# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Call for papers</td>
<td>Dynamics of harm and social control in the transformation of capitalism [p.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48th EG annual conference Torino, 2-5 September 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Conference of the British/Irish section of the EG</td>
<td>Nottingham, April 2020 [p. 10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Journals, books</td>
<td>[p. 13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Conferences, events</td>
<td>[p. 15]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear comrades and colleagues of the European Group

We are very pleased to bring you the February edition of the newsletter. In particular, we are delighted to announce the call for papers for the 48\textsuperscript{th} Annual Conference of the European Group which will be held in \textbf{Torino/Turin, Italy, 2-5\textsuperscript{th} September}. More details will follow in the following weeks and months, but the key date to note is the deadline of 30\textsuperscript{th} April 2020 for submission of abstracts to the relevant conference stream. Many thanks to the fantastic conference team on bringing this call together and to the working group coordinators for their input also. We are sure you agree there will be much scope for critical and exciting discussions.

Alongside various announcements, we have an important update on the ongoing repressive situation in Catalonia, and specifically an update on the EG’s long standing member and friend Iñaki Rivera. Thanks to Steve Tombs and David Whyte for this, which also includes free access to Dani’s book \textit{Market-State Prison under Spanish Neoliberalism}. You are welcome to share the book with colleagues and friends, as it is completely open access.

As 2020 moves along, we are already seeing some significant changes, notably that the UK has exited the European Union. We are ensuring this will cause minimal disruption to the functioning of the Group and instead encourage further cross-border cultivation and solidarity building. There will be more opportunity to reflect on these changing times at the forthcoming British/Irish conference in Nottingham – please see below for the final call.

\textbf{In solidarity}

\textbf{Vicky, Katja and Dani}
Call for Papers

Over past decades, capitalism has undergone transformations that have posed radical challenges for critical thinking. From the harms of ‘old’ capitalism to its most recent transformations, the world is experiencing new forms of exploitation, contradictions and challenges. Political movements around ethical consumption and green capitalism increasingly overshadow the fundamental problems at the heart of corporate capital: exploitation of human and natural resources, inequality and state-corporate expansionism.

Undoubtedly, one of the most pressing contemporary issues is the rise of surveillance capitalism, which increasingly invades our daily lives and shapes our subjectivities (individually and collectively). The transformations of new surveillance capitalism are affecting people intersectionally, relating to class, religion, race, gender, economic status, educational attainment, and countries where people live. Our choices and decisions (from what we eat to whom we date!), risk creating new and effective tools for further exploitation and social control. This is particularly true for the ways we communicate, move and experience in, for example, the ‘smart city’ and ‘smart university’.

In addition, the persistent processes of privatisation and the role played by corporates in the management of criminal justice (including the military/prison industrial complex, Artificial Intelligence, policing, and border control technologies) has radically modified the idea of justice, social inclusion and punishment as a prerogative of the state and state-corporate alliances. In this scenario, white collar and corporate crimes evolve toward new domains and forms of social harm, which themselves paradoxically remain areas of deregulation and lenient punishment. Finally, the transformation of capitalism and white-collar crimes have also promoted new populisms, which have deployed nuanced criminal justice toolkits to control, repress and demonise many forms of political opposition, resistance and dissent.

We invite scholars, experts and activists to reflect on the transformations of contemporary capitalism, its impact and consequences it may have in contributing to – and exacerbating - harm and social control.
## Crimes of the Powerful

*Samantha Fletcher* samantha.fletcher@mmu.ac.uk  
*Rosalba Altopiedi* rosalba.altopiedi@uniupo.it

- Examinations of the state-corporate relationship.  
- Exposing and challenging structural relations of inequality.  
- Climate and environmental emergencies and catastrophe.  
- The question(s) of resistance, contestation and justice.

## Fear & Looting in the Periphery: Approaching global crime and harm in (and from) the south(s)

*Dani Jiménez* dji@unizar.es  
*Ale Forero* aleforero@ub.edu  
*Rita Faria* rfaria@direito.up.pt  
*Daniela Ronco* daniela.ronco@unito.it

- Green capitalism in the south? Criminal implications and (social) distribution of environmental (social) harm.  
- The University of the South in globalization: scientific quality criteria and precarity.  
- Technification, digitalization and government in the cities of the 21st century: social justice implications in the south.  
- Anticolonialism and anticapitalism, struggles across the Global Periphery.

