

# IE NEWSLETTER

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

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## On the inside

- Congratulations Doctors
- Members' news, notes and publications
- IE in Australia
- IE Sessions in Seattle

## *From the Division Chair* *Naomi Nichols*

Hello Institutional Ethnographers.

Flowers are blooming, the pop-up street performances have begun, and the terraces are teeming with people in Montreal. Spring has arrived! Montreal's vibrant street culture is one of the things I like most about the city. I've been informed by graduate students that Seattle's public markets offer a similarly vibrant and accessible opportunity to experience the city's food, arts, and culture scenes. Those of us heading to Seattle for the SSSP's Annual Meeting are in for a treat! Here is a *NYTimes* article on things to do while we are there:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/23/travel/things-to-do-in-36-hours-in-seattle.html>

As well as opportunities to walk through Seattle's beautiful parks and museums, and opportunities to eat in its great restaurants, I'd like to draw your attention to the IE Workshop on Monday, August 22. The workshop provides opportunities for newer scholars to share their work, ask questions and get feedback from more seasoned folks. The workshop also provides an opportunity for us to collectively reflect on the institutional ethnographic research papers presented at this year's meeting and begin to draw connections between studies of seemingly divergent institutional foci. An opportunity to think collectively about the discreet studies we are producing and have produced is key to institutional ethnography's project, as I understand it. The over-arching point of the work is to look out from the everyday world of embodied action and experience (Smith, 1990) to discover how these experiences are organized to happen as they do. But the individual stories and experiences that comprise the starting place for investigation point us to forms of coordination that traverse time and place, linking seemingly personal experiences into the extra-local social relations that traditional social science understands as structure or discourse. An ontological commitment to treating the social as the co-ordered activities and thoughts of actual people enables institutional ethnographers to see that the phenomena that others understand to be structure as social relations – in this case, social relations that have a coordinative or ruling effect. As a field of sociological inquiry, institutional ethnography enables a series of “investigations [that] attempt to map a particular piece of the ruling relations” (Smith, 1999). By bringing these studies together and inviting one another to think across the findings, we bring into view ruling relations that otherwise seem to be organizing our lives and experiences from “behind our backs” (Griffith & Smith, 2014).

This is a chance for us to discover and map more of Griffith and Smith's (2014) metaphorical mountain range. When viewed as a collective project, each institutional ethnographic analysis reveals another shadow, crag, or rocky outcropping within the mountain range and through which the range comes to exist and give shape to our lives.

Naomi

## Congratulations Doctors!

We are adding a new feature for the Spring/Summer edition of the IE Newsletter, a note of congratulations to graduate students who successfully defended their dissertation during this (and given that this is the first time this feature runs, the previous) academic year. A job well done, indeed!

**Patricia Waldерsee Brock** defended her dissertation titled: “Perceptions of Facility Influences on Older Adult Acute Care Falls” at the University of Phoenix PhD nursing program in July 2015. Her chair was Margaret Kroposki.

**Ferzana Chaze** defended her dissertation titled: "The Social Organization of South Asian Immigrant Women's Mothering in Canada" at York University in November 2015. Her committee members were Susan McGrath (Supervisor), Alison Griffith and Karen Swift.

**Sonya Jakubec** defended her dissertation titled: “The Social Organization of the Right to Mental Health and Development: An Institutional Ethnography” at the University of Calgary in August 2015. Her supervisors were Liza McCoy and Janet Rankin.

**Olive Fast** defended her dissertation titled: “The Social Organization of Staffing Work of Nurse Managers: A Critique of Contemporary Nursing Workload Technologies” in December 2015 at the University of Calgary. She officially submitted the final copy in February 2016. Her supervisor was Janet Rankin.

**Christine Pinsent-Johnson** defended her dissertation titled: “Managing and Monitoring Literacy for a ‘Knowledge Society’: The Textual Processes of Inequality in Adult Education Policy, Pedagogy and Practice” at the University of Ottawa in April 2014. Her advisor was Maurice Taylor and Richard Darville from Carlton University sat on her committee.

**Nicola Waters** defended her dissertation titled: “The Social Organization of Wound Clinic Work: An Institutional Ethnography” in January 2016 at the University of Calgary. Her supervisor was Janet Rankin

## Notes and news from members

**Ng, S., Bisailon, L., & Webster, F.** (2017). Blurring the Boundaries: Using Institutional Ethnography to Inquire into Health Professions Education and Practice. *Medical Education*. (Forthcoming, Jan. 2017, Special Issue).

