Message from the Convenor
Professor Nikolas Rose

Welcome to the first Department of Sociology Research Newsletter for 2002-03 – and the first of my Convenorship. This is a very exciting time for Sociology at the LSE, and I hope that we will use this termly Newsletter to let others know what we are doing and planning in our own individual and collective research, and to debate key issues on the research agenda of the discipline as a whole. The Newsletter is not just for the academic staff, but also for research students and all associated with the Department to exchange news, views, ideas and announcements concerning current and future research.

A number of key developments in the Department are now in process, which will have implications for all of us. Following the very supportive review of the Department by the School’s Academic Planning and Resources Committee, we are hoping soon to be in a position to advertise a number of new lectureships in Sociology. These will be designed specifically for those early in their academic career, and linked to the need to reshape the demographics of the Department in the light of imminent retirements. We also hope to announce an additional three-year post funded out of our own resources, and a number of new postdoctoral research fellowships. These will be designed to enhance the contribution that the Department can make to the development of the discipline of sociology nationally and internationally in the next period. (Continued on page 2)

Key Research Priorities of the Sociology Research Committee

- **Social justice**: dimensions of inequality (locally, nationally and internationally); gender and sexual divisions; colonialism, post-colonialism and neo-colonialism; and issues of human rights in global context.
- **Cities and urbanism**: the nature, transformations and implications of the spatial, social and cultural relations of cities, in a global context.
- **Economic life**: the sociology of money, markets and finance, consumption and production, industry, management, work and employment, in an international and comparative context, especially in relation to issues of globalization.
- **Culture and technology**: cultural theory and the sociology of culture; the social, political, economic and cultural implications of new forms of communication; information technologies.
- **Politics, regulation and governance**: the changing nature and patterns of social, economic and political power and domination and changing problems and forms of governmentality; in particular the emergence of novel problems and institutions of international and transnational governance and regulation; and the problematic of risk.
- **Identities, ethnicities, and religion**: race and racism; religion; belief and nationalism; challenges and transformations in citizenship in the era of migration; hybridity and cosmopolitanism.
- **Crime and control**: the changing nature of crime, punishment and control; the emergence of new forms of international criminal activity such as people and organ trafficking.
- **Life, disease and medicine**: the new social, political, legal and ethical challenges facing individuals and society in the era of biotechnology, biomedicine and genomics.

Inside This Issue

- **Message from the Convenor**
- **New Alliances: The Cities Programme**
- **Theory and Practice in Venezuela**
- **New Sociology Research Committee**
- **Postgraduate ‘Praxis’**
The primary aim of Sociology News is to provide readers both within and beyond the department with information about the department’s research activities. It also provides sociologists with an informal venue in which to share their thoughts and ideas about their own work and departmental affairs. We welcome all submissions in the above categories, as well as additional material as relevant. Please send all submissions, comments, and questions to the editors at either d.slater@lse.ac.uk or s.s.amsler@lse.ac.uk.

We will also be reviewing our current awards – the T. H. Marshall Postdoctoral Fellowships, the Percy Cohen and Morris Ginsberg Research Studentship and our other support for research students – to make sure that the Department and the award holders are able to make the most of these opportunities.

Linked to this, and overseeing these developments, the Department now has a Research Committee, chaired by Don Slater as Director of Research. Research Committee has a budget which it distributes annually to support research activities that engage the public domain and develop the collective research profile of the Department (details of the Terms of Reference and Membership are discussed on page 3 of this Newsletter). Research Committee is also overseeing the development of research clusters within the Department. Whilst we have not adopted a policy in which every individual and all research should take place in one of these clusters, these will shape the research priorities of the Department as a whole. Our commitment is to conduct research on each of these areas that is intrinsically transnational, always alert to divisions of gender and ethnicity, empirically rich and conceptually informed, and that allows for the interaction of a theoretically and methodologically diverse range of approaches.

Of course, the Department continues its priority in the area of Media, working with the Department of Social Psychology in the very successful Masters and doctoral programmes in Media, and the research activities of Media@LSE.

Related to these priorities, I am delighted to announce a number of concrete developments. First, the very successful Cities Programme, with its Masters course in City Design and Social Science and its Doctoral Programme, has relocated to Sociology. We aim to build a developing research programme around this focus.

Second, the Department has taken the leading role in developing a new research centre at the LSE: BIOS: Centre for the study of Bioscience, Biomedicine, Biotechnology and Society (see page 5 for more details). This Centre is sponsored jointly with the Department of Social Psychology and has the support of Departments across the School. It is a major new initiative, developing a long tradition of interest in the biological aspects of human individual and social existence from within the Department, and locating this in the context of the major new developments in biomedicine, biotechnology and bioeconomics which are reshaping identities, family forms, social, political and economic relations in profound ways.

On other matters, we are working with other Departments across the School to help develop the activities of the Mannheim Centre for the Study of Criminology and Criminal Justice. We will have more news on this in a future Newsletter. We are also delighted with the developments within the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, in which we have a key involvement, and which has now appointed Conor Gearty, formerly Professor of Human Rights Law at King’s College, University of London, as its Director.

‘The Research Committee is also overseeing the development of research clusters within the Department. Whilst we have not adopted a policy in which all research should take place in one of these clusters, these will shape the research priorities of the Department as a whole.’

Finally, I would like to welcome a number of visitors to the Department: Susie Orbach, who joins us as a Visiting Professor, will be organizing a series of seminars on ‘bodies’ over the course of the year. Elspeth Probyn, from Gender Studies at the University of Sydney, will be here though January 2003. And welcome to our new ESRC postdoctoral fellows, Tomoko Kurihara and Martina Klett-Davies, and our new Marie Curie Fellow, Nicholas Guillot. I am sure that they will be made very welcome in the Department.
Introduction to the Research Committee

In June 2002, the Department agreed to establish a Research Committee. Its purpose is to foster research initiatives, research culture and research dissemination that will develop LSE Sociology’s role in the discipline, nationally and internationally.

Within the department, the Committee will be working to develop research clusters based on both common intellectual agendas and practical activities; to increase funded research by encouraging and coordinating funding proposals; and to help develop a core identity for LSE Sociology through collective discussions and a research newsletter.