## Policing & Security

*Georgios Papanicolaou* g.papanicolaou@tees.ac.uk  
*Valeria Ferraris* valeria.ferraris@unito.it

- New means and tactics in the police control.  
- Experiences of the policed in the streets.  
- Comparative accounts of the policing of protest.  
- Resisting repression in the streets: movements fighting back.  
- Mass protest and police repression from a historical perspective.  
- Mass protest and the security industrial complex.

## Prison, Punishment & Detention

*Simone Santorso* Simone.santorso18@gmail.com  
*Perla Allegri* perla.allegri@unito.it

- Technology within and beyond the bars: redefining punishment.  
- The privatization of criminal justice: new perspective on social control and social harm.  
- Actuarial justice, big data and the new frontiers of criminalization.  
- Surveillance and human mobility: new perspective on migrant detention and border control.  
- New and old gendered harm behind the bars.  
- Penal populism, penal fare and the repressive state.  
- Prison industrial complex and prison abolition.

## Social Harm/ Zemiology

*Christina Pantazis* C.Pantazis@bristol.ac.uk  
*Simon Pemberton* S.Pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk  
*Michele Miravalle* michele.miravalle@unito.it

- Social harm and neo-liberal policies, developments, and practices.  
- Financial crisis, recession and austerity and social harm.  
- Poverty, inequality and social injustice.  
- Social harms relating to classism, sexism, heterosexuality, racism, etc.  
- Social harms arising from public/social policy.

## Historical, Philosophical and Artistic approaches on the study on deviance and social control

*Stratos Georgoulas* s.georgoulas@soc.aegean.gr  
*Giovanni Torrente* giovanni.torrente@unito.it

- History of crime and social control.  
- Criminological theory.  
- Crime in arts and literature.
Streams

The call for papers is organized under streams pertaining to the titles of the European Group's Working Groups, and suggests a series of key themes for that working group in relation to the overarching conference theme. We do, however, also welcome papers, pre-arranged panel and roundtable that explore other critical trajectories pertaining to the wider intersections of the overarching conference theme and the concern(s) of the working groups. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact one of the stream coordinators. Please submit a short abstract of 150-300 words with 3 keywords to the relevant stream coordinator by 30th March 2020.

Conference Coordinator team:
Perla Allegri; Rosalba Altopiedi; Valeria Ferraris; Michele Miravalle; Daniela Ronco; Giovanni Torrente; Alvise Sbraccia; Simone Santorso.
II. The Paranoid Logic of the Repressive Capitalist State

In September 2019, the Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Barcelona, Iñaki Rivera, a long-term friend of The European Group, was hauled in front of a court in Barcelona. Since then he has been through the same process three further times. His supposed crime? Doing what he was supposed to do as a human rights monitor – publicly condemning torture and ill-treatment in Spanish prisons, a liberal-democracy in the heart of Europe. Of course, state repression and neo-liberal capitalism are what they are. They share dynamics and contours across the globe. But there are always local contexts for understanding specificities. Spain must be understood in post Francoist terms.

There is a Kafkaesque logic at work in the political and legal apparatuses of Spain. The state has become so intolerant of criticism that criticism of the state itself has become a crime. Iñaki is by no means the only one to experience this Kafkaesque logic. He is one of a growing number of people charged for offences like ‘hate crimes against the police’! In the past few years, a long line of comedians, artists, rappers and singers have received prison sentences for ‘offences against the Crown’, for ‘sedition’ and for other charges that look like they are from a 16th rather than the 21st century justice system. The Spanish state cannot take a joke. And neither can it take a rap.

In the same month that Iñaki was summoned to court, 47 lawyers, doctors, psychologists and left wingpolitical activists from the Basque Country were forced into a plea bargain that saw 20-year sentences for terrorism reduced to 2 years. Some of those convicted were lawyers who had been arrested while defending their clients in court. They had been accused of belonging to a terrorist group and financing terrorism. None of the charges related to accusations of activities before the ETA ceasefire. Also in that very same week that Iñaki was summoned to court, 7 non-violent pro-independence activists were arrested in a police raid in Catalonia, accused of terrorism and refused bail. The Guardia Civil announced to the world they had seized explosives and were charging the Catalan ‘extremists’ with terrorism. It was later discovered that the “explosives” were fireworks for the local fiesta, something the authorities had known all along.

