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SoRU

Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty (SoRU)

News

E-Newsletter of the

- Thematic Group 04 of the International Sociological Association
- Research Network 22 of the European Sociological Association
- Thematic Group 'Risk Societies' of the Australian Sociological Association

Newsletter editor: Martyn Chamberlain, UK (j.m.chamberlain@lboro.ac.uk)

Newsletter co-editor: Renata Motta, Germany (renata.motta@fu-berlin.de)

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From the editors

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the SoRU Newsletter.

This is our first edition in this year of 2014, which has started with some novelties in the Research Network on Risk and Uncertainty. Therefore the first highlight of the newsletter, namely, the greetings from the new Chair, Anna Olofsson, and the new Vice-Chair, Adam Burgess, who were elected last year at the ESA Conference. As editors of the newsletter, we would like to welcome the new chairs, and also thank Patrick Brown, who had been not only an excellent chair to the Network but also a great contributor to this newsletter, always engaged in sharing information among the members, which is one of the purposes of a network. A second highlight in this edition is the full program of the ISA World Congress.

There are the usual sections on book releases and new articles, as well as call for papers and conferences. We would like to invite you all to send contributions to these sections, as well as any commentary piece you may want to share with the other members of the network.

Last but not least, this might be the last newsletter having Renata as editor. I (Renata) would like to thank you all from the risk network for the exchange in these almost two years since we decided to launch the newsletter. Now, it is time for me to move on to new projects, and to leave room for new comers. My goodbye is also a call for potential candidates to replace my task. If you are interested, please contact Martyn (J.M.Chamberlain@lboro.ac.uk).

Warmest wishes,

Renata and Martyn

NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF RN 22

Greetings from Anna Olofsson and Adam Burgess

Taking over the responsibility as Chair for RN22 after Patrick is a pleasure and I would like to begin with thanking Patrick for his time coordinating the network. His commitment to the network and not least his work to encourage young scholars, for example by establishing scholarships for young researchers and the PhD-workshop before our mid-term conferences, has been extraordinary. I hope that Adam and I during our time as coordinators will succeed in spreading a similar commitment to the work of the network and the research content.

What we hope to achieve is maintaining the close collaboration with the networks 'TG04' of ISA and 'Risk Societies' of TASA, which this newsletter is one good example of, and also explore if there are other regional or even national sociological associations that it might be relevant for us to connect to. Anyone who is involved in such a network is welcome to contact us. Another goal is to facilitate collaboration between researchers in the network for example through discussions about research funding and calls, like the meeting Adam organized at last ESA-conference in Turin. This can also be done through the RN22 email list and anyone who is interested in broad outreach activities can contact us, and we can distribute it through the RN22 email list.

We will also continue to organize the midterm conferences and **we are particularly glad that Prof. Ortwin Renn and his colleagues at the University of Stuttgart have offered to arrange the next mid-term conference. It will be held in Stuttgart 8-10 April 2015 and the theme of the conference will be 'Risk, Uncertainty and Transition'.** Although the event will have a focus on the theme of transition, it will be an open call for papers, which explore aspects of risk and uncertainty across a broad range of sociological and interdisciplinary perspectives. **Prof. Renn is for the moment President of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and the mid-term conference might also be an opportunity for cross fertilization between the networks.** For this conference we will try a new approach to organize accepted papers; By introducing three categories of papers; theoretical, methodological and empirical, we hope to increase the number of papers that discuss, problematize and develop both theory and methods in risk and uncertainty research. Empirical studies are of course also welcome and are expected as usual to constitute the largest share of papers. Our previous mid-term conferences have been very successful and we hope you'll join us in Germany for stimulating discussion and reflection on the latest European, and global, risk research.

As most of you probably already know, the next ESA Conference will be held in Prague on 26-29 August 2015, and we have also already begun the planning of the next mid-term conference to be held in 2016 at the University of Kent.

Last but not least we hope the discussion about social inequality and risk research will continue and evolve. As Renata pointed out in her initiative to the discussion, risk research, and particularly the theory of risk society, needs to problematize and discuss social inequality not only in a European or 'the global North' context. This was also emphasized by Stella in her discussion of how the integration of a global social inequality perspective on risk discourses can provide an opportunity to develop risk research both theoretically and empirically, something we definitely agree on. More generally, during the last decades we have witnessed an increased diversification and a number of new creative contributions to the understanding of risk in contemporary society, however the relationship between power, inequality and risk in a global perspective still seem to elude us. It is therefore our believe that to reach a better understanding of these relationships, and not limit our analysis to the global North, we need to learn from and incorporate, for example, feminist and gender research, which show how homogenisations of socio-structural factors (e.g. class, gender, ethnicity) ignore the huge variations that result from complex interactions between such factors, and between these factors risk and power. Bringing such an approach more clearly into risk theory will contribute with a deeper understanding of how risk structure action and thought as well as power-relations.

We hope that many of you will participate in the different activities described here in the years to come and that many will meet already in July at the ISA World Congress and TG04's different sessions.

Anna Olofsson
Mid-Sweden University
Chair

Adam Burgess
University of Kent, UK
Vice-Chair

New Journal Articles and Books

Books

Gabe Mythen has recently completed two books in the area of risk studies that will be released shortly:

Mythen, Gabe. *Understanding the Risk Society: Crime, Security and Justice*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014 (release in May).

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=280805>

About:

This book seeks to provide a theoretically informed overview of the regulation of crime and security in a globalized world.

Mythen, Gabe and Sandra Walklate. *Contradictions of Terrorism*. Routledge, 2014 (release in July).

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415626538/>

About:

This text offers both an exposition of the contradictions that have emerged around the regulation of terrorism and an incisive analysis of the questions that the management of terrorism poses for experts involved in risk regulation.

Di Palma, Giuseppe. *The Modern State Subverted: Risk and the Deconstruction of Solidarity*. ECPR, 2013.

http://press.ecpr.eu/book_details.asp?bookTitleID=94

About:

Until recently, liberalism was, according to Karl Polanyi, embedded within civil society, working closely with a democratic state intent on addressing, in solidarity, the social risks associated with modern capitalism. Modern relations between society and the state have been, at best, ones of shared language and goals rather than necessary conflict. Already under the *polizeistaat*, absolutist rulers took, in their own way, the care of their population as central to their rule. The welfare state was only the most innovative embodiment of such collective concerns. Today's neoliberalism is, to the contrary, a subversion of liberal embeddedness. It is the utopia of market fundamentalism intent, by the power of its perversity narrative of the past, on replacing socially embedded market and government with a dispiriting, socially isolating Malthusian project.

Articles: new Journal call for papers

A new journal of ISA RC24 Environment & Society with Routledge; this could be a good place for publication for people involved in risk & uncertainty issues.

<http://explore.tandfonline.com/page/bes/aedarchives/rens-call-for-papers/#> =

KEY READINGS IN THE STUDY OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY: AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE SORU GROUP

The sociological literature on risk and uncertainty is vast! There is an assorted list of key readings recommended by network members on the SORU group website: <http://riskanduncertainty.net/drupal/key-readings.html>

CALL FOR COMMENTARIES AND OPINION PIECES ON YOUR FAVOURITE (AND NOT SO FAVOURITE) SOCIOLOGY OR RISK AND UNCERTAINTY BOOKS, JOURNAL ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Please feel free to make suggestions for books, journal articles and conference presentations that you feel may be of interest to others and we will publish details in the newsletter. If you wish to submit a formal book review then please contact the editors

Forthcoming Conferences and Calls for Papers

CALL FOR PAPERS: ROLES, RESPONSIBILITY AND SOCIAL IMAGINARY IN A RISK SOCIETY

July 18th at International Christian University, in Mitaka, Tokyo

Abstract deadline: May, 23, 2014

A workshop on the theme of “Roles, Responsibility and Social Imaginary in a Risk Society” will be held at International Christian University in Tokyo. At a time when the shared understandings and normative framework governing questions of food, environment and security are in transition, and when the relationship of groups and individuals are influenced by the scientification of public policies (Weingart 1999), medicalization (Conrad 2007) and securitization (Lyon 2001) of society, we would like to delve into the question of how lay people understand the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in dealing with risks. We are seeking insightful case studies that explore the responses of lay people to risks, studies that are both grounded in original empirical data and presented in ways that address the theoretical questions and framing in the field. This might include

the identification, representation and use of "scientific" data and "local knowledge" and practices; efforts to understand, manage and/or avoid risk; the bases and drivers of particular risk responses; and the consequences of these risk responses on individuals and communities.

We would like to have a brief description of the paper (250 words) that shows the research question, the method, theoretical bases, and a brief description of the case study. The deadline for the abstract is May 23, 2014. Upon the acceptance of your abstract, we expect the workshop participants to develop a draft paper (4,000 to 8,000 words) by July 7 so that the draft papers can be read by other participants prior to the workshop. The workshop is scheduled for July 18th at International Christian University, in Mitaka, Tokyo and hosted by the Social Science Research Institution of ICU. For further details, please contact Tomiko Yamaguchi.

Tomiko Yamaguchi, PhD
Senior Associate Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
International Christian University

3-10-2 Osawa, Mitaka,
TOKYO 81-8585, JAPAN
PHONE & FAX: +81-422-33-3716
tyamaguc@icu.ac.jp

FIFTH ANNUAL MARY DOUGLAS SEMINAR: RISK, REGULATION AND BIAS

New developments in the study of institutional and organisational shaping of how dangers are understood and dealt with

Friday 6th June 2014

UCL Department of Anthropology
The Marchmont Room, 19-26 Cartwright Gardens, London WC1H 9EF

Programme

9.00-9.30. Coffee, tea

9.30-9.45. Welcome, introductions

News and information exchange. We shall make a table available this year on which colleagues can display

sample copies of recently published books which make use of theory derived from Mary Douglas' work,

and on which publishers' flyers for such books can be made available.

Chair: *Perri 6, Professor in Public Management, School of Business and Management, Queen Mary, University of London*

9.45-10.30. *Brendon Swedlow, Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University; Research Associate, Centre*

for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation, London School of Economics and Political Science

Three cultural boundaries of science, institutions, and policy: a theory of coproduction

10.30-10.40. Discussant: *Steve Rayner, James Martin Professor of Science and Civilisation, University of Oxford, co-*

Director of the Oxford Geoengineering Programme and Principal Investigator of the Climate Geoengineering Governance project

10.40-11.00. break: coffee, tea, fruit juice, water

11.00-11.15. Q and A

11.15-12.00. Chair: *Albert Baumgarten, Professor Emeritus of Jewish History, Department of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan*

University

Nick Papadopoulos, Researcher, Brunel Business School, Brunel University London

Diagnosing unintentional pathways into isolate ordering

12.00-12.15. Discussant: tbc

12.15-13.00. Q and A

13.00 Lunch break: [Lunch is not provided, but there are plenty of cafes, sandwich bars and other catering establishments very nearby].

14.00-14.45. *Martin Lodge, Professor of political science and public policy, Department of Government, London School of*

Economics and Political Science

Researching cultural theory and regulatory policy

14.45-15.00. Discussant: *Brendon Swedlow, Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University; Research*

Associate, Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation, London School of Economics and Political Science

15.00-15.30. Q and A

15.30-15.45. break: coffee, tea, fruit juice, water

15.45-16.15. *Clare Heyward, James Martin Fellow on the Oxford Geoengineering Programme and an Associate Fellow of*

Climate Geoengineering Governance project, and also University of Warwick

and

Steve Rayner, James Martin Professor of Science and Civilisation, University of Oxford, co-Director of the Oxford

Geoengineering Programme and Principal Investigator of the Climate Geoengineering Governance project

Apocalypse nicked!

16.15-16.30. Discussant: tbc

16.30-17.00. Q and A

17.00 Close of formal proceedings

... Opportunity for informal conversations ...

To reserve a place, please e-mail Catherine Darlington [catherine.darlington@brunel.ac.uk]. To cover refreshments on arrival, mid-morning and mid-afternoon, a charge of **£10.00** is payable. For those with

UK bank accounts, payment is requested in advance by cheque in **sterling**, made out to '**The Mary Douglas Seminar**'. The cheque should be sent by post to Catherine Darlington, 261 Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2DW, United Kingdom, with a covering note. Those attending **from outside the UK** may pay in cash on the day of the seminar, because we are unable to accept cheques in other currencies.

BRITISH SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY (BSC) CONFERENCE

Weblink: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bsc/about/>

The annual conference of the British Society of Criminology will be held at the University of Liverpool in July 2014 and colleagues within and without the SoRU network are invited to submit abstracts for consideration. Please note the deadline of 28th April 2014. The full call for papers follows below.

In July 2014, the British Society of Criminology conference (including the pre-conference post-graduate meeting) - Crime, Justice, Welfare: Can the Metropole Listen? - is being hosted by the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, School of Law and Social Justice, The University of Liverpool.

Based within the legendary city of Liverpool the conference will primarily be held at the University's award winning Foresight Centre which is based in one of the city's most impressive Grade II listed buildings; a site of great architectural significance. The conference dinner will be held in the magnificent Crypt Hall in the Metropolitan Cathedral:

<http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/venue-hire/the-crypt-hall/>

The call for papers (including individual papers, themed panels, roundtables, author-meets-critics sessions and posters), together with submission guidelines, can be found at:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bsc/submitapaper/>

Reduced 'early bird' registration options are currently available and details can be found at:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bsc/registration/>

ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY (LANGUAGE: ENGLISH)

Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology Yokohama, Japan July 13-19, 2014

Weblink: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014>

Thematic Group

Title: TG04 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Program Coordinator(s):

Jens O. ZINN

University of Melbourne

Australia

Email: jzinn@unimelb.edu.au -- Will not be published

TG04 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty (host committee)

Abstract id# 46174

The How of Kindness: Risk, Trust and Everyday Support

Julie BROWNLIE, Sociology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom and **Simon ANDERSON**, National Centre for Social Research/Scottish Centre for Social Research, Edinburgh, Scotland

Abstract Text:

While there is much social scientific interest in risk, trust and vulnerability, much of this work has focused on trust ‘in extremis’ rather than in relation to the mundane. Moreover we know that these concepts do not provide the framing through which people necessarily make sense of their everyday lives (Wilkinson, 2009; Brownlie, forthcoming) preferring instead to be seen to live ‘ordinary’ lives (Godfrey, Townsend and Denby, 2004). Nevertheless, in practice, trust only becomes necessary because of uncertainty and, as such, always involves making ourselves vulnerable to some degree. Retrieving how people go about suspending uncertainty is methodologically difficult because suspension is often implicit (Brownlie and Howson, 2005). In this paper, we explore how people manage uncertainties associated with risk and trust through an investigation of the most ordinary of interactions: everyday kindnesses. We present findings from an ongoing large scale qualitative study, funded by JRF in the UK, of how kindness (or everyday support) happens (or not) – see <http://www.liveablelives.org.uk/>. Against a backdrop of retreating public provision, these mundane practices have increasing policy and practice significance. Our focus is on how meanings about trust and risk are jointly constructed between particular people in particular communities (social and geographic, face to face and virtual) at particular times - in other words, with ‘what is going on’ (Goffman, 1974) when support happens or does not.

Abstract id# 37161

Low Carbon Innovation, Manufactured Certainties and the New Inequalities

David TYFIELD, Sociology, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

Climate change, perhaps the most obviously global and urgent challenge of our time, is a 'laboratory' for both processes of cosmopolitization *per se* and a paradigm shift in sociology to methodological cosmopolitanism. The key question from such a perspective concerns the empirical emergence (or not) of cosmopolitan climate risk communities (Beck et al. 2013). A key locus for such research is 'low-carbon innovation' and/or 'transition', on a global scale. In terms of the emergence of cosmopolitan climate risk communities, we can see the problem of such transition is much more profound and 'social' than acknowledged in policy discourses: 'global' low-carbon transition seems to demand a wilful suspension of disbelief on an unprecedented scale via *manufactured certainties*, tying together elite planners and everyday users. How, then, can such mass conversion to emergent visions of low-carbon systems, *before* and *as* they are materially constructed, occur? And with what qualitative social consequences? And how can we explore this question?

The paper explores these questions using two key case studies of emergent European-East Asian low-carbon innovation networks: electric vehicles; and 'carbon capture and storage' (CCS) of coal emissions. We focus, in particular, on how exploration of the practices associated with new power-knowledge technologies of web 2.0 shows that they are affording new capacities for coordination and new materialized discourses of certainties/uncertainties. These socio-technical processes thus have a potentially self-sustaining momentum driving emergence of cosmopolitan climate risk communities that could address climate change seriously. This methodology thus affords real-time exploration of emerging qualitative social change in ways that, for instance, socio-technical systems approaches do not. And involving construction of new definitions of inclusion *and exclusion*, this methodology also shows how 'progressive' low-carbon societies may in fact do little to address the extreme inequalities of the present and may even serve to entrench and legitimize them.

Abstract id# 36752

Improvisation and Uncertainty in Medicine. How Routine and Creativity Are Interwoven in Professional Practice

Cornelius SCHUBERT, GRK Locating Media, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany

Abstract Text:

Medical work is always conducted in the face of uncertainty. From unknown conditions to unintended consequences, treating individual patients entails a diversion from standardised forms of diagnoses and therapy. What is more, uncertainty in medicine is not simply decreased by an increase in technical appliances and scientific knowledge, rather new obscurities and ambiguities may emerge in modern high-tech medicine.

As prototypical professional practice, medical work requires the situational adaptation of actions to unforeseen or unforeseeable complications. It also requires prompt reactions, especially in situations like intensive care. The concept of improvisation has mostly been

used to denote creativity in the arts, but it is increasingly employed in organisational studies and science and technology studies in order to account for the situational flexibility in technically mediated and socially organised settings. The paper will take up this cue and examine the usefulness of the concept of improvisation to analyse how experts deviate from planned courses of work and how they interactionally 'bridge over' uncertainty. Because improvisation is the rule and not the exception to medical work and because improvisation is a skill acquired over many years of training, a concept of "routine improvisation" will be explored in order to account for the professional interplay of routine and creativity. The paper will use examples from an ethnographic study of anaesthesia to highlight the situated, interactional, and distributed character of improvising and dealing with the numerous contingencies, ambiguities, uncertainties and unpredictabilities of modern medical care. As such, improvisation is not peripheral, but an integral aspect to expert decision-making and part of the highly valued "art" of practicing medicine. And sometimes, to improvise may also mean to refrain from direct action – or as one anaesthetist put it: "You have to know a lot to do nothing".

Title: Voluntary Risk Taking and Edgework

Slot: Monday, July 14, 2014: 10:30 AM-12:20 PM

Abstract id# 48057

Voluntary Risk-Taking As Habituated Action: How Can a Practice-Theoretical Approach Contribute to Risk Research?

Signe RAVN, SFI - The Danish National Centre for Social Research, Copenhagen K, Denmark

Abstract Text:

Within the sociology of risk, the last 25 years have witnessed a development from viewing risk as something to be avoided towards viewing risk-taking as part of one's self-development. Researchers have argued that routinised everyday life compels us to make 'escape attempts' (Cohen & Taylor, 1992) in which we deliberately put ourselves at risk. Central in this line of theorizing is Stephen Lyng's notion of 'edgework' (Lyng, 1990; 2005); i.e. voluntary risk-taking which negotiates the 'edge' between control and loss-of-control (Lyng, 2005). The concept of 'edgework' sheds light on important aspects of risk-taking – but it also leaves some aspects of risk-taking in the dark.

The empirical case under study in this paper is youth recreational drug use; a form of voluntary risk-taking that has often been viewed in terms of edgework. However, viewing recreational drug use as edgework also entails some limitations: First, not all practices defined as risk-taking are actually experienced as such by the people involved. Experienced recreational drug users do not necessarily view their own drug use as 'risky'. And second, the notion of edgework builds on an underlying assumption about reflexivity; that risk-taking is a deliberate and carefully considered act. However, risk-taking is perhaps not always as well-considered; it may be more spontaneous or it may be non-reflexive.

To try to take these limitations into account, the present paper will allow for other views on risk-taking by drawing on insights from practice-theory, in particular notions of habituated action and embodied knowledge originating from the work of Bourdieu and Wacquant. In the paper I demonstrate how a practice-theoretical approach can contribute to our understanding of youth drug use by focusing on the subjective perceptions of risk, and on the bodily and embodied practice of risk-taking.

Abstract id# 46028

Start Time: 10:45 AM

Voluntary Risk Taking and Individual Emancipation

Imaine sahed SAHED, 7 rues des blés 78200 buchelay, EHESS/Cadis, Buchelay, France; cadis, EHESS, France

Abstract Text:

Background:. In France, the important proportion of teenagers who develop a repeated consumption of cannabis, tobacco or alcohol consumption worries the security and public health authorities. The consumption practices among young people are categorized by social and scientific discourse as a risk behavior. Many scientific researches try to explain why they develop a health, social and penal risk behaviors. However, very little one has analyzed the way that experience of consumption is lived by youth. How do teenagers perceive their consumption behavior, what meanings that they attach to their behavior ?

Methods: In order to apprehend the subjective experience of drugs consumption, we have led a qualitative investigation. We carried out 42 biographic interviews to twenty-one girls and twenty-one boys between seventeen and twenty years old. They live in Ile-de-France. These interviews have permitted us to apprehend subjective signification about their consumption experience and analyze the dynamic by which they have developed the substances use.

Results: The public health categorization on consumption by youth does not tally with what happens in reality. The perception of the teenagers on their consumption moves away from the epidemiologic categorization. The drugs use means to the participants festivities or conviviality. Moreover, teenagers, who are currently looking for an autonomous identity, develop consumption, not to oppose to their parents or social and penal norms, limits. We observe that if the youth people develop the consumption of cannabis, alcohol and tobacco it is especially to build a personal and individual identity. It is in a context of individual emancipation (Kaufmann, 2004) that we consider voluntary risk taking is part of individualization process.

Conclusion: There is a contrast between the collective and scientific perception and perception of teenagers on drugs consumption. Voluntary risk taking is a subjective and positive experience which responds to his quest for identity

Abstract id# 53503

Start Time: 11:00 AM

Understanding Long-Term Risk Behavior: The Importance of Full Picture

Peter MEYLAKHS¹, Samuel FRIEDMAN² and Samuel FRIEDMAN², (1)Sociology, Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia, (2)NDRI

Abstract Text:

On the example of a qualitative study of long-term injection drug users (IDUs) who remained HIV and Hepatitis C free despite long history of risk behavior (drug injecting) we argue that analysis of non-risk related aspects of the lives of the risk-takers is very important for understanding their risk-taking behavior and its outcomes. To understand safety—in this case not getting infected—we need to understand more than situations and behaviors that put people at risk. Epidemiologic theory that focuses on recent injection practices as infection risks cannot help much in explaining how these users “stayed safe” in the long run. In addition, by focusing all attention on drug users’ risk behavior, it distracts researchers’ attention from other important areas of drug users’ lives that are not in themselves risks but *may be extremely important in having consequences* on various risks people who use drugs face. In short, we need to go beyond epidemiological risk theory to understand risk behavior in the long run. As we shall show, non-drug related practices contribute to peoples’ fates as drug users. More specifically, we intend to show how adjustment of person to drug use, successful mutual integration of drug user’s role with other types of roles are pivotal in defining his life chances, including chances to get infected by blood borne infections. Based on life history interviews with 35 long-term IDUs in New York City, we argue that analysis of their biographies as complex, continuous, and integral life-trajectories is indispensable for comprehending their activities, including drug using and risk taking behaviors. Successfully combining drug using and non-drug using roles and drawing on work-related, social, and institutional resources, our double-negative informants underwent both periods of stability and turmoil without getting infected.

