Book of Abstracts

Sociological Insights for the Now Normal

TASA Virtual Event
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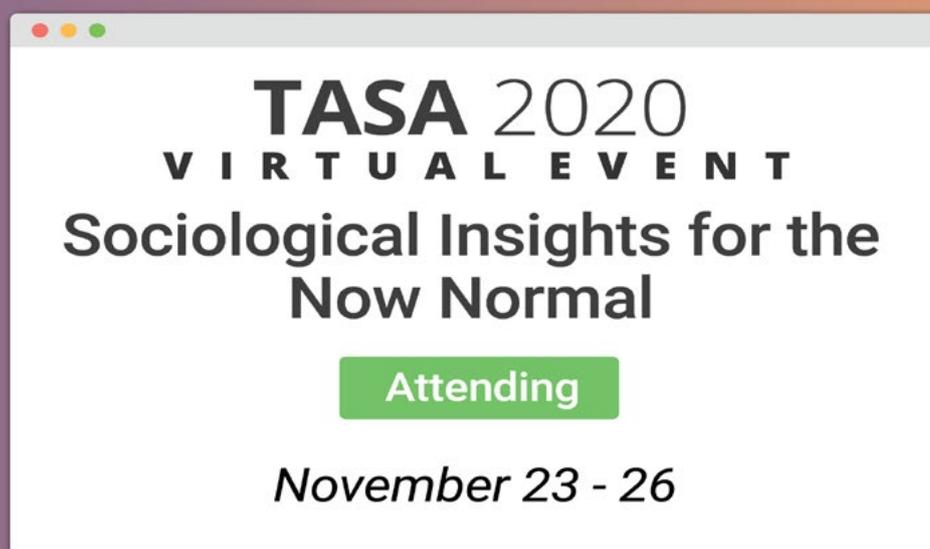
TASA The Australian Sociological Association ● ● ● *Understanding our world, making a difference*

Welcome to TASA 2020 Conference

Who would have thought that when a group of Australian National University Sociologists met in the Spring of 2019 to start organising TASA2020 and labelled the conference theme 'Broken World' what mayhem would beset the world in this present year, and beyond.

The TASA2019 Conference at the vertical campus of Western Sydney University in Parramatta in late November 2019 gave some indication. From the 10th floor of the building, the smoke and embers from wildfires surrounding the greater Sydney region were all too evident, impacting on the health of Conference participants. The swirling winds of the metropolis created by tall buildings brought into sharp relief the intimate connection between 'the bush' and 'the city'. The ensuing summer of wildfires across Australia highlighted, for many, the unequivocal proposition that humans are negatively impacting on an already fragile environment.

The theme of TASA2019—'Diversity & Urban Growth'—invited participants to explore Lefebvre's 'right to the city'. In the context of Covid-19, new meanings and contestations of 'the city' emerged and brought home to many that humans are inextricably social beings who desire to meet others in public contexts for food, entertainment, social interaction and discourse.

TASA2020 at the ANU was cancelled by the Executive in March 2020. It was not evident at that stage the extent of damage that would be caused by Covid-19. The TASA Executive organised a series of weekly zoom meetings across a range of important sociological areas. The idea of a virtual conference became a possibility because of the positive feedback received from TASA members of the usefulness of the weekly webinars. In some ways, Covid-19 has allowed for an increased participation of members across the country, solidifying the scholarly and practical pursuit of sociology.

That Australia appears to have minimized the problem of Covid-19 is testament to the role of the sciences—medical, physical and social—that through evidence-based research and knowledge, decisions can be made for greater public good.

On behalf of Conference Convenor, and incoming TASA President, Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy, TASA invites you to participate in the Virtual Event in the hope that TASA2021 will take place at the Australian National University in Canberra amidst the 'now normal' of upheaval and constant change. TASA2021 can confront the 'now normal' and initiate the task of repairing the 'Broken World'.

TASA is the professional association of Sociologists in Australia. Each year TASA hosts its annual conference in different locations across capital cities and regional towns. The 2020 Conference is a Virtual Event. The Conference Abstracts have been compiled by Sally Daly and Roger Wilkinson.

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Abstracts

Transitioning to adulthood after a biographical disruption during adolescence: A life history case-study

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Background

Biographical disruption frames acquired disabilities or chronic illnesses as an 'assault on selfhood.' A biographical disruption during adolescence—a seminal life-phase character-ised by rapid biological, psychological and social changes—further compounds the al-ready tumultuous and complex process of transitioning to adulthood.

Objective

Explore how the onset of a disabling chronic condition during adolescence impacts a young woman's social status, biography, psychosocial identity, relationships and transition to adulthood.

Method

Two life history interviews conducted with one participant and developed into a life-his-tory case study.

Results

The invisibility of participants' disabling chronic pain meant it went undiagnosed and un-treated for several years. This delay, along with changes in family relationships, could be associated with participant's development of depression, social anxiety and sensory-pro-cessing disorder. Despite the disruption during transition to adulthood, participant's af-fluent background, life experiences and personal strengths ultimately mediated her ad-aptation to a differently functioning body through acceptance of her multiple diagnosis.

Conclusion

Invisible conditions add extra difficulties to the daily lives of young adults navigating the social expectations, changes and challenges towards adulthood. Findings will add to our understanding of the barriers to transitioning to adulthood with an acquired condition, providing insights into more inclusive practices addressing those barriers.

Keywords: Biographical disruption, Transition, Adulthood, Acquired, Disability, Chronic Condition

Urban Planning — "It's all about sustainability": Urban planners' conceptualizations of sustainable development in Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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Sustainable development forms the core of urban planning in contemporary times. Urban planning has been recognised as being central to sustainability because well planned urban centres can be engines of economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental sustainability. Port Harcourt, a major Nigerian city faces many environmental challenges like flooding that impacts achieving sustainable development and which has been linked to urban planning. Urban planners carry out spatial planning but there is a paucity of research that engages with these professionals to gauge their understanding of sustainability. This paper seeks to fill this gap. It draws on qualitative interview data from five urban planners in Port Harcourt city, Nigeria, to explore their understandings of the concept of sustainable development and how they implement this understanding in their day-to-day work. This research reports the urban planners have a solid understanding of sustainability and the role of planning in its achievement. Their understanding centres around longevity and building long lasting human settlements in consideration of future planning decisions. This aligns with current global thinking whereby planning is key to achieving sustainable development. This finding suggests the environmental problems experienced in Port Harcourt are likely due to weak infrastructural base and a failure to implement/ enforce planning regulations that aim to promote sustainable development.

Grants Capture in the Australian Research Council's "Religion and Religious Studies"

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Research quality is often difficult to measure, especially in the humanities and social sciences. Even if metrics are one of the most effective ways of measuring research quality, using such tool requires following a set of guidelines that weighs the strength of the research based on certain attributes. In this article, we used the meta-metrics approach to analyse research grants in the Religion and Religious Studies field of research (FoR) in Australia with respect to their metric properties, significance, similarity, and usage characterization. Whilst comparing and contrasting various results from the dataset of the Australian Research Council (ARC) on the success of its grant capture, we found the following: an imbalance in the FoR between the quantity of publications and that of national competitive grant capture in Australia (highlighting the problem of research significance) and a disparity between the use of keywords on religion without using corresponding FoR codes (as an expression of usage characterization). These findings are examined in parallel with the recent decline of quality in the last ARC's Excellence in Research for Australia report.

Time, Social Theory and Media Theory: contributions of A Schutz to the understanding of new social realities.

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This presentation aims to contribute to the debate about Time and the new social realities resulting from recent changes in the media field, bringing social theory and media theory together. For this, we propose a re(reading) of a well-known author in social theory: Alfred Schutz.

Schutz was one of the most productive authors of social theory and designed a broad theoretical framework, involving many aspects of social life. He also emphasised the importance of media, and brought significant contributions to the debate, through the discussion of the concept of Time. The author did not think Time only descriptively but opened a deep and conceptual dialogue that is useful for understanding new social realities brought by the internet, both for media theories and social theories.

The presentation has two sections, each corresponding to an approach to Time made in Schutz, and in media theories and recent social theories. The first one discusses a possible acceleration of time, and the second one discusses the relation of time and memory. We bring the debates to the presentation, and Schutz's contribution to them, fostering the debate between social theory and media theory, as well as contributing conceptually to recent reflections.

Making a home: house metaphors and symbolic violence in Australian press reports on immigration

Catherine Ann Martin

University of Western Australia

The house metaphor is a feature of political and social discourse around the world. Used to construct the nation as a self-contained, self-sufficient unit, it structures our understandings of who belongs and who does not. Within Australia, the house metaphor has consistently been a feature of press reports on immigration, delineating the boundaries of belonging for immigrants, while simultaneously constructing the Australian nation. Through a critical discourse analysis of the house metaphor within Australian press reports on immigration since Federation (1901-2018), utilizing Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence, the presentation argues that, more than simply descriptive, the metaphor is used prescriptively to shape understandings of national belonging. While during the White Australia period, belonging was explicitly based on ethno-nationalist criteria that centred an Anglo-white subject as the 'true' occupants of the Australian national house, the presentation argues that, in contemporary press reports, house metaphors continue to implicitly and unproblematically 'flag' a particular form of Australian nation(alism) that, despite being ostensibly inclusive and multicultural, remains centred on whiteness.

