

The Sociology Department @ Essex

25TH ANNIVERSARY GRADUATE CONFERENCE

22-23 February
2012



The White Lion Hotel
Aldeburgh, Suffolk

Conference Schedule 2012

WEDNESDAY 22ND

10.15 – 11.00 ARRIVAL, CHECK-IN & TEA/COFFEE at White Lion Hotel

11.00 – 11.15 WELCOME – Eamonn Carrabine (Head of Department)

11.15 – 12.45 – 1st SESSION (Chair: Daniel Holman)

PANEL: Crime between visibility and invisibility

Gulzat Botoeva - Motivations and Neutralizations of drug producers in Kyrgyzstan.

Anna Sergi - 'From San Luca with love: the local dimension of the most powerful Italian Mafia'

Kofi Addo - An Exploratory Study: The Effects of Corruption on Public Confidence and Legitimacy in the Ghana Police Service

12.45 - 2.00 LUNCH

2.00 – 3.45 - 2nd SESSION (Chair: Richard Davis)

PANEL: Everything you always wanted to know about social sciences data collection (but were afraid to ask)

Lorena Zambrano Barrera - Accessing archived qualitative data for secondary analysis

Nick Allum - Religion, Science and Item Characteristic Curves: Reflections on the Recent Controversy over the Measurement of Science Literacy in America

Allan Hildon – The Quest for Corvo – Allan Hildon

Hazel Pettifor - Inductive or deductive, the challenges of situating a study involving secondary quantitative data

3.45 – 4.00 TEA /COFFEE

4.00 – 5.00 - 3rd SESSION

READING GROUPS (*Student-only session*).

The current political moment: crisis and protest

3 reading groups, based upon readings voted upon, selected and distributed in advance. Students will be invited to sign up in advance to one of the three groups

5.00-6.00 - 4th SESSION (Chair: Lynne Pettinger)

Visual representations of work in the department:

1-SLIDE-1-MINUTE

This session invites ALL conference participants who haven't presented elsewhere to submit a SLIDE on their research (or research interests) and speak to it briefly in turn.

POSTERS

Sean Meleady - Sport and Social Class: participation and culture

Simona Szakacs - Europeanization in the Romanian school

6-7.30 pm FREE TIME, 7.30-9 pm DINNER, 9-12 ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY 23RD

7.30 - 9.45 am BREAKFAST

9.45 - 11.00 am Free time – a walk with Ted and Sean (bring your binoculars!)
or browse lovely Aldeburgh.

11.00-12.45 - 5th SESSION (Chair: Franka Welz)

PANEL: The life and times of a sociology department

Celebrating a 25th anniversary and looking forwards to a 50th

Ken Plummer, Joan Busfield, Ted Benton and John Scott reflect on the history of our department and our conference.

12.45 Searching for Essex Sociology (PowerPoint)

12.55 Champagne reception

1.00 - 2.15 LUNCH

2.15 - 4.00 6th SESSION (Chair: Thomas Sealy)

Migrants and the place: perceptions, integration and transnational engagements

Giacomo Orsini (and Silvia Schiavon) – Becoming border. Dynamics and effects of the building of the European external border in a recently accessed EU member state: the Malta case study.

Nephat Shumba - Occupational Deskilling of Immigrants in the UK Labour Market (chapter one: preliminary results)

Elmas Alparslan - Media's effect upon intergroup relations

Aysegül Akdemir - Alevi in Diaspora and their Transnational Practices

Alessandra El Hariri - 'Perceiving the UK': an Exploration of Refugees 'Strategies'

4.00 Concluding thoughts with TEA /COFFEE

4.15 Departure

Abstracts



1st Session: Crime between visibility and invisibility (Chair: Daniel Holman)

Motivations and Neutralizations of drug producers in Kyrgyzstan - Gulzat Botoeva

My presentation is about motivations of making hashish, and justifications and neutralizations of drug production by local farmers in one of the mountainous regions of Kyrgyzstan. I will be looking at the nature of motivations of hashish making while also exploring the ways farmers neutralize and justify their involvement in the illegal activities. It is part of my research conducted in Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan during 2009 and 2010. I used mixed method approach to data collection and lived in the region for 6 months, where I was able to collect 60 semi-structured interviews and conduct a survey of the village with 247 households.

'From San Luca with love: the local dimension of the most powerful Italian Mafia' - Anna Sergi

This paper is a narration of a short trip I have done in the hinterland of Calabria, a region in the South of Italy that is the birthplace of what today is known to be the most powerful Italian Mafia, the 'Ndrangheta. The 'Ndrangheta is known today for its 'liquidity' in the financial sector, for its conquests of, and transplantations in, various territories inside and outside Italy, being the organisation which, among other things, deals with virtually all the cocaine trafficking in Europe.