“Terrorism!” The daily wolf-cry in Catalonia. The peaceful civil disobedience campaign to demand the release of political prisoners in Catalonia is led by “terrorists”! When protestors blocked the Pyrenees border between Spain and France on the day of the 10th November election, the Spanish authorities launched an anti-terrorism operation. The French authorities opted to investigate them for “obstructing the highway”.

Yet, for all its necessarily-grasped specificities, in many ways Spain is not a special case. In the 21st century “terrorism!” has become the reflexive cry of every democratic state facing the consequences of its own violent foreign and domestic policies. “Terrorism!” is the cry of a state that has no clue or ability to control the blowback. Every state has its own version. In Britain it is called Prevent. The legal obligations on public employees to report and place people in our communities under surveillance under the guise of ‘Prevent’ seeks to turn us all into state spies and all of the problems caused by the state into the problems caused by terrorists.

Virtually all advanced capitalist states now use anti-terrorist laws to police political protests and political opposition, and Spain is not a special case in this respect. But Spain is a particular case for having developed its mechanisms of repression in ways not yet possible in the rest of Europe. Look at the struggle for Catalonia. In many ways it is easier to explain
how Spain condemns its political prisoners to more than a decade in jail for organising and leading peaceful protest than it is to explain how this can be tolerated by other European member states. The European Union has been almost completely silent on the question of Spain’s political prisoners.

The complex explanation for the European Union’s wilful blindness lies in the deep political and economic relations that law and ‘criminal justice’ ultimately supports. As European citizens, we idealistically expect the European Union to condemn Spain because Spain is part of the European Union. But the real politic betrays precisely the opposite logic: the European Union will not condemn Spain because Spain is part of the European Union.

Spain’s absolute allegiance to the European Union has been proved not just to the politicians and bureaucrats of Brussels, but also to the bankers of Frankfurt. After the financial crisis Spain gave the strongest of all guarantees that would pay its debts to the European banks. Indeed, it did so as a matter of constitutional prerogative. Spain amended its constitution to say that it must pay the banks before increasing social spending! This is what makes Spain a part of Europe. Not the human rights Europe, but the bankers’ rights Europe.

In Market-State-Prison, Dani Jiménez provides the politico-economic context for understanding the current repressive turn in Spain. He shows in meticulous detail how the repressive apparatuses of the state in Spain have scratched and clawed and spat notto defend ‘justice’ and ‘public’ order, but to defend the narrow economic interests of its elites. This systematic (and increasing) exploitation, exclusion and expulsion adds up to a “general administration of harm”.

The book’s stark title anticipates a triple object: the market as the centre of governance, the state as comprised of agencies of ultra-political control, and incarceration as the limb of a state agency focused on punitive management of social surplus. Dani first elaborates upon the origins of the current pattern of power until the 1970s: from imperialist primitive accumulation in the 16th century to the exhaustion of Fordism. Second, he explores the four decades since the seventies up to the current crisis, analysing how the market-state symbiosis imposes a post-modern turn in which states assume theatrical and performative tasks. Finally, he dissects the conversion of fascist dictatorship into a ‘mature democracy’ – at which point, the “end of a cycle” is reached and a brutal programme of austerity, the looting of public wealth and an intensification of punishment is unleashed by the state and the financial oligarchy.

Yet, as the analysis in this magisterial book demonstrates power is never complete. The courage and tenacity of Iñaki Rivera – as with many others besides him - is testimony to that. We, as many individuals across the world, support him, and all of those who work as a part of the renewed counter-hegemonic movement building strong resistance against this clampdown. And movements of resistance must always know the forces stacked against them. It is for this reason that Dani Jiménez’s book is both timely and an indispensable guide for the resistance.

Steve Tombs and David Whyte, January 2020

Dani Jiménez’s (2019) Market-State Prison under Spanish Neoliberalism can be downloaded in full and for free at https://unenormecampo.wordpress.com

It was originally published as Mercado-estado-cárcel en la democracia neoliberal española (Anthropos-OSPDH, 2016) and is available at:

III. Justice, Power and Resistance Vol. 3(1)  
Neoliberalism and Harm Production

The first of a two part series of the EG journal *Justice, Power, Resistance* is available to buy online. This is a significant contribution to the study of social harm and includes work and commentary from a number of the Group’s members. Many thanks to all involved in the process at EG Press, and to the guest editors for their input and excellent collation of articles.