**Nichols, N.** (2016). Investigating the Social Relations of Human Service Provision: Institutional ethnography and activism. *Journal of Comparative Social Work*, Special Edition on Institutional Ethnography, 11(1), available at: <<http://journal.uia.no/index.php/JCSW/article/view/360>

**Nichols, N., Mistry, N., Ford-Jones, L.E., Fridman, M., & Ramadan, K.** (2015). The Social Organization of Family Health Work: An Institutional Ethnography. *Journal of Critical Public Health* 27.  
**DOI:**10.1080/09581596.2015.1119804

**Nichols, N.** (Forthcoming June, 2016). Development in Context: Housing Instability, Homelessness, and Youth Work. In Mizzi, R., Rocco, T., & Shore, S. (Eds.) *Disrupting Adult and Community Education: Teaching, Learning, and Working on the Periphery*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

**Nichols, N. and Doberstein, C.** (Eds.) (2016). *Exploring Effective Systems Responses to Homelessness*. Toronto: The Homeless Hub. Available as an ebook from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/systemsresponses>



## IE news from Australia

**Lindsay Kerr** from the Centre for Women's Studies in Education (CWSE) at OISE/University of Toronto was recently invited as a visiting researcher to Australia, hosted by Barbara Comber at Queensland University of Technology and Debra Talbot at the University of Sydney. The visit included public talks on her work (*Educational Change K-16: Caring or Counting?*), workshops on institutional ethnography (*Making Change from Below*), as well as seminars and individual consultations with students and faculty at each university. The visit marks a step towards building international networks of IE researcher-practitioners in education.

**Debra Talbot** from the University of Sydney is presenting a talk on her work to the IE Study Group at OISE/UT in June 2016. Email for details: [lindsay.kerr@utoronto.ca](mailto:lindsay.kerr@utoronto.ca)

**Barbara Comber** delivered the prestigious annual Radford Lecture (2015) at the Australian Association for Research in Education conference in Freemantle. Her keynote address -- *Poverty, Place and Pedagogy in Education: Research Stories from Front-line Workers* -- is now posted via video link at <http://www.aare.edu.au/pages/radford-lecture.html>.

Recent Australian publications of interest to IEers include:

**Comber, Barbara** (2015). *Literacy, Place, and Pedagogies of Possibility*. Routledge.

**Doherty, Catherine** (2015). Making Trouble: Ethnographic Designs on Ruling Relations for Students and Teachers in Non-academic Pathways. *The Australian Educational Researcher* 42 (3), pp. 353-370.

## Welcome to new members

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

Jessica M. Cunningham Segovia  
Guro Øydgard  
Sean M. R. Heath

Harla Sara Octarra  
Linda Pickthall  
Kendall Atterbury

## **Institutional Ethnography sessions at the SSSP 2016 Annual Meeting August 19-21, Seattle, Washington**



### **Friday, August 19, 2016**

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

#### ***Session 3: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Scholarship Grounded in the Community- Scholarship, Activism, and Community Research***

**Room:** Cascade I-C

***Sponsors:*** Community Research and Development; Institutional Ethnography

***Organizer:*** Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College; ***President:*** Naomi Nichols, McGill University, Canada

#### ***Papers:***

“Between the Man and the Monster: Negotiating Collaborative Relationships with Oppressive and Exploitive Organizations,” Paul Draus, University of Michigan-Dearborn

“Collective Efficacy and Community Engagement: Building a Beautiful Safe Place in Rainier Beach, Seattle,” ManChui R. Leung, University of Washington

“Community-Based Participatory Research to Reduce the Health-Related Consequences of Dating and Sexual Violence Among LGBTQ+ College Students,” Bethany M. Coston and Kaylin Tingle, Virginia Commonwealth

University

“Exploring Empowering Processes of DREAM Act Advocacy in a Focal State,” Brad Forenza and Carolina Mendonca, Montclair State University

“Learning to Co-research: Lessons from the Field,” Charlotte Ryan, UMASS Lowell

“Research for Engagement: Academic Research, Knowledge Mobilization, and Community Based Water Activism in Two Canadian Communities,” Robert A. Case, Social Development Studies, Renison University College, University of Waterloo

“Stuck in the Middle?: Reflections on Balancing Social Justice and the Needs of Local Organizations in Community-Based Research,” Emily W. Kane, Bates College

“What Family-friendly Agenda? Why it’s Never About the Parents and How that Could Change,” Ezra J. Temko, University of New Hampshire

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

**Session 15: New Research in Institutional Ethnography**

Room: Cascade I-B

*Sponsor:* Institutional Ethnography *Organizers:* Liza McCoy, University of Calgary; Suzanne Vaughan, Arizona State University

*Presider:* Suzanne Vaughan, Arizona State University; *Discussant:* Liza McCoy, University of Calgary

*Papers:*

“Documents and Demonstrations: Tracing the Work of Making Change within AIDS ACTION NOW! Toronto,” Sarah Rodimon and Janna Klostermann, Carleton University

