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Colin Hastings  
**Division Chair**  
Concordia University  
[colin.hastings@mail.concordia.ca](mailto:colin.hastings@mail.concordia.ca)

Gina Petonito  
**Correspondence and  
Copy Editor**  
[gpetonito@gmail.com](mailto:gpetonito@gmail.com)

Jayne Malenfant  
**Editor**  
[jayne.malenfant@concordia.ca](mailto:jayne.malenfant@concordia.ca)

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# IE Newsletter

## Institutional Ethnography Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Dear SSSP IE Division members,

As we move into spring, I'd like to share two exciting opportunities that offer space for us to come together as a research community and celebrate Dorothy Smith. As we all know, Dorothy Smith has had a vast influence on feminists, activists, and researchers around the world for over 40 years.

The first occasion was on April 22. An online gathering with Dorothy to mark the premier of a short documentary about her work. The film by Elizabeth Cameron and Liza McCoy reflects on Dorothy Smith's legacy of work in the feminist movement and how she developed Institutional Ethnography as a sociological method of inquiry. You can watch the documentary [here](#) and leave a written message, image, or video for Dorothy [here](#).

The second event is on May 3, a launch of Dorothy Smith and Alison Griffith's new book: *Simply Institutional Ethnography: Creating a Sociology for People*. This webinar will feature a panel of institutional ethnographers (Adriana Suárez Delucchi, Marj DeVault, and Frank Wang) reflecting on the book and Dorothy's ground-breaking work. [Here's the registration link](#). (See also the lead article below).

Of course, amidst these exciting spring events we're looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Annual Meeting of SSSP in August! While the conference is set to move ahead in person, please note that the IE Business Meeting will be taking place online on Monday July 25 at 11am ET. Keep a lookout for a link and more details as the date approaches!

Until then, wishing you all a safe and happy spring,

Colin

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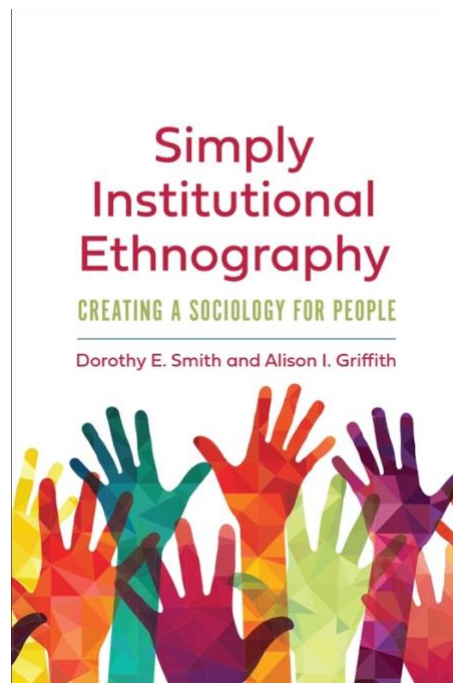


# Simply Institutional Ethnography: Creating a Sociology for People

Breaking news from Twitter!

@DrDorothyESmith tweets: exciting news everyone! The date and time for my book launch has been confirmed by @utpress.

Hold the date: 03 May 2022 (Tuesday) at 15:00 (PDT) on Zoom. To register for this event, click on this link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PaLzyyMtQ3uCO2M1nCm7Cw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PaLzyyMtQ3uCO2M1nCm7Cw)



## Call for Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Centre for Global Cooperation Research, located in Duisburg, Germany, is currently accepting applications for postdoctoral fellowships

**Due Date:** 1 June 2022.

The stipulation for Postdoctoral status is that people must have received their PhD no longer than 4 years ago.

Lauren Eastwood is currently heading up the "Global Governance of Climate Change and Sustainability" policy field and she would love to see some strong applications pertaining to this area.

Feel free to contact Lauren with questions ([eastwood@gcr21.uni-due.de](mailto:eastwood@gcr21.uni-due.de)).

There are three other policy fields as well, so please see the call below for more details. Visit the GCR21 website (<https://www.gcr21.org>) for more information about the Centre. For more information on the call, please consult: <https://www.gcr21.org/the-centre/news/year/current/postdoctoral-research-fellowships-2022-2023-open-call-for-applications>

## Welcome New Members

Sixteen new members have joined the IE Division since the publication of our last newsletter. Welcome all!