Adolescence and sex work: Stories of adolescent female sex workers through the eyes of peers during night life at Bantama, Kumasi

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Sex work like sex is both pervasive and timeless. There is however an ambivalence response to sex work as it is both covertly solicited and overtly thrown into the social dust bin of pariahdom. Sex workers are loved and loathed in equal measure. The extant literature show that sex work adversely affects adolescent reproductive health outcomes. Purposive and snowballing sampling techniques were used to select the respondents. These sampling techniques helped to get information from adolescent sex workers through their peers which will not be possible directly. Two peers interviewed the sex workers for a period of 3 nights at 5 hotspots. Hotspots are places were the sex trade are prevalent. 32 adolescent sex workers were interviewed in the study by the 2 peers. The average age of participants was 16 and most started sex work at age 14. Poverty and broken homes are the major drivers of the practice. Condom use is rare as unwanted pregnancies, risky abortions and STIs were common. There were Sexual and physical abuse as well as the use of drugs. Broken homes and poverty should be considered in any intervention and condom promotion scaled up. Strengthening of structures to reduce all forms of abuse.

'Good and Gone': Euthanasia creep in Australia

Rock Chugg

Independent scholar

Events leading to 'new' euthanasia laws effectively reinstate capital punishment in Australia. Euthanised wild-life entails objective harm reduction. With 'mercy-killing' of the disabled precedents in the 20th century Nazi state, a nationwide celebrity led media campaign defied health expertise, in effect restoring the death penalty (already practised on children abroad). As predicted by indigenous activists, such Centaur state-craft (liberal on top and paternalist below) would also prey on the disadvantaged. In this paper, mixed-methods of sociology and psychoanalysis are applied in a case study approach. Deregulated networking growth in the context of health is revealed by, (i) process-tracing 'neo-bourgeois' youth-abuse on privatised public transport, (ii) middle-range theory of corporatised institutional 'ageism' elder-abuse, and (iii) ideological-analysis of new Labor electoralist 'snobbery'. Findings indicate a creeping Australian neo-colonial penal state within executive, legislative and judicial powers. Euthanasia creep founds a hidden content or blindspot, now legal in two states. A pre-existent medical concern and separate powers compromise, this extraordinary issue was the globalising feeding-context long before COVID-19.

Keywords Euthanasia, privatisation creep, neo-bourgeois, ageism, snobbery, penal-state

"The barrier has to be jumped out with this music": Collaborative Creation in a Metropolitan Community Music Program

Associate Professor Jenene Burke, Associate Professor Richard Chew, Dr Majida Mehana and Associate Professor Jeremy Smith

Federation University Australia

Contemporary research into community music programs highlights a diversity of contexts for collaborative music making. Sociological endeavours feature in a growing literature on this domain of creative practice. This paper reflects on a qualitative case study that examined an after-school program providing free, classical instrumental music instruction to primary school-age students who would not normally have an opportunity due to their socio-economic circumstances. The Pizzicato Effect, run by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Broadmeadows, has operated in the northern suburbs of Melbourne since 2009. Through focus group interviews with students, family members, and teaching artists, the researchers examined community experiences of making cultural capital in conditions of social inequality and multicultural practice. Working on phenomenological premises, the study aimed to position respondents as experts in their own lives, who own their knowledge of their worlds and are experts in knowing their own worlds. We found that (a) socio-economic factors do not necessarily present a barrier to students in acquiring music skills provided they have access to opportunities to learn, (b) intercultural encounters with chamber music practice can be surprisingly empowering, and (c) chamber music practice could be a bridge to successful integration/transition from own culture to the surrounding multicultural environment.

Institutional inertia: Interrogating the everyday work of hospital staff trying to improve healthcare for First Nations people

Sophie Hickey

Molly Wardaguga Research Centre, Charles Darwin University

First Nations people have been calling-out unsafe healthcare services in Australia for decades. New National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards require hospitals to implement specific actions to address the needs of First Nations people. For some hospitals this represents significant organisational change. I present findings from a two-year institutional ethnography conducted at a large Australian hospital using participant observation, policy reviews and qualitative interviews. I interrogate the everyday work of staff trying to plan for and provide culturally responsive healthcare to First Nations people. I will describe the tensions of working to 'meet accreditation' versus 'meeting the actual needs of First Nations people'. I map how First Nations people remain largely absent from key institutional decision-making processes. I will demonstrate how institutionalised racism and whiteness, under a guise of neoliberal managerialism and economic rationalism, perpetuate institutional inertia and render the work of 'meeting the actual needs of First Nations people' institutionally invisible. These findings support Juli Coffin's calls for cultural security in Australian institutions: converting policy into evidenced actions; ensuring purposeful cultural brokerage; and including First Nations people in decision-making.

Socio-demographic factors associated with the accumulation of stressors in Australian families

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Families' socio-demographic contexts may influence social, emotional and behavioural outcomes across the lifetime. Families who experience cumulative stressors may be at additional risk for poor outcomes. Little is known however, about the socio-demographic factors that are associated with an increased risk for accumulated stressors among Australian families.

This study uses a sample of 4161 Australian families in the National Health Survey 2014-15, to explore the associations between socio-demographic characteristics and the accumulation of three stressors: relationship breakdown, substance use and mental health conditions.

Over one-third of families had experienced at least one stressor, and 8% had experienced multiple stressors. Stressors were reported across all socio-demographic groups. Correlations and hierarchical multiple regression revealed that experiencing a higher number of stressors was significantly related to a range of socio-demographic characteristics measured at the levels of geographic area, household, and individual.

While stressors may be experienced in all socio-demographic contexts, some families may be at increased risk. Supports for Australian families should consider the dual influence of the socio-demographic context and cumulative stressors.

'Foreign thugs' and 'the new menace': Racialized constructions of 'gangs' in Australian news media discourse

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In recent years, Australia has witnessed a growing proliferation of media and political discourse surrounding 'ethnic gangs', notably those from African and/or Arab backgrounds. Here, the supposed 'threat' posed by these groups is routinely used to legitimise anti-immigration rhetoric and hardline refugee policies. These narratives have also been found to dehumanise the non-white Australian 'other', with harmful consequences for their sense of belonging, inclusion, and social cohesion. In this presentation, we discuss research using Corpus Linguistics to examine constructions of 'gangs' published between 2010 and 2019 across six Australian newspapers, focusing on the varying ways the 'gang' label is used to describe different groups of people. More pointedly, we draw comparisons between representations of organised criminal networks - notably 'bikie gangs' and underworld figures - and the use of the 'gang' epithet to describe groups of youth from racially diverse backgrounds, irrespective of their involvement in criminal activity. We also examine whether organised 'gangs' are described using similarly racialized tropes. We highlight the impli-

cations for scholarship surrounding race-relations, communications, and criminology, as well as for broader public opinion and antiracism advocacy.

Australian interculturalism in practice: how practitioners believe interculturalism and multiculturalism differ.

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Interculturalism is a new policy for viewing and managing culturally diverse societies at the local level that prioritises dialogue and interaction across cultural boundaries. In 2017, the City of Ballarat, a regional city in western Victoria, became the first city in Australia to adopt an intercultural policy through the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme. Marking a significant shift in the Australian cultural diversity context, where multiculturalism remains dominant.

There is an international scholarly debate about the relationship between intercultural policy and multicultural policy. This debate centres on whether interculturalism is a distinct policy or merely a reinvention of multiculturalism. Drawing from the thematic analysis of in-depth interviews with 12 local government staff and volunteers at the City of Ballarat, this study presents their understanding of the relationship between the two policies. Their responses show how practitioners view interculturalism as a beneficial policy, which is distinct because of its focus on elements of inclusion and positioning of diversity as an advantage. This study highlights how participants believe interculturalism and multiculturalism differ, arguing that the exploration of implementing interculturalism may shed more light on this debate.

No Time for a 'Time Out'? Managing Time around (Non)Drinking

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The relationship between free time and alcohol may be changing for young people due to the demands of education and (future) work. While alcohol use and intoxication have previously been considered a way to achieve a youthful sense of 'time out', drinking by young people in Australia is declining. Drawing on interviews with 50 light and non-drinkers aged 16-19 years from Melbourne, Australia, we develop Adorno's concept of 'free time' to show how young people's time use practices – including how they incorporate alcohol into their lives – is more than ever shaped by social and economic pressures. Participants described three main functions of time. These were a) using free time 'productively', b) being opportunistic around busy schedules, and c) the importance of free time as restoration

time. These themes suggest fragmented and pressure-filled patterns of free time that may challenge drinking as an important 'time out' activity for contemporary young people.

'Scene' as a critical framing device: extending analysis of chemsex cultures

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The term 'chemsex' refers to the use of illicit substances to facilitate, prolong and/or enhance sexual encounters, notably among men who have sex with men. Increasingly, the word 'scene' is used in association with 'chemsex' in media reporting, expert commentary and research; that is 'the chemsex scene' is invoked as a socially organised system wherein clusters of sex and drug-using practices are assumed capable of achieving a singular and coherent form. 'Scene', then, offers a fruitful framework to explore the combination of sex and drugs conceived of in two complementary ways: as a momentary event (that is, an assemblage of people, place and practices that shape sexual experience), and as a social configuration (that is, a more enduring form that gives unity to dispersed practices). This paper is an attempt to reframe analysis of chemsex within the material and representational framework offered by 'scene'. I first attend to the temporality by which scenes are enmeshed within wider interactions that form the backdrop of everyday activity but how they are then retrospectively and collectively consolidated into socially recognised form. I then speculate on the value of 'scene' in yielding unique and innovative harm reduction and health promotion responses to chemsex.

Juggling Babies and Writing Words: An autoethnographic account of academic opportunities for full-time academic mothers during COVID-19

Dr Alexandra Ridgway

No current affiliation. Completed PhD in Sociology through The University of Hong Kong with conferral in May 2020.

