

WINTER 2012



Image of Thames Festival © Mike Leary

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Welcome! Yvette Taylor, Head of the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! Again, the Centre has produced an exciting range of seminars, conferences and postgraduate workshops across the three research groups of Families and Social Capital; Crime and Criminal Justice; and International Development, Emergencies and Refugee Studies (IDEARS). The Weeks Centre includes over 40 academics and regularly hosts International Visiting Fellows (see www.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/research/weeks.shtml): we welcome Dr Tam Sanger and Dr Asifa Siraj in this issue and celebrate our international partnerships with the Institute for Research on Women (IRW) where I held my Fulbright Distinguished Scholar's award (2010-11). Read about grant successes, publications, forthcoming events, new MA degrees and PhD student Jaya Gajparia's forthcoming fieldwork in India, as we explore, extend and even contend the global-local reach of the Centre more generally. Congratulations to Dr Tracey Reynolds on her 'Super Sociologist' status as expert on mobilities, transnational families, race & ethnicity and committed 'public sociologist'!

Amongst this year's busy activities so far was the well received 'Coalitions, Collisions and Riotous Subjects: The Riots One Year On' conference (September 2012,) organised by myself and colleagues at IPSE, inspired by an initial think-piece written on the BSA's Sociology and the Cuts blog (sociologyandthecuts.wordpress.com/2012/01/17/failed-femininities-and-troubled-mothers-gender-and-the-riots-by-kim-allen-and-yvette-taylor/). As well as celebrating a forthcoming Special Issue (*Sociological Research Online*) and an edited collection (in Routledge's *Advances in Critical Diversities* Series) from conference proceedings, I am pleased to say that the initial blog is now reworked as a full publication in *Studies in the Maternal*. ESRC postdoc Dr Francesca Stella co-organised the ESRC funded event 'Queer Sexualities, Nationalism and Racism in the New Europe' on 19th October 2012: read about her future plans and continued links in and through the Weeks Centre. See also the new two year ESRC 'Critical Diversities' seminar series – and the BSA-Families study group activities, including the exciting February day conference organised by Dr Emma Casey of Kingston University and myself. This brings together two study groups and pro-actively responds to the BSA's call to work collaboratively – rather than competitively – across institutions.

During the summer I had the pleasure of taking up a Visiting Fellowship (sponsored by the Freilich Foundation) at the Australian National University – look out for more on that in our Spring Issue but in the meantime view initial blog postings inspired by being 'distant' from UK academia, culture... and climate, on the Weeks Centre blog: weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/2012/07/02/in-process-asylum-arrival-academia/ My fantastic colleague, Dr Mike Leary, has provided the cover image, offering a glimpse of our (post)Olympic South Bank. I hope you enjoy this newsletter!



Please visit the Weeks Centre blog at: weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/
And follow us on Twitter at: @WeeksCentre
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Breaking News...

The Weeks Centre welcomes three new visiting scholars: **Dr Asifa Siraj** from Glasgow, **Francesca Ruisi** from Palermo and **Dr Tam Sanger** from The Open University.

Nicola Horsley has been appointed as post-doctoral Research Fellow on Prof. **Val Gillies** and Prof. **Ros Edwards'** new project, researching the use of brain science in policy on early interventions, funded by the Faraday Institute.

Dr Shaminder Takhar's new book, *Gender, Ethnicity and Political Agency: South Asian Women Organizing*, will be published by Routledge next spring.

Dr Francesca Stella headed a team that put on the stimulating conference, 'Queer sexualities, nationalism and racism in the new Europe' in October, funded by ESRC. Read her blog post at weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/2012/10/08/queer-sexualities-conference-some-preliminary-thoughts/

Dr Antoine Rogers co-ordinated the post-conference BYOB (Bring Your Own Blackness) event, which combined discussion, story telling and poetry.

Dr Hugh Atkinson took part in a residential workshop in Uganda in October for African Commonwealth scholars as part of

the postgraduate Education for Sustainability programme at LSBU.

Dr Caitriona Beaumont's paper 'The Myth of the 1950s Housewife: Voluntary women's organisations and the challenge to idealised domesticity in post war Britain' will be published in 2014. You can listen to a pod-cast of this paper by visiting: www.history.ac.uk/podcasts/voluntary-action-history/2010-12-06-Caitriona-Beaumont

Visiting scholar to LSBU's Centre for International Business Studies, **Dr Sara Moreno**, gave a talk about her work on the 'crisis of care' to the Families and Social Capital research group's October meeting.

Weeks Centre Innovates with Digital Social Research



Nicola Horsley will be helping to expand the Centre's use of digital methods

After a successful bid to the Digital Social Research Community Activities funding scheme, part of the ESRC's e-Social Science programme, Yvette Taylor, Nicola Horsley and Yvonne Robinson will be building on the Centre's use of digital research methods to deliver an exciting programme of events.

The Digital Social Research scheme was established to

develop and promote the use of digital tools, techniques and practices to benefit social science research, and to maximise the adoption and impact of new digital technologies across the social science community.

The Weeks Centre has embraced digital media, establishing a blog (weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/) and

Twitter presence (@WeeksCentre) in 2012, and the team working on this small-scale project are keen to extend the Centre's capacity to reach out to an interdisciplinary audience through new media in 2013. Look out for details of events in the spring term.



Reflections on the Riots, One Year On

On 28th September, the Weeks Centre proudly hosted a stimulating conference on the theme of 'Collisions, Coalitions and Riotous Subjects: the riots one year on', in collaboration with colleagues at IPSE.

Prof. Yvette Taylor welcomed the delegates with the story of the distillation of an hour's conversation into a sound-bite that appeared on the Times Higher Education website and considered what might be lost or gained by the reduction of ideas to measured forms. A sense of scale and balance came to characterise the day's discussions, with Ken Roberts' question of "why don't (some) people riot?" answered from a number of perspectives.