“The Social Relations of HIV Disclosure in the Context of Criminalization in Canada: Reflections on an Objectifying Discourse,” Colin Hastings, York University, Canada, Winner of the Institutional Ethnography Division’s Student Paper Competition

“Unwelcome, Unwanted and Persistent: An Institutional Ethnography of Gender Based Violence in Schools,” Alison Fisher, York University, Canada

“What Happens when Radionuclides from Nuclear Power Plants End Up on People’s Dinner Plates? Using Institutional Ethnography as a Method to Understand how Post-Fukushima Food Safety Regulations Impact the Everyday Practices of Concerned Consumers,” Karly Ann Burch, University of Otago

*Time:* 12:30 PM – 2:10 PM

**THEMATIC**

**Session 28: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: "Connecting the Dots" in Institutional Ethnographic Research**

Room: Cascade I-C

*Sponsor:* Institutional Ethnography

*Organizers:* Janet M. Rankin, University of Calgary in Qatar; Lauren Eastwood, SUNY College at Plattsburgh

*Presider:* Naomi Nichols, McGill University, Canada

*Papers:*

“Strangers in a Strange Land: Applying IE in Unexplored Terrains,” Debbie Dergousoff, Activist and Dorothy E. Smith, University of Victoria

“From Wyoming to Paris: The Globalization of Energy Infrastructure Battles,” Lauren Eastwood, SUNY College at Plattsburgh

“Urban Commons as Property Experiment: Mapping Chicago’s Farms and Gardens,” Nate Ela, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“A Circuitous Affair of Institutional Capture,” LaNysha T. Adams, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education

“The Work of Institutional Ethnography in the field of HIV/AIDS: Perspectives from Canadian Critical Social Scientists,” Daniel Grace, University of Toronto

“‘Curriculum Review Lead’ as Institutional Ethnographer,” Liza McCoy, University of Calgary

“‘If You Were Not So Good at This You Would be Dead Already’: Making Visible the Healthwork of a Patient-institutional Ethnographer,” Manda Ann Roddick and Dorothy E. Smith, University of Victoria and Daniel Grace, University of Toronto

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

### ***THEMATIC***

#### ***Session 38: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Interrogating Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Using Institutional Ethnography***

Room: Cascade I-C

*Sponsors:* Institutional Ethnography; Racial and Ethnic Minorities

*Organizer & Presider:* Sarah Faude, Northeastern University

*Papers:*

“A Hurricane Katrina Retrospective: Ten (10) Years of Voices Still Not Being Heard,” Dana M. Greene, University of North Carolina/University of Michigan

“Contrast Structures and Comparative Structures in Tuscans’ Talk about Immigrants,” Robert Garot, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

“The Continuum of Ethno-Racial Socialization: Learning About Culture and Race in Middle-Class Latina/o Families,” Maria D. Duenas, University of California, Merced

“Transgressive Temporalities: How Youth of Color Make Sense of Time in Urban Space,” Rahsaan H. Mahadeo, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

“Conceptualizing the Complexities of Whiteness for Latino@s: Agency and Racial Decision Making for those in the Honorary White Category,” Daniel J. Delgado, Salem State University

Friday, August 19

*Time:* 4:30 PM - 6:10 PM

***Divisional Meeting: Institutional Ethnography***

Room: Cascade II

## **Saturday, August 20**

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

### ***THEMATIC***

#### ***Session 68: Institutional Junctures and their 21st century consequences***

Room: Pine

*Sponsors:* Institutional Ethnography; Social Problems Theory

*Organizer & Presider:* Marie Campbell, University of Victoria

#### *Papers:*

“Institutional ‘Objectivity’ and it’s Racializing Effects,” Naomi Nichols, McGill University, Canada

“Managing to ‘Teaching Excellence’: Institutional ethnography, performance management and higher education reform in Taiwan,” Yu-Hsuan Lin, Nanhua University, Taiwan

“Social Justice and Protective Discrimination: Analysis of the Welfare Measures Undertaken to Ameliorate the Condition of the Backward Classes in India,” Sheikh Idrees Mujtaba, Aligarh Muslim University, India

“The Rhetoric of Acknowledgment: Critical Media Coverage of Force-Feeding at Guantanamo,” Jared Del Rosso, University of Denver

“The Social Organization of ‘Binge Drinking’ on College Campuses: A Preliminary Analysis,” Kevin Tinsley and Suzanne Vaughan, Arizona State University

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

#### ***Session 83: Exploring Children's Health and Abilities with Institutional Ethnography: Professionals' and Mothers' Knowledge and Work***

