From the Division Chair: LaNysha Adams

Hello Institutional Ethnographers:

To say this year has been tough is an understatement of a lifetime. One thing that is for sure: it has challenged us and pushed most of us out of rock-solid comfort zones. With loss, however, comes greater opportunities for freedom. As we know, freedom isn’t free - it always comes at cost; just look around at the impact of so much loss from 2020 alone. Be that as it may, I encourage all of us to err on the side of optimism using the adversity we faced to strengthen us for a better tomorrow. We will need it for 2021!

Even though we are not meeting in-person at the Annual Meeting, I encourage you to participate virtually. I’m planning a “Success Sips” session, where we sit with our favorite beverage and toast each other from afar. The IE Workshop is scheduled to occur at an irresistibly affordable cost and will be dynamic and interactive. Hopefully, Season 1 of our IE podcast will be launched by then, too! I’m excited to report that we will continue our monthly membership meetings where we feature an IE researcher and discuss all things IE, highlighting happenings within and beyond SSSP.

I was recently asked what my vision is for IE. My vision for IE scholarship is to see a typology of IE across disciplines, emphasizing that IE is way more than a methodology or even a social ontology. I’d love folks on the ground to know IE exists as a way to effect transformational change. In September, the Australian Sociological Association titled an IE session as “connecting the dots between personal crises and systematic injustices.” This is exactly what we do as IE’ers, but its real power lies in the change that can be made after the dots are connected. I want to connect with, honor, and uplift institutional ethnographers as we continue to grow as a field. What is your vision for IE?

Onwards and upwards,

LaNysha
Call for IE Division Awards

George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition
Deadline January 15, 2021

The Institutional Ethnography Division solicits papers for its 2021 George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition. To be considered, papers should advance institutional ethnography scholarship either methodologically or through a substantive contribution. For an overview of institutional ethnography and the purposes of the IE Division, see https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1236/m/464. Authors must be currently enrolled graduate students or have graduated within the last 12 months. Submissions are to be 25 pages long or less, excluding notes, references and tables, and be submitted in Word-compatible and PDF formats, following the latest APA guidelines. An electronic letter from the student’s supervisor attesting to the lead author’s student status must accompany the submission. The recipient will receive a monetary prize of $100, a plaque of recognition, student membership, conference registration, and an opportunity to present the winning paper at the 2021 SSSP meetings. The winner of the 2021 paper will be invited to sit on the adjudicating panel for the 2022 paper submissions. Please note that any paper submitted for consideration for the George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Award must also be submitted through the SSSP Call for Papers to be presented at the 2021 meeting of the SSSP.

Send submission to the review committee chair and IE division chair:
June Jeon (Committee Chair) jjeon24@wisc.edu and LaNysha Adams (IE Division Chair) lanysha@edlinguist.com.

Please be aware that a paper submission may only be submitted to one division.

Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar Activism
Deadline: March 31, 2021

The Institutional Ethnography Division is pleased to solicit nominations for the 2021 Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism. This award recognizes the activities of an individual or group who has made substantial contributions to institutional ethnographic scholar-activism in either a single project or some longer trajectory of work. The contributions may involve IE research conducted and used for activist ends, or it may involve activist efforts that have drawn upon or contributed to IE scholarship. The award committee invites members of the Division to send a one-page statement of the nominee to committee chair, Marjorie DeVault mdevault@maxwell.syr.edu by the deadline.

Members’ News and Notes


Naomi Nichols’ September 2020 talk on Institutional Ethnography for The Australian Sociological Association is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7C6yovK59o&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0i0tPFFwkT6zoPJXHrs-QnmeTHPDeD9sj885rWJVgMy0evpHgLkaBdB5c


As one phase of an I.E. research project on technology and the classroom, Aron Rosenberg (Montréal) has spent 2020 completely offline. January 1, 2021 at 3 pm EST, Aron will be livestreaming a performance piece on Twitter @Osher.

Gina Petonito recently launched her company Writing Your Way. She can help edit your academic and non-academic writing and is planning on launching an online program that will train students to approach self-editing with confidence. Contact her at gpetonito@gmail.com for more information.

Paul C. Luken and Suzanne Vaughan edited a volume titled *The Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography*. The online version will be available sometime in December while the hardcopy version will be available in early 2021.

This project began at an informal dinner in Toronto, Canada during the International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology in 2018. As we began this project, IE colleagues from SSSP and ISA encouraged and supported us as we assembled the institutional ethnographic work included in this volume. Paul and I learned immeasurably from the authors about the potential of institutional ethnography to show us "how things happen as they do": about the diversity of institutional ethnographic work done in various countries; about the struggles many have faced in maintaining epistemological and ontological commitments as they incorporate other methods or frameworks; about how transnational/global relations organize education, environmental policies and practices, and indigenous and human rights; about how public sector management regimes across different countries and service arenas organized frontline work; and about activists efforts to bring about change within their communities. The volume includes a number of chapters by members of the IE section of SSSP.