Abstract id# 33971

Start Time: 11:15 AM

Edgework: A Modern Phenomenon Or a Discourse Symbolising An Innate Human Quest?

Charlotte FABIANSOON, Sociology, College of Arts, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

Abstract Text:

The paper explores if edgework is rooted in a human quest for excitement and challenge and if contemporary edgework can be compared with historical explorative expeditions, where humans and equipment endured extreme challenges. Hunter Thompson (1971, 1979) defined edgework as a voluntary risk activity requiring extraordinary knowledge, mental and physical skills, which is different from voluntary risk taking actions where no skills above everyday knowledge are required. More recently, Lyng (1990) explores the edgework discourse in analysing skydiving and Fletcher’s (2008) risky behaviour and practices within elite and professional sport. Activates based on a perception of having control of a situation, such as gambling, might also relate to edgework (Fabiansson 2010). The paper argues from Bourdieu’s (1978, 1984) habitus discourse the influence of the social and cultural environment on human action and perception of societal place, that contemporary edgework activities and historical expeditions have common grounds in symbolising an innate human quest to challenge the everyday, but differs in presentation of the achievements in the private

and public spheres. Where historical expeditions are placed in the public sphere for the explorer to gain public acknowledgement, while modern edgework is practiced in the private sphere or within a close knit group of likeminded edgework followers.

Abstract id# 67674

Start Time: 11:30 AM

Fishing in River, Confrontations at Risks and Ambiguous Situations

Olivier GUILLAUME, Industrial Risks Management, EDF R&D, Clamart, France

Abstract Text:

The contributions dealing with industrial risks bring to light the organizational and sociological causes which provoked accidents (Perrow, 1984; Vaughan, 1996) or those who prevent them (Laporte, on 1996). They also reveal the controversies which denounce the presence of the works modifying the living environment of the local residents (Lolive, 1997), or externalities are denounced as being risks (Chataureynaud and Torny, 1999; Borraz, 2008). But what about cases where the local residents do not denounce the industrial risks and confront themselves with the risks? And what can be their incidence on the risk management? Not feeding controversies towards the industrial works and their risks, the local residents can even develop practices of leisure near the industrial works, minimize the incurred risks and go against rules. If the theory of the perception of risks (Slovic, 1992) and opportunities (Star, 1969) are first useful theories, sometimes the ambiguous role of rules and the political positioning of actors around them, allow to understand better the confrontation of the local residents to the risks.

To develop these points, we shall approach the confrontation of fishermen at the risks generated by the hydroelectric exploitation of rivers. Beginning with a description of rivers (I), the contribution will analyze the reasons bringing fishermen's specific segment to confront with their risks (II). If their limited recognition, their rhetoric of underestimate and their perceptions bring them to trivialize the risks (III), their practices are facilitated by multiple rules which create ambiguous situations (Lot, 2008). They clarify the situations by establishing " cognitive compromises " (Amalberti, on 1996) or by mobilizing " techniques of neutralization " (Sykes and Matza, on 1957) to justify their practices (IV). The ambiguous situations are maintained by the associations of fishermen in order to develop their practice.

Abstract id# 68250

Start Time: 11:45 AM

Everyday Masculinities and Extreme Sport-Re-Thinking Methodologies

Victoria ROBINSON, Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

Everyday Masculinities and Extreme Sport: Re-Thinking Methodologies
Victoria Robinson

This paper considers the taken-for-grantedness of everyday masculinity in relation to a UK research project on sporting masculinities (Robinson, 2008 and 2013). In this study of rock climbers some participants found it hard to reflect on their experiences in gendered terms. However, some participants were able to be open about and critically engage with such processes, which can be seen to constitute 'masculinity' or 'masculinities'. This was partially due to the 'extreme' nature of many aspects of the embodied and emotional rock climbing experience, as extraordinary events such as death of a climbing partner or the need to trust another man, sometimes literally, with their life, entailed that taken-for-granted aspects of masculinity had to be renegotiated or rethought in the aftermath of moments of great sporting intensity or crisis. This paper will reflect upon such patterns and, in so doing, re-visit some general methodological issues, for example, on the insider/outsider status of the researcher. The paper will also be informed by a consideration of the author and her auto-biographical position to the research both during and after the study.

Abstract id# 37488

Start Time: 12:00 PM

The Practice of Control in Risk Activities

Åke NILSÉN, School of Social and Health Sciences, Author, Halmstad, Sweden

Abstract Text:

In this paper I would like to challenge the dominating understanding of voluntary risk-taking as activities with a focus on risk (Lyng). Instead I am arguing for a shift in focus from risk to control, which is the outcome of a successful interaction with risk. Based on ethnographic fieldwork on climbing and scuba diving, I analyse the practice of control as what Foucault calls a "technology of the self". With this shift in focus to control, participants in risk activities are understood as practicing a dominating ideal in the post welfare era, where the individual is increasingly supposed to be responsible and in control of his/her own life (Simon).

Session Organizer

Jens O. ZINN

University of Melbourne

Australia

Email: jzinn@unimelb.edu.au

Title: Emotions, Trust, Hope and Other Approaches to Coping with Vulnerability amidst Uncertainty. Part I

Slot: Monday, July 14, 2014: 3:30 PM-5:20 PM

Abstract id# 42070

Start Time: 3:30 PM

Figures of Hope in Supporting Terminally Ill Relatives

Marc-Antoine BERTHOD, Yannis PAPADANIEL and Nicole BRZAK, Social Work, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland

Abstract Text: The 'end-of-life' notion doesn't really make any sense to relatives who take care of a seriously ill person, even when the latter suffers from a life-threatening disease. The risks of aggravation of the physical or mental condition and the bare perspective of death always go hand in hand with a kind of hope that organizes the horizons of thinking and influences the ways of acting. This term of 'hope' does not here refer to afterlife or religious representations. Rather, it refers to an analytical category useful for understanding the ways these close relatives support the ill person as well as the relational balance between all the individuals concerned: as early as a diagnosis of a potentially fatal condition is made, what kind of emotions are suitable to be shared with the ill person? Is it necessary to intensify one's presence? Is it appropriate to communicate openly with children, friends or coworkers? For how long? And on which grounds is it possible to assess the consequences of actions taken and attitudes adopted during this period of time filled with uncertainties? This presentation will address these questions. It is based on an ongoing empirical research, entitled "Supporting a dying relative: between working and end-of-life care" (September 2012 – August 2015) and financed by the Swiss national science foundation, through its national program on end-of-life (www.nrp67.ch). Drawing from about sixty in-depth interviews with informal carers who conciliate their professional activity and the support of their ill relative, this communication aims at presenting an analysis of how the various components and forms of the 'hope' category segment and organize the day-to-day life during this period of temporary vulnerability, a period that can be obviously associated with the 'end-of-life' denomination only after the ill person's death.

Abstract id# 47810

Start Time: 4:00 PM

Vulnerable Workers: The Significance of Trust and Uncertainty in Coping with Workplace Hazards

Alan HALL, Sociology, Memorial University, St. John's, NF, Canada

Abstract Text: Based on a qualitative study of 120 Canadian born and immigrant workers in unionized and non-unionized workplaces, this paper explores the different ways in which workers manage and cope with workplace safety hazards in contexts of varying forms of employment vulnerability and insecurity (Vosko, 2006). I examine the rationalizations, beliefs and identities that workers employ to dismiss or make sense of their risk-taking, while also considering the ways in which they seek to construct levels of control over hazards and security in their employment, in part through the building of knowledge and trust with other workers and supervisors. I also consider the contradictory nature of workers' actions which are frequently in tension with each other, including

taking safety risks to build employment security, as well as taking employment risks to establish limits to their acceptance of safety risks. In this latter part of the analysis, I explore the conditions and actions which limit worker compliance to certain levels and kinds of hazardous conditions, arguing that some workers are relatively successful in working either individually or with other workers to build what they see as a balanced level of safety and security.

Abstract id# 46116

Start Time: 4:15 PM

Coping with Risk and Uncertainty in Civil War. Community-Based Noncooperation Strategies in Colombia's Civil War

Juan MASULLO, Department of Social and Political Science, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Abstract Text: Although commonly portrayed as either mere victims or resources to be plundered, civilians in warzones face a wide number of possible responses to armed groups' demands and war strategies. Studies dealing with the micro-dynamics of civil war have informed us extensively on some of these responses, such as displacement, obedience and active collaboration. However, other responses such as resistance and defiance have attracted scant scholarly attention. Despite of the high risks involved and the high levels of uncertainty outcomes are subject to, unarmed civilians have chosen to defy armed groups through different strategies of noncooperation. This paper presents findings from a theory-driven empirical analysis of two communities that, in the midst of Colombia's civil war, chose noncooperation as a strategy to seek protection from armed groups' violence and rule: the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartadó (PCSJA) and the Peasant Worker Association of the Cararé River (ATCC). The aim is to explain what drove these communities to choose noncooperation over other possible responses by examining in detail rational, emotional and moral considerations behind the choice. Mechanisms such as pay-offs reassessment, belief (trans)formation, anger and resentment, norms of reciprocity, and moral outrage are spelled-out. Attention is paid to both the capacity and the desire to defy armed groups, and both pre-war conditions and processes that are endogenous to war are analyzed. A unique dataset on violent events at the village level and two rounds of fieldwork, including individual and group interviews and memory workshops with members of both communities, inform the analysis of the emergence of non-cooperation in warzones.

Abstract id# 51862

Start Time: 4:30 PM

Coping with Uncertainty in the Field of Health in Arakan (Burma)

Céline CODEREY, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Vezia, Singapore

Abstract Text: Based on fieldworks conducted in Arakan (Burma), in a Theravada Buddhist context, my paper describes the approaches used by Arakanese people to cope with uncertainty in the field of health. According to the local conception a person's state of health stems from a complexity of factors such as the person's karma, his mind, the relationship he has with the community and the spiritual world, the climate, the food and the planetary influence. Because of the instable nature of these factors and the complex relationships uniting them, people never know for certain whether they are well protected against diseases or not and thus live in a permanent state of uncertainty. The effort to maintain the harmony at all levels and be protected by dangers is a matter of the daily rituality through prayers, offerings, good deeds, etc. Moreover, there are occasions where the risk of danger is higher and more concrete, whether because has been predicted by an astrologer or because the person or the community lives temporarily in a vulnerable state (during childhood and pregnancy or when the karmic and planetary situation is adverse). In these cases, people resort to short-time protections focused on the vulnerable factors: they wear amulets, avoid specific foods, etc. Despite these preventions it happens that they face diseases and thus try to restore a certain state of well-being by acting on all the factors they consider involved: they buy medicines, consult an astrologer to positively orient the planetary influence, appeal to an exorcist to chase the malevolent force away, etc. Although these recourses are intended to cope with uncertainty they also involve a part of uncertainty. The choice among different practices and healers and the relationship people have with them is always imprinted with a complex interplay between trust and mistrust, risk and hope.

Abstract id# 48202

Start Time: 4:45 PM

Poplife. a Strategy to Mitigate the Social Risk

Letteria Grazia FASSARI, Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali e Economiche, Sapienza. Università di Roma, rome, Italy

Abstract Text: The research is centered on the hypothesis that the propensity of a significant number of young people to participate to a reality show is related to social risk and uncertainty in planning their own life. Such an hypothesis is captured under the concept of realtyism. From a theoretical point of view, "realtyism" may be defined as a social logic characterizing the relationship between reality and imagination as strategy to cope with fundamental social risk. Such a logic has been very pervasive in the past fifteen years in Italy as well as in many other countries. From an empirical standpoint, the research is supported by 750 video interviews, and pictures of individuals wishing to participate to the reality show "Big Brother" (Italian edition). The results show that realtyism is, in many cases, the response of individuals to the fragmentation and the precariousness of social experience from both neo-liberalism and failure of societal institutions in keeping alive the emancipatory promise. Particularly, the logics of the action of the young people surveyed are specified in two directions. In the first, they show a sort of "camouflage" through which they intend to mitigate the discovery of a social insecurity that becomes existential and that seeks to transform the feeling of confusion and demoralization in challenge and euphoria. In the second, participation to the reality show it is only a realistic strategy. They use imaginary to be able to live an "ordinary"

life that is now made impervious by social conditions. It is the project of life that is configured, today, for them, as " microutopia". As a result, the audition replaces the "social proof" and the Big Brother house becomes a space suspended between imagination and reality having the appearance of a melancholy therapy to survive.

Session Organizer

Patrick BROWN

University of Amsterdam

Netherlands

Phone Number: 31(0)205259111

Email: P.R.Brown@uva.nl -- Will not be published

Title: Emotions, Trust, Hope and Other Approaches to Coping with Vulnerability amidst Uncertainty. Part II

Slot: Monday, July 14, 2014: 5:30 PM-7:20 PM

Abstract id# 50226

Start Time: 5:30 PM

Trust Me If You Can: Trust As Strategic Tool for Decision Making to Deal with Ignorance and Uncertainty in Contaminated Sites of Germany and India

Pradip SWARNAKAR, Humanities and Social Sciences, ABV- Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Gwalior, Gwalior, MP, India, **Matthias GROSS**, Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany and Alena BLEICHER, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

Abstract Text: In this paper we will investigate the role of trust in decision making process under ignorance and uncertainty. Classical approaches to risk analysis are based on statistical calculations dependent on hitherto known variables. This research suggests that if knowledge for risk calculation is limited then the decision making of experts as well as 'lay' persons are dependent on their individual and intuitional trust. Based on newly emerging sociological theories of ignorance, this paper involves two field studies: redevelopment of contaminated sites in Germany and mitigation of groundwater arsenic contamination in India. Interestingly, in both the cases knowledge on underground processes is limited. Processes of cleaning-up in Germany usually are confronted with contaminations that had not been identified in investigation activities. Unexpected surprises by the actors often are taken as normalcy. In the Eastern Indian region, concentration of arsenic in groundwater increases due to geological processes in succession of a decreasing groundwater level, caused by human activities. So, today's clean water may be poisonous by arsenic tomorrow. This creates a situation of ambiguity and confusion. Stakeholders (from policy makers to local

inhabitants) have to take various pertinent decisions based on trust in individual, group or system. From the existing sociological literature the paper explores various dimensions of trust involved in decision making for both experts and non-experts.

Abstract id# 53411

Start Time: 5:45 PM

The Japanese Way of Coping with Vulnerability: Divisions Among Lay-People after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Miyoko ENOMOTO, School of Human and Social Sciences, Tokyo International University, Japan

Abstract Text: In Japanese society, in the discourses on ecological risks and health risks, we are all included in the terms mankind, global citizens, the nation, and consumers, all of whom bear responsibility for the earth or body in the future. There are tacit premises such as scientific correctness and rational choice that we should obey. We are expected to be good citizens. However, there is also the risk that discourse will lead to divisions among lay-people. By clarifying how the Japanese judge risk and make decisions when facing their fears in everyday life, we can see the divisions in society brought about by those decisions. This study involved a qualitative investigation based on interviews with various groups such as mother activists who aim to protect their children from radioactivity, volunteers who evacuated people from Fukushima, people who collect and dispense scientific information through SNS, people who are disinterested, and so on. Risk was what primarily divided my interviewees. For example, some people reported that they could not speak of their fears of things such as radioactivity because they wanted to maintain good relationships with others. Additionally, many people do not trust mass media reports and government announcement and thus they must decide for themselves what to do or whom to trust. For these respondents, preference was an important factor when they needed to judge which scientific discourse is correct. We can find many divisions related to many decisions and judgments, such as what or whom to trust, what media to use, what to eat, and where to live. By discussing why and how people are divided, and what drives people's emotional connections to each other, I suggest ways to resolve these divisions.

Abstract id# 53273

Start Time:

6:00 PM

Social Risks, the Nordic Welfare State and Institutional Trust – Do Migrants “Go Native”?

Barbara FERSCH, Department of Political Science, Centre for Comparative Welfare Studies (CCWS), Aalborg University, Aalborg Ø, Denmark and **Karen N. BREIDAHN**, Department of Political Science, Aalborg University, Aalborg Øst, Denmark

Abstract Text: In modern Western societies, the welfare state became a source of security against social risks. In general, social risks are often characterized by high uncertainty and vulnerability, e.g. concerning old age or unemployment. By granting a certain insurance against social risks the welfare state, conversely, provides the individuals with a certain “basis” for coping with social risks. However, what are the mechanisms that “translate” this basis into the individuals’ perceptions and understandings? Concerning this aspect, the role of institutional trust has been emphasized and characterized as both important for the individuals to handle social risks (i.e. “translation”) and the welfare state to gain and reproduce support by the citizens. The Nordic welfare states, characterized in general by a high social protection, universal, predominantly tax-financed welfare state arrangements, and comprehensive work/family policies, seem to do pretty well when it comes to trust, both concerning generalized social trust and institutional trust.

In this context, migrants in the Nordic countries constitute an interesting case – as newcomers to a high-trust country and thus its welfare state, how do they “adapt” concerning questions of how to handle social risks, the welfare state and institutional trust? Our empirical material consists of qualitative interviews with migrants in Denmark that contain e.g. topics like the migrants’ experiences with the Danish welfare state, their perception of it, how and if their perceptions on certain issues related to social risks have changed since their arrival in Denmark and how institutional trust is playing a role here. This gives us the possibility to shed light on mechanisms of (potential) institutional trust-building in the context of the Nordic welfare state.

Abstract id# 57920

Start Time: 6:15 PM

Coping Unpredictability – Hope and Orientation of Burkinabe University Graduates in Times of Uncertainty

Maïke BIRZLE, University of Basel, Switzerland

Abstract Text: This research examines the self-concepts and strategies of action of university graduates in Burkina Faso, who find themselves in uncertain situations due to the vast unemployment rates. Motivated by the wish to find well-paid jobs, which will allow them to live the life they want to live and to meet the expectations of their families and of society, they pursued university studies despite the costs and the expenditure of time as well as the unfavorable study conditions. Thus, university studies involve various risks, yet still the aspirations connected to an university degree outbalance the anticipated difficulties. University graduates are hoping for a golden opportunity, be it in the private or the public sector, bearing the possibility to fulfill one’s wishes concerning the future.

Given their uncertain situation, university graduates face major difficulties in planning their life, yet they hope that their situation will change in the foreseeable future, be it by the grace of god or by the emergence of new possibilities. The hope for a possible, maybe unforeseeable change is what

drives them in evolving various strategies which on the one hand might increase their chances on the labor market, but on the other hand also include certain risks.

Based on six months of empirical field research in Ouagadougou, this paper investigates how hope informs the anticipation university graduates have concerning their future life courses as well as the trust on which their navigation through omnipresent uncertainty towards an anticipated brighter future is based, and also on the various risks those strategies might contain.

Abstract id# 56918

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Faith and Uncertainty: Migrants' Journeys Between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore

Lois BASTIDE, Sociology, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Abstract Text: In Indonesia, transnational labor migrations have become a major source of foreign currency over the past twenty years. New migration routes are shaped by various forms of collaborations between official and irregular actors and networks. In this context, migrating becomes a very uncertain journey, and migrants are often subjected to abusive, sometimes violent or even deadly experiences abroad. Yet, the “migration industry” can count on increasing numbers of candidates. How, then, migrant workers relate to this risky adventure?

As it appears, local conceptions of “fate” help to neutralize fear: the opacity of migration routes is not conceived of in terms of uncertainty; as it is rather perceived in terms of destiny, and since destiny lays ultimately in the hands of God, dealing with it is a matter of *faith*: Only by surrendering sincerely to Allah is one able to insure his future in this dangerous milieu. In this cognitive framework, incidents are lived as *cobaan Tuhan* – godly trials –, full of meanings, which are meant to test one’s faith in God. And bad experiences, rather than being seen as *contingent* are perceived as godly signs, which need to be interpreted in order to comply with God’s will.

Laying on ethnographic materials collected during a 18 months fieldwork spread between Java, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, we will try to show how this *ethos* tends to reduce the perception of risk and/or uncertainty under the concept of *nasib* and/or *takdir* (fate; destiny), and through its connectedness to God and faith.

Abstract id# 57879

Start Time: 6:45 PM

Rebuild a Trust Relationship Between Doctors and Patients--Informal Exchange in Chinese Health Sector

Jiong TU, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: Trust lies at the heart of effective patient-doctor relationship. Chinese health sector is facing a trust crisis between patients and doctors as shown in the rising numbers of conflicts and dissensions. In seeking an accountable health care, patients widely employ informal exchange by giving gifts and red-packets to doctors, seeking connections and acquaintance relationship (guanxi) to get health care. The gift exchange and guanxi network involve the cultivation of emotion (renqing, ganqing, the emotional feelings of indebtedness and obligation), through which a trustworthy relationship is emergent and negotiated. However, in the changing moral context of China today, trust is very fragile amidst the inherent uncertainties of medical care. The individual efforts of gift-exchange and guanxi networking sometimes could not secure a trustworthy relationship, and patients frequently become the targets of defrauding, extortion and abuse of power. The paper, setting the context in the post-socialist China, shows how people try to counter the rising uncertainty in daily life and to secure a trustworthy doctor-patient relationship. It is about how trust is practiced, dismantled, and rebuilt in daily medical encounter. The paper recognizes the limits of individual informal exchange in building trust, and suggests more works to be done in building a trustworthy health system and improving the trust in society as a whole amid the wide mistrust.

Abstract id# 31991

Start Time: 7:00 PM (distributed paper)

A 'Ritual' of Surgical Mask Wearing in Japan: A Short History

Mitsutoshi HORII, Tourism and Business Management, Shumei University, Japan

Abstract Text: The practice of surgical mask wearing in Japan has been adopted by a significant proportion of the national population and has become embedded in people's everyday lives. This paper studies the practice as a 'ritual' and outlines its history in Japan. The notion of ritual is employed in this paper, not analytically, but operationally, in order to highlight the structural/functional aspect of the practice, by which individuals come to terms with invisible threats. In the 1920s, the practice of mask wearing, introduced from the West and conveying the symbolism of modern science, replaced pre-modern 'superstitious' rituals against flu in Japan. It started to be worn by healthy individuals in order to avoid infection, and spread as a matter of social etiquette to the infected, so as not to infect others. In addition to this usage, which continues up to the present, by the 1990s masks had become widely used by cedar pollinosis sufferers to avoid inhaling pollen. Some people wear masks in order to prevent their throats from drying up or to keep their faces warm, while others hide their faces behind masks for cosmetic or psychological reasons. More recently, radioactive particles from Fukushima and air pollution spreading from China have been added to the list of health risks to be minimised by wearing masks. Wearing a mask appears to provide peace of mind amidst uncertainties. Its instrumental value in reducing health risks is scientifically inconclusive. What is certain is that the practice precedes scientific discussions. The practice of mask wearing absorbs anxieties and uncertainties and restores a sense of security and self-control.