You can buy the edition here:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Justice-Power-Resistance-Neoliberalism-Production/dp/1911439162](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Justice-Power-Resistance-Neoliberalism-Production/dp/1911439162)

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**Volume 3, Number 1:**  
**Neoliberalism and Harm Production**  
April 2019

*Daniel Mitchell, Christina Pantazis and Simon Pemberton*  
Neoliberalism and Harm Production: A Zemiological Perspective on the Social Production of Harm

**Articles**

*Sam Scott*  
Protecting Workers from Exploitation in Neoliberal States: A Social Harm Perspective

*Victoria Canning*  
Abject Asylum: Degradation and the Deliberate Infliction of Harm against Refugees in Britain

*Steve Tombs*  
Grenfell: The Unfolding Dimensions of Social Harm

*Helen Baker*  
State-Corporate Facilitated Harms of the Pharmaceutical Industry: A Gendered Perspective

*Alex Simpson*  
The Culture of Moral Disengagement and Harm Production in the City of London’s Financial Services Industry

*Thomas Raymen*  
The Enigma of Social Harm and the Barrier of Liberalism: Why Zemiology needs a theory of the Good

*Yasha Maccanico*  
Commentary: Criminalising Solidarity towards Migrants and Refugees
IV. Conference of the British/Irish section of the EG.
Nottingham, April 2020

Redressing the harms and violence of ‘othering’ – towards the abolition of structures, discourses and practices of ‘othering’

Venue: Albert Hall, Nottingham Date: 17.4.-18.4.2020

The year 2020 marks one hundred years since the beginning of the 1920’s, a period characterised by economic and political unrest in the aftermath of World War I and the crash of the stock market. Importantly, the 1920’s also saw the rise of fascism. One significant event in this destructive process was Hitler’s ‘Twenty-Five Theses’ speech at the Munich Hofbräuhaus in which he presented a twenty-five point programme of ideas which became the basis of the National Socialist German Workers Party. At the core of the speech lay the construction of ‘enemies’ by means of Othering (Merskin 2004) whereby this ‘othering’ served as an expression of visions of a purified social body.

While there are of course differences between this historical period and contemporary times, many parallels can be drawn, one of the most obvious is the populist rhetoric and ideology, that, based on a dichotomy of ‘us’ and ‘them’, served as a means of framing the political arena and ultimately let to fascism in many countries. Thriving on fragmentation and polarisation, populist ideologies that rely on the construction of ‘others’ can be observed in many contemporary countries (e.g. xenophobic political discourses and forms of hate speech in public spaces) with destructive consequences.

“... freedom is not a gift received from a state or a leader but a possession to be won every day by the effort of each and the union of all” (Camus 1953 ori. /2018: 54).

Thus ends Albert Camus’ speech ‘Bread and Freedom’. His words acquired an even more pressing urgency in contemporary Britain as the ‘othered’ poor and their plight in the ‘civilised’ space of the world’s fifth largest economy, was highlighted by the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty Philip Alston in the summer of this year. He demonstrated the impact of austerity in the UK and accused ministers of being in a state of denial about the impact of their policies since 2010 and of the “systematic immiseration of a significant part of the British population” (Alston 2019) and further stated: “It might seem to some observers that the department of work and pensions has been tasked with designing a digital and sanitised version of the 19th-century workhouse, made infamous by Charles Dickens”.

The UK government, unwilling to debate the impact of its austerity policies which were “in clear violation of the country’s human rights obligations”, condemns one fifth of its population (14 million people) to live in poverty whereby four million of those are more than 50 per cent below the poverty line. There are millions of people who are in work but are nevertheless dependent upon various forms of charity in order to cope, increasing uses of food-banks, increasing amounts of people who find themselves without home and shelter and increasing amounts of people who die on the streets. In many instances, povertyism has become seemingly institutionalised if unacknowledged within organisations as well as internalised by individuals.

The dehumanisation of people relies on processes of Othering whereby the processes and structures of ‘othering’ are interdependent with the existence of institutions that reify a specific ‘Order of things’. Western identity and culture itself can be understood as
fundamentally interrelated with and constructed by an othering logic (Said 1985). Groups that historically were and are marginalised and ‘othered’ are also at disproportionate risk of experiencing poverty as well as precarity such as ‘females’, ‘gender’ and ‘sexually’ diverse communities, ethnic minorities, people categorized as ‘disabled’, children, single parents, carers, older people, institutionalised people etc. Forms of ‘othering’ like for example the application of essentialist assumption and the selective distribution and application of ideologically driven categories like ‘deviance’ and ‘crime’ have a long tradition in mainstream social sciences and let to the proliferation of techniques of producing ‘others’ thereby solidifying the existing unequal status quo and imposing its destructive power on ‘lived realities’.

