Delivery Workers in Riga,” conducted at the Latvian Academy of Culture and funded by the Latvian Council of Sciences (Nr. lzp-2021/1-0521).

RS14 | T05: Non-standard work and job quality

Algorithmic Work and Job Quality

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This research is centred on job quality in algorithmic work. Algorithmic work is platform-based employment that uses algorithmic control to mediate the commissioning, supervising, delivering and compensating workers on a contingent, piece-work basis. There is increasing attention to the work performed through (and for) digital labour platforms, broadly categorized into gig work, executed locally in person, and cloud work, executed remotely online (e.g., De Stefano, 2016; Graham et al., 2017). Scholars point to extremely precarious working conditions (e.g., Berg, 2015), eroded terms of employment (Howcroft et al., 2019), and few opportunities for development (e.g., Duggan et al., 2021) associated with platform-mediated working arrangements. In parallel, autonomy, flexibility, task variety and complexity are found beneficial to workers' job quality outcomes, although to various degrees (e.g., D'Cruz & Noronha, 2016; Wood et al., 2019). This research aims to contribute to an existing gap in the literature in three ways. First, adopting a multidimensional construct of job quality to explore gig and cloud work (economics, sociology of work and psychology), drawn on the Good Work Index, which is the most comprehensive method in measuring 'good' work to date (Williams et al., 2020). Second, brings larger quantitative samples which enable us to extrapolate and look at different larger labour markets drawing on the comprehensive 'Understanding Society' of the UK household and members of the household national-level study, which integrated the 'Gig Economy' module in 2019. Third, investigating differences between gig and cloud work. Gig work has attracted wider scholarly attention compared to cloud work (e.g., Berger et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2019). The potential impact of the research extends to both academia and policymakers.

Precarious Work In China 2010-2021: Types, Distribution and Causes

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Existing studies have shown a global trend toward rising levels of labor insecurity, trapping a growing number of populations in precarious works in both the Global North and the Global South. The debate on precarious work reflects a universal concern on the future of work despite differences in cultures, political regimes or economic systems. However, few studies have been done in discussing the precarious work in China. Precarious work is relatively rare in China before the 1980s, as the informal economy has been mostly wiped out in 1950s, the majority of the labor were employed in state or collective enterprises, guaranteed with a life-long full-time job. During the transition from central planned economy to market economy, despite China's great success in economic development, the past decades also saw rising social inequalities and growing tensions in labor relations. Which is also reflected by the growing prevalence of precarious work across all sectors of the economy. To comprehend the overall state of precarious work in China, this study first proposes a multi-dimensional measurement on job quality to identify the precarious work in the Chinese labor market based on an intuitive and tangible taxonomy on working population. Based on which, we further analyze the prevalence of precarious employment in China since 2010, as well as populations who are vulnerable to the precarious jobs. Moreover, beyond the individual scope, a macro-level analysis is further performed to reveal the institutional and structural forces underlying the prevalence of precarious works in China during the past decade.

How Workers' Employment Trajectories Are Affected By Insecure Employment At The Early Career Stage

Rebecca Tamara Florisson

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This research explores how engagement with insecure work — particularly multiple forms of insecurity — during the early career affects UK workers' longer-term employment trajectories and outcomes. This work uses a holistic measure of labour market insecurity across three dimensions derived from the literature:

- contractual insecurity, where people are not guaranteed future hours or future work
- financial insecurity, where people experience low pay or unpredictable pay
- and (lack of) access to rights and protections.

As a new contribution, these three dimensions of insecurity are represented by six indicators for insecurity selected from the British Household Panel Survey and Understanding Society (1991 to present). The work tracks the labour market entry of 8,500 young workers aged 16-24 and classifying the different levels of intensity and duration of insecurity at every point of observation. It then tracks individual outcomes over time using descriptive analyses and regressions.

The analysis demonstrates that cumulative levels of insecurity in the UK have been relatively stable over the past 30 years. Most concerningly, it finds that while three quarters of young workers who enter into insecure work obtain secure positions within three years, a sizeable minority of workers remain in insecure work for protracted periods of time, suggesting clear employment penalties for young workers who engage in insecure work that persist for some time.

In-Work Poverty in the North East of England: What are the key drivers and lived experiences?

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The North East is one of the UK's weakest and most deprived regional economies. Around two thirds of the region's towns have household deprivation higher than the mean average. The Trades Union Congress (TUC 2023) note that the region has had an increase in working adults in insecure work – the third highest rate in the country and a factor in the high levels of in-work poverty (IWP).

Regional voluntary organisations are raising serious concerns relating to the rise of IWP in the region, with people in full time work now afflicted. We have built a coalition of NE organisational representatives with a cross sector consensus on the urgency of tackling poverty in the region with our specific focus on IWP and its drivers.

We have collated secondary data from existing data sets to help understand the extent of the problem additional to an overview of institutional responses that have been introduced to tackle the problem and why they have not been successful. This data provides valuable information on the structural social and economic factors affecting the region, however there is an urgent need to better understand how in-work poverty emerges between working and social conditions and the personal and household context within which workers are embedded. Although at an early stage at the time of writing, preliminary findings will derive qualitative data from people's lived experiences of IWP as well as inputs from local authorities, trade unions, and community organisations in order to more broadly inform the rise of IWP in the region.

RS14 | T06: Migrant precarious labour

Employment Precarization And Skilled Labour Migration In Western EU Countries

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The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between employment precariousness and high-skilled migration. There exists a large number of studies investigating the effects of precarious employment on various issues, ranging from unemployment to job insecurity, however, studies on the effects of precariousness on migration are scarce. In addition, in scholarly literature, high-skilled migration in developed economies is presented as a specific migration with patterns differing from those from low-income countries or among those with lower educational attainment. For these reasons, data from a relatively homogeneous sample of EU-15 or Western European countries, which represent the highly developed European sub-region, was selected. In the analysis, fixed-effects linear regression was applied. The model included part-time, involuntary part-time, temporary, involuntary temporary, short-term employment, unemployment, and earnings as independent variables and the emigration of people with tertiary education as a dependent variable. The analysis showed that involuntary part-time and short-term employment are significant positive predictors of high-skilled emigration. Meanwhile, unemployment and earnings did not predict high-skilled labour mobility in the sample of EU-15 countries. The results support the implication that labour precariousness may be related to increased emigration of those with higher education in developed economies.

Migrant Precarious Work, Platform Capitalism, and the Strategies for Social Reproduction in Urban Spaces: Insights from Madrid and Barcelona

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Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain

This paper explores the realities and discourses of migrant precarious work under platform capitalism, tracing the intertwining between the gig economy, migrant struggles, and the city. Platforms are strongholds for migrant workers, who have become an indispensable labour force for a wide range of digital applications, in sectors ranging from transport to care work (Altenried, 2021; Gebrial, 2022). The structural vulnerability and barriers to accessing other

forms of employment have made platform work a means of subsistence for many migrants in contemporary urban areas (Van Doorn & Vijay, 2021). Migrants are at the lowest rung of a sector characterized by a reconfiguration of labour relations towards increasingly flexible models and atypical forms of work that undermine job security and workers' rights (Fernández-Trujillo, 2020). Drawing on fieldwork conducted in Madrid and Barcelona with migrant workers in three different types of platforms – delivery, free tours, and care work – the paper explores: (i) the precarious conditions that are specific to migrant workers in the various platforms, critically addressing the racialized, gendered and classed dimensions of digital labor; and (ii) migrants' strategies and practices, both within and outside the platforms, for sustaining their livehoods. These include not only the (formal and informal) struggles for workers' rights, but also the everyday support networks and strategies of social reproduction in the city, drawing attention to some of the ways in which platform work becomes a means of maintaining local and global chains of care.

Race, Class, and Immigrant Entrepreneurship in the Finnish Competition State

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A primary characteristic of neoliberal capitalism is depoliticization, whereby inequalities inherent to capital-state relations are either accepted or left uncontested, because economic practices are seen as more impartial than and separate from the political realm as well as public deliberation. Accordingly, scholarship concerning ethnic, immigrant, and migrant entrepreneurship in Finland is foreclosed by neoliberal capitalism as well as the imperative of competition that it entails, in the sense that entrepreneurship is considered a positive and necessary economic venture despite the precarity it produces. The selected studies (n=35) highlight discrepancies and limitations of entrepreneurship, often to suggest targeted policy measures that would make the profession more profitable for ethnic minorities, immigrants, and migrants. The more critical of studies attempt to highlight the exploitation required by entrepreneurship, but ultimately believe that the profession can be reconciled with state intervention. This article argues that with a clearer conceptualization of race and class in relation to Finland's recent development into a neoliberal, competition state, entrepreneurship can be politically contested as the preferred subjectivity of neoliberal capitalism that disciplines labor, makes different forms of work precarious, but also as a precarious form of work ipso facto. It becomes difficult then, as de Moura Ferraz and de Silva Ferraz (2022) suggest, to justify or reconcile entrepreneurship in the context of increasing global and national wealth inequality.

Precariousness In The Context of Contractual Flexibility: Distinct Trade Union Strategies For Distinct Types Of Precarious Workers?

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The rise of non-standard forms of work across European countries has trigged increasing research attention. While some authors refer to contractual flexibility, others frame the emerging non-standard forms of work via the lens of precariousness. Both concepts refer to employment status, contract length and working hours, yet the dimensions of precariousness include also lacking access to social security, training and career progression, as well as lacking interest representation (Trif et al. 2023). Using the example of two types of non-standard work, namely, temporary agency work and gig work, the paper comparatively identifies the sources of precariousness among agency workers and gig workers and asks if trade unions develop distinct strategies to mitigate precariousness in these distinct worker types. The conceptualization is embedded in different industrial relations settings, covering six European countries (Denmark, Sweden, Slovakia, Poland, Ireland and the UK). The paper is part of the ongoing Horizon Project TransEuroWorks. Trade union strategies vis-à-vis precarious workers are part of a broader analysis covering also employer preferences for particular types of flexible workforce, and access of these workers to social protection.

RS14 | T07: Precarious employment and its effects on workers' health and wellbeing

"The Algorithm Is Like A Mercurial God" – Exploring Content Creators' Perception Of Algorithmic Agency On YouTube

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Algorithmic systems wield substantial influence in contemporary society, particularly in the context of digital platforms (Bunz, 2012; Burrell & Fourcade, 2021; Zuboff, 2023). Since it is mostly unknown how algorithms specifically work, content creators (CCs) on YouTube who rely on their functionality for economic reasons, are in a constant state of sensemaking regarding the characteristics and perceived preferences of the algorithm (Duffy, 2020; Bishop 2019a; DeVito, 2021).

While studies suggest that users in general and CCs in specific perceive certain algorithmic structures as agentic (Shin, 2022; Singler, 2020; Wu, Pedersen, & Salehi, 2019), we still know very little about the variations within these assessments and in which ways different social characteristics and industry factors play a role in that regard.

We examine this by conducting a thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2012) of 30 interviews with German-speaking CCs on YouTube. We find, similar to previous studies that CCs do perceive agentic qualities of the YouTube algorithm but that their assessment depends on their experience and exposure to it. Four key themes were identified: The algorithm is seen as an entity that is non-transparent and largely unpredictable; as dynamic, intentional, and capable of learning; it exerts a great deal of power, which influences platform users and it is constantly creating hierarchies and reinforcing inequalities. Thus, our study contributes to a more in-depth understanding of this occupation's challenges and shines a new light on human-machine interactions from a social inequality perspective.

Subjective Well-being At The Boundaries Of Independent And Dependent Work Relations in Europe.

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In the debate on the transformation of employment relations, the growth of non-standard jobs and, specifically, dependent self-employment challenges the "binary divide" rooted in the employment vs. self-employment dichotomy and generally entails a narrowing of the borders between work and private spheres with potential negative consequences on the general levels of well-being.