In this volume some twenty-seven chapters written by thirty-eight contributors address the theoretical richness of institutional ethnography as a mode of inquiry and touch upon the debates inside and outside our field. Here scholars and social activists from Canada, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Taiwan, the U.K. and the United States, in sociology and other fields including: geography, politics, education, social work, linguistics, health and medical care, child family studies environmental studies, and other social-service related fields use the ontological insights of institutional ethnography to uncover the social relations shaping the everyday world in which we live

Here is a little about the organization of the handbook. Although we recognize that many of the chapters overlap with other sections, the handbook chapters are organized into six sections. Part 1 focuses on the historical and ontological roots of the alternative sociology the in
on-going work of Dorothy E. Smith and others. Part 2 is organized around the ways in which institutional ethnographers are developing new research strategies and exploring new challenges as they investigate institutional relations. Part 3 includes chapters whose beginning point is in the local, but move ethnographically to explicate global/transnational ruling relations. Part 4 is about making change in communities. In this section activists/authors discuss the ways in which they use Ellen Pence's Institutional Analysis (Pence and Sadusky, 2005, 2006) and/or George Smith's Political Activist as Ethnographer (Smith, G.1990) to transform people's lives. In Part 5 although authors in this section are inspired by Griffith and Smith's Under New Public Management (2014), many of these chapters written by a new generation of researchers have taken up their investigations in very different settings and entirely new geographical locations. The final section, Part 6, bringing together new approaches and perspectives, includes chapters whose authors have begun to experiment with incorporating other theoretical frameworks with similar epistemological and ontological commitments into their investigations of the social.

A word about the cover is warranted here. The handbook is dedicated to the memory of Alison I. Griffith, our first president of the ISA Working Group of Institutional Ethnography. The cover, titled "Walking the Ravines of Toronto," is a drawing by Herbert Hughes, who we asked to produce a sketch of two women walking through a ravine. It is inspired from a quote by Dorothy Smith about the early days of developing a project on mothering work and schooling with Alison. The quote comes from a chapter Dorothy wrote on "Institutional Ethnography" in Tim May's edited volume, Qualitative Research in Action (2002) where she discusses the dialogic nature of inquiry into the social. The chapter ends with further elaboration of terms she uses throughout the chapter. The RAVINES IN TORONTO is one of the terms in the glossary. Here is the quote: “On long walks through the RAVINES IN TORONTO we shared stories of our mothering work, of our children's struggles, of our fear of interfering, of pushing teachers too hard, of not pushing them not hard enough. Our explorations opened up the social relations and organization of schooling as those in relation to which women's work as mothers is done (p. 24)."

We look forward to the publication of the Handbook and hope that its contents enliven discussion among seasoned IEers and those new to field.

The 2008 ISA Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, Spain where Suzanne and Paul gathered ISA member signatures to establish the Thematic Group on Institutional Ethnography.

**Congratulations Doctor!**

Cynthia Puddu completed her PhD thesis in Health Promotion and Sociobehaviour Sciences, University of Alberta, in 2020, an institutional ethnography titled *The Social Organization of Youth Homelessness in Edmonton, Alberta.*
Institutional Ethnography Book Series

Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge
New Book Series with University of Toronto Press

We live in a world of accelerated interconnection. What we experience as immediate and local experiences and events are connected in myriad ways with activities, technologies, and forms of knowledge that people, not known to us, engage in elsewhere and at other times. Institutional ethnography is an approach to social research that explores this ineluctable translocal nature of our contemporary existence.

Institutional ethnography is particularly committed to critical inquiry of ruling relations, conceptualized as that complex of activities and discourses reaching across government, the corporate sector, the mass media, and the professions, among other sites, through which our lives are governed. To explore ruling relations, institutional ethnographers treat language, discourse, and knowledge as social practices and use forms of writing and analysis that preserve the active presence of the experiencing subject. Institutional ethnographic studies explore how ruling relations take shape as people’s translocally coordinated activates and explore how such relations are created and operate, how they affect people’s day-to-day lives, and how they can be transformed.

Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge is the first book series to curate book manuscripts that showcase research excellence and innovation in the field. The series will be a unique contribution to contemporary knowledge about how ruling relations are organized in our present. It will build on traditions of engaged scholarship to serve as a focal point for scholarly discourse that connects insights about and critiques of the various forms of intersecting knowledge, technologies and practice through which societies are governed. Taken as a whole, the series will critique relations of exclusion, marginalization and oppression, and contribute new perspectives about how they can be altered in pursuit of better futures.

The series will publish books that engage in institutional ethnography in a range of ways. Institutional ethnographic studies reporting original research written by senior scholars as well as emerging researchers (including those who have conducted innovative institutional ethnographic Ph.D. research) will be a central thread of the series. Manuscripts by scholars whose work is informed by institutional ethnography will also be included. The series will also consider manuscripts that explore theoretical and methodological issues related to institutional ethnographic inquiry. The series will also consider edited collections with a coherent analytic through line.

