Lancaster University

Intellectual Party 2023

Programme 29th – 30th June 2023

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Introduction

Hello, and welcome to Lancaster University's Intellectual Party 2023.

We're really excited to be back in-person this year and have a fantastic couple of days lined up. This is your chance to meet new people, make friends and expand your intellectual horizons!

During the Party you can:

- Chat during the tea and coffee breaks, over lunches, or at the evening BBQ.
- Play Floorball – like hockey but with plastic sticks, a plastic ball and no rules. Great fun.
- Watch the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition and vote for the best presentation.
- Enjoy our faculty book launch and meet the authors.
- Experience the SPECTACULAR GRAND FINALE – in which selected members of staff and PhD students compete for the coveted Intellectual Party Trophy.

We look forward to getting to know you over the next two days :-)

Organising Committee

The Intellectual Party Organising Committee for 2023 includes:

- Jemma Cliff
- Josi Fernandes
- Mike Greenhough
- Bob Jones
- Lisa Potter
- Meg Ritchie
- Mike Ryder
- Nina Schlömer
- Elizabeth Shove

The Faculty book launch was organised by Peter Stevens.

If you have any questions, or need to know how to get somewhere, simply speak to a member of our team and we will be more than happy to help.

Our Supporters

This Intellectual Party is a collaboration between Lancaster University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), and Lancaster University Management School (LUMS).

We are grateful to the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership for supporting this event.

Key Information

- Our Twitter handle is @LUsummerconf – please **Tweet** a lot.
- You can connect to the **internet** via eduroam (if you have it), or Wifi-Guest.
- If you are new to Lancaster, you can **navigate our campus** using our handy interactive **campus map**.
- You can fill your **water** bottles, or refill jugs from the taps in the kitchen areas (follow the signs).
- Some sessions are '**self-chairing**' – we have provided a note on what this involves in each room.
- If playing floorball, remember your trainers!
- If you have **any questions** please speak to one of the organising team, who are wearing the nice t-shirts.
- You can also study the programme and look up participants in the index.
  - All names are organised in alphabetical order by surname.

Good luck and have fun!

Campus Map and Venue Locations

Use our interactive map to find your way around campus. Navigate to key conference locations using the links below:

- Pre-conference social event – The Waterwitch, Lancaster
- Seminar rooms – Bowland North
- Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre – Centre of Bowland North
- Floorball – To be played at the netball courts opposite the Sports Centre
- Main bus stop – University underpass

Programme Overview

Wednesday 28th June

19:30   Pre-conference meet up (The Waterwitch, Lancaster)

Thursday 29th June

10.45–11.00   Welcome (Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre)

11.00–12.00   Session 1 – The object of my PhD: purpose (Seminar rooms in Bowland North)

12.00–12.30   Coffee break

12.30–13.30   Session 2 – The object of my PhD: metaphor (Seminar rooms in Bowland North)

13.30–14.30   Lunch

14.30–15.30   Session 3 – Craft skills (Seminar rooms in Bowland North)

- Writing Applications for External Research Funding
- Acquiring an Academic Identity

15.30–16.30   Extended coffee break & Floorball (Netball Courts)

16.30–17.30   Session 4 – Designing the perfect PhD project (Seminar rooms in Bowland North)

17.30–18.00   Coffee break

18.00–19.00   Three Minute Thesis competition (Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre)

19.00   Wine reception and BBQ dinner (Bowland North, Back Courtyard)

Friday 30th June

9.30–10.00   Positioning exercise (Bowland North, Back Courtyard)

10.00–11.00   Session 1 – Abstract questions: expand and explain

11.00–11.30   Coffee break

11.30–12.30   Session 2 – Abstract questions: Writing 250 words and more

12.30–14.00   Faculty book launch and lunch

14.00–15.30   Session 3 – Tricycle chats

15.30–16.00   Coffee break

16.00–17.00   Session 4 – Craft skills

- Academic Journals and Special Issues: Editing and Publishing
- Preparing for Your Viva
- Creating Impact at Scale (Research Commercialisation)

17.00   Grand finale – The jungle of academic life

18.00   End

Programme in Detail: Groups and Sessions

Sessions will be held in Seminar Rooms 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and the Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre in
Bowland North

Thursday 29th June 2023

11.00–12.00   **Session 1 – The object of my PhD: purpose**

In this session, participants will focus on the pictures everyone has provided of the 'object' of
their PhD. Participants ask each other about the objects. Why did you choose it? How does
it speak to your project? (Note: this is not a mini-presentation!) What other object did you
think of including?

SR 4	SR 5	SR 7	SR 8	SR 9
Chair: Elizabeth Shove	Chair: Mike Greenhough	Chair: Josi Fernandes	Chair: Bob Jones	Chair: Lisa Potter
Razak Alli	Zan Wang	Daphna Baram	Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun	Holly Dean
David Chaquea Romero	Adam McCarthy	Aisha Bashir	Scarlett Li	Amy Gottler
Josh Devlin	Oleksandra Osypenko	Jingrui Hu	Rachel Odufuwa	Lingyao Jin
Violet Owen	Leah Ward	Meg Ritchie	Nina Schlömer	Simiran Lalvani
Chrisie Pullin	Lettie Wareing	Soheila Shourbaji	Sharon Summers	Zijun Li
Yu Han	Ellie Moxham	Jinxian (Lily) Wu	Zi Quan	Seren Parkman
				Laura Riella

12.30–13.30   **Session 2 – The object of my PhD: metaphor**

In this session, participants will focus on the metaphorical status of the images and
representations. Using the images of the objects provided, the idea is to focus on issues of
style and design. What associations does the object have? Which of the other objects in this
session might be reinterpreted to say something about your project?

SR 4	SR 5	SR 7	SR 8	SR 9
Chair: Mike Ryder	Chair: Jemma Cliff	Chair: Meg Ritchie	Chair: Lisa Potter	Chair: Bob Jones
Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun	Razak Alli	David Chaquea Romero	Daphna Baram	Aisha Bashir
Amy Gottler	Holly Dean	Yu Han	Josh Devlin	Jingrui Hu
Zi Quan	Violet Owen	Scarlett Li	Mike Greenhough	Rachel Odufuwa
Nina Schlömer	Seren Parkman	Zijun Li	Simiran Lalvani	Oleksandra Osypenko
Zan Wang	Leah Ward	Ellie Moxham	Adam McCarthy	Chrisie Pullin
Jinxian (Lily) Wu	Soheila Shourbaji	Laura Riella	Lettie Wareing	Lingyao Jin
		Sharon Summers		

14.30–15.30   Session 3 – Craft skills

<u>Choose one of these two craft skills sessions…</u>

Writing Applications for External Research Funding (Seminar Room 4)
Claire O'Donnell

This is a hands-on session that will look briefly at how you identify relevant and suitable sources of research funding and how you begin to engage with your research funders. In this session, we will take a brief look at an example of a successful application for research funding to see how this is structured and how you might begin to think about the application writing process.

Acquiring an Academic Identity (Seminar Room 5)
Marian Iszatt-White

A workshop on acquiring an intellectual identity, on generating 'your' ideas, and becoming known for them.

15.30–16.30   Extended coffee break and Floorball (Netball Courts opposite Sport Centre)

16.30–17.30   Session 4 – Designing the perfect PhD.

This is a chance to think about method and research design. The idea is to learn, briefly, about the approaches everyone is taking, and to then invent some new (fictional) hybrid PhD project that represents some combination of these ideas. In the hour, each group needs to produce one PowerPoint slide with a) the title of the invented hybrid PhD, b) an image that represents it, and c) up to 30 key words on method, theory and approach. Send these slides to Intellectualparty@lancaster.ac.uk before 9am, Friday 30th June.

SR 4	SR 5	SR 7	SR 8	SR 9
Chair: Elizabeth Shove	Chair: Josi Fernandes	Chair: Mike Ryder	Chair: Mike Greenhough	Chair: Jemma Cliff
Josh Devlin	David Chaquea Romero	Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun	Aisha Bashir	Daphna Baram
Jingrui Hu	Simiran Lalvani	Razak Alli	Holly Dean	Lingyao Jin
Scarlett Li	Laura Riella	Oleksandra Osypenko	Yu Han	Zi Quan
Ellie Moxham	Soheila Shourbaji	Seren Parkman	Bob Jones	Meg Ritchie
Rachel Odufuwa	Zan Wang	Chrisie Pullin	Adam McCarthy	Leah Ward
Sharon Summers	Jinxian (Lily) Wu	Nina Schlömer	Violet Owen	Lettie Wareing
Amy Gottler	Lisa Potter		Zijun Li	

18.00–19.00   Three Minute Thesis (Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre)

In which selected contestants present their PhDs in just three minutes. There will be two rounds with a break between. At the end, the audience will vote for the presentation that is the most convincing, interesting and effective.

Participant	Topic
Daphna Baram	Something to Declare: Immigrant's Stand Up Comedy in the UK
Aisha Bashir	To What Extent Has the UK Complied With the ECAT in Relation to Adult Victims of Human Trafficking?
Mike Greenhough	Energy Consumption in Daily Life: Shaping Seasonal Cycles and Energy Use
Simiran Lalvani	Producing Material and Consuming Diets: A Socio-Historical Study of Food Delivery Work in Mumbai
Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun	The Role of Bilingualism and Translation in nation-building in Cameroon
Violet Owen	How Can Creative Evaluation (CE) Help To Establish the Impacts of Social Innovations?
Chrisie Pullin	Moral Injury: Understanding the Causes, Processes, and Consequences in the UK Ambulance Service
Lettie Wearing	Disrupted Sense of Self and Distorted Body Representation in Anorexia Nervosa: The Role of Interoceptive Deficits

19.00 onwards   BBQ and drinks ([Bowland North Rear Courtyard](#))

There will be a drinks reception and BBQ in Bowland North. We will also award prizes for the Three Minutes Thesis competition.