Session Organizer

Patrick BROWN
University of Amsterdam
Netherlands
Phone Number: 31(0)205259111
Email: P.R.Brown@uva.nl -- Will not be published

Title: Transparent Subjects: Risk, Surveillance and the Citizen

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 8:30 AM-10:20 AM

Abstract id# 39147

Start Time: 8:30 AM

Natural Surveillance: Google Trekker and the End of Wilderness

Randolph LEWIS, American Studies / Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Abstract Text:For individuals seeking refuge from the increasingly monitored spaces of urbanized “control societies,” the idea of untamed wilderness has long held a special appeal. Figuring prominently in various strains of ecological writing and literary romanticism, wilderness has also been central to various indigenous belief systems in the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand. In these contexts, wilderness has often been valorized as an aesthetic, moral, and national resource of the highest order, a sacred place for the regenerative experience of living “off the grid” of contemporary techno-culture.

However, new surveillance technologies are rapidly taming the wild, bringing it under the watchful eye of the governments, corporations, and private individuals who want to minimize risk and uncertainty in any environment---even where an element of risk has long been considered a virtue. Indeed, the rapid proliferation of capturing technologies such as UAVs, night-vision, CCTV, GPS and other forms of remote sensing is challenging long-held conceptions of nature as refuge. As the surveillance assemblage expands into the wild, finding an unobserved, or unobservable, spot will become increasingly difficult.

While Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg dreams of an “Open Planet” of total transparency, Google is bringing its “Streetview” concept to nature with “Google Trekker,” a backpack mounted data collection apparatus that is designed to illuminate the hidden recesses of the natural landscape. With satellite cameras, drones, and now Google Trekker looking over our shoulder even on the highest mountain peak, will we continue to imagine the regenerative power of wilderness in opposition to the enervating qualities of post-industrial life? Is desert solitude a bygone fantasy? By putting Google’s Trekker into dialogue with concepts of rugged individualism, wilderness, and frontier autonomy, this paper will explore the implications of “rural surveillance” phenomenon for national imaginaries and eco-consciousness generally.

Abstract id# 36882

Start Time: 8:40 AM

The Art of Governing in an Age of Revelation: On the Biopolitics of Biovisuality

Gavin SMITH, School of Sociology, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT, Australia

Abstract Text: This paper examines the transforming value, resolution and vitalism of the social body as it is increasingly informationalized, visualized and anatomized by multivalent systems of exposure. Multiplex biopolitical interests influence and incite these practices: wills to discern and direct consumption habits; ambitions to inscribe structured meanings upon somatic territories; and desires to better identify, verify and assess corporal components. An emerging confluence of biovisual imperatives, practices and flows are placing unique demands on embodied subjects, specifically concerning (a) the control, ownership and arrangement of personal information deriving from bodily interference, and (b) the types of performative exertions and authentication protocols that are now routinely requested and indeed expected at various visualization contact points (McGrath 2004; Andrejevic 2012). In an age of somatic magnification and scrutiny (Monahan and Wall 2007), where fleshy topographies are considered as stable sites for truth adjudication and as volatile sites for correctional modulation, the sociological imagination can help excavate several resonances attendant on the proliferation of biocapturing mechanisms and on concomitant conditions of biovisuality. As I will argue, repetitive bioexposure, as both involuntary dictate and volitional act, generates de-contextualized knowledge streams, the channeling of which can assist experts in sharpening their diagnostic definitions and honing their prognostic interventions. But it also produces curious subjectivation effects at the phenomenological level. Subjects become accustomed to exteriorizing interior confidences and revealing subjective states in the form of informatic particles (Foucault 1988). In this process, personal intimacies become public property, a situation inducing social harms and igniting insurgent possibilities. A critical consideration of these issues, specifically their interconnectedness and biopolitical significance, occurs in the paper as it focuses analytical attention on the types of subjectivity being fashioned from bodily transmissions and transitions.

Abstract id# 37620

Start Time: 8:50 AM

Transparent Patients: Addressing Risk in Health Information Exchanges

Martin FRENCH, Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University, Montréal, QC, Canada

Abstract Text: In the United States (US), Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) are emergent initiatives designed to pool the personal health information of individual patients in order to facilitate care. Proponents also hope that HIEs will support diverse secondary uses of health information (e.g. biomedical research, public health surveillance, comparative effectiveness research, etc.), thereby improving quality while also lowering care costs. Yet, while HIEs stand to transform systems care in some significant ways, they also generate new risks associated with the

ubiquitous flows of personal health information. Using documentary evidence (and informed by debates in content- and discourse-analysis), this paper considers how HIEs are conceptualizing, addressing, and attempting to manage emergent risks. With particular attention to the ways that patients are rendered transparent—and focusing on how they are made responsible for managing the risks associated with flows of their personal health information—this paper critically examines potential the unintended consequences of HIEs in the US.

Abstract id# 52941

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Security, Surveillance and Space: Contested Topologies of Anticipatory Urban Counter-Terrorist Surveillance

Pete FUSSEY, Sociology, University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: Drawing on data generated from ethnographic research and two years of interviews with counter-terrorism practitioners this paper analyses practices and arrangements of domestic security surveillance operations in two empirical case studies: the London Olympic security programme and, also, urban counter-terrorism surveillance measures in a British city. Particular emphasis is placed on the anticipatory turn in security practice and how collapsing distinctions between internal and external security draw multiple new actors and agencies into the dispatch of counter-terrorism and attendant surveillance practices. With them come diverse practices, orthodoxies, values, techniques, weightings of risk and ambitions for security and surveillance. The paper argues that topological approaches informed by Foucauldian notions of 'security' (2007) and biopolitics (2008) provide particular utility for understanding of these heterogeneous configurations, techniques and practice of surveillance. Such approaches not only provide conceptual tools to articulate the diversity, plurality, conflict and cohesion within CT practice but, also, capture how power simultaneously operates at different scales and for varying (sometimes competing) purposes. Moreover, the paper argues that such conceptualisations of security represent a move beyond territorial control to the management of circulations, where subjects are left in situ, but their mobilities are monitored, delineated and assessed and, ultimately, reclaims elements of Foucauldian surveillance-focused debate from the shadow of panoptic analyses.

Abstract id# 49754

Start Time: 9:10 AM

Transparency & Visible (Dis)Order: Surveillance and the Riots

Peter ROGERS, Sociology, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Abstract Text: This paper links the UK riots of August 2011 to citizenship and the subject through the lens of risk and resilience. It suggests that the rhetoric of responsabilisation and observational techniques/tactics in response to the riots reveal a moral ordering of the 'legitimate' citizen/subject

at odds with the rhetoric of inclusive resilience. The visibility of the disorderly citizen was used to objectify the 'risky subject'; turning the riots from a societal reaction (to the negative impacts of neoliberalization) into wanton criminality inherent to the 'worst 100,000 families' in Britain. This paper situates the disorderly and 'risky' citizen/subject within a critical reflection on risk, order and surveillance. It is argued that a complex interplay of thinking, doing and acting out citizenship forms tendential links between risk and surveillance that scholars need to investigate further.

Abstract id# 42931

Start Time: 9:20 AM

Tensions at the Frontline: Remediation-Work in the UK Travel Sector

Keith SPILLER¹, Kirstie BALL¹, Sally DIBB¹, Liz DANIEL¹, Maureen MEADOWS¹ and Ana CANHOTO²,
(1)OUBS, Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom, (2)Business School, Oxford Brookes,
Oxford, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: In response to recent terror attacks, Western governments now involve private sector organizations in national security regimes in key strategic areas such as travel, communication and financial services. The UK's eBorders programme is one such regime. Its goal is to collect and analyse passport and passenger data from all travellers entering and leaving the United Kingdom in advance of travel. Airlines and their supply chains are required to collect data from their customers and transfer it to the UK Border agency for processing. Using documentary and interview data, this article develops the concept of 'remediation-work' to characterise the impact of the regime on travel firms and their employees.

Session Organizer

Peter ROGERS

Dr:

Macquarie University

838, W6A

North Ryde

Sociology

Sydney, 2109

Australia

Phone Number: +61 98506781

Email: Peter.rogers@mq.edu.au

Title: Risk Governance and Regulation

Slot: Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 10:30 AM-12:20 PM

Abstract id# 38887

Start Time:

10:30 AM

Managing Uncertainty in Public Health Service Regulation: The Case of Nice Technological Appraisals

Michael CALNAN, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, **Ferhana HASHEM**, CHSS, University of Kent, canterbury, United Kingdom and **Patrick BROWN**, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Abstract Text:

This paper examines the ‘technological appraisals’ carried out by NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) as it regulates the provision of new drugs within the English NHS on cost effectiveness grounds. Regulators must assess and manage risk in order to ensure the effective functioning of the transactions which occur under their jurisdiction. Recent studies have argued that this role is more one of managing uncertainty than managing risk, but few investigations have explored how uncertainty is dealt with at the micro-level. In the context of our study, probabilistic data is derived from existing studies into the effects of a drug and modelled into quality adjusted life years (QALYs) as a means of comparing the cost per QALY of the particular drug for specific patient groups. Ostensibly this is a highly rational process by which the regulatory process absorbs uncertainty. In practice, and as found in a scoping study, things are far more complex and uncertain. This paper draws on ethnographic data – interviews with a range of stakeholders (including clinical and patient experts and representatives of the drug manufacturers) and decision-makers (n=40), observations of public and closed regulator meetings, and documentary analysis – of the decision-making process around three very different pharmaceutical products. The study explores the various ways in which different forms of uncertainty – epistemic, procedural, relational and others – are perceived, considered, presented and tackled within these drug appraisals. Special attention is paid to various techniques through which uncertainty and complexity are reduced and/or bracketed-off and how these techniques manifest themselves at the micro-interactional level. We also explore how broader organisational pressures and relations are translated into features of decision-making and shape how actors co-construct and cope with uncertainty.

Abstract id# 40340

Start Time:

10:40 AM

A Generalisable Promise of Risk? Risk-Based Self-Regulation and the Inherent Limits of State Intervention in German Occupational Health and Safety Governance

Regine PAUL and **Michael HUBER**, Sociology, Law and Society Unit, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Abstract Text:

In Anglo-Saxon academic discussions risk-based governance (RBG) has been identified as a method for rationalizing corporate and public governance processes top-down, i.e. offering a central management vision that can then ‘colonize’ other domains and organisations in regulatory processes. As such, risk seems to entail a universally applicable promise for central governments to remedy blame for failure all while managing tight budgets. But does this hold true in distinct institutional settings?

Starting from the empirical observation of occupational health & safety policies (OHS) in an international research project (HowSAFE), we find that, in Germany, risk approaches largely emerge in arenas outside the central state, with normative justifications, governance forms and organisational logics that seriously contradict Anglo-Saxon state-centric RBG notions. Moreover, regulation of workplace risks in German policies is characterised less by a coherent risk strategy than by pockets of risk-based governance. These have emerged, for instance:

- in the funding structure of the public accident insurance (classifying companies into risk groups)
- in research priority setting and prevention campaigns of mutual trade associations
- in inspection strategies of the Lander (risk-rationalizing the use of limited control resources)

These fragmented and scattered risk approaches in German OHS raise the issue of *risk-based self-regulation* as a so far rather misrecognised form of risk governance. To enlighten this blind spot, this paper examines the role of *territorial self-regulation* by the sixteen Lander in OHS policy enforcement and *public self-regulation* by nine para-public organisations which govern the accident insurance, compensation and prevention in specific economic sectors. We show how self-regulation absorbs blame for failure and cost-bearing and contains RBG relatively unencumbered by the state. We argue that self-regulation inherently limits accountability pressures for central government, thus dismisses the promise of risk, and challenges some key conceptual and empirical claims of the Anglo-Saxon risk regulation research.

Abstract id# 44192

Start Time:

10:50 AM

Managing Social Unrest through Risk: Reintroducing the Debate

Mikael LINNELL, Social Science, Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden

Abstract Text:

Sweden has in no way been spared from riots similar to those that took place in Parisian suburbs in 2005 and in the UK during 2011. Two events well known to the Swedish public were the manifestations of civil unrest in Malmö during the winter 2008 and Stockholm 2013. Recently municipalities in Sweden have begun to include the notion of social unrest in their local risk- and vulnerability analyses. Hence, social unrest is placed at the same ontological level as for example natural and manmade disasters, pandemics and climate change. Put differently, social unrest is managed by being represented as a risk phenomenon which consequently legitimizes specific measures to reduce the potential threat of societal disorder. Within the horizon of Foucauldian theorizing risk is employed here as a technology allowing “calculations about probable futures in the present followed by interventions into the present in order to control that potential future” (Rose 2001:7). In documents pertaining to local risk- and vulnerability analyses social unrest is thus considered a phenomenon with an existence in itself, while at the same time specific groups are defined as being both *at risk* and being *a risk* to societal order. With this background there seems to be reason for returning to an old sociological debate on the status of social unrest. During the 1970s, Herbert Blumer (1971; 1978) engaged deeply in the nature and role of social unrest, arguing that social problems are fundamentally products of a process of collective definition rather than phenomena existing independently as objective social arrangements. In this paper I return to Blumer’s writings aiming to find out what he has to offer in a discussion on the present development. In addition I describe through a Foucauldian lens the process through which social unrest is made manageable using the technology of risk.

Abstract id# 39663

Start Time:

11:00 AM

Division of Attention and Division of Labor in Child Protection Services

Stefanie BUECHNER, Organizational and Administrative Sociology, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

Abstract Text:

In recent years, the death of young children being processed as “cases” in youth service organizations (German: Jugendämter) has challenged politics and led to judicial and organizational reforms. Therefore, the vulnerable child has become a boundary object of risk management, prompting broad initiatives to improve child protection. This paper examines the introduction of special units or task forces in youth welfare organizations that deal with so-called risk-reports, mainly calls from citizens or institutions pointing to putative cases of children at risk.

This paper focuses on two insights of a qualitative case study in three youth welfare organizations, two of which work with specialized risk units. This division of labor goes hand-in-hand with a new division of attention and offers insights for the study of risk in case-based human service organizations.

First, it can be shown that the establishment of specialized risk assessment and processing units surprisingly did not lead to an asymmetric relationship between the members of the specialized units and “normal” case workers. By contrast, both sides cooperate on a strongly collegial basis. The second finding points to the different modes that specialized risk units have developed. Whereas one task force works on a mode that can be characterized as “emergency service”, another defines their work close to what can be termed as “investigation service”. The former mode adopts a clear cut one-zero scheme of risk assessment and underlines people processing aspects of their work, whereas the contrary is true in the case of the latter. Here, the deep rules of the team state ambiguities and uncertainties as “normal” and reject clear cut risk assessments while underlining the people-changing aspects of their work. These two arrangements in the distribution of attention through the division of labor lead to different forms of uncertainty and risk management.

Abstract id# 50616

Start Time:

11:10 AM

The Polemic of Sea LEVEL RISE: Unlocking the Potential of Social Learning for Improved Climate Risk Governance in LOCAL Governments of Australia

Asiyah KASSIM, Research School of Sociology, The Australian National University (ANU), Canberra ACT, Australia

Abstract Text:

Sea level rise is one of the most critical climate change impacts that could exacerbate shoreline erosion, storm surge and flooding. As it represents complex, uncertain and significant environmental, financial, social and legal risks to coastal populations, it demands a rethink of institutional arrangements for risk governance in the whole system of Australian coastline (Abel et al., 2011; Ryan et al., 2011; Leitch and Robinson, 2012). However there are challenges like conflicting expectations and normative judgements of values, contradictory perspectives of evidences and knowledge to deal with (Leitch and Robinson, 2012). Accordingly, the government will need to balance the aspiration, expectations and values of coastal communities by taking into account the social dimensions of uncertainty which hold a vital role in the ability of local authorities to shift to new governance and practices (Leitch and Robinson, 2012; Taylor et. al., 2012; Susskind, 2013). Failure to realize this may jeopardize the objectives of building trust, legitimacy and cooperation in risk management and impair the ideas of deliberation and inclusion desired for improved risk governance. Thus translating this quest into practical strategies is of paramount. This study aims to explore sociologically-informed approaches to risk governance through deep investigation and understanding of how social learning underpins risk perception, communication and decision making through negotiation and compromises and that it holds potentials to improve risk governance. Theories orientations for the research derived from Luhman's System Theory and Social Amplification of Risk Framework (SARF). This study embarks on interpretive case study involving local governments in Australia with local government officers and local communities as unit of analysis. The findings that revealed the implications and explicit attention of social learning in risk decision making will be the basis of practical intervention for future risk policy making as well as extending the current sociological theories of risk.

Abstract id# 44073

Start Time:

11:20 AM

Excavating Risk Dialectics: On the Multivalent Dimensions of Disaster Prevention

Vanessa MCDERMOTT, School of Sociology, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia and Gavin SMITH, School of Sociology, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT, Australia

Abstract Text:

An extensive research literature now examines both the prevalence and causality of disasters within complex socio-technical systems (Vaughan, 1996; Snook, 2000; Hopkins, 2010; Hayes, 2012). These studies evince that disasters are as much an outcome of social relations as they are a result of technical failings. With this framework in mind, we explore empirically alternate definitions of risk amongst a range of stakeholders with primary and secondary

responsibilities for ensuring the security – and integrity – of natural gas supply in Australia. This involves tracing how risk perceptions are contingent on social positioning in politico-industrial ‘fields of practice’ and differ markedly according to factors like identity, expertise, resource capital and organisational role. We focus attention initially on how pipeline design engineers perceive risk vis-à-vis industry concerns that revolve principally around asset protection, public safety, legal obligation, insurance burden and reputational management. We then critically compare this risk burden with a variant borne by a different set of actors, those whose mundane activities pose a constant threat to gas pipeline stability. Although the actual harms that ‘excavation workers’ confront - i.e. operators of excavating equipment who might be either utility company and local council contractors or landowners - are similar to those visualized by pipeline maintainers (loss of life, loss of supply, loss of contract, loss of material resources) the former group bear a differing set of values, interests and ambitions in terms of how they formulate risk imaginaries. Moreover, they face divergent external pressures and accommodate contrasting internal desires, a situation shedding light on the pluralised, but socially conditional, nature of risk perception and the multivalent elements influencing disaster prevention procedures. In particular, the paper reveals risk perceptions to be dialectical in essence: orientated to a similar conception of envisaged harm but shaped by discrete contexts and circumstances.

Abstract id# 50086

Start Time:

11:30 AM

Construction of Knowledge Around Risk and Regulatory Practices Among Pipeline Industries in Australia

Dolruedee KRAMNAIMUANG KING, School of Sociology, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia

Abstract Text:

This research assesses the gas pipeline industry in Australia in relation to risk, regulatory practices and its comparatively strong safety record. It may be held as an exemplar to examine: how is knowledge of industrial risk in the Australian pipeline industry constructed and performed by regulators? In tackling the question, this research takes discourse analysis combined with a semiotics of materiality Actor-Network Theory approach; giving new emphasis to non-human entities (e.g. gas, risks, techno-measuring devices and regulatory apparatus) interacting with actors (e.g. regulators, company safety officers, workers and communities) in generating knowledge-power and actions around the regulatory process of governing industrial risks from hazardous industries. The entry point is technically-informed regulators, assumed to have good risk-management knowledge. The research explores three

relationships among these entities. First, relationships between regulators and non-human entities: e.g. how regulators develop their knowledge-power and take their actions influenced by a legal concept (as low as reasonably practicable – ALARP); and how regulators interpret their responsibility in the process of hazard identification and assessment? Second, relationships among regulators, companies and non-human entities (e.g. a concept of responsive regulation) are considered: how do regulators exercise their discretion either to support or command the companies? Third, relationships among regulators, companies, workers, the public and non-human entities are assessed: e.g. how do regulators perceive the roles and participatory actions of workers and the public in breaking regulatory capture, balancing power, and managing industrial risks? The findings may reveal inconsistencies hidden in processes, leading to a better understanding of how to manage, govern and mitigate risks and improve regulatory practices and effectiveness.

Abstract id# 68146

Start Time:

11:30 AM

Credit Ratings As Mediating Devices Between Governments and Financial Markets

Natalia BESEDOVSKY, Institute of Social Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Abstract Text:

Governments increasingly rely on expertise from outside the political apparatus, and adopt the technologies and vocabularies of these experts. The tendency to shift from state control to governance through self-monitoring and expertise are examples of the limited control of political rule-makers. These experts and their techniques of notation, computation and calculation often belong to the same field the governments are regulating. For the regulation of financial markets, for instance, regulators rely on data gathered, aggregated and interpreted by financial experts. One example is the use of credit ratings, which assess the credit risk of securities, in financial regulation.

In this paper, I argue that the ideas of the political field differ fundamentally from those of the financial field with regards to risk, especially with the question of how risk should be handled. I use documents of U.S. regulatory agencies and expert interviews with rating analysts to contrast the main logic of financial regulation – stability and risk minimizing – with the financial logic of risk –as opportunity to make profit. Credit ratings served as mediating devices that link the field of finance to the field of governance. Ratings were able to absorb and conceal the differences and contradictions in assessing risk through ratings. For a while, ratings were successful in mediating between these fundamentally different logics. Regulators were provided with a tool to govern financial markets without having to bother about technical details of risk assessment, while investors could use the veil of triple-A approved ‘safe investments’ to continue maximizing their profits. The financial crisis,

however, disrupted the temporary stability and unveiled the inherent tensions and contradictions in the different meanings and uses of ratings.

Abstract id# 62975

Start Time:

11:30 AM

Governance of Pension Funds Investment Decisions Between Financial and Social Returns

Thomas MASSALA, Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, BATH, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

Funded mode of pension financing has been a common ingredient of pension reform agenda in the context of international efforts to cope with demographic and economic challenges that pension systems face. However, a central concern involves the consideration of additional risks in funding and how these are addressed in order to maintain core pension system objectives, like adequacy, security and intergenerational equity. Governance, including regulation of investment decisions around pension resources is a crucial variable to these concerns, given that related decisions carry risks and implications for pension system objectives. Despite an increasing interest in the governance shaping pension funds decisions, evaluations of the latter are overwhelmingly driven by economic rationalities, very often at the detriment of adequacy, security and equity. On the other hand, social policy literature mostly focuses upon the consequences of these decisions on pension income, rather than upon the governance of pension funds investment decisions that cause them. The paper argues that research on pension fund governance is either driven by economic rationalities, or focused upon insulated aspects of governance or regulation or the role of actors involved into decision-making. Within the latter, I aim to adopt a holistic approach in order to deconstruct the way in which actors interpret regulations and proceed to pension funds investment decisions, along with their implications for pension systems objectives.