Externally, the Committee aims to develop the public role and profile of the department within the School, the discipline and in interdisciplinary forums; to build links with cognate departments, centres and institutes within the School; to ensure that department research clusters are actively positioned within broader research networks and collaborations; and to promote closer relationships with user constituencies.

Next deadline for proposals to Research Committee:
27 November 2002

Access application forms in the LSE Outlook public folder <Sociology/Research Committee>

In practical terms, Research Committee has been given a significant annual budget to support bids from full time staff to fund activities that fulfil two aims: helping to establish research clusters within the department as viable, long-term enterprises, and giving a higher public profile to the work of existing research groups. We will be funding activities such as events (day conferences, seminar series, symposia); academic exchanges; and providing support in developing research proposals and collaborations, or in establishing virtual and other networks.

We will not be funding postgraduate students directly, but research students with ideas for events or activities should either contact Don Slater or work up a proposal in conjunction with their supervisor.

The next deadline for proposals to Research Committee is 27 November. These proposals – for money to be spent within the following 12 months – will be considered at the next Committee meeting on 3 December. We expect to set another deadline for additional proposals in Lent term. An application form for proposals can now be downloaded from the public folder Sociology/Research Committee. In that folder you will also find a document on the Committee's procedures for allocating funds.

The Committee is currently chaired by Don Slater, as Director of Research, with Stan Cohen, Roger Silverstone, Nick Couldry and Janet Foster as members, and Nikolas Rose participating ex officio as Convenor.

Research Support News — ResearchResearch.com

LSE recently subscribed to a commercial on-line research funding database and alert service: ResearchResearch.com. All LSE staff should have been automatically subscribed to this service, but if you have any problems, contact Jon Deer (j.deer@lse.ac.uk) or Bhimla Dheermojee (b.dheermojee@lse.ac.uk) in the Research and Project Development Office.

This is actually a useful and comprehensive service, capable of complex and very targeted searches and – once you get acquainted with it – is the one place to go for all information on funding sources, deadlines and contact details. It can be fairly well tailored to your own research interests, with relevant funding sources emailed to you on a regular basis.

It does take some getting used to, but there is a very complete, and downloadable manual. First impression from most people: it’s well worth paying a visit.

British Sociological Association
Annual Conference 11-13 April 2003
Social Futures: Desire, Excess, and Waste

This year’s BSA will be comprised of papers and posters ‘which expose the contradictions and complexities underlying optimistic representations of social desire and economic excess’ in the following themes or ‘streams’:

- Belonging and isolation
- Technological dystopias
- Consumption and waste
- Escape strategies
- Winners and losers

Full conference and booking details can be found on the BSA website at www.britsoc.co.uk.

Book early and save on registration!
New Alliances:  
The Cities Programme Joins Sociology

The Cities Programme is very happy to be welcomed into the Sociology Department. Given that our remit is to connect urban design to the social sciences, it is highly appropriate that the Cities Programme is housed within this department. The Cities Programme is an international centre open to architects, engineers, city planners, social scientists, public service workers and leaders in the private sector. The Programme teaches, conducts research, engages in consultancy work and presents public events.

Our teaching activity is threefold. We offer a Masters degree in City Design and Social Science. We offer a Ph.D. in urban studies within the Department of Sociology. Finally, we offer short courses on urban issues for professionals and students outside the LSE community.

The Masters degree in City Design and Social Science is our principal educational effort, open to students with an architectural, engineering, social science or public service background. Within this degree a student can choose to specialise in housing design and policy. Students work in teams with LSE faculty in urban design studios, simultaneous to taking courses throughout the LSE. We take in about 30 students a year; the teaching is intensive and students have close contacts with faculty.

The Cities Programme has already established fruitful working relationships with several members of the Sociology Department. We very much hope that we can build on these and form new liaisons with faculty members in the department. We look forward to collaborations on all of our endeavours.

Research Centres and Institutes

BIOS: Centre for the study of Bioscience, Biomedicine, Biotechnology and Society at LSE

The Research Committee of the School has approved the establishment of this new interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research centre, in which the Department of Sociology will play a key role. BIOS will be a centre for advanced study and research in the key social, political, legal and ethical aspects of contemporary developments in the life sciences, genomics, pharmacology and pharmacoepigenetics, and biomedicine. It will also explore their implications for political economy, end-of-life decisions, the organization and funding of health care, practices of therapy and control, and much more. BIOS is Greek for life, in the sense of a way of living (as opposed to zōē, which is animal or organic life) and is one root of the prefix ‘bio’- used in relation to living organisms. Our thesis is that, today, questions of ‘bios’ have become centrally intermingled with understandings and transformations of zōē.

BIOS is currently the only Centre of its type in London, and differs from related Centres in the UK in a number of respects. It has explicitly global concerns, such as exploring the implications of these developments in Japan, China, India, Africa, and South-East Asia, and a strong engagement with the reshaping of the global economy by bio-economics. It focuses on biomedicine and biotechnology as a whole, in which genomics and post-genomics is only one element – thus, for example, it has an explicit interest in the brain sciences, psychiatry and psychopharmacology. And, whilst maintaining a strong research focus on the here and now and on empirical studies of contemporary practices, it also will address questions concerning the reshaping of national and transnational societies that will be brought about by these developments over the foreseeable future. These include the transformations in identity, family forms, governmental rationalities and social relations that are likely to occur, and their social, political and economic implications.