Friday 30ᵗʰ June 2023

9.30–10.00   **Positioning exercise ([Bowland North Back Courtyard](#))**

This is a chance to discover how participants relate to each other, what they have in common and what separates them as well. Led by Elizabeth Shove. Indoors if wet.

10.00–11.00   **Session 1 – Abstract questions: expand and explain**

In this session, participants focus on each other's project descriptions. Again, this is not a chance to present your project, but it is an opportunity to expand on what you wrote and respond to specific questions that others put to you based on your 250 word description.

SR 4	SR 5	SR 7	SR 8	SR 9
Chair: Mike Greenhough	Chair: Elizabeth Shove	Chair: Josi Fernandes	Chair: Meg Ritchie	Chair: Bob Jones
Daphna Baram	Josh Devlin	Chrisie Pullin	Razak Alli	Violet Owen
Aisha Bashir	Leah Ward	Adam McCarthy	David Chaquea Romero	Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun
Ellie Moxham	Amy Gottler	Jingrui Hu	Lettie Wareing	Soheila Shourbaji
Holly Dean	Zijun Li	Zan Wang	Jinxian (Lily) Wu	Rachel Odufuwa
Yu Han	Oleksandra Osypenko	Scarlett Li	Zi Quan	Seren Parkman
Nina Schlömer	Laura Riella	Sharon Summers	Simiran Lalvani	Lisa Potter
		Lingyao Jin		

11.30–12.30   **Session 2 – Abstract questions: writing 250 words and more**

This session is about methods and styles of writing. Starting with the 250 words that everyone has produced, this is a chance to discuss and compare methods of writing at greater length. How does the 250 words relate to the whole thesis, or to however much of it exists at the moment? How is writing 250 words different from writing 8,000 or 80,000 words? What did you decide to include in the 250 words and what did you decide to leave out? How do the short descriptions compare: is there a common format?

SR 4	SR 5	SR 7	SR 8	SR 9
Chair: Lisa Potter	Chair: Josi Fernandes	Chair: Jemma Cliff	Chair: Elizabeth Shove	Chair: Mike Greenhough
Josh Devlin	Daphna Baram	Holly Dean	Violet Owen	Razak Alli
Adam McCarthy	Yu Han	Chrisie Pullin	Oleksandra Osypenko	David Chaquea Romero
Meg Ritchie	Ellie Moxham	Lettie Wareing	Aisha Bashir	Leah Ward
Jinxian (Lily) Wu	Soheila Shourbaji	Jingrui Hu	Zan Wang	Amy Gottler
Nina Schlömer	Sharon Summers	Rachel Odufuwa	Scarlett Li	Seren Parkman
Lingyao Jin	Simiran Lalvani	Bob Jones	Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun	Zi Quan
Laura Riella	Zijun Li			

12.30–14.00   Faculty book launch and lunch ([Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre](#))

Basil Germond will chair the 2023 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences book launch. You will get to learn about the books produced in the faculty, and there will be prizes for the books and author – the categories and criteria are secret. You get to meet some of the authors over lunch.

14.00–15.30   Session 3 – Tricycle chats

We have set aside this time for you to talk, in greater depth, with two (or more) other Intellectual Party goers. Take time to learn about how you started on your PhD, how the project has changed, what input you get from your supervisors and colleagues, what is bothering you now, what you plan to do when you finish, etc. The agenda is up to you. You can meet in any of the seminar rooms (SR 4, 5, 7, 8 or 9) or find somewhere else to talk. You may even decide to go for a walk!

Group 1	**Group 2**	**Group 3**	**Group 4**
Nkeke Delphine	Lisa Potter	Bob Jones	Holly Dean
Ajibade Oluseun	Chrisie Pullin	Soheila Shourbaji	Laura Riella
Amy Gottler	Jinxian (Lily) Wu	Lettie Wareing	Zan Wang
Leah Ward			
Group 5	**Group 6**	**Group 7**	**Group 8**
Rachel Odufuwa	Daphna Baram	Razak Alli	David Chaquea
Zi Quan	Meg Ritchie	Simiran Lalvani	Romero
Nina Schlömer	Sharon Summers	Adam McCarthy	Yu Han
			Seren Parkman
Group 9	**Group 10**	**Group 11**	
Aisha Bashir	Scarlett Li	Zijun Li	
Jingrui Hu	Josh Devlin	Lingyao Jin	
Violet Owen	Mike Greenhough	Ellie Moxham	
		Oleksandra Osypenko	

16.00–17.00   Session 4 – Craft skills

<u>Choose from one of these three craft skills sessions…</u>

Academic Journals and Special Issues: Editing and Publishing (Seminar Room 4)
Dany Girard and Tom Brassington

In this workshop, we hope to demystify the process that goes into guest editing a special issue of an academic journal. We shall go through the process, from initial idea-mapping to publication, and talk about the tasks that go into producing a journal special issue. For an interactive portion of the session, we will provide files of the journal special issue guest editor form to help illustrate to attendees the types of things prospective editors are asked for. The end of the session will feature a 15-minute Q&A.

Preparing for Your Viva (Seminar Room 5)
Hannah Stoddart

This session will involve a Q&A type of discussion and an opportunity to think ahead to the final stages of your PhD journey: the viva. The session will cover tips and guidance on planning and preparing for the viva, based on recent experience.

Creating Impact at Scale: Research Commercialisation (Seminar Room 7)
Charlotte Stuart

Mobilising research. Translating research. Creating impact at scale. Commercialisation. These are all terms used to describe the ways in which researchers create sustainable mechanisms to ensure wider uptake and application of their expertise or research outputs and create direct value to beneficiaries beyond the scope of a time and funding limited research project. In the arts, humanities and social sciences commercialisable research outputs can take many forms, including toolkits, advice delivered through consultancy work, training programmes, digital tools and other resources. During the session you will hear examples of FASS academics who have or are in the process of commercialising in a range of ways, including through social enterprises, standard limited.

17.00   Grand finale – The jungle of academic life ([Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre](#))

In this year's closing event, teams of participants will have to navigate the jungle of academic life. They will have to demonstrate leadership, scholarship and oarsmanship if they are to cross the dreadful swamp of doctoral despair. There will be a leopard in charge. The most successful team will get to drink at the fountain of knowledge. There will be prizes for the winning team (the trophy itself), for the best hybrid PhD, and more.

Teams for the finale:

- **Bob (Indiana) Jones,** Lisa Potter, Chrisie Pullin, Jinxian (Lily) Wu, Daphna Baram, Meg Ritchie, Sharon Summers, Scarlett Li, Violet Owen

- **Jemma Cliff**, Nkeke Delphine Ajibade Oluseun, Amy Gottler, Leah Ward, Rachel Odufuwa, Zi Quan, Nina Schlömer, Aisha Bashir, Jingrui Hu

- **Josi Fernandes,** Soheila Shourbaji, Lettie Wareing, Razak Alli, Simiran Lalvani, Adam McCarthy, Josh Devlin, Zijun Li, Oleksandra Osypenko

- **Mike Greenhough,** Holly Dean, Laura Riella, Zan Wang, David Chaquea Romero, Yu Han, Seren Parkman, Lingyao Jin, Ellie Moxham

Please be sure to complete a feedback form at the end of the conference :-)

Project Descriptions

Presenters are arranged in alphabetical order by surname

Razak Alli
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Practices Track

Gender Equality in Financial Inclusion

Achieving gender equality in financial inclusion is a challenge facing many developing countries. This study investigates how impact investment can promote gender equality in financial inclusion. Impact investment, financial inclusion, and gender equality are topical issues receiving attention from academic and non-academic writers. Despite the attention, scholarly works on the concepts are still far behind, especially on impact investment and financial inclusion, where no clear and established theories exist for examining the concepts. This paper aims to develop a conceptual framework to identify connections between impact investment, financial inclusion, and gender equality. The study draws on the stakeholder theory as a lens to develop the conceptual framework. Apart from establishing links among the foregoing concepts, this study also identifies research gaps and sets directions for future research.

Today, March 8, 2023, EFInA joins the global community to celebrate International Women's Day-themed DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality #embraceequity

We recognize that achieving gender equality goes beyond providing equal opportunities for women.

True inclusion requires addressing specific challenges and barriers that different groups of women face such as limited access to financial services, low levels of education, and limiting gender norms.

Join us in embracing equity and advocating for meaningful change that benefits all women

EFInA

Daphna Baram
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Open Track

Something to Declare: Immigrants' Stand-Up Comedy in the UK

The thesis looks into the ways in which stand-up comedians who are first generation immigrants negotiate and communicate their messages to their predominantly British audiences while performing in the United Kingdom. Set against the background of the second and third decades of the 21st century – in which first generation immigrant-comics became visible on the British comedy circuit – the research takes an ethnographic approach in exploring the influence of events like the 2007 financial crisis, the run up to Brexit and its aftermath, over the strategies deployed by immigrant comedians when facing the crowds. Taking a theoretical approach that draws on Emmanuelle Levinas' notion of the role of the Other's 'face' in forging identity, and applying Pierre Bourdieu's ideas of cultural capital and habitus, from class to nationality, the thesis exposes the strategies deployed by the comedians whop attempt to carve a new home for themselves in a country with deeply rooted comedic tasted and traditions, one joke at a time.