Series Editor

Eric Mykhalovskiy, Sociology, York University, Canada

Editorial Board Members

Marjorie DeVault (Sociology (Emerita), Syracuse University, USA)
Liza McCoy Sociology, University of Calgary, Canada
Frank Wang Social Work, National Cheng Chi University, Taiwan
Debra Talbot Education, University of Sydney
Recent IE Books and Papers Published

A regular feature of the Fall *IE Newsletter* is to compile a sampling of recent publications involving IE for our members. If you know of any papers, articles or books that you would like to see posted here in future issues, please contact Gina Petonito at gpetonito@gmail.com.


Call for Papers

Morena Tartari (University of Antwerp, Belgium), and May-Linda Magnussen (Agder University, Norway). announce a call for papers of the ESA IE Research Stream (RS04) that they are coordinating. Here the link to the list of ESA 2021 Research Streams. [https://www.europeansociology.org/about-esa-2021-barcelona/programme](https://www.europeansociology.org/about-esa-2021-barcelona/programme)

It should be updated by ESA 2021 organizers with the description of the IE RS. The Call for Papers is planned to be issued by the end of the year 2020.

The ESA 2021 Conference will take place either with the full physical co-presence of all attendees, or wholly online, or in some hybrid mode combining these two possibilities. The aim of this RS is to share, discuss, develop and advance the application of IE. The RS will provide a platform for Europe-based researchers, scholars, social activists and students who utilize IE in their research. This stream is also for networking and exchanging experiences with IE scholars outside Europe who will be interested in joining the sessions.

The coordinators will do everything possible to organize virtual sessions that allow colleagues from outside Europe to participate in.
Welcome New Members

Twelve new members have joined the Institutional Ethnography Division since the publication of our last newsletter. Welcome all!

Helen Hudson
Shiv Issar
Sandra Portocarrero
Zakariah Rittenhouse
Yasmin Tehrani
Robert A. Williams

Patricia R. Woods
Lee Yeates
Kevin Ah-Sen
Cansu E. Dedeoglu
Cath Jenkins
Zoe Sullivan

IE Virtual Reading and Study Group

Institutional ethnography, an intuitive awakening of the rebel in us. We’re scientists, academics, professionals, practitioners. In and beyond our everyday roles, we’re curious, we observe, we care. Institutional ethnography is the sociology we choose to explore and understand the social. We come together to create a space for learning, understanding, conversing institutional ethnography. We do IE Perspective to read, ask, discuss all about institutional ethnography theory and practice. We have a Facebook group to organize our meetups and keep in touch. But IE Perspective is not another Facebook group to join. IE Perspective is a virtual reading club-and-study group, everyone participates. We have IE Perspective s.log, a sound blog you can find at podcast networks to listen to sound-recordings of our chats. We also have a (currently) members-only YouTube channel for the video-recordings of our conversations. IE Perspective started in September 2020; it’s new, dynamic. Our concept is simple; we share a passion and we get to know each other. We have agreed principles for doing IE Perspective. We survey a convenient date and time, and we meet every six weeks or so. A member of the group chooses the text we read, which we use to bring about our conversation. We also discuss our projects, ideas, challenges, plans. We come from around the world. And, it’s amazing to see people having their breakfast or a break at work, joining from their (home-)office, just finished work, or before going to bed spending time together to learn and help others learn.

www: ieperspective.weebly.com
s.log (or sound blog): ie perspective s.log©
twitter: @IEPerspective
facebook: ie.perspective
email: the.ie.perspective@gmail.com
Call for Papers

Below are the IE sponsored or co-sponsored sessions calling for papers for the 2021 SSSP formerly held in Chicago. Please note, the conference will be completely virtual. All papers must be submitted by midnight, January 15, 2021 to be considered for inclusion in the program. To submit, please consult:

https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/838/fuseaction/ssspsession2.publicView

Revolutionizing Sociology in *The Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography*-THEMATIC
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Paul C. Luken and Suzanne Vaughan

New Directions in the Social Organization of Knowledge
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Lauren E. Eastwood and Naomi Nichols

CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Women and Justice: Rehabilitation, Resistance, Reflexivity and the Self in Institutional Spaces
Co-sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change and Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer and Jayne Malenfant

CRITICAL DIALOGUE: COVID-19 and the Politics of Education
Co-sponsors: Disability, Educational Problems, and Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Kyla Walters, Heather Sue McDonald Rosen, and Rashmee Karnad-Jani

Reflexivity and the Self in Institutional Spaces
Co-sponsors: Gender and Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Órla Meadhbh Murray

Institutional Ethnography and the Epistemologies of the Global South-THEMATIC
Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography and Social Problems Theory
Organizer: Henry Parada

Health Services and Health Policies: Transforming Institutions
Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography and Society and Mental Health
Organizers: Cathy Ringham and Janet Rankin

CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Institutional Ethnography as an Alternative Revolutionary Sociology around the World-THEMATIC
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Ann Christin Nilsen and LaNysha T. Adams

Institutional Ethnography in Support of Decolonization-THEMATIC
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Cheryl Zurawski
Future Meetings

2022 Annual Meeting
Program Theme: TBD
August 5-7, 2022
Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza
Los Angeles, CA

2023 Annual Meeting
Program Theme: TBD
August 18-20, 2023
Philadelphia 201 Hotel
Philadelphia, PA