Room: Pine

*Sponsors:* Disability; Institutional Ethnography

*Organizer, Presider & Discussant:* Marjorie DeVault, Syracuse University

#### *Papers:*

“Professional Knowledge Production of Cell-Free Fetal DNA Screening Tests,” Aleksa Owen, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Tracking Ruling Relations In The Social Organization Of Nurses’ Work Of Feeding Babies,” Cathy Ringham,

University of Calgary

“Lost Behind the Process: A Mother’s Struggle to Become Her Disabled Son’s Advocate within the Public School System,” Jessica M. Cunningham Segovia, Arizona State University

“Individualized Education Plans and Social Relations of Learning Disabilities: The Everyday Supporting, Accommodating and Modifying Work of Mothers,” Elizabeth Brulé, York University, Canada and Sobia Shaheen Shaikh, Memorial University, Canada

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

***THEMATIC***

***Session 104: Law, Policy and Institutional Ethnography in Local and Global Contexts***

Room: Stuart

*Sponsors:* Institutional Ethnography; Law and Society

*Organizers:* Naomi Nichols, McGill University, Canada; Jay Borchert, University of Michigan

*Presider:* Naomi Nichols, McGill University, Canada

*Papers:*

“Accountability for Whom? Enforcing the Gains of Social Movements,” Lauren Eastwood, SUNY College at Plattsburgh and Marjorie DeVault, Syracuse University

“An Ethnographic Study of Veteran’s Treatment Court,” Stacy Lee Burns, Loyola Marymount University

“Keeping Company: Conducting Institutional Ethnography in Socio-Legal Studies as an Accompanied Visitor,” Sohoon Lee, University of Sydney

“Lawyering for the ‘Mad’: Social organization of legal representation in involuntary admission cases in Poland,” Agnieszka Marta Doll, University of Victoria

“Slaves to the Law: Postcolonialism, Feminism, and human trafficking discourse in U.S. federal law,” Caliesha L. Comley, Boston College

**Sunday, August 21**

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

***Session 118: Ethnographies in Education***

Room: Cascade II

*Sponsors:* Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography

*Organizer & Presider:* Mollie A. Davis, Drexel University

*Papers:*

“The Struggle for Black Homophily on a Predominantly White Campus,” Tamara S. Gilkes, Stanford University

“Why Don’t Teachers Reflect the Racial and Class Diversity of the Students They Teach?” Johanna S. Quinn, University of Wisconsin-Madison



“Constructing the Ghetto: A Discourse Analysis of Urban Ethnographies,” Deirdre Caputo-Levine, Drake University and Vanessa Lynn, Stony Brook University, SUNY

“Federal Interventions to Right Wrongs Against Emergent Bilinguals,” LaNysha T. Adams, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education

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

**Session 131: Methodological Innovations in Institutional Ethnographic Research**

Room: Cascade II

*Sponsor:* Institutional Ethnography

*Organizer & Presider:* LaNysha T. Adams, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education

*Papers:*

“Adding a Sixth Theoretical Underpinning to Institutional Ethnography’s Existing Five,” Jean L. Deveau,

“Conducting Analysis in IE: An Ethnographic Account,” Janet M. Rankin, University of Calgary in Qatar

“Innovative Approaches to IE Analysis: Tools for Connecting the Dots,” Nicola Waters, Thompson Rivers University and Cathy Ringham, University of Calgary

“Rethinking Antiracist Feminist Praxis through Institutional Ethnography and an Interlocking Analysis of Racialized, Gendered, and Classed Oppression,” Sobia Shaheen Shaikh, Memorial University, Canada

“‘What Does Working Together Look Like?’ Using Institutional Ethnography to Reveal Complexities of Interagency Working in Children’s Services,” Harla Sara Octarra, The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

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

**Session 143: Wielding Wellness? The Social Organization of Health and Bodies** Room: Cascade II

*Sponsors:* Institutional Ethnography; Sport, Leisure, and the Body

*Organizer & Presider:* Matthew Strang, York University, Canada

*Papers:*

“Diving through ‘Access’: The Space Between our Bodies and our Abortions,” Sarah Rodimon, Carleton University

“Meanings, Embodiment and Identities in the World of Pilates,” Florence Maatita, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

“Unequal Time: Neoliberalism and Access to Healthcare Services,” Oyman Basaran, Bowdoin College

“Watch, Listen and Ask: Measuring Medical Talk with Multiple Methods,” Mary E. Campbell, Texas A&M University

“‘Feel for the Water’: Youths’ Embodied Practices in Swim Clubs,” Sean Heath, Simon Fraser University

**Monday, August 22, 2016**

**Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm**

Institutional Ethnography Workshop

For more information, please click: [http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/669/Optional\\_Workshop/](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/669/Optional_Workshop/)