In a recent edition of *The Lancet*, Gabster et al (June 27, 2020) share the particular challenges that female academics have faced during COVID-19 restrictions, particularly in terms of maintaining publication outputs. Considering that women still bear the brunt of caregiving responsibilities in society (Grant, 2004), it is unsurprising that women academics have had less time for their academic pursuits whilst they, and their families, are impacted by lockdown measures. Nevertheless, more flexible working arrangements and new uses of technology have potential advantages for women academics, and these should not be relinquished as restrictions loosen. In this autoethnographic account, I reveal the benefits I have gained from responses to COVID-19 and how these have advantaged me as an early career scholar with primary carer responsibilities. I argue that these new ways of working and connecting have provided academic mothers like me with access to opportunities which would not have been possible but for the rise of this global health pandemic.

Conducting overseas fieldwork during a global pandemic: Challenges, changes and lessons from the field.

Sarah B. Faulkner

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Living on the Island of Newfoundland from January to September 2020, I explored the role of place-belonging within the context of regional settlement, drawing attention to former Syrian refugees evolving relationship to home and place. Having already begun my ethnographic fieldwork when the COVID-19 pandemic arose, however, a change in sociological imagination had to be acknowledged in order to accommodate 'the new normal' facing the world today. Examining the settlement experience of people from a refugee background as it relates to their sense of belonging and home relies on the personal narratives of the Syrian people themselves, in which opportunities to share their story must still be realized. Within this presentation, I reflect on some of the challenges, changes, and lessons learned in adapting overseas ethnographic research to accommodate a diversity of both virtual and in-person methods. Moving to include more online innovations in interviewing, including photo elicitation, and further unobtrusive distance methods was necessary in order to continue conducting ethnographic fieldwork during times of physical distancing. This report works to highlight some of the challenges and unexpected benefits of taking a more 'blended' approach to traditional qualitative methods in order to support the sharing of personal narratives and people's stories of home.

Engineering Education in India: Does gender make a difference?

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Engineering is a male dominated field and there is a disproportionate number of females globally. Despite of modernization and strategic reforms by the government, the enrolment of females has been very low in engineering programs in India over the last decade, which indicates gender ghettoization in educational programs. Underrepresentation of women in engineering not only leads to marginalization of women in technical fields but also lack in embracing women's perspective in engineering design and innovations.

Educating females and their engagement in paid work has not been endorsed in traditional Indian society. Since long, gendered division of labour, subjugation of women embedded into patriarchal ideology and practice, and their part in childbearing and managing households has resulted into their confinement into four walls of household or not prioritizing their education.

The present study is a qualitative study to identify barriers and enablers for females for joining engineering courses. Based on in-depth interviews with female engineering students, investigator makes an analysis of social and individual factors influencing the choice and decision-making. Results indicate that socio-cultural beliefs, self-efficacy and awareness about one's own interest, family support and government policies play significant role.

Disrupting higher education? Student and teacher reflections on striving for interdisciplinary effectiveness in emerging multidisciplinary classrooms

Dr Elisabeth Valiente-Riedl and Dr Jinqi Xu

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Universities increasingly recognise the need to provide students with an interdisciplinary learning experience. With growing recognition of the challenges posed by so-called 'complex' or 'wicked' problems, interdisciplinary learning has become the new mantra for many tertiary institutions seeking to maintain their vocational relevance for graduates entering an increasingly diverse and disrupted labour market. This has only been underscored emphatically by the recent and ongoing upheaval to labour markets – including that of the tertiary sector itself – produced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, while interdisciplinary learning pedagogy is not new, it has been stifled by the entrenched disciplinary structure that still prevails in Higher Education. The University of Sydney is working to overcome these barriers in a new suite of undergraduate interdisciplinary curriculum, which brings students together in truly multidisciplinary classrooms. This research provides a phenomenological study of the experience of two teachers and their students within this program. It evaluates the opportunities and challenges teachers and students face in achieving a core graduate attribute – interdisciplinary effectiveness – within this context.

Fatties and sociological stigma: A researcher-as-instrument examination of the sociological literature on excess weight between 2010 and 2019

Rebekah Lisciandro

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Sociology has contributed to research into excess body weight, which accelerated since the 'obesity epidemic' declaration in 2000. But how has sociology itself problematised the topic of excess weight? This thesis aimed to investigate the sociological discussions of excess weight by reviewing recent sociological literature between 2010-2019 and using a self-reflexive lens to analyse the ways sociologists discuss fat people. A sample of 74 journal articles from the last ten years was created using a systemised approach. Engaging in a researcher-as-instrument literature review, in which the researcher's insider status as a fat person assists critical assessment, the sample was read and coded. While sociology has made important contributions to excess weight research, the sample was inconsistent with measures (primarily Body Mass Index), with language, and with reporting reflexivity. The sample, which largely dealt with stigma and stereotyping, re-created stigma by researching on, and not with, fat people. This created the 'abstract fatty': a fat research participant who is silenced or undermined by the research, becoming simply problematic adipose tissue. Implementing practices such as transparent reflexivity and critical engagement with weight measures can help reduce the abstract fatty and create relevant research for fat people.

Feel like quitting? Lung screening and smokers' emotions

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Lung screening using low-dose computed tomography technology is currently being trialled in Australia. Much of the research into screening uptake has focused on smokers' attitudes, beliefs and knowledge as barriers and facilitators to screening, aligned with the Health Belief Model. Moving beyond such individualistic conceptualisations of smokers as calculative risk analysts, in this presentation we present findings from a qualitative study into the emotional dimensions of smokers' experiences of lung screening. Drawing on thematic analysis of interviews with 27 long-term smokers immediately following lung cancer screening and prior to receiving scan results, we depict lung screening's social and emotional Australian landscape. Although screening itself infrequently elicited strong emotions, interviewees felt stigmatised as smokers, and described guilt and fear related to lung cancer as emotions motivating them to undertake screening. Importantly, participants positioned smoking as a source of emotional support in relation to life stressors. Acknowledging the wide range of emotions that smokers experience in conjunction with screening may help to shift the approach in pre- and post-screening counselling, from prioritising cessation towards prioritising care. Overall, findings suggest that screening poses an important opportunity to talk to smokers – not just about their intentions to quit – but their emotions and wellbeing.

Panel Sessions

"War from home(land)": Digital media and the participatory futures of armed conflicts in a post-pandemic world

In a time when we study, work, shop, and socialise remotely, digital media also afford unprecedented opportunities for remote participation in armed conflicts happening around the world. Blurring the boundaries between military and civilian actors, physical and mediated battlefronts, weapons and witnesses, citizens and diasporas, digital technologies do not simply offer new capabilities in conzducting military operations – extending the battlefronts into the realms of communication and perception, they reconstitute the social conditions shaping people's relationship to wars. In this context, sociologists are uniquely positioned to foreground the emerging participatory patterns in military conflicts, attending to the higher-order social transformations that challenge and transform our understanding of wars. This panel presents a collection of insights and perspectives on participatory futures of armed conflicts in a post-pandemic world.

Witnessing Remote War: Google, Project Maven and the Elusive Politics of Drone Violence

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Witnessing is crucial to public engagement with war, but remote war presents particular challenges: its victims are largely invisible to Western publics; operations are cloaked in secrecy; and promises of precision targeting, accurate surveillance and legal monitoring obscures the brutalities of the system. Big data and AI systems compound the problem, blurring distinctions between war and social life through shared technics, processes and platforms, while enclosing lethal knowledge-making within ever more inscrutable black-boxes. This paper considers the implications of aerial drones, machine learning processes and big data systems for how war is witnessed. Taking Project Maven as a case study, Google's controversial initiative to provide machine learning analysis for the US drone program, this paper argues that the algorithmic systems roiling contemporary social life are deeply entangled with war. It calls for reconceiving witnessing as nonhuman to help bring the algorithmic systems of war into the public contestation of politics.

Participatory warfare in the era of Covid-19 and the erosion of private space: mediational perspective

Gregory Asmolov

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The domestic space become a site of struggle between internal and external forces "for the control and management of its space and times" (Silverstone, 2005). The nature of struggle has been addressed as a shift in boundaries between the interior and external worlds. Digital platforms are considered as "key mechanisms in the erosion of the boundary between public and private spaces" (Silverstone, 2005). The paper argues that crises offer new opportunities for intrusions into domestic space relying on participatory affordances and digital mediation. Building on the notion of activity systems (Engeström, 1987) it illustrates the increasing scope of digitally-mediated activities for participation in warfare that can be conducted from home. The erosion of private space has been enhanced by Covid-related isolation due to an increase in the proportion of digitally-mediated activities in everyday life.

Battlefront geographies: militarisms and fighting remote wars in the digital age

Olga Boichak

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Digital media have turned into an important arena for shaping and contestation of geopolitical outcomes, neccessitating a shift in epistemological paradigms of warfare. As the Crimean War of 1853-56 came to represent a momentous shift in the conduct of warfare once it could be mass mediated, the Annexation of Crimea in 2014 was characterized by vastly different, diffused and obscure dynamics that are partially a product of deeply mediatized environment of their time. Yet, one of the most interesting changes in the conduct of warfare is the emergence of international participatory opportunities afforded by social media. As audiences and consumers have morphed into the networked publics of the digital age, mediatized contexts have opened new avenues for human geopolitics, linking people's everyday practices to war efforts of states. My presentation maps geographies of remote participation in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict to reflect on the shifting nature of militarism(s) in the digital age.