This conference seeks to challenge the destructive operations of ‘othering’ in different contexts, aims for the abolition of its facilitating structures and ideologies and to explore ways of engaging in critical and creative praxis in the struggle to overcome these. In order to achieve these aims contributions to the following themes are invited:

- Bio-politics of ‘Other’
- processes of ‘othering’ and the continued ‘lived realities’ of slavery
- ‘othering’ of non-human animals, our planet and the Anthropocene
- generating ‘new’ Others(e.g. via early intervention schemes, Brexit-discourses, etc.)
- ‘othering’ and the ‘floating signifiers’ of ‘race’ and ‘gender’
- ‘sexuality’/’gender’ and the generation of ‘other’
- ‘othering’ and geological, cultural and existential ‘sacrifice zones’
- ‘othering’ and genocide
- transhumanism and ‘othering’
- ‘others’ and visions of a purified social body
- ‘othering’ Roma, Sinti and other Travelling peoples, ‘legislative cleansing’ and the legacy of the Porajmos
- challenging the Othering and dehumanisation of people; conceptions of shared ‘fraility’ (Turner) and Butler’s concept of ‘precariousness’ as a collectively shared conditions of life (2004, 2009)
- queering the normative, re-gaining control of representations, fighting the oppression of ‘othering’ and dehumanization—art i(a)s resistance

**Booking-form**

*Venue: Albert Hall, Nottingham. Date: 17.4.-18.4.2020*

**Conference-fees**

£130 - Participant with support from their institution

£ 64 - Student, postgraduate, voluntary sector, activists etc.

*In case you are unable to pay the fee inform the organizer and we will make an effort to offer you a reduced price if possible.*

**Fees for the Conference 2020 give access to:**

- Conference material
- Lunches
- Coffee Breaks
- Conference Dinner with live Jazz music
Please return this form by the 02.02.2020 to: abeckmann94@outlook.com

**PAYMENT**

Name:
Contact address:
e-mail:
Affiliation:
Payment to be made: £
Special dietary requirements/other requirements:
Presentation requirements:
Please invoice/ cheque made payable to:
British/Irish Section of the European Group. Acc-no.42604562, sort-code 090666

**Travel and accommodation:**
Nottingham is a city 128 miles north of London that is easy to access by various modes of transport and has a true multitude of accommodation possibilities to choose from.
V. Journals

Decolonization of Criminology and Justice - Inaugural issue

We are delighted to announce that the inaugural issue of Decolonization of Criminology and Justice has been published.

https://ojs.aut.ac.nz/dcj/index.php/DCJ/index:

We are simultaneously issuing a CALL FOR PAPERS. All contributions should be submitted before 15 February 2020 or 15 July 2020 respectively for Decolonization of Criminology and Justice volume 2, issues 1 and 2. DCJ is a peer-reviewed journal. It publishes research that aims to contribute to the decolonization of criminology and justice, which encompasses theoretical, qualitative and quantitative inquiries into traditional and emerging justice topics and studies on epistemologies, methodologies and methods related to criminological research and tertiary teaching. The journal also welcomes innovative contributions regarding the development of novel criminological strands, anti-criminology and beyond criminology. The journal welcomes the submission of research articles, commentaries, creative writings and book reviews.

Marketisation and Privatisation in Criminal Justice [book]

Edited by Kevin Albertson, Mary Corcoran and Jake Phillips

Available to pre-order @ Bristol University Press

Introduction: Marketisation and Privatisation in Criminal Justice; an Overview ~ Kevin Albertson, Mary Corcoran and Jake Phillips

Part 1 ~ Introduction and Theoretical Frameworks
Market Society Utopianism in Penal Politics ~ Mary Corcoran
Outcomes-Based Contracts In the UK Public Sector ~ Chris Fox and Kevin Albertson
The Carceral State and the Interpenetration of Interests: Commercial, Governmental, and Civil Society Interests in Criminal Justice ~ James Gacek and Richard Sparks
Understanding the Privatisation of Probation Through the Lens of Bourdieu's Field Theory ~ Jake Phillips
The Progress of Marketisation: The Prison and Probation Experience ~ Kevin Albertson and Chris Fox