Prof. Les Back cited young people making "a calculation about what they had to lose" as evidence of a tangible metric that governed those who opted out of riotous behaviour. This point was later taken up by author Owen Jones in his comment that rioters' diffuse individual motivations were brought together by having "no secure future to risk". Film maker Teddy Nygh argued that frayed police relations "build up to a boiling point" and Nicola Horsley problematised the promotion of

young people's sense of agency in such a context. Prof. Val Gilles went on to highlight increasingly punitive practices in schools that position young people as a 'threat'.

As chair of one of the day's panel sessions, Dr Marisa Silvestri welcomed the mix of academics from a range of disciplines, social commentators, voluntary sector workers, film makers and playwrights; whose contributions, positions and backgrounds afforded "a much needed and refreshing extension of the criminological gaze that has dominated much of the discourse thus far. A whirlwind of reflections, of positions, of standpoints, of evidential bases, each in turn achieved through differing

methodologies and all seeking to unpick official characterisations of the riots as that of simply 'mindless criminality'; and this they did".

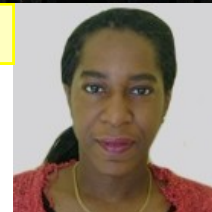
Reflecting on his youthful experience of rioting, Dr Antoine Rogers commented that understanding "the power of social, racial, gendered and spatial positioning" through "intellectual discourse and social science investigations" offers insight into behaviour that "at times may seem to lack understanding".

Read Yvette, Nicola, Marisa and Antoine's blog posts on the riots conference at: weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com



Weeks Expert is 'Super Sociologist'

In August 2012 Dr Tracey Reynolds was awarded the status of '**Sociology Super Author**' by Routledge publishers for her contribution to the field of Sociology and publications in international peer-reviewed journals. Tracey's work focuses on the areas of the family, community, parenting, young people, gender, and racial identities within black and minority ethnic and migrant communities. Read her work at: lsbu.academia.edu/TraceyReynolds



Tracey Reynolds

Introducing... the Crime and Criminal Justice Research Group

The Weeks Centre's Crime and Criminal Justice Research Group (CCJRG) has developed a strong national and international reputation for delivering high quality research across a broad range of areas, including: Policing; Drugs and Crime; Green Criminology; Prostitution, Trafficking; Women Offenders; Anti-Social Behaviour; Deviant Lifestyles; Football Violence; Alcohol-related crime; and Youth Crime.

The Group is driven by a commitment to developing policy and practice understandings of crime and criminal justice, the results of which have real-life impact for practitioners and those who engage with the criminal justice system. Members have worked with a broad range of government agencies, including the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (Ministry of Justice); Government Office for London; the Scottish Executive; Northern Ireland Office and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission—as well as working with various local authorities and a range of voluntary agencies.

CCJRG's current work includes:



Group leader **Dr Marisa Silvestri**'s new project in collaboration with colleagues at the LSE: an analysis of a large data set of 3500 policewomen surveyed on behalf of the Police Federation and the Independent Commission into the Future of Policing. The survey examined flexible working, career issues, risk, and the physical working environment of women police officers. This project builds on Marisa's extensive work on women in policing, which was recognised with an invitation to give evidence to the *Independent Police Commission*; an independent inquiry focusing on the future of policing in England and Wales. Marisa delivered evidence to further understanding of the role and responsibilities of women in policing on 2nd October 2012. For more details see independentpolicecommission.org.uk/ Building on CCJRG's commitment to developing links with practitioners working in criminal justice, Marisa was recently invited to take part in discussions on the role of academic research as part of the Mayor of London's Project Oracle: Youth Evidence Hub. Project Oracle offers a unique opportunity to support London-based provider organisations in developing their evaluation work.

Dr Gary Potter's latest book chapter was written with one of CCJRG's former students. Gary and Aleksandra Osiniagova's contribution to *The Meaning of High* (see page 9) explores the complex relationship between drug use and crime. Gary has also recently delivered two conference papers: 'Social Supply and Hard Drug Markets', ESSD 23rd annual conference, 4th-6th October 2012, Athens; and 'Mainstreaming Green Criminology', Environmental Harm and its Victims Conference, 17th-18th September 2012, Delft University of Technology. As a member of the International Green Criminology Working Group, Gary is also busy developing the greencriminology.org/ website (see page 12).

Helen Easton held a roundtable event at LSBU this summer, where she presented the findings of her recent evaluation of *The Chrysalis Project* to a range of stakeholders. The project began in April 2009 and provides a resettlement programme for women wanting to exit prostitution. Initial indications from the evaluation confirm that this structured programme of housing and support is having a positive impact on a traditionally chaotic client group (www.commonwealhousing.org.uk/pages/chrysalis.html).

Dr Kerry Baker has been advising the Youth Justice Board on the development of a new assessment framework for use by Youth Offending Teams and secure establishments across England and Wales. If implemented, this will represent a significant development in approaches to the assessment of young offenders with the inclusion of new theoretical perspectives on desistance from offending and a greater emphasis on practitioners' skills and professional decision-making.



Marisa chaired a session at the 'Riots One Year On' Conference



THE BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
SOCIOLOGISTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

bsa

British Sociological Association

Call for Papers

A Combined Meeting of the Families and Relationships and
Leisure and Recreation Study Groups

Friday 1 February 2013, Imperial Wharf, BSA Offices, London

Intimacies, Families and Practices of Consumption

Sociologists have increasingly explored the home as space for the display of goods which might signify 'value' (Skeggs, 1997) but relatively little has been made of 'emotional capital' (Reay, 2008; Gillies, 2007) and ways in which emotions intersect with cultural and economic forms of exchange. Drawing on earlier work unpicking the relationships between domestic life and consumption (eg. Casey and Martens, 2007) and everyday spaces for the pursuit of intersections of class, gender and sexualities (eg. Taylor, 2010) the Study Group will facilitate a space for the continued study of at-home leisure and consumption, a comprehensive study of which we argue necessitates an examination of the role of emotions, feeling and experience and crucially, intimacy. We want to encourage new ways of thinking about consumption patterns, in particular, threats to domestic life within the context of the work-life balance. We invite papers which explore gendered and classed practices, for example via the language of transference and inheritance.

