



The University of
Nottingham

U-RED21 CONFERENCE

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE DAY

THURSDAY 3rd JUNE

SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY
AND SOCIAL POLICY

ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS



Join us in an online event to showcase and celebrate the dissertation findings and journeys of our final year students. All welcome!

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
10:00-10.10	<p>Welcome Emily Adkin</p>
Time	Activity
10:10-10:30	<p>Welcome <i>Prof. Sarah Speight</i> Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Experience</p>
Time	Activity
10:30-12.00	<p>Session 1: Risk, Power and Control Chair: Sarai Wallace Presentations: Elise Dodd The Risk of Abuse: A Quantitative Analysis of Social Risk Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect in the UK Sandra Løining 'Don't you have any shame?' - The Extent, Forms and Implications of Shaming of Offenders Jacob Pedder-Platt The Modern Redcap in Action: roles played by the British Army's Royal Military Police throughout the conflict in Afghanistan</p>
	<p>Session 2: Activism, Media and Politics Chair: Harriet Wilder Presentations: Lauren Brennan How to Have It All: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Neoliberal Feminine Subjectivities Depicted in Female Fashion Blogs. Indi Francis "Your K-pop group can wait. You know what can't wait? #BlackLivesMatter.": Exploring the digital activism carried out by K-pop fans in support of the Black Lives Matter movement Beatrice Brown The day Instagram went black: An exploration of the #BlackoutTuesday initiative on Instagram</p>

Parallel sessions

Emily Adkin

Does this look good on me? An exploration of consumers' relationships with the ethics of their clothing

Time	Activity
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12.00-12.15

Comfort Break

Time	Activity
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12.15 - 12:55

Keynote

How can research help us understand and tackle antisemitism in Britain today?

Binyomin Gilbert

Campaign Against Antisemitism

Time	Activity
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12:55 - 13.30

Lunch

Time	Activity
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13.30 - 15.00

Session 3: Contested Representations and Experiences

Chair: Rebecca Nye

Presentations:

Macy Smart

The Abled and the Inspirational: The Neoliberal Representations of Disability in 'Born Different'

Hollie Wistow

Disgust, Freedom and Difference: How the Queer and Abjection Work Together in Analysis of Bodies, Space, and Time in Midsommar (2019)

Bec Aeddi

The Wellbeing of Women with Post Tubal Ligation Syndrome

Talia Friend

Parenting the Princess: A Study Exploring Walt Disney's Presentation of the Family

Parallel sessions

Session 4: Space and Freedoms

Chair: Sandra Løining

Presentations:

Esther Townsend

Pay to Play Spaces: Privatisation and the currency of Public Space in the Covid-19 era

Sarai Wallace

'Love the sinner, hate the sin': How does the policing of 'hate' speech affect Christian street evangelists in England and Wales?

Tori Ayton

An Exploration into the "Shadow Pandemic": The Impact of Lockdown Measures on Intimate Partner Violence in England and Wales

Beth Mottram

Incarcerating Innocence: Asylum Seeker's Fight for Agency in the Australian Immigration System

Robyn Bennetto

The Sexualisation of Female University Students in Nightclubs

Activity

15.00-15.15

Comfort Break

Activity

15.15-15.30

Student Committee Address

Sarai Wallace, Rebecca Nye, Harriet Wilder, Emily Adkin, Sandra Løining

Activity

15.30-15.45

Awards

Prof. Bill Dixon

Director of Education and Student Experience

Activity

15.45-15.55

Closing

Prof. Ian Shaw

Head of School, SSP

Activity

16.00-16.20

Dissertations 2021/22

Prof. Bill Dixon

For current UG Year 2 students only

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Session 1: Risk, Power and Control

Elise Dodd

The Risk of Abuse: A Quantitative Analysis of Social Risk Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect in the UK

This dissertation explores the importance of considering structural factors as affecting the risk of experiencing abuse and neglect during childhood. This research uses quantitative analysis to investigate how deprivation, ethnicity, gender, and disability affect child abuse rates. This research sits in contrast to previous medical and psychopathological models of child abuse, adopting a sociological perspective. An analysis of previous literature in the sociology of child abuse identified a lack of consensus in the nature and strength of the relationship between various social characteristics and the outcome of child abuse in a UK context. Following statistical analyses of a large UK dataset, this research concludes that it is imperative to consider social factors as risk factors for the outcome of child abuse and neglect. However, it is important to acknowledge that the extent to which each factor can be seen to affect the risk of abuse differs.