Diaspora and alter-activism in the homeland

Ayesha Khan

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Access to computing technologies and the Internet has redefined the personalization of politics and contributed to shifting participatory patterns in military conflicts around the world. Among millions of beneficiaries of this networked era are also diasporic communities, who now have a chance like never before to remotely participate in national politics

and conflict(s) in their home country. These opportunities have led to the emergence of new cultures and patterns of virtual participation and the digital praxis of alter-activism. Alter-activism among diasporic communities in a multi-cultural society, such as Australia, demonstrates their political commitment and a form of cultural expression through collaborative practice(s) in the digital sphere. Through ethnographic analysis of shared discourses, I explore the emerging trends of digital participation among Australian-Pashtuns who are successfully supporting a civil rights and resistance movement in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Social Theory Thematic Group
"Alienation, Norms of Sociality and Anxiety in the Now Normal"

Norms of Sociality and the Demise of Symbolic Efficiency in the Now Normal
John Cash

In analysing contemporary societies, from the local to the global, Slavoj Zizek refers to the demise of symbolic efficiency, Ulrich Beck to the loss of trust and the excoriating effects of "linear doubt", Julia Kristeva highlights the risks entailed in human subjects remaining "strangers to ourselves" and Judith Butler highlights human vulnerability, commencing with the helplessness and dependency on others of the human infant, and develops an account of precarious life that is always already deeply embedded in competing norms of recognition. All four recognise how globalisation and/or the world risk society have heightened anxiety by destabilising established ways of being, thinking, feeling and relating, especially as these have derived from ideologies of nation, class, gender, race and ethnicity. Despite some significant differences, all four converge in recognising the declining capacity of established cultures and institutions to quell anxiety and, implicitly, to support defences against ontological insecurity. This dilemma has been intensified with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic and has thrown a heavy burden on the prevailing norms of sociality that are drawn upon in the performance of identities and social relations and in the negotiation of the trials of the "now normal".

Analysing COVID-19 as a Mass Emotional Event in late modernity: Implications for trust and anxiety in health care
Rebecca Olson

COVID-19 can be conceptualised as a Mass Emotional Event – an event powerful enough to disrupt and re-write an emotional climate, with effects felt individually and collectively. The experiences of health care professionals offer insight into the widespread and contradictory impact of COVID-19 as a Mass Emotional Event, with feelings of both alienation and solidarity, anxiety and trust being commonplace. In the context of the current 'double

burden' of disease era – where both lifestyle and communicable diseases predominate – we see a simultaneous return to Medicine's 'golden' age and a crisis regarding our trust in medicine, healthcare and science during COVID-19. Drawing on public discourse related to masks and vaccination, along with narratives from frontline responders which cast doctors and nurses as heroes, humans and vectors, this presentation examines the growing (mis)trust in science and medicine, along with the alienation and solidarity experienced by healthcare professionals. Rather than ambivalence, I argue that the contrasting emotions that characterise COVID-19 as a Mass Emotional Event may require each other.

(Inter)Facing the tragic: The metapicture of banal suffering in unsettled times
Sam Han

Events in the world today appear to be increasingly uncontrollable. Climate change, refugee crises and global pandemics seem to demonstrate the limits of human reason, science, technology and medicine. In the wake of these developments, "tragedy" and "tragic" have come into use, perhaps with greater frequency. This presentation asks: What does the register of the tragic do? What does its deployment in the contemporary context and other times of crisis do? Does viewing death and suffering from afar and so frequently affect the capacity for understanding and sensing "the tragic"? With so much of tragic news mediated, this paper explores the question of whether tragedy's mediatization has made it become banal. If so, can banal death be tragic? By approaching these questions through recent theories of the tragic, this presentation attempts to demonstrate that some deaths are made tragic and others are not as a result of a particular "media logic." Analysing these mediations through the concept of art historian WJT Mitchell's concept of "metapicture," it argues that not all deaths are recognized as tragedy, or at least not equally, thus occasioning the question of whether we are creeping toward nihilism.

Imaginaries and Conjunctures in Crisis Times
Ben Gook

For at least a decade, if not three, western social formations have lived in "crisis times." The Covid-19 pandemic arrived as an acute moment in this chronic crisis period. Nevertheless, we need to pause over this spontaneous shift to crisis talk – to think about what's at stake, and who communicates stakes, when a moment is heralded as a crisis. In this paper, the connections between crisis imaginaries, legitimacy crises, and conjunctural analysis emerge as a productive set of tools for thinking about our moment – above all, the multiple causes of the discontent attached to new crisis symptoms in 2020.

Presenter Details:

Dr. John Cash is Honorary Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne.

Dr. Rebecca E. Olson is Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Queensland.

Dr. Sam Han is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, University of Western Australia.

Dr. Ben Gook is Lecturer in Cultural Studies (from Jan 2021) in the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne.

Applied Sociology Thematic Group
Applied Sociologists: Our work and ideas about diversifying employment and career opportunities

Panel members:

Mithzay Pomento (Clinical sociology)

Keith Noble (Architecture/planning)

Catherine Hastings (Methodology, consultancy)

Sienna Aguilar (Community/action research)

Alan Scott (retired)

Kim Stace (Family services)

Sociology as a discipline can be useful for problem solving and trouble shooting real-life issues. Sociologists think about the ways in which we are all interconnected in our everyday life to social institutions and how they affect us and the people we work with. We come with a very different approach to, say, economists, lawyers and engineers; and are often guided by social justice principles. Given the recent instability in academic careers and general derision from certain politicians about the Humanities, we thought we would share with the audience our learnings from our own professional careers as applied sociologists that might be of use to those considering diversifying their employment opportunities.

We cover:

Our different career trajectories, inside and outside academia, across a range of topic areas (e.g. family services, health, housing)

"Must-have" skills when seeking industry work

Unique challenges for applied sociologists

Decisions around methodological choices (e.g. when undertaking action research, evaluations)

Facilitating access to sociological knowledge to those who might benefit from it (e.g. communicating to a lay audience)

Panel Chair: Dr Sophie Hickey, convenor TASA Applied Sociology Thematic Group
Postdoctoral researcher, Molly Wardaguga Research Centre, Charles Darwin University

Defining Social Problems in the 'Now' Normal: Inequality and the Issue of Ontological Gerrymandering

Chaired by Kate Henne, Australian National University – kathryn.henne@anu.edu.au

Other participants:

Vijetta Bachraz, Australian National University – vijetta.bachraz@anu.edu.au

Jenna Harb, Australian National University – jenna.harb@anu.edu.au
Madeleine Pape, University of Lausanne – madeleine.pape@northwestern.edu
Note: Affiliation effective in September so email address will change
Renee Shelby, Northwestern University – reneeshelby@gatech.edu
Note: Affiliation effective in September so email address will change

The crises of 2020 have spanned a range of issues, drawing attention to deeper societal strains in and beyond Australia. For example, bushfires have brought emergency preparedness and climate change into stark relief, the pandemic has raised awareness of intersectional health inequities, and ongoing protests make clear that political and racialised tensions remain unresolved. In doing so, the 'now' normal is an ideal moment for sociologists to revisit approaches to the study of social problems within interlocking systems of power and inequality. The panel embraces this opportunity by revisiting Woolgar and Pawluch's 1985 critique of accepted sociological explanations of social problems, which argues that the tendency to rely on definitional approaches privileges certain phenomena while obfuscating others. To do so, five researchers affiliated with JusTech, the Australian National University's Justice and Technoscience collaboratory, share their work as case studies for further scrutiny. They identify distinct instances of contemporary ontological gerrymandering: reforms focussed on students' poor educational performance, scientific interventions targeting sex/gender differences in health, the digitisation of welfare provision and delivery, surveillance as a response to police violence, and technologies for reporting sexual assault and rape. After illustrating how each example evinces a form of ontological gerrymandering, the panel discussion considers alternative framings and sets aside time for other participants to reflect on wider sociological challenges related to issues identified by presenters.

Experiencing pleasure in the pandemic through digital technologies

This panel proposes to discuss how pleasure, as an embodied experience, combines with digital technologies through products which elicit a desired physiological response. This class of products, which we refer to as resonant media, generates pleasure through carefully crafted stimuli, delivered in digital form. The panel will consider ASMR, through which content creators evoke that "tingly" sensation, Cam models and the evocation of sensual pleasure, alongside binaural beats and their association with digital drugs.

In this panel we seek to position digital pleasures through the ways in which technology expands sensory experiences. We will discuss the capacity of resonant media to entwine with and expand the biological capacities of the body, such that technologically mediated interactions can be warm, sensuous embodied, and close. Through exploring the affordances of the technologies that facilitate and encourage pleasure, the panel will highlight how pleasure is being (re)made in the 'now' normal. Pleasure for pleasure's sake is not only personally sustaining, but should be a serious object of sociological examination in our changed world.

The COVID-19 pivot

As the world grapples with COVID-19, staying at home has meant an increased reliance on screens and mediation as sites of pleasure and connection. Warm visceralities combine with cold-coded tools to produce pleasurable sensations.

Content creators have capitalised on this entanglement to create products and services that stimulate pleasure by design. Understanding how these products work, for whom, and under what circumstances will not only illuminate an emergent cultural practice, but also re-centre bodies in the study of human-technology interaction.

This reading resists the framing of technology as individualising, deficient and distancing. Instead we argue that the intensification of online activity has not left the body behind. Not only is pleasure embodied, but so is our engagement with technology.

The panel will consider how focusing on pleasure as a source of well-being and meaning in a socially distanced world also points to ways in which we can be 'well' outside of the wellness model advanced by neoliberalised workplaces. Now more than ever it is important to decouple pleasure from commodified concepts of wellness and understand how people experience pleasure and connection, in mediated digital contexts.

The Speakers

Jenny L. Davis is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Sociology at the Australian National University. She is a social psychologist and technology theorist. Her new book How Artifacts Afford: The Power and Politics of Everyday Things (MIT Press 2020) introduces a critical framework for the study of sociotechnical systems.

