

CRESC News

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CRESC Annual Conference 2008, Culture and Citizenship: A Report from the Chair of the Organising Committee

Sophie Watson

The 2008 CRESC annual conference took place in Oxford from 2-5 September. This year's topic was 'Culture and Citizenship'. The conference aimed to explore the inter-relationships between citizenship and culture and their contemporary social, cultural and political significance in a number of different contexts.

In particular, the conference sought to capture the shifts in thinking and debate which have taken place over the last few years, and have extended notions of citizenship beyond questions of rights and responsibilities to consider wider questions of cultural practices. Until recently citizenship studies have tended to originate in the disciplines of politics, social policy and sociology. With the cultural turn, within many disciplines there has been a growing interest in rethinking citizenship processes and practices and how these are enacted across a variety of sites from the body to religion to the museum and beyond.

As such, the 2008 conference represented a timely intervention into the field providing the opportunity to explore a number of themes in some depth. Given CRESC's central concern with analysing and understanding socio-cultural change from multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives, this was an ideal space in which to expand debates in this area.

The objectives of the conference were warmly received by academics from across the world and from a wide diversity of disciplines including literature, film studies, gender studies, politics, economics, social policy, cultural studies, urban studies and media studies. More than 240 papers were offered at the call for papers stage. Over 200 delegates participated from around the world, with representatives from a large number of countries including Australia, Canada, Hungary, New Zealand, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, Iran, Hong Kong, Japan, and the USA.

On each day there were paired keynote sessions taking up different themes where international speakers including Professor



Ghassan Hage (Melbourne University), Professor Mary Poovey (New York University), Professor Nina Glick-Schiller (Manchester University), Professor Engin Isin (Open University), Nick Stevenson (Nottingham University) gave provocative and fascinating talks to provide a framework for the smaller workshop sessions.

On the first night Mieke Bal (Amsterdam University) showed her film *Becoming Vera*. This is a collaborative effort which represents a very personal look at a year in the life of a three year old growing up in Paris. Shot in a 'home movie' style it's a filmic exploration of Vera's reactions to the different cultural influences she is exposed to. Through her father's family she explores being Cameroon royalty and is, to her father, an important ongoing link in his heritage. Her mother, although French born feels connected to the Russia her own family were exiled from and wants to make that past a part of her daughter's life'. The film stimulated a lively discussion where participants had a chance to voice their enthusiastic and ambivalent responses with this well known and challenging film maker and cultural theorist.

At one plenary session Barbara Kirshenblatt Gimblett (University of New York) gave a

fascinating account of *The Making of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Post-Communist Poland* which is the first museum of its kind in the world, and where Barbara is playing a central role in its creation. At one of the evening sessions Professor Michael Keith and Professor Scot Lash (Goldsmiths College) presented a fascinating talk on Chinese cities, in particular the city of Shanghai -where these two academics are involved in collaborative research- which represents the quintessential 21st century city. In another plenary the well known Professor of Citizenship Studies, Engin Isin (Open University) exhorted us to think politically and critically around questions of citizenship.

Papers presented at the conference covered a wide range of topics including: cities and citizenship; politics and citizenship; citizenship and the cultural sector, science, technology, biology and citizenship; Europe and the citizen; the relationship between religious and secular concepts of citizenship; the media and citizenship; sexual citizenship; race, ethnicity and citizenship. These papers were themed into some sixty open sessions which enabled some participants to follow a particular strand of their choice, while others attended a wide range of sessions.

There were a number of book launches including one for the new *Journal of Cultural Economy* which has been successfully launched from CRESC. On another evening a very lively conference dinner took place in a nearby Lebanese Oxford restaurant where the din of argument, laughter and debate was deafening! Overall the conference was seen to be a great success by those who attended.