We are particularly interested in receiving abstracts of papers which examine and place emphasis on everyday life and mundane forms of leisure and consumption. For example, we might ask, what specific role do families play in facilitating consumption and leisure and what types of consumption hold value and capital? We are interested in the potential 'risks' underpinning 'at-home' consumption and the role of new digital technologies, for example internet shopping and gambling. Papers might consider how we can understand and research intimacies of everyday life and particularly how the home facilitates pleasure, value and status. They might explore the various ways in which families restrain and control consumption and leisure practice and how particular forms of leisure and consumption affect the wellbeing of families and other inter-personal relationships. We would be particularly interested in receiving abstracts on the following broad themes:

- > Routines and possessions
- > Subjectivities, intersections and their domestic inferences
- > Lifelong investment of domestic and emotional labour in homemaking
- > Threatened / de-valued consumption
- > Austerity and valuelessness
- > Different domesticities
- > Significance of homemaking for identity constitution
- > Neighbourhood and community connections
- > The affective and symbolic materiality of domestic environments
- > Investment in subject-object relations



Val Gillies and Yvette Taylor (pictured at the 'Riots One Year On' conference) coordinate the BSA Families and Relationships study group

Please submit abstracts of 300 words maximum by 30 November 2012 to Dr Emma Casey (e.casey@kingston.ac.uk) and Professor Yvette Taylor (taylor@lsbu.ac.uk)

New Book on Queer Religion

Prof. Yvette Taylor and Dr Ria Snowdon (pictured) are co-editing *Queering Religion, Religious Queers*, to be published in 2014. Their ESRC project 'Making Space for Queer Identifying Religious Youth' has published its third newsletter: queerreligiousoyouth.wordpress.com



New ESRC Seminar Series

Prof. Yvette Taylor (PI) has been awarded an ESRC seminar series (with Dr Sally Hines, Co-I) entitled *Critical Diversities @ the Intersection: Policies, Practices, Perspectives* (2012-2014). The overall aim is to stimulate discussion and critical thinking around the constructions, debates and enduring divisions in 'diversity' as a concept, practice and policy requirement in fostering different 'publics'. Yvette is co-editing a new book series titled *Advances in Critical Diversities*, where proceedings from both the 'Riots' and 'Queer in Europe' conferences will be published.

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Alchemy in the Woods: The IRW Seminar

As we begin a new year of Weeks Centre seminars and gear up for the 25th anniversary of the Women's Workshop, we take a look across the pond and into the woods to find out how our friends at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers bring together scholars from across the State University of New Jersey...

The smell of coffee wafts through the Institute for Research on Women's conference room on a dank, overcast Thursday morning. Although the weather outside inspires sleepiness rather than scholarship, none of the individuals gathered around the large, rectangular table look like they want to go back to bed—far from it. Instead, about twenty people are engaged in intense discussion, finessing the finer points of feminism and Foucault and giving gentle feedback to a colleague who has presented a draft of her dissertation chapter to the group. This is the IRW seminar, a Rutgers University fixture for the last 15 years, and a unique antidote to intellectual isolation on a large urban campus.

A Ford Foundation grant acquired through Rutgers' Institute for Women's Leadership helped launch the IRW seminar in 1997. "We create a vibrant, safe interdisciplinary community where feminist scholars who work on women, gender and sexuality can learn and grow together," says IRW Associate Director Sarah Tobias. This is no small feat at a university the size of Rutgers, with almost 60,000 students and 7,000 faculty spread over three cities and multiple campuses. People travel from throughout New Jersey and beyond to attend the seminar, which is housed in a cabin-like structure in the woods of the university's flagship campus.

Open to advanced graduate students as well as to faculty and visiting scholars, over the last two years the IRW seminar has attracted participants from over 18 different departments and 13 different countries, creating a lively mix of voices at the table. Participants gather weekly during the academic year to present their work-in-progress—most often a journal article, a dissertation chapter or a book proposal—and receive constructive criticism from their peers. It's a formula that works. Those who have been through the seminar often wax effusively about their experiences. "Warm, collegial, insightful, equitable, supportive, the list goes on and on," says a member of last year's seminar. "I left the seminar every week feeling energized and

excited to continue my own research."

One of the seminar's distinctive features is its connection to an annual theme, this year "Trans Studies: Beyond Hetero/Homonormativities." Previous themes have included "Gendered Agency," "Health and Bodies," and "The Art and Science of Happiness." "Trans Studies destabilizes and complicates many of the debates about the social, biological and cultural constructions of gender and sexuality," says IRW Director Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, noting that such dissonances also "create new ways to think about bodily difference and power."

In addition to the seminar, the IRW's Distinguished Lecture Series, undergraduate learning community and spring colloquium are also linked to the annual theme. The colloquium is an especially ambitious project, bringing together activists and academics to deepen the relationship between scholarship and public policy. But the seminar is the IRW's heart and soul. Conversations in the conference room spill over to the lunch table and beyond. Ideas are fertilized. Projects are hatched. Collaborations are launched. "It's a really generative process," says Tobias, "Mix. Stir. Create. It's like alchemy."

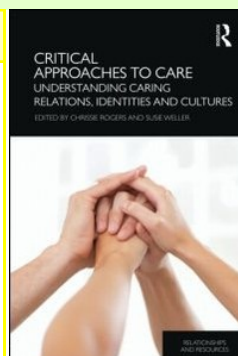
irw.rutgers.edu/



An IRW seminar. IRW is one of the Weeks Centre's International partners. Yvette Taylor, head of the Weeks Centre, enjoyed seminars on the theme of 'happiness' during her time at Rutgers as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar (2010-11).

