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IE Newsletter

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

Hello Institutional Ethnographers:

The current theme for many of our lives is “on the horizon” for something better. Since early 2020, many of us have been coping or trying to cope, with the new world order. I’d argue that with so many transitions - on, around, and off-planet earth - we are presented with many dynamic instabilities. In biology, the term “dynamic instability” refers to two ends of a microtubule co-existing at the same time. This is how I’ve felt for much of the pandemic, in a world where I am vaccinated, but my two children in diapers are not, and where things are back to “normal,” yet they are forever changed.

Our Annual Meeting will be virtual for the very first time. I am excited about the format and the ability to join in on sessions from home. While we will cancel the IE Workshop this year, we are actively recruiting members for next year’s planning committee. We can offer small stipends and honorariums for leaders in the field, which we will discuss at the business meeting at the end of this month. Last year, I organized monthly meetings from the summer to the end of the year so that we could connect, discuss IE research topics, and not have so much time lapse between meetings. I think this way of connecting in-between Annual Meetings could serve as a best practice and allow us to further collaborate (virtually) with other IE organizations and informal groups. I’d be lying if I said I was not excited to see folks in person, though. So, I have some good news: for the Annual Meeting in 2022, SSSP will return to meeting fully in person in my hometown, Los Angeles, California.

I’m happy to turn the reigns over to Colin Hastings, our next IE Chair, at our IE Business Meeting at the end of the month. A major topic of discussion will be the IE Podcast, which has not quite made it from the idea phase into the action phase — yet. Now that we have a Podcast Committee and a budget has been approved for costs associated with creating the podcast, we just need to meet, decide topics for our first couple of seasons and bring the IE Podcast to life.

Many of us know our next IE Division Chair quite well, but for new members, please allow me to say a few words about him. Colin Hastings is a community-engaged researcher and educator blending the sociology of health, socio-legal studies, and media studies in his work. He’s published many studies about community-based HIV education, media representation of HIV criminal non-disclosure cases, and key trends and patterns in HIV criminalization in Canada. His dissertation project was an institutional ethnographic study of how news stories about HIV criminalization are produced in Canada. In 2016, Colin won the George W. Smith Student Paper Award for the paper he presented at the Annual Meeting in Seattle.

In the IE Division, we’re collectively on the horizon for intellectually engaging, supportive, and energetic meetings under Colin’s leadership! Please join us on Saturday, July 31 at 11 AM Eastern to welcome Colin in his new role and to discuss important details for the next year’s Annual Conference and potential meetings in-between.

Onward and upward,
LaNysha

On Finding and Losing a Mentor by Cheryl Zurawski

Back in June 2007, I made my first contribution to the IE Newsletter, writing about the way in which Alison Griffith gave my doctoral studies a boost by welcoming me into a course on institutional ethnography she had taught at York University the previous winter. Technology made it possible for me to join Alison's classroom at a distance and for some much-needed grounding in a method of inquiry I was diligently but unsuccessfully (at least initially) trying to embrace.

Thanks to Alison and her 12-week course, I was able to rework my dissertation proposal and move on to the next phase of my doctoral studies. By the time I defended my dissertation in May of 2012, the scholar who first supported me in her capacity as a professor had become a full-fledged mentor and an adjunct member of my supervisory committee.

All I had to do was ask, and Alison was there for me. Whether it was something



about IE that was a puzzle for me or simply a feeling of inadequacy that I needed to overcome, I always benefited from reaching out to Alison when I needed to. She had a knack for saying just the right thing to help me dig myself out of whatever analytical rabbit hole I had allowed myself to go down and knew just when the time was right for a well-meaning and well-deserved motivational kick in the pants. Over time, my academic association with Alison turned into a friendship. We invested time, whenever we could, to

get to know each other and to share with each other parts of our lives that had nothing to do with the academy.

So, now, I contribute to the IE Newsletter again, feeling an immeasurable sense of gratitude for the gift of getting to study with and to know Alison Griffith. It has been over a year since her passing and I know I am not alone in continuing to miss her earthly presence. The lessons Alison taught so many of us –about IE, about navigating the path towards a PhD and about supporting others even when you are struggling yourself – will never be forgotten.

