

Convenor's Welcome



Nikolas Rose

**Professor of Sociology
Convenor of the Department of Sociology**

Welcome to the first Sociology Research Newsletter of the 2004-05 session. This is a particularly significant year for the Department, as we are celebrating the centenary of the first Sociology course taught at the London School of Economics, which was offered by Professor Edvard Westermarck (1862-1939) in the 1904-05 session, with a hugely impressive syllabus. Although it would be incorrect to claim the actual foundation of the Department as from that date, it is undoubtedly the true one for the establishment of Sociology as a formal discipline within the School and also within British higher education. To mark this anniversary, we are holding a celebratory conference on 13 May 2005. Guest speakers include established sociologists who will reflect on the past of the discipline and the LSE's role within it, and sociologists at the start of their academic careers who will discuss the ways in which they think LSE sociology should carry forward its vocation of maintaining the traditions of the discipline whilst simultaneously developing the conceptual and empirical approaches required to address the issues that confront us in the twenty-first century. It should be an exciting event, and further details are given elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I am delighted to welcome some new colleagues into the Department – some of whom have already been introduced in previous Newsletters. Professor Sarah Franklin has joined us from Lancaster University and will be playing a key role in our new MSc in Biomedicine, Bioscience

and Society, which has had its first intake this October. She will also be active in the development of the BIOS research centre. Dr Fran Tonkiss, who has joined us from Goldsmiths, will be strengthening our group of sociologists working on money, markets and economic life, as well as contributing to our work in the area of cities, space and urbanism. And Dr Robin Archer from Oxford has taken over from Angus Stewart (whose retirement we marked with a splendid party) as Programme Director of our MSc in Political Sociology.

In addition, we welcome Dr Diane Perrons, who has become Director of the Gender Institute as Professor Anne Phillips steps down at the end of her term and enjoys a well-earned period of sabbatical leave. Diane will be 0.5 within Sociology in her new role, and whilst Anne will now be based in the Department of Government, we will not lose her altogether as she will have a 0.5 appointment within the Gender Institute upon her return from sabbatical. I am delighted to report that the integration of the Gender Institute into its new location in Sociology has gone remarkably well, and several major new collaborative initiatives have been made possible by this new configuration without compromising the independence and interdisciplinary character of the Gender Institute.

We are in the throes of two major appointments. The first is to the Anthony Giddens Professorship in Social Theory, made possible by a generous benefaction to the School by an anonymous donor. This will be a very important appointment to the Department and the School. The incumbent of this chair will have a role as a public intellectual and, we hope, be passionately committed to the significance of sociological theory, research and analysis for an understanding of the central problems confronting our contemporary world.

The second major appointment in process is to a Professorship of Urban Design and Director of the Cities Programme. Ricky Burdett, who has made such a major contribution to the development of this programme over the years, is stepping down as Director, though he will continue to play a major role in the programme. Ricky will also be the Director of The Urban Age, a large research

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Editor's Note

This is the first issue of the 2004-5 edition of *Sociology News* from the Department of Sociology at LSE. Sadly, this is the last issue that Sarah Amsler will work on. She will be sorely missed as she has played a key role in developing the Newsletter to the form it takes today. Comments and queries about any of the materials presented here can be addressed to **Suki Ali** (s.c.ali@lse.ac.uk).

Suki Ali and Sarah Amsler

Convenor's Welcome

'As of 1 August 2004, the former Department of Social Psychology has been reconstituted as the Institute of Social Psychology, based within the Department of Sociology and dedicated to research and graduate teaching in social psychology'

programme made possible by a grant of some 2.5 million euros to the Department from the Alfred Herrhausen Society for International Dialogue. This takes the form of a two-year sequence of cumulative, international conferences which will be held in cities across Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe in 2005 and 2006 to explore the changes occurring in cities and urban populations internationally. The programme emphasises the relation between concrete investment, design, and building on the one hand, and economic, social, political and cultural processes shaping city life on the other. The aim of The Urban Age is to shape the thinking and practice of urban leaders, present and future.

The Department continues to host a number of Centennial and Visiting professors. Professor Ed Soja joins us again for the Michaelmas term to contribute to our teaching and research in the area of cities. Susie Orbach remains a Visiting Professor in the Department, and is playing a leading role in a new initiative – psychoanalysis@lse – which will explore the relevance of psychoanalytic approaches to the key issues that engage the social and political sciences today. The first series of lectures and events, on the theme of Intolerance, will be held in Spring of 2005. Ulrich Beck will be joining the Department again in for a period in the Lent Term as a Centennial Professor. Judy Wajcman is also a Centennial Professor in the Sociology Department for part of Michaelmas Term. Professor Frances Heidensohn, formerly of Goldsmiths College, has joined us as a Visiting Professor and will be making a significant contribution to our work in criminology. Professor Graham Thornicroft, who is taking a sabbatical from his role as the Head

of Health Services Research at the Institute of Psychiatry, will also be a Visiting Professor in the Department, and is undertaking a major piece of research on stigma.

Another major structural development relates to social psychology. As of 1 August 2004, the former Department of Social Psychology has been reconstituted as the Institute of Social Psychology, based within the Department of Sociology and dedicated to research and graduate teaching in social psychology. This exciting development will enable us to develop new initiatives in the areas of intersection of social psychology and sociology, without compromising our distinct disciplinary orientations and strengths. Over the coming year we will be working with our new colleagues to develop these new arrangements, and hope to mark them with a major public event in the Spring of 2005 – details will be given in the next Newsletter.

Members of the Department have received grants for a number of exciting seminar series. In the BIOS Centre, the Wellcome Trust is funding a series on 'Visualising the Mind' and supporting our Artist in Residence, Ruth MacLennan, who will also be developing an exhibition on this theme. The Nuffield Foundation is supporting a series on Values in Psychiatry, jointly organised with the Institute of Psychiatry in London, and arranged by Professor Anne Harrington, who has joined BIOS and the LSE for a year from Harvard. The ESRC is supporting a series on 'Neuroscience, Identity and Society', jointly organised by myself and Paul Martin in Nottingham, the first sessions of which will be held in the Spring. In the Gender Institute, Rosalind Gill is heading up an ESRC – funded seminar series on 'New Femininities: Post-Feminism and Sexual Citizenship' and Clare Hemmings is the manager of the project 'Travelling Feminist Concepts', which has EU network funding within the Athena Programme (European Women's Studies Network). These are just a few of the exciting events that our colleagues are involved in, and you will find many more, and fuller details, elsewhere in this Newsletter.

This is a very exciting time in the life of the Department. I hope the Newsletter does not simply spread news, but can also help to maximise collaboration within the Department, the School and with other institutions, and that our readers will feel free to contact any of us to find out more about our activities. In the meantime, I wish everyone the very best for the new academic year. ■

One hundred years of sociology at LSE – but who really was the first Martin White Professor of Sociology?

This article presages a one-day conference on the history of sociology at LSE and in the United Kingdom, to be held on Friday 13 May 2005 in the Old Theatre at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Details and programme will be announced shortly.

In the academic year 1904-05, the London School of Economics and Political Science, in the tenth year of its existence, announced, 'as a result chiefly of the benefaction of Mr Martin White to the University of London, it has been possible to arrange, for the first time, in the coming session courses of University lectures upon this subject [Sociology]' [1]. They were to be 'held at the School of Economics where, as indicated in the following time-table, there are many courses upon pertinent although subsidiary subjects'. This was at a time when the School's address was Clare Market, W.C. [not till early 1917 were numbered subdivisions first introduced into London's letter postcodes that had been current since 1856].





The sociology course was taught not by a native British speaker, but by Edvard Alexander Westermarck (1862-1939), a Finn of Swedish origin. He was born in Helsinki, his father being bursar at the University of Helsinki and a former Latin teacher and his mother equally cultured in background. He himself passed through the University of Helsinki from undergraduate in 1881 till being appointed a Lecturer in Sociology there in 1890 and then Acting Professor of Philosophy from 1894 to 1897. He then went abroad under a stipend received for that purpose, coming to this country to consult material in the British Museum and then managing a field trip as far as Morocco in pursuit of his anthropological interests. Westermarck's entry in the newly published *Dictionary of National Biography* says that his first series of lectures at LSE was entitled 'Early custom and morals'. It was apparently on the basis of this that he was offered a post of Appointed Teacher of Sociology. As such, he taught the first full-blown Sociology course at the School. According to the School's 1904-05 Calendar, Westermarck's offering was noted as the 'Martin White Lectures' and entitled 'Sociology', being a formidable course of forty lectures in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3pm And, on Tuesdays at 4pm after the lectures, Westermarck met students from the course in a separate seminar. Martin White (1857-1928), though now known principally only for this name given still to the premier Chair in Sociology in the Department (now held by Stan Cohen) was an interesting, if enigmatic, character. His full name was James Martin White, a Scottish landowner and briefly a Gladstonian Liberal MP for Forfarshire in 1895-96 (he resigned as MP). Educated at Edinburgh University and in France and Germany and convinced of the virtues of education, he was involved in many educational institutions and was a Governor of the School for many years till his death, as well as being a significant benefactor of the University of London. According to the 1901 Census, he had been born in the United States (though a British subject) and was then a 'merchant in New York importing business'; his (first) wife, Mary MacRae, was a painter and sculptor working on her own account.