Abstract id# 67209

Start Time:

11:30 AM

Can God Save the Financial Markets? Islamic Finance As an Aspiring New Paradigm for the Governance and Regulation of Financial Risk

Ryan CALDER, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, Oakland, CA

Abstract Text:

Proponents of Islamic finance claim that it offers a new paradigm for governing and regulating financial risk. This paper explores whether it actually does so. Islamic finance emerged in the 1960s and 1970s with aspirations to build a separate and superior financial system. This system was supposed to help Muslims avoid interest, excessive speculation, the sale of debt and risk, and unclear contracts. Crucially, all of these prohibitions are designed to link financial activity to the real economy. All Islamic financial transactions, for example, must be directly connected to the buying, selling, or leasing of real goods or services, based on the Quranic principle that “Allah has permitted trade and forbidden usury.” Today, such Islamic financial rules are enforced by “shariah supervisory boards”: panels of experts in classical Islamic jurisprudence who oversee Islamic financial institutions and Islamic financial markets, serving as ethical gatekeepers for the industry. Does Islamic finance, with its system of shariah supervisory boards, offer a successful model for reducing systemic financial instability? Could Islamic finance prevent financial crises? I tackle these questions based on the results of 16 months of ethnography, participant observation, and interviews with leading figures in the Islamic financial industry. The paper focuses in particular on controversial recent innovations in the Islamic financial industry that seem to bring it ever closer to the sort of conventional financial activities that the early theoreticians of Islamic finance criticized: the construction of “shariah-compliant” unsecured loans, trading in shariah-compliant derivatives, and even efforts to launch shariah-compliant hedge funds. I conclude that Islamic finance is riven by a struggle between two factions, and that the future prospects for sound regulation and governance in Islamic finance will depend on the outcome of this struggle.

Session Organizer

Jens O. ZINN

University of Melbourne

Australia

Email: jzinn@unimelb.edu.au -- Will not be published

* ISACONF Member

Title: Risk in a Life Course Perspective

Slot: Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 3:30 PM-5:20 PM

Abstract id# 40617

Start Time:

3:30 PM

Growing up with a Childhood Liver Transplant: Medical 'Pioneers' and Beck's Normativity of Diversity

Karen LOWTON¹, Chris HILEY¹ and Paul HIGGS², (1)Institute of Gerontology, King's College London, London, United Kingdom, (2)Mental Health Sciences, University College London, London, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

The concept of a stable biographical narrative and its potential undermining by long term health conditions is one that underpins much medical sociology. This is particularly true of chronic illness rather than acute conditions constituting forms of biographical disruption. More recently, the influence of approaches derived from theories of reflexive modernity have started to challenge the salience of the modernist or standardised life course, introducing notions of indeterminacy and contingency into how individuals construct individualised narratives of the self. Consequently, health conditions can constitute identity rather than be threats to it. Ulrich Beck has also argued that not only is reflexive modernization (or second modernity) constituted by the 'side effects' of modernist discourses such as those surrounding the welfare state or modern science but that this has also given rise to a 'normativity of diversity' which has replaced the more simple normativity of previous societies. This is not only witnessed in terms of the makeup of household structures, sexuality, marriage and employment but also extends to notions of health, disability and human embodiment. This presentation will look at how social theory can help us understand the situation of the cohort of adults who were the first European recipients of liver transplants as children. The first childhood liver transplants took place in the early 1980s and this group has had to act as a 'pioneer' cohort all through their lives, dealing with the risks of transplant surgery, underlying syndromes, comorbidities and side-effects of medication as previously unencountered phenomena. Through analysis of in-depth interviews with 27 now-adult survivors of this cohort, we report how both biographical narrative is constructed in the face of ever present risk and how these 'pioneers' represent aspects of the normativity of diversity.

Abstract id# 64695

Start Time:

3:45 PM

Fiorella MANCINI, UNAM, Mexico City, Mexico

Abstract Text:

Global labor markets and the internationalization of economies have changed the kind and nature of social risks. Life subject to comprehensive job security systems is questioned in different societies. In this context, the paper considers contradictory hypotheses on occupational life course related with work uncertainties:

- Standardization process: progressive concentration of biographical transitions on specific ages related with tripartition of work careers: education- work- retirement.
- Individualization of occupational life course: pluralization and de-standardization of individual labor trajectories.

The main of the paper is to analyze the links between job uncertainty and life course in Argentina and Mexico, in three cohorts. The aim is to develop an empirical approach to life course perspective linking it with a sequential analysis to:

- Model individual trajectories of occupational status related with job uncertainties (identifying different typologies of risks).
- Assess the social conditioning of these trajectories, namely the influence of socio economic status, educational level, family structure and birth cohort.

Optimal Matching Analysis is applied to model time-related processes in order to identify labor trajectories typologies. The premise of this method is to consider empirical sequences of events in labor trajectories and compare them to existing theoretical models rather than defining them a priori on theoretical grounds. Data come from the Retrospective Survey of Labor Insecurity 2011.

The results of the analysis suggest:

- The tripartition model exists but it is gendered and different for each cohort.
- There is no unique model to link individualization of occupational life course and risks typologies. Rather, this link is dependent on: 1. Family and occupational constraints; 2. Social resources and; 3. Institutional performances in each country.
- These results indicate new kinds of social inequalities, by means of widespread labor uncertainty and individualization of work trajectories, that implies new challenges for how we do research in the fields of social risks.

Abstract id# 52636

Start Time:

4:00 PM

Fertility of Young Adults and the Business Cycle at College Graduation

Barbara HOFMANN, University of Mannheim and Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany
and **Katrin HOHMEYER**, Institute for Employment Research, Germany

Abstract Text:

As the global economy is experiencing the Great Recession knowing about potential long-lasting demographic effects of economic uncertain times is important. We address adverse effects of economic downturns on fertility by studying whether the unemployment rate in the year of graduating from university affects fertility among university graduates. Do university graduates postpone parenthood in economically uncertain times or do they use the economic boosts to start a family? We use German survey data of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) to answer this question. Covering a long observation period of over 30 years we investigate the impact of the unemployment rate in the year of college graduation on the probability of (the partner) becoming pregnant in the two years after graduation. Our first results indicate that the higher the unemployment rate is when young adults graduate from university the lower is their (partner's) probability to become pregnant within two years after graduation. The first findings suggest that the effects are slightly stronger for women than for men.

Abstract id# 62162

Start Time:

4:15 PM

Unemployment and Precarious Occupational Integration: The Unequal Distribution of Risk. the Case of Switzerland

Pierre-Alain ROCH, ISS, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland and **Mailys KORBER**, ISS, Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Abstract Text:

Labor relations have undergone significant changes over the last decades. Job precariousness and work precariousness weaken assured and stable occupational integrations. These changes challenge rigid, continuous and foreseeable conception of occupational career (the choice of a profession, training, labor market integration, promotion and retirement), and question both material and symbolic recognition that are linked to professional activities. Facing this rise of uncertainties, we first analyze how unemployment periods impact job recovery in terms of 1) level of individual and household income 2) job quality (job and work precariousness) 3) social mobility (using social stratification schemas: CAMSIS and CSP-CH), in order to determine if people know stability, improvement or deterioration of their situation. We then identify how particular groups of people are unequally exposed to these three potential forms of changes, and particularly in terms of nationality, sex, education, age and presence of children in the household. The relation between these variables and the observed effects are analyzed with a logistic regression that includes interactions between the dependent variables. We use longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) between 1999 and 2012. The SHP is a yearly conducted centralized CATI panel survey which started in 1999 with slightly more than 5,000 households, representative for the Swiss resident population.

Abstract id# 38095

Start Time:

4:30 PM

The Subjective Experiences of Three Different Generations during the Greek Economic Crisis

Athanasia CHALARI, HELLENIC OBSERVATORY, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, LSE, & SENIOR LECTURER:
UNIV OF WORCESTER, LONDON, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

This study reveals the subjective experiences of three generations as they narrate their lived experiences while Greek society is changing; in particular the impact of this change on them and how they have responded to it. This study focuses on the ways these generations perceive the Greek crisis: the younger (20-30), the middle (30-40) and the older (40-55) by examining the different ways that lived experiences are revealed. It has been confirmed that the impact of the dramatic economic, political, historical and social transformations in Greece is twofold: there has been an undeniably negative and harmful effect on Greeks' everyday lives as well as a reorientation and re-prioritisation of ways of thinking, acting and behaving. The Greek case serves as an example of a society that is currently undergoing significant social, political and economic alterations reflected in the dramatic change in everyday living, thinking and acting.

Abstract id# 50531

Start Time:

4:45 PM

Perceiving, Managing and Negotiating Risky Behaviours from Adolescence to Early Adulthood

Kristy MUIR, Centre for Social Impact, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Abstract Text:

Young people's transitions from adolescence to adulthood are individualized, risk taking is normalized, and individual choices, behaviours and actions can have significant implications for future social and economic outcomes (Beck, 1992; Giddens, 1991). Yet young people's choices and behaviours are also set within and influenced by their peers, families and communities (Bronfenbrenner, 1986, 1977). While previous research has examined risk taking behaviours of young people and the influences and drivers of these, we have a limited current understanding of how, why and under what circumstances young people from different family, community and economic contexts negotiate and make decisions about risky behaviours and who and what they draw on to make these decisions. Based on an Australian Research Council grant, this paper uses Australian Bureau of Statistics data and interviews with 70 young people from different social, economic and community contexts across Australia to understand how young people define, perceive, manage and experience risk taking behaviours and the supports and resources they draw on in making their decisions. Using an ecological framework, this paper aims to identify areas of support at the kitchen, community and policy tables that may assist young people in negotiating risk as they move through adolescence to early adulthood.

Abstract id# 34632

Start Time:

5:00 PM

In and Out Of Dropout: The Pathways Of Transitions To Adulthood Of School Leavers

Lucia TRAMONTE and James DUNBAR, Sociology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, Canada

Abstract Text:

School dropout is a social process whereby individuals' behavioural, emotional, and formal learning trajectories interweave with institutional resources devoted to promoting effective and successful transitions to adulthood. Expanding on school leavers research done by Janosz and his colleagues (1997 and 2009) and by Willms (2012), we integrate the analysis of risk factors associated with school dropout into the analysis of pre and post drop out trajectories, particularly trajectories that are not red-flagged by the stereotypical presence of low socioeconomic background, poor academic achievement, school and social disengagement or dysfunction.

Two Canadian longitudinal datasets, the National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth (NLSCY) and the Youth In Transition Study (YITS), will be analyzed to investigate three general questions:

1. What are the behavioral, emotional, and learning trajectories, from birth to age 18, of students who leave secondary school before graduation?
2. How do individual, family, and social risk factors interplay and alter the intersection of behavioural and learning trajectories of students prior to dropping out?
3. How do different types of *early leavers* transition to adulthood?

Using multilevel growth models, we will produce clusters of growth trajectories corresponding to types of school leavers. These clusters will be defined by the differential presence of risk factors and their relative effects on the growth trajectories. Finally, we will study how different types of school leavers transition to adulthood. We aim at discerning what risk factors compound in a life course to jeopardize a smooth transition to adult life by implementing the approach suggested by Billari and Piccarreta (2005) which embeds multiple trajectories in the sequence analysis framework based on Optimal Matching Analysis (OMA) (Sankoff and Kruskal, 1983).

Abstract id# 40245

Start Time:

5:15 PM

Life Course Opportunities and Uncertainties in Transforming Society – Managing the Transition into the Labor Market in Late-Developing Cambodia

Chivoïn PEOU, University of Melbourne, Australia

Abstract Text:

The generalized 'late' modern change, including post-industrial capitalism and increased individualization, has by now become a powerful tool for youth and life course sociology to

describe emerging patterns, risks and uncertainties of modern lives. Although research has increasingly been focused on the risk and uncertainty experienced as part of personal biographies via their socially differentiated positions, a Eurocentric standpoint remains influential as recent life course changes and risks are seen as diverging from the modern industrial 'normal' life course. This paper attempts at a complex exploration of the embeddedness of opportunities and risks in the individual's social context and biographical experiences. First, I will position the contemporary transformation of Cambodian society in the context of modernization theory (Beck 1992; Giddens 1990) and debate on the varieties of modernity (Chang 2010; Eisenstadt 2000; Schmidt 2010) to make a case for a more specific examination of change toward a modern society. I will then reconstruct the processes of Cambodian transformation and how they feed into the opportunities and risks for new life courses. A theoretically informed but empirically grounded typology of biographical management, based on a study of the life experiences and expectations of different social groups of Cambodian young people (n=51), will be used to illustrate how the opportunities and uncertainties in the new life course are differently managed based on socio-cultural and individual resources during the transition into the labor market and toward adulthood. This shows that in the context of compressed modern transformation, not only does the life course encounter both new risks and opportunities, but it also requires a mix of traditional and modern frameworks and resources to deal with inherent uncertainty.

Abstract id# 38844

Start Time:

5:30 PM

Japanese Risk Society: The Changing Policies and the Role of Families

Mika MERVIÖ, Department of Social Sciences, Kibi International University, Okayama-shi, Japan

Abstract Text:

While the Japanese state has used its power and financial resources without hesitation in some fields such as public construction it has conserved resources by making people face many social risks, such as most family-related risks and unemployment, the best way that they can. If people fall ill or face other individual problems Japanese society often has surprisingly little room for such values as social solidarity and compassion. On the other hand, there have been social practices that have served to soften the image of Japanese working life practices, such as the strong emphasis on lifelong employment and relatively small wage differences among employees, especially among the elite salarymen (*sararîman*). The characteristics of the Japanese model of risk society are that the weak political leadership muddles along with the rest of the societies with globalisation and most sectors of the society need to adjust to the changed realities the best way they can. On the one hand Japanese society has its cultural values emphasising the merits of social harmony and virtues of

intersubjective practices. However, conflicts have always existed openly or been managed under the facade of harmony and the new era of even weaker national governance, accelerated by the process of decentralisation (*chiho bunken*) and deepening fiscal crisis (making politicians powerless and leaving people on their own) have imposed individualisation on Japanese people from above. This individualisation has already encompassed every corner of Japanese society and the impact has been drastic for families. While the Abe administration has shown determination to address foreign, defence and economic & trade policies, the issues of social policy have clearly not been given priority and have been left to traditional institutions, especially to families.

Abstract id# 52973

Start Time:

5:30 PM

Normalcy after Stroke: Spousal Caregiving and Management of Uncertainties

Mutsumi KARASAKI, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, Caulfield East, Victoria, Australia

Abstract Text:

Stroke is usually characterised by sudden onset, and what follows may be a fluctuating and long-term recovery trajectory marked by uncertainties. In particular stroke, which is commonly considered a disease of old age, may pose various risks and uncertainties in the life course and biography of working age patients and their carers, who are often spouses. While chronic illnesses such as stroke have been widely conceptualised as ‘biographical disruption’ (Bury, 1982) for both patients and carers, this notion has also been contested on the basis that not all cases of chronic illness can be seen exclusively as ‘disruption’. In this paper, I explore experiences of spousal carers of people who have had a stroke whilst in their working age (25-55). Drawing on qualitative data collected through 17 ethnographic in-depth interviews with spousal carers in Victoria, Australia, this paper demonstrates that their responses to stroke and the caregiving role vary across different social positions and contexts. Some participants were striving to regain a sense of normalcy, others somewhat reluctantly accepted the ‘new normal’, while yet others embraced the ‘new normal’. Departing from conceptualising carers as agentively mobilising resources and navigating a biographically uncertain trajectory in an attempt to regain normalcy, I argue that their responses are better understood as a course of action enacted by a network of individual, medical and healthcare, social, and political actors. In this respect, I suggest that responsibility is necessarily distributed, and challenge the increasingly common construction in policy and healthcare settings of informal carers as choice-making service users. By doing so, this paper aims to generate a basis on which service providers, healthcare practitioners, policy makers and

members of the wider society can engage in a constructive and critical discussion towards creating a ‘caring society’.

Abstract id# 34319

Start Time:

5:30 PM

The Recalibration Of Old Age Pension System In Taiwan: The Institutional Life Course Policy Perspective For Civic Participation

Chih-lung HUANG, Public Policy and Management, I-Shou University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Abstract Text:

With the increasing pressure brought by the aging population and its associated fiscal burden, the Pension System Reform Group of Executive Yuan (行政院年金改革小組) in Taiwan has launched a recalibration for the old age pension system. This article tries to understand the Executive Yuan’ reform plan. Through the perspective of institutional life course policy for civic participation, I will try to understand the policy implication for the pension system reform, especially for the civic participation behind the pension system for individual and family life. In addition, I will also evaluate and rethink the normative foundation for the old age pension system reform plan.

Session Organizer

Dan WOODMAN

Dr:

University of Melbourne

John Medley Building

University of Melbourne

3072

Australia

Phone Number: +61383449081

Email: dan.woodman@unimelb.edu.au -- Will not be published

* ISACONF Member

Title: Education and the Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Slot: Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 5:30 PM-7:20 PM

Abstract id# 41642

Start Time: 5:30 PM

The PhD Degree and Weber's Concepts of Rationality

Christian MAURI, Social Sciences, Murdoch University, Fremantle, Australia

Abstract Text: The decision to pursue a PhD degree is attended by considerable uncertainty over career outcomes. This is becoming increasingly so, as the gap between the demand for full time academics in the university workforce and the supply of PhD recipients continues to widen in many countries. No longer does a PhD guarantee secure employment. Add to this the large amount of time and student fees invested in a PhD, and it raises the question of why would anyone undertake a PhD?

Using Weber's concepts of rationality, the paper will argue that attention must be given to the substantive rationality that is involved in the decision to pursue a PhD. The PhD degree has a dual character: as an institutionally based course in which successfully producing an original contribution to a field can result in the award of a certificate that serves as a gateway into a career; and as a powerful social symbol which is associated with certain myths, values, status and aspirations that can be personally rewarding.

As higher institutions increasingly become subject to neoliberal trends that are transforming the way that PhDs are conceived and structured (such as the growing preference towards theses-by-publication over traditional monographs, alignment of research topics with institutional research priorities and a tightening of candidature time limits), the relationship of substantive rationalities of PhD students to more formal rationalities of higher education institutions is becoming increasingly problematic. As pressures grow on PhD students to align their studies with institutional expectations and also those of a competitive career market, this paper will examine the ways in which students and institutions are negotiating the risks and uncertainties surrounding PhD degrees in light of the push and pull of multiple rationalities.

Abstract id# 52887

Start Time: 5:42 PM

Working on Futures, Reducing Risk – University Graduates in Mali and Their Strategies of Action

Susann LUDWIG, Centre for African Studies, Centre for African Studies Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Abstract Text: The research examines the conditions and opportunities of university education in Mali. The West African state counts two state universities, five state graduate schools and various private universities. The capital city's University of Bamako with more than 80 000 students is obviously the center of higher education. Facing precarious conditions due to the shortage of means and professors the majority of students manage nevertheless to successfully graduate. Being young and highly qualified, university graduates are still strongly affected by unemployment.

Given the problematic conditions of studies and the major difficulties entering the labor market, a university degree does not create the certainty expected, but provides and even provokes risk again. Consequently, the main questions to be answered are: Why do young Malians study nevertheless? And how do young academics cope with a situation characterized by uncertainty and unpredictability?

Achieving individual life goals demands decision-making processes characterized by the evaluation and reevaluation of personal circumstances and risks. The application of a biographical approach will highlight how university graduates work on their situations in order to reduce future risks. Based on six months of field research in Bamako, this predominantly empirical paper will investigate past, present and future aspirations and subsequent strategies of action deployed by university graduates in Mali focusing on how risk is perceived, evaluated and dealt with.

Abstract id# 54162

Start Time: 5:54 PM

Risking It? Upper Social Class and School Choice in Finland

Sonja KOSUNEN, University of Helsinki, Finland

Abstract Text: The uncertainties and risks families are facing concerning educational choice have both, local and global influences. The neo-liberal market mechanisms promoting educational choice in educational systems move the responsibility of successful choice increasingly on individuals. The individualized responsibility is partly replacing the 'collective assurance against risk', and as it increases individual risk, it might lead to social closure and enabling the strengthening of the 'lines of social division in the community'. In the context of educational choice this touches upon the discourse around choice and distinction between social classes. Despite the privileged educational trajectories can still be obtained by context-relevant use of economic, social and cultural capital, the changes in the educational provision and basis of selection to prestigious institutions produce new arenas for competition. This challenges the privileged position of upper-class children in the competition of the best education available, and makes examining their educational choices relevant.

The aim was to examine the educational discourse of the upper-class parents of children entering lower-secondary school, and investigate how their hopes and fears regarding their children's education intertwine both with the considered risks and their trust in the Finnish education system. The data consist of semi-structured interviews conducted in Finland and France (Vantaa, Espoo, Paris) with parents (n=19) who have experience on educational policies and practices in Finland and

abroad, and as contrasting data, interviews with parents with no such international experience (n=78). The interviews were analysed by using qualitative content analyses. Preliminary results show that parents trust and value Finnish education and especially the value-base behind it. Still, their conceptions regarding competition, uncertainties, risk and the definitive nature of educational choices seem to have absorbed some 'international fears'. This contributes to the construction of the social reality and subtle social distinctions in the Finnish school choice space.

Abstract id# 60970

Start Time: 6:06 PM

Trajectories of Risk and Uncertainty? Medical School Students and Their Vocational Choices

Maria Manuel VIEIRA, Social Sciences Institute, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

Abstract Text: In Portugal, the imposition of a *numerus clausus* system at the HE entrance has contributed to the strengthening of a hierarchy of excellence in the school system. At the same time, it has introduced an increased uncertainty regarding the possibility to accomplish future projects and ambitions.

The case of medical courses has been paradigmatic in this regard. Its high demand has fixed permanently, academic excellence as an entry requirement. The access to a medical school implies some effort and sacrifices that not every young student is willing to take. Namely, because it implies a tension between the need to invest in studying on a highly competitive basis (thus focusing on future projects) and the desire to invest in youth sociability practices, under a high peer pressure (which are rooted on the present). Obtaining and maintaining high grades along the secondary education is a long-term process (built during the three years of secondary education), but highly *uncertain* and *risky*: a single moment (an exam, an assessment) can ruin everything. This presentation aims to analyze the processes involving Medical School entrance in Portugal. In particular, we intend to confront students' investment on a highly competitive vocational pathway (Medicine) with their awareness of risks that may emerge along with their option. The analysis is drawn upon data collected within the project "Failure and dropout at the University of Lisbon: scenarios and trajectories", a recently completed research project sponsored by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (Project No. PTDC/ESC/64875/2006). In particular, it will explore data from in-depth interviews conducted in the academic year 2009/2010 to the students that in the previous academic year had entered the 1st year of medical school at the University of Lisbon.

Abstract id# 40501

Start Time: 6:18 PM

Risk and Reform in the Japanese Education System

Robert ASPINALL, Social Systems, Shiga University, Hikone, Shiga, Japan

Abstract Text: This paper argues that the Risk Society paradigm developed by Ulrich Beck provides a framework that can reconcile the twin developments affecting Japanese education at the start of the 21st Century: the parallel trends of individualization and globalization. In Japan, education reform proposals from the 1980s onwards have aimed at encouraging a freer educational environment that can nurture strong individuals and future entrepreneurs. The Ministry of Education has also consistently argued for reforms that can better prepare young people for the challenges of globalization. Traditionally, however, educational practice in Japan has stressed group harmony and cooperation and so the forces that resist change are considerable. Most efforts to reduce pressures to conform to the group, therefore, have had disappointing results, as have programs designed to encourage greater communication with foreigners. The government's inability to bring about meaningful reform to the education system has resulted in a failure to prepare young people for the challenges of contemporary society. Young people who do not have the skills to negotiate the new social and economic landscape are increasingly falling into low-paid, insecure employment, or withdrawing completely from society. This has given rise to the phenomenon of *hikikomori*; wherein large numbers have confined themselves to their rooms and cut all connections with the outside world. Also, many young people are deciding against having children – a trend which has resulted in a crisis of low fertility and a shrinking population. To use Beck's terminology, these are people who have been unable to adapt to their role as 'risk manager' of their own life. The education system has failed to prepare them for this role because it is stuck in a prior phase of Japan's post war development and is unable to adapt to social and economic transformations at the global and national levels.