I have been looking at the local side of the 'Ndrangheta, to the small anonymous and poor villages where the story has begun and still continues, those disadvantaged lands of a region which is afflicted by mafia powers and cannot grow. This paper, by showing the steps of my trip, shall aim to sustain that the power of the 'Ndrangheta, before the huge amounts of money, before the political power, before the incredible international connections, still lies in the inaccessible mountains of Calabria, where the story of this organisation is deeply rooted and still echoes.

An Exploratory Study: The Effects of Corruption on Public Confidence and Legitimacy in the Ghana Police Service Kofi Addo

Since Tyler (1990) published his seminal work *Why People Obey the Law*, legitimacy and confidence in the criminal justice system has become an important concept in criminological analysis. Various studies have sought to clarify the meaning of legitimacy (Bottoms & Tankebe 2008; Mawby 2002) and to examine the factors that influence public perceptions of police legitimacy and confidence. On the latter, many studies have discovered the importance of procedural justice, distributive justice and effectiveness of legal institutions (Sunshine & Tyler 2003; Reisig & Lloyd 2009). What remains under-researched however, is the effects of corruption on public confidence and state legitimacy. An important exception is Tankebe's (2010a) study. Yet Tankebe bases his study on a simple distinction between direct and indirect experiences of public corruption with the police. This overlooks the fact that there could be different types of direct and vicarious experiences (e.g. negative and positive experiences), with different effects on confidence and legitimacy. This proposed study seeks to address these issues by examining the effects



2nd Session: Everything you always wanted to know about social sciences data collection (but were afraid to ask) (Chair: Richard Davis)

Accessing archived qualitative data for secondary analysis - Lorena Zambrano Barrera

Secondary analysis of qualitative data is becoming a much easier practice for social science researchers given the growing number of datasets available from repositories such as ESDS Qualidata. This presentation will outline the benefits of reusing archived resources and how this helps the creation of some contemporary work showing examples of case studies of recent funded ESRC projects. Examples will be drawn from Holloway and Jefferson's study *Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime*, 1995; O'Reilly's *British Migrants in Spain: the Extent and Nature of Social Integration, 2003-2005*; Eschles *Making Feminist Sense of 'the Anti-Globalisation Movement'*, 2004-2005; and Townsends, *The Last Refuge*.

Religion, Science and Item Characteristic Curves: Reflections on the Recent Controversy over the Measurement of Science Literacy in America - Nick Allum

In Autumn 2010 I was invited by the US National Science Board to join a small group of survey researchers, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists for a meeting in Arlington, Virginia. Earlier that year, the presidentially appointed board had drawn flak for removing an assessment of the public's knowledge of evolution and the big bang from the 2010 National Science and Engineering Indicators, a biennial report on the global state of science. The board explained that it had dropped the draft text because of flaws in the evolution and big bang questions. Critics alleged that the omission instead was intended to hide the fact that a majority of Americans do not accept evolution or the big bang. Our group's task was to help inform the board's response to these criticisms by evaluating the conceptual and statistical properties of the survey items in question and to make recommendations for how best to measure the American public's scientific knowledge in the future. In this talk, I briefly describe the events leading up to the meeting and explain how we approached the tasks of evaluating the survey questions and making our recommendations.

The Quest for Corvo -Allan Hildon

In 1934 A.J.A. Symons published a biography of Frederick Rolfe which challenged conventional conceptions of biography as it revealed as much about the author and the era in which he lived as it revealed about his illustrious subject. This presentation will examine the sources of data which are potentially useful for historians and biographers, and, using a case study to illustrate the process of historical research, attempt to illustrate the inter-relationship between historical, sociological, and philosophical traditions in our attempts to understand the past and the present.

Inductive or deductive, the challenges of situating a study involving secondary quantitative data - Hazel Pettifor

In this presentation I reflect on my own experiences of working with secondary quantitative data, in particular the challenges this presents to pure deductive logic. Using my own work on sustainable behaviour I argue that similar to the qualitative researcher often the quantitative researcher has to take



6th Session: Migrants and the place: perceptions, integration and transnational engagements (Chair: Thomas Sealy)

Europe from its borders: Citizenship, Migration and the perception of Europe in Europe's Distant Islands. The Lampedusa and the Canary Islands case studies - Giacomo Orsini