BIOS is a joint initiative between the Departments of Sociology and Social Psychology at the LSE, and is supported by the Departments of Government and Law and the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences. Some twenty individual colleagues across the School are conducting research in these areas and will engage with the work of BIOS, which is also linked to a regular programme of research workshops held at the School. It is developing links with a number of other institutions in the medical and social sciences in London and the UK, Europe and the United States. The Director of BIOS is Professor Nikolas Rose (Sociology) and the Associate Director is Professor George Gaskell (Social Psychology). BIOS will have a physical location (in Tower 2) and a number of postdoctoral fellows will be joining it over the course of this year. It will encourage
BIOS ASSOCIATES

A number of individuals have agreed to become ‘Associates’ of the BIOS Centre, not only endorsing its mission, but also with a view to developing joint research projects, collaboration and other relevant activities. These include:

- STEFAN BECK (Institut für Europäische Ethnologie, Humboldt University)
- MICHEL CALLON (Centre de sociologie de l’innovation, École des Mines de Paris)
- VEENA DAS (Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University)
- ALAIN EHRENBERG (Director, Centre de Recherche Psychotropes, Santé Mentale, Société, CNRS, Paris)
- HERBERT GOTTLIEB (Professor of Political Science, University of Vienna)
- DAVID HEALY (Director, North Wales Department of Psychological Medicine)
- ARTHUR KLEINMAN (Department of Anthropology, Harvard University)
- MARGARET LOCK (Professor of Anthropology, McGill University)
- EMILY MARTIN (Professor of Anthropology, New York University)
- ALAIN PROCHANTZ (Director, Laboratoire de développement et evolution du système nerveux (CNRS), École normale supérieure, Paris)
- PAUL RABINOW (Department of Anthropology, University of California Berkeley)
- RAYNA RAPP (Professor of Anthropology, New York University)
- HANS-JÖRG RHEINBERGER (Director, Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin)

BIOS

Key Research & Policy Issues

- Social, political, legal and ethical issues in developments in the life sciences, neuroscience, behavioural genetics, brain imaging and psychopharmacology.
- The sustainable governance of developments in the life sciences, the role of expertise, scientific risk assessment and public involvement in policy making.
- Intellectual property in relation to genomics and biomedicine – patenting of genes and living organisms, branding in biomedicine and biotechnology, political economy of intellectual property.
- Pharmacology, psychopharmacology, the characteristics and ethics of the pharma industry, and the creation, testing, and regulation of products, marketing, pricing, and consumption of legal pharmaceuticals, including psychiatric drugs.
- Genetics and social identity – consequences of genomics for conceptions of individual and collective identity, genetic bioculturalism, genetic responsibility, genetic variation, experience of individuals and groups identified as genetically predisposed or organised round genetic identities.
- New therapeutic techniques- including cloning, pre-implantation diagnosis, stem cell therapy and xenotransplantation.
- Implications of development in biomedicine for health care policies, health insurance, access to, availability of and rationing of health care.
- Tissue banking and the storage, access, use and commercial or other exploitation of existing and new samples of human tissue and blood.
- Genetic testing for risk of disease – emergence of conceptions of presymptomatic and asymptptomatically ill individuals, implications for insurance and employment, confidentiality and discrimination, participants experience, communication, use and abuse of information, commercial exploitation of information.
- Bioethics – the characteristics and functioning of biotechnological discourse, national variations in bioethics, the role of bioethics in regulation of biotechnology and biomedicine at the micro and macro levels.
- Clinical trials – ethical, legal and methodological issues in the development, structuring, uses and effects of clinical trials.
- End of life issues – advance directives, competence, palliative care, assisted suicide.
- Geopolitics of biomedicine and biotechnology, including issues of biopiracy.
- Bio-terrorism – risk and biological surveillance, the developing industry in prophylactic treatments and cures for hypothetical bio terrorist threats, planning and availability of bio terrorist agents and responses, who should profit from treatments, vaccines and cures for such agents.
BIOS Research Group
Social and Ethical Aspects of the Life Sciences and Biomedicine

Schedule for 2002 – 2003

Seminars will take place on Thursdays, 5.00-7.00 at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Please note that the seminars are not always in the same room: check the room for each session.

For guidance, see the map: http://www.lse.ac.uk/School/maps/map3.htm

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Venue (LSE)</th>
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<tr>
<td>24 October ‘02</td>
<td>What is contemporary bioethics for?</td>
<td>LSE Main Building A588</td>
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<td>Nikolas Rose will open a general discussion on the contemporary role</td>
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<td>and consequences of the proliferation of bioethics – discourses,</td>
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<td>professions, training courses, institutions, committees etc. What</td>
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<td>does contemporary bioethics do?</td>
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<td>14 November ‘02</td>
<td>Cecile Fabre, London School of Economics will talk on 'Artificial</td>
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<td>Wombs and the Permissibility of Abortion.'</td>
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<td>28 November ‘02</td>
<td>Richard Ashcroft (Imperial College) and his fellow researchers (in</td>
<td>St. Phillips South Building</td>
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<td>Bristol) will present a paper drawing on their research on</td>
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<td>participation in epidemiological research, ethics and governance</td>
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<td>30 January ‘03</td>
<td>Nicola Lindsay, Imperial College will give a presentation on their</td>
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<td>current research on policy-making on genetic testing and</td>
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<td>insurance in the UK entitled &quot;Assigning responsibility: role</td>
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<td>negotiation and policy advice in the case of genetic testing and</td>
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<td>insurance in the UK&quot;</td>
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<td>20 February ‘03</td>
<td>Robert Doubleday, Department of Geography, University College</td>
<td>Lincoln Chambers L04</td>
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<td>London will give a presentation on &quot;Uses of Transparency:</td>
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<td>Biotechnology, citizenship and social sciences.&quot;</td>
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<td>6 March ‘03</td>
<td>Cathy Waldby, Director of CRICT, Brunel University will give a</td>
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<td>paper arising from her current work on tissue banking.</td>
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Speakers for the summer term will include Martin Richards (Cambridge), Alain Pottage (Law, LSE), Martin Bauer (Social Psychology, LSE), and Richard Tutton (Science and Technology Studies, York).
Understanding the Impact of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry on British Policing

Contact: Dr Janet Foster, j.a.foster@lse.ac.uk

We have recently secured a grant from the Home Office to conduct a two-year evaluation on the impact of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry on British policing. This is a very large, challenging and exciting piece of research but also great fun! The grant, awarded to Professor Tim Newburn (Department of Social Policy) and myself, began in the Spring/Summer this year (2002). We have recently recruited two excellent researchers (Martha Radice and Anna Souhami) who are based in the Department of Sociology and will work full-time on the project. Martha is a Social Anthropologist and Anna, a Criminologist.

The research involves quantitative research in approximately 20 police forces across England and Wales and in-depth qualitative fieldwork in six police force areas.

Over the summer and early autumn we conducted pilot work in four police forces in order to gauge police officers’ views about the Lawrence report and to help us shape the questions to be included in the survey. We are intending to employ a student fieldwork force to conduct the quantitative survey which we hope will go live early in 2003. The research is intended to be both policy-relevant and academically rigorous. Watch this space for progress and developments!