Abstract id# 50657

Start Time:6:30 PM

Uncertainty As an Asset in Education Policy

Radhika GORUR, The Victoria Institute, College of Education, Victoria University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Abstract Text: Education policies around the world are responding to increased perceptions of risk by attempting to reduce uncertainty. They are attempting to gain clear information and identify 'guaranteed' solutions by finding out 'what works' to develop policy accordingly. They are setting up clear measures of accountability and transparency. In order to understand states of affairs and identify policy issues, huge machineries of calculation have been mobilised. Regular surveys are used to track progress and to respond to the first sign of 'decline'. In this sense, we could say that the complexity and uncertainties of the world are transferred to the processes of calculation, which in turn render clear and less uncertain accounts of the world in the form of numbers. In this paper, I take the notion of 'uncertainty' to the statistical translations of the education world and the attempts made through these translations to erase uncertainty and ambiguity and provide clear, certain accounts. I explore how complex such operations are, and how the uncertainty and complexity of the world constantly challenge and stymie the attempts to tame it. I support my thesis with several empirical examples from my research on the *Programme for International Student Assessment* (PISA) and on Australia's *Education Revolution*. I explore the dilemmas involved in these

attempts to contain uncertainty (including through mathematical devices such as calculating 'confidence intervals'), and the ways in which the world exceeds these attempts to contain its uncertainty. Using Callon et al's (2001) notion of 'acting in an uncertain world', in particular their argument with regard to 'hybrid forums', I argue in this paper that keeping uncertainties alive can have the beneficial effect of bringing more resources and expertise forward and adding new voices into the discussion. Uncertainty can thus be an asset rather than a problem to be solved.

Abstract id# 53268

Start Time: 6:42 PM

Japanese Higher Education's Fragility: Bureaucracy and Risk's Dialectic

William BRADLEY, Intercultural Communication, Ryukoku University, Otsu, Shiga, Japan

Abstract Text: The scope of risks facing Japanese higher education institutions stems from both local conditions and global developments. Among the local factors are the steady decline of the 18-year-old population, difficulties in establishing internationalized programs to attract more foreign students, government disinclination to increase funding due to high deficits, strong linkages with vocational orientations and post-graduate employment guarantees, and underdeveloped graduate school education. Other more global risks include the growth in online education, for example MOOCs, administrative overload as a result of expanding academic and non-academic functions of universities, and challenges resulting from the trilemma (Kariya, 2011) of costs, equality of opportunity, and quality assurance. Strong central bureaucratic management by the Ministry of Education (MEXT) is a notable feature of Japanese higher education in the form of *shido* (guidance), so that, for example, universities must follow stringent guidelines to implement new programs and create new departments. In addition to this layer of administrative control from outside and above, many universities rotate management positions within the organization. Insiders who have worked for long periods in the same university often become presidents, vice presidents, deans and heads of centers, and top administrators. The emphasis on strong administrative stability entails that risk is customarily dealt with from a defensive posture, i.e. risks are preempted wherever possible by lengthy discussion and delays in action. A recent example was the discussion at Tokyo University of changing the start of the academic calendar, reported with much fanfare in the media, to the autumn to match many other countries, which, after much consideration, was deemed too radical. In the paper, I analyze the admixture of a strong bureaucratic management facing risks to higher education in a dialectic relation whereby the risks threaten to become more ad-hoc and unpredictable by failure to act in a timely manner.

Abstract id# 51655

Start Time: 6:54 PM

The Rise of 'Reflexive University Governance' in the Risk Societies: Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States

Keiko YOKOYAMA, SCORE, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

Abstract Text: Socio-economic upheavals after the Lehman Shock, and in European countries, the introduction of austerity measures have financially overshadowed the university sectors cross-nationally. The purpose of the paper is to identify how uncertainty and insecurity in the post-2008 period have re-shaped university governance relating to risk management. The study examines university governance at the system and institutional levels in Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The paper is both theoretical and empirical driven. The study takes the theoretical approach by utilising two conceptions of 'peer reflexivity' and 'risk' in the context of university governance. The former refers to the 'cycle of peer feedback, self-monitoring, self-analysis and action. Higher education institutions are treated as 'learning organizations' (Clark 1998; Dill 1999). The latter explores Beck's (1992) and Giddens' (1990, 1999) risk society. The study then proposes, a new concept, 'peer reflexive governance', which is compared with Foucault's neo-liberal 'governmentality' (1988, 1991) to capture the characteristics of 'peer reflexive governance'. Regarding empirical analysis, the study takes documentation for data collection in order to identify the extent to which the institutions in three country settings are autonomous (not in direct state control modes), making the peer reflexive mechanisms feasible. The collected document includes acts, government White Papers, circulars and other official documents. The paper argues that 'peer reflexive governance' has become significant in the insecure and uncertain environment in the post-credit crunch period because the universities have become increasingly more self-aware, reflective, and reflexive than ever before. The universities have strengthened their self-monitoring mechanisms in order to respond to uncertainty and risks, shaping them into learning organizations. The practices of 'peer reflexive governance', however, differ between Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The study is significant because few literatures so far connect the conception of 'risks' to university governance.

Session Organizer

William BRADLEY

Professor:

Ryukoku University

Oe-cho, Yokotani 1-5

Intercultural Communication

Otsu, Shiga, 520-2194

Japan

Phone Number: +81-77-543-7645

Email: william@world.ryukoku.ac.jp -- Will not be published

TG04 Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 7:30 PM-8:50 PM

Title: Health, Illness and Risk

Slot: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 8:30 AM-10:20 AM

Abstract id# 49757

Start Time: 8:30 AM

Performing Prevention: The Construction of Risk and Its Consequences in Japan during H1N1 2009

Mari ARMSTRONG-HOUGH, School of Political Science and Economics, Meiji University, Japan

Abstract Text: Japanese policy makers and health care providers mirror American Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for most public health matters, frequently citing them as the gold standard for best practices. In the case of influenza, however, standard Japanese recommendations and practices significantly diverge from the U.S.-based recommendations. While the CDC recommends that individuals wash their hands frequently and avoid contact with infected people, the Japanese medical associations add frequent gargling and the use of surgical-style masks. The order of priority groups for immunization have also historically differed. Drawing on approximately 89 semi-structured interviews with patients and medical professionals in Japan and ethnographic fieldwork during the H1N1 outbreak of 2009, this article elaborates on the work of theorist Anthony Giddens to examine continuing differences in prevention practices in the face of communicable disease outbreaks like H1N1. The concept of risk creates the possibility for prevention—behaviors intended to “reorganize the future of suffering” (Frankenberg 1993); Giddens calls this the “colonization” of the future (Giddens 1991: 111). But the risk society also necessitates the development of techniques for maintaining ontological security. I argue that faith-like acceptance of recommendations produced by systems of expert knowledge such as medicine and public health is one way to maintain ontological security when normalcy is interrupted, as in the pandemic H1N1 influenza outbreak during 2009.

Abstract id# 53294

Start Time: 8:42 AM

“I Don't Watch the News Anymore and I Haven't Died”: Ignorance As Strategic Resource in Dealing with Zoonotic Disease Risks

Simon CARTER, Sociology, Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom and Stephanie LAVAU, School of Geography, Plymouth University, Plymouth, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: In our research on the interface between animal health and public health, we have noted that lay people often strategically invoke notions of ignorance in positioning their own knowledge in relation to scientific, public health and media understandings of zoonotic disease risks. The period in which we conducted ten focus groups with UK citizens (2011-2012) was marked by a number of zoonotic disease events – past, present and future. These included: a recent swine

flu epidemic, which prompted a large scale public health campaign; on-going concerns about future outbreaks of avian flu; a recent outbreak of E.coli amongst children visiting a petting zoo; and a number of incidents of foodborne diseases, the most notable being the E.coli contamination of beanshoots in Germany.

While referring to these events, respondents marshalled distinct discourses of ignorance and non-knowledge as an active choice and strategic resource, rather than a mere lack of understanding arising from passivity. In this paper we explore several forms of such expressions of ignorance, including: the intentional bracketing out of unknowns (e.g. as an 'ignorance is bliss' strategy for avoiding anxiety); awareness of lack of information that was considered unimportant (e.g. as a strategy for distributing attention to other concerns); and dynamic mindfulness that further knowledge may be dangerous (e.g. both because 'knowledge' may make daily decision making impossible and as a strategy for living with the perceived inevitability of new, emergent diseases).

Abstract id# 51385

Start Time: 8:54 AM

From Users to Adherents – Anti-Aging As a Way of Life. Qualitative Interviews and Biographical Perspectives

Larissa PFALLER, Institut for Sociology, University of Erlangen - FAU, Erlangen, Germany

Abstract Text: At least since the founding of the A4M (American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine) in 1993, anti-aging medicine has formed a discrete discipline, implementing scientific findings for purposes of prevention, early diagnosis, reversal or treatment of age-related changes and loss of body functions. In recent years, anti-aging has also been established in Europe, as the institutionalization of anti-aging medicine in Germany shows in an exemplary way.

Despite the growing significance of anti-aging, its impact on the *users'* everyday life has hitherto been under-explored. This presentation focusses on users of anti-aging products and services in Germany and is based on 15 narrative interviews conducted in the context of the research project "Biomedical life plans for aging".

The interviews show the profound impact of anti-aging on the individuals' biographies: Although users cannot observe the effectiveness of their practices, they are invested with biographical meaning. Therefore, it is supposed that the persistence and attractiveness of anti-aging practices goes far beyond their scientific persuasiveness. Within the reconstruction of the significance of anti-aging for the interviewees' biographies, the *symbolic and emotional potential* of the practices are to be examined: Anti-aging turns out to be an ideal staging ground for presenting oneself as a rational actor and a self-caring subject. Anti-aging can thus be described as a form of *lifestyle* that is committed to an ideal of scientific rationality and the moral values of individuality and responsibility.

Abstract id# 42425

Start Time: 9:06 AM

Exploring Reactions to Risk and Uncertainty in the Context of Smoking and Lung Cancer

Frances SHERRATT¹, John FIELD², Jude ROBINSON¹ and Ying CHEN³, (1)Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom, (2)Department of Molecular and Clinical Cancer Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom, (3)Institute for Primary Care and Health Sciences, Keele University, Staffordshire, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: Research examining the sociology of diagnosis has demonstrated how the provision of a clinical diagnosis from a health professional can promote identification of illness or disease, facilitate behaviour change, and enhance adoption or resistance of illness identities (Jutel and Nettleton, 2011). Further examination of such frameworks could contribute towards achieving a richer understanding of health communication compliancy, thus enabling better management or avoidance of ill health and disease.

The current study examines such frameworks within the context of a Stop Smoking Service (FagEnds, Liverpool) and the study has been designed to replicate a recognised model of diagnosis. However, rather than a clinical diagnosis, smokers receive a personalised lung cancer risk assessment – essentially providing them with a diagnosis of uncertainty. The primary aim of this study will be to ascertain whether provision of personalised lung cancer risk information alongside health advice, will enhance smoking cessation.

This mixed-method paper will disseminate the findings of a randomised controlled study consisting of ~300 smokers, in which the control arm receive generalised lung cancer risk information and the intervention arm receive a personalised lung cancer risk assessment, using the Liverpool Lung Project risk model (Cassidy et al., 2008). It is anticipated that provision of personalised lung cancer risk information may encourage behaviour change i.e. smoking cessation and long-term maintenance of this change at six-month follow-up. In support of the aforementioned quantitative survey, qualitative interviews will also be conducted with a selection of participants (N=30), which aims to provide further explanation as to the impact of receipt of a diagnosis of uncertainty and the subsequent behaviour and attitudes of which it may entail. Overall, it is anticipated that the findings will contribute towards our understanding of the sociology of diagnosis and may help to inform the development of future health risk communications.

Abstract id# 40513

Start Time: 9:18 AM

Women's Decision-Making Autonomy and Exposure to Maternal Mortality Risks in Nigeria

Peter OGUNJUIGBE, Demography and Social Statistics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and Lukman SOLANKE, Demography and Social Statistics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Abstract Text: The statistics on maternal mortality clearly show that Nigeria is lagging in the struggle to significantly improve maternal health. Annually, an estimated 50,000 to 59,000 Nigeria women of reproductive age die because of pregnancy and childbirth. One of the main reasons for this high rate has been the low level of involvement of women in decision-making process. Men generally view some of reproductive health issues as their prerogative, issues in which the compliance of their wives is taken for granted. The study employed the women's data from the 2008 NDHS to examine the relationship between women's decision-making autonomy and exposure to mortality risks. Given that the study was interested in the risks of maternal mortality in the country, the analysis was restricted to only the women who had at least a birth in the last five years (preceding the survey). A total of 17635 women out of the 33385 women interviewed nationwide in the 2008 NDHS, met the inclusion criteria. The analysis was done at univariate and bivariate levels. Also, using logistic regression models, multivariate analyses were performed to estimate the odds ratios for each of the predictor variables in the models. The study shows that 36% of the women did not make a single antenatal visit to a hospital during the duration of their last pregnancy; as many as 63% did not deliver in a health facility (government or privately owned); and about 60% did not deliver with the assistance of a skilled provider. After controlling for the confounding influence of some other independent variables, the study suggests that the "strong authority" of women in household decision-making gives them a voice that is heard in the house and ability to initiate moves to obtain healthcare without necessarily waiting for "administrative clearance" from adult males within the husband's family.

Session Organizer

Alpha POSSAMAI-INESEDY

Dr:

University of Western Sydney

Australia

Phone Number: 0410135414

Email: alpha.possamai@uws.edu.au

Title: Researching Risk. Methodologies and Methods

Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 10:30 AM-12:20 PM

Abstract id# 50679

Start Time: 10:30 AM

Rethinking Methods and Ethics in Male Sexual Risk Behaviour Research

Don Eliseo III LUCERO-PRISNO, Institute of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Faculty of Management and Development Studies, University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Philippines and **Tuan Phong LY**, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Abstract Text:

Studying sexual behaviour of men is always a challenge to many researchers. This is a qualitative study on the sexual risk taking behaviour of men in the context of HIV/AIDS. The occupational group of seafarers are chosen for this particular study in the port city of Santos, Brazil. Seafaring is a male dominated mobile occupational group at very high risk to HIV with many seafaring countries having reported high prevalence rates of HIV. Ethnographic work in the red light district was conducted consisting of in-depth interviews and nightly observations. Local non-profit organizations working in the field were approached for entry to the site. Results showed that sexual behaviour remains a sensitive topic to discuss. Researchers need extra skills and knowledge to elicit substantial and quality information. Sex of the researcher and the way he deals with the individuals play important roles in data gathering. The study encountered various hurdles in the areas of ethics, security, and safety given the nature of the study, which dealt with a semi-legal environment of prostitution and drugs. Language, cultural differences, and other idiosyncrasies have to be considered in doing the fieldwork. Ethnography is an effective method to understand many phenomena because this form of inquiry digs deeper into the 'relationships' (with the sex workers). Length of time of researcher's immersion in the field makes him strongly embedded. A rich reflexive account in an ethnographic setting is a major output in a qualitative study. Methodological issues raised in this study provide substantial contribution to the continuing search for appropriate methods in enriching areas of research on men's sexuality and sexual risk-taking behaviour, strengthening ethics in methods and research approaches, and looking for more ways in understanding the AIDS epidemic through a gender perspective.

Abstract id# 68188

Start Time:

10:45 AM

Risk and Risk Experts: How to Study the Epistemic Cultures of Risk Assessment

Natalia BESEDOVSKY, Institute of Social Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Abstract Text:

Risk is not only a central concept of our time, it is also a category of knowledge. In this paper, I argue that to understand what risk means, one has to study how experts of risk define and measure risk.

The methodological literature on experts and expert interviews is increasingly inspired by questions of knowledge society, epistemic cultures and the role of experts in society and for sociological research. I will draw on my experience with conducting expert interviews with credit rating analysts, where I focus on the different practices of producing knowledge on risk in financial markets. Since credit rating agencies are powerful actors in financial markets, they have definitional power over what risk means.

In my research on credit ratings, I looked at the practices of producing knowledge on risk. I found that even within one group of experts, there are different epistemic cultures of rating production, including opposing epistemological assumptions on how much we can know about the future (risk vs. uncertainty) and normative ideas about the meaning of risk.

In this paper, I will outline some of the main methodological challenges I faced while studying how others study risk. Central questions that emerged where:

Are expert interviews the right tool to learn about epistemic cultures of risk knowledge?

How much technical knowledge do I need to acquire to understand the fundamental approaches of experts to risk?

Can I draw conclusions from the practices of assessing risk to what the experts mean with risk?

Abstract id# 36729

Start Time:

11:00 AM

The Politics of Urban Climate Risks: Theoretical and Empirical Lessons from Methodological Cosmopolitanism?

Anders BLOK, Sociology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract Text:

In the face of global climate risks, world cities are increasingly being positioned, in academic and policy discourse, as strategic spaces for orchestrating the expertise and governance capacity needed to steer societies towards more sustainable and low-carbon futures. This paper reviews existing theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of urban climate politics, by way of asking what contribution Ulrich Beck's theory of world risk society – and principles of methodological cosmopolitanism – make to such epochal

conversations? Three existing analytical frameworks are singled out for their importance: low-carbon transitions literature highlight generic socio-technical dynamics of ‘greening’ urban infrastructures; urban policy mobility approaches document growing inter-city networks around climate and sustainability; and actor-network theory (ANT) work on architectural controversies engage the localized politics of specific urban ‘riskscapes’. While each framework point to local-global interdependencies manifest in urban climate risk politics, this paper suggests that all of them remain under-theorized from the point of view of their specific dynamics of ‘cosmopolitization’. To counter this deficiency, the paper draws on Beck in outlining the contours of new ‘cosmopolitan urban risk communities’, seeking to define their main analytical constituents and point to emerging empirical realities. To this effect, on-going studies into major European and Asian port cities – positioned as ‘ambitious’ spaces of political experimentation on climate risks – is used to illustrate how a shared transnational risk imaginary (e.g. of future sea-level rises) may help spur new forms of trans-boundary solidarity, while reworking existing patterns of urban competition and inequality. Reflecting on such research practices, the paper points to the need for reworking methods of multi-sited ethnography and comparison as central parts of a ‘cosmopolitan’ approach to urban climate risks.

Abstract id# 42116

Start Time:

11:15 AM

Comparing the Governance of Novel Products and Processes of Biotechnology

Janus HANSEN, Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School, Frederiksberg, Denmark

Abstract Text:

The emergence of novel products and processes of biotechnology in medicine, industry and agriculture has been accompanied by promises of healthier, safer and more productive lives and societies. However, biotechnology has also served as cause and catalyst of social controversy about the physical safety and social desirability of novel technologies. Such controversies have put the principles, institutions and instruments of governance, which has conventionally guided the interactions between science and society, under pressure. While researchers in science and technology studies (STS) have done extensive work on the substance and processes of such controversies, they have devoted less effort to link their work to the broader tradition in political science and political sociology, which analyses more general principles and varieties of governance in modern societies. This paper presents an attempt to start to fill this gap and develop a conceptual framework for comparing and analysing new and emerging modes of governance affiliated with

biotechnology in the light of more general approaches to governance. We aim for a framework that can facilitate comparative inquiries and learning across different contexts and applications, e.g. biomedical and agricultural applications, and across different polities and policy domains, e.g. different regional, national and supranational settings.

We introduce five different dimensions of governance, which we discuss with empirical illustrations: 1) the purpose of governance, 2) the drivers of governance change, 3) temporalities of governance, 4) extension of the modes of governance, and 5) sources of acceptance/legitimacy.

Abstract id# 40530

Start Time:

11:30 AM

Governing Climate Change Risks at the Local Level: A Methodological Proposal of the Risk Internalization Process and Policy Responses

Fabiana BARBI, Environment and Society, UNICAMP STATE UNIVERSITY OF CAMPINAS, Campinas, Brazil

Abstract Text:

Climate change is characterized as one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. There are still many uncertainties related to the rapidity of these changes and how devastating they will be. It is recognized that climate change poses a threat to important development issues such as water supply, food security, human health, natural resources and protection against natural hazards. Thus, high modernity society is challenged to respond to increasing risks and threats. In terms of responses to climate change risks, it is argued that governments are important actors that play a key role in the definition of rules, institutions and appropriate modes of governance to address these risks at different levels and scales. In this scenario, this paper proposes an analytic matrix of the internalization process of climate change risks in terms of policy responses to the problem at the local level. The matrix is divided into four main points of analysis: 1. Risks related to climate change; 2. Political-institutional structures mobilized to the climate issue; 3. Policy responses related to climate change and 4. Perception of governmental actors about climate change risks.

Abstract id# 53723

Start Time:

11:45 AM

Do Worldviews Influence on the Perceived Value of Life in the Situation of Risk?

Kirill GAVRILOV, Sociology, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Abstract Text:

We study the perceived value of life on the basis of people's choices of life-saving programs (Tversky & Kahneman, 1981; Levin & Chapman, 1990). The preferred program (other properties being equal) implies a greater value of life. Specifically, we use methodology from studies referring to the "psychophysical numbing" (PN) principle developed within the cognitive science (Fetherstonhaugh et al., 1997; Friedrich et al., 1999; Slovic, 2007). The main idea of these studies is that the perceived value of life is not a constant value, but depends on such factors as the amount of victims and reference group size.

The core proposition is that worldviews not only influence on the choices of life-saving programs and thus on the perceived value of other people's lives, but also on the susceptibility to PN principle. This proposition is based on the Durkheimian idea elaborated by Douglas (1982, 1986). Using Douglas' social contexts and worldviews classification we propound several specific hypotheses that are tested in an experimental study (n=195, all students and alumni of HSE). The influence of worldviews is measured by means of Dake's (1991) methodology modified by Rippl (2002).

The core methodological idea is to apply the worldviews methodology within value of life and PN research. Our study is one of the first cases of translating the worldviews methodology into Russian.

Our data indicate that generally the worldviews do not influence on the perceived value of life and on the susceptibility to the PN principle. Socio-demographic characteristics also do not account for these phenomena: including age, gender and education as variables don't improve our models. Nevertheless, some findings meet our initial propositions: the fatalist worldview decreases the perceived value of life and the individualist worldview sometimes favors PN reasoning. We will discuss the limitations of our study and methodology, future directions of research.