This paper aims to investigate the subjective well-being of emerging working statuses at the boundaries of independent and dependent employment – i.e. dependent self-employment – in Europe.

Firstly, it analyses how subjective well-being is connected to job demands (time pressures, space constraints, job insecurity) and job resources (levels of autonomy, control, and social support) in the organisation of daily work for different types of self-employed workers – dependent vs genuine – and standard and non-standard employees. Secondly, it investigates whether and how differences in the levels of subjective well-being across standard and non-standard (self-)employment statuses are mediated by household-specific factors related to life stages, place of residence, and care duties.

The analyses are based on the European Working Condition Telephone Survey 2021 (Eurofound 2023), which includes different measures of subjective well-being (intended as low job engagement, burnout, and risk of depression), status in employment, quality of working conditions, life stages and household arrangements.

Preliminary analyses show that subjective well-being varies consistently across different types of employment. While entrepreneurs and genuine solo self-employed workers show the highest levels of well-being, dependent self-employed workers show higher risks of experiencing low job engagement, burnout and depression, with mean values close to those of non-standard employees and informal workers.

Reclaiming Agency: Managing Problematic Menstruation in Precarious Research and Innovation Workplaces

Chiara Cocco, Cat Morgan, Jos Collins, Nima Ali, Kate Sang

Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom

This study examines the multifaceted nature of precariousness, emphasizing the interplay between employment, gender-specific health issues, and broader social conditions. It

critically assesses how fieldwork-based jobs, often linked to short-term funded projects and early career positions, affect job security and workers' agency. We discuss how these factors particularly impact the participation of women and other marginalised groups in the research and innovation workforce, further increasing inequalities in the knowledge production space.

A significant contribution of this research is its focus on the overlooked and stigmatised aspects of women's health, especially problematic menstruation and the implications in the context of precarious employment. Further, this intersectional study explores how managing menstrual health at work intersects with other factors, including ethnicity, disability, neurodiversity, age and sexuality. By integrating these factors, the research provides a comprehensive view of precariousness as a spectrum of social conditions experienced differently in research and innovation workspaces.

Our research, based on extensive interviews with over 40 workers in unconventional job settings, including extreme fieldwork locations, reveals how flexible working patterns encourage workers' agency by, for example, allowing people who menstruate to manage their workload around their menstrual cycle. Further, we explain how delegating tasks is often not possible in precarious jobs, thus worsening the working conditions of those who experience problematic menstruation.

The aim of this study is to co-design workplace interventions with stakeholders by shaping individual and collective strategies to navigate and resist precarious conditions. Our research empowers marginalised workers to reclaim agency in their work environment by offering an inclusive and nuanced understanding of precariousness, foregrounding the importance of considering gender and health in employment.

Precarity, Youth Transitions and Emotional Wellbeing: Insights from the Post-pandemic Era in Catalonia

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There is a concern for the mental and emotional wellbeing of the young in Europe, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic crises. From the perspective of social production of health, it is crucial to understand this phenomenon in connection with the fact that youth transitions to employment, economic independence, and family formation have become increasingly protracted and precarious.

Previous research highlighted the relevance of precarious employment and the unfolding of experiences of exclusion, fragmentation, and interruptions over labor career paths on young people's mental health. Our research aims to delve into both the labor and economic aspects underlying the youth mental health crisis, capturing the complex, overarching, and dynamic nature of precarity among the young. Specifically, we study how precarious career paths relate to economic insecurity and difficulties developing transitions into adulthood, and analyse how these processes and their interaction hinder young people's emotional wellbeing.

Our research is based on the analysis of the Catalan Youth Survey 2022, a CAWI survey of 3,000 individuals aged 15-34 years old in Catalonia (Spain). The survey includes retrospective data on labor career paths, residential, and family transitions, which allows us to identify the economic and labor-related adverse events experienced during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. It also gathers information on the respondent's emotional wellbeing through the WHO-5 wellbeing index.

Preliminary results of our study describe the diverse precarity landscapes that young people endure, and their relationship with emotional wellbeing. They also highlight remarkable gender inequalities in these processes

RS14 | T08: Comparing precarious labour across countries and sectors

'Labour Agency' among waste workers in India & its impact on wellbeing: Structures & Drivers

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Agency is defined as 'intention and the practice of taking action for one's own self-interest or the interests of others' (Castree et al in Rogaly, 2009). However, ability to act goes beyond individual causality of intention to action, and is shaped by socio-cultural, historical and economic conditions in which individuals are situated (Walls et al, 2015). In India, work of waste entails informal and precarious working arrangements (Gidwani, 2015). Further, multiple identity markers embodied by waste workers – their caste, gender, migrant status and religion – shape not only community relations but also the nature of state's interaction, with respect to civic rights and accountability for instance. Therefore, it is important to understand how the enmeshing of these identity markers, working relations and positions in larger networks of capitalist production condition the agency of waste workers, because ability to 'take action' in self or community interest has implications on health and wellbeing. Following the call of Coe & Jordhus-Lier (2010) to (re)politicise and (re)institutionalize labour agency within formations of Capital, state, community and labour markets within which workers are embedded, we seek to understand the conditions that structure 'Labour Agency' among waste workers working within informal recycling industry in India. Using qualitative methods of participant observation and thematic analysis of field notes, interviews and focus group discussions, we 're-embed' labour agency within the framework of global production networks, state and community politics as suggested by Coe & Jordhus-Lier. We find that constraints that shape agency among waste workers are the consequences of racialised workings of organized abandonment by the state(Gilmore, 2007), under conditions of capitalist production that deems sections of workers as Surplus (Adler-Bolton & Vierkant, 2022).

Informality Within the Formal: Informalizing Processes and Exploitation Within Highly Regulated and Protected Nordic Labor Markets

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Nordic labour markets are renowned for their strong protection of workers through collective bargaining, highly regulated and secure employment, and comprehensive welfare states. However, a growing body of research indicates processes of precarisation, most tangible among migrant workers in labour-intensive and low-wage segments of the labour market, pointing to factors such as the flexibilisation and de-regulation of labour relations, globalization and migration. As part of the research project 'Tackling Precarious and Informal Work in the Nordic countries' (PrecaNord), the paper provides a cross-border and cross-sectoral analysis of precarious working lives in the Nordics. It critically scrutinizes precarious and low-wage work in three sectors–construction, cleaning, and food-delivery—in the Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish labour markets. Drawing on ethnographic and interview data with migrant workers, we identify what we call 'informalising practices within formal labour relations', and show how these are driven by the intertwinement of changing labour-, migration-, and welfare regimes. We demonstrate how employers navigate the so-called Nordic model by elaborating a variety of 'techniques of achieving partial informalisation', while also highlighting workers' agency to ameliorate their situation in line with or against such techniques. Building on previous theorization of informal work relations, particularly developed in the Global South, we highlight how complex interrelations between formal and informal work arrangements materialize in specific ways in the Nordics. Hence, we question previous assumptions of the formal character of Nordic labour markets, and by pinpointing contemporary forms of exploitation in a Nordic context, we contribute to the existing body of research that moves beyond a strict formal/informal economic divide.

(De)regulation and Segmentation of the Healthcare Labour Market in Portugal: An Ongoing Research

Ana Paula Marques

University of Minho, Portugal

The study of the interpenetration between professional logics and the labour market, which result from the expansion of the phenomenon of "atypicality" of labour ties, is central to the construction of a future dignified workforce in health in Europe. The neoliberal agenda of commodification of the value of work and the health management reforms have expanded the phenomena of "atypicality" of labour ties.

Furthermore, new institutional actors are coming into the field, such as temporary agencies of recruitment and platforms, which disrupt normal employment relation-ships, challenging the boundaries between self-employment and dependent work. In this paper, we intend to explore news directions of the labour market in the health sector in Portugal, by capturing not only transformations in objective conditions of protected professional, but also shedding light on so-called hybrid markets throughout outsourced and temporaries' contracts and its subjective life consequences. The paper is supported on secondary and qualitative research focused on semi-structured interviews with health professionals, which attest to the phenomenon of increasing individualisation and labour sub-contracting in the heath sector in Portugal. It is crucial to understand to what extent theses news directions impact on comprehensive agenda for creating an integrated people-centred health workforce in diverse healthcare systems and sectors.

Precarity in Lithuanian academia

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Precarious contracts in European academia have significantly increased in the past decades due to various policy reforms related to academic capitalism, such as increasing the number of doctoral holders, reducing permanent positions, worsening working conditions for academics as well as saving schemes of university managers. This paper focuses on the Lithuanian higher education context, where academic tenure is an illusive and changing concept. We pose the questions on how do academics compare across disciplines, seniority and gender regarding their employment contract? How does the voice regarding promotion being heard compare across gender, type of contract and seniority? The paper draws on the survey, carried out among academic staff at a major university in Lithuania, N=360, with the response rate of 19.1%.

This contribution points that the perception of fairness of recruitment and promotion is perceived slightly differently depending on gender and career level. The same holds for perceived voice regarding career advancement in the faculty. This is in line with the academic and social capital theory, with those with higher capital, that is, senior academics, are also the ones with more power and say in the faculty, and thus, have more voice regarding promotion. The difference by discipline can be explained related to the research funding mechanisms, whereby, hard sciences have increasingly been relying on postdoctoral labour in the laboratories funded by research council or foundations, bring more precarious contracts into the system. At the same time, a rather high percentage of precarious positions at both junior and senior levels points to the high level of precarity in the Lithuanian higher education system overall, which questions the tenure rules in the country.

RS14 | T09: Platform work

Internalizing precariousness – experiences of Georgian platform workers

Ana Diakonidze

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While platform work has become increasingly prevalent in low-to-middle-income countries over the past decade, scholarly discussion of its implications for workers in such countries is scarce. One strand of literature highlights the benefits of platform work in less advanced economies, such as providing alternative and better earning opportunities than what is otherwise available on the local market (D'Cruz and Norohna, 2016; Wood et al., 2019). Another strand, however, points to the highly precarious nature of such employment (Hunt and Machingura, 2016; Malik et al., 2018). Most of these studies implicitly assume that high levels of unemployment and a largely informal economy push workers in these countries to join the platform workforce. There is however little research on how local workforces view their working conditions and which factors make them accept the precariousness of such work.

This article addresses this gap, examining the reasons why workers engage in platform work and the perceived advantages/disadvantages of such work vis-à-vis the local context. The study is based on 40 semi-structured interviews with driver-partners in Tbilisi, the capital of the Republic of Georgia. The main argument put forward in the article is that it is not the lack of employment opportunities, but rather the poor quality of available jobs and the lack of social protection which explain workers' readiness to accept platform working conditions. These factors lead to an 'internalization of precariousness' – a condition where workers perceive precariousness in employment relations as the norm. The precarity of platform work is thus equally considered normal.

Between the 'individual' and the 'collective' in platform work: Cases from Greece

Maria Kyriakidou

American College of Thessaloniki, Greece

The present paper sheds light to aspects of platform work in Greece as an interface between the individual and the collective experience. It, first, reviews existing theoretical work on the concept of 'liminality' and the ways in which it can be employed in relation to platform work and the precarious nature of employment challenges that relate to it. The transitional nature of such work can be seen as an intermediate state within the broader employment landscape. Individuals in such type of work may experience a sense of being in-between, with uncertain career trajectories and limited job security. Platform work can lead to social and

economic dislocation, thus contributing to a sense of disarray in individuals' lives as they navigate the challenges associated with unstable employment. However, the formation of trade unions along with platform workers' activism and collective demands can mitigate such feelings and provide grounds that can empower platform workers. The presentation will, then, develop with the application of theory to practice and especially to case studies from Greece where platform workers have been unionized and pursued collective action. An approach assessing the existing literature on the borderline features of such work is necessary to further evaluate the need for societal awareness and policy measures to address the challenges associated with platform work and eventually promote more stable and secure employment opportunities.