Minorities and Media

Dr Myria Georgiou, Research Fellow, Media@LSE

The European Workshop ‘Minority Media in Europe: A Revolution from Below?’ took place at the LSE on the 26th and 27th of September. The event was organised by Media@LSE and attended by academics, media practitioners and NGO representatives from 15 European countries. The workshop’s aim was to initiate a Europe-wide debate both within academia and between academics, practitioners and those working in policy arenas, on the core theoretical and political issues that arise from minorities’ media(ted) cultural activity. Issues of social exclusion, participation and media cultures were predominant.

This workshop was part of the activities initiated within the EC-funded project *Minorities and their Media in the EU: A Mapping* (Director of the Project: Professor R. Silverstone; Research Fellow: Dr Myria Georgiou). More details about this project and extensive data and research material from 12 European countries are available at:

http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/Media/EMTEL/Minorities/minorities.html

INFORM Winter Seminar
30 November 2002

STRANGE ENCOUNTERS
OF THE RELIGIOUS KIND

INFORM (Information Network Focus On Religious Movements) is a non-profit research organisation affiliated to the LSE via Professor Eileen Barker, who is founder and Chair. The aim of INFORM is not only research but also dissemination of information. In keeping with these aims, INFORM holds two annual seminars, one in the Spring and another in the Winter.

This year’s Winter Seminar is entitled *Strange Encounters of the Religious Kind*. It will be held from 9.30am to 4.30pm on 30 November 2002 at the New Theatre, East Building. Some of the speakers are:

- **Dr Allan Anderson**, University of Birmingham, Encounters with Ancestors, Spirits and ‘Thokoloshe’ in South African Pentecostalism
- **Professor Eileen Barker**, LSE, General Introduction and Overview
- **Richard Lawrence**, Aetherius Society, Contacts with the Gods from Space
- **Dr Gordon Melton**, Institute for the Study of American Religion, Religions of the World
- **Dr Marat Shterin**, LSE, Russian Indigenous ‘Cults’

The Seminar will also be the UK book launch for *Religions of the World*, a four volume comprehensive encyclopaedia of beliefs and practices.

The cost for students is only £10 (for advance registration, £12 at the door), which includes morning coffee, afternoon tea and buffet lunch.

For advance booking or more information, please phone 020 7955 7654 or email inform@lse.ac.uk.

INFORM LSE Experts:

http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/inform/
Professor Paul Rock is continuing work on his book on the formation of policies for victims of crime during the first Labour administration, 1997-2001, and has been invited for a residency at the Rockefeller Center at Bellagio, Italy, in February 2003 to do so. He has also completed country reports and a summary report for the European Community on the treatment of victims and witnesses in the accession states, and discussed his conclusions with Government and NGO representatives from those states at a joint Home Office-European Forum for Victim Services workshop held in Dublin at the beginning of October.

Professor Eileen Barker has spent the summer busily finishing up grants she had received from a number of sources. The ESRC contributed £170,000 for the British part of a pan-European study of religious and moral pluralism in which 11 countries distributed hour-long nation-wide questionnaires. The final analyses have yet to be completed, but one aspect of particular interest is the number of people who deny they are religious yet go on to claim that they are ‘spiritual’. Another project, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, examined changes that have been occurring with the arrival of second and subsequent generations in new religious movements; and a third study, funded by STICERD, has involved looking at the influence that the introduction of the Internet is having on religious communities. Professor Barker has also been continuing her studies of religion in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, paying several visits to various countries. Sometimes, however, her ‘data’ arrive at the LSE. Her students were delighted when, on October 23rd, Vissarion, a controversial Messiah from Siberia, turned up at a couple of her lectures (with a Channel 4 crew in tow) to enlighten them with details of the New Age.

Professor Nikolas Rose • As I am new to the Department, I thought it might be useful to say a bit about my work over a slightly longer span than normal. In February I gave a paper at a day-long seminar at Brunel on ‘Do Artefacts Have Ethics’ – a question derived from Langdon Winner’s famous argument that artefacts have politics. My presentation was on ‘Do psychiatric drugs have ethics?’ – to which I answered ‘yes’: ethics – in the sense of the norms and values of a form of life – is engineered into the very molecular make up of contemporary drugs such as Prozac and Ritalin. In April I participated in a workshop on ‘Oikos and Anthros: Rationality, Technology, Infrastructure’ organised by Aiwha Ong and Stephen Collier in Prague (at the NYU facilities there) and gave a paper on ‘biological citizenship’ written jointly with Carlos Novas. I was surprised and intrigued to discover how much use is being made of the conceptual tools of ‘governmentality’ by practicing anthropologists working on sites as diverse as the One Child Policy in China, AIDS policies in South Africa and entrepreneurship in Singapore. In June I participated in a seminar on in/formation: genomics, life and media at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, run by Paul Rabinow. In September I participated in a symposium at Essen in Germany organized by Nico Stehr, on Biotechnology, Commerce and Civil Society, and gave a paper on ‘The birth of the neurochemical self.’ In October I paid a brief visit to Vienna to participate in a small expert meeting to advise the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture on the research programme they are setting up on Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects to accompany their own Austrian Genome Research Programme. This was followed by a small but intense two-day international workshop organized by Herbert Gottweis, Professor of Political Science at the University of Vienna on biomedicalization, social conflicts and the new politics of bioethics, where I gave a paper titled ‘What is bioethics for?’. Over the summer I wrote the Introduction to the new Foucault Reader in collaboration with Paul Rabinow – this reader is based on pieces in the Essential Works of Michel Foucault. Paul and I have also been working on our ‘Society and the Life Science’ book series with Cambridge University Press. It is getting closer to its launch, with the first three or four volumes to be published during next year.


Apart from that, I am working away on The Age of Serotonin, the Research Report for the Wellcome Trust Program in Biomedical Ethics, on the first phase of my research with Mariam Fraser at Goldsmith – I’ve got sidetracked by an obsessive search for historical and comparative data on psychiatric drug prescribing which I have now managed to beg, borrow and steal from various sources. Having originally simply given evidence to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics Working Party on Genetics and Human Behaviour, I got rather more involved with the development of the final report which has just been published, and I am a member of Working Party on Pharmacogenetics which Nuffield has recently established and which should report next year.

