

## Meeting 6

### **An ethnography of advice: between market, society and the declining welfare state**

**LSA meeting, Mexico City, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

*Ethnographies of Advice: Between Market, Law and the Declining Welfare State*

Tuesday Session 4, 2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Paper Session

Chair/Disc.: Insa Koch, London School of Economics

Description:

Across the Euro-American world, conditions of continuing economic crisis are reshaping assumptions about, and legal frameworks of, who receives assistance and who funds and arranges it. As the state's role is being eroded, new actors and social movements are stepping in to supplement traditional arrangements of advice. This panel ethnographically investigates the roles assumed by bureaucrats, intermediaries and selfhelp groups, who are increasingly important in the advice encounter between vulnerable citizens, the market and the state. Particular attention will be given to the areas of housing, debt and immigration advice (both within and beyond particular institutional settings), as well as law courts where litigants are engaging in self-representation in light of on-going cuts to the legal aid budget. While the panel's main focus is on the UK, it relies on cross-national comparisons to develop a critical perspective on the 'state of the welfare state' in the contemporary moment.

Primary Keyword: Access to Justice

Secondary Keyword: Ethnography

Presentations:

"Ser Cañeros o negociar?" Legal activism in Madrid

Ana Gutierrez Garza, LSE

The changing roles of state, charity and commerce in resourcing social welfare legal advice: the case of debt advice in the UK

Ryan Davey, LSE

What "Good" is Free Legal Advice? Ethnographic Insights into the Provision of Legal advice and Legal Aid in the Swiss Asylum System

Tobias Eule, University of Bern and LSE

"Payments" or Profit: Debt Advice in the UK

Deborah James, LSE