Beyond the App: Decoding Snapp!'s Rise and Labor Struggle in Iran's Largest Startup

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Snapp! is the largest rideshare platform and prominent startup in Iran mirroring the Uber model.

Exploiting chronic unemployment and soaring inflation rates, Snapp! offers a meager income to a large cohort of job-seekers, thereby driving wages downward and intensifying the precariousness of employment. Further amplifying this exploitation, Snapp! systematically transfers the entirety of business-related risks and responsibilities onto its drivers, encompassing financial burdens associated with insurance, fuel, and vehicular maintenance.

Crucially, Snapp! classifies its drivers as independent contractors characterized by flexible work arrangements. This classification effectively exempts workers from the limited safeguards enshrined in Iranian labor regulations, notably encompassing minimum wage, insurance coverage, and workplace safety standards.

Since 2018, Snapp! drivers have staged multiple strikes against the discriminatory practices. However, despite their success in mobilizing sporadic protests and strikes, establishing a representative body of drivers has proven elusive. This challenge is partially tied to the structural characteristics of the platform-based gig economy, the isolation inherent in the work milieu of drivers, the transitory nature of employment emblematic of neoliberalism, and the intricate web of cultural dynamics shaping the interactions between workers and the company.

This paper explores the precarious labor conditions within Snapp!, offering insights into the ethnic composition of its workforce and how the company has strategically harnessed this diversity to divide and control. Furthermore, this paper provides an overview of the collective mobilization endeavors and bargaining undertakings initiated by Snapp!'s labor force over the preceding years, with a focus on elucidating the encountered challenges.

Migrant Domestic Platform Workers In Milan: Insights From An Everyday Life Perspective

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University of Milan, Italy

Digital labour platforms (DLPs) are progressively facilitating migrant mobility, mainly by providing access to low-wage labour markets that are integral to migration infrastructures (van Doorn et al., 2022). Critical studies have demonstrated how DLPs exploit gender, race, and immigration status inequalities to access a precarious labour force, producing new mechanisms of invisibility and exploitation, particularly among women migrant workers (Rodríguez-Modroño et al., 2022; van Doorn, 2017). This paper contributes to the growing debate on domestic platform work (Sedacca, 2022; Dattani, 2021), which is conceptualised as a capital-driven force in the larger process of commodification and exploitation of migrant reproductive labour (Graham et al., 2017; Yin, 2023). While studies conducted to date have mainly focused on precarious working conditions, our perspective pays attention to the dimension of everyday life. In particular, we adopt intersectionality as an analytical lens (Holvino, 2008; Rodriguez et al., 2016) to examine the production of inequalities and the tactics employed by migrant domestic platform workers in their everyday lives. Our analysis is based on a qualitative case study that began in Milan, Italy in September 2023 and is ongoing. A set of semi-structured interviews was conducted with key informants, such as trade unionists, platform recruiters, and migrant associations, and in-depth interviews with migrant domestic platform workers have begun and will continue in the coming months. The aim is to understand how the pervasiveness of DLPs can affect the everyday lives of workers, as well as the exercise of individual and collective forms of agency.

RS15 | Armed Forces, Conflict Resolution, and Peace Building

RS15 | T02: Military engagement in peace(buiding)

Borders of War and Peace: Experience and Prospects of Demobilization of Participants of Military Conflicts in the USSR and Russia

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Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation

The spheres of war and peaceful life – including in the research literature – are often divided into different corners. This makes us consider veterans as those who, while undergoing the initiation ceremony, leave behind military experience and start a peaceful life anew. The same point of view presents military actions as the ultimate social experience in which the same ultimate phenomena occur: heroism, shame, physical and psychological trauma that are absent in peaceful life. However, the empirical alternative is the close penetration of military experience into the peaceful life of a participant in an armed conflict.

As a result of the conducted research, 27 in-depth interviews with participants in the armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Ukraine were collected. The interview materials demonstrate the problematization associated with the process of demilitarization and return to peaceful life. These problematizations come from the skills acquired during participation in combat operations, elements of identification and classification systems. The inclusion in the sample of informants who have recently returned from the fighting in Ukraine also made it possible to analyze the conflict, which produces veterans in the open phase.

The conducted research demonstrates that veteran identification is formed on the basis of the gap between peaceful and military life and manifests itself as an inability to adapt military experience to the functioning of civilian everyday life. Veterans themselves are often not silent heroes who are honored by society, but demonstrate antisocial behavior and aggression. All this is the result of the fact that the war does not end immediately upon the return of the combatant from the battlefield, but reminds of itself as an inconvenient category of “veteran”.

Beyond the Frontlines: Unveiling the Pivotal Roles of Women for Conflict Resolution

Delphine Resteigne

Royal Military Academy, Belgium

This paper examines the critical roles played by women in peace and conflict resolution, with a specific focus on their contributions in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. By adopting a sociological perspective, this study seeks to unravel the complex dynamics and transformative potential inherent in the intersection of women’s agency and civil society engagement in fostering peace. Women’s involvement in peace and conflict resolution is explored as a multifaceted social phenomenon, challenging traditional power structures and offering alternative narratives that prioritize inclusivity, empathy, and collaboration. Civil society, as a collective force, will be analyzed through a sociological lens to understand its impact on shaping public opinion, influencing policy decisions, and fostering grassroots initiatives for peace. This includes examining how diverse actors within civil society, including women, contribute to shaping the discourse surrounding peacebuilding efforts and to foster community resilience. By focusing on the specific case of Ukraine, the study strives to provide insights into the localized sociological dynamics that shape the roles of women and civil society in the pursuit of lasting peace.

RS15 | T04: Ukraine under attack

Attitudes Of The Ukrainian Population Towards The War With Russia

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Since the unprovoked full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, two surveys have been conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in December 2022 and June 2023. Because of the special conditions, information was obtained by mobile phone calls (random digit dialing). In both cases more than 2.000 valid interviews were completed. The surveys included usual questions but also new questions about the war were formulated. Data reveals a high trust of the Ukrainian population on their Armed Forces, particularly when compared with other State Institutions, already before the war began (2021). After the war began and the initial Russian offensive was repelled, over 75% of respondents replied to be very sure about the victory of Ukraine (dec 2022) and close to 70% reported to be willing to accept sacrifices for as long as it takes to obtain a final victory (dec 2022). Close to 85% of respondents consider that victory can be declared only when the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine as established in 1991 are restored (june 2023). Only a small minority consider that victory can be declared while giving away the control over the Donbas region or Crimea. We found that there are indeed very small differences between Ukrainians on their attitudes towards the war and on how it might end when controlling their age, gender, income education or region of residence. We interpret the results as evidence of a strong internal cohesion, strenghtened even further after the beginning of the war. This imposes high expectations on the government of Zelensky to deliver the desired victory.

Support for Ukraine and attitudes towards sanctions against Russia in Europe

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The Russian invasion of Ukraine has revealed Europe's deep divisions over appropriate responses. Some countries have strongly supported Ukraine, provided military aid and advocated sanctions against Russia. However, other countries have been more hesitant to assist Ukraine militarily or punish Russia economically. This presentation analyzes the influences shaping European countries' attitudes towards the Ukraine war using multilevel modeling of military aid statistics and public opinion data from 30 European countries. The analysis reveals significant differences between countries in military aid to Ukraine and public support for sanctions against Russia. These differences reflect varying geostrategic interests, economic calculations, security perceptions and values. Structural factors such as proximity to Russia, dependence on Russian gas imports and involvement in US arms trade networks have a significant influence on state policy on military aid. The results show, however, that public attitudes are the most influential factor, with greater public support for sanctions predicting higher military spending on Ukraine. These public attitudes towards sanctions are also influenced by a variety of individual and structural factors. Those who hold liberal values, live close to Russia and have their country involved in US arms trade networks are more likely to support Ukraine and sanction Russia, while dependence on Russian gas reduces public support for sanctions. Ultimately, material and ideational factors interact in nuanced ways to shape public attitudes towards the invasion, which in turn strongly influence state responses. The analysis thus confirms that economic interests, security considerations, values and geopolitical orientations all play an integral role in shaping public opinion and guiding responses to Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Beyond Betrayal: The Narratives of Ukrainian Collaborationists

Eva Ievgeniia Babenko

Åbo Akademi University, Finland

Russian hybrid war against Ukraine in the East escalated into a full-scale invasion in 2022 catalysing the awakening of Ukrainian self-consciousness. However, strong national resistance radicalized pro-Russian citizens, influenced by concepts like "eternal brotherhood", "one nation", and a "unified Soviet past" propagated by Russia, making them look for contributions to the Russian offence.

Ukrainian journalist Volodymyr Zolkin collected semi-structured video interviews with collaborationists in a detention camp. The unedited footage, with the consent of the interviewees (N=40), was published on YouTube, documenting crucial testimonies of wartime collaboration on non-occupied territories. Regardless of the significance of this material, it remains unanalysed. Using the qualitative approach, I am to explore the narratives of Ukrainian collaborationists who voluntarily assisted Russia in the war of aggression against Ukraine.

The research will address the following topics:

– Motivation and justification: revealing the primary reasons driving the collaboration and investigating how interviewees rationalise their actions.

– Construction of truth: highlighting the rejection of the common truth narrative by collaborationists, who formulate alternative interpretations of facts.

– Construction of identity: investigating how the collaborationists define their identities and loyalties to Ukraine and Russia.

– Coping mechanisms: understanding how interviewees deal with the consequences of their collaboration, examining how they frame and interpret their experiences.

– Regional factor: investigating whether there is a link between individuals' regional background and the likelihood of being engaged in collaboration with Russia.

This research aims to comprehend the complex phenomenon of collaboration and propaganda in the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war, rooted in the historical confrontation between competing national development trajectories of Ukraine. Insights gained from the interviews will be critical for addressing challenges in shaping reconciliation and peacebuilding strategies in post-war Ukraine.

Boundaries of Brotherhood: Evaluating Chinese Public Opinion on Russia's Military Actions in Ukraine

Xin-You Chen

Academia Sinica, Taiwan

This research examines the alignment of Chinese public opinion with the government's portrayal of Sino-Russian relations as a 'friendship without limits,' especially in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The official Chinese narrative attributes Russia's invasion to NATO's eastward expansion, presenting it as a threat to Russian security. Notably, the Chinese government has not openly criticized Russia for its military actions in Ukraine. However, it remains unclear whether the government's stance is supported and reflected in the views of the Chinese populace. Our study analyzed data from an online survey conducted in November 2023 across China, with 3,541 respondents. The findings reveal that 49% of the Chinese public support Russia's military intervention, with a higher proportion of men than women endorsing this view. Significantly, this support is more prevalent among individuals who also favor using military force in Taiwan should Taiwan resist reunification. Additionally, those who support Russia's invasion tend to view China's current economic condition positively. In conclusion, this research highlights a significant alignment between the Chinese government and its populace, particularly among male citizens. The endorsement of military action in Taiwan by those who support Russia's intervention in Ukraine suggests a broader acceptance of military solutions in international conflicts among the Chinese population. These findings carry profound implications for understanding the Chinese public's stance on contentious global issues and could significantly influence the Chinese government's future diplomatic strategies and policy decisions.