Westermarck's course was available for the payment of £2 12s. 6d [ie, £2.63], though for 2s. 6d. [£0.13] one could also have received a modest three lectures on 'Methods of Investigation' delivered by Beatrice Webb herself, one of LSE's founders.



Westermarck's offering sounds a vigorous academic regime by present pedagogic standards, and yet one must wonder how thoroughly the promised syllabus could be covered. This was [my additions and explanations emboldened]:

Syllabus. Sociology, the science of social phenomena. The characteristics of social phenomena as distinguished from biological and psychological phenomena. Sociology in its relations to Biology and Psychology. The principle of evolution applied to Sociology. The theory of natural selection stated and explained. Its bearing on social phenomena. The variety of social phenomena. The essential characteristics of society. Animal and Human societies. The origin of human societies. The formation, scope, and coherence of a society largely dependent on biological and psychological facts, especially on (1) nutrition, and (2) the instinct of self-preservation and altruistic sentiments. Gregariousness and altruistic sentiments. Human societies based on the principles on the principles of local contiguity and blood-relationship. The family, clan, tribe, nation. The systems of maternal and paternal descent. The origin and function of the family. The relationships between parents and children. The *patria potestas* [ie, **paternal power**]. The origin and function of marriage. Social regulations as to the limits within which marriages may be contracted (exogamous and endogamous rules). The modes of contracting marriages; marriage by capture, marriage by purchase; the marriage portion. The forms of marriage: The duration of marriage, and the customs and laws referring to divorce. The relation between husband and wife. The position of women. [immediately followed, **with or without irony, by**] The institution of slavery. Its origin and distribution. The relations

between master and slave. The disappearance of slavery and serfdom in Europe. The negro slavery. (The economic aspect of slavery will not be discussed in detail.) Social rules referring to the conduct of men towards members of their own society. Rights and their psychological origin. Customs and laws as rules of conduct. The origin and function of punishment. The chief theories of the object of punishment examined. Responsibility, moral and legal. Internal and external aspects of conduct in connection with the question of responsibility (accident, dolus [deceit], culpa [fault], &c.). Agents under intellectual disability (children, lunatic, &c.). The punishment of animals and inanimate things (cf. the English deodand [an English legal concept till 1862 for a thing that caused a person's death and was forfeited to the Crown for a charitable purpose]). The right of life. The influence of class distinction on the right of life. The system of blood-revenge. The system of compensation. Capital punishment. The duel as a social institution and the wager of battle. Suicide in the eyes of custom and law. Mutual aid. Charity as a social and religious duty. The right of property. Acquisition by occupation, by use and work, by inheritance. The right of honour and the rules of politeness. Sincerity and good faith. The origin and development of patriotism. Social relationship between members of different societies. The state of war. The evolution of rules relating to war. The social position strangers. The custom of hospitality. Relations to the dead. Ancestor worship and its social importance. Religion in its social aspects. Totemism. National religions and universal religions. Religious worship. Prayer. Sacrifice. Human sacrifice. Asceticism. Oaths. Ordeals. The right of sanctuary. Magic and its influence on social relationships.

It takes little to see that this is a formidable collection of topics; in a contemporary syllabus this range of material, if each subject were covered in any depth, would probably satisfy an entire degree programme. One wonders whether Westermarck was perhaps in some cases intending to 'blind with [social] science'. The intended targets for the course were Borough Councillors, Poor Law Guardians, Members of Committees of Philanthropic Institutions and Societies, District Visitors, Trade Union Officials, Scripture Readers [sic!], Workers in Settlements, Rent Collectors, Workshop and Factory Inspectors, Friendly Society Workers, and Officers of Benevolent Societies. One has to ask how concerned, even in 1904, were some of those in these occupations about such concepts as *patria*



potestas and deadand. One might think that some of them, such as Rent Collectors, thought of little else!

Sadly, no record of the content of these lectures in full form has apparently survived. Westermarck seems not to have attracted the accolade of, for example, Émile Durkheim, whose posthumous work on education was partly constructed from the lecture notes taken by students attending the course from which it emerged. Still, perhaps an absence of the content of Westermarck's lectures is just as well. One wonders what sort of a book might emerge from one's own lectures if based even partly on an amalgamated compilation of the lecture notes taken by attending students! Except perhaps in its early topics, the course seems comparatively light on the contemporary obsession with eugenics; reflecting many of the concerns of a traditional anthropologist (which Westermarck essentially was), it also seems unconcerned about much contemporary Continental work, such as Max Weber's (1864-1920) writing on the development of capitalism or Émile Durkheim's (1858-1917)'s contributions about 'social facts': the syllabus's reference to suicide does not seem very Durkheimian.

In 1904-05, Leonard Trelawny Hobhouse (1864-1929), whose name honours the Hobhouse Memorial Prizes presented for undergraduate and (recently) to taught Masters achievements since 1930, was also offering a course in Comparative Ethics. In the 1904-05 Calendar he is described as Leonard T Hobhouse, M.A., late Fellow of Corpus Christi and Merton Colleges, Oxford and a Lecturer in Ethics. Hobhouse is now known for being the first Martin White Professor of Sociology; indeed, he is acknowledged as such in Ralf Dahrendorf's history of the School. None the less, one may throw some doubt upon the strict accuracy of this claim. In the *School's Register* 1895-1932, Hobhouse is described as an Occasional Lecturer in 1896-97, a Lecturer from 1904 to 1908 and a Professor from 1908 to his death in 1929. Westermarck is described as a Lecturer from 1904 to 1907 and a Professor (part-time) from 1907 to 1930.



Martin White's endowment of two Professorships in Sociology at the University of London, one permanent and the other for a period of five years in the first instance (this was later extended), was announced on 7 August 1907. Westermarck was simultaneously offered, and accepted, the latter position on a part-time basis. Only after much hesitation did Hobhouse accept the permanent post on 26 September 1907, too late for the printing deadline of the 1907-08 Calendar. Thus, Hobhouse does not appear in any capacity in this publication (nor, indeed, in that for 1906-07). However, there is Westermarck, alone described as 'Martin White Professor of Sociology in the University of London'. Thus, the foreign national, rather than the native, was given the fixed-term as opposed to the permanent contract (have things changed since?!). None the less, despite the fixed-term, part-time status of his appointment, Westermarck has the clear claim to be considered the first Martin White Professor Hobhouse and Westermarck, in that order, each gave their inaugural addresses as the new Martin White Professors of Sociology at a major ceremony on 17 December 1907. In the 1908-09 Calendar, both Hobhouse and Westermarck are given this title, which each retained till 1928-29 and 1930-31 respectively. Thus, Hobhouse may have been only the first full-time permanent Martin White Professor. It is a shame that Westermarck's primacy has not been properly recognised, since he seems to have been a greatly more interesting and versatile person and scholar than the lacklustre Hobhouse.

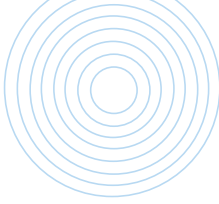
Hobhouse died in post in 1929 of the consequences of a duodenal ulcer. He was politically a Liberal, perhaps reflecting the religious background of his childhood, his father having been a cleric. His distrust of the rising Labour Party and of trade unionism makes one think that – of the two primary originators of sociology at LSE, him and Westermarck – it would be the latter, with his obviously wide range of interests and research activities, who would have been more at home with how British sociology evolved towards the end of the twentieth century.

Even so, by no means should either be considered the real 'point zero' of British sociology. Those who talk in the more up-market radio discussions about the origin of tellurian life sometimes refer to 'the primeval soup' – quite whether British sociology should be regarded as having emerged from a social-ideas primeval soup is a moot point.

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The word 'sociologist' itself was recorded in English as early as 1843 to describe what was otherwise known as 'social ethics' and by the 1850s seems to have been quite current; 'sociologist' is also recorded in English in 1843, though it was apparently little used till the later prominence of Herbert Spencer (1820-1903). His *Study of Sociology* appeared first in 1873. Certainly, neither Westermarck nor Hobhouse has any claim to be considered the 'first British sociologist' – unless considered merely on their formal academic status. Among Spencer's predecessors, one might perhaps think that Karl Marx (1818-1883), given his continuing readership for British sociology students, might qualify for consideration. However, if not his German origin, then his probable preference to be considered a political economist would rule him out (certainly, he did not ever arrogate to himself the claim to be a sociologist). One should also recognise the early contributions of the members of the Scottish Enlightenment.

On the other hand, there is a more promising contender for the accolade of primeval first English, even if not British, sociologist – Harriet Martineau (1802-76). One of her recent biographers calls her the 'first woman sociologist' and a strong case can be made for substituting 'English' (if not 'British') for 'woman'. Martineau was descended from Huguenot origins and is probably best known as the author of the two-volume *Society in America* (1837). This is far from being a simple travelogue, like so many writings of her time about the United States, but has claims to be considered a serious work of sociology, informed by her views of how to study a society as expressed in her book, *How To Observe Morals and Manners* (1838). Moreover, this was the author who brought the views of Auguste Comte, 'the first sociologist', to British



audiences in her translation, *The Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte* (1853).

One cannot but think that Martineau – feminist in spirit, radical, iconoclastic, an outspoken abolitionist against slavery in the latter part of her time in the United States (sometimes to the point of compromising her personal safety) – would (despite, or perhaps because of, her forbidding contemporary reputation for being ‘difficult’) as a social analyst be more clasped to the ideological bosom of many in contemporary British sociology even than the obviously extrovert Westermarck, and certainly more so than the implacable Spencer or the lugubrious Hobhouse. ■

[1] This was not the only Sociology course on offer in London around this time. A School of Sociology and Social Economics, based in Vauxhall Bridge Road, was also offering series of lectures on sociological topics.