Daphna Baram

Aisha Bashir

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Policy Track

To What Extent Has the UK Complied With the ECAT in Relation to Adult Victims of Human Trafficking?

The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA) was enacted to implement and satisfy international legal obligations assumed through the Palermo Protocol (2004), and Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking (2005) (ECAT)In addition to criminalising various specific human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced labour activities, MSA Part 3 (and accompanying Regulations) provides the framework for ostensibly extensive MSA victim support once these individuals have been identified by UK authorities through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Victim support, and related protection measures include: (1) special slavery or trafficking victims' defences when these Individuals commit offences whilst subject to slaver / trafficker control; (2) civil Legal Aid eligibility; (3) a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to ensure more accurate, robust victim trafficking. This detailed MSA evaluation confirms that after seven years, the UK Government has not yet ensured that MSA objectives seemingly consistent with UK international law commitments are actually achieved in practice. Using a unique Vignette- providing clear illustrations of different scenarios frequently encountered within UK human trafficking and modern slavery dynamics, a comparative analysis will be made between England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland specifically on Adult victim support. The evaluation will also identify key areas where flawed UK Government MSA implementation has compromised the national effort to effectively combat slavery and human trafficking. Particular attention is directed at inadequate UK Government resources commitments made to MSA. The evaluation includes detailed recommendations that if accepted, would bring the UK into closer conformity with its international legal obligations.
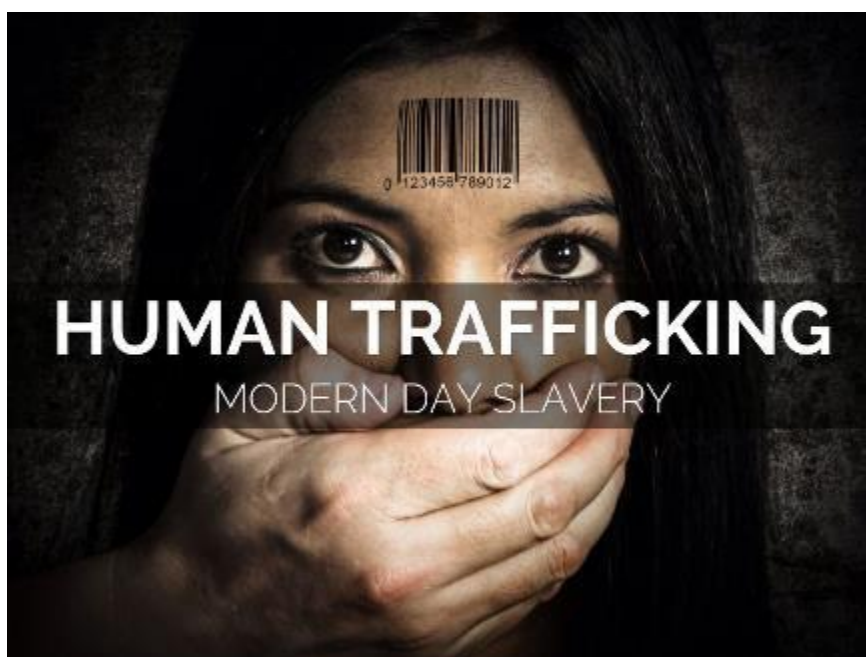
David Chaquea Romero
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STS Track

Characterization of Domestic Water Use Patterns in Households in Cali City

Most domestic water use practices are habitual. This means that they are located in the household's everyday life and are performed repetitively by each of the household members in a coordinated and synchronized way. Through repetition, they become stable and enduring over time, and it represents a challenge to change patterns of practices. On the other hand, the household can be understood as a system of practices, in this case, a system of water use practice. It is so because practices are interconnected through the materials, competences, and meanings which are assembled in the different practices' performances within the household. This is known as 'inter-locking', meaning that practices are partially stabilized and locked, because of their connections with others. Stabilization and endurance are related to both, the individual properties of each practice and its interconnections with other practices. But change is also an intrinsic property of practices. At an individual level, a practice is not performed in the same way every time, they can adapt to cope with the contingencies of everyday life by assembling different elements; at an inter-practices level, daily life is also not the same every day, this because the same practices do not have to be performed within the same schedule. My research aims to find the degrees of stability of six domestic water use practices, from two sides: 1) centred on elements and practice-as-performance by using Fuzzy Logic, and 2) centred on links (practice-as-entity) by using network analysis.

[NO IMAGE PROVIDED]

Holly Dean
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Digital Track

'TikTok Made Me Buy a New Body!': How the Affordances of Social Media Platforms Are Reshaping and Remediating Cosmetic Surgery Practices

This project will use textual and visual analysis to investigate cosmetic surgery on TikTok. More specifically, it will look at how the increasing immediacy and accessibility of cosmetic surgery echoes, and has been facilitated by, the immediacy and accessibility of social media platforms; how the affordances of TikTok in terms of trends contribute to speeding up the perceived need and immediacy of cosmetic surgery; and the relationship between the aesthetic dynamics of the platform and material bodily cosmetic surgery trends.

Josh Devlin

University of Manchester – Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

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Practices Track

Social Work on the Move: An Exploration of Physical, Imagined and Discursive Mobilities and Sense-Making in Child Protection Social Work

Children's safeguarding social work practice has been described as a practice which is mobile in nature (Ferguson, 2011). Practitioners routinely travel around communities in cars, skilfully navigate through families' homes during visits, and walk through offices to speak to colleagues. Since Covid-19, however, social workers are increasingly working remotely, facilitated by digital technology such as email, text, and video calls to communicate with colleagues and families they work with. Interactions that previously required physical co-presence can now take place across different geographical locations. This combination of in-person and digitally-mediated interactions has been described as a 'hybrid' practice (Pink et al, 2022). It complicates previous notions of mobility in social work, which highlighted the journeys of practitioners from one location to another, or their movements through a single space in order to facilitate in-person interaction and physical co-presence. Instead, such hybrid practices may reveal new insights into notions of distance, proximity, and stillness and their significance for social work practice. This project has used a short-term ethnographic approach with two children's safeguarding social work teams to explore how new uses of digital technology unfold in situ. This has foregrounded new forms of mobility in social work practice, such as the movement of information between practitioners, as well as practitioners' micro-movements when using digital devices. Practitioners, as a result, are increasingly required to be adept at traversing between in-person and digitally-mediated forms of communication, as the post-Covid practice landscape begins to settle.
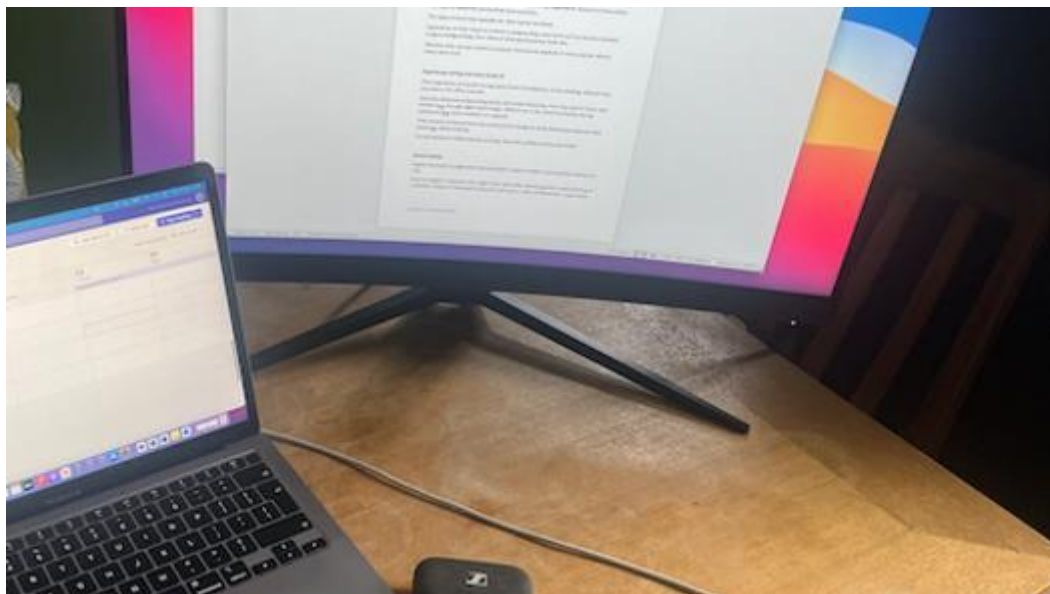
Amy Gottler

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Digital Track

Tickling the Digital Ivories – An Adults Experience of Learning the Piano using a Mobile Application

This study explores the feelings and motivations of adults who have chosen to learn an instrument using a mobile app. The purpose is to examine technology's impact on self-efficacy and explore the challenges and obstacles self-directed learners face when learning using apps over more traditional methods. As an autoethnographic study, the researcher plays the role of participant and documents the journey of learning the piano solely using apps. A series of semi-structured interviews were then conducted to connect the researcher's experience to wider society.