RS15 | T07: Territorial pacification, surveillance, protection

Matrix Control: Unveiling the Dual Structure of the Israeli Policing Army as a Case Study

Yagil Levy

The Open University of Israel, Israel

Since the early 2000s, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have undergone a fundamental structural evolution, resulting in the coexistence of two distinct entities within its framework: the 'official' military force and a unique 'policing' army. This study delves into the latter, a quasi-militia force operating predominantly in the West Bank. Though formally subordinate to the political echelons, this policing army functions under a 'matrix control' system, diverging from the conventional hierarchical military organization. This policing force is characterized by a complex web of control mechanisms. It is deeply embedded within the civilian communities of Jewish settlers, leading to a distinctive form of control exercised through various channels. These include internal oversight by religious and settler soldiers, political influence exerted by civilian rabbis, informal structural control by settler communities, operational direction by Civilian Security Coordinators within the settlements, and additional oversight from human rights organizations. Such a multifaceted control structure results in only partial governance by the IDF's official command hierarchy, particularly in law and order operations. This paper aims to unravel the intricate interplay of armed forces within complex political and operational landscapes, exemplified by the Israeli policing army. It highlights how multifarious relationships translate into a nuanced and informal structure of control, thereby offering insights into the dynamics of military organizations in politically and socially complex environments.

The Brazilian Army's Vision of the Amazon: Genesis, Configurations, and Political Uses

Celso Castro

FGV CPDOC, Brazil

The theme of the presentation is the historical persistence of a vision of the Brazilian Army regarding the Amazon region, which places them as its leading guardians, facing both what they see as the result of "international greed" ("international greed") and the action of (bad) Brazilians. How can we understand the configuration this region, imagined by the military, assumes in its institutional cosmology? How did the "military invention of the Amazon" emerge? The growing military participation in politics and the public scene in general, from the mid-2010s onwards,

highlighted the importance of the "Amazon issue" for the Brazilian Army. In this presentation, the emphasis is on understanding its genesis, its configurations, and the political use made by the military from an institutional perspective.

The Genocidal Perspective of the Rohingya Influx into Bangladesh: An Empirical Study in the Cox's Bazar Refugee Camp

Mohammad Mohiuddin

UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA, Italy

The Paper Aims to Address the Genocide Committed Against the Rohingya Minority by the Myanmar Military in 2017. About More Than One Million Rohingyas Were Forced to Migrate to Bangladesh from Rakhine. They Were Expelled From Their Country in a Manner That Numerous International Organizations and Communities Recognized as Ethnic Cleansing. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Described the Myanmar Army's Action as "a Textbook Example of Ethnic Cleansing and Possibly Genocide," While the US Described it as "Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Against the Rohingya." In Addition, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch Have Described Myanmar's Military Operations as a "Widespread and Systematic Attack Amounting to Crimes Against Humanity" and "Decades of Discrimination, Repression, and Renocide Against Rohingyas". The Empirical Data The Author Gathered from Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh Revealed That Rohingyas in Myanmar Were the Victims of Mass Genocide, Gang Rape, and Arson. Moreover, During the Mass Devastation of Rohingyas in 2017, No One Was Permitted to Enter the Rakhine State, Despite Efforts by the United Nations, International Organizations, and Journalists to Investigate the Crisis Further. In Spite of Restrictions, The Data They Gathered Revealed Harrowing Accounts of Deaths by Fire, Shootings, Stabbings, Burnings, Beatings, Killings of Children, Kidnappings, and All Forms of Sexual Violence.

Perspectives on the 'responsibility to Protect' and Effectiveness of Military Intervention

Lindy Heinecken

Stellenbosch University, South Africa

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) has emerged as a pivotal global principle aimed at averting and addressing egregious human suffering. While the use of force in safeguarding civilian populations is considered a measure of last resort, the deployment of military forces in protection roles is contentious. Deployments yielded limited success and have been marred by widespread violations of human rights, challenging the integrity of the R2P doctrine. The effective implementation of R2P hinges on various factors, including the gravity of atrocities necessitating intervention, states' willingness to deploy troops for civilian protection, the adequacy of their training, and the capabilities to respond swiftly. Research indicates that the military's shortcomings in protection duties often stem from inadequate preparedness and insufficient support for the complexities of such tasks. Against this backdrop, we assess the readiness and training of military personnel for protection roles, exploring whether they are equipped with the requisite skills. Additionally, we examine the accountability mechanisms in place to ensure that armed forces do not become perpetrators of human rights violations. The significance of this study is underscored by the escalating global insecurity and the expanding involvement of the military in R2P responsibilities, making it imperative to scrutinize and enhance the efficacy of such interventions.

RS15 | T09: Warfare: i/ legality, legitimacy and societal engagement

Exercises for Developing Civil-Military Collaboration Capability

Erik Hedlund

Swedish Defence University, Sweden

In 2015, the Swedish government decided to rebuild Sweden's total defense, encompassing both military and civil defense. The primary goal was to enhance readiness and crisis management capabilities during wartime through collaboration between civilian organizations and the armed forces. Civil-military exercises became crucial for developing effective civil-military cooperation, with several such exercises conducted annually. This study aims to assess the pedagogical design of civil-military exercises to determine their effectiveness in enhancing civil-military collaboration capabilities. The research employs a theoretical framework based on constructive alignment and uses participatory observations as the research method.

The results show that the exercises do not lead to any increased ability to cooperate.

RS16 | Tensions in the Transformation of Knowledge (Cultures): Exploring Stability and Social Order in the Second Modernity

RS16 | T01: Social and political effects of knowledge production

Global and Local Knowledge, Societal Processes and Conflicts of Materiality: Lithium Extraction in Argentina

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This contribution focuses on the conflicts arising from lithium extraction in the so-called lithium triangle, particularly in Argentina – a region with the largest lithium deposits in the world. With a surge in demand driven by electric mobility and renewable energy storage, unconventional lithium mining methods, such as extraction from saline waters, have become prevalent. However, this has triggered widespread protests in Jujuy and Catamarca, where local and indigenous populations resist land expropriation and anticipate severe water scarcity in the arid environment.

The tensions escalate with repressive measures from local and national authorities, prompting a constitutional reform in Jujuy to criminalize social protests and streamline lithium extraction by transnational corporations. A cross-sector resistance movement emerges, uniting indigenous communities, public service employees, miners, and bank staff against the encroachment on their land and resources.

It is a complex arrangement of diverse actors who refer to different knowledge, which is exacerbated by the rapidly changing conditions of the lithium market and the local politics of an unstable country

This research examines the different actors and scales of these conflicts, addressing the negotiation and local implementation of 'universal' norms such as human right.

In conclusion, this research delves into the heart of the conflicts surrounding lithium extraction in Argentina, shedding light on the global and local tensions, the impact on human rights, and the challenges posed by the materiality of the research object and the global market which it is linked to from a sociology of knowledge perspective.

Therefore, it is an empirical exemplary case of tensions and inequalities in the knowledge regimes of different actors on different scales intersecting with global and local tensions.

Pain and Meaning: A Cultural-Interpretative Approach to the Consequences of Political Violence

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Questions about the social and political consequences of political violence persist globally. These questions are widely addressed by scholars in various disciplines, yet the literature shows conflicting theoretical insights. Many studies tend to ignore the historical and cultural contexts leading to the violent acts. This paper introduces a cultural-interpretive approach to understanding how victims of political violence make sense of their injury, public role, and renewed identity—often linked to distinct political actions. Viewing violent events as interactions that necessitate a symbolic interpretation by the victim, the paper avoids automatic adoption of public and structural categorizations (such as terrorism, war, and ethnic violence). Instead, it explores how victims themselves understand and frame the violence, and focuses on the nexus between the interpretive frameworks and the impact of violence. This epistemological shift reveals the victim's sense-making process, involving a sensory, emotional, and cognitive experience intersecting with cultural meanings, cosmologies, and collective narratives. The paper argues that examining the interpretational encounter between these elements is crucial for outlining the path through which social change unfolds after political violence. Drawing on comprehensive mixed-methods empirical work, including in-depth interviews, a survey, and archival research, the paper offers a multidimensional portrayal of Jewish-Israeli victimhood. Against the backdrop of deep cultural diversity, the findings provide a nuanced exploration of the political and social consequences of political violence. In doing so, the paper explains phenomena such as national solidarity, group hatred or reconciliation initiatives, as stemming from the interplay between cultural logics and, sometimes violent, social interactions.

Forensic Architectures Visual Knowledge Production: From A Fragmented Landscape Of Precarious Images to Evidence

Mina Godarzani-Bakhtiari, René Tuma

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This presentation analyses the transformations of knowledge in the field of investigative work, surveillance and the critique of state and police violence. With the dominance and presence of visual technologies, objectivity, evidence and truth are based on changing notions of knowledge and are established in new visual forms. The counter-forensic investigative agency 'Forensic Architecture' provides case studies and attracts public attention, becoming a prime example of a new culture of evidence. Their work addresses the issue that visual documents of violent events are often contested, and that there is no single representation of the entire event, but rather a fragmented landscape of precarious images. Amidst the flood of images, the identification of visual artefacts increasingly requires additional legitimation. We show how forensic architecture works with different types of data and performs complex data analysis. These practices overcome the limitations of data by contextualising it in breadth and analysing it in depth, rearranging, highlighting, sorting and synthesising information into a digital spatial model. The resulting visual meta-artefacts attempt to make the analytical practices reflexively visible. We analyse the new communicative form of evidence production in the field of contested images of violence and link the debate to the wider field of visual and spatial knowledge.

From Communicative Planning to Collaborative Modeling? Investigating the Transformation of Planning Knowledge in Digital Planning Cultures

Ajit Jacob Singh, Marie Marleen Heppner

Bielefeld University, Germany

My contribution investigates "digital planning cultures" from the perspective of communicative constructivism. For some time now, it can be observed that digital planning projects in building construction and transport infrastructure planning increasingly rely on the use of software-based collaborative planning infrastructures to structure "communicative actions" in planning processes and make them transparent for the stakeholders involved. Based on empirical findings, I will outline an approach that examines the transformation of communicative planning as socio-technical entanglements between collaborative actions, digital objects, and technical planning infrastructures. A paradigm shift can be diagnosed by the replacement of graphic representation of 2D plans and the use of CAD systems by modeling complex, three-dimensional construction models. The digital planning method "Building Information Modeling" is a prototypical case for this development. Planning objects (buildings, railway networks) are digitally designed in virtual space at the early start of the planning process. In the further course of the subsequent planning phases, the model is enriched with information, checked for errors and collisions, and simulated regarding suitability and accuracy of fit (e.g., for the creation of a structure gauge) even before it reaches the construction site. The whole digital planning process is interwoven with a multitude of communicative activities that take place both in presence (synchronous meetings, workshops, events, etc.) and mediatized (and asynchronous) via software infrastructures. The digitized 3D model, which is conceived as a "synthetic object" and knowledge-based collaboration medium, is of great importance for the emergence of digital planning cultures: in collaborative planning projects and in organizations, the synthetic object fosters the construction, shaping and change of knowledge, on which the concrete, trans/local practices of digital planning is based.

RS16 | T07: Spaces and Borders of knowledge production

Knowledge About the Past in Border Regions. Disruptive Transformations of Europian Memory Cultures

Vivien Sommer

Leibniz Institute for Society and Space Erkner, Germany

This talk would explore processes of differentiation, and inequalities within various knowledge regimes amidst global and local tensions, focusing on the dynamics of memory cultures in the context of European borders. Despite the erasure of internal borders through the Schengen Agreement, disruptive events such as the coronavirus pandemic or the so-called refugee crisis have prompted temporary closures, revealing the persistence of national borders. Memories of "wounded borders" continue to shape socio-spatial transformations, posing questions about how borders are remembered and their impact on the idea of a borderless Europe.

Drawing on the sociology of knowledge and the sociology of space I will discuss elements of a border memory referring to conflictual memory frames circulation in the Polish-German border region and the region at the German-Swiss border. Memory frames understood as meaning-generating schemes, are dynamic and negotiated in discourses, influencing what knowledge about the past is considered relevant. Borders are seen not only as physical entities but also as symbolic ones, shaping narratives and knowledge frames.