Twenty-five Years of the Women's Workshop

Members of the Women's Workshop have met monthly at LSBU for twenty-five years. Incorporating academics from up to twenty institutions across the country, the research group has a particular interest in the topics of family, relationships and households, and the Weeks Centre's Families and Social Capital Group has acted as a hub for the Workshop for the last twelve years. To date the workshop has produced a journal special issue and four edited book collections. Weeks Centre members of the Workshop, including Prof. Val Gillies, Dr Susie Weller and Nicola Horsley, will be marking the occasion in early 2013, when the Centre will host a seminar that will also launch the book *Critical Approaches to Care: Understanding Caring Relations, Identities and Cultures*, co-edited by Susie.



Looking to Study Gender and Sexuality in 2013?

The Weeks Centre continues to build upon its long-standing tradition of innovation in the study of sexualities and gender with the new MA in Gender and Sexuality. The MA is designed for those who wish to pursue careers within research, higher education, governments, non-governmental organisations, international agencies, public and private organisations and enterprises.

Prof. Yvette Taylor, an internationally renowned expert in the field, leads the programme. Her experiences of Economic and Social Research Council, British Academy and Fulbright research projects, and scholarships in the USA, Canada and Australia, feed into the international orientation and research-led basis of the MA. All teaching staff have published work on gender and sexuality and are well known in their respective fields, with considerable

experience of teaching and conducting research utilising a range of interdisciplinary, innovative methodologies and consolidating links with non-academic bodies.

Modules include: Understanding Sexuality and Gender Across Time and Place; Feminist Perspectives on Gender and Sex; Intersectional Contexts: Lived Experiences, Methodological Approaches; and Genders and Sexualities in the Media (see: www.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/research/weeks.shtml).

Yvette will also be presenting 'The Here and There and Now and Then of Gender Studies' at the forthcoming BSA Gender Study Group conference (see: weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/2012/07/09/the-here-and-there-then-and-now-of-gender-studies-crisis-competition-and-claiming-space/).

NEWS IN BRIEF

On 17th -18th May 2012 Dr Francesca Stella, Prof. Yvette Taylor and Dr Nadya Nartova (Centre for Youth Studies, Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg, Russia) participated in a panel session at the CRCEES Research Forum, hosted by the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies at the University of Glasgow. The panel session explored the themes of sexual citizenship, sexual politics and experiences of LGBT communities in different European contexts, including Russia and Britain.

Dr Chamion Cabellero gave a talk in July at People in Harmony's 40th Anniversary Conference on the 'ordinariness of mixedness in British life'. www.pih.org.uk/news/events/pih-2012-agm-annual-conference-event

Moving on but not Quite Leaving

After completing her ESRC funded postdoctoral project at the Weeks Centre, Dr Francesca Stella will start a new post as Lord Kelving/Adam Smith Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow...

To my delight, I was recently appointed to a three year research Fellowship at the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow, a position which I will start in January 2013 after completing my current post at the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research.

When I told a colleague, she congratulated me and added, laughing, that no-one really leaves the Weeks Centre for good, and that she hopes I will continue to be involved in the extended 'family' of researchers that gravitates around the Weeks Centre. This pretty much sums things up: I feel very fortunate to have spent a year in such a dynamic research environment, and to have worked with great and inspired colleagues. I am taking a lot of really a

valuable experience with me, and my plans for the future include continued collaborations with staff at the Centre.

Organising the one-day conference 'Queer Sexualities, Nationalism and Racism in the new Europe' has been a very rewarding experience. The conference proceedings will be published in a book co-edited with Professor Yvette Taylor, Dr Antoine Rogers and Dr Tracey Reynolds, which will appear in the new Routledge 'Critical Diversities' series.

I am currently working on an ESRC joint research bid with Professor Yvette Taylor and other colleagues at Manchester Metropolitan University, which will be looking at the contradictory aspects of gentrification and cosmopolitanism in different urban locations and spaces.

My time at the Weeks Centre has also allowed time and thinking space to start working on my monograph 'Lesbian and bisexual lives in Soviet and post-Soviet

Russia', which has been contracted by Palgrave and will be published in 2013. The monograph draws on ethnographic and oral history work, and explores how lesbian and bisexual women's gendered and sexual selves are negotiated, collectively and individually, in and through space. The book situates women's narratives within their specific historical and geographical settings, and it attends to generational differences and inter-regional variation; through a comparison of women's experiences in the different urban settings of Moscow and provincial Ul'yanovsk.

Francesca Stella



Facing Challenges of the Researcher's Identity in Mumbai



Weeks Centre PhD student Jaya Gajparia discusses her experience of the researchers' identity crisis

My choice of PhD research topic was naïvely fuelled by my sincere desire to 'make a difference'. Although very wary of interventionist development practices, I felt I could find a way to research the persistence and continuation of female poverty in Mumbai, India, that would benefit participants.

In all honesty, I do not think my PhD will make a difference to the women and girls I am soon to engage with in my fieldwork; this I am currently coming to terms with. One comfort came in the form of a conference I recently attended on reflexive field research in development contexts. I listened to established professors speak honestly about their battle with this idea of 'making a difference' through their research. To them, as for me, it is clear that a difference can be made – maybe not directly to those they engage with in their field research or the country their studies are based on, but to the students they teach and the new knowledge they create – they make a difference.

I am fast approaching my leave to conduct field research in Mumbai, a booming, fast paced city where the rich leave the poor behind. A city that can be best described as an organised chaos, that will demand your attention, and with which you

will fall hopelessly in and out of love. I have had multiple experiences of Mumbai, including a period of working for a women's organisation and orphanage some years ago. I have worked hard to ensure that I engage with all the 'right' gate keepers, forging new relationships and reigniting old ones before I arrive so I feel as equipped for this project as I possibly can. When I speak of being equipped I also mean (taking interaction as a researcher in a development context very seriously) I do not wish to cause harm or impose myself in any way on the lives of women and girls. So having the support from organisations and individuals who work in this area is very important for me. I am fortunate to have good friends in Mumbai that have worked for women's empowerment for many years and who have put me in touch with scholars like Professor Vibhuti Patel, who has a long and incredibly impressive history of research with Indian women.