Christopher T Husbands

De-essentialising culture in social research: an alternative perspective on the Iranian Revolution



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What can a critical analysis of the 1979 Iranian revolution teach us about social research?

It is difficult, if not impossible, to develop an overarching theory of revolution, one which is neither too general to be a viable sociological explanation nor too specifically awash with so many exceptions that the theory itself becomes an exception. Instead, we might ask why relatively similar socio-economic and political circumstances lead to different types of social action in different countries. Culture offers a key to answering this question. Through the filter of culture, human agents not only subjectify the objective structural conditions in which they live and interpret the world, but also objectify their subjective interpretations of this structure. In other words, it is cultural value systems that determine whether people living in specific structural conditions produce and consume practices of submission, consent, passive resistance or rebellion.

However, many experts have ignored spatial and temporal differences between societies and thus have developed determinist theories of revolution, both structuralist and agentic. In order to develop a non-determinist theory, we need to combine certain theoretical and empirical variables, which are examined through an analysis of the relationship between structure and agency. Culture is the key ingredient in such a theory. It is a mediating factor, constrained and enabled by its internal dynamism and its interaction with structural variables.

However, the cultural factor cannot play its primary role in challenging the deterministic aspect of many theories of revolution as long as it is perceived as an essentialised value system which lacks the dynamism, innovation and ability not only to adopt but also to change social reality.

To take a current example, Islam is often not seen as a dynamic cultural variable because it is

perceived as a static set of beliefs and it is assumed that it ‘does not develop, and neither do Muslims; they are merely are’ [1]. This essentialism has made it possible for theoreticians such as Samuel Huntington to develop his theory of the clash of civilisations, which ratifies Francis Fukuyama’s view that there is something inherent in Islam which systematically produces violent people [2]. Thus, it is necessary to de-essentialise Islam, since its essentialisation obscures social reality and fails to recognise its complexity.

For example, my work on the Iranian revolution shows that during the 1960s and 1970s, Iranian scholars and intellectuals assumed primary political importance by producing various interpretations of Islam that drew on and redefined local culture. Without exception, but to varying degrees and from various perspectives, their language, philosophical assumptions, political objectives and cultural knowledge aimed at the production and consumption of resistance and rebellion rather than indifference and submission.

Within this, we can more narrowly identify two competing discourses of Islam that were produced and used by oppositional political camps during the 1979 Iranian revolution, most famously by Ayatollah Khomeini (the revolution’s leader) and A H Baniadr (the first president of the republic). These are, respectively, Islam as a discourse of power and Islam as a discourse of freedom. While there were diverse meanings and practices of ‘Islam’ circulating during the revolution, the democratic discourse dominated to such an extent that Khomeini had to identify with it in order to maintain his leadership position. My dissertation argues that the fundamentalist discourses of Islam that dominate the state in Iran today became hegemonic not ‘naturally’ or because of their popularity, but as a conditional outcome of the struggle between democratic and fundamentalist camps in the political arena during this period. It could have been avoided. In other words, contrary to popular and much expert belief, the victory of theocratic forces in the Iranian revolution was not pre-destined, but was the historical outcome of a distinct political and cultural process – a process, which could have gone a different way. ▶



The recognition of the relative autonomy of culture and the mutual effect and dynamic relation between agent and structure via culture, which is concomitant with the recognition of the relative autonomy of culture, provide us with a basis for developing a non-deterministic theory of revolution.

This research identifies larger problems raised by the essentialisation or even naturalisation of culture, which leads to the creation of blind spots for researchers, as it reifies the relation between the observer and the observed. Such an approach simplifies research and reduces the task of research to verifying already held points of view. The de-essentialisation of culture in all of its forms becomes vital. In such an approach, the relationship between observer and observed is more open and dialectical. This approach suffers from fewer biases and discourages the verification of constructed stereotypes. It opens the way for the production of new questions and possible answers in research, and even allows for the re-examination of already developed consensuses on major sociological issues. ■

[1] P J Vatikiotis (ed.), *Revolution in the Middle East, and other Case Studies: proceedings of a seminar* (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1972).

[2] 'The West has won,' *The Guardian*, 11 October 2001.

Developing our links with China – Sociology and BIOS

From 3 to 15 September I visited China – Beijing, Shanghai, Changsha – with support from the British Council and the LSE Partnership programme. Like all recent visitors to China, I came away wide-eyed and awed by the breathless speed of change currently taking place in all areas of Chinese life, at least in the cities, and the great optimism of all that I spoke to about China's future. My trip was facilitated by Athar Hussain, Deputy Director of the LSE's Asia Research Centre, who accompanied me on most of it, and by Brendan Smith, LSE representative in Beijing. It had two main objectives. The first was to develop links with Sociology departments in China and to take forward plans for a major conference, to take place next year, between the LSE and Fudan University in Shanghai. The second was to explore developments in the area of the life sciences and biomedicine in China, with a view to developing links between the BIOS research centre and those working in cognate areas in China.

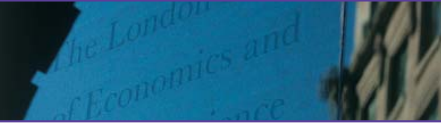


Of course, I was struck by the pace of building work, especially in Beijing – the above is the view from my hotel window and gives some indication of the numbers of new buildings that are sprouting at an incredible rate across the city. China is currently using a very large proportion of the world's supply of concrete and steel, and of tall cranes, and these building projects give some indication of its uses. One lesson that contemporary China has maintained from its past, and its recent history, is the capacity to mobilise human and material resources in the

service of major projects, and the speed of these building projects bears ample witness to that. As has been widely reported, the International Olympic Committee had to request that the Chinese slow construction work on their Olympic facilities for the Beijing Olympics in 2008, so as not to complete them before the Greek facilities were opened! As a Maoist in my younger days, enthralled by Mao's endeavour to construct a new type of person, I was also struck by how shallow those apparent changes in Chinese subjectivity and personhood had proved to be. At least amongst those that I met – university students, academics, biomedical researchers and doctors – few traces remain of those seemingly noble, but ultimately tragic endeavours; individualism, a belief in the implacable laws of the market, the ethics of consumption and self-fulfilment seem pretty ubiquitous.

On the first, sociological, aspect of my trip, I first visited Tsinghua University School of Humanities and Social Sciences in Beijing, where my host was Professor Li Qiang, who is Dean of the School. I gave a seminar on the 'Social Aspects of the Life Sciences – the European Debate' to a group of around 50 students from Tsinghua and other Beijing Universities, which led to some intriguing discussion. As many will know, demography and population studies have been major foci of Chinese social science. The sociology of health and medicine seem much less developed, but there are certainly some academics and researchers working in these fields and it seems set to develop further. Also in Beijing, I visited Peking University and was hosted by Prof. Ma Rong, Head of Sociology there. He is keen to develop collaborations between our two departments, and we explored the possibilities of initiating this through some exchanges of research students.





One main purpose of the Shanghai leg of my visit was to take further the plans for a major conference at Fudan University, organised jointly by Fudan and LSE. Fudan won seven of the prized awards from the Chinese Ministry of Education to set up national creative research centres, (Program 9:85) and is setting up a National Research Centre in Public Management and Public Policy on Population and Health, with three foci: population, public health (physical and psychological), and theories and systems of public health. Projects include developing a database of population studies statistics and reports and modelling the impact of different health systems. In addition, 2005 is Fudan's centennial year, and the LSE/Fudan conference will form part of these celebrations. We are working with Prof. Peng Xizhe, head of this new Research Centre, on the conference, which is planned for 21-23 April 2005. Some ten representatives of different departments and Institutes at the LSE will go to Fudan to present their work in joint sessions with Chinese scholars on issues ranging from human rights, though legal and financial regulation, to developments in biomedicine. This should be a great event, and the Department will be centrally represented within it and involved in the collaborative developments that I am sure will flow from it.

On the biomedical side of my trip, I was visiting both biomedical scientists and researchers. As in many countries, genomics and biomedicine are seen by the Chinese government as major areas for future economic growth. China is making major investments in genomics, with a number of leading gene sequencing centres, and the Beijing Genomics Institute has had remarkable success in sequencing the rice genome and the SARS virus. Another example of this is the Fudan Genomics and Life Sciences Institutes, the Fudan University State Key Laboratory of Genetic Engineering and the Fudan Institute of Genomics, where I was generously hosted by the Director, Prof. Zheng Zhaoxin. Work there includes virological research to develop vaccines against foot and mouth disease – unlike the British situation, 70 per cent of cows, pigs, sheep and other susceptible animals in China are vaccinated. Work is also being carried out by Professor Wu Chaoqun's group on the genetic basis of susceptibilities to common complex disorders such as diabetes, tuberculosis and liver cancer. They are also analysing Chinese herbs effective in the treatment of diabetes and liver cancer

to identify their mode of action: the herbs seem to work via the specific combinations and interactions of many dozens of active substances, a finding which will disappoint those, especially in Western pharmaceutical companies, who are seeking to isolate and patent the active elements from traditional remedies.