Session Organizer

Jens O. ZINN

University of Melbourne

Australia

Email: jzinn@unimelb.edu.au -- Will not be published

* ISACONF Member

Title: Indefinite (In)Distinctions? The New Ontology of Matter in a World of Inequalities

Slot: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 3:30 PM-5:20 PM

Abstract id# 48489

Start Time: 3:30 PM

The Atmospheres of Chilean Copper Moralities

Leonardo VALENZUELA, School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney, Camperdown, Australia

Abstract Text: From ancient times copper mining has been a key element for the materialisation of the civilisation processes. From the weapons and ornaments of the Western Asian settlements 1.000 BC to the chips and wirings of contemporary hybrid cars, copper has had a privileged position advancing human capacities with its versatility. However, intensive pollution derived from copper mining has also been a prevalent issue that can be traced twenty five centuries back to the smelters of Roman Empire times, as some recent sediments analysis in Greenland have recently shown (Hong et al, 1996). Additionally, copper has been relevant in international disputes over natural resources, as can be seen in Chile in the middle of the Cold War, with a process that sought to recover national sovereignty over copper and ended up with the imposition of a dictatorship. Following an actor-network perspective, this presentation is focused on the role of copper shaping the institutional settings of Chile. The analysis is mainly based on the negotiation of air quality standards and emissions caps that lasted for more than twelve years (between the late 1990's until 2012), and explores the different copper ontologies related to health, pollution, energy, and globalisation among others, mobilised during that process. Reviewing the proceedings of the expert panels and public statements made by the bodies involved in these negotiations, the agencies of copper are rendered visible as well as the dependency and subordination of Chilean institutions to the needs of the currently in place copper production schemes. This refers not just to the local schemes, but to its intimate connections with the global copper dynamics, which are currently dominated to a great extent by China. It is argued that a way out of this entanglement should be designed, cutting across the cause-effect relations that compose current Chilean copper moralities.

Abstract id# 48865

Start Time: 3:45 PM

Everyday Life and News Forms of Production Knowledge on Nuclear Power: A Study of Case in Caetité – Bahia

Israel ROCHA, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador, Brazil

Abstract Text: The nuclear issue in Brazil is not a recent problem. Since the first half of the 20th century the country has conducted research related to energy production based on the model of nuclear fission and the location of the first uranium reserves in Brazilian territory date this same period. The construction of reactors for energy production based on this technology was realized with the construction of Angra I, located in the State of Rio de Janeiro. The two nuclear power plants, Angra I and Angra II, started construction even in dictatorial government and its operation only after the process of political liberalization in the country when it was agreed and guaranteed by the Federal Constitution that the country would not produce nuclear weapons. The uranium needed for nuclear power production was initially withdrawn from prospecting in Minas Gerais, in the city of Pocos de Caldas. In 1995 the Nuclear Industries of Brazil began beta testing and implementation of mine near the city of Caetité, Bahia, being operated for commercial purposes only in late 1999. The District of Lagoa Real is the only operating in the country and Latin America. In the research phase, this work aims to investigate the ways in which residents living near uranium mine producing knowledge on the uncertainties generated by the presence of the mine. From a perspective of actor-network-theory seeks to understand the heterogeneous networks that make up before the presence of the mine in the region.

Abstract id# 55026

Start Time: 4:00 PM

Ontologies of Matter in Sociological Institutionalism

Ossi OLLINAHO, Institute for Social and Political Studies, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Abstract Text: I study ontologies of matter within sociological institutionalism and discuss their political implications with regard to environment and inequality. I categorize these ontologies in four distinct classes: 1) materiality as action; 2) materiality as a stage for social interaction; 3) materiality as tools employed in social interaction; and 4) materiality as required and transformed within social interaction. I refer to these ontologies as, "immaterial", "solid", "stuck", and "loose", respectively. Marx saw materiality as technology and metabolic "rifts" – "stuck" and "loose" matter. In Veblen and Weber materiality takes mainly the form of "solid" matter to which social interaction adapts through habitualization and cultural refraction. However, they certainly also saw humans as affecting this materiality. For Durkheim material was mainly physical objects – "stuck" matter. Due to the cultural turn, materiality was subsequently neglected; at best, materiality was the "solid" background for social interactions. Materiality was rejuvenated in the end of 20th century as actions that together with cognitive dimension constitute institutions. This ontology left physical matter outside the picture. Recently, this "immaterial" conception has been problematized by conceiving materiality as physical objects – "stuck" matter. Scholars have analyzed how technology affects and is embedded in institutionalization and institutional change. This ontology, however, fails to perceive the human influence on the environment. It belongs to the human exemptionalist paradigm, in which technology is seen to solve any problem that the "progress" might produce. I propose to integrate physical matter required to run social practices (e.g., food, energy, raw materials) and transformed within practices (e.g., to waste, pollution) to institutional theory. Without "loose" matter institutionalism cannot perceive the growing "rifts" that humanity is producing, most

prominently embodied as climate change and the depletion of raw materials. The ontology of “loose” matter has direct implications on institutional change and indirect ones on inequality.

Abstract id# 48468

Start Time: 4:15 PM

Ontological Struggles: New Materialisms and the Challenge of Impotentiality

Luigi PELLIZZONI, University of Trieste, Italy

Abstract Text: According to Giorgio Agamben, the most devious operation of power today is not its hold over our potentiality – what we can do – but over our impotentiality – what we can *not* do. Following this insight the paper interrogates the recent turn in cutting-edge social theory from cultural constructionism to new forms of materialism and naturalism. On one side the emancipatory import of deconstructing traditional accounts of knowledge, reality and subjectivity is questioned for its eventual ineffectiveness against domination and inequality. On the other, cultural constructionism is deemed incapable to account for the materialities emerging from technoscience advancements. Traditional ‘negative’ modes of critique are replaced by ‘affirmative’ orientations which celebrate the dynamic, ‘vital’, ‘agential’, ever-changing character of the organic and inorganic world, and the definitive farewell to any distinction between epistemic and ontological states, substance and information, materiality and virtuality. The *puissance* of life is increasingly played against the constrictions of *pouvoir*. The paper analyzes new materialist standpoints, with special reference to feminist and post-Marxist positions, focusing on two problems. First, as if overwhelmed by technoscience’s ‘success’, new accounts of matter and subjectivity rely heavily on the former’s, hardly normatively neutral, images and metaphors. Second, the growing replacement of ‘being’ with ‘doing’ implied in new ontologies, suggests we are confronted with a most accomplished expression of the operational paradigm that underpins Western metaphysics. As a consequence, emancipatory *puissance* and dominating *pouvoir* are increasingly blurred in an ontological politics which seems today the ultimate terrain of social struggles – as testified by actual difficulties in distinguishing neoliberal human enhancement programs from new materialisms’ post-humanist pleas. Fighting inequality and domination, it is argued, entails pointing to the opposite direction to much post-humanist imagery, i.e. towards inoperativeness and impotentiality. The paper discusses the indications provided in this regard by Agamben and Adorno.

Session Organizer

Luigi PELLIZZONI

Professor:

University of Trieste

Italy

Phone Number: +39-040-5583730

Email: pellizzonil@sp.units.it -- Will not be published

Session Organizer

Marja YLONEN

Postdoctoral researcher:

University of Jyväskylä

P.O.Box 35

Social Sciences and Philosophy

Jyväskylä, 40014

Finland

Phone Number: +358 40 7776607

Email: marja.k.ylonen@jyu.fi -- Will not be published

Title: Risk and the Transformation of the Political: Social Movements, Subpolitics, Political Consumers

Slot: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 5:30 PM-7:20 PM

Abstract id# 40271

Start Time: 5:30 PM

Shifting Risk Perception after Shocking Events: Counter-Terrorism in the United States and Energy Policy Change in Germany

Shigeki SATO, Faculty of Social Sciences, Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan and Werner BINDER, Sociology, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Abstract Text: Risks are not objective “facts” that are directly experienced. Our risk perception not only changes in social and political contexts but is also mediated through pre-existing cultural patterns. By investigating an American and a German case, we would like to show how shocking events bring about decisive shifts in our risk perception and governance and how specific cultural patterns frame those shifts. In both cases, a minimal risk ceased to be a mere theoretical possibility and turned into a real “threat” which imposed a political “necessity” to act. After 9/11, the hypothetical “ticking bomb scenario” became a matter of national security that justified US-led wars, US detention and interrogation policies as well as extensive global surveillance. The anticipated threat of terrorists in possession of biological or nuclear weapons had to be averted – whatever it took. Similarly, the shocking accident at the Fukushima nuclear plant following the big earthquake had a profound impact on the risk perception of nuclear energy in Germany and changed the government policies. A “residual risk” (*Restrisiko*) of nuclear energy, which had thus far been regarded as controllable by means of science and technology, became an allegedly life-threatening danger to be eliminated at all costs. But these discursive and political shifts cannot be thought of as a direct consequence of these events. It is rather the specific framing of events in particular national

contexts that leads to shifts in risk perception and governance. This is particularly clear in the German case: the recent energy policy change was mediated through a discursive pattern of nuclear resistance, which is deeply rooted in the German political culture. Similarly, the American response to 9/11 was shaped by national memory and popular culture, for example “Pearl Harbor”, the “phantasm of bioterror” and the “law-defying hero”.

Abstract id# 57880

Start Time:

5:45 PM

Rethinking Localism in the Global Risk Society: The Ethics of Care and Coalitions of Anxiety
Confronting Gas Fracking in Lithuania

Leonardas RINKEVICIUS, Aiste BARTKIENE and Diana MINCYTE, Social Sciences and Humanities,
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, Lithuania

Abstract Text:

Rethinking Localism in the Global Risk Society: The Ethics of Care and Coalitions of Anxiety Confronting Gas Fracking in Lithuania

Focusing on the global dimension of risk society, Ulrich Beck has made a case that earlier social and economic formations are increasingly replaced by the world risk society where risks and uncertainties are no longer bound by particular locales, but are distributed globally. To conceptualize this new political organization, Beck and others have developed the notion of cosmopolitization that refers to the emergence of new alliances and social movements that challenge and transform the nation state and its institutions. At the same time, scholars have also underscored the growing significance of localist movements that are actively promoting regional and national sovereignty agendas, while working to unplug from global economies and political infrastructures. The purpose of this paper is to articulate the connection between these two contradictory processes by employing conceptual tools developed in the scholarship focusing on care politics and ethics. Building on the work by N. Noddings, E. Kittay, and J. Tronto, we argue that care as a justification for political action links particular constellations of actors to coalitions organized through anxiety concerning particular issues or emphasis on particular aspects of discourse (see “coalitions of anxiety” by J. Zinn and “discourse coalitions” by M. Hajer). As a case study, we focus on the case of resistance against gas fracking in Zygaiciai’ community in western Lithuania, to highlight the ways in which the groups frame their civic and environmental anxiety under conditions of uncertainty “in-between” of calculable risks and incalculable social anxiety translated into bioethical care and specific sub-politics pertaining to local economic, political and environmental context.

This case study and theoretical accounts connect local and national sub-politics with similar cases in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

Abstract id# 59504

Start Time:

6:00 PM

Risk, Rumour, Radiation: Japan's Nuclear Catastrophe and the Politics of the Apolitical

Anna SKARPELIS, Sociology, New York University, New York, NY

Abstract Text:

This paper analyzes the particularities of the Japanese approach to risk communication around radiation after 3/11. Radioactive contamination in Japan was first measured and its results published by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency on March 14, 2011, three days after the Great East Japan Earthquake ravaged the country, leaving tens of thousands dead and many more displaced. Official radiation monitoring in the following weeks continued in an haphazard manner, yielding vague and at times misleading data that failed to provide actionable information on the necessities of evacuation to the local population. Within a week of the disaster, various groups had hacked Geiger counters to enable collective radiation monitoring, resulting in a higher degree of granularity of data available to the affected population. Still, while the provided data was more transparent and comprehensive than that which had previously been made publicly available, the groups made few attempts at interpreting the data for the public. The groups insisted that their actions were complementary to, rather than antagonistic to, those of the government and TEPCO and that they therefore should not be seen as political. The paper explores the role of digital media and technology in altering the production of and access to vital information after disasters.

Abstract id# 51615

Start Time:

6:15 PM

The Bureaucracy and the Construction of Risk in China

Kang LI, Sociology, Shanghai Universtiy, Shanghai, China

Abstract Text:

There were three large-loss fires ignited by exterior-wall insulating materials which made the fire risk of insulating materials a hot topic in the past three years in China. And meanwhile public policies which limited the combustibility of the insulating materials caused a considerable controversy among Housing and the City and Countryside ministry of construction, Bureau of Fire in the Ministry of Public Security and enterprises specializing in insulating materials. Finally, it was the State Council of China that calmed the things down. This paper is based on a qualitative research mentioned above, which attempts to elaborates the logics of the bureaucracies of China in the process of construction and governance of risk. It shows how the fire risk assessment standards vary across government interventions which lead to the risk conflict first and then risk consensus among the three stakeholders mentioned above. From this research, we can get some conclusions. First, the relations of defining risk depend on the power structure in the bureaucracy, especially when the departments of it involved. Second, the risk is divided with the segmentations of bureaucracy which all try their best to shift their responsibility, and this leads to the “organized irresponsibility” which seems to be a classic paradox in Chinese politics. Third, although the fire risk of the exterior-wall insulating materials is closely related with the public’s benefit and safety, it’s still a topic existing only in the government and enterprises, not a covered field for the public, which proves that the sub-politics Ulrich Beck expects have not happened in China.

Abstract id# 51503

Start Time:

6:30 PM

Why Do Procedures Have Unexpected Outcomes?

Jan WINCZOREK, University of Warsaw, Poland

Abstract Text:

According to a famous statement by Adam Przeworski, the difference between democracy and dictatorship lies in the fact that in a democracy the content of a political decision cannot be known in advance: democracy, not dictatorship, institutionalizes uncertainty. Sociology has largely ignored the institutionalized uncertainty thesis that follows from this observation.

In particular, one has to be careful not to confuse Przeworski's argument with that of Robert Merton, which has animated the sociological discussion about unintended consequences for decades. Merton argued, famously, that important factors exist, which may keep the outcomes of action from the sight of the acting party, yet he perceived unintended consequences of action as largely undesirable and non-institutional.

This paper attempts to contribute to both the discussion of Mertonian unintended consequences and to the developing of a legal sociology of institutionalised uncertainty, à la Przeworski. It aims to do this by translating the intuitions of both authors into the language of Niklas Luhmann's systems theory. The particular field under investigation is akin to what Przeworski found remarkable: procedures and their outcomes. Yet, against Przeworski's theses and some theories of procedural law and democracy, it is argued that procedures are not necessarily outcome-neutral and that they do contribute to certain outcomes of political and legal processes. Against Merton's observations, but in accord with these of Przeworski, it is demonstrated that macrosociological and indeed deeply institutionalised factors exist, which contribute to the production of unintended consequences of individual actions. Finally, against theories of procedural justice in sociology and psychology of law, it is argued that procedures do not provide individuals with a sense of ontological security, but to the contrary, are but one form of "institutionalized uncertainty"

The paper has been published in Mica, Peisert, Winczorek (eds), *Sociology and the Unintended. Robert Merton Revisited*, Peter Lang 2012.

Abstract id# 63353

Start Time:

6:45 PM

Human Rights and Political Governance. the Problem of Monitoring and Compliance with the Human Rights NORM in a MULTI-Agent and MULTI-Scalar Perspective

Alexander GONZALEZ-CHAVARRIA, Sociology, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

Abstract Text:

The monitoring and compliance with human rights norm in domestic political contexts can be analyzed as a social risk. I intend to present results from a recent research that suggests that political governance structures could be a major improvement with regard to the regulation of this kind of risk. Political governance is defined in institutional terms as a negotiation structure between state and non-state agents that works as an interface between the domestic political system and regulation processes of the human rights problematic outside this system, mainly at the international level.

I present a case study of a negotiation process between the Colombian government and non-state agents from the system of international cooperation for development, the international

human rights system, international NGOs and domestic civil society aimed at the regulation of human rights problematic in Colombia. The outcomes of this negotiation show how a political governance structure can emerge as a change in the political regulation model of this problematic at the national level.

This kind of negotiations entails the participation of plural social agents that act at different scales (national and international), with different interests and power capacity and that must solve a problem of inter-sectorial coordination (state agents and non-state agents) in order to overcome political conflicts and get at some point of agreement with regard to how regulate the social risk under consideration. In this research, I used a combination of the structuration theory (Giddens), the Coleman's macro-micro-macro loop and the scalar approach to globalization (Sassen) in order to explain how this governance structure emerged as a new model for addressing the monitoring and compliance problem of the human rights norm by the Colombian government.

Session Organizer

Jens O. ZINN

University of Melbourne

Australia

Email: jzinn@unimelb.edu.au -- Will not be published

* ISACONF Member

Title: Expert Decision-Making in the Face of Uncertainty: The Influence of Organisational, Inter-Personal and Professional Factors

Slot: Thursday, July 17, 2014: 8:30 AM-10:20 AM

Abstract id# 41664

Start Time: 8:30 AM

Integrity Management and Fantasy Planning: The San Bruno Pipeline Rupture

Jan HAYES, School of Sociology, Australian National University, Australia

Abstract Text: On 9th September, 2010, a high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline ruptured under the suburb of San Bruno, near San Francisco, California. The resultant fire burned for two days. Eight people died, and thirty eight homes were destroyed because a weld in the buried pipeline failed. The weld had been poorly made in 1956 when the pipeline was first constructed. Using document analysis (investigation reports, transcripts of evidence and other primary source materials), in this paper we focus on the experts in this organisation who were responsible for

pipeline integrity management. Clarke's work regarding fantasy planning in the face of uncertainty explains both how and why the integrity management system had taken on a symbolic, rather than functional, role in this organization. 'Knowing' about the system was grounded in elaborate algorithms and graphs purported to show risk was declining, and yet this analysis was only tenuously linked to the actual level of danger. In an environment of cost cutting, expensive inspection work was tailored simply to meet available budgets. Small failures were repaired and then dismissed from the collective memory so that valuable opportunities for learning in this uncertain environment were ignored.

This professional disposition on the part of the expert engineers was embedded in a broader organisational context. The paper further argues that senior management decisions about cost cutting were divorced from the real world impact as a result of the historical restructuring of the domestic gas industry overall and the low status of relevant industry expertise at senior management levels. We conclude that this 'organizational accident' provides important lessons for all organisations relying on technical expertise to prevent low frequency, but high consequence events.

Abstract id# 40317

Start Time: 8:45 AM

Managing Risk in a Complex Food System: The Importance of Inter-Personal, Professional and Organisational Trust

Annabelle WILSON¹, Paul WARD¹, Trevor WEBB², Sue LLOYD³, Sian CALNAN⁴, Dean MCCULLUM⁵ and John COVENEY¹, (1)Discipline of Public Health, Flinders University, Australia, (2)Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia, (3)City University, United Kingdom, (4)University of Kent, United Kingdom, (5)Food Policy and Programs Branch, SA Health, Australia

Abstract Text: A challenge of managing food safety risk is the multi-sectoral nature of the complex system set out to do so, with responsibilities lying with expert actors from both food industry and food regulation. Amidst this complexity, a unified message must be conveyed to consumers so that food risks are managed. This paper presents research conducted to navigate this complex system. We investigated the role of expert actors from the food regulatory and food industry settings in developing/ breaking/ repairing/ maintaining trust with consumers about food. Qualitative interviews were undertaken in Australia (n=30), the United Kingdom (n=15) and New Zealand (n=5). Respondents identified that risk management, including increased consumer trust, could only be established if trust existed within and across the expert actors. As such, the nature of the trust between actors became central to the research. Inter-personal, professional and organisational trust between these actors was observed. Interpersonal trust and relationships were developed between actors through transparency, good communication and regular phone and face to face informal meetings. Organisational trust was built and maintained through documents such as memorandums of understanding and regular, formal meetings. Professional trust was particularly apparent between actors within the regulatory and industry systems who both had responsibilities

for managing food risk. Some actors indicated that they did not understand the perspective of the other system, because of the different processes and systems in which they worked. Despite this, each system had a common goal (to avoid foodborne illness). When this common goal was recognised by industry and regulatory actors, stronger trust was formed which enabled a unified message to be communicated to consumers. Therefore one way to manage the complexity of the food regulatory system, and ultimately better manage food risks, is to develop inter-personal, professional and organisational trust between expert actors in the food system.

Abstract id# 41893

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Deciding 'Quality' Surrounding Umbilical Cord Blood Treatments in Japan and the UK

Takuya MATSUSHIGE, Department of Health and Welfare Services, National Institute of Public Health, Wako-shi, Saitama, Japan and **Laura MACHIN**, Faculty of Health and Medicine, Lancaster Medical School, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: Stem cell treatments, such as those derived from umbilical cord blood, are relatively novel in the UK and Japan compared to other countries, such as Spain and America. Hence, the policy and practices surrounding the treatments are still emerging (Brown *et al*, 2011), and as a result creating uncertainty in the decision-making of haematologists and oncologists in the UK and Japan. In particular, when do they deem an umbilical cord blood treatment suitable for a patient, and how do they choose between umbilical cord blood banks when more than one unit is available for a patient? In essence, how do they 'know' what constitutes a 'quality' cord blood sample?

These are important insights to be gained when the cost of a single cord blood sample can reach between £16,000 to £25,000. Factors such as where the cord blood treatments are carried out and by whom have been considered as influential by policy makers in determining the success of treatments. How such a move to establish 'clinical expertise' around cord blood treatments would impact upon perceptions of 'quality' cord blood in the two countries is significant as it challenges the notion that the success of cord blood treatments is determined by the inherent properties of the cord blood unit. Furthermore, a connection between cord blood collection and banking practices and the perceived 'transplant quality' of a cord blood unit for stem cell treatments is also emerging from recent policy discussions, due to the proposed 'best practice tariff' to reimburse hospitals for securing 'high quality collections'.

Emerging findings from a three year project, funded by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, to explore through qualitative interviews how those working in Japanese and UK transplant centres perceive 'quality' in cord blood in a global context, and what factors influence their perceptions, will be presented.

Abstract id# 59825

Start Time: 9:15 AM

Ambiguities in Discontinuing Medication: How General Practitioners Make Sense of Discontinuation and Their Strategies for Reducing Ambiguity

Michael NIXON, General Practice, Copenhagen University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract Text: This paper will examine how general practitioners (GPs) deal with ambiguity in order to perform medication discontinuation. I examine the case of statins as is it a strongly recommended drug for reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, however there several possible complications with taking the drug such as side effects, drug-drug interactions and lack of effect because of old age. Discontinuing the drug is therefore not a straightforward task, rather it involves a great deal of ambiguity. Drawing on interviews and observations of Danish GPs and document analysis of two independent drug recommendation bodies in Denmark, I analyzed GPs' strategies for dealing with three important problems related to discontinuation: 1) assessing the validity of patient reported side effects as a reason to discontinue; 2) discontinuing a hospital specialist's prescription; 3) assessing the likelihood of a positive outcome after discontinuation. Drawing on sensemaking-theory, I outline the strategies a GP may use for dealing with ambiguity and selecting alternatives with regards to patients drug prescription. I show how these strategies are shaped by professional qualities, including: terrain of responsibility (whose responsibility is it to discontinue), prioritizing ability (how comfortable is the GP prioritizing from a long list of medications), shared communication with patients (how two way is the communication) and discontinuation confidence (are GPs willing to trial discontinuation without the promise of a positive outcome). I conclude with recommendations for how to support appropriate discontinuation in primary care settings, including updating guidelines to explicitly acknowledge multimorbidity in patients and the importance of medication prioritizing, creating discontinuation alliances for GPs, e.g. with clinical pharmacists and gerontologists, and developing positive metaphors for 'discontinuing medication' to enable better communication with patients, e.g. drug holiday or medication pruning.