Since I commenced my study at the Weeks Centre upon receiving a full LSBU ISSR scholarship last year, I have particularly engaged with feminist debates from the 'West' and from the 'East' (I accept these are very broad generalisations that do not do justice to the complexity in feminist debate). As a result, I have found myself in a very precarious position: where do I, a trainee doctoral researcher, British born diasporic Indian woman fit into these debates? When I say 'fit in', I mean, am I authorised to talk about Mumbai's female poverty epidemic when there are fantastic Indian scholars and activists who really 'get' the problems and have tested interventions, who write and speak the native languages, when I do not? When engaging in research this past year, I have been torn between the feminist debates from my India and from my Britain. I also

feel confused (at the best of times) about how I feel about India's complex relationship with Britain. In a sense I feel like a traitor to my Indian roots for having a life in Britain, the same imperial Britain that ruled India from 1858 to 1947. Although I was not alive to be a part of this history, it is still imprinted on my body, in my culture and in my herstory.

What is comforting to me is that I have two supervisors who come from these two distinct standpoints that I am torn between. On the one hand I have Dr Shaminder Takhar – a diasporic Punjabi Indian woman – and on the other I have Prof. Yvette Taylor – a British born white woman (my intentions here are not to define identities) – and my doctoral training has given me a platform to debate, uncover and research what is important to me. My research is interdisciplinary, and I hope that this short piece illustrates a glimpse of how I weave in and out of different debates in a reflexive manner and the continued personal challenges I must negotiate along the way.



Head of Weeks Centre Joins Sapphormation Speakers

Prof. Yvette Taylor has been invited to speak at the ESRC funded Sapphormation weekend in Manchester to speak to a range of audiences - including a youth group and public panel at Manchester Art Gallery - having been asked for 'unconventional' input into this workshop LGBT event. She will be drawing on

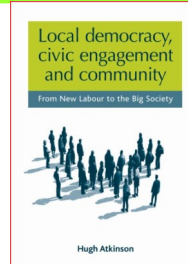
her British Academy funded book *Lesbian and Gay Parenting: Securing Social and Educational Capitals* (2009). See: www.weekscentreforsocialandpolicypolicyresearch.wordpress.com/2012/10/01/problematic-publics-making-space-at-the-academic-table/



Books...

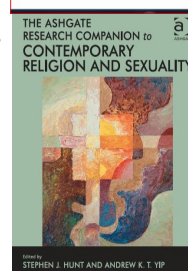
Hugh Atkinson, *Local Democracy, Civic Engagement and Community*

In his latest book, Hugh Atkinson challenges the widespread view that 'local democracy in Britain is in deep trouble' and suggests that reports of the 'death of local democracy' are much exaggerated. Hugh's accessible book focuses on local democratic politics in Britain over the last decade and a half, from the election of the New Labour government right up to the coalition. It includes an analysis of local democracy, civic engagement and participation across a range of policy areas and in the context of debates around accountability, legitimacy, sustainability, localism and the 'big society'. A key argument is that 'a deeper analysis of the evidence points to a much more nuanced and complex political terrain with a wide variety of informal and formal activity at the local level: '[t]o borrow a phrase from Robert Putnam in his highly acclaimed analysis of civic engagement and community in the USA, the local space has a potential and a vibrancy thanks to its cultivation by 'assiduous civic gardeners'. The difficulties of civic engagement and political participation at the local level are real enough but there are rich seams to be mined and clear opportunities to be grasped ...'



Asifa Siraj, 'Looking "In" from the "Outside": The Methodological Challenges of Researching Minority Ethnic Gay Men and Lesbians' (in *The Ashgate Research Companion to Sexuality and Religion*)

Asifa Siraj has become increasingly involved in studies of minority ethnic gay men and lesbians in Scotland and England in the past few years. Her research interest is 'driven by a desire to hear the voices that are largely neither heard nor understood'. She believes this gap in knowledge is partly due to a lack of Muslim female sociologists who engage with the topic. Asifa explains '[o]ne of the features of my studies is my unique place in the research, my heterosexuality, faith and appearance (hijab), inevitably create a number of methodological issues particular to the study of this group . . . My research is a testament to the ability of a heterosexual Muslim woman to carry out research on gay men and lesbian women, however, in order to do so, self-reflection and a commitment to accountability is crucial.'

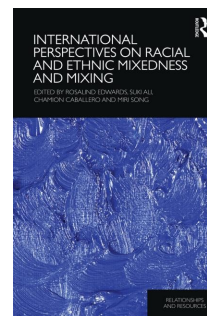


Gary Potter and Aleksandra Osiniagova, "Getting 'high' from crime: perspectives on the drug-crime connection" in *The Meaning of High*

In their chapter for this new collection, Gary Potter and former Weeks Centre student Aleksandra Osiniagova consider the relationship between drug use and crime and theoretical attempts to explain this link. In particular, they explore an aspect of the drugs-crime relationship that has been less well documented in the existing literature: '[m]any of our respondents talked about their involvement in crime in the same language that they talked about their drug use: committing crime would get some individuals 'high' or give them a 'buzz', and some even reported becoming 'addicted' to crime. This suggests that the psychological components of a common aetiology are worthy of further investigation. Ultimately, however, we argue for a rejection of common aetiology approaches to a specific drugs-crime link. Rather, we should recognise that drug use and crime often co-exist alongside a range of other deviant activities. Trying to develop theories that focus specifically on these two elements alone is misplaced, instead we should return to general theories of deviance.'

Rosalind Edwards, Suki Ali, Chamion Cabellero and Miri Song, *International Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Mixing and Mixedness*

Chamion Cabellero and Ros Edwards' co-edited book was published by Routledge in May 2012. The book was the outcome of an ESRC seminar series that took place at LSBU and LSE (<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/research/mixedness/index.html>). It advances debates in the field through illuminating the complexity of specific historical trajectories, administrative practices and lived experience. This volume shows that who is and is not 'mixed' is contested and understandings of mixedness and mixing, however conceived, should be situated in the larger complex of ideas about race and its classification.