Naomi Smith is a Lecturer in Sociology in the School of Arts at Federation University (Gippsland). She has a broad range of scholarly interests, including emerging technology, place and bodies. She is primarily focused on the intersection of the internet and bodies, how online communities influence the way we make sense of our bodies, and how we manage them. Her recent publication, ASMR, affect and digitally-mediated intimacy, highlights the affective and embodied capacities of technology.

Alexia Maddox is a Lecturer, Communications at Deakin University. She is a sociologist of technology and is interested in the social implications of emerging technologies. Her research into the communities surrounding cryptocurrencies and cryptomarkets has sensitised her to the internet cultures occupying digital frontiers. Her recent publication, *Disrupting the ethnographic imaginarium*, presents her critical reflection on the practice of engaging with online populations reconfiguring at the socio-technical fringes of change.

TikTok, #quarantinehair and the (re)domestication of beauty labour in lockdown

Dr Clare Southerton

University of New South Wales

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries introduced lockdown restrictions that shut down "non-essential" businesses, often including hair and beauty salons. With these services no longer accessible, some consumers took previously outsourced grooming routines into their own hands. The hashtag "#quarantinehair" emerged on various social media platforms as people shared experiences managing their (head) hair during the lockdown period. Focusing on an analysis of content shared via the hashtag on the video-sharing platform TikTok, we consider the ways #quarantinehair operated as a channel through which to share experiments, failures, and successes with Do-It-Yourself hair cutting. Popular discourse during the pandemic has suggested that lockdown conditions offer some relief from normative expectations around beauty practices, as trends such as growing body hair and leaving grey hair undyed were reported in mainstream news. Despite this promise, we argue that #quarantinehair content challenges claims of the emancipatory influence of lockdown on beauty norms, as our analysis found a significant redomestication of beauty labour into normative gender roles. Though the #quarantinehair trend does reinforce some existing norms, we argue that capacities for experimental beauty practices can emerge in the intersection between beauty ideals and the platform conditions and affordances of TikTok, in which trends and viral content cultivate new conditions of possibility.

Bio: Dr Clare Southerton is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Vitalities Lab, Social Policy Research Centre and Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney. Her published research has explored the intersections of social media, privacy, surveillance and sexuality. Her current research projects are focused on how intimacy and collective affects are cultivated on platforms and with devices, and potentials in these spaces for health and sexuality education. Her work has been published in New Media & Society, Social Media + Society and Girlhood Studies.

Intimacy, interdependence and the COVID classroom: Teaching gender studies online

Dr Gemma Killen

Australian National University

The university classroom is necessarily an interdependent and intimate space, as students and teachers build knowledge from and through experiential relationships. This is especially true of the Gender Studies classroom, where theories about power and structure are directly and obviously applicable to the everyday minutiae of life. Feminist pedagogy also advocates for an education model in which intimacy and care are valued as significant tools and components of learning. This year, the intimacy of the classroom has been disrupted by COVID-19 and the associated lock-downs and shifts to online learning. These transformations have necessitated a rethinking of classroom intimacies and accessibilities. Drawing from autoethnographic reflections on shifts to online learning/teaching, this pa-

per examines how digital technologies make possible new kinds of pedagogical intimacy, while limiting others. Given that the Zoom classroom is likely to be in our academic lives for the foreseeable future, it is important to critically consider how technology reshapes our relationships with students and to teaching itself, including the new gendered labour expectations that inevitably arise.

Bio: Gemma Killen is a writer, editor and academic. Her research focuses on the intersections of daily digital life, community and belonging. Her work draws on critical queer theory, feminist theory and crip theory to think through the relationships between social bodies and technology. Her work has appeared in Australian Feminist Studies and New Media & Society, as well as edited collections on feminist archiving and social belonging. Her work has also appeared in Archer, Autostraddle, Feminartsy & The Big Issue and Black Inc Books' Growing Up Queer in Australia. As an editor and writing workshop facilitator, Gemma is passionate about championing other underrepresented writers. She is currently one of the Commissioning Editors for the Feminist Writers Festival.

'What's the use' of flexible work policies: gender and working from home
Dr Briony Lipton
University of Melbourne

Flexibility in the workplace allows employers and employees to make arrangements about working conditions that suit them and is recognised as a key enabler of gender equality. Flexible work is designed to help employees maintain a work/life balance and improve individual and organisational productivity and efficiency. Although flexible work arrangements are available to both women and men, persistent gender norms around work and care has meant that until COVID-19 it has predominantly been women who have taken up such arrangements. To help manage the impacts of the coronavirus, many employers and employees have been using working from home measures, but despite enforced restrictions, caring responsibilities continue to be shouldered mainly by women. Workplace flexibility and work–family policies are heavily gendered. This paper draws on Sara Ahmed's What's the Use? On the Uses of Use and the language and materiality of 'use' as a way of understanding the discursive aspects of flexible policy processes. Social justice and neoliberal discourses become interwoven in the fabric of flexible work policies. The use of choice, opportunity, and productivity discourses embedded in flexible work policies disguises ongoing gender issues around care work and job security in a time of great economic, social and political uncertainty.

Bio: Dr Briony Lipton is a researcher in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on gender inequality, leadership and feminism in higher education. Briony has published in international peer-reviewed journals including Leadership, Higher Education Research and Development, and Qualitative Inquiry. She co-authored We Only Talk Feminist Here: Feminist Academics, Voice and Agency in the Neoliberal University in 2017 and her latest monograph Academic Women in Neoliberal Times was published this year with Palgrave.

No salon, no sanctuary: beauty under lockdown

Dr Hannah McCann

University of Melbourne

Across the world lockdowns during the COVID-19 crisis saw the forced closure of many hands-on services such as beauty salons, hairdressers, and barber shops. In Australia although hair services were allowed to stay open during the first lockdown, the second lockdown in Victoria saw all of these grooming services shut to the public for an extended period of time. There has been much public debate about the necessity - or perceived lack thereof - of grooming services, especially given that hairdressers were permitted to stay open during the first lockdown when many other services shut. This paper interrogates the debate over hairdressers and other beauty salons and the question of whether they are "essential" services. Drawing on data from over 400 Australian survey respondents collected between August and September 2020, this paper looks at the impact of salon closures and openings on both clients and workers during the period. While some survey respondents relished the freedom of not having to "keep up appearances", many reported on the negative impacts of salon closures in terms of connection, self-esteem and identity. This paper considers how the site of the salon is considered a transformative "sanctuary" for many, and untangles the deeper impact of the closure of these sites on individuals during a crisis.

Bio: Dr Hannah McCann is a Lecturer in Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne. Her research sits within critical femininity studies, and explores femme identity, beauty culture, and queer fandom. She has published in several feminist and queer theory journals including the European Journal of Women's Studies, Women's Studies Quarterly, and Sexualities. Her first monograph Queering Femininity: Sexuality, Feminism and the Politics of Presentation was published with Routledge in 2018, and her co-authored textbook Queer Theory Now: From Foundations to Futures was published in 2020 through Red Globe Press.

Sociology and Animals Thematic Group Multispecies' Relations: past, present and possible futures

"Fixing broken habitats? The contribution of sociology to ecology, and ecology to sociology"

Associate Professor Gavin J.D. Smith

Australian National University

The World Wide Fund for Nature estimates that 3 billion animals were either killed, displaced or adversely influenced by the devastating intensity of the 'Black Summer' bushfires in Australia. this national disaster, which has since become the focus of a Royal Commission, 24 million hectares of land – and therefore precious habitat – burnt, and the hottest

and driest year on record was registered. We are now in a regrettable position of having to consider how or whether we can provide a future for the more-than-human entities situated in and dependent on what are currently disturbed ecosystems. As the Royal Commission Report observes, 'Recovery will take years.' But what precisely does recovery look like, especially in a pandemic society? And what role can sociology play in this recovery and futuring of the Australian landscape? How can sociologists make sense of, conceptualise and confront the insecure position of many wild creatures? This paper confronts such questions by exploring the critical contribution that different forms of sociological thinking and practice can make to understanding broken environments. I argue that sociology needs to inform – but also be informed by – precisely the kinds of epistemic and environmental turbulences, struggles and transformations that mediate and are mediated by ecospheric agency.

"Captive companions? Provocations on shared multispecies life in "the new normal"

Dr Zoei Sutton

The University of Adelaide

This year has seen many humans spending increasing amounts of time in their homes, often accompanied by existing or newly acquired animal companions. This shift presents an opportunity to critically examine the ways humans buy, bother, and coexist with other animals in our homes, cities and the broader environment. This short provocation will touch on aspects of shared multispecies life during the pandemic to highlight prevailing human-centric norms and open up discussion for a reimagining of multispecies relations in these shared spaces.

Dr Dinesh Wadiwel

The University of Sydney

The twin crises of human induced climate change and COVID-19 highlight the effects of the brutal intersection of capitalism and hierarchical anthropocentrism. This paper draws attention to the unique opportunity presented by the current situation for diverse social movements to collaborate towards achieving structural change. For animal advocates, this is an opportunity to move from the periphery and to the centre of debates around the future of capitalist food systems and the economies we need to enable multispecies flourishing.

"The limits of sociology? Reflexive considerations of frameworks for multispecies futures in the midst of crisis"

Dr Josephine Browne

Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University

While sociology arose in response to the significant impacts of modernity in reshaping human lives, it has historically failed to address the interdependence on which all lives on the planet are premised. The Covid crisis has intensified evidence of the costs of human exceptionalism, exposing the limits of dominant ideologies. This paper argues for the necessity of sociologists, in the Now Normal, to examine received theoretical frameworks, critiquing their limits, as well as their possibilities, for imagining multispecies futures.