With Monica Greco and Simon Cohn of Goldsmiths, Ilpo Helen from University of Helsinki and Mariana Valverde of the University of Toronto, I am organising an international conference on Vital Politics: Health, Medicine And Bioeconomics Into the Twenty-First Century, much of which will take place at the School (LSE) on 5th and 6th September 2003. The aim of the conference is to explore the character of transformations in conceptions of health and illness, vitality and pathology, and the forms of practice organised around them, including the ‘bioeconomic’ dimension of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and patenting. As announced elsewhere in this Newsletter, I have been rather busy with the development of the BIOS Research Centre here at the School.

And, away from my bio-obsessions, I am working with Thomas Osborne of Bristol University on a reader called In the Name of Society: Inside the history of social thought, for the book series on Inside Knowledge, edited by Andrew Barry and Monica Greco (both at Goldsmiths) for Continuum. I am also keeping busy editing Economy and Society, whose base has now moved to the Department.

Dr. Don Slater • Over the past months I have been mostly doing new media ethnography. From last February to September, Peter Lewis (LSE), Jo Tacchi (QUT) and I carried out an ethnographic ‘monitoring and evaluation’ of a community media centre in rural Sri Lanka (Kothmale, just south of Kandy), funded by Department for International Development, and in association with UNESCO. Kothmale Community Radio and Internet Project combines a range of new and old media within a community development initiative and therefore gave us an opportunity to look at media convergence and assimilation of new media technologies. Aside from the pleasure of spending a month in one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever experienced, our sponsors also gave us all too rare scope to study a funded project by investigating its full social and communicative context, and to adapt ethnographic methods for use in media development work. Moving development agencies away from survey-and-indicators based approaches and onto more sophisticated ways of understanding the social processes in which they seek to intervene is shaping up into a fascinating political and intellectual struggle.

This connection with DfID and UNESCO – and indeed South Asia – is now developing into further projects. UNESCO has launched a programme of six innovative ICT projects aimed at ‘poverty reduction’, and are appointing full-time local researchers to each of them, following a basically ethnographic approach. Jo Tacchi and I flew to Bangalore this summer to present to them our Kothmale findings, and introduce a manual for training researchers in ‘Ethnographic Action Research’ (it seems you always need a brand and a logo, even in this kind of work), and are flying back to Chennai in November to train the researchers. The report, manual and several other recent pieces on internet ethnography can be downloaded from the public folder for SO508. We are also developing a new programme of comparative ethnographies of Internet with DfID – not yet clinched the deal, but nearly there…

I have also been pursuing my other research strands – economic sociology and sociology of consumption. In August, I attended the American Sociological Association’s annual jamboree in Chicago, giving a paper on ‘Capturing markets from the economists’ to a panel organized by Viviana Zelizer on ‘New Directions in Economic Sociology’. There actually seem to be a few new directions emerging in the US finally, or at least more of an inclination to read us Europeans. Similarly, at the Pavis conference in Oxford on ‘Cultural Returns’; where I gave a paper on ‘Culture and Economy’, there was a seriously engaged dialogue between sociology and cultural studies around the cultural turn in thinking about economic processes.

Andrew Barry (Goldsmiths) and I have been developing joint work on re-thinking markets, in dialogue with Michel Callon. This has already resulted in a special issue of Economy and Society (‘The Technological Economy’) that came out in May, which will also appear in expanded form as a book (Routledge) next year. We are now organizing a series of three symposia with Callon, the first to be held at LSE on 28 March, entitled ‘Innovating Markets’ (the others will be at the Ecoles des Mines, Paris, and at NYU the following year).

Finally, the Journal of Consumer Culture, which I edit with George Ritzer, has now reached Vol. 3, and – aside involving rather too much work – keeps me connected with a fascinating array of scholars in a still very dynamic research area. In early November, for example, I gave a paper on cross-cultural consumption at a symposium on ‘Contrasting Theories of Consumption’, organized by CRIC (ESRC Centre for Research in Innovation and Competition, Manchester University). In December, Nick Couldry and I will be going to Brisbane at the invitation of John Hartley, at QUT, for a symposium on ‘New Economy, Creativity and Consumption’. This is aiming at developing a research network based in LSE, MIT and QUT.
Dr. Christopher Husbands is currently pursuing a variety of research interests. Recent and ongoing work has been done on some sociological aspects of bilingual lexicography, particularly concerning the history of French/English, German/English and Latin/English lexicography. He has been pursuing his long-term interest in the sociology of higher education by researching some of the legal implications of the uses by universities of students’ assessments of staff’s teaching competence, particularly concerning aspects of contemporary employment and data protection law. He also continues his work on political-asylum policies in different west-European countries.

**Social Science Teacher Interviews Dr. Stan Cohen**

Dr. Stan Cohen originally published *Folk Devils and Moral Panics* in 1972. He recently explained to Social Science Teacher why this book is gaining new relevance today. Following are excerpts of his interview that will appear in full in the November 2002 issue of Social Science Teacher.

You have written a survey of the uses of the concept of ‘moral panics’ in the thirty years since ‘Folk Devils and Moral Panics’ was published. *What did you find?*

I started this piece of work rather reluctantly. The second edition of the book had slipped out of print some five years before and the prospective publishers of the third edition (Routledge) wanted something new. We settled on an Introduction surveying the uses of the “moral panics” concept since the original book appeared in 1972. I really (not disingenuously) had no idea how far the concept had spread. In the mid-Nineties, moral panics was the ‘key word’ citation in some 120 pieces a year in British daily newspapers. I organized my review into three levels: (1) The ‘stuff’ itself of moral panics over these decades. Whether or not the label was applied and/or contested, these stories (Ecstasy and Leah Betts; the Jimmy Bulger murder; the paedophile register, bogus asylum seekers) looked pretty much like ‘classic’ moral panics. I called this section ‘Carry on Panicking.’ (2) The same media and public sources that are the raw evidence of moral panics now also include a more reflexive level of analysis. The term appears as a first-order naming (‘the moral panic about X’), followed by claims-making contests about the definition (‘It would be perverse to call the reaction to X a “moral panic”’) (3) This leads to the meta debates within sociology, criminology, media and cultural studies, discourse analysis etc.