Welcome New Members

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

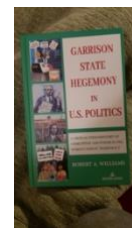
Annette Cayas
Michelle Delany
Sophie Hickey
Ellie Manzari
Leni Mjåland
Niamh Storey
Adriana Angela Suarez Delucchi

Members' News and Notes

Orla Meadhbh Murray published an article in 2020 titled: "Text, process, discourse: doing feminist text analysis in institutional ethnography" in *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*. DOI: [10.1080/13645579.2020.1839162](https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2020.1839162)

Caroline Cuit, Janet Rankin, and Natalie Armstrong published an article in March, 2021 titled: "Taking sides with patients using institutional ethnography" in the *Journal of Organizational Ethnography*, Volume 10, Issue 1, ISSN: 2046-6749

Robert A Williams published a book in 2021 titled: *Garrison State Hegemony in U.S. Politics: A Critical Ethnohistory of Corruption and Power in the World's Oldest 'Democracy,'* published by Peter Lang. Of the book he says:



I set to ethnographically understand sociocultural problems surrounding third party electioneering in USA. After former Republican Congressman Bob Barr's Libertarian Party-funded ouster from the U.S. Congress, scores of recently quit Republican Party migrants followed Barr in crashing the Libertarian Party (LP). Asking why this happened and what was its impact on U.S. electioneering are important questions. Their answers help to understand the relationship between radical movements, co-optations, and long-term social change. Most movement scholarship focuses on how the movements from below can yield concessions from the powerful. But often overlooked are the ways that co-optations can be used to limit the scope of change. To answer these questions, I spent two years buried in ethnographic observation in and around the LP of Ohio, garnering data from formal surveys, life histories, and participant observation as a candidate for state representative in the 2010 Ohio elections. My IE of the LP found that powerful figures of the major party duopoly decisively restrict the scope of long-term electoral change.

You can find more information about the book here:

<https://www.peterlang.com/view/9781433183454/html/ch04.xhtml>

Opportunities for Senior IE Researchers

A message from Sarah Murru, from IE Europe:

Dear Colleagues,

Following are two opportunities for experienced/senior IEs.

The European Commission has opened the call for experts (to assist in the evaluation of grant applications, projects, and tenders, and to provide opinions and advice in specific cases).

Here in Europe, we strongly need more Institutional Ethnographers in the pool of experts that support the EC to evaluate projects. IE is not a methodology that is recognized (or even known) in Europe as it is in North America so having IEs as experts in the EC database really represents a chance for us to see more IE research projects get funded and, hopefully, see our collective work with IE be enriched.

This call is not reserved to EU nationals, all can participate. Usually, they require a minimum of expertise, like a track record of at least three articles published in journals. Here you can find the link to the general call for expert:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert?fbclid=IwAR1CEzmw92it2glcavRGN0IX03FgTOisIhRT4u6CVHaJ8yLPIDGdFCsvgWw>

And here IS another call for evaluators for the COST Actions:

https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/working-with-us/participate-external-expert/?fbclid=IwAR1ZanXMi37CYN-h2SwkTecLDkvfbAB-bkVGGGEte_V1R9dNwlimKoa4QCO

I know that experts are paid about 50 euros for each project evaluated for the COST Actions. Please contact each program for more information.

IE Workshop

Three IE'rs are sponsoring an IE Workshop online at the University of Southampton in November and December of 2021. Below are the details:

Introducing Institutional Ethnography: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Approach to Social Research

Presenters: **Dr Orla Murray, Dr Liz Ablett** and **Dr Adriana Suarez-Delucchi**

This workshop will introduce Institutional Ethnography (IE), an interdisciplinary feminist approach to social research that focuses on how texts and language organise our everyday lives. IE is not just a methodology, but a comprehensive feminist ontology of how the social world works which advocates using a form of standpoint to explore from specific perspectives. IE research 'takes sides', often researching as, with, and/or for, marginalised groups who are often made invisible by, or excluded from, organisations and institutions. The focus on texts – conceptualised as replicable materials objects that carry messages – allows IE researchers to ethnographically explore the organising power of language and institutions, made material in institutional texts which act as bridges between different people and places.