Sociology of Activism Thematic Group
"Sociological Insights for the 'now' normal"

Now and Normal - The Seasons of Activism in 2020

Facilitators: Dr Ann Lawless and Dr John McGuire, Co-convenors of Sociology and Activism TG

As normal as the weather which is always now, from the odes of autumn to our winter of discontent, from springing into activism and anticipating the coming glorious sunshine, this session offers perspectives of activism and sociology in 2020 by the Thematic Group Sociology and Activism. Explore with us the nature of social change, its cycles and recycles and how sociology continues to help us understand resistance, protest, activist strategies and plans.
Pandemic Atmospherics, Material Cultures and Sensory Practices: Everyday Life under COVID
Cultural Sociology Thematic Group Panel, TASA 2020

Cultural Sociology Thematic Group
Pandemic Atmospherics, Material Cultures and Sensory Practices: Everyday Life under COVID

"Holidays celebrated alone, languages that go unspoken": Continuities and ruptures in everyday cultural participation in the UK during COVID-19

Tally Katz-Gerro and Neta Yodovich

University of Haifa

In March 2020, the United Kingdom government declared a general lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New social distancing rules and the shutdown of stores, theatres, and other leisure sites have made those living in the UK reshape the ways in which they engage with

culture. In our presentation, we ask: what changes in cultural engagement took place during this time and how did individuals feel about them? As part of a larger research project about the meaning of culture in everyday life, we conducted a survey in June and July 2020 with 100 respondents. The survey, which asked participants to reflect on the changes in their cultural consumption and participation during the lockdown, revealed three main themes. All themes portray the conflicted, complex approach participants held toward the lockdown. In the first theme, respondents reported both a decrease and an increase in social interactions and a sense of togetherness. A second theme details the contrast between opportunities and barriers. Lastly, we found a tension between spaces, where the home became a mixed-use space where leisure and work blend together. Our survey findings point to a division between Brits, where some feel inhibited by the pandemic and the lockdown, while others feel catalyzed to consume and engage with culture. As predictions and news reports indicate that the UK will soon go under a second lockdown, such findings are imperative as they point to a potential threat to individuals' well-being as well as to the future of the cultural industry in the UK.

Youth, music-making and well-being during a public health crisis
Andy Bennett, Ernesta Sofija and Ben Green

Griffith University

This paper presents preliminary findings from a cross-disciplinary pilot project, funded by the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, that seeks to understand the importance of music-making for young people (between the ages of 18 – 35) as a source of well-being during the COVID-19 crisis. A key objective of the project is to evaluate whether music-making has contributed in palpable ways to young people's individual well-being and their sense of connection with others. For the purposes of the project, well-being is defined in relation to both physical and mental health. Given the unprecedented circumstances created the COVID-19 pandemic, its rapid spread and ensuing disruptions to everyday life, the project findings offer a significant opportunity to examine and evaluate the importance of music-making for young people's well-being in a time of rapidly shifting and increasingly uncertain socio-economic conditions. The paper draws on data collected during 20 online interviews with young people based in different locations around Australia. Participants for the project were recruited through calls posted on social media with additional internal recruiting through Griffith University's monthly call out for volunteers for research projects.

A digital textural sociological exploration of alternative modes of 'touch' and 'contact': Lessons from queer digital spaces
Mohammed Cheded and Alexandros Skandalis

Lancaster University

This paper explores the transformation of socialisation processes due to the digitalisation of entertainment and community formation in the current pandemic. In line with de la Fuente (2019), we question how the world is shaped and sensed in a post-COVID-19 society. We focus on queer digital spaces since touch and contact have been historically policed for queer people in a variety of modes. Our aim is to develop a digital textural

sociological understanding of both current and historical experiences of queer resilience and creativity in mobilising digital technologies to create digital entertainment spaces that engage artists, creatives, organisers, promoters and audiences. Following Barad (2012), we consider the vast alternative possibilities of intimacy through imagining a diversification of modes of haptic encounters. We argue that the queering and digitalisation of interaction, touch and contact requires creativity, resilience, and courage.

How movement comes to matter: Exploring the sensory atmospheres and embodied affects of physical activity during COVID-19

Marianne Clark

University of New South Wales

As the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically and swiftly upended everyday routines, our relationships with our bodies and movement were altered. With restrictions on when and where people were 'allowed' to move, movement experiences and spatiality came to matter in new and specific ways. In this paper I explore the sensory and affective dimensions of movement and physical activity during the COVID crisis by examining how moving bodies engage with space, place, and other human and non-human forces in pandemic conditions. Drawing on preliminary findings of an ongoing research project about Australians' experiences of physical activity and use of space and place during COVID, I explore the materialities and affects that emerged through movement experiences, the sensory atmospherics of both indoor and outdoor 'natural' spaces used for movement, and the multiple meanings these experiences held for participants.

Un-making and re-making music festivals: Compressed cultural trauma, rematerialisations, and responses to cultural loss.

Ian Woodward and Signe Banke

Southern Denmark University

On March 6, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen declared that all gatherings over 1000 people would be banned until at least August 31, 2020. This announcement, and subsequent further reductions in gathering numbers, effectively 'cancelled the summer' of music festivals and much more in 2020. In this paper, based on a study of three music festivals in Denmark, we focus on the un-making of music festivals and their creative re-making across diverse social spaces and contexts by multiple agents in response to the trauma of cancellation. The absence of music festivals points actors to a Corona-induced social and cultural lack, an emblematic fact referring to the loss of spaces of intense sociality and connection which we interpret via literatures on compressed cultural trauma. Our field research shows that lack and loss are not the defining features of this event. Instead, a suite of strategies is enacted to protect and repair the festival ritual, its history, community, and commercial interests in the wake of Corona's attack. The paper draws upon extensive ethnographic and qualitative research, including a 7-month ongoing longitudinal phase of

interviews with audiences and various types of organisers associated with three cancelled Danish music festivals, as well as a 9-month ongoing large-scale longitudinal media and netnographic analysis. We examine how agents of festivalisation - festival organisers, musicians, audiences, local entrepreneurs, and festival spaces – have gone about remembering, commemorating, and mobilising festivals in the wake of Corona. We explore the ways festival agents use materials, spaces, symbolic resources and creative strategies to respond to the external threat of the virus and reflect on who these festival agents are acting for, what they end up making, and why. Specificities of responses differ depending on festival type, history and context. Further, responses are also relationally and temporo-spatially anchored to interpretation of wider Corona developments. However, we observe widespread evidence of creative re-materialisations of festival experiences, pointing to processes of remembrance, repair, and the ongoing constructive re-making of ritual festival experience in novel contexts.

Genders and Sexualities Thematic Group
'Queer in the time of COVID-19'

The spatial impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on LGBTIQ Wellbeing, Visibility and Belonging in Tasmania, Australia

Ruby Grant, School of Social Sciences, University of Tasmania

Andrew Gorman-Murray, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University

Briohny Walker, School of Humanities, University of Tasmania

International emergency management and disaster risk reduction policies and planning have rarely included lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people's specific health and wellbeing concerns, despite increasing research showing that these groups face some specific vulnerabilities and additional challenges in such contexts. Emerging studies in the US and UK have noted increased feelings of loneliness, minority stress, and vulnerability to family violence since the outbreak of COVID-19. However, little is known about LGBTIQ people's experiences of COVID-19 in Australia. To address this knowledge gap, this article explores the effects of COVID-19 on LGBTIQ mental health and well-being in Tasmania, Australia. Drawing on a mixed-methods survey sample of 231 LGBTIQ respondents between the ages of 14-78, we use the spaces of well-being framework to examine the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on LGBTIQ (in)visibility in relation to public, private, and online spaces. We argue that COVID-19 spatial restrictions affected LGBTIQ Tasmanians' experiences and use of spaces in ways that detracted from and contributed to wellbeing, visibility, and belonging.

Queer and Crip Temporalities During COVID-19: Sexual Practices, Risk, and Responsibility

Ryan Thorneycroft, University Western Sydney University
Lucy Nicholas, University Western Sydney University

In this chapter, we use Ryan's story and experiences to ask a series of questions about the politics of sexual practices during the COVID pandemic. In a time of social distancing — which should otherwise be called physical or spatial distancing — people continue to engage in casual sex, and particularly within the gay community through sex-on-premises venues, beats, and apps such as Grindr and Scruff (Banerjee and Nair, 2020; Thomas, 2020). We are interested in these practices given the material (and potentially deadly) consequences that this may have on certain populations, and we seek to reflect on the questions of risk, responsibility, deviance, and desire. We invoke the concept of 'responsibilisation' – a symptom and outcome of neoliberalism – to signify the ways in which individual subjects are rendered responsible for practices that would otherwise be the duty of collective others (or historically no individual at all) (see Rose, 1996, 2007). This approach aligns with a crip and queer theory and politics that imagines realities and futurities in new and different ways (Ramlow, 2016), and seeks to rebut the normalising effects of gay and lesbian and disability studies through modes of (radical) subversion and deconstruction (Jagose, 1996; McRuer, 2006). While responsibilisation discourses are traditionally heteronormative and ableist (Race, 2018), as well as assuming individualistic agency while invoking a responsible sociality, we suggest that COVID has cripped and queered responsibility and time. This has made crip and queer perspectives and experiences more central, providing the opportunity to imagine alternatives of a 'new future' for everyone, and to reimagine sexual practices and ethics. Thus, we use the crisis of COVID as an opportunity to rewrite crip/queer times, futures, cultures, responsibilities, and sexual practices.