Mike Greenhough
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STS Track

Energy Consumption in Daily Life: Shaping Seasonal Cycles and Energy Use

As calls for decarbonisation continue to grow, questions emerge regarding the nature of what future energy systems will look life, given that sources of renewable energy are intermittent and harder to store. Maintaining the 'keeping the lights on' approach to energy policy requires fuels that can be utilised to meet peaks and troughs across the calendar year, when demand for both gas and electricity varies. However, this is challenging to maintain if the reliance on fossil fuels discontinues. By describing how demand for gas and electricity varies across time and space, my project considers how seasonal variation is embedded in the construction of energy systems. I argue that seasonality is an important concept for maintaining efforts towards low carbon futures, by concentrating on the practices and rhythms that make up social and natural seasons that directly lead to patterns of gas and electricity demand. I explain how seasonal and temporal rhythms constitute energy systems, and how social practices are intertwined with patterns of gas and electricity demand. My project employs a research strategy that addresses how representations of variation shape perceptions of seasonality in ways that obscure understanding rhythms across different scales. I provide a sophisticated account of how social rhythms are embedded in heating and cooling throughout the year, and the making of the social season of Christmas, through the annual cycles of peaks and troughs of supply and demand found across social life.
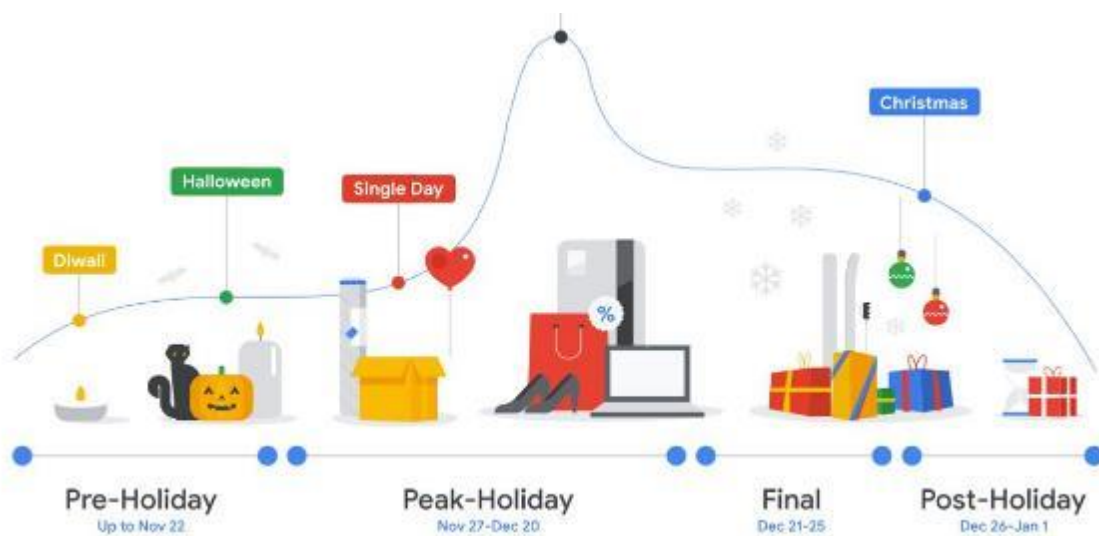
Yu Han
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Practices Track

Connecting Intersectionality and Daily Routines to Food Practices: Food Consumption and Waste in Kunming's Households

Despite the prevailing assumption in social scientific studies of food indicates that food waste primarily occurs in the early stages of the food supply chain in the Global South, there's a surge in food waste generated from consumption stage in urban China. This study addresses the consumption-level food waste in urban China, taking Kunming, a medium-sized city as the case study. To address this gap in research, the study employed interpretivist and qualitative approaches to investigate the intersectional social identities shaping urban consumers' food consumption and waste practices. In particular, Schatzki's and Bourdieu's social practice theories, as well as intersectional gender studies, were used as frameworks for analysis. Over nine months, fieldwork data was collected from 31 participants and 24 middle-class households and food markets in Kunming. The research methods included photographic diaries, walking interviews, and participant observation approaches. The findings of the study reveal that social identities such as ethnicity, urban or rural residency status, and gender are interconnected and shape consumers' practices with food consumption and waste. Furthermore, certain social positions foster more sustainable and less wasteful food practices. Overall, this research contributes to the understanding of food waste in urban China and highlights the importance of considering social identities in developing sustainable food practices.

[NO IMAGE PROVIDED]

Jingrui Hu
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Open Track

A Transnational Journey of Vintage Costume Jewellery: From Production in the US to Consumption in China

In the last decade, vintage fashion grew as a trend in Western countries and China. However, little attention has been paid to investigating vintage products in a cross-cultural context and the influence of the materiality of vintage products on vintage consumption. This paper uses newly produced vintage costume jewellery from the West as research objects. Drawing on fieldwork and interviews in the US (New York City, Florida) and China (Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Tianjin, Ningbo), the paper follows the commodity chain of costume jewellery on its translation journey from production in the US to consumption in China. In the process of cross-cultural translation, manufacturers provide narrative materials, such as information about their craftsmanship and history, and Chinese traders bring them together to craft narratives to reinforce the connection between costume jewellery and authentic old pieces from the past. Equally crucial as the narrative is that jewellery manufacturers have followed old-fashioned jewellery making procedures over the past few decades, using old designs or/and materials to create a unique look. In conclusion, the paper reflects on how the physical journey of the object is narrated and translated to establish a material and symbolic connection between costume jewellery and vintage consumers in China.

Lingyao Jin

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Digital Track

Retail Purchase User Experience in Augmented Reality

Augmented reality combines the real world with the virtual world to bring a better user experience to users. This study focuses on the use of augmented reality in retail shopping to enhance the user experience by combining the design of the user interface and the shop environment to promote consumption in the retail market.

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Practices Track

Agricultural Policy in Practice: Designing and Enacting Standards in Dairy Farming

This thesis investigates the development and implementation of UK agricultural policy. The research focuses on the legally-binding and voluntary standards concerning the monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic usage in milk production; the impact of changing positions on antibiotic usage to standards-making processes and on the practicalities of their enactments on a selection of Welsh dairy farms. The design and enactment of testing for antibiotics across the various sites where milk production takes place (e.g. dairy farms, milk tankers, and milk processing sites) is an important part of this process - when standards change, testing regimes are also modified. My research is designed to show how a history of multiple policies informing antibiotic usage and testing in milk production connect to define agricultural practices (e.g. cow care) and the issues to which policymakers/standards-setters respond. The research design, informed by theories of practice and STS, is split into three stages. The first involves analysing and mapping relevant policies and standards from the turn of 21c. The second stage consists of interviews with those involved in the milk supply chain, namely dairy farmers, milk hauliers, and milk processors, as well as observations on a select number of farm sites of varying size. The third stage involves interviews with policymakers from DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency and with standards-setters from voluntary farm assurance schemes, so as to better understand how standards are formulated, what this means for antibiotic usage, and how policymaking/standards-setting and milk producing/processing practices interact and shape each other.

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Digital Track

Producing Material and Consuming Diets: A Socio-Historical Study of Food Delivery Work in Mumbai

My doctoral research examines what digital platforms like UberEats and Instagram do to the labours and cultures of food or foodwork. I show how gig work platforms affect people and existing industries' practices and routines of care, convenience and consumption in addition to platform work/ers. Through a digital ethnography (2020- 21) of food delivery platforms Swiggy and Zomato app interfaces, push notifications and use of social media platforms, I examined how platforms built relationships with their users. I collected and coded over 1500 push notifications (PNs) I received as a consumer-user over one calendar year and conducted semi-structured interviews with platform executives to understand user segmentation and communication. From this, I suggest that platforms build a prime real estate of apps through an assetisation of their interfaces. I found how being palatable to users, platforms inadvertently opened up a terrain of contest through use. My in-person ethnographic fieldwork (2022-23) investigated how users - individual/household and restaurant/industry, engaged with food delivery platforms. I examined meal arrangement practices in everyday lives in users' homes, a co-working place and in commercial cooking in Mumbai. From these findings, I show how use is an arena of contest as platforms cannot simply engineer how we do care, consumption and convenience. I argue that platformization of foodwork is about platform work and also platforms' attempts to be palatable to users and industries.

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Open Track

A Corpus-Assisted Study of Discourses of Domestic Violence in Chinese News

Domestic violence (DV) is a serious social issue in China. According to the Third Survey on Chinese Women's Social Status , 24.7% of married women have encountered domestic violence, including verbal abuse, assaults, restriction of personal freedom, economic control and forced sex. According to a 2014 report by China's Supreme People's Court, nearly 10 percent of intentional homicide cases involve domestic violence. The study aims to combine corpus linguistics with critical discourse analysis (Baker et al., 2008) to investigate discourses on domestic violence in China's news articles . . News articles reflect the values and views of mainstream and influential interest groups, and they can implicitly influence the worldview of a population. The issue of domestic violence is entwined with questions of gender, power, and ideology in China. The study is corpus-assisted, with the use of the software, Sketch Engine, and corpora built by articles from Chinese-language newspapers and websites to analyse how domestic violence is represented in Chinese media.

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Open Track

Motion Graphics as an Educational Tool That Supports Learning English Vocabulary by Chinese Students

Motion Graphics is one of the forms of Information and communication technologies (ICTs), which can be utilized to teach English vocabulary in Chinese primary schools. Motion graphics can encourage learning vocabulary by fostering both an entertaining and informative educational environment. However, there is little information available on how to design effective motion graphics for vocabulary learning, especially for English as a foreign language (EFL). Classroom education is complex and various factors can affect student learning English vocabulary. Therefore, when designing motion graphics as educational tools for classroom settings, there are many factors that need to be considered. This research aims to propose a set of design guidelines for motion graphics based on the theories of motion graphics application in education and the practical study of classroom education. The research is composed of three phases: 1) I observe teaching and learning practices in the classroom which incorporate motion graphics for English vocabulary education; 2) I inquire about participants' perspectives on what makes a supportive motion graphic for English vocabulary education; 3) I establish the design hypothesis base on the findings from the above phases and test the corresponding motion graphics prototype in a consistent scenario. The findings are used to identify a set of design guidelines on how motion graphics can be designed to effectively support the vocabulary learning of the target group. The guidelines are underpinned by the existing theories and supported by the practical study to provide advice for designers.