The overall aim of the workshop is to provide attendees with a comprehensive overview of institutional ethnography as an approach and the opportunity to translate their own research ideas and projects into an IE research proposal or small piece of text-focused analysis. This hands-on workshop is suitable for students, academics, and anyone else interested in feminist methodologies, text and discourse analysis, and institutional or organisational ethnographies. No prior training in, or knowledge of, IE is required.

The course covers:

- An overview of the work of feminist sociologist, Dorothy Smith, who developed Institutional Ethnography
- Three Institutional Ethnography case studies from Sociology and Human Geography

- Three text and discourse analysis methods within the Institutional Ethnography approach
- How to translate your research ideas or projects into an Institutional Ethnography proposal/plan

By the end of the course participants will:

- understand of the origin and development of Institutional Ethnography
- know how to use Institutional Ethnography to analyse texts, processes, and discourses
- have an outline of how their research ideas could become an Institutional Ethnography project

The course is aimed at academics, students, any other qualitative researchers or policymakers interested in analysing organisational processes. Participants must have at least some experience in qualitative research methods, but no experience of Institutional Ethnography is required.

Fees: The fee per teaching day is: • £30 per day for students registered at UK/EU University. • £60 per day for staff at UK/EU academic institutions, UK/EU Research Councils researchers, UK/EU public sector staff and staff at UK/EU registered charity organisations and recognised UK/EU research institutions. • £100 per day for all other participants. In the event of cancellation by the delegate a full refund of the course fee is available up to two weeks prior to the course. NO refunds are available after this date. If it is no longer possible to run a course due to circumstances beyond its control, NCRM reserves the right to cancel the course at its sole discretion at any time prior to the event. In this event, every effort will be made to reschedule the course. If this is not possible or the new date is inconvenient a full refund of the course fee will be given. NCRM shall not be liable for any costs, losses or expenses that may be incurred due to a course cancellation, including but not limited to any travel or accommodation costs. The University of Southampton's Online Store T&Cs also continue to apply.

For more information please contact Jacqui Thorp, Training and Capacity Building Co-Ordinator, National Centre for Research Methods, University of Southampton; Email: jmh6@soton.ac.uk

Or consult their website: <https://go.soton.ac.uk/dio>

SSSP 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting



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IE Sessions

Wednesday, August 4; 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Session 002: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Women and Justice: Rehabilitation, Resistance, Reflexivity, and the Self in Institutional Spaces

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

Organizers: Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer, Penn State Berks; Jayne Malenfant, McGill University; Diana Therese Montejo Veloso, De La Salle University

Presiders/Discussants: Diana Therese Montejo Veloso, De La Salle University; Jayne Malenfant, McGill University

Description: This session explores women and femmes' reactions, resistance, and resilience in relation to their education, victimization and interactions with police and correctional institutions.

Papers:

"I'm Going to Whip Me an Officer's A** before the Day is Over': Black Female Resistance behind Bars," Britany J. Gatewood, Albany State University

"Undergraduate Student Perspectives on Gender and Social Support for Criminal Justice Careers," Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer, Salvatore C. DeFeo and Genesis Del Pilar Munoz Arias, Penn State Berks

"Reimagining Access to Justice through the Eyes of Rural Domestic Violence Survivors," Frank Donohue, University of California, Irvine and Amy M. Magnus, California State University, Chico

"South African Women's Perceptions and Interactions with the South African Police Service," Alexandra Hiropoulos, California State University, Stanislaus

"Struggling for Safety: Survival Strategies of Incarcerated Transgender Women," Joss T. Greene, Columbia University

"Studying Gendered Abuse while being Abused: Reflections on Exit, Emotions, and Responsibility," Ashleigh E. McKinzie, Middle Tennessee State University

Wednesday, August 4; 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Session 010: Health Services and Health Policies: Transforming Institutions

Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Society and Mental Health

Organizers: Cathy Ringham, University of Calgary; Janet Rankin, University of Calgary

President: Janet Rankin, University of Calgary

Discussant: To Be Announced

Description: This session will offer opportunities for attendees and presenters to discuss the papers using the cohesion that institutional ethnography offers. Not all the papers are characterized as IE, but they all have "institutional practices" as the central focus of analysis. Broadly, the papers offer insight into how ruling relations are not bounded by international borders

or different practices enacted within publicly or privately insured health care systems – although, of course, there are important distinctions. Each of the papers expose the local work of people in organizations – interesting detail about who is doing what and how those practices enact relations of ruling. Within each unique focus of study, the papers show how the social organization of broad ideologies of economics, efficiencies, marginalized populations, and so-called accountabilities play out in the lives of “ordinary” people’s health and fitness – how suffering and marginalization is a socially organized phenomenon.