Sandra Løining

'Don't you have any shame?' - The Extent, Forms and Implications of Shaming of Offenders

This dissertation has investigated how, in neoliberal political economies, shaming takes form in both legal and social punishments, and to what extent shaming of offenders is built into the delivery of punishment. Additionally, the implications that shaming has for offenders are examined. Through conducting a literature search, several theories and studies were identified and then applied to the phenomena of shaming, making this dissertation a theoretical one. By evaluating the relevant literature through several thematic chapters it has been asserted that shame has several negative implications for offenders. Also, it was found that shaming is built into the delivery of punishment through ostentatious punishments and 'collateral consequences', and that shaming also occurs in social punishment in the form of either stigmatization or reintegrative shaming. This dissertation concludes that due to the diffuse power relations in society, it is highly important to consider the role of shame and shaming in penal settings as well as who should have the power and responsibility to shame offenders.

Jacob Pedder-Platt

The Modern Redcap in Action: roles played by the British Army's Royal Military Police throughout the conflict in Afghanistan

The topic of Military Policing is one barely touched upon by research, especially with regards to the experience of the individual Military Police Officers (MPs). By conducting qualitative surveys with former MPs that deployed to Afghanistan, this dissertation aims to explore the experience of MPs throughout the conflict in Afghanistan between 2001-2015, to investigate what roles they undertook, and to discern whether this coheres with those played by MPs in prior conflicts throughout history. It will also investigate the extent to which technology affected the deployments of MPs in Afghanistan, as well as how interactions with the Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan

National Police (ANP) and Private Security Personnel affected the ways in which the British Army's Royal Military Police (RMP) conducted operations in-theatre. Once these have been investigated, this dissertation will then speculate on the future of counter-insurgency (COIN) policing and how this might change in future conflict. Even though the conflict in Afghanistan is widely documented, the MP has regularly avoided exposure for the important work that they conduct in hostile and dangerous environments, and it is hoped that this dissertation can also bring the RMP the renown and appreciation that they deserve.

Session 2: Activism, Media and Politics

Lauren Brennan

How to Have It All: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Neoliberal Feminine Subjectivities Depicted in Female Fashion Blogs.

Of late, a neoliberal agenda has swallowed the world, just as blogging and “Influencers” have swallowed the online world. But what does this mean for women and constructions of femininity? Through a Critical Discourse Analysis of twenty-five blog posts from five bloggers, this dissertation explores the narratives of neoliberal femininity present within British female fashion blog(ger)s depictions of their lifestyles. The data collected highlighted three underpinning narratives - “How To” Have It All, Design Your Life (For Maximum Results), and The Power of What You Have (Consumed) - which together articulate a type of neoliberal femininity underpinned by individuated responsibility, hyper-consumption, disavowing inequalities, and treating oneself as an entrepreneurial project. In light of these themes, I argue that female fashion blogs reproduce narratives of neoliberal femininity in depictions of their “glam” lifestyles, as they perpetuate the notion that women should lead pre-planned, hyper-consumption centred lives to become upwardly mobile, neoliberal subjects. Whilst also implying that such status and lifestyles are attainable and achievable for all, so long as you work for it. In doing so, they evade the material, structural, classed, gendered, and racialised constraints that prohibit such mobility for most women, which leads me to question, how can bloggers help women when they promote the very patriarchal and capitalist structures that oppress them?