I also visited a number of people involved in bioethics developments in China. At Peking Union Medical College, I gave a lecture organised by Professor Qiu Renzong, one of China's leading bioethicists, and Dr Xiaomei Zhai, Director of the PUMC Research Centre. My lecture on 'race in the age of genomic medicine' was attended by around 150 postgraduate medical students – my hosts had arranged for translation. The lecture session, with sequential translation, was three hours long, followed by half an hour of excellent questions. The theme of the lecture was the re-emergence of conceptions of biological differences at the genomic level between population groups in contemporary genomic research on disease susceptibility and drug development, the economic and social drivers of these moves, and the differences between China and US/EU/UK in bioethical concerns and regulatory regimes. Professor Qiu had previously attended the BIOS symposium (May 2004) on race in the age of genomic medicine, funded by the British Council, where he briefed us on the contemporary bioethical debate about race and genomics in China, so the return trip arose out of this initial contact.

As many will know, Chinese population policy and Chinese genetics retained a eugenic flavour until quite recently, with laws requiring medical inspection of those thought to have hereditary diseases prior to marriage, and measures to prevent procreation in such cases. However, there has been a recent rapid importation of Euro-American individualistic ethical regimes – indeed bioethicists in China are bidding to host the next international congress on Bioethics in Beijing (and if they succeed, BIOS will be collaborating on a session in that event). The principles of do – no – harm, beneficence, autonomy and informed consent were, it seems, first accepted by some medical ethicists, then adopted by government, and hospitals have now set up ethics review boards along western lines – although it is not yet clear how extensively and in what ways these principles are being implemented by clinicians and researchers. I

visited another very impressive group working on bioethics in Beijing, at Peking University Health Science Centre, and BIOS is working closely with Dr Cong Yali and her colleagues at the PUHSC on a EU 6FP programme bid on Science and Ethics which will involve a number of centres in China, together with European partners from Vienna, Germany, Denmark, Slovenia and elsewhere.

One key area of work that has caused controversy in China and led to divisions in the Chinese bioethics community concerns genomic research carried out in China by US-based researchers and pharmaceutical companies. On this issue, I met with Xiong Li, a journalist who has written extensively on what some regard as the 'scandal' of blood sampling in Anhui in the 1990s. In one version of this story, a Chinese geneticist based at Harvard collected 20,000 blood samples from farmers in Anhui province and took them back to Harvard, where they were transferred to Millennium Pharmaceuticals for genetic analysis for low incidence diseases in Anhui, notably colon cancer and asthma. The Chinese authorities apparently only learned of this from a small article in *Science* announcing the project, and it generated consternation, initially about the 'loss of Chinese DNA resources to the USA'. An agreement was subsequently struck by the Chinese government in 1997 for international co-operation in genomic medical research, but this was challenged in 1999 by US bioethicists, and the story was investigated and publicised in the *Washington Post* in 2000, leading to further investigations in 2000 and 2001. Some in the bioethics community in China see this as a prime example of biopiracy, arguing that this research was a gross breach of the agreements with farmers, that informed consent for this research was a sham, that the farmers were promised medical treatment which they did not get, and that were harmed by the process of extracting the blood. However, repeated investigations by Harvard Medical School and by some leading Chinese bioethicists have found no bad practice and concluded that the procedures used accorded with the standards required by the Harvard IRB that had approved the project. This issue continues to divide the bioethical community, with some suggesting that foreign researchers and corporations are utilising the Chinese population as experimental subjects for research that will not benefit them, without proper bioethical safeguards, and others supporting the development of international collaboration on genomic research into disease susceptibility and

treatability. Wherever the truth lies, it is clear that these controversies in biomedical relations between China and the West are of considerable significance, and BIOS is seeking funding for a series of workshops bringing together Chinese and European social, medical and bioethical researchers to explore this further.

One of the most fascinating parts of my trip was my visit to Changsha to meet with Professor Lu Guangxiu at Xiang Ya Medical College. There have been sensationalist reports in the western media of Professor Lu's work on stem cells, therapeutic cloning and the use of enucleated rabbits eggs to produce blastocysts when fused with nuclei from adult cells. Professor Lu took the whole morning to show me around the clinic and institute and answer many questions. Their sperm bank was the first and is now the largest in China with 20,000 samples of frozen sperm (donors are mainly students from local universities) and sperm is sent to clinics across China if they have a licence for this kind of work. Apparently, there are other sperm banks in China with less rigorous regulation, including one of 'famous and intelligent people' which is thought to be one of the worst. The clinic also carries out assisted reproduction (AI) and has an IVF clinic which also provides services across China. Those eligible for IVF in China must be married and also have a certificate or licence to allow them to have a child (this is the case for all births in China – those in urban areas are allowed one child (twins permitted!), while those in rural areas are allowed two (exceeding your quota or having children without a licence incurs a fine of approx 5000 RMB or \$500). Couples must sign an impressive one-page consent form setting out all the options, including whether any embryos not implanted may be used for scientific research and for embryonic stem cells, or should be destroyed. The fourth element, and perhaps the most controversial, is the work on Embryonic Stem Cells using cloning techniques for fundamental research on the production of tissues for therapeutic use – an area where this group seem to have made very considerable advances both in fundamental science and in clinical applications. Professor Lu is very interested in the bioeconomic and regulatory issues at stake here, and the implications as these techniques are implemented in other clinics across China. We agreed to develop collaborative work with the BIOS centre on these issues.

I also met with those involved in work on pharmaceutical development and

pharmacogenetics in China, especially Zhou Hong-Hao, Professor in Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology in Changsha. In China, diverse medical systems and explanatory models of disease happily co-exist and live side by side in most pharmacies, and conventional pharmaceuticals are widely used alongside herbs, acupuncture and other therapies. Some 90 per cent of pharmaceuticals sold in China are generics, many closely related to drugs still in patent in Europe and the US. However, all drugs sold in China have to be retested and re-licensed in the Chinese population in view of the widely accepted view that there are differences in drug metabolism amongst Chinese and 'Caucasian' populations. Given the focus of my own work on psycho-pharmaceuticals, I was keen to develop ideas for comparative research on the diagnosis and treatment of depression in China and Europe. As is well known, the UK, like EU and US, has experienced a very large increase in diagnoses of depression and anxiety disorders, associated with a very large increase in the prescription of and market for new and expensive psychiatric drugs which are heavily marketed outside China. The situation in China for such mild to moderate disorders is not well known, and this seems a good opportunity for comparative ethnographic work, especially as western drug companies are contemplating entering the vast market that China appears to offer, and the very widespread use in China of both generic pharmaceuticals and traditional Chinese medical preparations manufactured and marketed in pill or capsule form. It appears that, despite some unease about admitting this, there is a growing incidence of the kinds of symptoms that in the West would be diagnosed as depression or anxiety disorders and treated by drugs, especially among the young, with a growing incidence of suicide in universities; in some cases, students have actually killed other students or their parents because of pressures or perceived criticisms. There are also some reports of the growing use of psychiatric pharmaceuticals in China for childhood problems, including ADHD. I hope to follow up these issues on a subsequent trip.

All in all, this was a wonderful and instructive experience. I look forward to my next visit and to the developing links between Chinese academics and the LSE Sociology department and BIOS research centre. ■

Nikolas Rose



Researching the use of force

Having started earlier this year (2004) as a part-time doctoral research student, I am still fairly new to the Department. My study is concerned with the use of legitimate (non-lethal) force and I am supervised by Professor Paul Rock, with informal support from Dr Jill Peay (Dept. of Law). Below is a brief sketch of my research at the moment, followed by a summary of some of the most salient issues that have come to light in relation to the use of force on young people in custody.

Introducing force

My research focus, the use of force in the UK (though this may well be refined to England and Wales), is developing into two broad aspects. The first is an evaluative and analytic examination of what constitutes legitimacy in relation to the use of force, who uses force and what it is that they do, and the formal and less than formal structures that regulate and effectively authorise the use of physical intervention. In addition to relevant legal points, policies and training programmes, the sociological literature is rich with information on policing and, increasingly, the work of prison officers. Recent research has also highlighted door supervisors ('bouncers') as major players in the use of force, though their claims to legitimacy are, whether appropriately or not, considered less credible at times than those of other groups. This analysis grounds the second principal aspect of this research, which is an attempt to understand and delineate the use of force by nurses in mental health units. Currently, there appears to be a startling lack of regulation of the use of force on mentally ill inpatients. In order to study nurses' use of force, ethnography is likely to produce the most insightful results, though interviews may well provide valuable supplements.

When a child is not a child

The brutal treatment of children in familial and institutional home settings is not a new phenomenon, and is perhaps an especially sharp reminder of the need to protect all vulnerable people as far as is practicable. Analyses of past cases may tempt us to assume such practices occurred *then* and not now, but prominent scandals do surface and, at least for a time,



point fingers not only at alleged perpetrators but also at regulatory complacency and even societal attitudes. Using force on children is a perennially sensitive issue, as witnessed earlier this year by the substantial media reporting of debates surrounding the un/acceptability of physical discipline in the home, and political demands for an end to all corporal punishment in this country. Notions about regulating the private space of 'home' are blatantly problematic as well as controversial, but in social care and penal settings, rigorous procedures and safeguarding mechanisms are expected more than ever before.