Abstract id# 39673

Start Time: 9:30 AM

Bridging Uncertainty through Standardized Discussion Methods

Stefanie BUECHNER, Organizational and Administrative Sociology, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

Abstract Text: Social care professionals dealing with "their cases" are routinely exposed to multiple uncertainties. As frontline-workers, they are not only occupied with sorting the relevant problems but also with building and maintaining the fragile alliances to their individual clients. An additional difficulty in the case of social workers in youth welfare offices lies in the "packet-challenge" of reaching the child via working as cooperatively as possible with the parent.

This paper explores how standardized case discussion methods can serve as "save paths" and thus a bridging mechanism to bushwhack through the uncertainties of casework. Accordingly, I shed light on the effects and functions of standardized case discussion methods on interactional processes. It can be shown that the acceptance of this method varies depending on the deep norms of the

professional experts using it. Therefore, I draw on the findings of my qualitative in-depth case study comparing three youth welfare offices. The method under examination regulates who is allowed to talk and prescribes permitted forms of participation at certain stages of the discussion (question, callback, suggestion, etc.).

It can be shown that the redistribution of speech rights by sticking strictly to the case discussion method bridges uncertainty in three ways. First, it creates a temporal “clearing” of the “normal confusion” of casework by offering expectable openings and closures of complexity. In terms of the garbage can model, it temporarily cleans up the streams of decision making. Second, it allows experts to explicitly deal with uncertainty by enfolded ambiguities, risks and chances in the presence of superiors without the need for early oversimplification. Third, it allows the tacit scanning of how strictly formal organizational rules are applied when the care plan needs to be approved, creating an ‘informal reliability’ for all participants.

Session Organizer

Patrick BROWN

University of Amsterdam

Netherlands

Phone Number: 31(0)205259111

Email: P.R.Brown@uva.nl -- Will not be published

‘Title: Theorizing Risk and Uncertainty

Slot: Thursday, July 17, 2014: 10:30 AM-12:20 PM

Abstract id# 35403

Start Time: 10:30 AM

Historical Perspectives On Risk and Morality

Adam BURGESS, SSPSSR, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: Anthony Giddens argued that the ‘risk society’ presupposes the ‘evaporation of morality’. But like other aspects of the sociology of risk, this proposition has never been empirically substantiated. This paper will historically explore the inverse relationship between risk and morality, focusing on the language of policy debates in the UK on contentious social issues. The balance between arguments grounded in more straightforward ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ and those based in risk and harm reduction will be analysed, focusing on four particular periods: the late Victorian, the liberalising legislation of the 1960s, the risk politics begun during the Thatcher/Major years, and current Coalition policy language – in view of Cameron’s intent to ‘remoralise’ discourse. The intention is to cast new light on contemporary debates such as around drugs policy and ‘policy-led

evidence', where the tension between probabilistic calculation and moral judgement is marked, and to direct new theoretical attention to the useful contrast of risk to morality.

Abstract id# 50895

Start Time: 10:45 AM

When Risk-Analysis Needs Hazard-Assessments - Is Risk-Based Regulation Actually Part of the General Risk Discourse?

Vera LINKE, Sociology, Law & Society Unit, Bielefeld University, Germany

Abstract Text: Beck describes modern societies as preoccupied with the management of novel risks. Recently, this notion of risk was widened by the idea of risk-based regulation as a rational strategy of governance: risk assessments justify the selective spending of scarce resources on extremely harmful events, as well as withholding investments for less significant events. The focus on risk in decision-making represents a paradigm shift away from the idea that government ought to ensure 'security'. Ewald (and others) have argued that the once central notion of safety (as a dispositive of risk) is no longer relevant and is substituted by precaution. A second observation concerns the non-essentialist character of risk: Michael Power has spoken of the "risk management of everything", meaning that any event can be transformed into a risk, attributing probability and damage values.

The concurrence of both observations requires a new interpretation of risk-based regulation. The focus on efficiency on the one hand and the comprehensive use of risk assessment on the other, raises the issue to what effect probabilities can still be used as a governance tool. Methodologically, there is a tension between the all-inclusiveness of possible harms and the necessity for offsetting all single risks. As a universal tool of description, risk-analysis would need to be able to prioritize between different types of risk. The use of traditional hazard-based assessment strategies in risk-based regulation could be an indication to this unresolved tension.

In explaining and developing this position, the paper draws on empirical evidence from UK regulatory agencies. We review the basic statements of regulatory policy-making (e.g. Hampton report) and key political documents (funding documents of regulatory agencies like the Food Safety Agency) to investigate whether the spreading of risk analysis actually hampers the use of risk-based management or if it contributes to the expansion of risk management.

Abstract id# 67658

Start Time:11:00 AM

Risk Knowledge Versus Uncertainty: Insights from Research on Health Issues

Claudine BURTON-JEANGROS, Department of Sociology, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Abstract Text: Today dominant forms of risk management illustrate the central role of scientific knowledge in the organization of society in general and in public health activities in particular. This

approach suggests that through the accumulation of formal knowledge, greater control over health can be gained. However, the ambivalent consequences of relying on abstract knowledge are more and more apparent. The increasing dependence of – lay and professional – individuals on mediated knowledge (for example screening or epidemiological results) discredits first-hand, experiential knowledge. Furthermore, the definition of health on abstract parameters, associated with a lowering tolerance to abnormal results or anomalous events, implies an expansion of ‘at risk individuals’ and can generate unnecessary interventions. At the same time, the role of uncertainty in decisions related to prevention is more and more debated around the diffusion of precautionary and worst-case scenario behaviours. Bringing together the literature addressing different individual and global health risks, this paper will examine the changing status of knowledge in their management, taking into account the role that history, culture and experience play in collective and individual reactions to danger.

Session Organizer

Adam BURGESS
University of Kent
United Kingdom
Email: a.burgess@kent.ac.uk

Title: Risk and Social Inequality and Social Inclusion/Exclusion

Slot: Thursday, July 17, 2014: 3:30 PM-5:20 PM

Abstract id# 54068

Start Time: 3:30 PM

How to Conceptualize Social Inequality after Risk Concept?

Kenji KAWABATA, Sociology, The University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Japan

Abstract Text: How to conceptualize social inequality after risk concept? — Focusing on 1980's dispute in Germany. Risk concept has become a major interest in sociology with the publication of Ulrich Beck's *Risk Society* (Beck 1986). One of the most important thesis of *Risk Society* is the "paradigm" shift of social inequality. Beck claimed the "change from the logic of wealth distribution in a society of scarcity to the logic of risk distribution in late modernity". Thus he pointed out the appearance of risk society "in contrast to class society". However, Beck's thesis has been criticized in several researches by showing the continuity of class relevance. Such as Hans-Peter Müller (Müller 1992) or Rainer Geißler (Geißler 1996) , J.H. Goldthorpe, (Goldthorpe 2002) etc. .Then how can we understand social inequality covering the relevance of risk and class. The issue is to integrate the relevance of risk and class to understand contemporary social inequality. And we need a concept

which integrates class elements and risk elements. This presentation attempts to figure out the issue to integrate class and risk concept focusing on 1980's individualization dispute in Germany.

Abstract id# 49659

Start Time: 3:43 PM

Social Inclusion of Disabled People and Two Models of Risk

Kenjiro SAKAKIBARA, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Takatsu-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan

Abstract Text: In his article "From Dangerousness to Risk"¹⁾, Robert Castel described the contemporary society as a "two-speed society". It is a society which consists of hyper-competitive and marginal sectors, and assign people to either of the two according to their abilities. Castel illustrates this strategy with sheltered employment of disabled people.

Unlike eugenics, according to Castel, confinement and sterilisation is used no more in the "two-speed society". In addition, special care becomes unnecessary by assigning disabled people to less competitive activities. Thus, Castel argues that the "two-speed society" enables risk prevention which can dispense with both repression and assistance.

Risk in Castel's argument refers to a combination of factors and is detached from personality. Once an individual comes to have certain risk factors, however, s/he receives a special treatment like sheltered employment. In this sense, risk here effectively makes specific people the "Other".

On the other hand, risk in Ulrich Beck's argument²⁾ is universal, in that people all over the world more or less share the same risk. For instance, he points out that people who are able-bodied at present can be disabled at any time. Such common risk, once recognised, can engender solidarity.

In the context of disability, interpreting disability as a universal risk is quite popular, though such limitative understanding of disability as Castel's certainly exists. This presentation first locates some researches and programs concerning social inclusion of disabled people in reference to these two different approaches to risk and disability. Then the presentation goes on to examine the different consequences of these approaches.

1) Castel, Robert. 1991. "From Dangerousness to Risk." In *The Foucault Effect*. Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon, and Peter Miller, eds. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 281-298.

2) Beck, Ulrich. 1998. *Risikogesellschaft*. Translated by Ren Azuma and Midori Ito. Tokyo: Hosei University Press.

Abstract id# 41064

Start Time: 3:56 PM

Marginalization As the Social Context of Risk Perception in Everyday Life

Parisa JAFARI BERENJI, social planning, graduated from University of Tehran, tehran, Iran and **Gholamreza GHAFARY**, social planning, University of Tehran, tehran, Iran

Abstract Text: In this paper, by adopting a constructivist perspective, it is tried to address the question how experience of marginalization and a sense of exclusion could affect the ways individuals perceive risks in everyday life. In general, social constructivist approaches to epistemological status of risk emphasize that the perceptions of risk are socially constructed and cultural and political contexts impact on how risk are made sense by people. The methodology in this research is based on qualitative methods and the data has been obtained through in-depth interview with 28 students from the University of Tehran in Iran. In the interviews we asked the students to describe how they make sense risks in their everyday life. Furthermore, they were asked to describe their experience with a sense of exclusion as a consequence of being marginalized in society. According to the findings, the ways the university students perceive risks have been closely intermingled with their experience of marginalization in their everyday life. Although studying in university may potentially result in social inclusion, most of the students have had the experience of marginalization accompanied with types of perceiving social and economic inequality and also ethnic, gender and generational discriminations. This has led to exclusion and so provides a context for perception of risk and uncertainty. Particularly, when they try to build a desirable personal lifestyle, they face various social restrictions, which cause risks and uncertainty in their everyday life. In the other words, the social conditions of being marginalized lead to perceptions of some types of risk specially, those which are related to their lifestyle.

Abstract id# 62580

Start Time: 4:09 PM

Green Consumption, Equity and Climate Change

Liisa MCDERMOTT, Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland

Abstract Text: The purpose of this paper is to explore how the mechanisms of the risk society and reflexive modernity (Beck et al. 1994) produce inequality in respect to green consumption. The research was implemented by an empirical approach. The research data was collected by interviewing people on how they make energy decisions when buying electricity, their relationships with nature, and what they see as being important in life overall. Interviews were completed in four cities in Finland: Vaasa, Espoo, Imatra and Joensuu. The people interviewed ranged from the laymen to the executive, i.e. different social classes. During the research it is becoming clearer that the characteristics of the risk society and reflexive modernity and equity seem to be significant when solving issues of the risk society and climate change.

It seems that the ownership or the lack thereof of cultural, educational and financial capital makes a difference - people made their energy purchase decisions based on what had value to them which was influenced by their cultural, educational and financial background. The abstract and insecure

nature of the risk society and reflexive modernity makes it difficult for people to be green consumers because of the lack of stability that seems to be a requirement for green consumption. Individuals will not act on altruistic motives without personal stability in life which would seem to lead to the possibility and understanding to take part in green consumerism. Cultural and educational capital makes it easier to grasp abstract issues like climate change or act on altruistic motives. It seems that green consumption can be increased by equal opportunities in employment, education and equality in income division.

Beck, Ulrich; Giddens, Anthony; Lash Scott 1994. Reflexive Modernization. Politics, Tradition and Aesthetics in Modern Social Order. Polity Press.

Abstract id# 68658

Start Time: 4:22 PM

The Risk of Becoming Neet in Poland

Jolanta GROTOWSKA-LEDER, Foundation Institute for Social Initiatives, Łódź, Poland

Abstract Text: The emerging phenomenon of young NEETs in recent decades has been linked to transformation processes of societies like the global processes of individualization and de-institutionalisation of a life-course and individualization of social risks (i.e. Beck, 1996). The effect of de-institutionalisation seems to be much stronger in Central and East-European EU member states, also in Poland, where the collapse of the strictly regulated old system has considerably increased flexibility and vulnerability of youth transitions if compared to the old EU members. The economic recession starting from the late 2000s has further worsened the process of young people's transitions towards independent living. Becoming NEET is the risk for a young people and for society.

The main question of the paper is on the scale and dynamic of the Polish NEET population and its heterogeneity in perspective of ways and barriers of transition to independent living of the young. I also discuss the consequences of being NEET for young people and for societies. The analysis are based on quantitative data of Polish Central Statistical Office and the Eurostat the disclosure of the scale, dynamics and differentiation of socio-economic characteristic and on qualitative data collecting of own research to show the reasons of the decision of the young belonging to NEET of remaining outside the labor market and education and consequences for their fate and the situation in the society.

Abstract id# 49107

Start Time: 4:35 PM

Khutsong: An Empirical Example of the Complex Relationship Between Concepts like Risk, Inequality, Exclusion and Inclusion

Johan ZAAIMAN, North-West University, South Africa and Gift MUPAMBWA, Sociology, North-West University, South Africa

Abstract Text: This paper reports on research conducted in the Khutsong municipality, North-West Province, South Africa. In 2004 a presidential project was announced to resettle the Khutsong township because it was built on a dolomite hazardous area that causes sinkholes. For this purpose the biggest town redevelopment programme in South Africa was undertaken. As the project now unfolds it is clear that different processes are running concurrently. The town planners professionally assessed the risk problem and provided a grand solution. For this they obtained political buy-in from national government. The local politicians on the other hand are careful to be involved in the demolition of the old houses or shacks of people moving to the new houses. They tend to protect their power bases. The people on the other hand are well informed about the hazards of dolomite but blame the municipality for allowing water seepages to occur in the water supply and sewerage systems. They use the new housing scheme to lessen household density with only a part of the family moving to the new houses and the rest remaining in the original house or shack. Or they use the original house or shack as a source of income by renting it. Poor households use this risk scenario as a tool to enhance their disadvantageous position by profiting with regard to housing. Richer households resist resettlement because the government is not in a position to replace their houses and businesses. In fact the businessmen use this to expand their businesses. This paper demonstrates that this municipality presents a salient example of professional risk management clashing with political instincts and how inequality, exclusion and inclusion become complex concepts in such a scenario due to the skills people have to exploit such major projects.

Abstract id# 35262

Start Time: 4:48 PM

Resilient Or Vulnerable? Analyzing Disaster-Triggered Migration Process Of a Tropical Cyclone Prone Coastal Community

Bishawjit MALLICK, Institute of Regional Science (IfR), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany

Abstract Text: The capacity of coping with the effects of a disaster is not only an economic capability; it is also a result of socio-politically constructed vulnerability matter of the survivors. Thus, the migration-decision by the disaster victims is not really instant – it is a long-term consequence of societal mechanisms that is determined through unequal distribution of resources, opportunities and power. Consequently, the aftermath intervention programs in disaster affected communities succeed to social inequalities – as well as population displacement. Taking this theoretical and conceptual debate into consideration, this paper explores how the aftermath intervention programs influence the community resilience or social vulnerability in coastal Bangladesh? Do such interventions introduce social disparities, and finally, result to a migration-decision of the cyclone victims? Results are derived from a field survey with 1555 respondents. The survey was conducted during 2009 and 2010 in 48 southwest coastal villages; those were severely affected by cyclone Aila. Applying principle component analysis (PCA) in SPSS, a social vulnerability index (SVI) is constructed

and then the respondents are classified according to their socio-demographic characteristics. Findings show that socio-politically vulnerable population is proportionately more displaced than the socio-politically resilient population. Thus, it increases the social instability through increasing the dependency of powerless on the powerful classes in the society.

Session Organizer

Andreas CEBULLA

Senior Research Fellow:

Flinders University of South Australia

GPO Box 2100

National Institute of Labour Studies

Adelaide, 5001

Australia

Phone Number: +61882012486

Email: andreas.cebulla@flinders.edu.au

Title: Crime and Risk

Slot: Thursday, July 17, 2014: 5:30 PM-7:20 PM

Abstract id# 51055

Start Time:

5:30 PM

Securitizing Childhood – Childhood and Youth in Finnish Crime Prevention Programmes

Timo HARRIKARI, Department of Social Research, University of Helsinki, University of Helsinki, Finland

Abstract Text:

Several international analyses of criminal justice and social policy have revealed an increased focus on children and young people during the past decades. One of the key characteristics of the recent interest has been a new concerned tone, even with signs of moral panic. This type of public interest originates from the turn of social policy in the US and UK in the 1970s and 1980s, leading to a punitive turn in youth crime policy, to the rise of the risk agenda and, in

general, to the intensification of formal social control towards children, young people and families with children.

The described transformation has expanded into a wide-scale international phenomenon, albeit one that varies from one state to another. The developments have also touched the Nordic welfare states. Consequently, the presentation addresses the issue of how children and young people are constructed and governed in Finland's crime prevention and securitizing programmes and projects. The analysed data consists of abstracts and appraisals of 88 local securitizing programs.

The results of the analysis suggest that, in many ways, the programmes reflect a post-recession situation in Finnish society. Children and young people are dominantly positioned as 'risks' or as 'exposed to risks' and the goals and means of the programmes are connected with intensifying their control. The results suggest that the status of security speech and crime prevention technologies within the entity of governing childhood and youth require critical consideration.

The presentation is based on the article published in *Youth Justice* in April 2013.

Abstract id# 67744

Start Time:

5:40 PM

Risk, Victimization and Vulnerability

Jane DONOGHUE, Law, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

In this paper, I intend to make a principal original contribution to the risk-based criminological literature by concentrating on risk in the context of victims. Although there now exists a significant body of scholarly work examining the impact and complexity of clinical and actuarial risk assessment methods on criminal justice decision making (see, e.g. Feeley and Simon 1992; 1994; Hudson 2004; Kemshall 1998; 2003; Hannah-Moffat 2005), efforts to construct a strategic knowledge of risk are yet to provide a coherent set of theoretical and conceptual tools that can be used to explain the dynamics of risk both in terms of the 'risky' individual, as well as the 'at-risk' victim. While the argument developed in this paper relates to empirical developments in England and Wales, the theorizing of victim-oriented approaches to risk management is both innovative and more generally applicable beyond the jurisdiction examined herein.

The theoretical contribution to the risk-based literature that is offered in this paper should be understood as both aligned to, but distinct from, O'Malley's conceptualization of the potential and limits of risk. For O'Malley (2008; 2010), the promise of risk-based techniques often lies in discovering the disparate possibilities for experimentation, and identifying those sites of resistance that exist within the 'culture of control' (Garland 2001). While O'Malley's

account offers particularly interesting insight into how risk functions through proxies of experimentation and resistance, this paper instead focuses on the central importance of a risk-based paradigm in facilitating the ascendancy of victims in constructing notions of victimhood, vulnerability, resilience and in contributing to the development of responses/outcomes and professional praxis.

Abstract id# 41965

Start Time:

5:50 PM

Reporting Risk Factors of Juvenile Crime

Frank REICHERT, National Educational Panel Study, University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Germany

Abstract Text:

In my presentation I examine the kinds of criminological knowledge and information that were considered in the German press during the Hesse election campaign in 2007/2008, in which youth crime played a major role. I investigate the integration of information about the possible causes of youth crime into press articles, and examine to which extent information about these risk factors and motives for engaging in youth crime were considered by the press to be significant in the explanation of youth crime. A second aim of is to uncover which types of criminal policy and pedagogy had been reported about, and which of those measures had been regarded as meaningful. To this end, results of a content analysis of articles from two German daily newspapers—the *Bild* and the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*—are presented and compared. The differences between the two newspapers and their method of news construction are highlighted. The results of my content analysis indicate that only rarely was knowledge about the risk factors of juvenile crime published in the press; information about the individual itself was found to an even lesser extent. This was particularly true about the *Bild*. Claims for tougher methods of punishment dominated, whereas measures that aimed at crime prevention were seldom considered reasonable, and if so, were mainly included in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Moreover, an examination of the sources quoted in the newspapers including politicians underlines that criminological knowledge about risk factors was less important in crime reporting. These results in part reflect the importance of several news factors—notably consonance, personification, risk, and negativism—but also to a large extent reflect the political accentuation of the respective newspapers and their specific views of juvenile offenders. The cross-cultural relevance of the findings will be discussed while taking into consideration differences between tabloid and broadsheet newspapers.

Abstract id# 38177

Start Time:

6:00 PM

Child Trafficking in the EU

Pete FUSSEY, Sociology, University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom and Paddy RAWLINSON, School of Political and Social Enquiry, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Abstract Text:

The paper presents findings from an empirical study of the trafficking of Roma children into the UK, involving the establishment of the first EU wide police Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to investigate the illegal movement of humans in Europe. The paper draws on 12 months of UK-based research and four research visits to Romania and Bulgaria yielding more than 100 hours of interview data collected from interviews with senior actors within policing and justice agencies, Roma advocacy NGOs, and child protection organisations in the UK, Romania and Bulgaria. This data is used to interrogate the problems of policing and protecting marginalised populations across different jurisdictions and how vulnerabilities are exacerbated by the diverse and often conflicting remits of the various agencies involved. The paper discusses how the impact of structural issues such as poverty and exclusion, and the resulting conflation of the criminalisation and victimisation of the Roma, has not only limited the effectiveness of available responses to child trafficking, but also served to aggravate the increasingly adverse conditions faced by 'Europe's favourite scapegoat'. The paper additionally seeks to progress a theoretical space by linking such analysis to sociologies of mobility, marginalisation and the pluralised rendering of criminalised and victimised 'others'. Key here are the myriad ways in which (national and organisational) borders are imagined, governed and responded to by diverse groups of criminals, victims, criminal justice and social services agencies.

Abstract id# 62603

Start Time:

6:10 PM

Femicide Followed By Suicide in Romania: Patterns, Risk Factors and Prevention

Ecaterina BALICA, Laboratory Violence and Crime. Mediation and Prevention, Institute of Sociology - Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract Text:

The interest of the Romanian journalists in presenting the homicide-suicide has generated a public reaction that expresses rather the acceptance of this type of violence as a common fact and to a lesser extent as an act of violence which requires the intervention of the criminal justice system for prevention purposes. The academic environment and social control institutions were less interested into initiating research programmes that would fundament intervention measures in order to prevent violent acts which end up in homicide.

In this context, the research initiated in 2012 proposed to identify patterns, mechanisms and risk factors that determine the femicide-suicides in a Balkan country with a high migration flow to Western countries. The used methodology included the content analysis of the online press, interviews with relatives and interviews with specialists (police, prosecutors, forensics, journalists).

The analysis of the articles emphasized the fact that online press takes over enough information from various sources in order to draw an image on patterns and risk factors specific to femicide-suicide from Romania. The online press offers special attention to the cases of femicide-suicide which had as a starting point inter-ethnic conflicts (conflicts between Romanian families and Roma families) where the suicidal aggressors were policemen or Romanian immigrants from Italy and Spain.

The journalists were focused on describing the way the violent crimes have been committed (weapons, wounds etc). The articles contain detailed information about the perpetrator and the victim (even the name of the offender, of the victims/survivors). The interest of the journalist is to catch the attention of the audience which leads them sometimes to an excessive mediatization of cases in which minors have been involved, getting to breaching of the protection rights of the children (the images displaying the child victims are broadcasted without using adequate protection).