Indi Francis

“Your K-pop group can wait. You know what can’t wait? #BlackLivesMatter.”: Exploring the digital activism carried out by K-pop fans in support of the Black Lives Matter movement

As the Black Lives Matter movement circulated across social media platforms in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, K-pop fans showed their support loudly and proudly for the cause, collectively using their platform on Twitter to carry out digital activism in the form of the hashtag derailment of #WhiteLivesMatter. This reveals how social media can be a space for participation in fan activities and social movements in tandem. This dissertation aims to explore the digital activism that K-pop fans carried out in support of the Black Lives Matter movement through the hashtag derailment of counter-movement hashtags such as #WhiteLivesMatter. By collecting tweets from those who took part in the activism and analysing them using thematic analysis, I aim to demonstrate how literature from the field of fan studies and the study of online social movements can be utilised together to gain further insight into digital activism.

Beatrice Brown

The day Instagram went black: An exploration of the #BlackoutTuesday initiative on Instagram

In 2014 Eric Garner shouted ‘I can’t breathe’ while being killed by the police. Six years later George Floyd repeated the same words 28 times before he was murdered by the police. Despite activism happening both offline and online in between these two events there has been little progress in ensuring events like this do not

happen again. Online activism has been a fast-growing phenomenon allowing people globally to participate in whatever way they feel most comfortable. Recent statistics have highlighted the growing numbers of participation in online activism and academic literature has studied the motivations for participating in online activism. However, there is a clear gap in the literature in regard to both participating through the social media site Instagram and in participation in #BlackoutTuesday. This research was also chosen due to the relevance of Black Lives Matter in contemporary society and the increasing use of online activism to show support for this movement. Given the gaps in literature, it is clear to see there is a growing importance to understand the motivations surrounding participation in online activism and the experiences surrounding it to understand if it is an effective way to participate in activism. This dissertation explores the motivations for participating in #BlackoutTuesday and the experiences surrounding participation. Semi-structured interviews with young adults aged between 20 and 23 years were conducted. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data according to four themes: a cause for connection; social networking; participating in the blackout; and, beyond the black. Finally, it is concluded that participation in #BlackoutTuesday was complex with a variety of different motivations and experience. Unlike previous research which suggests online activism can prevent further activism, damaging the cause, the participants went further than minimum participation for #BlackoutTuesday and the initiative was effective activism for BLM. The main findings of this research were that individuals' participations in #BlackoutTuesday found motivations for individual and social reasons. People gained education about Black Lives Matter for themselves and took participation further.

Session 3: Contested Representations and Experiences

Macy Smart

The Abled and the Inspirational: The Neoliberal Representations of Disability in 'Born Different'

Disability has continually been represented within the media in a problematic manner. However, pervasive neoliberal ideology acts as a breeding ground for ableism and a new wave of health documentaries begs us to ask how disability is represented today. Existing literature overlooks disability representation in this context, and a rich analysis of such documentaries has yet to exist. Here, a Critical Discourse Analysis is conducted on the documentary series 'Born Different' to understand how language used by this media represents disability in general, and how neoliberalism may have impacted on it. This dissertation will conclude that, through a focus on inspiration discourse, disability is represented as an undesirable state of being that must be overcome. To add on, disabled people are forced to conform to neoliberal standards of worthiness to be praised within these representations. With continual stories of inspirational disabled people, Born Different perpetuates a disdain for disability while reproducing the neoliberal discourses that disadvantage them. However, resistant narratives in the data show the agency of disabled individuals in challenging their problematic representations. Overall, we must critically engage with these harmful discourses to begin valuing disability in a meaningful way.

Hollie Wistow

Disgust, Freedom and Difference: How the Queer and Abjection Work Together in Analysis of Bodies, Space, and Time in Midsommar (2019)

Horror films aim to shock, horrify and disgust audience through their presentation of the unknown and the abnormal, but this also creates a possibility to explore horror film's ability to display difference. Therefore, this dissertation aims to investigate Ari Aster's Midsommar (2019) through a textual analysis that dedicates attention to the way in which identities, spaces and time are simultaneously queer and abject. My research allocates time to address how boundaries are maintained and rejected as well as how queered identities situate themselves in spaces. From the data analysis, this dissertation concludes that queering and abjection work in a symbiotic relationship to show both instances of horror but also more importantly emancipation.