In British prisons, staff manage physical aggression by inmates with a range of approved physical skills known as *Control and Restraint (C&R)*. Such programmes include team-restraint procedures that employ manual techniques to the 'lock' joints – mainly the wrists. Joint-locks not only contribute to the immobilisation of an individual, but allow the use of pain-compliance techniques by those restraining if verbal interventions have failed or are untenable. The Howard League for Penal Reform (HLPR) has spelled out its concerns about the use of these methods on young prisoners [1]. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was a ground-breaking treaty aimed at providing comprehensive minimum standards for the treatment of children worldwide. As part of its independent submission to the UNCRC, the HLPR undertook research into the treatment of young people in prison and raised matters in accordance with relevant articles of the Convention. Restraint methods were addressed under Article 37(a): *No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.*

Linking the use of force with torture and maltreatment may seem a leap, yet repeated electronic literature searches for 'pain-compliance' and 'pain infliction' have persistently taken me back to the field of human rights abuses, and to the dark corner of torture in particular. There is little doubt that some methods for the physical management of aggressive incidents should be available to staff in all of the abovementioned settings, both for their safety and that of those detained. The contentious issue is exactly what form such methods should take.

In 1997, a group of expert advisors recommended to then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, that prison restraint procedures could cause injury to under-18s due to the fact that their bones and joints had not developed fully.

It was also argued that problems stemming from previous physical and emotional abuse, which are remarkably common among young offender populations, could be exacerbated by robust physical contact. Hence, it was argued, the Home Office could be rendered liable to prosecution for its approval of the practices. The group's report is not publicly available, but pain-compliant methods were subsequently stopped in secure training centres.

The relevant Prison Service Order concerning regimes for under-18s states that force should be a last resort. Nevertheless, the HLPR infers that C&R is used routinely. Between April 2000 and January 2002, there were 3,615 recorded incidents of its use, and recorded injuries to 296 trainees. The HLPR concludes that high levels of force are embedded in inadequate education and training in how to work with young people. Moreover, in milieux so often marked by tension, fear and unhappiness, a willingness to 'get physical' sooner rather than later could be catalytic. The blending of staff trained to a high standard in physical procedures, relatively high levels of labile inmates, and what are often distinctly tough identities (ie of both inmates and staff) may facilitate or even serve to propel physical actions to resolve difficulties.

In the field of mental health, it is notable that after the (post-restraint) death of one man in a high-security hospital, an inquiry team recommended that prison restraint procedures be introduced. When another inquiry team reported on the third similar death in the same hospital in a seven-year period, disagreement was expressed about this previous recommendation as the later team felt such training was likely to reinforce custodial attitudes. The playing fields of force can be decidedly muddy and are not necessary level. ■

Jonathon Lynch

[1] **Howard League for Penal Reform Children in Prison: Barred Rights (London: HLPR, 2002).**

Professor Watanabe is based in the Department of Sociology at Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan and was a visiting scholar in the Department during August and September 2004. She kindly agreed to present her work at the Sociology Departmental Research Seminar Series. Here, Professor Watanabe provides a summary of her research.

The Meaning of Work in Comparative Perspective

The UK and Japan: A Summary of the Sociology Department Seminar 6 October 2004

Looking back through history, one finds that in many societies, the nascent accumulation of industrial capital and the process of early industrialisation were supported by work-related values, closely linked with specific religious or ideological doctrines similar to what Weber described as the Protestant ethic. Weber maintained that the basis for the relatively great success of industrialisation in northern European countries and the northeastern regions of the United States was provided by the absorption of Protestant doctrines, notably Calvinist notions, into everyday life and their permeation into the cultures of these countries.

In other areas of the world as well, religious or ideological doctrines which stressed diligence, asceticism, and the preservation of wealth through saving seem to have exerted a significant influence on successful industrial takeoff. For instance, in post-revolutionary Soviet Russia, Bolshevik ideology provided the asceticism required by early industrialisation. In Japan, the values which emphasised hard work and saving were introduced as a part of the semi-state-orthodoxy of Confucianism when the Meiji government initiated modern industrial development in Japan in the late nineteenth century.

It has been argued that this work ethic gradually weakened as these countries became industrialised, their economies matured and the central interest of the people shifted from work to leisure. On the basis of empirical evidence, such as opinion polls, absenteeism rates and labor productivity, a number of observers claim

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that there has been a wide spread attenuation of the traditional work ethic and a measurable decline in motivation in advanced industrial countries over the past thirty years.

However, the analysis of survey data on the UK and Japan reveals that the degree of commitment and the meaning people attach to work differ by occupational categories. It is toward this process of diversification that attention should be directed. The data demonstrate that in both the UK and Japan, a significant proportion of managerial and professional employees seek self-actualisation through work; place importance on intrinsic rewards such as challenge, sense of accomplishment, career development, and full realisation of one's ability; and show a positive attachment to work. Among them, work-centeredness has been revived in a new context. On the other hand, there is a large proportion of lower-grade employees who see their jobs merely as means to earn money, which enables them to pursue their central life interests in non-work spheres of life. For them, as work is not their main interest, the time they really enjoy is that spent away from work.

The trend of diversification in work values and the prevalence of self-actualisers among managers and professionals are shared by British and Japanese employees. There are three differences between the two countries. First, in Japan there still remains some influence of the traditional Japanese work ethic. About 10 to 15 percent of employees identify with such a work ethic. Due to the collectivistic and organization-oriented characteristics of this ethic, the work behavior of the Japanese is still less individualistic than that of the British. Second, in the UK each individual has a more clear-cut perception of the meaning of the job he/she currently holds and his/her behaviour is more directly affected by it. Third, in the UK those in the work value category ('self-actualisers,' 'work for money' types, etc.) are more closely associated with occupational categories, while in Japan one finds more of a mixture of types across all occupational categories. ■

Professor Satako Watonabe

BIOS

Research awards

Neuroscience, Identity and Society is a new Research Seminar Series funded by the ESRC and co-organised by Dr Paul Martin (Nottingham) and Professor Nikolas Rose of the BIOS Centre. The purpose is to promote multi-disciplinary discussion on developments in contemporary neuroscience and their implications for the social sciences, public policy and society.

The Inner World of Brain Disorder: Romantic Impulses in the new Neurological Society.

This is a 12 month project funded by the Wellcome Trust's History of Medicine Programme (£20,000) to support Professor Anne Harrington to carry out a study on the burgeoning first-person literature on brain disorder. Focusing especially on changes in the neurological case history during the twentieth century, and especially on the work of Alexandr Luria and Oliver Sacks, she will analyse the historical conditions that made these narratives possible, assess the impact of the various subgenres, and locate the whole within existing scholarship on the emergence of what is seen as the new neurological society.

Visualising the Mind: Images of Mental Life in Science, Art and Popular Culture.

This activity has been funded by the Wellcome Trust (up to £29,000) and will support an artist's residency in BIOS. The resident, Ruth MacLennan, will create new works, co-organise public events, and curate an exhibition on this theme. Different ideas of 'the mind' as well as their origins and uses will be considered: the mind equated with the brain as matter and body, the mind as beyond the body, the mind as the instrument of 'self-fashioning' or an object to be manipulated and transformed, the mind as a metaphor for social activities. All these have rich visual histories, and the subject here is the changing relations between these ideas of the mind, scientific advances in imaging and explaining the activities of the brain, and the contemporary interpretation of these ideas in science, art, philosophy, sociology, the media and politics.

Centre for the Study of Human Rights

Grant award: seminar series on civil society and state security

The Centre is delighted to announce that it has been awarded £12,440 by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for a new seminar series. The award will fund six seminars over two years on 'The Role of Civil Society in a National Security State: An Interdisciplinary Enquiry', to begin in January 2005.

The series aims to identify the proper role of civil society in the management of state security. Anxieties about the vulnerability of the nation to attack are currently underpinning a redefinition of the relationship between the individual and the state. The effectiveness, and therefore legitimisation, of this remodelling depends on the cooperation of many elements within civil society, including judges, lawyers, scholars, NGOs, and members of the media. What role, if any, should these actors have in helping to make effective legislative and other proposals in this area?

Professor Conor Gearty, Raising Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, said:

'This project will create a focus for critical analysis of the role of civil society in the new national-security-based model of the individual/state relationship currently being developed by government. The aim is to develop through the seminars a dialogue between government and non-governmental actors on the management of issues related to national security.'

'The series will help forge an approach to the subject which achieves the right balance between officials and others on the one hand, and between principles – relating to security and to democratic and legal accountability (for example) – on the other.'

Further details of the seminar series will be posted online nearer the time.

For more information about the Centre, please visit the Centre's website (www.lse.ac.uk/humanrights) or contact Joy Whyte on 020 7955 6428 or j.m.whyte@lse.ac.uk.

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New on the Centre's website:

MSc Human Rights: Graduate Prospectus for 2005 now available online

'A blow for freedom' (article for *The Guardian* on Guantanamo Bay prisoners) by Professor Conor Gearty

The Centre's autumn public events programme will be announced in late August

Cities Programme

Research and Training Network: Urban Europe – Between Identity and Change
From 31 March to 3 April 2004, the LSE hosted approximately 50 urbanists.

Sociologists, as well as a few geographers and urban designers, came here to exchange thoughts on topics such as culture and the city, urban policy and politics, social exclusion and urban density. They represented seven universities and doctoral, post-doctoral students and their faculty.

The LSE is a partner in the UrbEurope Research and Training Network (RTN) which connects academics investigating urban issues through collaboration on research, the provision of fellowships, workshops and conferences. The European Commission is the funding source for the initiative.