Steve Bernardin

Sam Blondeau

Mariana Guillermina Corona Alvidrez

Anick Desrosiers

Nastassya Ferns

Jimmy Frickey

Karlyn J. Gorski

Renaud Goyer

Axl C. Kaminski

Tammy MacLean

Grace Kieu-Diem Nguyen

Martha Nicolson

Alexandria R. Pavelich

Gillian Slee

Ann-Torill Tørrisplass

Hasmik Tovmasyan

## Members' News and Notes

**Dr. Veena Vasudevan** (University of Pittsburgh), **Dr. Nora Gross** (Boston College), **Dr. Pavithra Nagarajan** (CUNY), and **Dr. Katherine Clonan-Roy** (Cleveland State) co-edited book, *Care-Based Methodologies: Reimagining Qualitative Research with Youth in US Schools*, was just published by Bloomsbury Academic Press. *Care-Based Methodologies* argues for care as essential to qualitative and ethnographic research in schools, particularly when participants are youth from nondominant communities. Across 15 diverse chapters and an introduction by the editors, the book illustrates the possibilities for conducting rigorous and responsible research that simultaneously improves our understanding of youth's lives, cares for their wellbeing, and works toward dismantling the systems that oppress them. The foreword is written by **Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz** (Teachers College, Columbia University).

For more information, please consult this link: [Care-Based Methodologies: Reimagining Qualitative Research with Youth in US Schools](#) (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2022).

**Naomi Nichols** and **Emanuel Guay** published in 2021 "Ethnography, Tactical Responsivity and Political Unity," in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. <https://doi-org.uc.idm.oclc.org/10.1177/08912416211060870>

## SSSP 2022 Annual Meeting: Los Angeles

The Sociological Reimagination: From Moments to Momentum

## IE Sessions

### Friday, August 5

*Time:* 8:30 AM-10:10 AM

*Session 002:* **Reconceptualizing Educational Opportunities: Challenging Inequality, Creating Equity**

*Room:* Crocker

*Sponsors:* Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography

*Organizer, Presider &*

*Discussant:* Ruo-Fan Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Description:* Opportunity is unequally distributed between the privileged and the underprivileged. This panel attempts to facilitate a diverse conversation around “opportunities” and “barriers.” Each paper speaks to the interplay between them, whether barriers impede the pursuit of opportunities, and when barriers might be removed in various social contexts. The panel attempts to reflect upon and propose possible ways to theorize through these meaningful collections and discussions.

*Papers:* “Hospice Education: Palliative Schooling in the Age of Equity,” Jienian Zhang, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Infrastructures of Sociality: How Marginalized Students Navigate the Inequities of University Life,” Kriti Budhiraja, University of Minnesota

“What is Diversity and Who Does it Help? Studying Diversity Messages on University Websites,” Emily G. Blosser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

“Social Climate Barriers to Equity: Hostile Discourse and Physical Experiences in Geology Field Camps,” Harmony D. Newman, University of Northern Colorado, Ennea Fairchild and Julie Sexton, University of Colorado Boulder, Krystal Hinerman, Lamar University and Eric Riggs, Humboldt State University

*Time:* 12:30 PM – 2:10 PM  
*Session 016:* **Exploring the Social in New Ways: Research in Institutional Ethnography**  
*Room:* Watercourt A  
*Sponsor:* Institutional Ethnography  
*Organizer:* Lauren Eastwood, SUNY Plattsburgh  
*Presider:* Morena Tartari, University of Southampton

*Description:* Papers presented in this session utilize aspects of the ontology of institutional ethnography. They represent new ways of investigating “the social” with applications to institutional ethnographic research.

*Papers:* “Doing IE with People in Vulnerable Life Situations; Balancing Ethical Responsibility and Empowerment,” Guro W. Øydgard, Nord University

“Epistemic Injustice at the Stage of Science: Symbolic Violence and Self-negation in Citizen Sciences,” June Jeon, Chungnam National University

“Navigating Iatrogenic Harm among Female Pain Patients: Utilizing Institutional Ethnography to Explore the Social Organization of Trauma-informed Care,” Alexandria R. Pavelich, University of Saskatchewan

“Our Home and ‘Native’ Land: An Institutional Ethnographic Analysis of Parks Canada’s Efforts to ‘Map Change’ for Reconciliation in Our National Parks,” Elizabeth L. Brule, Queen’s University

“The Social Organization of Animal Shelter Work,” Katherine E. Koralesky, University of British Columbia, Janet M. Rankin, University of Calgary and David Fraser, University of British Columbia

*Time:* 2:30 PM – 4:10PM  
*Session 024:* **Institutional Ethnographic Explorations of the Meaning of Work**  
*Room:* Watercourt A  
*Sponsors:* Institutional Ethnography; Labor Studies

*Organizer & Presider:* Sue Sherifali, University of Waterloo

*Description:* An institutional ethnographic explorations of the meaning of work.