Part 2 ~ Experiences of Marketisation in the Public Sector
The 'Soft Power' of Marketisation: The Administrative Assembling of Irish Youth Justice Work ~ Katharina Swirak
Police Outsourcing and Labour Force Vulnerability ~ Roxanna Dehaghani and Adam White
Marketisation or Corporatisation? Making Sense of Private Influence in Public Policing Across Canada and the US ~ Kevin Walby and Randy K. Lippert
Marketisation and Competition in Criminal Legal Aid: Implications for Access to Justice ~ Tom Smith and Ed Johnston
Holding Private Prisons to Account: What Role for Controllers As 'The Eyes and Ears of the State'? ~ Joanna Hargreaves and Amy Ludlow
A Flawed Revolution? Interrogating the Transforming Rehabilitation Changes in England and Wales Through the Prism of a Community Justice Court ~ Jill Annison, Tim Auburn, Daniel Gilling and Gisella Hanley Santos

**Part 3 ~ Marketisation and the Voluntary Sector**
Constructive Ambiguity, Market Imaginaries and the Penal Voluntary Sector in England and Wales ~ Mary Corcoran, Mike Maguire and Kate Williams
Marketisation of Women's Organisations in the Criminal Justice Sector ~ Vickie Cooper and Maureen Mansfield
Surviving the Revolution? The Voluntary Sector Under Transforming Rehabilitation in England and Wales ~ Kevin Wong and Rob Macmillan

**Part 4 ~ Beyond Institutions: Marketisation Beyond the Criminal Justice Institution**
Neoliberal Imaginaries and GPS Tracking in England and Wales ~ Mike Nellis
Misery As Business: How Immigration Detention Became a Cash-Cow in Britain's Borders ~ Monish Bhatia and Victoria Canning
Prison Education: A Northern European Wicked Policy Problem? ~ Gerry Czerniawski
Making Local Regulation Better? Marketisation, Privatisation and the Erosion of Social Protection ~ Steve Tombs
The 'Fearsome Frowning Face of the State' and Ex-Prisoners: Promoting Employment or Alienation, Anger and Perpetual Punishment? ~ Del Roy Fletcher

**Conclusion: What Has Been Learned** ~ Kevin Albertson, Mary Corcoran and Jake Phillips

[https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/marketisation-and-privatisation-in-criminal-justice](https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/marketisation-and-privatisation-in-criminal-justice)
VI. Conferences, events

The 15th Annual Ethnography Symposium. Transdisciplinary adventures in ethnographic methods

University of Suffolk. 26th-28th August 2020


From its roots in anthropology, ethnography has gradually gained traction throughout the social sciences. To this end, many of us are familiar with ethnographic studies not just in our native field, but in neighbouring fields too. But how many social scientists are familiar with ethnographic research undertaken by natural scientists? We feel compelled to bring together ethnographers not just from distinct disciplines but from disparate faculties too. For the 15th Annual Ethnography Symposium, we look forward to extending a very much welcome to scholars interested in ethnography and ethnographic methods from the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Providing a forum for collaboration among international academics from genuinely disparate fields will open up opportunities for reciprocal learning. Often the most interesting research emerges at subject boundaries, and so any move to enable collaboration between social and natural scientists will yield exciting new perspectives and understandings. Ethnomathematics is one such example. In this area of enquiry, mathematicians deliberately put the study of culture at the centre of their research. The field has thus recognised that mathematics – like any other pursuit – is culturally and socially constructed. A simple but instructive aspect of this is the fact that our ten fingers and thumbs are considered a predetermining factor that led to the dominance of the decimal system.

We welcome papers from any disciplinary background on any theme, provided the method of ethnography is invoked.

You are warmly invited to a forthcoming seminar hosted by the UCL Institute for Global City Policing and the Canterbury Centre for Policing Research, Canterbury Christ Church University.

The Moral Economies of Knowledge Production on Migration: Conflicts, Values, Positionalities

University of Osnabrueck, Germany. 2–4 December 2020

Organizers: Research Group “The Production of Knowledge on Migration”, Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), University of Osnabrueck.