In my talk I will focus on these two border regions, comparing urban and rural communities to understand the intensities of remembering and forgetting, considering discrepancies between national and local memory cultures. I will discuss tensions among memory communities, stemming from differences in temporalities and scales of memory frames. Through empirical examples I will illustrate the transformation of memory frames across these two borders in twin cities and twin villages, shedding light on the conflicting entanglements of local, national and global knowledge regimes about the past.

Spatial Cultures Of The Internet – Between Network And Territory?

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Over the past few years, discourses have emerged within the field of internet governance, which are increasingly problematizing the various lines of conflict between nation states, global internet corporations and civil societies using spatial terms and concepts. Examples of this include discourses on the centralization or fragmentation of the internet, digital sovereignty, internet shutdowns or the (re) territorialization of the internet. These global conflicts over the Internet can be understood not only as geopolitical disputes between liberal and authoritarian ideas of infrastructural control in a multipolar world order, but also as a conflict between different spatial logics or spatial cultures of the Internet that are negotiated and legitimized within a public arena and are continually inscribed in infrastructure and protocols through various practices of classification and standardization. While the field of Internet governance and its multi-stakeholder approach has always been part of a Western-influenced knowledge regime that seemed to link the openness of the Internet with the openness of markets and societies, in recent years there have been increasing tendencies to bring Internet governance more under the territorial control of nation states.

This contribution draws on empirical research data from Internet governance conferences and interpretations through a sociology of knowledge approach to discourse to illustrate how different spatial logics of the Internet not only realize themselves as opposing knowledge regimes and interpretation patterns, but also overlap, in the sense of a spatial refiguration, in standards and protocols of the contemporary Internet infrastructure.

Social Knowledge Production at the Margins? Global Policy Rankings and the Question of Scientificity

Can David Tobias, Elisabeth Strietzel

Bielefeld University, Germany

In this presentation, we take a closer empirical look at the production of social knowledge in the hybrid space between science and policy-oriented advocacy: namely, in two non-governmental organizations that produce nation-state rankings. These rankings – one in the area of climate politics and the other in the area of financial transparency – seek to influence policymaking by leveraging expert knowledge as well as by creating public pressure through the transformation of data into a quantified comparisons of countries' performances in their respective areas. As a consequence of their hybrid position, their producers are constantly navigating connections to both the scientific as well as to political realms. Against this backdrop, we focus on the former connection and ask how ranking-producing organizations achieve epistemic credibility in their respective ecologies: how do notions associated with scientificity, such as evidence, objectivity, or neutrality, play out in these cases? How do members refer to and act upon them? How are they balanced and put into relation with the explicit goal of influencing political decision-making and advocating particular political agendas? And finally, how do these organizations react to challenges to their expertise? Based on ethnographic research in two ranking-producing civil society organizations, we aim to address these questions and provide an empirical account of the processes and practices of knowledge production they engage in. Ultimately, the

goal of this presentation is twofold: First, to reconstruct and articulate practices of knowledge production at the intersection of science, policy, and the media, and second, to demonstrate how the achievement of truth effects within a transnational civil society context relies on the mobilization of an extended network of actors, rather than a single organization.

Due to Eurocentric Modernity?: A Systems Perspective on the (failure) of interaction between the IPCC and UNFCCC

Niklas Wagner[1], Anna-Katharina Hornidge[2]

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This paper delves into the intricate dynamics of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), examining how their interaction (or the failure thereof) is shaped by a systems logic. Embedding this Luhmannian systems theory perspective into theories of modernity, we analyse the embedded systemic structures within these institutions, highlighting the efforts and inherent difficulties of going beyond the logic of scientific and political systems shaped by a Eurocentric conception of modernity.

Our study, informed by interviews with IPCC scientists and UNFCCC negotiators and complemented by observations at the World Climate Conferences, uncovers the systemic challenges in reconciling the linear, Eurocentric logic that dominates these systems. We find that while there is a growing intention within these bodies to diversify knowledge inputs and overcome historical biases, the entrenched systems-logic of both scientific and political frameworks within the IPCC and UNFCCC presents significant barriers. These barriers not only hinder the integration of diverse knowledge systems but also impede meaningful co-production between knowledge holders including scientists, and policymakers.

Our paper contributes to the critical discourse on environmental governance, illustrating the complexities of deconstructing Eurocentric modernity within global sustainability institutions. We argue for a transformative approach that challenges the existing systems-logic of the IPCC and UNFCCC, advocating for a more inclusive framework that genuinely values and incorporates diverse ways of knowing and being. This approach is vital for creating just and equitable sustainability practices that truly reflect the multiplicity of global perspectives and experiences in addressing environmental challenges.

RS16 | T09: Scientific Knowledge within and outside academia

From Calculative Idealism to Calculative Pragmatism – the Role of Quantified Knowledge in Constructing the EU Anti-poverty Policy.

Marianna Zielenska

University of Warsaw, Poland

This paper aims to show how quantified knowledge, exemplified by metrics such as indicators and indices, contributes to the construction of EU anti-poverty policy. I argue that due to the limited legal instruments at the EU's disposal, metrics have become a key governance tool in this area, serving both to influence Member States (MS) policies and to reach compromises between EU actors representing different knowledge regimes and interests. Drawing on in-depth interviews with EC and MS representatives, social and non-governmental partners and experts, I will illustrate how metrics are used to negotiate boundaries in this policy area, and to strengthen its supranational dimension. This is well reflected in the process of agreeing on key metrics, in which a compromise is forged between the EC, MS and other actors on what will be measured and what will be left out of the picture. Such 'commonly agreed' indicators and indices are then institutionalised as key elements of EU anti-poverty policy, legitimising this policy area as a sphere of common European concern, despite the fact that most legal prerogatives remain in the hands of MS. At the same time, those involved in negotiating metrics are aware of their shortcomings and political nature, which indicates a shift from calculative idealism – often presented in the literature as a source of legitimacy that numbers provide to politics – to calculative pragmatism, i.e. from a belief that numbers are purely technical and apolitical, to a recognition that they are imperfect and the result of trade-offs.

Navigating Tensions in Textual Performance of Qualitative Research: Challenges, Internationalization and Power Dynamics in Global Publications

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With a focus on qualitative research, our talk addresses tensions within textual performance in local and global publishing processes. Our aim is to highlight the need for an innovative framework that can encompass various aspects.

The presentation scrutinizes the internationalization of methods, addressing the complexities of expressing research in different linguistic contexts and the duality of explicating methodologies situated in national or language based research traditions while crafting empirical papers for international journals. Central to our discussion is the struggle faced by researchers navigating the global landscape of publication.

This encompasses the adoption of formalized processes for publishing in English, different audiences' openness for innovative approaches, and the dichotomy of working and publishing on dual fronts locally and globally. We interrogate the impact this internationalization has on knowledge, asking whether knowledge is lost or new knowledge emerges in the process.

The power dynamics inherent in the games of publication are also explored, both in terms of empirical experiences and publication practices. We delve into ethical considerations surrounding the complex intersection of funding and publication projects. Furthermore, the paper addresses the nuanced issue of positionality in textual performance, examining how researchers position themselves within the text and the varying cultural and disciplinary perspectives on this matter.

Drawing from empirical examples, this presentation aims to provide a platform for discussions on these tensions and challenges, offering insights into the evolving landscape of qualitative research methodology and the imperative need for reflexivity, ethical considerations, and an understanding across diverse scientific traditions.

Two rival prophets of sociology – Functions and audiences of Talcott Parsons' and Pitirim A. Sorokin's sociological future imaginaries

Tim Fenkner

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

Predictions of the future are a controversial genre in sociology. This contribution argues, however, that if we consider the reception side of sociological prophecies, we gain crucial insights into their function for the transformation of academic careers and the discipline as a whole. Harvard University in the 1930s will serve as the setting for a story of rivalry between Pitirim A. Sorokin, this prestigious university's first ever sociologist and Talcott Parsons whose predictions would shape the discipline for decades to come. In his famous debut "The Structure of Social Action" (1937) the young Parsons argued that the various social sciences would converge into a single future paradigm which he called the "Voluntaristic Action Theory". In the very same year, Sorokin's "Social & Cultural Dynamics" (1937) offered a future vision of society as a whole on the verge of transforming from a rational scientific epoch into what he calls an "integralist culture". This diagnosis gained huge popularity with American non-scientific audiences but would also prove to be the beginning of Sorokin's fall into oblivion. Parsons, on the other hand, managed to convince enough of his scientific audience of his sociological prophecy to pave the way for the dismantling of Sorokin's "Department of Sociology" and give birth to the "Department of Social Relations" with Parsons and his paradigm leading the way.

Unveiling Transparency: Presentation of Qualitative Research Methods in Academic Journals

Falk Eckert, Laura Behrmann

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Empirical social research differs from everyday observations in the use of methods and procedures. Traceability for the confirmation or continuation of research results is a central component of scientific research. A prerequisite for this is the transparency of the research procedure and at the same time a central quality criterion. This makes it possible to classify the significance of the findings, follow them up, uncover procedural errors, and even carry out replications to confirm the results. This poses particular challenges for the use of non-standardized qualitative methods, as decisions made during the research process need to be translated into textual presentation as well as being convincing in practical research terms.

In an analysis of high-ranking sociological journal articles from 1995 to 2020, we compared the discursive practices and strategies of presenting qualitative research published in English and German language journals.

Our comparison revealed similarities and differences between the English and German language areas with regard to the presentation of qualitative research and sociological knowledge production. In German language journal publications, in particular, the presentation of methods is uniform, concise, and sometimes intransparent.

In addition, our analyses reveal how forms of publication are shaped by basic epistemic orientations and different knowledge cultures: We thus make a first, overdue contribution to reflecting on the representation of the methodological approach and would like to put up for discussion the connectivity for other disciplines and methodological traditions. An understanding of the current constitution and dynamics of the research field provides a basis for action, both for internal scientific discussions and for inter – and intra-disciplinary as well as research policy transfers.

RS17 | Sociological Research in Portugal - Research Stream in Portuguese (abstracts and presentations to be done in Portuguese)

RS17 | T01: Transformações e recomposições sociais

Mobilidade Urbana e Turismo: Transformação Digital e Utilização de Big Data

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A presente comunicação tem como objetivo refletir sobre as tensões relacionadas com mobilidade urbana e transformação digital de destinos turísticos. As narrativas de um futuro tecnológico iminente e irrevogável, envolto na eficiência dos dados utilizados em destinos (mais) inteligentes, obscurece uma visão mais holística de desigualdades relacionadas com: o acesso a serviços digitais; com o perfil do utilizador (e.g., idade, género, escolaridade); com o aumento das desigualdades entre espaços urbanos e rurais; e com a privacidade, segurança e o uso (in)apropriado de dados.

Nesse sentido, e partindo da informação proveniente de investigações em curso, entrelaçam-se narrativas de: (i) residentes que revelam tensões sobre a (i)mobilidade urbana, reforçada pela (in)capacidade da carga turística das cidades; (ii) de grupos de interesse (e.g., académicos, profissionais e empresas ligados diretamente e indiretamente à atividade turística ou entidades públicas) que narram, de modo entusiasta a eficiência da utilização de dados (em tempo real) para a resolução de inúmeros problemas, relacionados com (i)mobilidade nos destinos turísticos e a capacidade de colmatar as necessidades dos residentes e dos turistas; e (iii) de turistas que revelam os seus receios quanto à utilização dos seus dados. Com a interligação de distintas metodologias, entre as quais entrevistas semiestruturadas e inquéritos, encontram-se convergências em torno da atual transformação digital e que acentuam a importância de refletir sobre um futuro cada vez mais digital e emancipador de (mais) desigualdades.