'The urbEUROPE network has the ambition to develop a meta-project, aimed at linking the outputs of recent or ongoing research in different disciplines involving the urban dimension of Europe. The flourishing of research projects and networks carrying out empirical fieldwork on European cities signals the crucial character of this dimension, even though little effort has been devoted to building a solid interdisciplinary knowledge base integrated with a highly structured training programme. UrbEurope aims at the establishment of this link by organising three main areas of analysis:

- 1 the analysis of how global changes and local impacts are conceptualised in theories and through which methods they are investigated
- 2 the analysis of how changes impact upon the built environment
- 3 the analysis of how changes impact upon local social policies and governance.'

The universities partnered in this endeavour include the London School of Economics, Fondation Nationale des Science Politiques (Paris), Humboldt University (Berlin), University of Amsterdam, University of Helsinki, University of Milan-Bicocca and University of Urbino.

A particularly cross-disciplinary approach has been adopted towards the RTN, with the initiative being run across the departments of Geography and the Environment, and the Cities Programme, which is, of course, housed in the department of Sociology. The agreement to participate in the network was first signed by Richard Sennett, Chair of the Cities Programme. It is now co-ordinated by Ian Gordon, Professor in Human Geography, and Kathryn Firth, Co-director of the Cities Programme. (We urge our colleagues in Sociology to encourage their PhD and post-doctoral students to take the opportunity to participate in the Network.) The multi-disciplinary approach was reinforced by the selection of key speakers at the Workshop.

The workshop days were organised by theme. Given the breadth of topics being presented, the themes were rather broad: 1) *Metropolitan competitiveness*, 2) *Culture and the City* and 3) *Policy and Politics*.

Tony Travers, kicking off the Workshop and Theme 1, gave the visitors an overview of London's politics and policies, not without a few sharp editorial comments. This session was extremely varied, from presentations on globalisation in Berlin and Paris to the use of branding to increase Helsinki's competitiveness. Theme 2 was fittingly introduced by Andy Pratt, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography, with his talk on *Cultural Industries Clusters*. On the afternoon of the same, day Richard Sennett presented his current take on city design with *Open Systems Theory and the City*. Theme 2 also included student presentations, from the role of art in urban regeneration to the cultural economy in post-Fordist cities. Finally, on the third day, key speakers Murray Low, Lecturer in Human Geography, discussed *Spaces of Democracy in the City*, and Darinka Czischke, an LSE Cities research associate, presented work to date on a study of Urban Density.

Theme 3 saw presentations on the pros and cons of decentralisation, the redefinition of democracy and the role of local areas in promoting equality and inclusiveness.

Clearly, one cannot have a group of urbanists travel to a city and spend their entire visit in a lecture room that looks much like the lecture rooms they have at home. Therefore, we organised a bus tour that provided a view of London which, while it admittedly took in the Millennium Bridge and whizzed past the Tower of London, for the most part exposed our guests to a London not on the usual tourist map. Heading eastward we drove through the City, past St Katherine's Dock to Wapping and Shadwell Basin. Here they were able to get a sense of the recent flurry of private riverside development. Disembarking at Westferry, we gave the visitors a look at some fairly typical council housing in the foreground with Canary Wharf looming in the not-so-distant background. A similar contrast was provided when we reached Island Gardens from which both the Isle of Dogs and Greenwich development are visible. We then carried on to Woolwich, where the transformation of the Arsenal into a leisure and entertainment centre and its adjacent market housing stands in isolation from the town centre and its recent immigrant residents. On the route back to LSE, Mile End Park and the ever-lively Whitechapel were highlighted.

Caroline Paskell from CASE provided the main narrative for the tour, with commentary on the built environment by myself and interpretive comments by Richard Sennett.

When the bus returned to LSE mid-day on Saturday, many of our colleagues eagerly set off to contribute to the global economy and public life in and around Covent Garden and, indeed, join the throngs of London tourists.

Submitted by Kathryn Firth

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Gender Institute



New Director

The Gender Institute is delighted to announce that Diane Perrons will be taking up a three year 0.5FTE appointment as

the Gender Institute's next Director from 1 September 2004. Dr Perrons is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environment at LSE and will continue there on a half-time basis during her tenure at the GI.

Dr Perrons' research focuses on the economic, social and spatial implications of economic restructuring, paying particular attention to the rising inequalities in the new economy. She recently published *Globalization and Social Change: People and Places in a Divided World* (Routledge, April 2004) which draws on a range of theoretical perspectives to analyse the widening social and spatial divisions in the increasingly divided world. She illustrates these through a series of case studies linking people in rich and poor countries. Her previous books are *Making Gender Work* (Open University Press, 1996) and *Arena of Capital* (Macmillan, 1983). She has published articles in a range of journals including *Gender, Work and Organisation*, *Feminist Economics* and *Economic Geography*.

Dr Perrons directed a comparative project for the European Union on flexible working and reconciling work and family life and is currently evaluating the EU's framework strategy for gender equality. Her current research projects explore the gendered nature of widening social divisions and include an ESRC project on 'Living and Labouring in London and Manchester' with colleagues from the Universities of Oxford and Manchester. She also co-ordinated the ESRC seminar series 2002-2004, 'Work, Life and Time in the New Economy' (www.lse.ac.uk/worklife) and has a new series on 'Gender, Work and Life in the New Global Economy' (see below).

New research projects and seminars

Divorce Regulation in Multicultural Society: Implications for Law and Policy, award holder, Oonagh Reitman, financed by the

Nuffield Foundation (£85,105) for 24 months beginning in July 2004. The award is to fund comparative study of the ways in which various multicultural states have responded to minority divorce regulation. For more detail see Faculty Notes, below.

Discourse Analysis as an Approach for Media Studies, award holder, Rosalind Gill, financed by the AHRB (£14,892) for 4 months, beginning September 2004. The award is to fund the evaluation and development of theory and methodology.

Two new ESRC seminar series

New Femininities: Post-Feminism and Sexual Citizenship. Co-ordinated by Rosalind Gill.

This seminar series seeks to make sense of the contradictory landscape arising from the contemporary paradoxes facing young women. On the one hand, it appears that 'women are winning', that young women have 'never had it so good' and that they are excelling at school and in the workplace, and indeed leaving their male peers behind. Yet on the other hand, at precisely the same moment, we have witnessed the dramatic and deliberate re-sexualisation of women's bodies in the media, combined with the mainstreaming and 'respectabilisation' of pornography in public space and corporate culture. Equality or parity between men and women has been largely accepted as a value and very significant steps have been made towards its achievement (particularly for white and middle-class women), yet rates of anorexia and teenage pregnancy remain disturbingly high, particularly in the UK. Increasingly, the body and sexuality are emerging as key sites of struggle for young women – and again this produces paradoxes: on the one hand more young women are presented and often present themselves as assertive, desiring sexual subjects, yet on the other, the available research shows that heterosexual relationships remain so inflected by unequal power relations that many women are put at considerable risk because of the difficulties of negotiating safer sex.

The series will correspondingly examine whether and to what extent young women's lives today are different from those of previous generations, and explore both what

is new and distinctive as well as similarities and continuities. The questions that will be addressed in the series include: How new is 'new sexism'? To what extent is the body figured as a site of conflict? How are experiences at school, in the workplace, at home and in relationships connected and changing, and how are they mediated by class, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation? In what ways are these experiences impacted by globalisation?

One of the innovative features of the series will be the way it brings together scholars from *different disciplinary backgrounds* to consider these issues. At present, there has been research in geography, media and communications studies, psychology and sociology, but very little dialogue between the disciplines. Ultimately this has led to the impoverishment of our understanding of the complex nature of young women's lives; for example, there is a relatively well-developed appreciation of the ways that representations of gender in the media are changing, but little understanding of the way in which this influences young women's subjective experiences of the self or the body. What is urgently required is an interdisciplinary dialogue that draws links between space, media, social and cultural shifts, and psychic life.

A second feature that makes the series both valuable and timely is its focus on developing *theoretical understandings*. In recent years, there have been a number of attempts to develop conceptual frameworks that will address or speak to some of the apparently significant changes in young women's lives. These include the notion of a 'backlash', the notion of 'post-feminism' and the development of an analysis of the relationship between neo-liberalism, competitive individualism and gender identity. The seminars represent an opportunity to interrogate this theory and to assess it in relation to both the empirical evidence and practice and policy issues. For example, how useful is the notion of post-feminism? Is it a descriptive or analytic term, an historical or epistemological term? How might a Foucaultian analysis of the production of new femininities contribute to our understanding of young women's lives? ▶

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To what extent do western theoretical notions such as backlash travel or offer any purchase outside the West?

A third strength of the series is its commitment to *engaging with policy and practitioner communities* as well as diverse groups of academics. Invited organisations include Fawcett, the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (Department of Health), British Pregnancy Advisory Service, the International Union of Sex Workers and Positively Women. This will mean that the debates will be embedded in the very real concerns of organisations working with young women and policy bodies in cognate areas. But it will also mean that policy and practice can be impacted by cutting-edge academic research and theorising. An example of this might be recent academic writing about new policy regimes for regulating sex education or the media. The new media regulatory body (OfCom) represents a significant shift towards neo-liberal and consumerist models of social and cultural management, and there is considerable discussion within the academic literature about this new mode of governmentality and what its gendered costs might be.

Finally, the seminar series seeks to engage with questions of globalisation, particularly issues related to the global flow of new, sexualised femininities. Questions about the extent to which representational practices and experiences are socially and geographically specific will be present throughout the series, but a final end-of-award symposium to be held in July 2006 will bring these to prominence with an international focus.