Weeks Centre Sociologist Seeks an Answer to the Queen's Question

The Weeks Centre's Matthew Bond was one of the speakers at 'Understanding the financial crisis: sociology, political economy and heterodox economics', held at the British Library on 8th October.

The financial crisis of 2008 is widely understood to have arisen from the de-regulation of financial institutions and the emergence of increasingly complex financial processes as well as a culture of risk associated with high rewards. The crisis took the discipline of economics by surprise leading to the

Queen's question of why there had been a failure to predict it. One response from a seminar organised by the British Academy concluded that it was "principally a failure of the collective imagination of many bright people, both in this country and internationally, to understand the risks to the system as a whole" (media.ft.com/cms/3e3b6ca8-7a08-11de-b86f-00144feabdc0.pdf).

'Understanding the Financial Crisis' sought to be "an exercise in alternative imaginations, both in accounting for the crisis and in providing alternatives".

Challenging Ideas About Disaffection: Changing Education, Changing Futures

Wednesday 21st November 10am – 4pm, London South Bank University, Keyworth Centre

This seminar represents the culmination of the project *Challenging Ideas About Disaffection: Maximising Policy and Practice Impact* which builds on ESRC funded research exploring the experiences of secondary aged pupils at risk of school exclusion (Val Gillies and Yvonne Robinson). The seminar will explore the needs of young people marginalised from education and the challenges of meeting them, and will also mark the launch of the two core outputs from the *Challenging Ideas* project: a policy-directed 'Manifesto for Learning' and a practitioner-directed 'Reflexive Toolkit', produced through a co-ordinated programme of knowledge exchange with range of organisations and young people including Kids Company, Communities Empowerment Network, Serious About Youth, St Mary's School Croydon, Lillian Baylis School and Islington Arts and Media School. Confirmed speakers include:

Dr Rob Berkeley, Director, Runnymede Trust

Dave Stott, Education Consultant and Editor, *Behaviour Matters*

Teddy Nygh, Filmmaker and Director of *Riot from Wrong*, Fully Focused Productions

Duza Stosic, Head of Education, Kids Company

Paulette Douglas, Education Advocate, Communities Empowerment Network

More speakers to be confirmed. The seminar is free but places are limited. To book or for further information, please contact Yvonne Robinson (robinsy2@lsbu.ac.uk).



Yvonne Robinson

Families Group Hosts the Launch of the Mixed Race Timeline as 2012-13 Weeks Centre Seminar Series Gets Underway



Chamion Cabellero and Brad Lincoln spoke at October's Seminar

The Weeks Centre's Families and Social Capital Research Group celebrated Black History Month by inviting Chamion Cabellero and Brad Lincoln to talk about their work in creating the Mix-d: Museum at the first Families Group Seminar of 2012-13. The seminar included the official launch the new Mixed Race Timeline: the UK's first history project to deal specifically with the story of mixed race people, couples and families in Britain.

Currently focusing on the period from 1900 to present day, the Timeline is a rich, interactive, entertaining and information-packed resource. Bursting with fascinating and surprising stories, it unearths a hidden narrative that has only recently begun to be disinterred from the dusty archives of British history. Fascinating stories emerge: mixed race relationships on the Titanic; Marie Stopes recommending that all 'half castes' should be sterilised and Julian Huxley's powerful anti-racist polemic claiming that all Europeans are of mixed race.

The Timeline aims to educate and disseminate knowledge about the lived experiences of racial and ethnic mixing in Britain. The project sourced a huge range of archival material from national and local archives. It included official documents, autobiographical recordings and photo and film material to understand how social perceptions of racial mixing and mixedness have emerged and changed during the twentieth century to date.

Chamion told the seminar: "we had hoped to find some records and personal accounts relating to these families and people, but what we found far exceeded our expectations. The project has helped us to understand more about the experiences of these families and the effect that official attitudes to racial mixing and mixedness had on their lives".

The seminar series continues with a half-day event on 23rd November, in which Weeks Centre speakers Dr Francesca Stella and Nicola Horsley will be joined by Dr Umut Erel from the Open University to discuss citizenship. The schedule confirmed so far also includes talks by:

- Dr Elaine Bauer and Prof. Bob Broad on kinship care (18th December)
- Prof. Yvette Taylor and Prof. Andrew Yip on queer -identifying religious youth (7th February)
- Dr Caitriona Beaumont on histories of the women's movement in Britain (7th March)
- Prof. Janet Holland and Dr Jacqui Gabb on love, intimacy and coupledness (18th April).

Tam Sanger Joins the Weeks Centre as a Visiting Scholar



Dr Tam Sanger has been appointed as a visiting scholar at the Weeks Centre. Tam's research interests broadly lie in the areas of gender, sexuality and intimacy; in particular the ways in which these are governed. She is currently editing *Mapping Identities: Relations, Exchanges, Affects* with Yvette Taylor, and working as a researcher on the Open University's, 'Enduring Love? Couple Relationships in the 21st Century', an ESRC project with which the Weeks Centre is affiliated .

'Enduring Love?' (www8.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/enduringlove/) is a mixed methods study, focusing on the meanings and everyday experiences of long-term relationships. The central question being investigated is 'How do couples experience, understand and sustain the qualities ('connectors') of their long-term relationships?' and Tam is currently carrying out fieldwork in the Manchester area.

Previous research has focused upon the governance

of trans people and their partners through their relations with one another, as well as their other relationships. Foregrounding the voices of research 'participants' and integrating theoretical perspectives with narrative accounts are central components of her work. She has published a sole-authored book, *Trans People's Partnerships: Towards an Ethics of Intimacy* (2010) and an edited book (with Sally Hines), *Transgender Identities: Towards a Social Analysis of Gender Identity* (2010).