In current research about migration, there is a growing interest in the ways in which knowledge shapes migration and the experiences and apparatuses connected to it. Researchers, thus, draw attention to the categories, technologies, and data that inform border and migration policies (and vice versa). They point to the ways in which different mobilities come to be categorized, ordered and made legible to the state. They explore how the production of mobile subjects such as “the expat” or “the illegal migrant” is
interconnected with specific imaginations of nations, societies or empires. Or they guide the view to the structures and assumptions that shape the politics of expertise in migration studies and related fields. Our conference approaches the interconnection between the production of knowledge and migration by placing a particular emphasis on the struggles that centre on peoples’ mobilities and their ‘correct’ quantification, categorization and interpretation. In order to make these conflicts intelligible, we propose to apply the notion of moral economies as it has been discussed in different disciplines recently.

Conflicts about migration and its effects as well as the struggles of migrants themselves often lay bare not only the different experiences and socioeconomic situations of the many actors involved but also their conflicting worldviews and value systems. We suggest taking a closer look at how different imagined geographies and ideas of justice, community, and belonging structure these conflicts. Using the notion of moral economies, we aim to systematically reflect the moral positions that guide the production of knowledge on migration as well as the different political and societal contexts in which this production takes place.

A moral economies perspective takes different positionalities, value systems, and worldviews into consideration when making sense of conflicts in, between and across various fields and groups, be they humanitarian actors, academic researchers, migrants, activists or political experts. We use the term moral economies as shorthand for a perspective that considers both the socioeconomic situatedness of actors and their value systems. When the British historian E.P. Thompson first developed the concept based on the protests against rising food prices in 18th century Britain, he was interested in the values that guided these (mostly rural) struggles. Thompson argued that the protests were not mere “rebellions of the belly” but that they were caused by a clash between traditional local notions of justice and a new capitalist logic.

Taking up Thompson’s older notion, scholars such as Didier Fassin use moral economies in order to direct attention to the moral dimension of conflicts and protests as well as to their socioeconomic situatedness. Scholars in the field of Science Studies who are interested in the role of beliefs and values in the production of knowledge do so as well. By integrating “morals” and “economies” into one analytical framework, they acknowledge that not only social thought but also social actions and notions of belonging depend on different value regimes and worldviews (and vice versa). Our conference proposes to make use of these debates.

We suggest exploring the moral economies of researchers and other knowledge producers by examining the material and moral dimensions of knowledge practices on the ground and by focusing on the various people and artefacts bound together by these practices. Moreover, we propose taking a closer look at the ways in which both mobile people and their various observers navigate and influence the political, moral, social and economic landscapes in which their activities are situated. In doing so, we seek to advance a globally conscious understanding of the knowledge production on migration as a highly situated set of practices.

We invite papers from a range of disciplines that investigate the following topics:

**Delineating the Field: (Co-)Producers and Production Sites**

- the knowledge produced for and by administrations, governing bodies, international organisations and the police

16
- the history, institutionalization, and structure of migration studies in different national and transnational contexts and their impacts on the changing paradigms of migration and integration
- the materialities and sites of the production of knowledge about migration
- the analytical use of intersectional perspectives when analyzing the producers of knowledge and their positionalities

Spatializing the Knowledge on Migration: Geographies and Imagined Geographies
- the (geographic) positionalities of different knowledge producers and the geographies of the knowledge on migration they produce
- the impact of specific imaginations of nations, societies or empires on the categorization and datafication of migration
- the knowledge of border and migration regimes in different geographical and historical contexts
- (euro)centrism, marginalized positions and the analytical use of postcolonial perspectives in this context

Ordering Migration: Categorizations and (E)valuations
- the political, public and academic conflicts concerning migration and the question of how to define, name and quantify it
- the knowledge of activists and the categories, data and narratives used in political conflicts and protests
- master narratives and counternarratives
- the relationship between migrant subjectivities and dominant forms of categorizing mobilities and of “making up people”

Navigating the Academic and Political Landscape: Of Truths and Values
- the relationship between academic, political and public agendas and roles
- practices and forms of boundary work
- the values and worldviews of the different actors involved in making migration into a “social fact” and sociopolitical field
- selling knowledge and promoting truth in different fields and contexts

The conference is organized in cooperation with IMISCOE’s Standing Committee “Reflexive Migration Studies”.

Submissions should include a paper title, an abstract of up to 500 words, and a short biographical note. Please submit proposals by the 15th of March 2020 to Matthias Land (matland@uni-osnabrueck.de).