O Cooperativismo à Luz da Teoria da Reprodução Social: Etnografia de uma Cooperativa de Mulheres no Alentejo, Portugal.

Daniela Miranda Prado

University of Coimbra, Portugal

A Fraternidade Cooperativa de Tapetes de Arraiolos foi fundada em 1974 por um grupo de mulheres de Arraiolos, no Alentejo, que ficaram desempregadas após os ajustamentos do salário mínimo na sequência da revolução de abril. Na década de 1980, a cooperativa passou a reunir a quase 200 mulheres. O presente estudo é uma etnografia realizada em 2023 com as suas últimas 12 sócias e utiliza a lente analítica da Teoria da Reprodução Social (TSR). A Economia Política Feminista tem vindo a promover a TSR como uma lente adequada para analisar os processos de produção e reprodução nas empresas tradicionais, mas tem prestado menos atenção às entidades da Economia Social e Solidária.

O objetivo deste estudo foi analisar o potencial emancipatório do cooperativismo entre mulheres, explorando as tensões sócio-reprodutivas e as possibilidades de ação que emergiram para elas depois de formar a cooperativa. Os resultados sugerem que, embora a criação da cooperativa não tenha sido necessariamente motivada pela busca de formas de produção mais solidárias, a possibilidade de conciliar tarefas produtivas e reprodutivas foi, de facto, um dos incentivos para a adesão das mulheres. Os elementos de solidariedade, por outro lado, encontram-se em agentes externos, como os sindicatos têxteis, que no surto revolucionário de abril promoveram este tipo de iniciativas como solução para a perda de postos de trabalho. Cinquenta anos depois da revolução de abril, esta etnografia fornece elementos que nos permitem refletir sobre a situação das mulheres trabalhadoras numa zona rural de Portugal e sobre a forma como o processo revolucionário estruturou as oportunidades de emprego na vila de Arraiolos.

Recent Developments In The Labour Market In Portugal: Volumes, Recompositions And Mismatches

Jorge Caleiras, Ana Ferreira Teixeira, Diogo Silva Cunha, Dora Fonseca

CoLABOR, Portugal

This paper aims to analyze the main developments and trends that mark the recent evolution of the labor market in Portugal. Emphasis is placed on the identification of the main changes and continuities in the employment profile from a diachronic perspective and compared with other realities in the EU. What do these trends tell us about the specialisation profile of the Portuguese economy? The profile of employment in Portugal is changing because Portuguese society is in a process of socio-demographic transformation. But it is also changing due to economic recompositions, in particular those relating to specialisation profiles. After a theoretical-methodological framework, the volumes and rates of activity, employment and unemployment are analysed; the main recompositions in the recovery of employment are identified and discussed; and labour market mismatches are examined, both in quantitative terms (labour shortages or surpluses in relation to available jobs) and in qualitative terms (between the skills

and competences offered by workers and employers' demand for certain skills and qualifications). It concludes with a synthesis of the main results achieved, which calls for a broader final reflection.

RS18 | Exploring and Consolidating New Research Strategies in the Post-COVID-19 Era

RS18 | T03: Exploring and Consolidating New Research Strategies in the Post-COVID-19 Era. Part I

Methods and Practices of Peer Review Between Schools with Inquiry-Based Activities in Both Physical and Virtual Settings

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INVALSI – Italian National Institute for Educational Evaluation, Italy

As part of a project aimed at developing a school inclusion index, we introduce a model of peer review between schools. Peer review is an evaluative process involving schools, departments, or networks of schools, focusing on a specific area of interest. It entails providing feedback and/or a report for internal use summarizing the results and suggesting directions for development for the receiving school (Godfrey, 2020). In this context, peer review can be considered both an extension of the self-evaluation process, exploring specific aspects between schools, and a professional development strategy for the involved staff (Giampietro et al., 2023).

The adopted peer review model incorporates both in-person survey activities, such as classroom observation to gain insights into the inclusion climate among students, and remote activities. This includes virtual visits between schools to explore innovative inclusion processes promoted by schools, as well as online focus groups (Poliandri et al., 2023) involving key stakeholders (teachers, support teachers, parents, representatives of school inclusion groups, municipal representatives) to comprehend the concept of inclusion comprehensively.

In light of the restrictive measures imposed by COVID-19, certain online research strategies should be perceived "not just as an adaptive compromise but as an opportunity for innovative methodological approaches" (Keen et al., 2022: 2). This consideration takes into account both the benefits (cost reduction, time savings, increased participation, etc.) and the limitations associated with dematerialized participation (absence or reduction of non-verbal or paralinguistic communicative elements, distractions, technological skills, etc.).

The Challenges and Opportunities of Conducting Participatory Theatre Online: Reflections from a Pandemic-Study on Campus Sexual Violence Activism

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While online research methods have garnered much attention over recent decades, the required move to online research amidst the COVID-19 pandemic generated unique impacts worthy of interrogation. This is particularly true for Participatory Action Research (PAR) methods that rely on embodied action, collective emotional energy, and social interaction. This paper reflects on a study on sexual violence activism on Canadian university campuses that employed Participatory Theatre (PT) online during the pandemic. PT is a PAR methodology that utilizes embodied theatre techniques to critically examine social problems, while working in tandem with participants to take strategic action to evoke progressive social transformation. Given the embodied nature of PT and the 'emotional energy' of participants that it relies upon, it has most commonly been used in in-person settings. Departing from this trend, this study involved virtual PT interactions with university students and instructors across Canada to examine activists' strategies for building allyship to confront and challenge campus sexual violence. Through the lens of this research project, this paper reflects on the challenges and opportunities of moving the interactive and embodied qualitative methodology of Participatory Theatre online.

The Use of Mobile Phone Data to Study Immigrant Community in New York City

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As the one-time epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., New York City (NYC) suffered the biggest economic damage in the country. NYC's Asian immigrants are no exceptions. However, it is often a challenge to precisely measure the economic impact of disaster and global pandemic because not all low skilled immigrants are in the formal data collection system. In this paper, using Manhattan's Chinatown as an example, we explore how de-identified mobile phone data can be used to study the economic impact of COVID on Chinatown and immigrant workers in this labor market. First, we measure the economic impact of COVID on Chinatown by measuring the changes in the foot traffic between control group (period during March-May 2019) and experiment group (period during March-May 2020, during COVID). By comparing the economic activities during COVID with economic activities during normal time period, this measure informs us how much Chinatown's economic activities have suffered due to COVID-19. The second approach is to use cell phone data to measure unemployment for Chinatown workers. We define workers as individuals who have spent more than 4 hours a day in Chinatown (this would exclude tourists or short time visitors). Thus the unemployment rate of workers can be informed by comparing total number of individuals who spent more than 4 hours a day during COVID (March-May 2020) with total number of individuals who spent more than 4 hours in Chinatown before COVID (November 2019-January 2020). We argue that this method can be applied more broadly to study economic activities of a service-based community that involves in person transactions such as restaurants.

World in Crises: Towards Qualitative Interviewing through Existential Questions

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This methodological paper examines the role of qualitative interviews within the context of existential philosophy and its application in understanding interviewing experiences in times of crises. Drawing on various methodological approaches towards qualitative interviewing, including oral history, biographical, feminist, phenomenological, and cross – cultural, this study explores how interviewing has evolved into a multi-modal practice. In recent years, society and social scientists have faced numerous challenges, including ecological and economic crises, conflicts and wars, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper argues that existential philosophy can offer valuable insights into conducting qualitative interviews during such multidimensional disasters. By integrating existential questioning (presented as an interviewing technique in the paper) into the interview process, interviewers can engage with interviewees making sense of critical life situations. The paper examines how existential questioning contributes to a deeper understanding of interviewees' worldviews, focusing on sensitive boundaries between critical life contexts and personal reflections. It also highlights the interactionist nature of interviews; signifying moments where existential questions can enhance the symbolic interaction between an interviewer and an interviewee. Ultimately, this study demonstrates how specific existential questions (either standalone, or as probes and prompts) can lead to the emergence of new meanings during interviews, enabling research participants and the researchers to make sense of crises. By embracing existential questioning, qualitative interviewing gains added value in understanding and responding to the interviewees facing crises and critical life situations.

Participatory action research in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units: A Case Study from Northern Italy

Concetta Russo, Alessandra Decataldo, Brunella Fiore

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Participatory action research involves engaging social actors in all phases of the inquiry, leading to new ethical dilemmas and responsibilities for sociologists. These issues become even more complex when researchers work in settings like hospital wards, where decisions about life and death are a regular part of the healthcare staff's daily routine. In such contexts, managing patients' sensitive data presents additional challenges.

In the ParWelB project, we applied codes of ethics and methodological reflexivity to address the ethical demands that arise from parents' experiences of premature birth and their relationships with healthcare staff of intensive and sub-intensive care in two Northern Italy units. Scholars suggest involving parents in decision-making for their newborn can reduce negative feelings. To this end, we used narrative interviews and video-making to help parents make sense of their experiences and connect with healthcare staff.

Participatory research methods require researchers to consciously relinquish some of their power to represent and interpret reality. To foster ethical practice for the future, we promote two levels of dialogue: between researchers and healthcare staff (e.g., psychologists, neonatologists, and nurses) to share different disciplinary perspectives, and between researchers and parents as active participants in the research process.

RS18 | T04: Exploring and Consolidating New Research Strategies in the Post-COVID-19 Era. Part 2

Beyond the Virus: Socio-cultural Factors Shaping Government Responses to COVID-19.

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In the early stages of the pandemic, significant differences emerged between countries in both the virological situation and government interventions. Moreover, the association between these two facets exhibited considerable variability across nations. This presentation aims to address the central question: what socio-cultural factors account for the diversity in the stringency of government measures amid the initial phase, just before the World Health Organization declared the virus a pandemic? This sociological research departs from a conventional stimulus-response model based on a linear "science-policy" paradigm, and argues that explanations for variability in government actions go beyond the virus itself. Specifically, based on statistical data from a diverse set of countries (n=90), this research demonstrates that cultural factors, such as the extent to which societies are resistant to change or emphasize quality of life, provide an underexplored explanation for the variation in COVID-19 risk regulation. Partial correlations and stepwise regressions reveal that this remains significant even after controlling for other factors like the virological situation and economic context of a country. In conclusion, the presentation highlights the potential of sociological insights to enhance the legitimacy of political decision making.

Didactic Innovation and Life Skills. A Focus on the Educational Offer of Sapienza University of Rome

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In the university context, European educational policies are increasingly investing in the development of innovative teaching strategies focused on active-learning (Sursock and

Smidt, 2010). Therefore, in response to the technological transformation accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic (Rof et al., 2022), universities have implemented teaching changes geared towards imparting essential life skills to students, useful for their professional growth and their cultural and social development (Bean et al., 2018). The goal of the research project – which adopts a mixed methods, multistakeholder and multilevel approach (Mauceri, 2012 e 2019), aimed at integrating individual and contextual data, digital and traditional methods, qualitative and quantitative analysis (Content Analysis, Secondary Data Analysis, Web Survey and In-depth Interviews – analysis units: educational offer, students, course convenors, academics) is to identify best practices at La Sapienza University of Rome by exploring the innovative aspects of teaching and its effectiveness in facilitating the acquisition of life skills. To this end, the study includes a comprehensive analysis of the impact of innovative training experience across all its Master's Degree Courses (141). Here the first step of a broader investigation is enhanced: a desk review of institutional communications regarding the constitutive teachings of Postgraduate Programs found in the University's Course Catalog (analysis of webpages of current courses and academics' profiles). This contribute and, more generally, the research programme launched, aims to assess whether the post-pandemic changes have enabled the University to develop teaching approaches that meet students' expectations while promoting the develop of cognitive, emotional, and social competencies.