Bec Aeddi

The Wellbeing of Women with Post Tubal Ligation Syndrome

Post Tubal Ligation Syndrome (PTLS) is a hotly contested illness which has historically received little attention within the relevant literature. This contestation has been compounded by Western biomedicine's 'hegemonic' focus on quantitative research and has significant implications for the wellbeing of both already-sterilised women and those who are considering the operation. As such, this dissertation is a response to a call made over twenty-five years ago for research into the subjective experiences of sterilised women. Its purpose is to inspire research into PTLS, and to highlight the existence of those who suffer from it. It delivers and discusses qualitative data generated within a three week long online focus group, in which nine women with PTLS, who are also members of an online support group (OSG) dedicated to the syndrome, participated. The data reflects their understandings of how their wellbeing has been affected by both PTLS and their membership of the OSG. These women consider

PTLS to have affected their physical, psychological and social wellbeing in a number of ways, and OSG membership to have mediated this somewhat. A discussion of these findings in relation to social capital and collective wellbeing illustrates that the implications of PTLS, and indeed any other contested illness, extend far beyond the individual and into the social world.

Talia Friend

Parenting the Princess: A Study Exploring Walt Disney's Presentation of the Family

As a cornerstone of society and a firmly established social institution, the family, and its portrayal in popular culture, continues to be a subject of academic interest. With representations embedded in a media stream, subliminal messages are communicated to audiences. This dissertation is focussed on exploring what messages, and by extension, what meanings, can be deduced from Walt Disney and his company's representation of the family, specifically concentrating on caregiving behaviours and the parent/child relationships in animations between 1937 and 1995. In order to do this, I explore in detail, the role of the Evil Stepmother and the relationship between fathers and daughters. This is explored using a discourse analysis. I also aim to reveal the possible origins of Disney's representation of the family and then determine the extent to which the animations are reflective of their social and cultural zeitgeist. I conclude that structurally, Disney's family types are atypical. I believe this to be both serving of a conservative agenda and a more personal reflection. The portrayal of the parent/child relationship however, perpetuates the accepted suppositions surrounding caregiving behaviours and roles within the family; these are largely in keeping with a social and cultural zeitgeist.

Session 4: Space and Freedoms

Esther Townsend

Pay to Play Spaces: Privatisation and the currency of Public Space in the Covid-19 era

The Corona Virus Pandemic has brought with it a new appreciation of space and need to measure and manage it in a very literal way. As we are encouraged to stand two meters apart and are restricted in the spaces we are legally granted access to, space has become a premium that impacts not only our capacity to socialise but also our physical health. This dissertation applies a spatial lens to Covid-19 policy and places it into the broader context of public space privatisation that has been occurring in the UK for the past fifty years. This dissertation adopts a spaces of encounter approach, recognising public spaces as a flexible term that incorporates all spaces, regardless of ownership and size, in which different social worlds collide. Through establishing the context of privatisation, this dissertation argues that Covid-19 policy was not distinct from the policy that had gone before but maintained a common approach that neglects the societal need for public space and seeks to attract moneyed groups into public spaces. Subsequently the coronavirus pandemic not only illuminated the pre-existing impacts of privatization, but Covid-19 policy itself echoed privatization policy that had gone before.

Sarai Wallace

‘Love the sinner, hate the sin’: How does the policing of ‘hate’ speech affect Christian street evangelists in England and Wales?

In England and Wales, legal provisions have been enacted under the Public Order Act 1986, which render it a criminal offence to use ‘threatening’ or ‘abusive’ words within the ‘hearing’ of persons ‘likely’ to be caused ‘alarm’ or ‘distress’. Simultaneously, there has been a proliferation of criminal law in contemporary society that seeks to protect minority groups from ‘hate’ speech by penalising those who target individuals because of their protected group identity. As a result, perceived anti- gay religious speech has become subject to a degree of censure in the public sphere. With this said, evangelism, or sharing the message and teachings of the belief system, is at the centre of many Christians’ manifestation of their faith. The limitations of anti-‘hate’ legislation and public order policing have thus become of considerable concern to Christian street evangelists, who raise the contentious question of whether the police can, or should, regulate and censor religious dialogue and scriptural citation in liberal, secular society. Through an analysis of recent literature and case studies of the arrests of two Christian street evangelists, this dissertation argues that ‘hate’ speech law and public order policing have tangible implications for the religious freedom of Christian street evangelists, especially when perceived as potential offenders in England and Wales.