*Papers:* “Institutional Ethnographic Explorations of becoming a Paramedic,” Michael Kenneth Corman, The University of the Fraser Valley

“Nice White Donors: Contending with Public Radio’s Listener-member Class,” Laura Garbes, Brown University

“Revitalizing the Social Economy: Worker Buyouts for a Better US Future,” Warner Woodworth, The University of Utah

“The Work of Mitigating Harm: Chronic Pain, Opioid Prescribing, and the Institutional Capture of Harm Reduction,” Leigha Comer, York University

“Working around Space: An Institutional Ethnography on Emergency Nurses Work in a Redesigned Department,” Sophie G. Pomerleau, Université d’Ottawa

*Time:* 4:30 PM – 6:10 PM  
*Session 028:* **Beyond the Acronym: Institutional Impacts on Black, Indigenous, People of Color**  
*Room:* Hershey  
*Sponsors:* Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Institutional Ethnography  
*Organizers:* Cheryl Zurawski, Canadian Association of Independent Scholars  
Rashmee Karnad-Jani, University of Toronto  
*Presider:* Colin Hastings, Concordia University

*Description:* Papers in this session have in common a concern with the workings of institutions such as child welfare, community philanthropy, higher education and social work in the everyday lives of Black and Indigenous people. An interest in explicating and/or examining the operation of anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism is another tie that binds the papers together.

*Papers:* “Activism from within Wealth: Working to Restructure the Power Dynamics of Philanthropy with a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Focus,” Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College and Central New York Community Foundation

“How Do Black Engineering and Computing Doctoral Students Appraise, Analyze, and Address Their (Depleted) STEM Diversity Programming?” Amanda J. Brockman, Northern Kentucky University, Ebony O. McGee, Vanderbilt University, Christopher C. Jett, University of West Georgia and Monica L. Miles, Physician Assistant Education Association

“Mapping Biased Trajectories: Uncovering Anti-Black Racism in Ontario Child Protection Practices,” Henry Parada, Marsha Rampersaud and Charlotte Akuoko-Barfi, Ryerson University

“Micro-erasures: How an ‘Evidence-based’ Violence Intervention with Indigenous Youth Advances Cultural Genocide,” Kenneth A. Cruz, University of Washington Tacoma

“The Work of Navigating Institutional Interests for Equity,” Thamer R. Linklater, Jimmy Frickey and Naomi Nichols, Trent University

## **Saturday, August 6**

*Time:* 8:30 AM – 10:10 AM  
*Session 042:* **CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Institutional Complexes and How People Navigate Them Across the Life Span**  
*Room:* Watercourt B  
*Sponsors:* Institutional Ethnography; Youth, Aging, and the Life Course  
*Organizers:* LaNysha T. Adams, Edlinguist Solutions; Colin Hastings, Concordia University  
*Presider/Discussant:* Colin Hastings, Concordia University

*Papers:* “Economic Disadvantages of Young Black Men without a College Degree: Color Lines in Earnings Disparities among Non-college-educated Youth,” Byeongdon Oh, Daniel Mackin Freeman and Dara Shifrer, Portland State University

“Institutional Harm and Strategies of Care: Experiences of Housing Precarity in Lives of Children and Youth,” Jayne Malenfant, Concordia University and Naomi Nichols, Trent University

“Sense of Belonging in a Transnational Era: Bridged Communities or Segregated Islands? The Iranian Immigrants’ Experiences in Atlantic Canada and Ontario,” Foroogh Mohammadi, Memorial University of Newfoundland

“Who is Deserving of Healthcare?: How Demographic Shifts Have Left Children’s Hospitals Unprepared for a New Class of Pediatric Patients,” Hillary Steinberg, AJ Drexel Autism Institute

“Young People’s Work to Navigate the Intersections of Health and Housing Services,” Naomi Nichols, Trent University and Jayne Malenfant, Concordia University

“Intragenerational Educational Mobility and Cognition in the Context of Marriage,” Rong Fu, Siena College

**Time:** 10:30 AM -12:10 PM

**Session 051:** **Publishing IE Research: Reflections on Key Moments-THEMATIC**

**Room:** Watercourt B

**Sponsor:** Institutional Ethnography

**Organizer & Presider:** Naomi Nichols, Trent University

**Description:** This is a session on experiences publishing institutional ethnographic research for academic and non-academic audiences. Invited panelists are experienced institutional ethnographers from every stage of a scholarly trajectory: recent graduates to professor emerita.

