Sociology and Social Policy (SSP) seminar series.

Our seminar series runs weekly on Wednesday lunchtimes. They include one off seminars organised by SSP, and a series of interdisciplinary workshops on *Researching Inequalities* which bring together colleagues from across diverse disciplines into single sessions. These are run by SSP and the Inequalities Research Network in partnership and are listed in purple text below.

School seminars take place from 12 noon until 1.30pm
Researching Inequalities workshops take place from 1pm to 2pm

All events are held in room 12.21 and 12.25, Social Sciences Building (unless otherwise stated)

All welcome! There is no need to book.

Semester 1

4th October 2017

*Traumas of modernity’? A multiple modernities approach to Rwanda*

Jack Palmer, SSP

**Abstract:** In this paper, I will explore a suggestive though unelaborated claim made by S. N. Eisenstadt in his programmatic ‘Multiple Modernities’ essay. Here, he claimed that the 1994 genocide which took place in Rwanda represented a ‘trauma of modernity’, and that it was in an important sense a product of a ‘dialogue between seemingly traditional forces and modern reconstruction’. I suggest that the framework pioneered by Eisenstadt, which emphasises a plurality of interpretations and institutionalisations of the ‘cultural programme’ of modernity, sheds significant light on the historical trajectory of Rwanda in the 20th century. Several advantages emerge from situating this trajectory within the context of the dialogue between tradition and modern reconstruction, not least that it constitutes a substantive response to deconstructions of the Eurocentrism of core concepts in social theory. At the same time, the case of Rwanda also highlights some important omissions or under-elaborated aspects within the ‘multiple modernities’ approach, namely discussions of the various modalities of colonial rule and attendant processes of racialisation, and the severe limitations placed on postcolonial governments by international and global entanglements. I will also discuss how this argument forms part of a forthcoming book, based on my PhD, entitled *Entanglements of Modernity, Colonialism and Genocide: Burundi and Rwanda in Historical-Sociological Perspective.*
18th October 2017

Narration Equality: enactments of remembering and forgetting in the simplification of equality apparatus
James Beresford, SSP

Abstract: This presentation will look at how narratives around policy pasts and futures are contested and enacted within the context of Equality and Human Rights legislation. Examining the project of ‘simplification’ instigated by New Labour through the 2006 and 2010 Equality Act’s and the merging of the existing equality commissions at the time, it will be argued that memory is constitutive of policy. Drawing upon narrative interviewing with policy practitioners, and Carolyn Pedwell’s idea of relational webs, it will be shown how memories (as enactments) and alignments to particular collective memories work to shape the political and conceptual horizons through which different projects come to be located as viable. This idea of viability is linked to the way authority is imbued into them as a result of alignment with particular (individual and collective) bodies.

25th October 2017

Researching Inequalities: interdisciplinary perspectives IRN/SSP Workshop; 1pm-2pm

(i) A workshop on labour market and organisational restructuring: inequalities, interventions

Old divisions, new inequalities: working, learning, and caring in the neoliberal university
Dr Mariya P Ivancheva, School of Education

Diversity and inclusion in the retail sector
Dr Kathryn Watson, Research Impact Manager, Leeds University Business School

Diversity and inclusion in the police, and in policing: the case of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association
Anthony Drummond, Leeds Beckett

1st November 2017

Undervalued: The HBCU Black Woman Professor and the U.S. Academic Prestige Hierarchy
Tiffany R. Holloman, SSP

Abstract: My research examines Black women professors who are current faculty members of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States. Specifically, I
analyse their historic position within the academic *prestige* hierarchy from the birth of the HBCUs to the present. Using Black Feminist and media theory, the HBCU Black woman professors’ existence has illuminated exclusionary measures used by differing groups to relegate, not only these women professors but, the colleges & universities in which they are housed; helping to cement predominately white institutions’ position within U.S. higher education and the academic prestige hierarchy. The narrative of the HBCU Black women professors and the ‘Ivory Tower’ creates a new seam in research, challenging the value of the academic prestige hierarchy within society.