Queer Bedroom Cultures in COVID

Megan Sharp, University of Melbourne
Barrie Shannon, University of Newcastle

The bedroom as a site of youth culture and private life has been increasingly interrogated by social scientists to understand the ways young people experience, curate, produce and transform identity. In the time of COVID-19, the bedroom has become particularly salient as a medium by which to telegraph queerness, to perform queer rites of passage and to resist heteronormativity. Drawing on our previous research, 'Becoming Non-Binary', which considered the ways in which young non-binary people engage with gender, sexuality, sex education and social citizenship, this paper discusses themes of community, wellbeing and representation as private and public discourse. In a time where physical spaces are absent of queer bodies and affects, we suggest that young people are finding new queer(ed) languages by which to communicate. The significance of queer communication in online space has never been so vital, yet these languages and the spaces in which they exist are increasing public as content is shared rapidly, such as in the case of Tik Tok. This leads us to ask, is the bedroom still a refuge in the time of COVID-19?

Sociology of Religion Thematic Group
Religion and Public Life in Australia

Religion After the Royal Commission: Challenges to Church-State Relations

This paper will examine the multiple wide-ranging recommendations that the Australian Child Abuse Royal Commission made in response to damning evidence from religious organisations across Australia. The recommendations cover legal, organisational and cultural-theological changes and were considered imperative as religious organisations are the least child safe organisations in Australia. I will argue that the proposed changes signal important changes to church-state relations, which have been characterised by positioning religious organisations as special institutions that enjoy exemptions from certain human rights legislation, on the basis of protecting religious freedom. The post-Royal Commission environment is engaged in contested claims around the meaning and value of religious freedom versus the necessity of institutional reform to ensure that religious

Religion and Populism
Dr Joshua Roose

Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation

This paper, drawn from my forthcoming book The New Demagogues (2021) challenges a notion that has become popular in some academic quarters that religion has been 'hijacked' by populists in the name of identity politics and that organised religion remains external to contemporary developments. I argue that whilst populist movements are using religious motifs and narratives to strengthen their appeal, organised religion is also jostling for social and political influence with or against government and populist movements. This requires an examination of dominant theoretical perspectives on the paradox of secularism and fragmentation of religious authority alongside an exploration of the historic relationship between religion and populism.

Christian Privilege? Representations of Religion and Spirituality in State Curricula in Australia
Dr Anna Halafoff, Dr Enqi Weng, Dr Ruth Fitzpatrick & Dr Kim Lam

Deakin University

Whether or how best to teach about religion in Australia's state school system has been the subject of considerable controversy since these schools were first established. This article presents the findings of a critical discourse analysis of how diverse religions and spirituality are represented in the Australian Curriculum and the Victorian Curriculum. This study has been undertaken as part of an Australian Research Council Discovery Project

on Religious Diversity in Australia, and using a coding tool first developed by Kim Knott, Elizabeth Poole and Teemu Taira, for their research project on 'Media Portrayals of Religions and the Secular Sacred'. This coding tool was slightly adapted and used in the 'Religion on an Ordinary Day,' a media study conducted as part of the 'Religion, Discourse and Diversity Project', co-led by Kim Knott and Lori Beaman, within the broader 'Religion and Diversity Project' led by Beaman. This paper's author's Enqi Weng and Anna Halafoff conducted the Australian component of the 'Religion on an Ordinary Day' study, and this presentation will compare the findings of the Australian media analysis with the curriculum analysis, to share reflections of the place of religion in Australian public life.

Finding Ways to 'Jazz it Up': Millennials and Generation Z's Involvement in the Multifaith Movement

Geraldine Smith, PhD Candidate

University of Tasmania

This presentation offers insight into why there is a lack of meaningful engagement with and by young people in the multifaith movement in Australia. Drawing from recent studies on Millennials and Generation Z, as well as my own interviews with multifaith actors in Australia, I will argue that the equivocal ways that a large portion of young people are engaging with religion excludes them from the dominant logocentric approach to multifaith. A logocentric approach to multifaith assumes that its participants are unambiguous full members of their religious tradition who act as delegates of their tradition and are imbued with the legitimacy of the institution. Yet, a lot of young people have hybrid religious identities, identify as nonreligious, and/or operate on the margins of religious institutions. The pressures caused by COVID-19, which are pushing multifaith into the online realm, raises questions around where young people ought to place themselves within the changing currents of multifaith, and how multifaith will be re-shaped to reflect the religious experience, as well as the external pressures, of upcoming generations.

Social Trust and Political Practices in the New Normal

Proposed by Sanghamitra Nath
Assistant Professor & Head of the Department of Sociology,

Bajkul Milani Mahavidyalaya
(affiliated to Vidyasagar University),West Bengal, India.

Is there a relation between the 'new' normal and social trust? From a sociological perspective, the pervasiveness of infection from corona virus has led to the spontaneous emergence of a new culture of fear. However, fear runs in society not only due to mass awareness of the notoriety of the virus but also due to political practices that overlook fundamental freedoms, inclusiveness and human rights while mitigating the bio-disaster. Measures meant to ensure public health safety has been used by ruling elites to consolidate more power and tighten control or surveillance over citizens. As a result, the 'new' normal becomes characterized by a crisis of legitimacy arising out of disillusionment with the po-

litical authority. Adjusting to the 'new' normal also prompts an adjustment in social trust. The new reality, therefore, brings about a re-configuration of social trust in political elites.

Governments across the world have implemented multitudinous programmes, policies and laws to control the rate of infection. Ideally, the methods and techniques to contain infection should take into consideration gender, ethnicity, class, caste, religious and socio-cultural concerns to guarantee non-discriminatory access to public healthcare and other essential services. Nevertheless, reports from many countries speak of the contrary. In countries like Australia and India, app-based technologies meant to establish contact tracing collects personal data of millions of users even as chances of data leak or breach of privacy and/ or misuse of personal data cannot be ruled out. Complaints of corruption in public offices are often in news which disadvantage ordinary citizens and increases vulnerability of the marginalised. Shutdown followed by phased re-opening of various sectors of the society makes checking accountability and transparency challenging. The ensuing social trust deficit in the 'new' normal affects durability of any legitimate government as well as citizen compliance to government guidelines on covid-19.

Pandemic and Lack of Governance
Kallol Basu,
Advocate, High Court at Calcutta, India

A deliberation on whether the faith of the public on the government has eroded, due to its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, should entail a discussion on the two National Health Bills which were introduced in the Parliament neither of which were ultimately promulgated or received Presidential assent. At present, India has no overarching health legislation that provides for pandemic response measures. The Government of India and the respective State Governments had largely relied upon two Acts, namely, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

When a nationwide lockdown was announced within four hours' notice on 24 March 2020, lakhs of stranded workers tried to migrate from large cities to somehow return to their villages. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs prohibited all inter-State and inter-District movement of migrant workers, directing that they be brought back from wherever they might be, and detained in the nearest quarantine facilities "for a minimum period of 14 days as per standard health protocol". This order threatened that the district magistrate and senior police functionaries would be held personally liable for the implementation of these draconian orders.

Surprisingly, on 14th September, the government informed the Parliament that it had no data on the migrant workers including the number of deaths. Based on the various instances and actions of the Government, it bound to shake the confidence of the citizens of India.

Socio-political challenges of the new normal from a Canadian perspective

Saikat Kumar Basu

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The COVID-19 global pandemic has transformed into one of the most significant incident impacting socio-political life and economy negatively across the planet. Like every other country, an under-prepared Canada has also suffered a massive blow from this pandemic to both her socio-political as well as economic platform of the nation. The nation has been struggling to flatten the curve which varies in nature across the provinces from West to East. A deep division of the society and political life has thus surfaced without a prior warning. Furthermore, the disruption in regular business due to repeated lockdowns and containment restrictions have undergone further deterioration in the sociology-political platform opening up a Pandora's box that the political elite of the nation has been visibly struggling to resolve. Huge economic bail outs has been extended by the government. However, the logistics of the distribution network and the highly pressurized health care system is struggling to cater to the ordinary citizens flawlessly. Under these circumstances of the new normal, Canada faces an uphill struggle to take the nation forward with limited human and financial resources. Post COVID Canada will be a different nation with new challenges and priorities.

Ph covid-19 cases under community quarantine

Alminda M. Fernandez, PhD

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Philippines surge a case fatality rate of 1.90 percent after a national lockdown of three months since March 19, 2020 and modified enhanced community quarantine for four months now. The Department of Health (DOH) confirmed a total of 380,729 cases, of which 42,462 are active and total of 7,221 deaths of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as of October 31, 2020. DOH also reported 1,803 new cases and 36 new deaths due to COVID-19 with 606 new recoveries and 331,046 recoveries in total. The government has tested more than 3.4 million people and aims to test 10 million nearly a tenth of the population by next year.

Public schools reopened with virtual classes on Oct. 5, 2020 while face-to-face classes are still not allowed until a vaccine becomes available. Most businesses, including dine-in services, have been allowed to reopen since strict lockdown measures ended on Aug. 19, 2020 to support the economy, which fell into recession for the first time in 29 years in the second quarter. People must still wear masks, face shields and observe one-meter social distancing, while children, the elderly and pregnant women are urged to stay at home.