Sophie Watson, Chair of the Conference
Organising Committee, Open University

Common Knowledge: Class Culture

Gillian Evans

My research investigates the contemporary cultural politics of social class in Britain and focuses, in particular, on the controversies surrounding the 'white working classes'. A book entitled 'Educational Failure and the White Working Classes in Britain' (2006) was the outcome of PhD research and a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship in which I focused on the one-in-five children who are leaving primary school in Britain unable to read or write. My current research remains focused on issues to do with social class, exploring how regeneration projects function as social engineering endeavours.

Bermondsey, in Southeast London – a post-industrial, rapidly gentrifying, ex-docking community - was my case study area for the work on educational failure. I explored, ethnographically, what it means to be working class in Britain at the beginning of the 21st Century. My book provides a window onto 'another world' as it explores the discrepancies between the learning situations that young people find themselves in, whilst taking the reader on a journey of self-discovery in Bermondsey and makes the process of learning how to become a certain kind of British person its central focus. This is a place where middle class values are constantly challenged and the complex cultural politics of white working class pride is revealed.

My research remains focused on issues to do with social class as I start to explore regeneration projects as social engineering. Taking as my current case study the development of the legacy plan for the London 2012 Olympics, I am investigating how plans to transform one of the most ethnically diverse and chronically 'deprived' areas of London will translate into social and cultural change for its residents. Aiming to conduct innovative ethnographic research at the same time as forging new theoretical ground to support the project's scope, I am organising a CRESC conference in February 2009 entitled *Materialising the Subject: phenomenological and post-actor network theory objects in the social sciences*.

How and why is this conference relevant to other scholars and the wider public? The objective of the conference is to provide an advanced forum for five 'in-conversation' style debates between world renowned scholars and to make these live conversations accessible, in a variety of formats, to scholars and the public. The inter-disciplinary and trans-Atlantic debate will focus on some of the most recent theoretical and methodological moves in sociology, geography, anthropology and philosophy. When considered together these moves reveal multiple approaches to a common theoretical concern - the dissolution of the

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subject/object distinction – the corollary of which, across the social sciences, is the 'turn to ontology' and the consequent effort to radically rework our understanding of what it is (for humans and non-humans) to constitute a world.

The actor-network as an analytical category usefully contests the assumption that humans and non-humans are separate entities and that reality is, therefore, objectively given and revealed by science. Post-actor-network theory challenges the tendency to reify the form of the network/object as a stable relational configuration. The move now is to explain the emergence and experience of 'things', such as diseases (and Olympic Games), as the fluid outcome of various, often contested, sets of material practices. These practices are understood to be highly specific, spatially distributed assemblages or enactments that gain their stability from perpetual performance. The analytical category, here, becomes 'material practice', a shift that possesses distinct methodological implications, with the notion of 'form' shifting away from singularity and towards a multiple configuration of more fragile relational elements.

In a parallel 'relational' move in social anthropology, one which unsettles the Euro-American concept of the subject as individual, the material practice of exchange takes centre stage in a theory that explains how certain kinds of objects, like gifts, come to substantiate the specific form of sociality through which personhood is distributed. Such an analysis makes possible comparisons and contrasts between different relational forms and notions of the person that objects come to substantiate among various human collectives. This includes a consideration of the effects of new forms of property arising from innovations in the production of socio-technical, subject/object hybrids such as genetically engineered human cells.

Having always done what sociologists of science and technology were just beginning to do in the West, anthropologists were praised by actor-network theorists for attending, in other parts of the world, to the subject/object hybrids that were constitutive of radically different understandings of human and non-human groupings, relations and capacities. Wishing to bring into existence an 'anthropology of the modern world', one which treats the subject/object distinction as the foundational myth of modernity and which undermines, therefore, the objective premises of the asymmetry between 'the West and the rest', Bruno Latour makes possible new terms of theoretical engagement for an anthropology which is increasingly 'at home'. At the same time, however, the link is clear and productive with a post-colonial anthropology coming to terms with the paradox engendered by modernity's loss of confidence and the modernising drive of post-colonial nation states.