Pioneering Legal Advice Model Benefits the Local Community, Law Students and Universities Nationwide

Innovative work is going on in LSBU's Law department, one of the areas whose research activities the Weeks Centre coordinates .

In 2011, LSBU opened a new Legal Advice Clinic where trained law students working under the supervision of practising solicitors provide free, face-to-face legal advice to the general public. Its principal aims were to: establish a legal advice service which would deliver a tangible benefit to the local community; develop students' practical knowledge of the law in context in order to enhance their skills and employability; and provide a basis for developing a teaching and learning resource for other universities.

The Clinic's recent annual report describes the impact it has had on the local community, with 62% of drop-in enquiries resolved on site, enabling clients to take action without the need for further legal advice. The report also details the real

benefits the Clinic has offered LSBU students and other universities. In February 2012, the project was highlighted in the Million+ think tank's report on innovative teaching in modern universities, 'Teaching that Matters', as involving students in a valuable community service while gaining real-world legal experience, developing transferable skills and enhancing their prospects. In April 2012, it won a prestigious LSBU Vice-Chancellor's Enterprising Staff Award for demonstrating enterprise in enhancing the student experience and employability, providing a significant benefit for the local community, and demonstrating a wider significance to other higher education institutions nationwide.

This award recognised work to disseminate the Clinic's innovative drop-in, face-to-face advice model, including presentations to the Higher Education Academy (HEA) Social Sciences Cluster Conference in Liverpool

and the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference in Durham.

This contribution to HE will be furthered with the imminent publication of a HEA funded Drop-in Clinic Operational Manual, which has been developed with the Clinic's student volunteers over the past nine months. This will be freely released as a teaching and learning resource for other institutions who might wish to develop a similar project. It will be published on the HEA website and

distributed nationally by LawWorks.

In February 2013, the Legal Advice Clinic will host a one-day Clinical Legal Education conference on the theme of 'Form and Funding' at which the Clinic's model and manual will be presented and other institutions running innovative clinical projects will be invited to share their work. You can find out more at:

www.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/departments/law/



Street Vending After the Revolution

The December 2011 riots in Tunisia were sparked by the desperation of street vendor, Mohamed Bouazizi, whose set himself on fire after his goods were impounded and he was humiliated by the authorities. This horrific event sparked a public outcry for democratic reform in Tunisia that spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East, precipitating the downfall of President Ben Ali of Tunisia and President Mubarak of Egypt. But will democratic reforms solve street vendors' problems?

In a project funded by the British Academy, Michal Lyons, Professor of Urban Development and Policy and leader of the IDEARS research group at the Weeks Centre, and Alison Brown, Professor of International Planning at Cardiff University, are working with the University of Cairo to answer this question.

The repression of street vending is not unique to Tunisia nor, indeed, to North Africa. Both totalitarian and democratic governments have been antagonistic to the sector, a wide range of laws and regulations makes it difficult to work within the law, and vendors are often subject to harassment and police brutality. At the heart of this contest over

public space is an unspoken belief that the 'untidy' poor and their 'anarchic' occupation of the street have no place in the global city, where state and capitalist power are demonstrated through control of public space and the 'modernization project'.

This research analyses the position of street vendors and their occupation of space in the post-riot cities of Cairo and Tunis, to understand whether a) their trading environment has become less secure due to continued unrest, the return of policing and the redefinition of busy pedestrian routes, or b) regime change, with recognition of the power of public voice and the legitimacy of claims for economic inclusion, has brought a new legitimacy and legality to vending.

This project complements a larger study of the legislation and policing governing public space by exploring a new context (Muslim North Africa), but also examines the change in power relations in a post-conflict environment at a unique moment in the history of Cairo and Tunis. Post-conflict cities where the urban economy has to be rebuilt are perhaps an extreme example of the wider impacts of structural

adjustment and post-neoliberal reform, when a sharp reduction in formal jobs leads to an influx of middle and lower paid workers into micro-enterprises and informal work.

Recently completed fieldwork in Cairo has led to some key findings:

- > Many people have been driven into street vending since the revolution by the collapse of other economic sectors
- > More than ever, both urban and rural family members are dependent on the income of urban street vendors and their remittances
- > Most international and national agencies are well disposed toward the poor and their livelihood problems and are keen to find town planning solutions which can accommodate this key activity
- > At the same time, municipal authorities are reluctant to accommodate vending, wanting to regain control of public space.

Michal and Alison have been invited by the Egyptian Government to host a national conference of all key agencies and municipalities to begin the process of drafting a National Street Vending Policy.

Green Criminologist Introduces Students to Crimes Against the Environment

The emerging field of green criminology is explored in a new film featuring the Weeks Centre's Gary Potter. 'Green Crime: Crimes against the Environment' introduces A-level students to transgressive criminology and the wider concept of harm, and their applications to environmental problems like rainforest destruction and global warming. It looks at how both Marxism and the concept of risk can be applied to crimes against the environment, and investigates the complexities of the implications of economic growth and consumption for goals to curb global warming and deforestation. This provocative learning resource poses the question 'can capitalism be a part of the solution?' and asks whether social pressure rather than laws could be most effective in compelling us to become more 'green'. Find out more about accessing the film at:

www.classroomvideo.co.uk/Product.aspx?id=4962

As a member of the International Green Criminology Working Group (IGCWG), Gary has also been working on developing the greencriminology.org/ website. *The*

Green Criminology Monthly by the IGCWG is an online publication, published the first week of each month. It explores theoretical, historical and legal dimensions, as well as issues of environmental justice, social movements and environmental policy. Features cover contemporary issues and news, including reporting on activism, book reviews and literature reviews. Check out Gary's contribution on 'What is Green Criminology' and his forthcoming blog in November.



Re-visiting the History of Women's Action

The Weeks Centre's Dr Caitriona Beaumont has joined the Committee of the Voluntary Action History Society and is helping to organise its fifth international conference to be held at the University of Huddersfield in (www.vahs.org.uk/events/conference) in July 2013.