After these three reviews, I end up with a qualified defence – especially of what is often seen as the concept’s great weakness: its ‘hidden’ value judgements. Viewing moral panics as condensed political struggles about cultural reproduction curiously led me back to the rather different interests that had absorbed me in the meantime (denial, atrocities and human rights). With some poetic licence: moral panics theory deals with the episodic ways people take some things too seriously; denial theory is about the routine ways people do not take other things seriously enough.

*What is the main focus of your current work?*

Right at the interface between crime, politics and human rights [that we discussed earlier.] This is a Big Subject – and will certainly elude me, constructed as it is from two, even larger sub-subjects. The first is more familiar: what happens when the language and apparatus of the law is used (alongside or in place of) ideological and moral judgements? Look at the discourse after ‘September 11th’: within the same debate, even the very same editorial or press release, the language of ‘war,’ ‘clash of civilizations’ and ‘global hegemony’ slides into the language of criminality: ‘suspects’ and ‘most wanted men’ are ‘hunted down.’ And when some are ‘detained’ in Guantanamo prison, they are not ‘prisoners of war’ nor ‘political prisoners’ nor ‘ordinary prisoners.’ Who then are they? And when they were interrogated, why was it so easy to violate the taboo against the public and open justification of torture?

The second sub-subject is less visible and more paradoxical. The human rights movement replaced diverse sets of ethical intuitions and religious injunctions with a common, uniform and universal set of standards: a new language to describe the minimum norms of human dignity. A great achievement – at least to anyone outside the loopier loops of cultural relativism. (Our colleague, Steve Lukes, has subtitled his forthcoming collection of essays on the subject: ‘Liberalism for the Liberals; Cannibalism for the Cannibals.’) The problem is more the slow, grinding way in which legalistic talk, human rights definitions, diplomatic considerations and the special dialect known as ‘UN speak’ forms a discourse that discourages the expression of ordinary moral and emotional sensitivity. The individual (a soldier, say, in an international peace keeping force in Kabul or Gaza) is instructed to think not about the morality of an order to kill, but its legality as interpreted by the peripatetic legal officer (who accesses the appropriate guidelines on his laptop). Even Truth Commissions – set up as radical alternatives to the Nuremberg model – might mimic the legal discourse. The concrete and pictorial sensations on which historical memory depends (Who exactly killed the Jews in this village in 1942? And why?) may become sidelined by debates about whether these events fit the UN definition of genocide. Legal truths are partial and misleading. Even a complete mosaic of such verdicts cannot create a full or shared knowledge of ‘what really happened,’ let alone why it happened. Look at the current International Tribunal judging Milosovec. The translation of mass political atrocities of the Balkans into a series of discrete legal events – with individual defendant, rules of evidence, formal procedure, legal dialect – may be the only fair way to pursue justice and accountability. But it would hardly qualify as a research method for studying crimes of the state. Context is obscured and relegated to social backdrop. The legal doctrine of the ‘inadmissibility’ of certain evidence is perfectly designed for this.

Now you can see why this project will elude me!
Theory and Practice in Venezuela
Dr. Leslie Sklair

Leslie Sklair was invited to Venezuela by the Ministry of Foreign Relations to exchange information on his research on capitalist globalization and the current state of the economy, politics and society in Venezuela. Those interested might like to access files on Venezuela on the public folder under his name, including articles by the journalist Gregory Wilpert.

On 11 April 2002 the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, was deposed by an army-backed coup actively supported by more or less all the mass media in the country, the main trade union movement, PDVSA (the enormously rich and influential oil company, nominally state-owned but actually in open opposition to the government), other big businesses (many of them foreign-owned), and a variety of social forces popularly referred to as ‘civil society’ (the rich, most of the professional and business class, and the clergy). Chavez was forced at gunpoint to resign, and a prominent businessman, quite illegally, proclaimed himself President. The US State Department and some governments in Latin America and in Europe failed to denounce, and in some cases actually welcomed, the coup. Two days later a combination of huge popular protests by the supporters of Chavez and his Bolivarian Revolution and a change of heart by the army restored, Chavez to power.

These events were hardly reported abroad and very little balanced analysis of what had happened and why was available in the mainstream media, even in Venezuela where the media continue to call openly for another coup to finish off Chavez and his political programme – a mixture of populism and socialism with a decided focus on a fairer deal for the 80 per cent of the population living at or under the poverty line. These experiences persuaded the government that it needed to get its message across more successfully both at home and abroad. One consequence of this was that a number of progressive intellectuals were invited to visit Venezuela, talk to governmental and non-governmental agencies, and share the findings of their own research. This is how I unexpectedly found myself in Venezuela in the week before the beginning of term.

Chavez, who had himself orchestrated an unsuccessful military coup in 1992, had been elected President in 1998 with a large mandate from the ‘common people,’ most of whom live in the barrios around Caracas and the other main cities and towns. Since 1998 Chavez and Chavista candidates have won at least seven elections at various levels of the political system, though it is widely accepted that by 2002 his support was declining due to his political style and tactical mistakes, rising unemployment, weakening currency and general economic malaise. In my MSc course on Sociology of Development I have a section on ‘The Socialist Path to Development?’ (the question mark was introduced in the mid-1990s) where the cases China and Cuba, and Tanzania and Mozambique are discussed. In all of these cases, under the influence of the World Bank and now the WTO, the direction of economic and social change has been away from the classical socialist model towards privatisation of state enterprises and social services.

Therefore, Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution, probably the only even remotely socialist reform movement in the world today, is of great theoretical and practical interest. My own work on socialist development in China and on how capitalist globalization shuts off opportunities for socialist (or any alternative) development at the economic, political and culture-ideology levels and the role played by major transnational corporations in these processes is quite relevant to the situation in Venezuela.

