



Volume 19 | No. 1  
Fall/Winter,  
2021/22

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

Send correspondence  
to:  
Gina Petonito  
WritingYourWay, LLC  
Correspondence and  
Copy Editor  
[gpetonito@gmail.com](mailto:gpetonito@gmail.com)

Jayne Malenfant  
Editor  
McGill University  
[jayne.malenfant@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:jayne.malenfant@mail.mcgill.ca)

### *On the Inside*

- Members News & Notes
- Call for IE Division Awards
- Welcome New Members!
- Recent IE Publications
- Congratulations Doctors
- SSSP in Los Angeles

# IE Newsletter

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

## From the Division Chair: Colin Hastings

Hello fellow IEers!

I'm excited to be writing to you for the first time as the IE Division Chair. Since I joined the Division in 2016, I have been grateful for the ways that researchers in this community work to foster a critically engaging and supportive space and encourage one another to broaden the possibilities of IE research. I look forward to continuing the collective work of cultivating supportive, encouraging, and generative discussions of IE research. As I begin my term, I am fortunate to be following the lead of Dr. LaNysha Adams, whose work as Division Chair extended well beyond the scope of the SSSP conference. For instance, many of us attended webinars that she coordinated in 2020 that offered space to connect with one another and share ideas during the height of pandemic physical distancing. I know that many Division member appreciated these virtual sessions as a space to connect with a supportive academic community and to try and make sense of the overlapping crises we are experiencing and witnessing in the world. Thank you LaNysha for envisioning new and creative opportunities for us to come together to apply IE research in meaningful ways.

The deeply thoughtful and creative character of this group was most recently on full display at the 2021 SSSP Virtual Annual Meeting. It was inspiring to think with and learn from researchers prompting us to reflect on how IE can be used to change the organization of the everyday world. Notably, presenters called attention to IE as a method of inquiry in support of decolonization; as a way to pinpoint how broadscale social organization plays out in the everyday lives of people's health; and as an approach in surfacing how structural harm is socially organized. The reflections that presenters shared about the careful and inventive ways that they align their IEs with ongoing social movements were especially valuable.

It's exciting to think about how we can continue these important discussions at next year's conference, and I'm pleased to share that the call for papers for the 2022 Annual Meeting is now live: <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/873/>. As you will see, the 2022 IE sessions offer opportunities to continue many of the engaging dialogues that were provoked at the virtual meeting this past August. For instance, the sessions ask us to place IE into conversation with ongoing activist movements to challenge institutional racism and inequity; to probe the meaning of work; and to enhance a transnational perspective in IE research. The 2022 sessions also prompt us to reflect on IE practice itself by centering discussions about the concept of institutional complexes; the possibilities of tracing social relations across institutions; and the intricacies of publishing institutional ethnographic work.

We're looking forward to receiving your abstracts for the 2022 conference and (hopefully!) having the opportunity to be together in person for the annual meeting in August. Until then, please reach out to chat about ways we can continue to foster a supportive and engaging IE division.

All the best,  
Colin

## Call for IE Division Awards

### George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition Deadline January 15, 2022

The **Institutional Ethnography Division** solicits papers for its 2022 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 2022 SSSP meetings. The winner of the 2022 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 2022 meeting of the SSSP.

Send submission to the Review Committee Chair and IE Division Chair:

Morena Tartari (Review Committee Chair) [morena.tartari@uantwerpen.be](mailto:morena.tartari@uantwerpen.be)

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

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

### Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar Activism Deadline: March 31, 2022

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 chairs:

Suzanne Vaughan [suzanne.vaughan@asu.edu](mailto:suzanne.vaughan@asu.edu)

Frank Ridzi [frankridzi@gmail.com](mailto:frankridzi@gmail.com)

Frank Wang [tywangster@gmail.com](mailto:tywangster@gmail.com)

## Congratulations Doctors!

**Rashmee Karnad-Jani** completed her PhD thesis in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Toronto in June 2021 titled *Invisible Work and Hidden Labour in Ontario's Public Education: A Decolonizing Institutional Ethnography of Mothering and Teachers' Work*. You can read an abstract here: <https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/106373>

**Mitchell McLarnon** will defend his PhD thesis in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University in Montreal, Canada this coming November. It is titled *Gardening for Social Ills: Exploring the Social and Environmental Relations of School and Community Gardens*.

**Jayne Malenfant** will also defend her PhD thesis in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University in Montreal, Canada this coming November. It is titled *Education and Youth Homelessness: Radically Reimagining Educational Responses and Youth-Led Action to Prevent Homelessness in Québec*.