Motion graphics as an educational tool that supports learning English vocabulary by Chinese students

" How motion graphics as educational tool can be designed to support English vocabulary learning for Chinese primary school children in a classroom setting? "

- How teachers and students use motion graphics in the classroom?
- What are teachers' ideas and design needs for using motion graphics as a teaching tool?
- How students react to the use of motion graphics as a teaching tool?
- Students' preferences for the design elements of motion graphics.
- The relationship between the design of motion graphics as a teaching tool and theories of vocabulary teaching.

Exploring guidance on the design of motion graphics as a teaching tool in classroom teaching of English vocabulary.

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STS Track

Knowledge-Policy Interfaces for Wicked Problems: The Co-Production of Digital Sequence Information Governance at the Convention for Biological Diversity

I am a student of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy at Manchester University. My thesis focuses on the governance of biological digital sequence information for a more fair and equitable global biotechnology innovation system. I am therefore glad to see the Digital, Policy and S&T themes because my project touches on all of them. I am particularly interested in the role of participation in emerging technology governance processes, and I operationalise Sheila Jasanoff's concept of Co-production to explore the knowledge-policy interface at the Convention for Biological Diversity. Due to the multi-faceted nature of the case, throughout my work, I strive to engage with multiple stakeholder groups, especially those that have been underrepresented in international technology governance. I take an 'engaged researcher' stance and contribute to policy workshops and 'science' communication related to my project. During the event, I would be glad to share my reflections and experiences in this, for example from recent fieldwork at the Convention for Biological Diversity COP15 in December. Practically, I use mixed methods to explore my case study. This includes documentary analysis and bibliometrics to explore stakeholder inputs to the debates, as well as participant observation and interviews to gain qualitative insights. As a NWSSDTP student, I am also keen to build connections with colleagues from institutions in the North West, therefore, I will look forward to the exchanges in Lancaster! My photo is a selection of materials I collected at the COP15 including policy briefs and materials from biodiversity activists.

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Policy Track

The Next Phase of Net Gain: Scaling Biodiversity Offsetting in England

This project investigates the development and implementation of biodiversity net gain (BNG) in England through multi-sited, qualitative research. BNG is a conservation strategy that aims to replace environments degraded by economic development with offsets mediated through market transactions. The passing of the Environment Act introduced a new mandatory requirement for developments within England to provide at least a 10% 'net gain', set to be enforced this November, through on/offsite habitat restoration/creation. With chronically under-resourced local authorities learning to navigate a new system in which nature conservation is turned over, in part, to the market, this project demonstrates how knowledge is shared and what contextual conditions are needed under an increasingly complex and technocratic governance landscape. Using a participatory approach to research (PAR), it brings together policy practitioners from 12 councils across the Northwest to explore how they acquire new meaning about their role. This collaboration continues over the next year (capturing before and after the mandatory 10%), relying upon a triangulation of methods (participant observation in BNG meetings, in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus groups of practitioners from different regions). Given the unique timing as local authorities scramble to put BNG systems in place before November, this form of methodology is termed 'user journeys'. Given the potential for participatory approaches to understand what happens 'on the ground' when standardised government guidance gets applied to localised conditions, this project advocates for a greater uptake across a range of contemporary environmental issues as a starting point to act in the face of uncertainty.
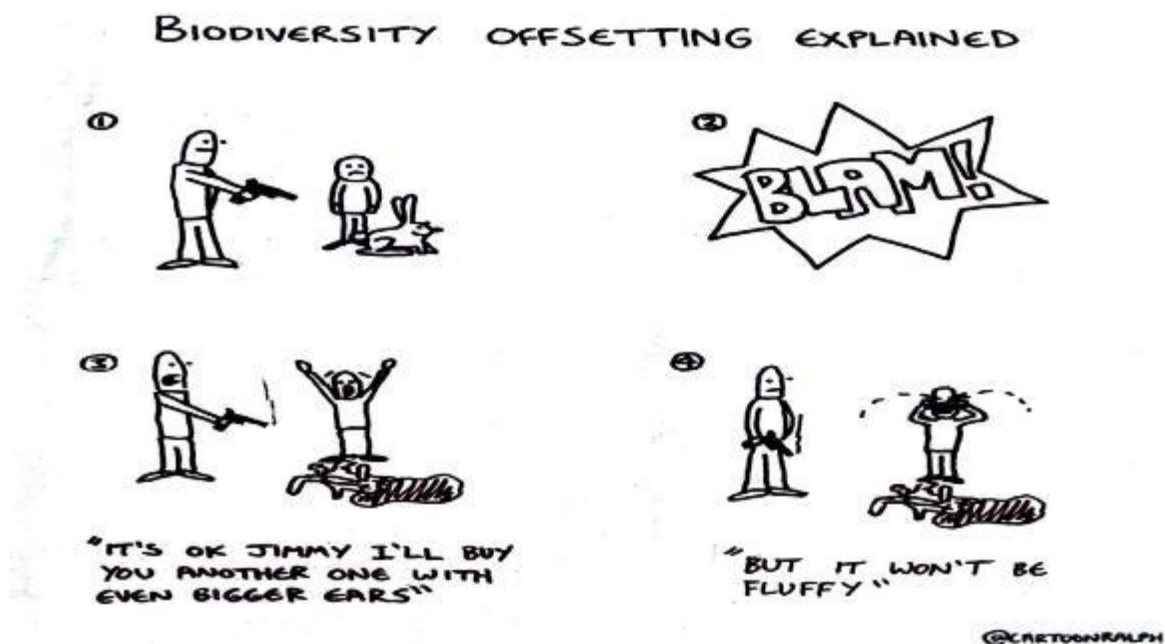
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Policy Track

The Role of Bilingualism and Translation in Nation-building in Cameroon

Cameroon is a Central African country with a population of 27,956,116 (UN July 2022). Cameroon has a vibrant linguistic background and a distinctive cultural density with over 260 languages. Language has played a significant role in the history of Cameroon. Through a referendum organised in 1972, the English part of Cameroon, then administered by Britain, voted to join their French-speaking counterparts, creating the United Republic of Cameroon. Even though language officialisation was a tool for nation-building, the problem of official bilingualism in Cameroon today has created conflict rather than unity, dividing the nation. Many Cameroonians cannot express themselves in both official languages as required, even after the many bilingualism policies instituted by the government. This is due to the need for proper practical implementation procedures of official Bilingualism policies in Cameroon. I am from the North-West region of Cameroon, and I am bilingual. With my experience and scholarly works on this topic, I am aware that there needs to be more attention to the practical implementation of bilingualism policies in Cameroon. This assertion is supported by my grounded professional experience in Cameroon from 2015 until late 2020. When I did not work for a corporate body, I practised as a freelance translator and journalist. My experience as a professional in bilingual Cameroon has been rich and trying. Marginalisation, bad judgement, discrimination, and superiority characterised the work environment. My thesis will examine the role of bilingualism and translation and their impacts on nation-building and suggest proper practical implementation policies.
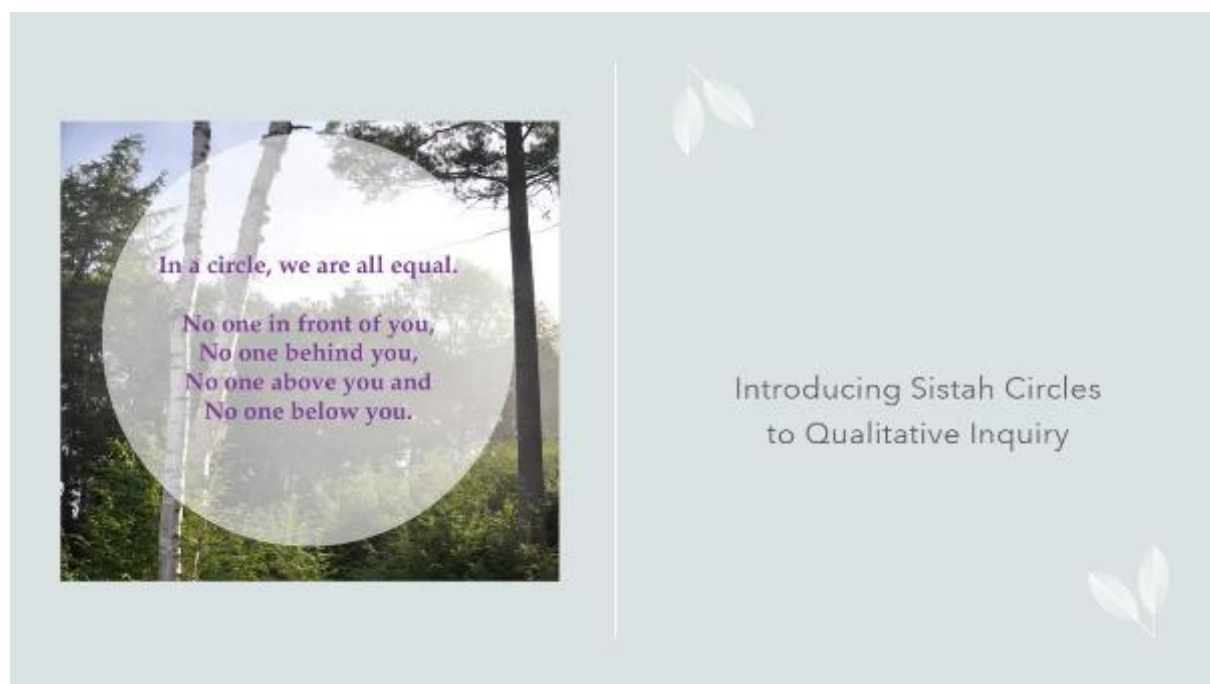
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Open Track