**Panelists:** Suzanne Vaughan, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University

Lauren Eastwood, SUNY Plattsburgh

Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University

Colin Hastings, Concordia University

Jayne Malenfant, Concordia University

**Time:** 12:30 PM -2:10 PM

**Session 052:** **Exploring the Social in New Ways: Research in Institutional Ethnography II**

**Room:** Bradbury

**Sponsor:** Institutional Ethnography

**Organizer:** Lauren Eastwood, SUNY Plattsburgh

**Presider:** Morena Tartari, University of Southampton

**Description:** Papers presented in this session take up particular dynamics pertaining to institutional ethnography, such as: positing the compatibility (or incompatibility) of IE with other ontologies of “the social”; developing in greater depth elements of the core ontology of institutional ethnography; taking a different/new “angle” on some element of institutional ethnography.

**Papers:** “Digital Platforms as Institutions,” Tanya K. Osborne, Gothenburg University

“Considering Built Space as Text in Institutional Ethnography Analysis,” Sophie G. Pomerleau, Université d’Ottawa

“Institutional Ethnography and Intersectionality,” Ann-Torill Tørrisplass, Nord University

“Reflections on Engels’: The Condition of the Working Class in England,” Paul C. Luken, University of West Georgia

“Can Institutional Ethnography Challenge Colonial Academic Knowledge Production and Institutions?”  
Adriana Angela Suarez, Centre for Global Cooperation Research

*Time:* 2:30 PM-4:10 PM  
*Session 061:* **What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Opportunities?**  
*Room:* Bradbury  
*Sponsors:* Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography  
*Organizer:* Ruo-Fan Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
*Presider:* Myron Strong, The Community College of Baltimore County

*Description:* This panel discusses how scholars employ the notion of opportunities (e.g., mobility, odds ratio, the chance of success, perception of possibility) in various contexts. The panel includes papers conducted through a wider array of methods, including ethnography, comparative studies, longitudinal analysis, as well as team research. Taken together, this panel attempts to discuss 1) How do scholars conceptualize opportunities in different research disciplines? 2) What does having an opportunity mean for different societies? 3) How can we move from a relatively ambiguous concept to reconceptualization of the notion?

*Papers:* “Racial and Gender Inequality in the School-to-work Transition. Vertical and Horizontal Educational-occupational Mismatches among Children and Grandchildren of Immigrants in France,” Mathieu Ichou, French Institute for Demographic Studies, Rosa Weber, French Institute for Demographic Studies and University of Stockholm and Mathieu Ferry, French Institute for Demographic Studies

“The Effects of Intergenerational Social Mobility on Subjective Social Status. A Comparison between Immigrant and Native Families,” Mathieu Ichou and Louise Caron, French Institute for Demographic Studies

“Envision Opportunity: How High Schoolers Assess Opportunities and How Messages Involve,” Ruo-Fan Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“When Class Goes Online: Unequal Experiences of Remote College Course-taking in the (post) COVID Era,” Mary L. Scherer, Sam Houston State University

“Presenting US as Vegetable Tray: Connecting the Dots between Power of Assimilation and the Matrix of Consciousness,” Rafia Javaid Mallick, Georgia State University

## Sunday, August 7

*Time:* 8:30 AM – 10:10 AM  
*Session 077:* **Mapping Intersections Across Institutions**  
*Room:* Watercourt B  
*Sponsor:* Institutional Ethnography  
*Organizers:* Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University; Colin Hastings, Concordia University  
*Presider:* Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University  
*Discussant:* Colin Hastings, Concordia University

*Description:* This panel invites reflections about how ethnographers empirically examine the ruling relations that shape people’s everyday work practices. In particular, the papers prompt discussions about how ethnographers can conduct critical inquiries of trans-local ruling relations that investigate multiple institutions. Attending to how people’s activities are coordinated across multiple institutions can add complexity to critical sociological analyses (such as institutional ethnography) of how ruling relations are produced and reproduced.