## Members' News and Notes

**Caroline Cupit, Janet Rankin, and Natalie Armstrong** published in 2021, "Taking sides with patients using institutional ethnography," in the *Journal of Organizational Ethnography*, Vol.10: 21-35. <https://doi-org.uc.idm.oclc.org/10.1108/JOE-12-2019-0048>

**Alexa Ferdinands** recently published one of her PhD papers using institutional ethnography in *Social Science & Medicine*. The citation is:

Ferdinands, A. R., McHugh, T. L. F., Storey, K., & Raine, K. D. (2021). The ruling of weight: An institutional ethnography investigating young people's body weight surveillance work. *Social Science & Medicine*, 114404. You can find the article here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S027795362100736X>

**Rashmee Karnad-Jani** authored an article based on her dissertation in the Voice, a magazine published by the *Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario* (ETFO) titled "Mothers and Teachers: Two Sides of the Same Coin?" You can find the article

here: <https://etfvoice.ca/feature/mothers-and-teachers-two-sides-same-coin>

**Naomi Nichols and Sarah Lewington** published in 2021 "The work of being well on campus: an institutional ethnography," in the *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 24: 689-707. DOI: [10.1080/13676261.2020.1757633](https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2020.1757633)

**Gina Petonito** hosted a Zoom talk along with two panelists titled Organize, Leave or Thrive: Surviving the Neoliberal University. If you are anyone you know is struggling with academic job precarity, the talk is for you. You can access it on YouTube by doing a title search or following this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzI-oXEHjs>

## 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](mailto:gpetonito@gmail.com).

Abdrab, Amal Adel, (2021) "Institutional ethnography and exploring the social: A sociological approach of actors' perspectives," *International Journal of Sociotechnology and Knowledge Development*, Vol 13. doi: [10.4018/IJSKD.2021100108](https://doi.org/10.4018/IJSKD.2021100108)

Balcom, Sarah, Shelley Doucet and Anik Dube, (2021) "Observation and institutional ethnography: Helping us to see better," *Qualitative Health Research*, Vol. 31: 1534-1541. <https://doi-org.uc.idm.oclc.org/10.1177/10497323211015966>

Brydges, Ryan, Lori Nemoy, Doug M. Campbell, Filomena Meffe, Linda Moscovitch, Sabina Fella, Nirmala Chandrasekaran, Catherine Bishop, Nazanin Khodadoust, and Stella L. Ng,

(2021) "We can't just have a casual conversation": An institutional ethnography-informed study of work in labour and birth," *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 279.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.113975>

Dahmen, Stephan, (2021) *Regulating Transitions from School to Work: An Institutional Ethnography of Activation Work in Action*, Bielefeld University. Online E-Book:

<https://openresearchlibrary.org/viewer/669eabb3-b6d6-4bdf-a918-449ffa2960a7>

Naess, Siri Christine K. and Erna Haland, (2021) "Between diagnostic precision and rapid decision-making: Using institutional ethnography to explore diagnostic work in the context of Cancer Patient Pathways in Norway," *Sociology of Health and Illness*, Vol. 43: P476-492.

<https://doi-org.uc.idm.oclc.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13235>

MacKinnon, K.R., F. Ashley, H. Kia, J.S.H. Lam, Y. Krakowsky and L.E. Rosa, (2021) "Preventing transition "regret": An institutional ethnography of gender-affirming medical care assessment practices in Canada," *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol 291.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114477>

Sinai-Glazer, Hagit and Julia Krane, (2021) Navigating helping relationships amidst heavy workloads: An institutional ethnography of social workers' accounts, *Journal of Social Work*, Vol 21: 931-950. <https://doi-org.uc.idm.oclc.org/10.1177/1468017320949365>

Spina, Nerida, (2021) *Data Culture and the Organisation of Teachers' Work: An Institutional Ethnography*, UK: Routledge. Online at: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.uc.idm.oclc.org/lib/uc/reader.action?docID=6214776>

## Welcome New Members

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

Christine Faucher

Manon Guay

Kate Hardin

Tanya Osborne

Sue Sherifali

Katherine Sobering

Emily Springer

Kathleen Varvaro

Joshua Warren

## Call for Papers

Below are the IE sponsored or co-sponsored sessions calling for papers for the 2022 SSSP Meeting in Los Angeles, August 5-7, 2022. All papers must be submitted by midnight, January 15, 2022 to be considered for inclusion in the program. To submit, please consult:

<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/873/fuseaction/ssspsession2.callForPapers/manageType/submitter/>



**Session Title: Exploring the Social in New Ways:  
Researching Institutional Ethnography**

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: Lauren E. Eastwood

**Session Title: Mapping Intersections Across Institutions**

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: Eric Mykhalovskiy and Colin Hastings

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

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: Naomi Nichols

**Session Title: Beyond the Acronym: Institutional Impacts  
on Black, Indigenous, People of Color**

Sponsor(s): Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: Cheryl Zurawski and Rashmee Karnad-Jani

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

Sponsor(s): Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: Suzanne Vaughan; Frank Ridzi; and Frank Ty Wang

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

Sponsor(s): Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: Myron T. Strong

**Session Title: Institutional Complexities and Responses to Crises**

Sponsor(s): Environment and Technology; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer's Name: June Jeon

**Session Title: Institutional Ethnographic Explorations of the Meaning of Work**

Sponsor(s): Institutional Ethnography; Labor Studies

Organizer's Name: Sue Sherifali

**Session Title: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Transnational and Comparative Institutional  
Ethnographic Research**

Sponsor(s): Institutional Ethnography; Transnational Initiatives Committee

Organizer's Name: Morena Tartari

**Session Title: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Institutional Complexes and How People Navigate  
Them Across the Life Span**

Sponsor(s): Institutional Ethnography; Youth, Aging, and the Life Course

Organizer's Name: LaNysha T. Adams

## **Future Meetings**

### **2022 Annual Meeting**

Program Theme: The Sociological Reimagination: From Moments to Momentum

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