**8th November 2017**

*Researching Inequalities: interdisciplinary perspectives*  IRN/SSP 1pm-2pm

(ii): A workshop on Conceptualising in/equality: perspectives on theory, interdisciplinarity and method

- **Conceptualising classlessness and the positive benefits of equality**
  Hugo Radice, POLIS

- **Conceptualising interdisciplinarity and complexity**
  Nick Emmel, SSP

- **Conceptualising categories: public perceptions of inequality and sociological method**
  Sarah Irwin, SSP

**15th November**

Ali Rattansi  
(Title TBC)

**22nd November 2017**

*Revolution, global development and disability politics in Egypt*  
Mostafa Attia, SSP

**Abstract:** Egypt has experienced extensive political changes as a result of the 2011 Egyptian revolution (Abdou and Zaazou, 2013). Consequently, Egypt’s development plans and social policies are impossible to study in isolation. The revolution created a sense of unity which centred on the slogan: “Freedom, Dignity and Social Justice.” Specifically, disabled politics transformed from being about individual requests to collective demands, expressed through disabled peoples’ new alliances. These were influenced by a rights based approach, underpinned by the UNCRPD. Thus, the Egyptian revolution paved the way for disabled
people’s voices to be heard, which led to disability inclusion becoming integrated in the new Egyptian constitution and the appointment of 9 disabled MPs (The Constitution of the Arab Republic Egypt, 2014). This presentation will explore how disability politics has been impacted by both the Egyptian revolution and the global development agenda. While the Egyptian Sustainable Development Strategy (2016-2030) was a response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that Egypt signed, it was also a mechanism implemented by the government to respond to its citizens’ revolutionary demands, and the country’s developmental challenges. In light of the Revolution’s consequences, my thesis will consider how the global move from MDGs to SDGs (Davis, et al. 2015) helped to guide policy makers in the post-revolutionary period, providing policy recommendations as to how Egypt can benefit from the application of inclusive development as a national strategy. As an insider in my field of research who participated in the Egyptian revolution and who has a long involvement in disability movement activism, my research contributes an in-depth insight through the ethnographic fieldwork that I conducted. This included semi-structured interviews with policy makers, DPOs and disabled MPs in Egypt, as well as participant observation.

29th November 2017

Researching Inequalities: interdisciplinary perspectives  IRN/SSP 1pm-2pm
(iii) A workshop on Inequalities in Labour Markets – international and comparative research

(Alternative) Finance, employment and wealth distribution in Spain and the UK
Matilde Masso, University of A Coruna, and SSP, Leeds

Class inequality under the Workers’ Party Governments in Brazil: gender and racial dimensions
Aiko Ikemura Amaral; Pedro Mendes Loureiro, Universities of Essex, London

6th December 2017

Rural Urban Migration and Policy Intervention in China - Migrant Workers’ Coping Strategies
Li Sun, SSP

Abstract: As a result of the rapid industrialization and urbanization of China, according to the latest figures some 281 million farmers migrate from impoverished rural areas to prosperous urban regions seeking off-farm employment. They are referred to as migrant workers in China. In order to facilitate their migration, a series of policies have been introduced by the Chinese central government in recent years, which make China one of only ten countries in the world have policies to increase rural to urban migration. Four rural-urban migration policies in China are studied in this research: the skills training program, wage payment protection, work-related injury insurance, and health insurance program, which target four corresponding events during migrant workers’ migration trajectories: job-seeking; wage exploitation; work injuries; and illness. In the face of these events, migrant workers either choose to make a claim under these policies, or use other strategies in order to cope
with it. I classify migrant workers’ coping into three types based on the various coping strategies they employ: firstly, administrative coping for which making a claim under government policy is the main coping strategy; secondly, political coping which main coping strategy is taking political action; and thirdly, social coping for which adopting informal strategy is the main coping strategy (e.g. utilizing social networks). This research aims to explain how migrant workers cope with events in the context of migration policies. Through semi-structured interviews, it is found that Chinese migrant workers face a broad range of heterogeneous problems which they choose to cope with by adopting diverse coping strategies. Generally speaking, comparing to administrative coping, social coping is more prevalent among migrant workers, meanwhile, political coping is an emerging coping strategy in Chinese society. In the context of various migration policies, migrant workers’ coping behaviors reveal the effectiveness of the policies to some extent. Due to the prevalence of social coping instead of administrative coping, it is reasonable to argue that most of these migration policies fail to the achieve desired outcomes by and large. Therefore, there is still a long way to go and much to do in order to ensure Chinese migrant workers benefit from migration polices.

13th December 2017

Researching Inequalities: interdisciplinary perspectives IRN/SSP 1pm-2pm
(iv) A workshop on Life course dynamics, health inequalities and accumulations of dis/advantage

Are health inequalities in relation to area deprivation the same at different ages
Paul Norman, School of Geography

Health over the life cycle
Sandy Tubeuf, PhD, Leeds Institute of Health Sciences