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I was in Caracas for five days and as well as discussions with individuals for and against Chavez, had formal meetings with the Political Movement for the Revolution (this maintains direct communications between the President and his supporters through coordinating the work of the 41 different members of the government coalition and the 220,000 Bolivarian circles, groups of around ten people each who are responsible for grassroots implementation of the new Constitution of 1999. Venezuela is the only country in the world I know of where the Constitution is sold on the streets in cheap editions). I also met with a group in the Planning Ministry responsible for developing a System of Rural Associations for Self-Organization (SARAO, a holistic cooperative scheme with great relevance for development anywhere – I have a CD-ROM with all the details); and the National Institution for Women (with its decentralized and relatively autonomous grassroots affiliates, evidence of the determined efforts of the government to prioritise this key dimension of poverty and deprivation).

These few days in Venezuela do not constitute research, but they did help me to make connections between what I do in the classroom, what I think when I read books, scholarly articles, mainstream and alternative media and the Internet, and the possibilities for genuine social change in this age of globalization.
Dr. Nicolas Guilhot is the recipient of a Marie Curie post-doctoral fellowship and joined the department in May 2002. He holds a Ph.D. from the European University Institute (Florence). His previous research has focused on the transformation of pro-democracy and human-rights struggles into a professional trade where different ‘traders’ (foreign policy activists, political scientists, NGOs etc.) compete for the provision of a type of expertise which is sold as ‘emancipatory’ but is also, increasingly, hegemonic. In this perspective, he has researched institutions such as the National Endowment for Democracy, the World Bank, and, more recently on Freedom House and Transparency International.

He is currently working on a research project on international philanthropy, exploring the relationships between economic rationality and social ‘investments’. The project places current developments (such as the activities of George Soros) into historical perspective, and deals extensively with the philanthropic management of the social sciences. The outcome will be a structural history of philanthropic practices since the late nineteenth century.

Recent Publications
- The Democracy Makers. Foreign Policy Activists, Political Scientists and the Construction of an International Market for Political Virtue, forthcoming.

Professor Elspeth Probyn teaches media and gender studies at the University of Sydney and is the author of Sexing the Self (Routledge, 1993), Outside Belongings (Routledge, 1996) and Carnal Appetites: Food, Sex, Identities (Routledge, 2000). Her current research projects include a three-year ethnographic study of the food media and its effects, and a large-scale interview study on how girls understand and use media representations of femininity and adolescence. While at the LSE she is finishing a book entitled White Shame, on how emotion and affect can rework an ethics of representation, to be published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Dr. Tomoko Kurihara is an ESRC postdoctoral fellow, working with Don Slater. She completed her Ph.D. in social anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 2001: Hierarchy in Practice: A Japanese white-collar office as a symbolic community. Her fieldwork was based at the head office of a multinational corporation in Osaka, and investigated the impact of economic, judicial, and cultural change on issues of gender, power, status and workplace practices. She has lectured and tutored on the Ethnography of Japan at the department of anthropology, SOAS. As a research fellow at the department of sociology, University of Surrey, she led a collaborative project with an IT consultancy (Sapient.com) which explored the relationship between ethnography, contemporary social theory and design practice through a study of internet cafés and kiosks in London.

Her academic interests include Japanese culture and ethnography; corporate cultures (particularly the dynamics of workplace power relations and gendered employment practices); post-capitalist notions of work; continental philosophy; cross-cultural analysis of ICT use (Latin America); and transnational migration and hybridity.

Publications

Dr. Martha Radice is a new researcher in the department, working full time on the project ‘Understanding the Impact of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry on the Police’. She got here by a roundabout route, consisting of a degree in Linguistics and French (with inter-disciplinary European Studies) from the University of Sussex, a ‘licence’ (French degree) in Anthropology obtained during her year abroad at the Université de la Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, and an MA in Social Anthropology at Université Laval, Québec City, funded by a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship. Her last post was at Sheffield Hallam University, on a research team evaluating crime prevention projects in secondary schools across the north of England, for the Home Office.

Her interests are the anthropology of place and space and urban anthropology, with a particular focus on social diversity in the city. She is also a self-confessed methodology geek and a steadfast proponent of ethnographic methods, which helps explain why she’s working on (and enjoying) the Lawrence project. Her MA thesis on the senses of place of the ‘old stock’ anglophone minority of Montreal was published as a book, which attracted a great deal of media interest in Québec.
Publications

Susie Orbach • I am a clinician working psychoanalytically with individuals and couples. My research concerns and theoretical endeavours are around:
- the body (how we become embodied),
- the erotic (where it comes from),
- gender (the construction of femininities and masculinities),
- the psyche and politics (how the outside gets in and the inside gets out),
- fame and consumerism (how celebrity and buying has captured public space),
- and various technical issues within psychoanalysis.

I am delighted to join the Sociology Dept. I hope to be hosting a seminar on ‘Approaches to the Body’ starting Thursday December 5th, with Nikolas Rose speaking on January 23rd, and two other, as yet unconfirmed speakers on March 13th and May 15th.

Dr. Anna Souhami is a Research Officer in the Department of Sociology. She is working on a two-year Home Office-funded study to understand the impact of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry on British policing. The project involves in-depth qualitative research in five forces and a survey of 20 police forces across England and Wales.

Anna has recently completed a Ph.D. in Criminology at the University of Keele. Her thesis examines the transition of a social services Youth Justice Team into a multi-agency YOT as mandated under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), and explores the challenges created for practitioners’ sense of occupational identity and vocation. She has an MSc in Social Policy from LSE.

Anna taught undergraduate and postgraduate criminology at Keele for four years. This included undergraduate classes in Theoretical Criminology, Criminal Justice Policy, and Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Criminology, and postgraduate seminars on the MSc Criminology degree. She is a member of the British Society of Criminology.

Contact details: St. Clements Building, Room S207; phone 0207-955-6991, a.souhami@lse.ac.uk

I’ll also be doing the Director’s Lecture with Tony Giddens at lunchtime on November 15th.

British Journal of Sociology Update
Following Stephen Hill’s departure from the School at the end of August, we are pleased to announce that Bridget Hutter has been appointed the new Editor of the Journal. She will be working with Colin Mills until the end of the year when Pat McGovern will take over as the new Associate and Book Reviews Editor. The new editorial team is committed to maintaining the BJS as one of the world’s leading sociological journals. The Journal’s position in the field is reflected by its ranking of 13th out of 93 sociology journals in the 2001 ISI Citation Index.