Abstract id# 52854

Start Time:

6:20 PM

Transformation of Drug Policy in Poland: From Complete Depenalisation of Drug Possession to Its Absolute Criminalization

Jacek MOSKALEWICZ, Dep. of Studies on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland and Janusz SIEROSLAWSKI, Dep. of Studies on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Institute of psychiatry and neurology, Warsaw, Poland

Abstract Text:

Last three decades witnessed crucial transitions in Poland towards market economy and multi-party system. This process severely affected all spheres of life, including drug consumption and public policy in that area. Definition of drug abuse evolved. In the beginning of the 1980's drug abuse was interpreted as an expression of inter-generation conflict. Its victims, young addicts could only be saved outside their original milieu, in therapeutic communities offering them a new, safe, drug-free environment and bright prospects. Adoption of this definition led to depenalisation of drug possession in a drug law of 1985 which could be seen as a landmark of transition from military government to civil rule. The depenalisation, however, could also be read as a symbol or avenue of social inclusion of young addicts. Sudden changes in political and economic life in the beginning of the 1990's led to enormous shifts in power and wealth. Fundamental reconfiguration in social structure, new powers and new wealth as well as growing poverty and social exclusion demanded moral justification. A number of social problems have suddenly become moral issues, subject of vivid moral debates and accusations in fight for moral supremacy. In result, legal provisions had to be introduced to symbolise new moral order. In 1997 drug possession was penalised. A number of drug-related crimes sky-rocketed from several thousand prior to the penalisation to eighty thousand ten years later. In a decade, several hundred thousand, mostly young people underwent legal prosecution, most of them got recorded in criminal registers which reduces their prospects in the labour market. Despite softening of the drug laws in the recent years, criminalisation of drug possession widened a generation gap and excluded significant proportion of the young generation labelling them as criminal deviants.

Abstract id# 44427

Start Time:

6:30 PM

Images of Activism and Protest in Modern Art: Towards a Visual Criminology of Risk?

John Martin CHAMBERLAIN, Social Science, Loughborough University, Loughborough, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

This paper examples images of protest in the work of graffiti street artists, such as Banksy and Osgemeos, as well as more traditionally documentary techniques of photo-journalism, in relation to examples of political activism and public protest in different countries worldwide.

Against the background of consideration of the criminological study of neoliberal forms of governance, social indicators and professional and media-driven definitions of criminality and risk, the paper examines the value of visual and artistic documents for exploring the representation of everyday life and promoting an ethnographic form of narrative criminology focused on the life stories of the socially marginalized, excluded and disposed.

The paper explores how criminology as an academic discipline has yet to embrace methodological pluralism. While it is arguable that the study of crime and risk brings to the foreground the need to recognize the importance of answering the perennial question of “whose side are we one”? It concludes how in these high/post-modern times of globalized risks – such as the financial crisis, terrorism, health scares and global warming - focusing on “the visual” through the medium of modern and contemporary art reinforces the need to develop a criminology of risk and uncertainty which is both politically engaged and methodologically nuanced and robust.

Abstract id# 46389

Start Time:

6:40 PM

Rights and Responsibility - Investigation of the Emergence of Entitled Children and the Amendment of Juvenile Law in Japan from the 1990s into the Next Century

Yoshie UDAGAWA, Cultural Studies, Claremont Graduate University, Shibuyaku Tokyo, Japan

Abstract Text:

In Japan during the 1990s, concepts of childhood changed, both within the domestic and international contexts. The emerging notions of self-determination, freedom, and responsibility, being debated on several fronts, were applied to children. The application of these notions extended into the functionality of juvenile law. The questions to be raised are: Is the child considered as an object in need of protection and guidance? Should the child be viewed, similar to the adult, as an independent being who has an innate ability for self-determination? How has Japanese society perceived the child? These questions form the core for investigating social, political, and legal transitions within Japanese culture in regards to its *entitled children* who newly emerged in the 1990s and started emphasizing their rights as they thought were rightfully theirs. In this research, *entitled children* are defined as those who consider themselves as an independent adult holding the rights concerning the choice of their actions. This research aims at reconsidering and reconstructing Japanese society during this time concerning the topic of *entitled children* and their degree of self-determination as conceptually developed by their observers, such as educators, psychologists, sociologists, legal professionals, and others. This research also enables the production of interdisciplinary discussions between areas of law, sociology, cultural studies, media studies, and qualitative

fieldwork. Investigating the developed observations of multiple disciplines is beneficial for formulating a broader context in order to analyze and comprehend the topic (235 words).

Abstract id# 41455

Start Time:

6:40 PM

Smart CCTV in Contemporary Crime Control: Policies and Practices of Surveillance

Jens HÄLTERLEIN, Center for Technology and Society, Technical University Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Abstract Text:

I would like to address risk governance in crime control by illustrating the development and implementation of so called “smart” CCTV systems in Germany. These video surveillance systems are expected to automatically detect deviant behavior by using software algorithms. Since this technology is not based on the psychological or criminological analysis of deviant individuals, but on the analysis of situation and space classified as dangerous, it comes with an expansion of risk perception: everyone who is monitored by these systems is a potential risk. Hence smart CCTV can be seen as a signature of a new rational of crime control, described by scholars as situational crime prevention, new penology or neo-liberal governmentality. In this new rational, smart CCTV is seen as an efficient and effective tool for security measures. In accordance with this view both, advocates and critics of this technique draw a picture of new powers of control, that stretch from terrorism and incivilities to mass events. This vision of technology based security yet faces technological problems (how can indexical behavior be translated into software algorithms?) and the often divergent interests of prospective users (police, public transport, private enterprises). Drawing from empirical research conducted for the German FMER-funded MuViT project and the EU-funded Videosense project I want to show, that the development of smart CCTV is on the one hand part of a new rational of risk governance in crime control since it comes with a re-coding of risk and security. On the other hand its practical implications correlate with a multitude of social factors.

Session Organizer

John Martin CHAMBERLAIN

Dr:

Loughborough University

Brockington Building

Social Science

Loughborough, LE11 3TU
United Kingdom
Phone Number: 07734886285
Email: j.m.chamberlain@lboro.ac.uk -- Will not be published

Title: Open Session

Slot: Friday, July 18, 2014: 8:30 AM-10:20 AM

Abstract id# 48619

Start Time: 8:30 AM

Decision Makers and Those Affected in the Japanese Expert Community--the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster

Satoshi IGUCHI, Department of Literature, Kyoto University , Kyoto, Japan

Abstract Text: An aim of this presentation is to describe the great distance in risk evaluation regarding Fukushima nuclear disaster between two types of the scientific experts in Japan and to analyze its structure and background by applying the insight on a distinction between decision makers and those affected in risk sociology of Niklas Luhmann(1993). After 3.11 in 2011 the most Japanese experts appearing in mass media followed the government report which was underestimating a seriousness of the disaster and a possibility of spreading of radio activities. In contrast some experts such as Hiroaki Koide and Tetsuji Imanaka from Kyoto University pointed a high possibility of core meltdown in the nuclear plants and warned citizens of the great dangers of the serious nuclear disaster through local or community media from the early period on. A distinction between experts and lay people which is very common in the previous risk analysis might be useless to explain this distance, because it appears within the expert communities. Therefore the author focuses on the other distinction and takes into account the diagnosis of Luhmann that the serious conflicts over the perception and evaluation of future loss between decision makers and those affected who are excluded from decision making process cross into the every functional area in the society. It implies the splitting of the scientific experts into such two unintegratable positions. To analyze this tendency in the case of Fukushima the author will focus on the different types of positionality for warning risks and dangers and will analyzes the different degrees of their trust on one's own or other's controllability of the risky situations. These elements might influence their discourses at the more basic level than their differences in scientific-theoretical assumptions on a safety of nuclear plants and a nature of radio activities.

Abstract id# 54511

Start Time: 8:45 AM

The Necessity of Drinking and the Risks for Women Managers in Post-Bubble Japan

Swee Lin HO, Sociology, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore

Abstract Text: This paper examines the varying risks faced by Japanese women who utilize after-work drinking as a strategic and necessary tool to manage their ambiguous identity as corporate managers. The increasingly flexible work environment in post-bubble Japan has generated opportunities for many women to gain white-collar employment and develop professional careers, but it has also generated high staff turnover and presented corporate managers with the challenge of having to handle competitive, unstable and disharmonious employee relations. After-work drinking may continue to be regarded as an important extension of work, but it has shifted radically in significance from being a means of forging collective bonding among workers and enhancing the corporate identity of employers, to becoming an individual-focused activity for social networking and a strategic tool for corporate managers to deal with employee relations to protect, if not also advance, their careers. Yet, despite having gained the ability to legitimize drinking as work-related, and despite also an improvement to the image of drinking for women over the past decades, women managers still face considerable risks in incurring social criticisms and in terms of their health. This is because drinking remains a predominantly masculine activity in Japan even today, while the improvement to the image of women drinking in the past decades was largely commercially driven – by producers of alcoholic beverages targeting the enhanced economic resources of Japan's expanded white-collar female workforce – and does not reflect a greater acceptance of drinking for women by the broader Japanese society.

Abstract id# 54750

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Nationality of Food: Food Safety As National Crisis and Nationalistic Ideology in South Korea

Sana HO, Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies, Seoul National University, South Korea

Abstract Text: This paper examines food safety issues as national crisis and nationalistic ideology in South Korea. Food safety issues are one of the major issues at stake in South Korea recently. The import of US beef and potential threaten from mad cow diseases had caused one of the biggest protests in Korean modern history in 2008. The risk of agricultural products imported from China is almost the daily topic on mass media. The uncertainty of possible radiated fish from Japan after 311 Fukushima incidents arouse panic around family tables. Food safety is a topic that touches people's nerves in everyday life.

In this paper, I will analyze the discourses and regulations regarding original places of food productions. My argument is that although food safety is a reasonable issue to worry about, yet in South Korea it is rather a political/nationalistic issue. An agricultural movement called *shintobuli* in late 1980s had successfully built up an ideology that only domestic food is reliable and good for

Korean people's body and health, no matter how those foods are produced. Regulations to enforce labeling the origins of food production enhance Korean national identity and sentiment towards their domestic products as well as nation. Fear penetrates when evolving foreign food products. Crisis of food safety thus is not only an issue about health and well beings but rather an issue in political arena. It shows the anxiety and senses of threatens when South Koreans have to face other powerful countries around them such as US, China and Japan. Safety only exists inside the door. Nationality is thus not only essential for people, but also for food.

Abstract id# 50757

Start Time: 9:15 AM

Religion and Risk: Pana-Wave Laboratory and the Risk Society

Salvador MURGUIA, Miyazaki International College, Japan

Abstract Text: This paper documents the rise and fall of a Japanese new religious movement known as the Pana-Wave Laboratory. Founded in 1977 by Chino Yūko, the Pana-Wave Laboratory was an eclectic form of spiritualism that adopted doctrines from the several religious traditions, as well as a host of pseudo-scientific conjectures about physics, environmental warfare and space exploration.

Led by the aging Chino, a reclusive woman that rarely left the confines of her Toyota van, the Pana-Wave Laboratory established a compound for its religious and scientific practices atop Gotaishi Mountains in central Japan. Believing to have the ability to channel celestial figures and a special knowledge of a communist conspiracy to have her assassinated through electromagnetic weaponry, Chino depended entirely upon the assistance of some forty members of the Pana-Wave Laboratory for her survival.

Through their view of the scientific process, Pana-Wave Laboratory members adopted images of themselves as "scientists," taking on actual roles that contributed to their appearance and occupations as laboratory researchers. Members constructed of a full-fledged laboratory, complete with instruments and data recording devices to manage their research agenda. They then began to fashion white laboratory coats, engage in "scientific debates," and profess their findings in their own "peer-reviewed journal." In a dramaturgical sense, these Pana-Wave Laboratory members used the principles of scientific reasoning and props from a host of laboratory settings to create and re-create their images, while fortifying the legitimacy of the religious claims.

Using a combination of Ulrich Beck's "Risk Society" thesis, this paper explores one group's experiment with creating a science and the consequences of doing so in the full purview of the Japanese media. Ultimately, I demonstrate the pervasive consequences of a religious community bound up in fear of human-manufactured risk, as well as the response of its members in averting their own demise.

Abstract id# 32930

Start Time: 9:30 AM

Trading Uncertainty. Insurance As Risk Institutionalization In Modern Society

Alberto CEVOLINI, Department of Economy and Communication, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy

Abstract Text: Insurance is a core institution of modern society. Yet a sociology of insurance is still underdeveloped. Starting from the basic assumption that insurance is a way of trading uncertainty, the main hypothesis arises that the evolutionary advantage of insurance industry lies in increasing the self-produced uncertainty which can be absorbed in social systems through decisions. This implies the use of knowledge – statistics and probability theory – in order to sell ignorance. Such a paradox is made operative through the premium quantification. How can future uncertainty be reduced to a certain price? Premium itself is a double-side risk: for insurers the matter is to underwrite or not to underwrite; for policy holders the matter is to be or not to be insured. And both have to combine the uncertainty of expectations towards a determinate event with the uncertainty of events towards a determinate expectation. The only solution seems to be that of getting ready to cope with surprises. Some financial instruments such as weather derivatives and catastrophe options can be seen as an empirical evidence of this complex form of risk institutionalization.

Abstract id# 47326

Start Time: 9:45 AM

Risk, Trust and Aspirations of UK Bankers at the Onset of the Global Financial Crisis: A Case of Extremes?

Andreas CEBULLA, National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

Abstract Text: Debates over the causes of the global financial crisis of 2008 have pointed at *institutional* and *individual-behavioural* causes; a methodological and conceptual dichotomy that is profoundly affecting risk research. Responsibility and also often blame for the Global Financial Crisis have been placed on banking institutions that failed to apply due diligence against a backdrop of inadequate regulation, or on individualised ‘greed’ facilitated by banks that incentivised excessive risk-taking.

But were bankers unique and possibly uniquely extreme in their risk attitudes and, thus, were perhaps recruited into the banking system for this reason? Or did the banking system facilitate or enhance a (latent) propensity for those entering the banking system to be or become extreme, perhaps ‘money-hungry’ risk-takers?

Using the British Household Panel Survey, this paper compares risk perceptions, trust and aspirations expressed by retail and investment bankers in the UK with those of the general working population at the brink of the Global Financial Crisis in 2008. In addition, using the data in longitudinal analysis, it explores whether bankers’ attitudes towards risk changed as they spent more time in banking, asking whether institutions and exposure to their cultures shaped and possibly accentuated attitudes to risk taking.

The paper concludes with a discussion of the findings' implications for the study of risk and risk attitudes.

Session Organizer

Adam BURGESS
University of Kent
United Kingdom
Email: a.burgess@kent.ac.uk

Title: Risk and the Media

Slot: Friday, July 18, 2014: 10:30 AM-12:20 PM

Abstract id# 52116

Start Time: 10:30 AM

The Discursive Construction of Risk

Melanie WENZEL, Department of Sociology, Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Abstract Text: In the past few years, an intensified discussion and dispute about the existence and extent of risks of anthropogenic organic micro-pollutants (OMP) and pathogens in drinking and surface water is taking place in public or semi-public discourses. These discourses influence how one perceives possible risks, what risks one states as true or false, and finally how one acts and behaves in everyday life and in times of risk-based uncertainty and crisis. In this paper, discourses are understood as social practices of producing, reproducing and stabilizing social reality. These practices are usually controversial and conflictive – moreover they are always guided by specific interests. Discourses about the existence and extent of risks of anthropogenic OMP and pathogens in the water occur in and in-between the following main different discourse fields: media, general public (the “normal” consumer of water in everyday life), topic-related sciences (engineering, biology, toxicology, ecology, medicine ...), politics, and water supplier (including their representatives). This paper aims to analyse, how knowledge about and attitude towards the existence and extent of these risks are being produced in the mentioned discourses above and how these discursively constructed “truths” effect social actors. Especially the role of the media will be emphasised. An extensive survey was conducted to cover the different discourse fields and to explore how these risks are produced in and in-between these fields, which discourses are most powerful and dominant, and why. Methods of qualitative content analysis are used to extract different lines of arguments, the various levels of the discourses and the diverse discourse positions from the empirical data. Data include in-depth qualitative interviews with “normal” consumers and professionals from science, industry and politics; press articles, TV and radio broadcasts of

regional and national media institutions; and published texts and documents from scientific, political, non-profit, charitable, educational, and economical organisations.

Abstract id# 54367

Start Time: 10:45 AM

Politics of Science Online: Discursive Negotiation of Risk and Uncertainty Regarding Radiation Contamination

Keiko NISHIMURA, Department of Communication Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Abstract Text: As the details of nuclear accident in 2011 unfold, many Japanese were forced into the world of scientific jargons that might determine their life. Some believed the scientists' assessment of "no immediate harm," others alerted the danger of both short- and long-term harm of radiation contamination. As Beck (1992) notes that "the sources of danger are no longer ignorance but *knowledge*" (p183), the knowledge itself confused their understanding of radiation and political stance. While the national discourse was seemingly splitting into two "dangerous" and "safe" camps, many have attempted to assess the risk themselves by negotiating their ideas about safety, health, and lives through various discussions in mass, print, and online media. Especially the open discussions in the social media, whose popularity is tied to the activities in the triple disaster (Slater, Nishimura and Kindstrand 2012), is an important sites where laypeople's experience, knowledge, and logic are contested and negotiated. This paper attempts to illustrate how popular epidemiology (Brown 1987, 1997; Murphy 2006; Novotny 1994) and scientific knowledge about radiation contamination is negotiated in Japanese online discursive space. I compare and contrast two major rhetorics: one that is skeptical of, and another that claims immediate harm of radiation. I center my analysis to those on Twitter, due to its open architecture and ability to identify individual participants. My aim is to explore the different ways in which participants of online discussion are making sense of the situation, from their living space, food, water to their health, family, job, etc. Furthermore, I look at the debates around Yamamoto Taro, an activist politician who was elected to Upper House in 2013 by centering his campaign around anti-nuclear policy, and how such online discursive space may have ramification to the transformation of political in Japanese society.

Abstract id# 37743

Start Time: 11:00 AM

Microblogging and Macro Weather: Climate Change Risk Discourse on Twitter

Giuseppe A. VELTRI, Media and Communication, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom

Abstract Text: The social web represents a new arena for local, national and global conversations and will play an increasing role in the public understanding of science and the creation of risk discourses. This paper presents an analysis of climate change social representations on Twitter,

analysing over 60,000 tweets collected using a random week method. The analysis includes a combination of web metrics, latent semantic analysis and semantic network analysis. Results indicate that most active users on climate change are distributed according to a power law distribution and that web metric indicators suggest a moderate conversation on the topic. In terms of content, there is a remarkable complex network of topics that hints to a rather multi-dimensional and complex risk discourse accounting for complex causality links between climate change and natural, social and economic consequences. Most of the tweets cluster around the domains of the effects of climate change, the measures that are proposed to adapt to it, the policy debate between policymakers and energy industry and call for actions for offline events. Moreover, the media ecology of the tweets, the web links shared in them, are from a wide set of sources with a major role played by traditional media but with a substantial presence also of scientific journals and NGOs websites.

Abstract id# 40306

Start Time: 11:15 AM

Does Newsworthiness Influence Construction of Food Risk? Views of Media Actors

Annabelle WILSON¹, Julie HENDERSON², Michael CALNAN³, Martin CARAHER⁴, John COVENEY², Samantha MEYER⁵ and Paul WARD², (1)School of Nursing and Midwifery, Flinders University, Australia, (2)Discipline of Public Health, Flinders University, Australia, (3)School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, (4)Centre for Food Policy, Department of Sociology, City University, United Kingdom, (5)School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo, Canada

Abstract Text: In modern society, many risks are invisible and are brought to the attention of the public through the mass media. This is particularly relevant for food, where the widening gap between producers and consumers in the developed world has increased the need for consumer trust. Therefore the media play a crucial role in how risk is constructed and presented to the public. It is pertinent to gain an understanding of the construction of food risk as this is likely to influence consumer trust in food. This paper presents empirical data from research investigating how the media construct food risk and ultimately affect consumer trust across three countries: Australia, the United Kingdom (UK) and New Zealand (NZ). Interviews were undertaken with media actors from each country including 20 from Australia, 10 from the UK and three from NZ. First, our findings identify that newsworthiness is important when constructing a story about food risk. This followed a hierarchy, with risks affecting children and babies perceived as the most newsworthy. Second, risk reporting follows a cycle with precedence given to the dissemination of *any* information about the risk, regardless of the severity of the risk to public health and safety. This is followed by tempering of the risk, coverage of new angles to keep the story going and seeking to uncover the 'truth' such as the source of contamination that led to the food incident. Third, working conditions of media actors, including limited time, limited space and short deadlines were found to diminish the ability to report a balanced story, hence adding to newsworthiness and augmenting construction of risk. Our findings indicate that the construction of food risk by the media is influenced by newsworthiness and this is likely to impact the ways in which consumers regard the food risk presented.

Abstract id# 34220

Start Time: 11:30 AM

Worth a Thousand Words: Conducted Energy Devices, New Media Events, and The Public Eye

Nicole NEVERSON, Sociology, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada, Temitope ORIOLA, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada and Charles ADEYANJU, Sociology and Anthropology, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PE, Canada

Abstract Text: Between April 2003 and November 2008, 26 men died in Canada during events where a conductive energy device (CED) was deployed on them. The death of Robert Dziekanski, a Polish immigrant, in 2007 at the Vancouver International Airport, was recorded on a mobile phone and its footage subsequently uploaded to the popular video site YouTube. The video, which documented Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers deploying a CED on Dziekanski, was viewed by thousands of citizens of the world and expanded its footprint beyond the Internet as traditional media organizations incorporated it into their coverage of the event. Unlike previous CED-related deaths, the recording of the Dziekanski death was an integral piece of the event's anatomy and granted members of the mass public, as scrutinizers if not legitimate bystanders, entry into how it unfolded. Following Fiske (1996), we treat the recording, its dissemination via the Internet and broader news media, and its mass consumption as a 'new media event'—one that amplified and articulated competing narratives of risk. We synthesize the work of Beck (1992), Giddens (1991; 1990), Hall et al. (1978), and Lupton (1999) and others in our examination of the YouTube video of Dziekanski's death and over 400 reports in three major Canadian newspapers, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, and the *National Post*. Using a broad critical approach, we assess how groups like the RCMP, government officials, and the general public made sense of the recording. The recording's electronic nature, we argue, complicated an 'open-shut' case narrative commonly articulated by law enforcement officials when describing how they respond to and neutralize threats to the public. The existence of the recording allowed for competing assessments of threat and harm while altering the credibility of the police as sole purveyors of risk assessment.

Session Organizer

Renata MOTTA

Free University Berlin

Boltzmannstr. 1

desiguALdades.net/LAI

Berlin, 14195

Germany

Phone Number: +49-(0)30 838 53069

Email: renata.motta@fu-berlin.de

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Newsletter editor: Dr Martyn Chamberlain, (j.m.chamberlain@lboro.ac.uk)

Newsletter co-editor: Ms Renata Motta, (renata.motta@fu-berlin.de)