The seminar series represents a collaboration between colleagues at five different universities within the UK: Ann Phoenix (Open University), Merl Storr (University of East London), Jane Arthurs and Estella Tincknell (University of West of England), and Valerie Walkedine (Cardiff University). Rosalind Gill (Gender Institute, LSE) is the lead applicant and award holder. The first seminar will be held at the LSE in November 2004, on the theme of 'Theorising the Changes'. Further information can be obtained from Hazel Johnstone at h.johnstone@lse.ac.uk.

Gender, Work and Life in the New Global Economy.

Co-ordinated by Diane Perrons. This series extends the existing ESRC work on life and time in the new economy seminar by taking a global perspective. One of the key findings of contemporary research is that economic inequality is increasing despite the development of a new knowledge-based economy, the feminisation of employment, and the proliferation of policies mainstreaming gender and designed to create a fairer world. The series seeks to cut across existing disciplinary boundaries and the more- and-less-developed-country divide in order to provide a holistic understanding of the processes generating inequality, and of how this is experienced through the increasing interconnections between people and places and in everyday life. Questions to be addressed include: What are the implications of the increasing global division of work on the ability to ensure labour standards, fair conditions of work and equal opportunities? How can issues of gender, race and class inequality in the workplace be addressed simultaneously? How have different national welfare regimes/spatial frameworks adapted to the new economy? What does corporate social responsibility mean in practice and how does it relate to issues of securing a living wage for low-paid workers?

The seminar series represents a collaboration between colleagues at five different universities within the UK: Diane Elson (University of Essex), Linda McDowell (University of Oxford), Majella Kilkey (University of Hull), and Ruth Pearson (University of Leeds). Diane Perrons (Gender Institute, LSE) is the lead applicant and award holder. Further information can be obtained from Hazel Johnstone h.johnstone@lse.ac.uk.

Seminar reports

Travelling Concepts in Feminist Pedagogy: European Perspectives

This seminar, funded by the Sociology Research Fund, was held at the LSE from 17-19 September 2004. 24 partners from 12 European countries attended, and the funding enabled us to support those without institutional funding of their own (particularly those from Eastern European contexts). The project as a whole aims to trace the different pedagogic uses and abuses of key feminist concepts across the partner locations, and we made great strides in narrowing down the conceptual field and planning our collaborative publications. The main output of the project will be four linked short books collaboratively produced by teams of six, to be sold as a series or individually, and an interactive website for use by students and scholars that allows people to add to the conceptual map. The books and website will be launched at the 6th European Feminist Research Conference in Lodz, Poland in August 2006, and will constitute a unique resource for European feminist research and teaching.

Submitted by Clare Hemmings

British Journal of Sociology

BJS relaunch at the ASA 2005 Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Following its recent move to Blackwells, the BJS was relaunched at the American Sociological Association Annual meeting in San Francisco this August. The purpose of this was to reach out to academics who may not be familiar with the journal and to attract new authors to submit papers of high standard for publication. In addition to the usual 'publisher's stand organised by Blackwells, the BJS held a wine reception at which Bryan Turner spoke about 'British Sociology since 1945'. The meeting was a great success and helped to raise the profile of the journal with the largely American audience. We are particularly happy that we have managed to secure Michael Buroway's keynote speech for publication early next year. His address provoked a huge response and was widely covered in the press, with its theme of 'Public Sociologies' striking a chord at this turbulent time in American politics.



Public Lecture Series

The theme of 'Public Sociologies' is carried through into the first annual BJS Public Lecture Series, being hosted at the LSE this autumn. This year's event will form part of a continuing debate on the theme appearing in the journal throughout the year (free access to all the debate papers can be found on www.blackwellpublishing.com/bjos). The debate, entitled 'Public Sociology: Sociology and the Democratic Debate,' will be held in the Old Theatre at 6:30pm on 26 October 2004. Leading sociologists and practitioners will debate the place of sociology in contemporary policy-making. Are today's sociologists equipped and able to contribute to policy making and hold government to critical account? Should they play such a role? Can sociology contribute to the democratic debate?

Participants include:

Baroness Blackstone, Vice-Chancellor, University of Greenwich

Dr Philip Davies, Government Chief Social Researcher's Office, Cabinet Office

Professor Amitai Etzioni, author of *From Empire to Community*

Professor Lord Giddens, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, LSE

Paul Johnson, Chief Microeconomist, HM Treasury

Professor Hugh Lauder, Professor of Education, University of Bath

The event is chaired by Professor Bridget Hutter, Editor of the BJS. More events are planned and will be advertised as and when they are finalised.

BJS Hardship Fund

We are delighted to announce that a BJS Hardship Fund has been set up for second and third-year MPhil and PhD students of the Sociology Department and the centres of CARR, BIOS, Mannheim and Human Rights. Details of how to apply will be emailed to eligible students and links placed on the Sociology Department website shortly.

Submitted by **Bridget Hutter (Editor)**, **Suki Ali (Book Review Editor)** and **Jacque Gauntlett (Journal Manager)**

Faculty notes

Dr Patrik Aspers, Research Fellow at the Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, reflects on his year at the LSE.

I have now spent a year at the Sociology Department, and it has been an extremely fruitful and pleasant time of my life. While being away from my home department I have had plenty of time to read, attend seminars and talk to people. When I say that the stay has been great, I am thinking in particular of my numerous friendly colleagues, all of whom are characterised by a high professional and academic standard. In my view, the LSE has two additional advantages. The first is the diversity of the student population, and the second is the large number of lectures that you can round off the day with. I will indeed miss the LSE, which I see as the quintessence of the London I like.

My work here has focused on the social construction of markets in the global garment industry. While being in the UK, I conducted a few interviews and observations in the garment consumer market and have finished chapters related to this project. A slightly more casual research project is on train modelers. One can do such a study in the UK probably better than in any other country. This field, full of 'enthusiasts,' is most fascinating to study.

I have used part of my time to prepare the second edition of *Markets in Fashion: A Phenomenological Approach* (Routledge, 2005). While working intensely on phenomenological sociology, I have used the excellent library facilities that LSE provides. I have also written a number of entries for the *Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology*, which will be published next year by Routledge. All in all, I have had a great time at the LSE.

Professor Eileen Barker has been awarded the Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship from August 2004-2006.

Dr Catherine Hakim

Breaking Taboos

For decades, the European Commission has claimed that Sweden provides the blueprint for gender equality and family-friendly policies in Europe. Sweden has been only too happy to agree that the Swedish model of social policy is the most advanced.

These claims have now been challenged by Catherine Hakim in a new book that has prompted widespread debate in the Scandinavian media. Interviews with Dr. Hakim have been reported by Radio Sweden, *Dagens Nyheter* (in an editorial on 26 September) and *Dagens Industri*, the Danish and Norwegian press, following articles in the *Wall Street Journal* (Thursday 7 October) and the *Guardian* (22 September).

Hakim points out that family-friendly policies (as illustrated most generously by Sweden) do not eliminate the pay gap or job segregation. On the contrary, family-friendly policies are a cause of the glass ceiling. The pay gap is smallest in Portugal (8 per cent) not Sweden. Women are more likely to become top managers in hire-and-fire-at-will USA than in Sweden: 11 per cent versus 1.5 per cent.

She concludes that family-friendly policies are in reality pro-natalist policies, which cannot achieve the goal of gender equality in the workforce, and conflict with it.

Key Issues in Women's work by Catherine Hakim has just been published by Cavendish/GlassHouse Press.

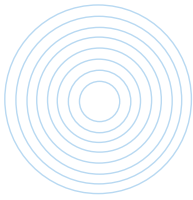
Dr Clare Hemmings has been awarded two British Council grants – one research visit award, and one international conference award. Clare will be visiting Utrecht Women's Studies department, headed by Prof. Rosi Braidotti, to work on her growing interest in genealogies of European feminist thought. While at Utrecht, Clare will organise an international conference on this issue, the aim of which is to establish an ongoing debate and exchange between UK and Dutch feminist academics.

Dr Nicola Mai has two new publications:

Russell King, Nicola Mai and Mirela Dalipaj, *Exploding the Migration Myths: Analysis and Recommendations for the European Union, the UK and Albania*. London: Fabian Society Press and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. (Fabian ISBN 0 7163 3059 8; Oxford ISBN 0 85598 524 0).

Nicola Mai and Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers, eds. *Albanian Migration and New Transnationalisms*, special issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Volume 29, Number 6, November 2003.

Professor Anne Phillips, together with Dr Sawitri Saharso of the Free University of Amsterdam, received a \$22,620 award from the Nuffield Foundation to finance a project called 'Gender



Equality and Cultural Diversity: European Comparisons and Lessons'. The award is to fund two conferences that will bring together people working on the relationship between recognising cultural diversity and protecting women's rights, to explore the different policy regimes being developed across Europe and the normative issues these raise. The first conference (planned for 2005) will generate a preliminary typology of policy regimes, identify the key countries and main theoretical concerns, and agree on shared parameters for country based studies. The academic literature on the tensions that can arise between gender equality and cultural diversity has mostly been driven by the North American experience, with little attention to the specificities of Europe. The papers presented at the second conference in 2006 should provide the first cross-European analysis of these issues.