I Am My Sister: Introducing Sista Circles to Qualitative Inquiry

Sista circles are support groups which are framed by the concept of sisterhood whereby Black women rely on each other to make sense of their experiences (Davis-Maye et al., 2022). Originating from the US, sista circles have been around for a very long time, but as a research method, they are a new concept and challenge what is considered 'legitimate' and 'rigorous' research (Lacy, 2018). Sista circles are situated within Black feminism (Dunmeyer, 2022) and centre around the production of knowledge through lived experience and dialogue (Collins, 2015), whereby Black women, including the researcher, are invited to equally share experiences and contribute to the sista circle discussion. Sista circles build on the existing empirical research undertaken by Black women scholars using Black feminist thought and qualitative research in education (Waters, 2016; Dillard 2016; Evans-Winters and Love, 2015; Davis, 2009), which is part of the broader struggle to challenge the White hegemony in qualitative inquiry (Evans-Winters, 2019). Dillard's (2016) work, for example, introduces endarkened feminist epistemology (EFE) to articulate how our knowledge of reality is strengthened when situated within the historical roots of global Black feminism. More specifically, Dillard's (2016) work reveals how the engagement with African feminist epistemologies by a Black female teacher from the US enabled this teacher to adapt her teaching to culturally relevant ways when teaching Black children in Ghana. Building on existing literature, this project introduces sista circles as a culturally appropriate method for qualitative inquiry involving research with and by Black women in group settings.

In a circle, we are all equal.

No one in front of you,
No one behind you,
No one above you and
No one below you.

Introducing Sistah Circles
to Qualitative Inquiry

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STS Track

An Investigation of the Role of Language Dominance in Linguistic Relativity: Grammatical Gender and Cognitive Categorization in Ukrainian Trilinguals

Using the verbal comprehension task, we assessed if and to what degree grammatical gender can be used as a predictor for trilinguals' judgements in categorization and labelling items. In the described experiment, both Ukrainian trilinguals and English monolinguals were presented with pairs of objects manipulated for their congruency in grammatical gender systems in Russian and Ukrainian languages, that trilinguals were exposed to since they were born.

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Practices Track

How Can Creative Evaluation (CE) Help To Establish the Impacts of Social Innovations?

Social Innovations (SI) have increasingly garnered attention, locally, nationally and internationally, as the answer to addressing complex problems societies pose. In the UK this attention has been emphasized by both funding bodies and legislation, such as the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. Consequently, the demand to evidence the value generated by SI's has increased. However, the tools and approaches used to measure and evidence social value are underdeveloped. In the UK context, many approaches currently used to evaluate SI's, such as Social Return on Investment (SROI) or Social Accounting and Auditing are legacy from New Public Management, so have too much emphasis on financial return, or performativity (Liston-Heyes and Liu, 2021). These and many other evaluation approaches have evolved from practices used in the business and economics sectors and are not geared towards measuring social value. This highlights a need to move evaluation practice forward to-wards approaches that are more capable of representing the full range of values generated by SI's. My research focuses on Creative Evaluation (CE). CE is described as a constellation of evaluation approaches (Christou, Owen & Ceyhan, 2021), utilises creative thinking, creative tools and creative methods in order to produce different ways of thinking, knowing and understanding. It has the potential to mitigate the current issues faced when evaluating SI's as it emphasises evaluation that is adaptive, responsive, contextually rich and capable of representing value and impact beyond financial return.
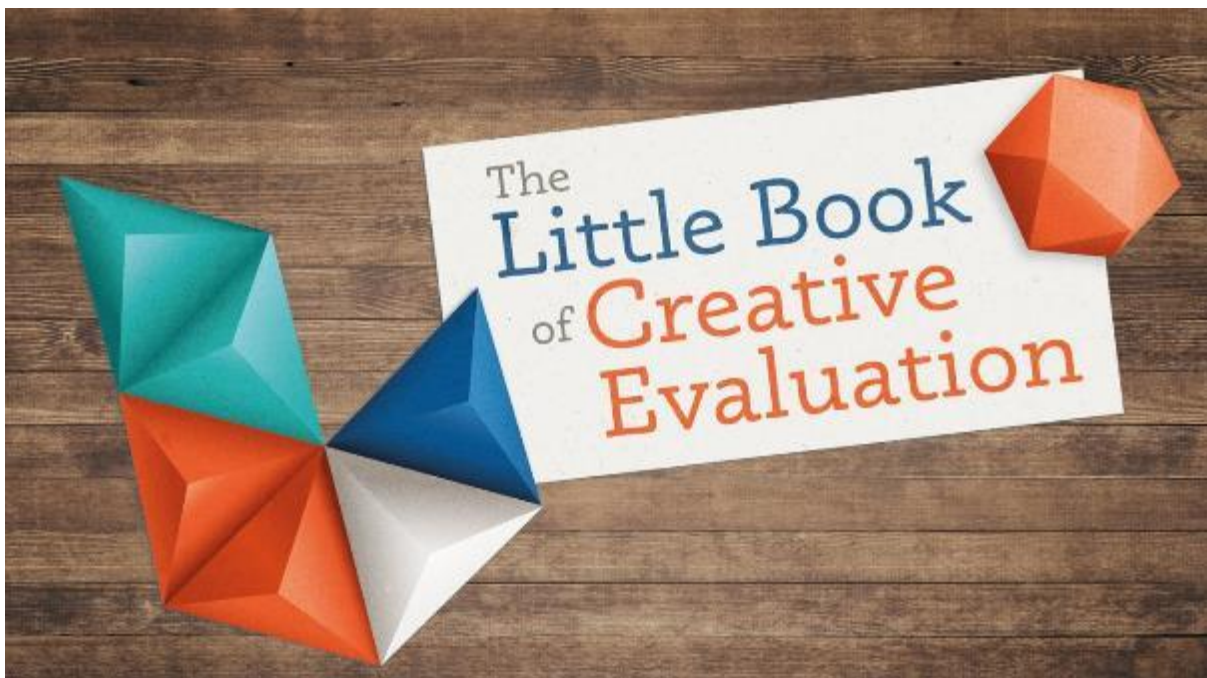
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Open Track

The Role of Chronological, Biological and Social Age in Speech Production

Chronological age is used widely across academic disciplines and yet our understanding of how accurately it represents the ageing process is poorly understood. Consequently, recent research highlights biological and social age as perhaps better indicators of the ageing process in humans. My own research aims to expand on the current literature, by observing how our speech production can be influenced by biological and social influences across the lifespan, with an additional focus on the impact of bilingualism and social class. Research in this area could help to advance our understanding of how we deal with ageing in healthcare and how we conceptualise ageing in future research. This will be achieved through a multimodal methodology including a series of interviews and questionnaires aimed at extracting social information about participants, which could impact on the ageing process. Additionally, participants will engage in experiments testing motor control, cognitive control and working memory, in order to capture and understand participants on a biological level. This will be observed alongside speech data produced by participants in order to understand how social and biological factors are influencing our speech production as we age.

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Digital Track

Researching Buyers and Sellers of Illicit Streaming Devices Using an Ethnographic Approach

Within recent decades the social sciences have experienced a decline in ethnographic studies on criminal and deviant groups (Fleetwood and Potter, 2017). Within the study of illegal markets academics predominantly study the law enforcement perspective rather than the traders of illegal goods perspective (Hobbs and Antonopoulos, 2014). When academics do study illegal traders' perspectives, they predominantly interview traders within formal settings rather than natural settings (Sandberg and Copes, 2012). This paper acknowledges that research within natural settings such as public houses raises practical, legal, and ethical concerns (Antonopoulos, 2008) but argues that ethnographic research is an important and well-needed addition to the study of illegal markets. This paper presents the practical challenges of conducting ethnographic research on criminal and deviant groups using the researcher's own study. The study involves ethnographic research with a group of buyers and sellers of illicit streaming devices in two towns in Northern England. An illicit streaming device is a set-top box or firestick which has been illegally modified to access subscription-based content such as movies, TV shows, and live sports without paying subscription fees.

Lisa Potter, Criminology PhD student, Lancaster University: The object of my PhD

fire tv stick
Simplify your streaming
with convenient TV controls.