At the very core of the building of the European citizenship resides the construction of the Schengen space of free movement of people: to the dismantling of EU internal borders corresponds the construction of a European external boundary progressively broadened with the enlargement of the EU. In this context, Lampedusa and the Canary Islands - located at the very margins of two EU member state such as Spain and Italy - became part of this European external boundary. As one of the most visible and locally sensitive consequences, since the late 1990s both islands became the destination of thousands of boat-migrants coming from the coasts of North and West Africa. Due in particular to significant media and political attention, these arrivals turned into the core issue of local EU-related discussions. In this frame, this investigation will develop at two levels: firstly it will look to whether and how becoming a part of the European external border determines a dramatic growth of the migratory flows reaching the islands; secondly, it will analyse how these changes affected locals daily lives and their perception of becoming EU citizens. In practice, this will be done by reconstructing the main events characterizing the migration-related recent history of these islands, and by analysing the implications that those transformations determine on the local perception of European citizenry. This will be investigated by focusing local fishermen: indeed, being their activity strictly regulated by the European Fishery policy, they represent a core local economic sector and the main target of European funding in the islands. In particular, fishermen are expected to have a more articulated perception of European citizenship because of their plural set of relations with the European Union.

Occupational Deskilling of Immigrants in the UK Labour Market (chapter one: preliminary results) - Nephath Shumba

The presentation incorporates the British National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) system of classifying occupations to calculate relative risk ratios (rrr) of occupational deskilling of immigrants human capital in the UK labour Market. Distinguishing between white and non-white, I provide a multinomial logit analysis of immigrants' human capital transfer into three discrete categories of the UK labour market: i.e. professional and highly technical occupations; skilled occupations (both manual and non-manual); and deskilling miscellaneous occupations. Preliminary results show that for Caribbean relative to white immigrants, the relative risk ratio of engaging in deskilling miscellaneous occupations relative to highly skilled occupations is expected to rise by a factor of 0.76 in the UK labour market, given that other predictors in the model are held constant. However if immigrants were to increase their degree qualifications by one point, the multinomial log odds for engaging in deskilling occupations would be expected to decrease by 0.47 holding other predictors in the model stationary.

Media effect upon intergroup relations - Elmas Alparslan

It is well known, that immigrants, refugees etc. in almost every country, are portrayed in the media in a negative manner. Crime, disease, over-alienation, threat to the national identity, security and last but not least terrorism are associated with the image of immigrants. Most of the scholars are common, that this is a strategy, to justify the outcomes of restrictive immigration and asylum policies. But beside this, these negative stereotypes defined as a distorted image of the reality, are conveyed by the media and affect the intergroup relations among the majority and the minority groups. People rely on second-hand information by the media, as they have little contact to minority groups. Stereotypes are easy to create, but difficult to change; which leads also to prejudice and discrimination. Thus the media plays an important role, as an intermediate in intergroup relations. This study will examine the negative portrayal of immigrants and their effect on intergroup relations.

Alevis in Diaspora and their Transnational Practices - Aysegl Akdemir

Transnationalism is an important concept in understanding immigrants complex relations with their sending and receiving countries. Among the immigrants from Turkey to European countries there are many Alevis as well. The non recognition of Alevis in Turkey is a central problem for the Alevis in Turkey and in diaspora. In this framework it is important to study the literature on Alevis transnational practices in Europe, discuss major issues and determine the gaps in the literature. In this presentation I will argue that due to their minority status in Turkey, Alevis constitute an interesting immigrant group in Europe and the study of their transnational activities contributes to the study of transnationalism. I will deal with Alevis transnational practices in three categories; the social and cultural, political and economic transnational practices and lastly I will focus on media and communication technologies that facilitate these bonds.

Perceiving the UK: an Exploration of Refugees Strategies - Alessandra El Hariri

This presentation aims at exploring how asylum-seekers strategize their moves and treat perceptions on immigration and asylum policies implemented by the United Kingdom as one of the relevant factors. In particular, it focuses on the individual the asylum-seeker/refugee as an agent and aims at exploring how s/he interacts with the structure created by the UK asylum policies in order to overcome obstacles that are posed by the system. Through qualitative semi structured interviews with Kurdish refugees from Turkey, Zimbabwean refugees, as well as with organizations and lawyers, this study demonstrates that perceptions have in some cases formed an important influence in individual's agency in coping with the asylum process. In particular, I will argue that their perceptions of the UK are shaped before their flight in different ways according to the transnational engagements of the first wave of migrants or colonial links with the UK. Moreover, the constant changes in asylum policies in the 1990s created the context (structure) in which refugees were encourage to lie in order to fortify their claims, or hide their refugee status from individuals from host society's members. Finally, I will argue that refugees that had a strong support network generally coped better than those who where scattered and alone.