*Papers:* “A Curious and Carceral History of the National Association of Training Schools,” Sam Harrell, Portland State University

“Data-led Decision-making, Governance, and Accountability,” Naomi Nichols and Faith Mottahedi, Trent University

“Gaps in the Maps: Understanding the Interministerial Action Plan to End Homelessness in Québec through the Lived Experiences of Homeless Youth,” Jayne Malenfant, Concordia University

“How Long Does Madness Take? Time and the Construction of Mental Illness in the Community Mental Health Work,” Owen Whooley, The University of New Mexico

*Time:* 12:30 PM – 2:10 PM

*Session 091:* **Institutional Complexities and Responses to Crises I**

*Room:* Watercourt A

*Sponsors:* Environment and Technology; Institutional Ethnography

*Organizer & Presider:* June Jeon, Chungnam National University

*Description:* The moment of crisis requests sociological studies on complex institutional assemblage that causes, nurtures, maintains, and fails to impede the crisis. This session is composed of a series of papers that highlights institutional arrangements that alarms a variety of types of crisis (or, disasters). By combining institutional ethnography and other methods, papers show that the social ontology from the margin manifests the social problems of our time at various places. Social problems are not exclusively ‘social’ in a way that excludes non-human. Papers also give attention to ecological crises that are both causes and consequences of current social problems.

*Papers:* “Cognitive Dissonance in the Agriculture Industry during the Trump Era: Small-government Ideology and Subsidy-dependent Reality,” Nadya M. Vera and Sarah E. Castillo, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

“Flooded Afterlives: Examining ‘Disjunctures’ in Community Flood Narratives,” Jaime J. McCauley and Jennifer Mokos, Coastal Carolina University

“For What it’s Worth: Interrogating Coordinated Access Mandates as a Response to Homelessness in Ontario, Canada,” Sarah Cullingham, David Knezevic and Naomi Nichols, Trent University

“Institutionalizing Climate Equity: The Quest for Procedural Justice, Energy Democracy, and Innovative Climate Governance in Los Angeles,” Emma Mehlig French, University of California, Los Angeles

“The Business of Adaptation in Bangladesh,” Danielle Falzon, Brown University

*Time:* 2:30-4:10 PM

*Session 096:* **Institutional Complexities and Responses to Crises II**

*Room:* Watercourt A

*Sponsors:* Environment and Technology; Institutional Ethnography

*Organizer & Presider:* June Jeon, Chungnam National University

*Description:* The moment of crisis requests sociological studies on complex institutional assemblage that causes, nurtures, maintains, and fails to impede the crisis. This session is composed of a series of papers that highlights institutional arrangements that alarms a variety of types of crises (or, disasters). By combining institutional ethnography and other methods, papers show that the social ontology from the margin manifests the social problems of our time at various places. Social problems are not exclusively ‘social’ in a way that excludes non-human. Papers also give attention to ecological crises that are both causes and consequences of current social problems.

*Papers:* “Hybrid Ethnography: Access, Positioning, and Data Assembly,” Ruo-Fan Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison



“Network Inequality and COVID-19: How Organizational Routines Matter at Delhi University,”  
Kriti Budhiraja, University of Minnesota

“Persons of Self-rescue and the Institution of Canadian Private Sponsorship,” Hasmik Tovmasyan, University of Calgary

“Regroup, Refocus, and Rebrand: Updating Community-based Research Practices during and after the Pandemic Isolation,” Jeffrey A. Will, University of North Florida

“Women’s Political Representation, Neoliberalism, and Sustainable Development: A Cross-National Panel Study, 2000-2015,” Md Belal Hossain, Oklahoma State University

**Time:** 4:30 PM – 6:10 PM

**Session 102:** **Institutional Ethnography, Social Justice, and Activism**

**Room:** Watercourt A

**Sponsors:** Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Institutional Ethnography

**Organizers &**

**Facilitators:** Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College and Central New York Community Foundation; Frank Ty Wang, National Chengchi University; Suzanne Vaughan, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University

*Description:* Since George Smith's 1990 seminal article in *Social Problems*, “Political Activism as Ethnographer,” those using institutional ethnography have worked with communities to address justice issues. Given his legacy and activist work embodied in Ellen Pence's Institutional Analysis, this session will explore institutional process that constrain and open up new opportunities for activists to bring about change and social justice.

*Papers:* “‘Scaling Up’ Community Action: Challenges and Opportunities to Social and Environmental Community Organizations in Bristol, UK,” Lauren Eastwood, SUNY Plattsburgh

“Prisons, Systemic White Supremacy, and Carcerality: An Abolitionist Institutional Ethnographic Approach,” Dylan Addison, University of Delaware

“Rights, Relations, and Responsibilities: Managing Institutional Complexity in Domestic Violence Legal Aid Organizations in Bangladesh,” Esha Sraboni, Brown University

“Shelter Justice Project,” Sam Blondeau and Naomi Nichols, Trent University

“Using Participatory Institutional Ethnography to Change Hospital Governance,” Sophie Hickey, Molly Wardaguga Research Centre at Charles Darwin University



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