Papers:

“(In/Ex)clusive Fitness Cultures: An Institutional Ethnography of Group Exercise for Older Adults,” Kelsey A. Harvey and Meridith Griffin, McMaster University

“Exploring End-of-life for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Calgary, Canada: An Institutional Ethnographic Approach,” Courtney R. Petruik, University of Calgary

“Painful Places: Medicare Fails Homebound Patients with Substance Abuse Disorders,” William D. Cabin, Temple University

“The Social Organization of Opioid Agonist Therapy in Ontario,” Leigha Comer, York University

Thursday, August 5; Time: 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

THEMATIC

Session 037: Institutional Ethnography in Support of Decolonization

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography Health

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Cheryl Zurawski, Canadian Association of Independent Scholars

Description: This session draws attention to institutional ethnography (IE) as a method of inquiry in support of decolonization. The session does not adopt a one-size-fits-all definition of decolonization. Indeed, there are many visions for and conceptions of a project that is messy, dynamic, contested and unsettling. There is also diversity across the papers. Various, each describes and discusses empirical work done in different settings, in different countries and with different people - Indigenous and non-Indigenous. What is common across the papers, however, are the illustrative and educative examples presenters give to underscore how IE is and can be used to change the order and organization of the everyday world. Such change is necessary to make decolonization happen.

Papers:

“‘Not Everything Should be Consulted’: Exploring Colonial Ruling Relations in Planning Practice,” Magdalena Ugarte, Ryerson University

“Decolonizing Elderly Care in Daily Textual Practices,” Frank Wang, National Chengchi University

“Using Institutional Ethnography to Interrogate and Map the Everyday Work of Hospital Staff Trying to Meet the Actual Needs of First Nations Peoples,” Sophie Hickey, Molly Wardaguga Research Centre at Charles Darwin University

“Can Institutional Ethnography Contribute to Decolonizing Academic Knowledge Production When it Has Been Created and Developed Mainly in the Global North?” Adriana Angela Suarez Delucchi, University of Bristol

Thursday, August 5; 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

THEMATIC SESSION 046: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Institutional Ethnography as an Alternative Revolutionary Sociology around the World

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizers: Ann Christin E. Nilsen, University of Agder; LaNysha T. Adams, Edlinguist Solutions

Presider/Discussant: Matthew Strang, York University

Papers:

“Obfuscatory and Balanced Work: How Grassroots Bureaucrats Deal with the Conflict between Formal and Informal Rules,” Chang Liu, University of Notre Dame

“Invisible Work and Hidden Labour in Ontario’s Public Education: A Decolonizing Institutional Ethnography of Mothering and Teachers’ Work,” Rashmee Karnad-Jani, University of Toronto

“Personal Knowledge Management and Institutional Ethnography,” Eleni Kariki, Queen's University and LaNysha T. Adams, Edlinguist Solutions

“Surviving Austerity: Exploitation, Extraction, and Resistance in the Contemporary American Prison,” Tommaso Bardelli, New York University and Zach Gillespie, New York University - Prison Education Program

“Institutional Ethnography in the Nordic Region: A ‘Hybrid’ Approach,” Ann Christin E. Nilsen, University of Agder and Lund W.B. Rebecca, University of Oslo

Friday, August 6; 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Session 065: New Directions in the Social Organization of Knowledge

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizers: Lauren E. Eastwood, SUNY College at Plattsburgh; Naomi Nichols, Trent University

Presider: Naomi Nichols, Trent University

Papers:

“Intellectual Labor, Community-engaged Scholarship and the Objectification of Everyday Life,” Naomi Nichols, Trent University