Cait's latest book: *Housewives and Citizens: Domesticity and the women's movement in England 1928-64*, which will be published next year, is the fruit of her expert knowledge of the women's movement. The book challenges existing histories that suggest the movement went into decline during the inter-war period, only to be

revived by the emergence of the Women's Liberation Movement in the late 1960s. It is argued that the term 'women's movement' must be revised to allow a broader understanding of female agency encompassing feminist, political, religious and conservative women's groups who campaigned to improve the status of women throughout the twentieth century.

The book provides a radical re-assessment of this period of women's history and in doing so makes a significant contribution to on-going debates about the shape and the impact of the women's movement in twentieth century Britain.

Forthcoming Weeks Centre Conference on Exiting Prostitution: Research, Policy and Practice 23rd November 2012

With an emphasis on developing 'real life' policy and practice understandings of crime and criminal justice, this half day conference will draw together the findings of two recent research projects conducted by CCJRG: the *PEER* research project conducted in partnership with Eaves Housing for Women and the *Chrysalis Project*, an initiative to support women leaving street level prostitution in Lambeth. With a commitment to developing links with practitioners working across criminal justice, CCJRG will bring together a mix of academics, policy makers, practitioners and activists to discuss and debate the realities of exiting prostitution.



Helen Easton

Marisa Silvestri

Helen Easton and Dr Marisa Silvestri (CCJRG) will be joined by a host of speakers including: Prof. Roger Matthews (University of Kent), Ann Hamilton (Human Trafficking Foundation), Lisa Reynolds (Eaves Housing), Stuart Bakewell (St. Mungos) and Julie Bindel (Writer and Activist). Together they will reflect on key learning in relation to women exiting prostitution, the support they may require to exit, the key challenges faced in providing and delivering this kind of support, and the implications of these findings for policy and practice.

Weeks Centre Expert Helps to Uncover Mixed Race Stories

The BBC1 programme *Heir Hunters* recently interviewed the Weeks Centre's Dr Chamion Cabellero to shed light on post-war mixed race experiences.

The 'heir hunters' had tried to trace a woman who had become estranged from her family due to having had a mixed race relationship in Manchester in the 1950s. As the woman in question had since passed away, the programme makers came to LSBU's Keyworth Centre to film Chamion discussing social attitudes towards mixed marriages at that time and to provide some background as to what life may have been

like for her, based on the reported experiences of other white British women who had married black men at that time. The programme is expected to be broadcast in early 2013.

Chamion has also been made Research Director at Intermix, an organisation which supports the news and views of mixed race people and their families, and whose website's content was officially archived by the British Library in 2011. Chamion's role is to highlight research projects and outputs that might be of interest to the Intermix community.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weeks Centre historian Dr Lisa Pine gave a paper to the Women's History Scotland Annual Conference at the University of Edinburgh in October 2012; entitled "More Happiness, more relaxation, healthier mother and children - that is the aim!": Women's Welfare in Nazi Germany'

Cait Beaumont's article, 'Where to Park the Pram? Voluntary Women's Organisations, Citizenship and the Campaign for Better Housing in England, 1928-1945' will be published in *Women's History Review* next year. The article demonstrates how voluntary women's organisations' campaign for better housing in England from 1928 to 1945 succeeded in ensuring that the voices of women on housing provision and design were heard during these years and how they influenced plans for future housing policy.

Compelling Diversities, Educational Intersections: Policy, Practice, Parity

Gender and Education Association Biennial Conference 2013

Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research, London South Bank University

Tuesday 23rd - Friday 26th April 2013

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Bidisha: From Eastern Primitivism to Western Decadence? Overcoming the Notion of Cultural Differences in Gender, Race and Class Politics

Prof. Lisa Adkins, University of Newcastle, Australia:
What Do Wages Do? Feminist Theory After the Financial Crisis

Prof. Val Gillies, Weeks Centre, LSBU:
From Baby Brain to Conduct Disorder: the New Determinism in the Classroom

Plenary Panel: Diversity in Crisis?

Dr Kalwant Bhopal, University of Southampton

Dr Kay Inckle, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Jayne Osgood, London Metropolitan University

Dr Vanita Sundaram, University of York

Dr Jin Haritaworn, University of York

Performance:

Dr Claudia Brazzale, Liverpool Hope University '(Un)Covering Ground: A Critique of Contemporary Dance Education and its Narratives of Spatial Mobility'

Teddy Nygh Director of Riot From Wrong, Co-Founder of Fully Focused

Call for Papers

The ninth international Gender and Education Association conference, *Compelling Diversities, Educational Intersections* hosted by the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research, engages with key debates surrounding the interplay between dynamics of education, work, employment and society in the context of crisis, upheaval and cutbacks. In considering diversity in education, this conference will explore the relationship between new equality regimes and continued educational inequalities, exploring organisational ambivalence, change and resistance. It will ask important questions about the role of feminist research at a time when education, and its variously placed subjects (academics, pupils, students, and policy makers), wrestle with the commitments and contentions in *doing* diversity and *being* diverse. We would welcome proposals for papers, workshops and symposia from academics, teachers, practitioners and policymakers. Papers could usefully address:

- Different subjects in 'crisis': institutions, inter-disciplines and intersections
- Pre and Post compulsory education
- The (re)making and (un)doing of privileged identities
- The politics of diversity and 'different' differences
- Widening participation: Access and existences
- Educational intersections and inequalities
- Diverse Pedagogies, Policies and Practices

Please save your abstracts (250 words) with author name followed by GEA_2013 (e.g. Taylor Y_ GEA_2013) with a brief bio. and contact details to **GEA2013Abstracts@lsbu.ac.uk**. The **extended** deadline for submissions is **29th November 2012**. Limited Bursaries and/or discount fees will be available for a number of postgraduate and early career researchers, some UK-based school teachers and a small number of academics based in resource-poor countries whose work directly relates to gender in education. Bursary Details available at www.genderandeducation.com/issues/conference2013_cfp/