Entrepreneuring New Teaching Strategies in the Post-Pandemic Digital Classroom

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Sociology is being transformed by innovative pedagogical strategies for online learning initiated by the pandemic (Zizzari and Fiore 2024; Decataldo, Fiore, Zizzari, 2021). Our work examines how digital communication tools can facilitate teaching sociology to university students. Inspired by the Socratic method, we argue that instructors can facilitate ongoing dialogic engagement among students that includes asking students to test their own ideas, constructively critique one another, and consider varied conclusions using discussion boards. We analyze our primary data set (n=1500) of quantitative and qualitative student self-evaluations of remote learning using discussion boards, as well as robust content analysis of archived digital interactions between instructors and students. With this multi-method research design, we compare students' evaluation of different pedagogical strategies in discussion boards employed to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic shift to online learning. The findings reveal that discussion boards can be effective vehicles for learning under the following conditions for both instructors and students: Digital inclusion in terms of access to broadband and devices, as well as digital skills to use these resources effectively. Once these challenges are met, instructors can teach sociology effectively using digital communication tools and platforms for dialogue-based interactions. Findings suggest that 1) the type of instructor moderation matters, 2) encouraging a growth mindset empowers students to become resilient learners, and 3) employing text-based digital dialogue can build classroom communities that lessen student stress. Implications offer a potential roadmap for successful use of digital pedagogies for our field.

Transition to Activity Based Workplaces (ABWs) in the Post Covid-19 Era

Pär Löfstrand, Erika Wall, John Selander, Mikael Nordenmark, Josefine Hansson, Stig Vinberg

Mid Sweden University, Sweden

This abstract explores the expectations and concerns associated with ABWs during a transition to ABW in a Swedish municipality (620 employees).

Modern work life is changing rapidly, not at least because of the covid – 19 pandemic. In the Post Covid – 19 Era many workplaces have changed towards more flexible work arrangements. This has increased the implementation of so called ABWs, not at least among public sector workplaces.

Previous research has revealed that expectations surrounding ABWs relate to increased collaboration and employee well-being. By providing a variety of work settings, ABWs enable employees to choose spaces that align with their tasks, fostering communication and idea sharing. Furthermore, ABWs are anticipated to enhance employee satisfaction and productivity through increased autonomy and flexibility.

Concerns exist regarding noise distractions, lack of privacy, and effective leadership. Additionally, the absence of enclosed private areas may raise concerns about confidentiality. Leadership are crucial in ABWs to create a culture of trust and collaboration.

In this study we explored qualitative data from around 600 municipality employees who were in the middle of transition from cell-offices to ABW. The employees were handed a questionnaire with questions of how they perceived their work environment from a social, organizational, and psychological perspective. The survey also included three open-ended questions: What expectations do you have for your new workplace? what risks do you see in your new workplace? and, what opportunities do you see with your new workplace?

This paper aims to account for employees' perceptions of moving to an ABW. Overall, understanding and addressing these expectations and concerns are essential for successful implementation of ABWs and to maximize their potential benefits while mitigating potential challenges.

RS19 | Rethinking Dependence: Trust and Social Hierarchies in an Era of Uncertainty

RS19 | T08: Rethinking Dependence: Trust and Social Hierarchies

Global crises have increased over the past decade, highlighting the significance of trust in interpersonal relationships and interactions with institutions. In an era of prolonged crises, individuals increasingly rely on dependent relations to secure their livelihoods. However, concerns or 'moral panic' about the implications of such dependencies, known as 'states of dependence' (Martin-Yanagisako 2020, Piliavsky 2020), have become widespread. This session aims to reevaluate dependent relations beyond prevailing economic thinking during times of uncertainty. Drawing on the bottom-up approach of new economic anthropological thinking (Narotzky 2016), it investigates how individuals navigate decisions within diverse value systems. The RS asks how dependent relations are constituted, perceived, and negotiated between individuals with conflicting socio-economic interests. What factors sustain and perpetuate these dependencies? What are the consequences of dependent relations for different communities' social reproduction? Additionally, the session explores the intertwining of racial hierarchy and dependent relations. Dependence challenges ideals of freedom and autonomy, yet it remains a crucial topic for research. Many communities we study exhibit hierarchical social structures, which may be seen as desirable if they contribute to pursuing a good life (Ferguson 2015, Piliavsky 2020). Hence, this panel explores how dependent relationships, including clientelism, are perceived, negotiated, or contested within such social contexts. We expect a multidisciplinary meeting of research papers to address the complexity of trust, dependency, and social hierarchies amid global tensions and prolonged uncertainties. Our proposed special topic is at the intersection of development studies, economic sociology, and small scale economic anthropological research. Therefore, we hope that this session will be of interest to scholars in these different but intersecting fields of study.

Social Inequality and Trust in Europe Between 2002 and 2020

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VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research, Denmark

This paper analyzes the development of trust in Europe. While research indicates that the level of trust among citizens in European countries has been declining since the mid-2000s, the individual, social, and country specific factors behind this decline have not yet been fully addressed. Utilizing structural equation modeling (multilevel factor analysis) on data from the European Social Survey, covering 36 countries and ten time-points between 2002 and 2022, we contribute to the literature with three key findings. First, we map the development of citizens' trust in three types: interpersonal trust, trust in national political institutions, and trust in international political institutions. Second, we determine the extent to which individual, social, and country specific factors explain variance in the three types of trust while considering control variables based on previous research. Tentative findings reveal that the trends in the three types of trust are far from homogeneous across the European countries. While citizens' interpersonal trust and trust in international political institutions have been relatively stable across European countries, young men between ages 25 and 34 in Northern and Southern Europe have become significantly less trustful towards national political institutions. Third, in accordance with previous studies, we expect to find negative effects of growing inequality and unemployment on citizens' trust to the national political institutions. As our findings highlight lower levels of trust for younger citizens with limited attachments to the labor market, we conclude that European societies should consider doing more to secure the social safety net for these groups if Europe is to continue being characterized as a continent with one of the world's highest levels of trust.

Democracy And Trust Among Lithuanian Municipal Councillors In The Times Of Uncertainty

Ieva Dryzaite, Jurga Bucaite Vilke, Viktorija Baranauskiene, Aiste Lazauskiene

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Recent societal shifts, including the pandemic, migration, wars, energy crises, financial instability, and rapid AI development, have induced varying levels of uncertainty across personal, informational, economic, technological, and social domains. The political sphere is not an exception and is also affected by these uncertainties and undergoes their influence. In such contexts, the examination of Lithuanian councillors' nuanced perceptions of democracy and trust is pivotal as it reveals the intricate challenges they face in upholding democratic ideals in the time of uncertainty.

This presentation aims to analyse the complex interplay between democracy and trust among Lithuanian municipal councillors, exploring the diverse notions of democracy encompassing deliberative, participatory, and representative models. Moreover, it examines the varying levels of trust held by councillors concerning different political outcomes, ranging from policy direction to community engagement strategies. The study seeks to find out how these differing perceptions of democracy and varying levels of trust impact political decision-making and governance strategies during uncertain periods.

This study draws upon empirical data from the European Comparative Survey of Municipalities' Council Members. Their nuanced perspectives illuminate the challenges and dynamics within local governance structures. Theoretical knowledge, insights and empirical data on Lithuanian councillors attitudes towards democracy and trust derive from an ongoing research project "Changing role of local councillor in self-government: leadership, institutions and communities" (No. P-MIP-23-267, Lithuanian Research Council).

Illiquid Dependencies: Legal Techniques and Dependent Relations Among Wage-Garnished Households in Northern Hungary

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Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology/Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Household over-indebtedness and judicial debt collection in Hungary affect around 700,000 people through wage garnishment – a forced 33% or 50% deduction of wages exceeding the living minimum amount (currently 160 euros per month). This phenomenon disproportionately impacts the populations of villages in Northern Hungary, entangling inhabitants in debt traps, resulting in exclusion from formal wage labor and diminished incomes. A few non-governmental organizations offer debt advice in Hungary in the region.

The central inquiry of this research explores how households navigate and sustain their livelihoods amidst such an illiquid economic environment. Furthermore, the research investigates the advice and strategies debt advisors extend to debtors who cannot meet present and future payment obligations. Through a comprehensive 12-month ethnographic fieldwork, the research relies on interviews with debtors, social workers, and participant observation with debt advisors in Northern Hungary. Across approximately 130 meetings with 3 debt advisors, engaging around 170 debtors in 22 villages, the study sheds light on debt advisors' multifaceted approaches.

The findings underscore that debt advisors essentially offer legal guidance to contest debt collectors, aiming to reduce debts and suspend wage garnishment. When such legal guidance fails to improve financial situations, debtors are further informed about additional ways to avoid wage garnishment, particularly through legal techniques related to establishing dependent financial relationships with family, friends, neighbors, employers, and even the local state. These strategies aim to mitigate the adverse effects of

judicial debt collection while also reshaping social relations and upending hierarchies.

Moralities of Dependent Relations in times of polycrisis in North Hungary and Romania. A Comparative Ethnography

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We are witnessing a proliferation of global crises for more than a decade now. Social navigation between and across crisis-ridden fields requires movement across different regimes of value. Instances of crises and various forms of moral deliberation are intertwined and mutually provoke one another both in analytic and everyday terms, for us as scholars and for our interlocutors. Post socialist settings, such as our ethnographic fields both in Romania and in Hungary, generally invite a perspective that considers the routinization and the everyday management of crises opposed to a view that aims to comprehend crises as rupture, a space of the extraordinary or as an event. In an era of prolonged crises, individuals increasingly rely on dependent relations to secure their livelihoods.

An ethnographic theorization of morality, crisis and dependence must be based on the real-life decisions, contexts and pursuits of ordinary people. Our goal in this paper is to engage with the moral deliberation of dependent relations amid multiple crises that pertain to livelihoods of our protagonists: scrap-metal traders at the margins of urban Romania and (informal) labour recruiters from the rural North of Hungary. We seek to work towards a comparative account on dependent relations and the everyday moral evaluations they incite between the exchange of personal favours and the impersonal forms of service provision. Beyond this, we explore a particular dependent (informal) work relation that seems to lead to the re-proletarization of our protagonists in both countries.

RS20 | Maritime Sociology

RS20 | T02: Coastal Social Dynamics: Governance and Practices in Martitime Landscapes.

Landscape in the Governance of the Coastal Region: an Evolutionary Assessment from Portugal

Carla Gonçalves, Paulo Pinho

CITTA – Research Centre for Territory, Transports and Environment / Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, Portugal

European coastal regions are confronted with complex governance challenges due to climate change and extensive landscape transformation, particularly in densely populated and heavily infrastructured areas. Despite longstanding calls for the protection and enhancement of coastal regions, their allure for human activities continues to grow, exacerbating the existing pressures in these areas. Recognising the urgency for governance reform, scholars emphasise the necessity of acknowledging the boundaries and dynamics of the coastal socio-ecological system. The integration of a landscape governance approach, reconnecting the politics of scale with natural conditions, is considered advantageous.

However, empirical research on landscape governance has predominantly focused on forest restoration in the Global South, leaving limited discussion on coastal landscapes. To bridge this gap, a multiple case study in Portugal investigated how the landscape concept have been incorporated into coastal governance, specifically in three municipalities (Vila do Conde, Póvoa de Varzim and Esposende) in which a pioneering landscape study was conducted in the late 1970s. The results indicated varying degrees of landscape integration influenced by the current European policy agenda. In addition, the establishment of protected areas and mandatory landscape instruments has played a crucial role in safeguarding the coastal socio-ecological system from urban development. While recognising the limitations of generalisation from a case study research such as this, the findings emphasise the potential game-changing impact of prioritising landscape thinking in coastal governance. The conclusions suggest that a transformative paradigm shift toward coastal landscape governance, anchored in the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, is essential to promote sustainability in coastal regions.