This project continues and extends the work of two earlier projects: 'Sexual and Cultural Equality: Conflicts and Tensions', led by Anne Phillips and also funded by the Nuffield Foundation; and 'Culture, Toleration, and Female Autonomy in a Liberal Democracy', led by Sawitri Saharso and funded by the Netherlands's Foundation for Scientific Research, 2000-03.

Dr Onagh Reitman was awarded £85,105 by the Nuffield Foundation for a two-year project, 'Divorce Regulation in Multicultural Society: Implications for Law and Policy,' which started in July 2004.

The award is to fund comparative study of how various multicultural, cosmopolitan states have responded to minority divorce regulation. Divorce is used as an example of the ways in which the regulatory norms of these states overlap and interact with those of minorities settled within their jurisdiction. The project aims to suggest some guiding principles by which comprehensive liberal governance can best be achieved in this sort of regulatory environment.

The comparative methodology deployed in this project, with the aid of local research assistance in certain jurisdictions, should help identify best practice on the ground. By working back from these examples and thinking what would improve them, I shall describe the central characteristics of policy which most successfully manages the ethical and political considerations, often considered in conflict with one another, which arise in governance of culturally diverse society

– in particular between policies in furtherance of multiculturalism and feminism respectively.

The project will generate scholarly publications, notably *Regulating Identity: Divorce, Diaspora Style*, as well as policy-oriented dissemination exercises aimed at improving public administration of divorce in multicultural and cosmopolitan Britain.

The interdisciplinary research (principally law, sociology and political theory) will centre on generally-applicable state law governing domestic divorce regulation, and its interplay with informal regulation of divorce amongst the studied minorities, the focus being on Jewish and Muslim diaspora communities constituted as self-regulating minority communities in various states whose cosmopolitan and multicultural character has arisen primarily from high immigration rates. The displacement of state law by minority regulation will be catalogued, as will the measures which have been taken, through state law and policy, more fully to realise state policies in respect of divorce in these multicultural contexts. The project will also study minority divorce regulation occurring transnationally, through regimes of divorce recognition under private international law (or conflict of laws). Research will be conducted in a representative sample of states in which these self-regulating minorities have settled, as well as an illustrative number of countries with which these minorities maintain transnational regulatory relationships.

Professor Paul Rock recently published a new book, *Constructing Victim's Rights: The Home Office, New Labour and Victims* (Oxford: Clarendon Press). He has also been invited to be a visiting fellow at the Australian National University in summer 2005. During this summer, on behalf of the charity 'Crisis,' he and Tim Newburn have been supervising a survey of the victimisation of homeless people. The interviews have been carried out largely by MSc and PhD students. A report will be published in December.

Professor Nikolas Rose

Although I've been rather busy with administrative duties during the period since the last newsletter, I did find time to give a few lectures. Perhaps the most difficult was the request to give the opening keynote address to the Annual Conference of the Forensic Section of the Royal College of Psychiatry (Southampton) in February, which I did on the topic of 'Governing

Risky Individuals in a Biological Age'. Since many forensic psychiatrists regard risk assessment not only as one of their main areas of expertise, but also a major source of income, it is unsurprising that my scepticism about the rationality of risk and my analysis of the politics of 'governing though risk' was not universally popular. There were no rousing cheers at my conclusion that forensic psychiatrists should resist the 'blackmail of risk'.

I continued with my analysis of these new ways of thinking about, and trying to govern, that elusive but apparently necessary zone of 'will' in lectures on 'governing the will in a neurochemical age' at a symposium on 'Willing and Doing' at the Max Planck Institute in Munich in February 2004 and again at All Souls College, Oxford. My argument is that new ways of visualising and conceptualising impulsive behaviour are taking shape in neuroscience, although they are not penetrating the courtroom, and are unlikely to destabilise the legal fictions of intentionality and responsibility. However, they are impacting on the criminal justice system in more subtle ways, notably in the attempt to develop predictive indicators of future pathological or troublesome conduct and to intervene pre-symptomatically with the aim of prevention.

The politics of screening and predictive intervention in this area along with others thus form one axis of 'the politics of life in the twenty-first century' – the topic of a number of lectures I gave in North America during a short lecture tour in March and April. It was a pleasure to be able to discuss this with audiences in Toronto, Montreal, Carleton and Princeton. The critical input was very valuable, especially from those carrying out research on these topics in the society where these developments are most advanced. While I was in the States, I visited Yale and gave a lecture on 'Race in the age of genomic medicine' in the Department of African American Studies, hosted by my old colleague from Goldsmiths, Paul Gilroy. I had expected my thesis – that the resurgence of ideas of race in genomic medicine is not, in fact a revival of the biological racism of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries but linked to new forms of biosociality and biological citizenship – to be hotly contested, but the audience treated me gently. My trip gave me a chance to present some of the chapters of my forthcoming book *The Politics of Life Itself*, which should be published by Princeton University Press in late 2005.



Professor Richard Sennett has been awarded the Helen and Robert Lynd Award for life-time achievement in Sociology and Urban Studies from the American Sociological Association. It was presented to him in San Francisco at the ASA annual meeting in August 2004.

Professor Graham Thornicroft, head of the Health Services Research Department at the Institute of Psychiatry, has been appointed a Visiting Professor in the Centre for the Study of Bioscience, Biomedicine and Biotechnology. Professor Thornicroft will be working on a project on stigma and will hopefully be presenting a seminar on this theme.

Postgraduate notes

Congratulations to **Max Holland**, who passed his PhD viva to receive a doctorate for his dissertation on *Social Bonding and Nurture Kinship: Compatibility between Cultural and Biological Approaches*. His supervisor was Dr Christopher Badcock.

2004-05 ORS awards were given to **Jennifer Burrell**, **Kristina Csedo** and **Christopher Hamilton**. The total number of applications submitted to Universities UK this year was 1,526 and a total of 768 awards were made. The standard of the competition was extremely high.

Sarah Amsler

As luck would have it, I seem to be leaving my editorial post just as Sociology News is coming into its own. It has been a wonderful experience to see it take shape from an amateurish A4 booklet to its current professional format, and the increasing participation of faculty has made it a heartening one as well. I hope that in the future the Newsletter will continue to promote dialogue within the department as well as outside it and that members of the department find it useful as a space for introducing and debating work in progress. I will miss working on the Newsletter, but look forward to seeing it develop in new directions in the future.

Contacting Sociology at LSE

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Announcements

Conferences

'Feminism and Postcolonialism: Knowledge/Politics'
A one-day Workshop at LSE
13 November 2004

The LSE Department of Sociology is sponsoring a one-day workshop on the subject of feminist postcolonial knowledge and politics, organized by Dr Suki Ali.

It has been argued that the single biggest challenge for feminism in the twenty-first century will be the negotiation of shared political and intellectual projects within a global arena. The globalisation of knowledge has marked a shift from bounded territorial spaces for theory to 'feminism without borders' (Mohanty 2003). The need to think through issues of 'race', ethnicity and class as situated within globalised networks of economic, cultural and technological expansion is central to feminist discussions of power and resistance. Feminist engagements with postcoloniality are motivated by a recognition that cultural and economic exchange, national and ethnic conflict, and health and poverty are central to the sustained relations of inequality. The agenda for the workshop is to explore the ways in which feminists who are developing transnational agendas can utilise postcolonial theory to develop conceptual frameworks and politically engaged knowledge that have transformatory potentials.

The day will be organised around three panel sessions and a final session for summing up and discussion.

The workshop will consider issues such as the following:

- How does feminist politics engage with postcolonial theory in practice?
- How do feminist epistemologies get challenged or enhanced by postcolonial theory?
- What difference does it make to feminist research to engage with postcolonial theory?
- How does working with postcolonial theory enhance or inhibit feminist engagements with 'race' and ethnicity?

Participants: Sara Ahmed (Goldsmiths College), Avtar Brah (Birkbeck College), Kirsten Campbell (Goldsmiths College), Hazel Carby (Yale University), Ranjana Khanna (Duke University), Anne-Marie Fortier (Lancaster University), Haideh Moghissi (York University, CA), Shirley Tate (Manchester Metropolitan University), Amal Treacher (Birkbeck College).

The workshop audience will be made up of invited participants who are working in these fields. It is hoped that the day will form some links between the LSE and other sociology departments internationally where these issues are being debated. In particular, we hope to engage with ways of enhancing feminist postcolonial practices. For further information contact Suki Ali on s.c.ali@lse.ac.uk.

British Sociological Association's Human Reproduction Study Group 5th Annual Conference, Thursday 2nd December 2004 University College Northampton, UK

Papers will address the areas of human reproduction, including but not limited to: midwifery; contraception; pregnancy, childbirth and infant feeding; [in]fertility; motherhood, fatherhood and kinship; sexuality; reproductive technologies; reproductive bodies; and genetics. For further information or to register contact the Convenor, Dr. Sarah Earle on sarah.earle@northampton.ac.uk. Registration £60 (BSA Member)/£70 (non BSA Member).

Book now for the British Sociological Association Conference, 21-23 March 2005

This year's BSA, held at the University of York, will focus on 'The Life Course: Fragmentation, Diversity and Risk'. Papers have been invited on the following themes: the fragmentation of youth; work, family and negotiation; caring across the life course; social identities and the life course; gender, race and sexuality; the lived experience of class; making sense of life trajectories; individualisation and risk; and methodological approaches. Booking begins this month – details are available on the BSA website, www.britisoc.co.uk. For further details you can also email Conference2005@britsoc.org.uk.