Chrisie Pullin
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Practices Track

Moral Injury: Understanding the Causes, Processes, and Consequences in the UK Ambulance Service

Moral Injury is a type of psychological distress that can occur due to being involved in situations that go against a person's morals or ethics. This can lead to symptoms such as numbing, avoidance, and demoralisation. Ambulance service personnel are an under researched participant group despite being at high risk for moral injury symptoms. Ambulance staff make ethical decisions in high-intensity situations as part of their role making them vulnerable to psychological distress. My project involves informal observations to gain an understanding of the service and what various roles entail. These observations and conversations are vital for informing research areas and identifying issues that are important to those within the service. Quantitative research will be undertaken for the Master's qualification, to identify if certain personality traits make people more vulnerable to experiencing symptoms. This may be useful to better understand the development process of moral injury and why some experience more symptoms than others. The majority of my project will involve qualitative research. The first study will utilise interviews to get an in-depth understanding of what events cause distress and how personnel experience moral injury. A second study will involve daily diaries to gather longitudinal data. This will allow me to see how people respond to these moral events and how their emotions change over time. It will also allow for increased insight into how personnel cope with the stresses of their work. Overall, this project aims to better understand an often ignored participant group and help develop beneficial interventions.

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Open Track

Visualizing the Cosmos in Early China

In my research I investigate the 'Shi Image', a meta-image and a representation of the Cosmos found in various forms in Ancient China. The image embodies the basic logic of Chinese philosophy and offers the basis for an understanding of the links between art forms that demonstrate a shared cosmological world view. I will examine the archive of such images that originated in the Han Dynasty. I start with the hazy and fragmented understanding of the Cosmos to be found in the late Neolithic period in China up to the beginnings of the Han Dynasty, before the emergence of the Shi Image. I look at various forms of textual inscription, including hieroglyphs and marks on tortoise shells, known as 'oracle bones', as well as traces of cosmology in myths and legends, maps and star charts. I will then look at the cosmological image. This is an under-researched topic and at the heart of my project. There are comparatively few examples of such images, and they are found in different forms of cultural artefact, studied by disparate disciplines. One of my aims is to demonstrate the commonalities in these disparate images and show how they manifest a particular visual logic, manifested in various forms, including planar images and stereo images, and how, in turn, these offer representations of concepts of space and time and cosmological understanding.

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Digital Track

'Succeeding as a Woman in Tech': An Exploration of the Professional Development Opportunities Available for Women Working in Tech Focused Roles and Their Experiences

A qualitative research study examining professional development opportunities for women in digital/tech roles, using participatory action research (PAR) as the method and social cognitive theory. My focus would be on gaining an insight into women who work in the digital/tech sector (including in Higher Education roles), seeking to understand what professional development opportunities exist and gain an understanding of their career aspirations, goals and advancement strategies. My initial review of the current literature, whilst highlighting a greater interest into women in tech, the need to support women's career progression and working in typically male dominated roles, shows poor evidence on how women use/ engage with development opportunities and networks as a way to fulfil their career goals, aspirations and support their knowledge development. This thesis therefore aims to bring to life the real and lived experiences of women who are in tech focused roles, exploring what professional development opportunities they have engaged with, what have been their experiences and how online communities and networks have supported women's confidence and provided them with opportunities for growth. I intend to develop an online survey (sharing it with various networks and online communities) and interview participants, understanding the career paths of women in digital/tech roles and what professional development opportunities they have engaged with. This is an area of interest I have enjoyed learning more about, as it combines my interest in continuing professional development and also women in tech.

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Open Track

'Sex Could Not Be Further From Our Minds, for Better or for Worse': Understanding Asexual Worldbuilding Within Post-Apocalyptic Video Games as a Site of Textual Play

My research concerns the representation of explicit asexualities within mainstream post-apocalyptic video games, centring upon dystopian landscapes, nostalgia and ruin. Despite the growing body of work analysing video games and queerness, and the increasing representation of asexualities within gaming, there is an academic dearth regarding the analysis of asexualities within gaming. As such, in focusing upon a recent representation of asexuality as both a sexual identity and a worldbuilding tool, Death Stranding (Kojima Productions, 2019), my research addresses how games – and their players – construct discourses of asexualities, utilising the specificity of the post-apocalypse to create distinct discourses around sex, sexuality, and desirable and desiring bodies. For my research, I am developing an autoethnographic 'player-as-analyst' methodological approach, both as a necessity and a response to the methodological messiness of game studies. Here, though game studies shares the common object of games, there lacks a unifying methodological approach that addresses and foregrounds the embodied experience of the researcher and the role they have played within their data collection. As such, my research sets out to provide a constitutive and generative approach to analysing video games and asexualities. Rather than just analysing representation as a static form, this research project will demonstrate how all elements of a game – centrally its role as a site of textual play and affect – come together to make asexualities.

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Digital Track

The Convoluted Becoming of Digital Transformation: Process and Practice Perspectives

Conceptualisations of digital transformation (DT) processes in information systems and management research have largely been reductionist: DT is usually painted as an intentionally planned, deterministic sequence of events that eventually leads to (firm-level) success. While researchers continue to notice how the reality of complex DT processes overflows established models and concepts, conceptualisations of DT have only been slightly adapted, failing to truly transcend entity-centric accounts or 'weak' process ontologies. In my PhD, I seek to critically examine general understandings about DT and study them as historically contingent and continuously (re)produced in practice. My research project aligns with recent developments in organisational and management science that conceptualise (trans)formation as a continuous becoming made up by interweavings of various, historically contingent (story-)lines. In doing so, I hope to pay particular attention to how the co-respondence of different 'lines of practice' along a DT process over time can be a constant source of surprising and unintended developments. At the same time, I seek to centre how DT and its conceptualisations are routinely made and re-made in practice using materials such as managerial artefacts. My approach is grounded in phenomenon-focused problematisation, for which I historically trace the dominance of taken-for-granted assumptions as they are enacted and reproduced in sociomaterial practices. Based on this, I seek to develop novel, process- and practice-oriented perspectives on DT to make sense of particularly complex DT processes such as in public administration and health.

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Practices Track

Fold to Cut: The Economic Affordances of Scottish Cattle

This project is an ethnographic study of pastoralist hill farming practices and their place in the rural economy of Scotland. I postulate that land and cattle figure as stores of value and prophetic dividends of wealth. The family farm setup allows me to synthesize questions of kinship, labour, and land. Based in one village, I will conduct participant-observation on two or three inherited cattle and goat farms in the Argyll and Bute constituency. The project investigates the transmission of land and grazing rights along kinship ties on one hand and semi-feudal relations on the other hand. The political and moral economy of pastoralism charts several organizations integral to the socializing and socialization of Scottish farmers. Notable among them are the United Auctions company, the Highland Cattle Society, Young Farmers Clubs, the Craft Butchers Association, and the Merchant Guild in Stirling. On the mart, farmers, butchers, and merchants play off each other the risks and fortunes of the cattle trade. Agricultural actors share an economic history and tradition to work within, and they make urgent judgement calls on value across all of these locations. The study aims to show the traffic between household, village, market, and city to map the stakes of the cattle trade as a series of exchange events that mediate the moral economy of the cattle trade.

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Open Track

Engaging with Tales from Imagination

Once upon a time... this phrase echoes across aeons and landscapes, bringing butterflies in the stomach, curiosity in the mind, excitement in the soul. Storytelling has been part of human civilisation before marks on stone or ink on paper, oral traditions passed down the generations sharing knowledge and wisdom in forms which invite you to recall, learn from, share in your turn. There is power in a story, and academia has been catching up with the understanding that we can share our research in ways which more effectively helps others to recall, learn from, and share. Science especially is embracing this opportunity, and I am exploring how design research can, through storytelling in diverse forms, engage with communities of all kinds to facilitate understanding of what we do and how we create positive impact through collaboration and connections. Engagement is a word often said but not necessarily fully appreciated in academia. Engage with whom, in what ways? Do we engage in effective and equitable ways? Ethical ways? What do these terms mean? To academics? To humans? How can we engage through storytelling? Should we? This tale is only just begun, there are many words to be recalled, learned from, shared, before the ending.

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Practices Track

Reaching Net Zero in the Water System: Diverse Pathways to Low-Carbon Water Demand

Climate change means actively engaging with shifting realities around what living with water might mean in a low-carbon, sustainable world where environment(water)-society relations are reconceived. In the UK, increasing risks of water scarcity requires us to reorient societal expectations of water use and extend primary mechanisms for change, i.e., informational campaigns, appliance efficiencies, building regulations. The affective, visceral experience of living differently is as essential as addressing the incumbent sociotechnical systems rapidly depleting our natural resources. Technical and components-based water interventions like smart metering have been shown to interrupt taken-for-granted daily practices but remain short-lived in their efficacy. Understanding the salient factors behind adopting and sustaining new ways of living is crucial. As such, this research adopts a case-study design using observation, diaries and semi-structured interviews to look at how, why and when people in the UK use water within 'niches' of alternative use to provide insight for holistic climate change and water management strategy. These participants are situated as having the potential to be more sustainable by infrastructural (houseboat dwelling) or cultural-personal historical experiences (migration) of scarcity/ enough-ness relative to the 'average water users' (Sofoulis, 2011) whom climate intervention designs typically assume. Social practice theory provides the framework in which to examine these 'existing experiments' in geographical or temporal spaces where embodied experiences of water use may inform far-reaching future visions for water systems. The researcher additionally has an (eco)feminist climate policy analysis background and is interested in bringing this into conversation with this research.
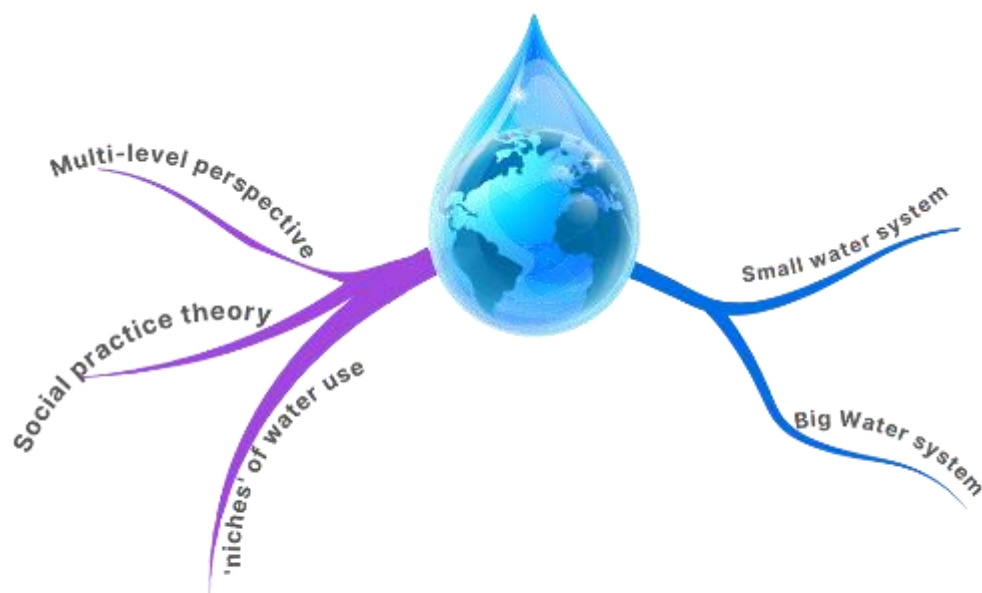
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Open Track