Understanding 'social trust' and rights of Tribal people during pandemic in India

Miss Atrayee Saha

10.45 crore tribal people who reside in India are at stake as a result of persistent backwardness; economic dependency; inequality in education, medical facilities and nutritional status and existing stigma due to lack of implementable policies, since Independence. These tribal communities mostly dwell on the procurement and sale of forest produce for their sustenance and many others also work as migrant workers in the cities and distant states. The lockdown announcement due to COVID-19 and government-imposed restriction on movement in the forest regions, led to loss of livelihood for many tribal communities which are isolated from the urban areas. The distress was further intensified with approval of proposal by the government for introducing developmental projects in the forest regions inhabited by the tribal communities, thus affecting forest rights and tribal rights. With the help of secondary data and experience gathered through fieldwork Santhals in West Bengal, conducted before the pandemic, this paper tries to analyse the factors of persistent backwardness of the tribal communities and also with the help of news reports gathered from different parts of the country, the paper discusses the various ways in which the 'social trust' and rights of the tribal communities have been hindered during the pandemic.

Miss Atrayee Saha is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Muralidhar Girls' Calcutta University and is in her final stage of completion of PhD at the Centre for Studies in Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Her research is mainly based on rural sociology, agrarian studies, caste and class relations in the rural economy and tribal education and development. She has conducted fieldwork in different states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal on the issues of agricultural development and agrarian relations in the rural economy. She has published in several journals like South Asia Research, Contemporary Voice of Dalit and in edited books like Encylcopedia of Gerontology and Aging and others.

The paper is her sole contribution. Any inquiry towards the paper should be directed at atrayee.dse@gmail.com.

Complexity, multiplicity, and upending the assumed discourses of social trust

Associate Professor Grazyna Zajdow

The assumptions and stated aims of the panel are that the Corona virus pandemic and the concomitant policies of governments have produced a crisis of legitmacy because of increased surveillance and the use of state power to undermine civil and individual rights. My initial responses early in the crisis would have been to agree to this proposition. But I would argue now, that, in Victoria at least, this is much more complex than first thought. Complexity and multiplicity, as Mol and Law (2002) write are about different orders that are dealt with at the same time, 'coexistences at a single moment'. So the narrative of the

Victorian situation means that modes of ordering and the different experiences of the population do not easily slide into a clear theoretical linearity.

From the failed surveillance technology of the Covid Safe app, to the police-secured lockdown of high rise public housing tenants, to the lockdown of 5 million people in Melbourne, consideration needs to be given to why the city's population willingly (for the most part) agreed to the policies of the state. I will also consider that those who argued the costs of the lockdown were too great (as indeed some mental health practitioners have claimed) have been shown to be unsupported by most of the population. Indeed consideration might be given to a functionalist understanding of social cohesion in the face of an external threat- a proposition that is difficult for someone like myself to make.

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Effects on social trust of pandemic policing during the Covid-19 crisis

Associate Professor Greg Martin

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This paper focuses on political practices as they relate to state responses to the Covid-19 crisis via enhanced policing powers. In responding to rising infection rates of Covid-19 liberal democracies have sought to balance securing public health and safety, on the one hand, and fostering citizen responsibility, on the other. Arguably, this situation is analogous to state responses post-9/11 where civil liberties were eroded on the pretext of safeguarding national security. While many of the post-9/11 measures became permanent features of law enforcement and state surveillance encroaching upon individual rights and freedoms, it remains to be seen whether rights suspended during the coronavirus pandemic will endure. Certainly, when rates of coronavirus infection have increased, the state has relied upon police intervention – rather than citizen responsibility – to enforce social distancing rules and restrictions on gatherings. This paper looks at two aspects of "pandemic policing" – everyday policing and protest policing – to explore the effects on social trust not only in respect of citizen reactions to state institutions and state agents such as police, but also amongst the citizenry of liberal democracies, which has at various points during the pandemic adopted oppositional roles, ranging from "sovereign citizen" to "citizen cop".

Biographical note: Greg Martin is Associate Professor of Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney, Australia. He has published widely in criminology, law and sociology, and is author of Understanding Social Movements (Routledge, 2015), Crime, Media and Culture (Routledge, 2019), and co-editor of Secrecy, Law and Society (Routledge, 2015). He is founding Editor of the book series, Emerald Studies in Activist Criminology, is an Associate Editor of Crime Media Culture, and is a member of the Editorial Board of Social Movement Studies and The Sociological Review.

Managing COVID-19 Impacts Social Trust in the USA
Louis Kriesberg

Donald J. Trump's administration demonstrated extraordinary incompetence and great corruption in confronting COVID-19. Unsurprisingly, that decreased trust in the federal government and social trust in general. What is surprising is that he and his government were as popular as they were. His bullying, ignorance, corruption, and divisiveness were evident before COVID-19 struck. That has to be understood by changes in American society that contributed to widespread distrust in the government and to social trust generally. Americans' trust in government dropped in the 1960s and the1970s, then recovered some, only to fall again.

Most significantly, the Republican Party leaders, some conservative intellectuals, and the very rich attacked big government and government solutions and pointed to immigrants and other scapegoats to explain social problems. They exploited American libertarianism. Trump used these phenomena and added right-wing populist language to get nominated and elected president. Once in office, he fostered incivility, prejudice, and social distrust. The public, however, is not entirely passive. Trump and his enablers overreached. The public generally recognized that social trust had been declining and they desired more not less. That has bolstered resistance and opposition to Trumpism and lent support for greater civility, cooperation, and mutual respect.

Public Trust amidst COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore
Nancy Sebastian,

University of Newcastle (UON), Singapore

Trust in public institutions is vital for governments' ability to respond rapidly, secure public support and for planning and implementing an inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 emergency. Government's values (integrity/fairness/openness) and competence - its responsiveness and reliability in delivering public services and anticipating new needs -are strong predictors of public trust. To contain the economic and social downswings lashed out by the pandemic, the Singapore Government initially started with 3 budgets in less than 2 months to cope with the current crisis, followed by a partial lockdown (circuit breaker), then an extension of the lockdown, followed by a staggered re-opening of the economy. Amidst these measures taken by the government, public trust in authorities has definitely seen its ups and downs, especially with the previous government retaining its place by a rather tough fight, after an election held during COVID. The paper examines the various phases of public trust in authorities amidst the global pandemic. It explores how communicating the risk of pandemic and the measures taken by the government like advising, tracking, testing, stimulus packages, phased-re-opening can play a role in influencing trust and compliance. It examines how trust influences public behavior to address the pandemic and rebuild the social and economic life.

Sociology of Sport & Leisure Thematic Group
Sport and leisure for the now normal

Session proposers: Catherine Palmer, Adele Pavlidis, Suzanne Schrijnder

As the world grapples with COVID-19, sport and leisure have taken on new significance. What, then, is the importance (or not) of sport and leisure in this crisis? This session invites presenters to share their current or emerging research on sport and leisure. Topics are entirely open, but should engage with the overarching event theme of sociology for the now normal.

The Sociology of Sport and Leisure: A Theme Group Panel on the State of Play and Replay

Panel Convenor: David Rowe (Western Sydney University)

Panellists: David Rowe, Jennifer Cheng, Ramón Spaaij, and a Convenor of the Sport and Leisure Theme Group (TBD).

Western Sydney University, Victoria University and TBD.

This Sport and Leisure Theme Group Panel takes the opportunity to consider the 'now normal' and 'abnormal' in the sub-field of Sociology in and beyond the global pandemic. The panellists are all active in academe and the wider public sphere. They will briefly address their specific areas of research – including ethnicity, religion, gender, sport for development, participation, inclusion, culture and media – as well as engage with the broader research and scholarly field. The principal questions underlying the Panel are: How can the Sociology of Sport and Leisure come to terms with the intellectual and social problems that pre-existed and have been exacerbated by the pandemic? And is the 'now normal' a decisive break with the past or, primarily, an opportunity for it to be repeated, not as tragedy or farce, but as reality media genre?

Broken World: TASA 2021 at the Australian National University

Beyond the familiar discourse of crisis, the theme of Broken World seeks to raise new questions about the problems of repair, maintenance and continuity of ecologies, sociality, animals, media, institutions, health, economies, polities, movements and sexualities. Attending to conditions of fragility, breakdown, disaster, disorder, and collapse, we invite contributions that bear on approaches to mending, curing, treating, fixing, survival, eeking-out, hanging-on, crafting, healing, stitching and hacking. We encourage consideration of how sociology can voice or sustain experimental and practical understandings of planetary, social, technical, constitutional and economic limits, by attending to breakdown, maintenance and repair.

The idea of 'broken world thinking' (Jackson, 2014) provides one lead in this direction. It takes decay, erosion and breakdown as a point of departure, rather than as an endpoint for thinking about infrastructures and devices. Increasing doubts in political sociology about even elective affinities between capitalism and democracy move from similar premises. A concern with repair and maintenance also lie at the core of ethnomethodological understandings of everyday social action and orderings and in the cultural sociology of civil spheres. Attention to breakdown and loss has a rich history in phenomenological, psychoanalytic and critical accounts of experience. In recent forms of critical race theory, in contrast, the very notion of repair is announced as a refusal to recognise the unpayable debt at the heart of sociality. From such points of view, the challenge is to grasp the brokenness of contemporary reality, without the imperative to get back into credit through a form of fixing.

In any event, it is this broad theme of Broken World that is the provocation of the conference and we welcome diverse attempts to contribute to the conversation.

Local Organising Committee

Paul K. Jones (chair)
Baptiste Brossard
Melinda Cooper
Simon Copland
Deirdre Howard-Wagner
Maria Hynes
Adrian Mackenzie
Catherine Waldby

Conference papers and panels could explore the following:

Broken promises	Extinctions	Disintegrating public spheres
Failure and/as transformation	Indigeneity	Debt and indebtedness
Social, technological and mental ecologies	Capitalism, growth, accelerationism	Democratic breakdown and repair
Illnesses, therapies and rehabilitation	Realities and societies	Broken bodies, entities, ecologies, transmissions, knowledges, polities, institutions
Crowds, riots, protests, populisms and rebellions		