“Revisiting the Ruling Relations,” Marjorie L. DeVault, Professor Emeritus, Syracuse University

“Reflections on Institutions, Social Relations, and the ‘Relational’ in IE,” Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University and Colin Hastings, Concordia University

“The Commodification of Lived Experience in Homelessness Research & Advocacy,” Jayne Malenfant, McGill University and Charlotte Smith, Carleton University

“Hacking Impact Evaluation (Before it Completely Hacks Us): An Attempt to Create Praxis Pocket-knives,” Maxime Goulet-Langlois, McGill University, Bianca Laliberté, Université du Québec à Montréal and Naomi Nichols, Trent University

Friday, August 6; 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

THEMATIC SESSION 073: Concluding Thoughts

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizers & Presiders: Paul C. Luken, University of West Georgia; Suzanne Vaughan, Arizona State University

Description: The *Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography* (2021) edited by Paul C. Luken and Suzanne Vaughan (<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783030542214>) is a collection that brings together the current analytical thinking and research work conducted by institutional ethnography scholars and activists across a range of geographical and contextual settings. Yet, the handbook is missing a conclusion. Because a single conclusion would have been insufficient for this sociology which now influences so many disciplines and professions and which appeals to activists as well as academics, many concluding chapters are needed to best represent the volume. This session is a step toward addressing that necessity. Using the handbook as a springboard, this panel brings together scholars variously situated with respect to geography, discipline, and relationship to institutional ethnography to present their ideas about the present state and possible future directions of institutional ethnography. In other words, they will share their thoughts on what could be in the final chapter.

Panelists:

Marie Campbell, University of Victoria

Nancy A. Naples, University of Connecticut

James Reid, University of Huddersfield

Emily Springer, Arizona State University

Saturday, August 7; 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Session 099: Reflexivity and the Self in Institutional Spaces

Sponsors: Gender; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Órla Meadhbh Murray, Imperial College London

Description: This session focuses on Institutional Ethnography research, exploring researcher self-reflexivity when doing Institutional Ethnography research and how people reflexively navigate institutions, specifically how regulatory texts and discourses organize people's self-labelling and activities. This session has four papers and a discussant, with presentations on: donor philanthropy in the US, single parenting in Europe, map-making in Institutional Ethnography, and racial self-identifications on official forms.

Papers:

"An Institutional Ethnographer's Sensibility and Map Making the Social under Duress,"
Brenda Solomon, The University of Vermont

"Donor Intent and the Reproduction of Ruling Relations in Community Philanthropy through Legal Texts and Professional Standards," Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College and Central New York Community Foundation

"Political Party Affiliation and the Shaping of Multiracial Identity," Sarah E. Castillo, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

"Reflexivity, Responsibilities, and Self: Analyzing the Legal Transition from Double to Single Parenthood and Suggesting Changes in Policy," Morena Tartari, University of Antwerp

Saturday, August 7; 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Session 113: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Covid-19, Disability, & the Politics of Education

Sponsors: Disability; Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography

Organizers: Kyla Walters, Sonoma State University; Heather Sue McDonald Rosen, University of Georgia; Rashmee Karnad-Jani, University of Toronto

Presider/Discussant: Heather Sue McDonald Rosen, University of Georgia

Description: Presenters in this session will engage in a timely conversation about educational problems and potential solutions, with an emphasis on higher education.

Papers:

"Keeping Sociologists in the Conversation: The Many Pandemics of Higher Education,"
Heather E. Dillaway, Wayne State University

"Situation of Learning and Teaching during Covid-19 Pandemic in Iran," Farzaneh Ejazi, Shahed University

"The Social Organization of Post-secondary Students' Accommodation Practices during Covid-19 and the Work of Disability," Elizabeth Brule, Queen's University

"An Intersectional Analysis of Higher Education Careers in the Context of Covid-19: Differential Impacts by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Indigeneity," Noreen Kohl, Nathalie P. Rita and Marina Karides, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

"Understanding How to Create Student Bonding in Addressing Retention and Student Success,"
Giovanna Follo and Ashley Hall, Wright State University and Diane Huelskamp, Wright State University - Lake Campus