Tori Ayton

An Exploration into the “Shadow Pandemic”: The Impact of Lockdown Measures on Intimate Partner Violence in England and Wales

On March 11th 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. Governments around the world were forced to implement restrictive measures in order to tackle the spread: urging people to stay at home and forcing all non-essential outlets to close. The consequences of these measures led to an intensification in cases of domestic violence, which UN Women (2020) coined as the “shadow pandemic”. The data concerning violence within the home during COVID-19 is still emerging, leaving a gap in the literature so far. This dissertation aims to fill this gap by evaluating the impact of lockdown measures in England and Wales on intimate partner violence (IPV) - domestic abuse which is specifically between couples. Whilst there is an abundance of literature concerning the behavioural discourses behind IPV, research into the impact of disaster is scarcer, with COVID-19 specifically remaining minimal. This paper uses existing literature and official data to determine that the impact of lockdown on IPV was monumental, causing an acceleration in the amount and types of violence. This research similarly identifies the role of gender inequalities and the patriarchy in triggering IPV, demonstrating how this violence is mainly perpetrated by men. In doing this, this research will highlight the need for policymakers to ensure women are better protected and poses the question of whether the draconian nature of lockdown is justifiable, even when in favour of public health, when the collateral effects are considered.

Beth Mottram

Incarcerating Innocence: Asylum Seeker's Fight for Agency in the Australian Immigration System

The last four decades have seen exponential growth in the volume of immigration and the reasons for it. Poverty and the social fragmentation by regional wars and religious and political tyranny have all contributed to increased human displacement. Migration as a whole continues to be a major concern in modern society and political thought, particularly for receiving countries with their putative high standards of living and political freedom. The responses of the people and their governments in these receiving societies have seldom been cordial or constructive. The attitude towards and treatment of asylum seekers is still problematic and continues to be an important humanitarian and political issue on the world stage. The management of Asylum, particularly in Western migration-receiving territories, brings centralised state power into sharp national and international focus. Governing asylum, particularly in Western migration territories, highlights centralised state power. Australia, most famously, has taken an uncompromising anti-asylum stance. For reasons which will be explained, it has then found it necessary to decentralise and dilute its own power by outsourcing its decision-making and tactics to offshore, privatised processing centres. This patchwork of politics, strategy, short-term tactics and socio-cultural demands provides us with an excellent opportunity to examine how the system dehumanises, or even brutalises, asylum seekers and how they, in turn, seek to reinstate their agency in the context of what many might consider a new tyranny.

Robyn Bennetto

The Sexualisation of Female University Students in Nightclubs

Most sexual harassment goes unreported to the authorities. For example, the 2020 Crime Survey for England and Wales revealed that only 16% of female victims and 19% of male victims (aged 16 to 59) of sexual assault since the age of 16 reported it to the police (Office for National Statistics, 18 March 2021). By researching this topic in relation to female university students and clubbing, the aim is to raise awareness and challenge behaviours so female safety can be better understood and ultimately improved. In the past five years there has been a shift in the intensity and number of protests by social feminist movements and young women campaigning for improved female safety. This dissertation uses semi-structured interviews to gather data from student participants, which demonstrates authentic experiences of what it is like to be a university student at a night club. Reviewing the existing literature surrounding the topic of female sexualisation and relating this to the data demonstrates that the sexualisation of female university students in the clubbing environment is often heightened because of the peer pressure in male dominated groups. It also shows the media contributes to the sexualisation of females, which can be internalised by males, who think this objectifying behaviour is standard.