Painting of Grafting: After Mitchell and Derrida

Painting is brought into an expanded field since there has been a visual turn in humanities. This research re-evaluates the terms of painting in the age of a 'pictorial turn'. W. J. T. Mitchell argued for a 'pictorial turn' in contemporary culture and theory, in which image has been recognized as being as important as language. This visual turn equates with Jacques Derrida's concept of grammatology, which liberates writing from being derivative of speech. Today, the 'pictorial turn' opens onto a virtual space – David Joselit thinking painting in a network. The transgression in painting not only activates in physical space but also in performative and virtual spaces. This research re-imagines the space of painting through the rhythm space of juxtaposed text: through an intermingling network in Jacques Derrida's experimental writing Glas and the Postcard. Through a close reading of Derrida, I suggest a new critical space for painting, demonstrated in Derrida's multi-spatial text reading. I propose that the writing marks a postmodern performative mode of grafting as practice. This grafting is crucial for opening up a process of becoming, which puts every object, degree, or intensity in motion and in relation. I demonstrate Derrida's grafting to articulating a repetition in painting through multi-framed canvases, walk-in installation, and the subsequent walking experience. This research makes a contribution to Derridean studies, and to current discourses relating to painting in the 'pictorial turn', through a re-evaluation of the relation between the space of painting and juxtaposed text.

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STS Track

Using Speech Technology To Automate the Assessment of Children's Spoken Language

Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a communicative disorder that interferes with a person's learning, understanding, and use of language and can have large reaching impacts such as on learning, emotional wellbeing, and success in later life. It is a common disorder with an estimated prevalence of 7.58% (around two children in every classroom), yet despite this those with DLD remain underserved by society and the condition is under researched. Sentence repetition - where a child hears and repeats sentences and errors analysed - is recognised as one of the most promising clinical markers available for assessing DLD. However, it often cannot be used for day-to-day clinical practice because analysis is time consuming and requires expert training. The overall aim of my project is to evaluate and extend the utility of automatic analysis using speech recognition technology. This has the potential to transform both the diagnosis of a highly prevalent developmental disorder as well as the clinical research into its basis and remediation. I am in my second year of my 3.5-year PhD and my project is planned to take the following shape: 1. A meta-analysis looking to the use of sentence repetition tasks as a marker of DLD in the literature. 2. A study using a pre-existing data set comparing the utility of sentence repetition as a marker of DLD under different conditions (for example different marking criteria and child age). 3. Looking to whether speech recognition technology can be adapted to use within sentence repetition task analysis.

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STS Track

Disrupted Sense of Self and Distorted Body Representation in Anorexia Nervosa: The Role of Interoceptive Deficits

Anorexia Nervosa (AN) is a significant and distressing mental health condition in which individuals purposefully influence their shape and weight. Whilst a variety of theories exist to explain the underlying cause of this mental health condition, most focus upon distorted cognitions and body perception in their explanations. Recent theories, however, suggest that the cause of AN may be more connected to the internal functioning of the body than previously thought. Specifically, it is argued that interoception (the ability to sense one's internal bodily signals) is impaired in AN. These signals are vital for one's sense of self and forming stable body representations, therefore, impaired interoception could plausibly manifest in the symptoms of AN. In my research I intend to test aspects of this theory. Specifically, the first stage of my work aims to investigate deeper into the nature of body disturbances in AN. In the second stage, I intend to test whether deficits in interoception mean that individuals with AN cannot update their body representations with changes to their morphology, thus trapping them in an outdated body that does not change with weight-loss. In my final stage, I will look more in depth at interoceptive deficits in AN and consider new therapeutic approaches which may help to reinstate optimal interoceptive functioning and potentially bring about clinical improvement.
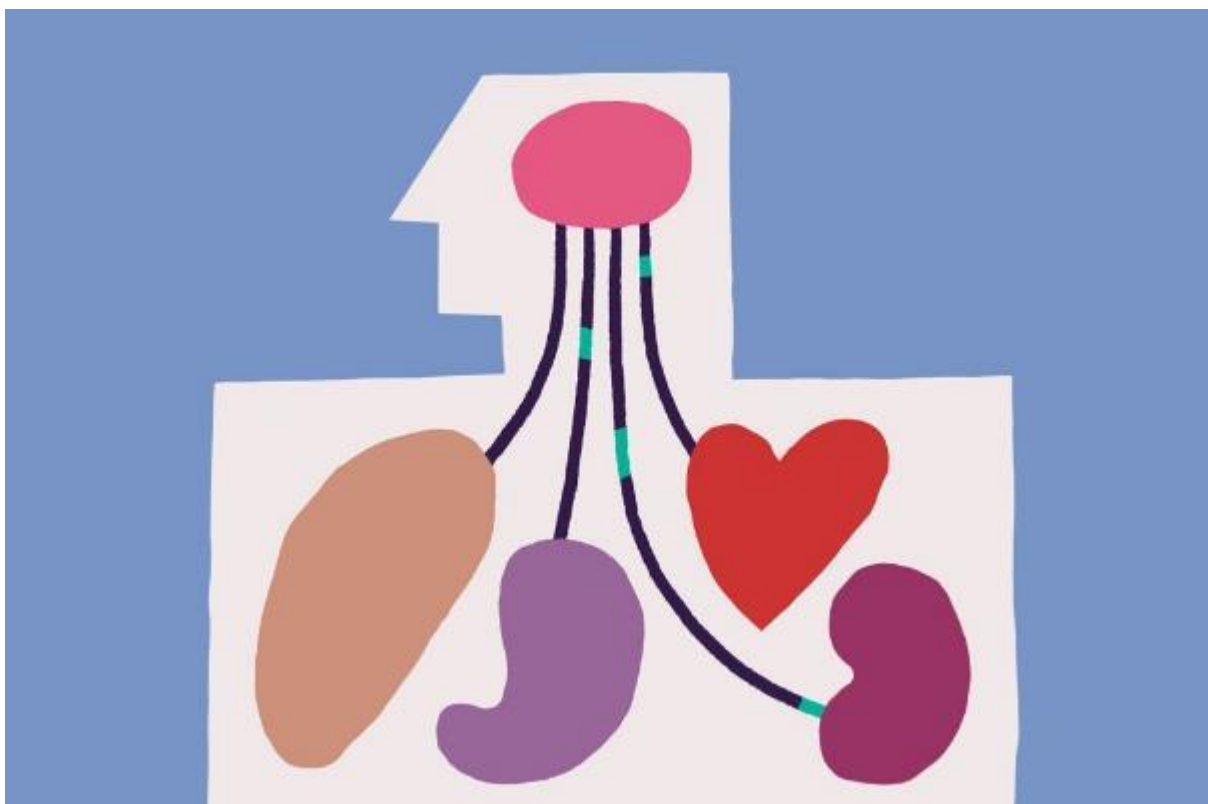
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Digital Track

Intersectionality of Chinese Digital Feminist Activism

To explore the intersectionality of Chinese digital feminists from the perspective of gender, class and the rural-urban divide in China, I draw on the data from 34 in-depth interviews with Chinese digital feminists, including former international students as well feminists from rural backgrounds without international experience. Despite their significantly different experiences, almost all Chinese digital feminists in my study identified the gender stereotypes and patriarchal ideas inscribed in traditional culture as the common enemy. Most of them have been influenced by popular culture in Asia and the west. However, my research is beginning to show distinctions between digital feminists with advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds in terms of their understanding of feminism and their activism. My findings are beginning to suggest that digital feminists with advantaged backgrounds, especially urban middle-class women, tend to be more careful, reserved, and calculated about their participation/activism, and understand feminism as part of a narrative of individual self-development; while digital feminists from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially those from rural areas, and/or multiple-child families under the one-child policy, tend to be more radical in their online advocacy, and discuss feminism and feminist activism for all women as a community or collective. My research therefore is beginning to reveal just how Chinese feminist digital activism is shaped by informants' natal families, socio-economic backgrounds, and related cultural capital.