



Centre for Criminology and Sociology

Research Seminar Series

Autumn 2012

The Centre's Research Seminar Series provides a forum for discussing theory and research within sociology and criminology. Consisting mainly of original research papers, the Series also includes talks from scholars on plans for future research, theoretical developments, topical issues that face the HE sector and the social sciences, and innovations in teaching and research. We warmly invite academics and research students from across the College to attend these events.

For more information contact Prof Ravinder Barn (r.barn@rhul.ac.uk)

Wednesday 31 October, 2-3pm

Prof Ros Edwards

University of Southampton

Seminar Title: 'Where are the parents?: Parental responsibilities in the 1960s and 2010s

Wednesday 7 November, 2-3pm

Prof Ralph Fevre

Cardiff University

Seminar Title: 'Which are the UK's worst employers?

Wednesday 21 November, 2-3pm

Professor Andromachi Tseloni

Nottingham Trent University

Seminar Title: 'The Crime Drop: Explanations and beneficiaries.'

Wednesday 5 December, 2-3pm

Professor Miri Song

University of Kent

Seminar Title: Is racial mismatch a problem for young 'mixed race' people in Britain? The findings of qualitative research

Venue: ABF016 - Arts Building, First Floor, Room16

Abstracts

‘WHERE ARE THE PARENTS?’: PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE 1960s and 2010s - Professor Ros Edwards – University of Southampton

Abstract: In this paper I will outline the way that the immediate post-war past has become mobilized in dominant ideas about the state of parenting and children’s upbringing in contemporary Britain, with the claim that the last fifty years or so have seen deterioration in parenting skills. I will assess these claims through an exploratory analysis of parents bringing up children drawing on in-depth, archived data from class British community studies carried out in the 1960s, attempting to provide insights into the nature and extent of social change in parenting practices. In particular, I will focus on ideas about parental responsibility in terms of knowing where your children are to highlight the different understandings of children and their welfare needs in the past. By today’s standards the parenting norms and practices that are revealed in the data from some of the classic, well-regarded community studies of the 1960s would likely be condemned as irresponsible, personally damaging, and in some cases criminal. Particularly noticeable is the absence of moralized discussions of parental liability that are so central to contemporary social commentary.

Biography: Rosalind Edwards is Professor of Sociology at the University of Southampton. She has written widely in the field of family studies, with recently publications including: *International Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Mixedness and Mixing* (ed. with Ali, Caballero and Song, 2012, Routledge); *Key Concepts in Family Studies* (with McCarthy), 2011, Sage); and *Teenage Parenting – What’s the Problem?* (ed. with Duncan and Alexander, 2010, the Tufnell Press). She is about to begin a project on the uses and abuses of neuroscience in early years intervention. Ros also has an interest in methodology, and is co-editor of the *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*. She has just finished a qualitative longitudinal project, and is about to embark on a study involving the narrative analysis of elderly paradata.

‘Which are the UK’s worst employers?’ - Prof Ralph Fevre, Cardiff University

Abstract: This seminar will report on the largest study of ill-treatment so far undertaken anywhere in the world. Prof Fevre identifies the most troubled workplaces in the UK using data from two national surveys. Drawing on analyses of the survey data and case studies of four leading UK employers, he explains what makes some workplaces so bad and how organisations might be able to improve the lot of their employees.

Biography: Ralph Fevre has been professor at Cardiff School of Social Sciences since 1995. He is the author, or co-author, of several books including *Trouble At Work*, Bloomsbury, 2012; *Dead White Men And Other Important People*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010; *The New Sociology of Economic Behaviour*, Sage, 2003; *The Demoralization of Western Culture: Social Theory and the Dilemmas of Modern Living*, Continuum, 2000; *Nation, Identity and Social Theory*, University of Wales Press, 1999 and *The Sociology of Labour Markets*, Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1992.

'The Crime Drop: Explanations and beneficiaries.' - Professor Andromachi Tseloni, Nottingham Trent University

Abstract: In the last ten to twenty years crime rates have dramatically and unexpectedly fallen both in the UK and with few exceptions across the western world. Rather surprisingly the international overall crime drop continues to be a major puzzle in criminology. The generalised nature of the drop and the variations in trend across different crimes suggest that they have been triggered by changes in criminal opportunities and routine activities that occurred cross-nationally rather than changes in the criminal justice system or legislation which by nature are limited within national boundaries. International data suggest that crime trends varied for different segments of the population. This disparities in burglary, vehicle theft and personal crime drops in England and Wales across population subgroups defined with respect to income, tenure, and household structure are examined. Has the crime drop been experienced equally across different social strata? Who has benefited most from the crime drop? Are there any sections of society that have not benefited, and to what extent? The chapter concludes with a discussion of the role that security may play in the differences observed.

Biography: Andromachi Tseloni is Professor of Criminology at Nottingham Trent University, Visiting Professor at the University of Huddersfield and SCoPiC Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. In addition to her collaborative research on the international crime falls she is renowned for her work on individual and contextual risk and protective factors of victimisation risk and frequency. She has taught Applied Social Statistics at Universities in Greece, the UK and the US. Her work is published in academic journals (please access: http://www.ntu.ac.uk/apps/Profiles/50643-1-4/Professor_Andromachi_Tseloni.aspx).

Is racial mismatch a problem for young 'mixed race' people in Britain? The findings of qualitative research – Professor Miri Song, University of Kent

Abstract: Recent evidence concerning the racial identifications of 'mixed race' people suggests growing latitude in how they may identify. In this paper, we examine whether mixed race young people believe that their chosen identifications are validated by others, and how they respond to others' racial perceptions of them. While existing studies tend to assume that a disjuncture between self-identification and others' perceptions of them is problematic, this was not necessarily the case among our respondents. While a racial mismatch between expressed and observed identifications was a common experience for these individuals, they varied considerably in terms of how they responded to such occurrences, so that they could feel: a) misrecognized (and there were differential bases and experiences of misrecognition); b) positive about the mismatch; or c) indifferent to how others racially categorized them in their day-to-day interactions. Some differences in responses to such mismatch emerged among disparate types of mixed people. This study also found that we need to consider national identity, and other forms of belonging, in making sense of the diverse and often multilayered identifications and experiences of mixed race young people in Britain.

Biography: Miri Song is Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent's School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR). Her research interests include ethnic identity, race and

mixed race, racisms, migration (in its many forms) and the immigrant second generation. She has been actively involved in the British, European, and North American research networks, including [IMISCOE](#) (International Migration, Integration, and Social Cohesion, a European Network of Excellence) and the American Sociological Association. Miri is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, the journal *Identities and IMISCOE*, which conducts research on migration and its many related fields. She is also a member of the Runnymede Trust's academic advisory board.