For questions or further information please contact the two heads of the research group, Dr Isabella Löhr and PD Dr Christiane Reinecke: isabella.loehr@uni-osnabrueck.de and christiane.reinecke@uni-osnabrueck.de
Beyond ‘deficits and dividends’. Interdisciplinary and critical perspectives on migration-driven superdiversity

University of Birmingham. 9-11 September 2020

[DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 15 APRIL 2020]

Over the past three decades, the size, speed and spread of human mobility has grown in significance. New routes, channels, connections and migration hubs have emerged, while existing ones have experienced unprecedented changes and pressures.

The sedimentation of these changes over time are transforming local communities and the dynamics and politics of diversity at destination as well as at origin, as shown by the growth of diaspora institutions over the same period. Worldwide, these migration-driven trends are transforming societies in complex ways spanning social, demographic, cultural, economic and political structures.

Not surprisingly, these processes have been met with mixed responses. Anti-immigration sentiments, racism, religious intolerance and xenophobia are common currency in mainstream political discourse in several countries, which is increasingly polarised along a nationalist vs globalist binary. Rapid and sustained changes in population’s diversity pose challenges and opportunities for societies – including public services, labour markets, political movements and intergeneration relations.

The Institute for Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham is organising the 6th International interdisciplinary conference on causes, consequences, challenges and opportunities emerging from migration-driven superdiversification.

We intend to provide an opportunity for participants (scholars, policymakers, practitioners and civil society organisations) not only to examine both deficits and dividends, recognising that these are multi-faceted and frequently inter-connected, but also to put forward alternative ways to frame the debate away from simplistic binaries.

The conference will be held on the 9-11th September 2020. It will feature keynote speeches, invited plenaries, academic panels and a policy roundtable on topics at the forefront of the superdiversity research agenda. We are inviting paper and panel submissions on the following themes:

- Diversity and mobility in hostile environments
- Encounters, conviviality and social networks
- Multi-scalar politics and policy of diversity in more and less diverse contexts
- Cities, neighbourhoods and places of welcome and sanctuary. Urban renewal, housing markets, neighbourhood effects and place making
- Economic benefits of diversity and immigration including innovation, entrepreneurism and skills provision
- Nexus between labour/skill shortages in aging countries and migration and its long term consequences
- Creative methods and experimental approaches to the study of migration and superdiversity
- Rethinking cohesion and integration in an age of rapid demographic change
- Superdiversity and intercultural communications: Discourse, rhetoric and everyday narratives
- Representing superdiversity: Art, culture and literature
- Child and youth migration, social mobility and intergenerational dynamics
- Intersecting gender, race, class and sexuality
- Attitudes, beliefs, contestations and responses to superdiversity
- Identity politics, rights claim and citizenship
- Welfare state contributions and pressures: Organisational and institutional changes

We welcome academics from a range of disciplines including but not exclusively anthropology, sociology, social policy, cultural studies, geography, linguistics, history, psychology, economics, business, medicine, demography, politics, and development studies, policymakers, and practitioners to submit innovative papers and panel proposals.

Doctoral researchers are very welcome to submit their work. The conference will be an opportunity for meeting early career researchers and senior academics working on superdiversity.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the on-line submission system by 15th April 2020.

- Submissions for papers should include an abstract (max 250 words) and short biographical note (100 words) about the author including her/his current position and interest in the field of diversity and migration.
- Submissions for panels should include the names of three speakers and a chairperson, an overview abstract (250 words) and an abstract for each associated paper (250 words).

We welcome also proposals for panels with a more dialogical format. In this case, please submit a longer abstract (500 words) with short bios for each of the speakers (up to 6 participants).

Applicants will be informed about the selection committee’s decision by 8th May.

Presentation Format: The selected papers will be grouped by themes in parallel sessions. Each presentation will last 15-20 minutes and followed by 10 minutes discussion.

Conference publications: delegates will be offered the opportunity after the conference to submit their papers for consideration to be included in an edited book and/or journal special edition.

Other: Travel and accommodation expenses should be covered by the participants. A concessionary registration fee will be available for early career participants, civil society organisations, and participants from low income countries.

Further info: please contact Ann Bolstridge, IRiS administrator: a.bolstridge@bham.ac.uk
A BIG THANKS to all the European Group members for making this newsletter successful. Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to Vicky/Katja/Dani at europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

Please try to send it in before the 25th of each month if you wish to have it included in the following month’s newsletter. Please provide a web link (wherever possible).

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