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Frame Performance of the Port City

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This paper explores the theoretical concept of 'frame performance' in the context of port cities to search for new possible empirical implications for analyzing how cultural and ideological landscapes shape urban experiences. The interpretive framework of the port city refers to two aspects. First, the port city frame is a culturally formed cognitive schema in which an individual event or experience is shuffled as the definition of a situation. Second, the interpretive frame of the port city is the frame of action; that is, the socially regarded mode of proceeding with a certain definition of the situation. I believe that to understand the port city, performers and agents are needed to expose the port city's character in performative action. These, in turn, need to draw experiences from the cultural and ideological resources of the landscape, the meaning of which is revealed in the performances and interpreted by the audience. The cultural stock of frames and social rules and strategies for using "port city frameworks" in the course of interaction and performance will be presented in the case study of Szczecin (Poland).

Socio-ecological Tensions of Local Seafood Value Chains in Croatia

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Each locality undergoes a cycle of natural capital appreciation and depreciation, influenced by its geographic and economic embeddedness. Globalization amplifies this process by exposing local natural resources to global markets, leading to the deterioration of small-scale, locally oriented production and the rapid depletion of natural capital. Small-scale food systems, like small-scale fishery, are important for food security, since it enables livelihood for millions of people around the world – and as such are deeply embedded in the networks of social and trade relationships. Tension, trust and transformation represent interconnected themes woven into the fabric of fishery value chains. In this research stream, we would like to present research on fishery value chains in Croatia and to delve into various critical themes shaping the industry's dynamics. Our analysis is focused on understanding socio-ecological tensions within the global capitalist sea-food system. Theoretical approach is based on the theory of social embeddedness which suggests that understanding social networks is essential in order to understand economic exchange since it is deeply rooted in social relationships. Topics of corporative logic vs. cooperative logic, power issues in vertical ties of value-chains and conflicts among different actors will be presented with an aim of scrutinizing tensions arising from divergent interests, the role of trust in fostering collaboration, and the transformative potential of sustainable practices. By unraveling the complexities of fishery value chains, our research in Croatia seeks to shed light on the interconnected dynamics of local natural capital cycles and the globalized forces accelerating their depletion.

Anglers Along the Bosphorus and Their Catch's Integral Role in Istanbul's Food System

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Along the Bosphorus in İstanbul, Turkey which hosts a rich variety of fish throughout the year, many people from different backgrounds fish from the shore with fishing rods and become a part of Istanbul's fishing culture. One may observe that while many anglers fish for themselves, some fish for selling their catch informally. In this presentation, I want to share the preliminary findings of a research project[1] which derives inspiration from this observation. The project's field research which will include participant observation, in-depth interviews and surveys with experts and anglers will be conducted in the first months of 2024. The project has two main goals. The first one is to understand the socio-economic background of the anglers which is not investigated by social scientists in the context of İstanbul. The second one is to reveal how the catches of these anglers are consumed and taken part in İstanbul diverse food system. When food systems are diversified and globalized, they become more vulnerable to crises. Local resources and solutions gain importance in these situations. In this respect, this presentation will focus on the roles of anglers and their catches' place and role in the food system of İstanbul which contains formal and informal networks spread through a city under constant urban and environmental transformation.

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[1] The project "Socio-Economic Status, Experiences of Amateur Anglers on the Coasts of the Bosphorus and Their Role in the Istanbul Food System" (223K156) is supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye

RS20 | T05: Maritime Occupations I

The Implementation Of The ISM Code: An Overview And Assessment Of Current Approaches

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The International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code) was adopted in 1993 and came into force in 1998 as chapter IX of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. Its purpose is to "provide an international standard for the safe management and operation of ships and for pollution prevention". It applies to all passenger vessels, cargo vessels of 500 Gross Registered Tonnage or more, and mobile offshore drilling units. The ISM Code requires companies that operate the above vessels to establish a safety management system that encompasses procedures and measures for improving safety both at the company level and on board of its vessels.

The purpose of this project is to give an overview of approaches and practices used in the implementation of the ISM Code, assess the effectiveness of implementation, and identify difficulties, gaps, flaws and failures as well as strengths of current management systems. To address these questions, we conduct a literature review and analyze data from surveys and interviews with maritime administrations (flag States), port state control authorities, shipping companies and seafarers. This is complemented by a detailed analysis of maritime accident investigation reports.

The presentation provides an overview of the project and presents key findings and insights.

Occupational Disease as a Social Phenomenon. Case of 'mackerel' Disease in the 1950s

Urszula Kozłowska, Karolina Izdebska

University of Szczecin, Poland

A disease, including an occupational disease, can be seen as a subjective experience of discomfort or suffering. It is not only the result of the biological condition of the patient but also of social, cultural factors, stress, personality traits or beliefs of the individual related to the disease. The aim of this presentation is to describe an occupational disease in fishermen and fish processing workers professionally involved in mackerel processing. Cases of the dermatosis – "mackerel disease" could be diagnosed among them. In the literature it is known as redfeed. This condition was exacerbated seasonally from June to September when the fish fed on reddish-orange crustaceans. This red food parched the hands of those handling the mackerel causing painful lesions on the skin.

The research concernes the materials, found in the State Archives in Szczecin, on the disease in the employees of "Odra" Deep Sea Fishing and Fishery Services Company and the Fish Centre.

No whistling in the Bridge – Seafarers' Superstitions in the Past and Today

Arkadiusz Kołodziej, Agnieszka Kołodziej-Durnaś

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Superstions have played a signifiacnt role in the work at sea. They were especially important among fishermen where the volume of catch depended on the random factors (strike of luck). Superstitions influenced their labour's organization as well as the interpersonal relations. Today the funkction of superstitions among the representatives of maritime prosessions has decreased significanly. This change stems from the transformations of labour's organization, ship's organizational structure, development of technology and social consciousness of seafarers and fishers.

In the presentation we show on the basis of our qualitative research among seafarers how the role of maritime superstitions has changed and how their social functions evolved.

Motion Sickness Among Offshore Wind Farm Workers – A Mixed-Method Study Of Prevalence, Health, And Behavioural Experiences.

Andrew Fenn

University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

The offshore wind energy sector is growing and needed for future energy security, transforming how energy is generated, and meaning that an increasing number of offshore workers will be required in future.

As wind farms move further offshore into deeper waters, worker exposure to vessel motion and wind turbine motion is likely to increase, especially with new floating offshore wind farms coming online.

Motion sickness is subjective, in some people exposure to vessel motion may have no effect, while others are incapacitated; the condition has multiple symptoms, and it cannot be concluded that the person who vomits is suffering any more than their colleague who has not been sick. It is

foreseeable that motion sickness could lead to bullying or have other consequences beside the immediate symptoms.

For wind farm workers, motion sickness may lead to reductions in performance, increased safety risks, and a range of physical, and psychosocial health challenges in an already challenging work environment.

Research specifically concerning the prevalence and effects of motion sickness in the sector has not been carried out to date, and while it is possible to speculate about the effects and prevalence of motion sickness, supporting data is currently unavailable.

In this mixed-method study we seek to close the identified research gap; identifying the symptoms of motion sickness experienced, exploring the attitudes of workers and employers, and examining the psychosocial impacts of motion sickness. Additionally, we aim to understand barriers and enablers influencing the reporting behaviour, recognising that trust may play a pivotal role as a result of the subjective nature of the condition.

RS20 | T06: Maritime Occupations II

The Bottom Rung Of The Ladder. Using Agency To Explore The Reproduction Of The Gender Gap In The Fishing Sector In Galicia (NW-Spain).

Helena Martínez-Cabrera, Gonzalo Rodríguez-Rodríguez

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

In the last 20 years, women were incorporated as full members of the fishing sector but confined to relatively worse positions compared to men's. In this paper, we first describe what the evolution of the socio-economic conditions of the female workforce has been between the publication of the 1999 and 2019 editions of the Regional Input-Output Tables for the Fishing and Canning Sector in Galicia, one of Europe's leading producers of fish. Second, in light of 33 in-depth interviews conducted with women in the fishing sector, we analyze their current agency levels based on the outcomes of a series of backcasting future scenario generation questions. Results underline that their absolute gains in agency did not allow women to increase their capacity to influence the organization of production and reproduction. Gender inequality spans asset distribution, formal rules, cultural norms, and personal preferences and has exposed women to drawbacks.

A Partner At "high-risk" Or A Risky Partner? How Seafarers' Partners Navigate Uncertainties Related To Their Spouses' Work

Colette Szczepaniak[1], Barbara Fersch[2], Hanna Barbara Rasmussen[2]

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Although marine occupations have become much safer than in previous times, being a seafarer is still characterized by certain risks and uncertainties, such as the fact that if accidents happen, they might have dire consequences, uncertain schedules concerning when the seafarer might come home again and challenges with being in contact with partner and family at home when at sea. There are also uncertainties concerning retirement because Polish seafarers do not earn pension rights 's when working on foreign ships. In this paper we are focusing on the ways in which seafarers partners deal with those situations, while having also other social roles (mothers, caregivers for older parents, employees) as they are affected by their partners' uncertain work.

We will discuss the different types of navigation strategies, both concerning practical every-day "management" and emotional coping aspects. The analysis is based on 25 qualitative interviews with partners of seafarers in the Polish high-seas transport fleet.

Sailing Through Generations: A Sociological Inquiry Into Seafaring Profession

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The main objective of this study is to record the motivations for choosing the seafaring profession. In this context, emphasis is placed on the island of Chios (Greece), which is recognized for its rich maritime tradition and significant contribution to global shipping. The questions raised are whether seafarers' expectations have been confirmed or denied. It also explores whether seafarers' expectations align with their experiences and examines the intergenerational continuity of seafaring in a traditional seafaring place. In this way, the present study seeks to reveal complex sociological dynamics. A mixed methods approach is utilized to investigate sociological aspects. Beyond merely quantifying data, the study aimed at advancing sociological understanding. For this purpose, an explanatory sequential mixed methods design is employed, comprising two distinct phases. Initially, quantitative data were gathered and analyzed through questionnaires completed by active and retired seafarers from Chios Island. Subsequently, qualitative data were obtained through in-depth interviews with a specific number of seafarers. The sequencing of the qualitative phase was purposefully aligned with the outcomes of the initial quantitative phase. The results contribute to a deeper understanding of the motivations and disincentives for choosing a seafaring career, considering the relevant debate on finding suitable human resources in the maritime industry.

"Experience is very, very important…" Fishers´ Knowledge Practices in the Light of Adaptive Capacity to Structural Change

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German fishers currently face many challenges such as climate change, degrading fish stocks, fishing bans in marine protected areas, an overaged fleet, a lack of successors, and increasing spatial competition. While research often focuses on technical and economical dimensions, little is known about the social dimensions of fishing and their influence on the adaptive capacity of small-scale fisheries. Based on a sample of 66 semi-structured interviews conducted between 2017 and 2022 on the German coasts, we used an open analytical approach based on Grounded Theory to reconstruct the perspectives of fishers on their current fishing practice(s). This presentation focuses on fishers' knowledge as an important dimension of adaptive capacity. Our results indicate that certain types of knowledge and acquisition pathways are more relevant within the fishers' community. Practical experiences and cross-generational, orally communicated traditions are valued more highly than other types of knowledge such as formal, written communication. More importantly, fishers´ knowledge is local and experience-based, which runs counter to the model-driven, law-based international and written communication in fisheries management. We connect our results on fishers´ knowledge to the concept of different forms of capitals, discussing their influence on the adaptive capacity of fisheries in times of profound structural change. We conclude that the scientific and political support for transforming fisheries in the North and Baltic Sea needs to include much broader understanding of the social dimensions of fishing, including the influence of knowledge production, to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of fishing communities in the face of multiple challenges.

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