Whether your interest is in sociological theory, historical sociology, social stratification, crime and deviance or ethnographic studies, you will find the latest evidence, thoughts and arguments in the papers, review essays and book reviews contained in the BJS that will fuel the sociological debates of the 21st Century. Free access to the Journal is available via the LSE Library on the following link: http://ninetta.catchword.com/vl=332429/cl=25/nw=1/rpsv/catchword/roulledg/00071315/contp1.htm.

As you will know, there are currently three BJS funded postdoctoral positions available in the Department: the Percy Cohen and Mannheim Scholarships and the Marshall Fellowship. Contact the Department Office (0207-955-7305) for more information.

Finally, we are delighted to report that the Journal will be appearing on the JSTOR site from January 2003 onwards. At last, access to the articles published by the BJS for the last half century will be available online via the LSE Library site. The archived material will contain articles written by the leading British, European and American sociologists including Raymond Aron, Reinhard Bendix, David Glass, Seymour Martin Lipset, Richard Tittmuss, Talcott Parsons, Hans Eysenck, Jean Floud, Hilda Himmelweit, David Lockwood and A.H. Halsey. Also, more recent contributors will be found: Norbert Elias, Gary Runciman, John H. Goldthorpe, Michael Mann, Anthony Smith, Nicos Mouzelis, Ray Pahl, Gordon Marshall, Duncan Gallie, Catherine Hakim, Bryan S. Turner, Manuel Castells, Immanuel Wallerstein, Goran Therborn, Gosta Esping-Anderson, Ulrich Beck, Bruno Latour, Saskia Sassen, Barbara Adam, John Urry and Mike Featherstone.
LSE Praxis Society
Post-graduate students promoting critical debate for the advancement of informed practice

Last year, a number of sociology post-grads decided to expand the opportunities to engage in critical & informed sociological debate at the university, particularly to supplement the mass public debates that often take the form of didactic question-and-answer sessions. We felt that these were insufficient for helping us sort out much of the confusing discourse that clouds so much of our social understanding today, and thought that as social scientists we should perhaps organise a way to do so for ourselves. Thus was born the Praxis Society.

Praxis is a friendly but serious reading and discussion group that hosts critical student-led debates about contemporary issues, social and political theory, and topics of interest to those who believe that informed social analysis is an important part of being personally and politically engaged with the world. Although most of our active members are doctoral candidates in Sociology, we also have members from the LSE International Relations and Government departments. Last year’s meetings were extremely successful. Each drew students from the departments of Sociology, International Relations and Government. The sessions began with two or three short student presentations (typically making different arguments about a particular theme or reading) and proceeded for two hours or more with lively and high-calibre discussion and debate.

Our topics emerge from the interface of current events and members’ research interests. Last term, for example, Mi Park and Sara Motta-Mera chaired a session on the political and economic crisis in Argentina; Jill Timms, Sarah Amsler, and Stefanie Ortmann hosted a meeting on the promises and critiques of ‘global civil society,’ and Mahmood Delkhasteh and Mark Boden conducted a debate about the rise or decline of American hegemony. This year’s schedule follows below.

Praxis is a small group of students who are committed to providing an informal platform for quality discussion, debate, and critique. We welcome all new members and individuals, comments, suggestions, and constructive criticisms. To learn more about the society, our events, or to join our mailing list, please contact Mi Park (m.park@lse.ac.uk) or Sarah Amsler (s.s.amsler@lse.ac.uk).

Schedule of Praxis meetings
Michaelmas term 2002

- All meetings will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in room S202 (Robert McKenzie Room) – tea and biscuits served.
- Readings for each meeting will be available in a marked folder in room S299. There will always be one master copy from which additional copies can be made.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>The PT in Brazil</td>
<td>Joabe Cavalcanti &amp; Sara Motta-Mera</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>Activism in Academia</td>
<td>Jane Mitchell</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>A. Negri’s Empire</td>
<td>Mark Boden</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>D. Harvey’s Spaces of Hope</td>
<td>Sarah Amsler</td>
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<td>December 18</td>
<td>TBA &amp; holiday party</td>
<td>TBA (suggestions welcome)</td>
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Publications, Presentations & Awards

Sarah Amsler recently presented parts of her dissertation research at two conferences. The first, Cambridge University’s annual social anthropology workshop, was a conference on ‘Post-colonialism and post-socialism.’ The second was a CECOB Special Convention in Forli, Italy, on ‘Nationalities, Identities and Regional Cooperation: Compatibilities and Incompatibilities.’ She has also been invited to be a scholar-in-residence at the East-West Center for Research and Intercultural Dialogue at the American University in Kyrgyzstan in 2003, and has been awarded a combined research and language study grant from the American Councils for International Education.


Mahmood Delkhasteh & Sarah Amsler recently translated an article entitled ‘Human Rights and Democracy’ from Persian into English for the forthcoming edition of the Journal of Iranian Research and Analysis (a publication of the Center of Iranian Research and Analysis at Quinnipiac University, Connecticut). Those interested in more information can contact Mahmood at m.delkhasteh@lse.ac.uk.

Recently awarded PhDs in Sociology

Dr. Martina Klett-Davies, February 2002. Lone mothering in Britain and Germany: Balancing choices and constraints.


Cumberland Lodge 2003  (January 24-26)

Boundaries of Belonging: Continuity and Change in Modern Identity

Every year, the sociology department sponsors a weekend retreat for discussion, debate, and relaxation. This year’s theme is ‘Boundaries of Belonging: Continuity and Change in Modern Identity,’ and will include speakers such as Ulrich Beck. The schedule is still tentative, however, themes to be covered may include: changing notions of citizenship and belonging, migration and immigration, minorities, social movements, localism and globalism, new internationalisms and nationalisms, the rise of the far right, and social inclusion and exclusion post-9/11.

Faculty and fellows who are interested in participating in the Weekend School, or who have suggestions for topics and activities, please contact Sarah Amsler as soon as possible (s.s.amsler@lse.ac.uk). Registration will begin after a full announcement is sent in late November.

Accessing the Outlook Public Folders

Access to the ‘Public Folders’ referred to in various sections of this newsletter is available to all LSE faculty, staff, and students who use Microsoft Outlook for their email. The Public Folders are located, along with your personal folders, on the left-hand side of the Outlook screen. Public folders for specific classes can be found within the public folder for the appropriate department.

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