Village newsletter

Monthly updates from Sociology PhD students from the University of York.

If you'd like to suggest some ideas of content for the next newsletter, please get in touch with Anaïs.

Upcoming conferences

Vladimir Rizov will be presenting at...
*Locating Fantastika conference*
Location: University of Lancaster
Date: 8th July 2015
Title: The Dialectics of Documents: The Case of Parisian Landscape in Atget and Cartier-Bresson

Alex Simpson
*Eurocrim 2015, 15th Annual Conference of ERC*
Location: Porto, Portugal
Dates: 2-5 September 2015
Title: Crime without Criminality: Constructions of Deviance in the City of London

Holly Steel
*International Visual Methods Conference*
Location: University of Brighton
Dates: 16-18 September 2015
Title: Violence of a Loop: The ethics of researching graphic content from conflict zones

What's new?

Only a few days before the PG conference! A big thank you to the PG students who have been involved so far and who have offered to help on the day! A few of students from the Centre for Women's Studies and Sociology will be speaking, amongst them:

**Germaine Günter** on 'the myth of extraordinary coincidence'
**Holly Steel** on 'myth(s) of witnessing: the promise and pitfalls of the networked witness in online new text'
**Anaïs Duong-Pedica** on 'South sea mermaids: mythographies of Tahitian women and mermaids in the western imagination'.

PhD Students on Twitter

Will Paterson  
@wp513

Jack Denham  
@JackPDenham

Holly Steel  
@hsteel

David Honeywell  

Anaïs Duong-Pedica  
@anaisdpedica

Ros Williams  
@roswillz

Alex Simpson  
@alexsimps
Student focus: Vladimir Rizov

I started my undergraduate degree at York in 2010 and, after a second year away on an Erasmus exchange at the University of Bergen in Norway, I graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology with Social Psychology in 2013. After that, I received the 50th Anniversary Scholarship and through it I had the chance to do a Master’s degree in Social Research.

Currently, I am developing the work from my Master’s degree dissertation further and I am exploring issues in the practice of documentary photography. My work focuses on the way narratives are constructed and employed in the process of presenting the practice of documentation. In addition to this, I am interested in all things visual – from visual sociology through contemporary photography to the historical developments of cameras and development processes.

At the moment of this newsletter, I am working on two papers. The first one is called ‘Photography without the Photograph’ and it is a theoretical text, in which I am trying to emphasise the need to conceptualise photography as a practice without treating photographs as an entry-point of research. The second paper is called ‘Dialectics of the Document’ and in it I am proposing a dialectical approach of determining what a document is. In the text I rely on the photographers Eugene Atget (1857-1927) and Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004) and their landscape depictions of Paris.

Upcoming departmental events

**Wednesday 13th May**
PG Conference

**Thursday 4th June**
Teaching Away Day

**Friday 19th June**
PhD Away Day

**Thursday 25th June**
Research Away Day

**Wednesday 21st October**
PGR Meeting
Who are your representatives?

Will Paterson, Teaching and PhD Rep

Beginning in April I have attended two departmental committees in two differing roles; first as PGWT (post-graduates who teach) representative at Teaching Committee, and second as PhD representative at Board of Studies. My role at both of these committees is broadly the same, to communicate any issues, comments, concerns or praise that are passed to me, then pass back any relevant information, such as about departmental policy or plans for the coming months. In the case of teaching committee this might mean highlighting a planned change of feedback policies, for Board of Studies it may mean communicating plans to move the departmental reception.

Ahead of each meeting I'll try and ensure I've sent an email around fellow PGWTs or the wider PhD community in order to canvas views, but if you have an issue you'd like raising at the next meeting of one of the two committees feel free to drop me an email (wp513@york.ac.uk) or say hello when you're passing my office (W/125).

For any concern about research contact the research representative, Jerry Booth (jb1013@york.ac.uk).

What are we currently reading?

- Will is reading 'The Death and Life of Great American Cities' by Jane Jacobs.
- Vlad is reading 'Small Towns, Austere Times' by Steve Hanson.
- Jack & Anaïs are reading 'Death & the Moving Image: Ideology, Iconography and I' by Michele Aaron.
- Holly is reading 'Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable?' by Judith Butler.
New reading group

——Will Paterson

Matt Spokes, Vlad Rizov and myself are starting a reading group. The aim is relatively straightforward: to read something – as suggested by one member of the group - and then to meet up discuss it. We’d be meeting every three weeks from the tail-end of this term (the end of Week 7) and then over the summer, each time in a new and exciting location (essentially, a different pub), again suggested by whoever has suggested the reading: let’s call them the ‘convenor’. The idea is to offer a space for debate and ideas framed by a particular text, and to give different people the chance to convene and explore readings they are interested in learning more about.

Thematically-speaking, we’re thinking of readings that stick closer to theory but in relation to some sort of contemporary event, so the scope is helpfully broad. The first meeting is convened by Will, and will take place at The Phoenix Inn on Thursday 28th of May from 7.30pm. Considering current debates about the nature of, and our involvement with, Europe – and following his death at the beginning of 2015 - it seemed pertinent that the first reading should be from Ulrich Beck’s *German Europe*: Chapter 3, titled *A Social Contract for Europe*. Anybody from postgraduate level upwards is welcome to attend: the broader the spread, the better the discussion.

Locations and specific readings for the June and July meeting will be confirmed at the first meeting, as well as speculative work around meetings for later over the summer. Please send expressions of interest to matt.spokes@york.ac.uk at some stage prior to the initial meeting so we can get an idea of numbers.

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First 3 meetings...

**Thursday 28th May, 7pm:** Ulrich Beck’s *A Social Contract for Europe*, The Phoenix Inn (led by Will)

**Thursday 18th June, 7pm:** Kurt Meyer’s *Rhythms, Streets, Cities* (after Lefebvre), The Waggon and Horses (led by Matt)

**Thursday 9th July, 7pm:** Herbert Marcuse’s *One Dimensional Man*, The Seahorse Hotel (led by Vlad)

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Hannah & Jack at the British Museum, London.

Holly & Anaïs having a break at the 'Inner Resources' conference at Birkbeck College, UCL.

Going through old slides Hannah got at the carboot sale.