Arguably, however, the 'turn to ontology' relies, for its novelty, on a conceptualisation of epistemology that makes knowledge the outcome of processes of conscious abstraction, theorisation, formalisation, institutionalisation, representation and interpretation. This risks a reproduction of the dichotomies between 'knowing' and 'doing' and between 'mind' and 'body' that have already been challenged in phenomenological theories of embodiment and in models of situated learning in cognitive psychology. Indeed, despite the accusation, at the heart of actor network theory, that phenomenology is inadequate to the task of assembling a radical theory of object-centred-sociality; those of a phenomenological persuasion might argue that the insights of actor-network theory are not new to them.

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Experts at the Edge: Researching Technologies of Social Change

Hannah Knox

How are technologies involved in processes of social change? How might we understand social change differently if we look at how it happens through projects of technical development? What methods would we need to observe and record these kinds of processes? My research attempts to tackle these problems through ethnographic studies of projects that aim to generate social change through technical means, be that urban regeneration through new media collaborations, globalisation through digital networking, or poverty reduction through road building

In the highlands of the Peruvian Andes, a project is underway to construct a 700km highway that will run from the Amazon basin to Peru's Pacific coast. Whilst Peru might seem a long way from CRESC's UK base, the concerns that drive and shape the project – market transformation, globalisation, state/commerce relations, civic participation and the bridging of class difference – speak directly to CRESC's research interests. For this reason, myself and anthropologist Penny Harvey went out to Peru in 2006 to embark on an ethnographic study of this road.

We set ourselves the following problem: if processes of social change happen in the context of large organised programmes like road building, then what is the relationship between these programmes and the intended and unintended social and cultural effects that result from them? As we were interested in both the social dynamics of such projects and the technical apparatus required to make them happen, we chose to make the focus of our research project something that we saw as crossing the social and the technical – namely 'knowledge'.

Previous research I had conducted with colleagues at Manchester Business School, had made me aware of the intimate relationship between knowledge and technology. When I began at CRESC I was working on a piece of research that looked at how information and communications technologies in large organisations were codifying ideas about the nature of knowledge and its utility in a contemporary business organisation. Here, digital technologies were being increasingly used, with the aim of capturing and collating information. This information collection and

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its subsequent ordering and retrieval was intended as a means of generating greater amounts of objective knowledge about organisations, faster than had been possible previously, and covering a far wider geographical area.

This research explored the cultural preoccupations that informed the collation of data about people and processes – for example we studied Customer Relationship Planning software as an exercise in representation, and came to see the fears over its unintended consequences - such as identity theft - as tied up with cultural concerns involving the trope of 'the double'. We also became interested in the ways in which turning things into information produced unintended real-world effects.

Taking these insights on board in designing the project on road building, Penny Harvey and I chose to focus on what we called the 'politics of knowledge'. This was to involve looking at the ways in which engineers, surveyors, economists, politicians, agriculturalists, truck drivers and others came to know the space of the road, and also being attentive to the coming together of different ways of knowing.

One interesting incident occurred when we heard an engineer exclaim that he 'didn't believe in ghosts, he believed in maths'. The engineer had been staying in one of the towns along the road, in a hostel providing accommodation for the employees of the construction company. The owner of the hostel had been talking about the town and the house in terms of the ghosts that she had sighted there over the years. During the conversation she had turned to the engineer, asking him if he believed in ghosts, and this had prompted his response. One of the things the engineering and design experts involved in the road building project had to deal with was the presence of things that could not be analysed using mathematics, but still had powerful effects that could stop the road being built. Ghostly memories tied people to places and their ancestral histories in ways which could be compromised by a new road.

Other things that fell outside the purview of mathematics ranged from archaeological finds, to land rights, to the presence of spirits who had to be appeased with appropriate libations to the earth. In these moments where mathematical knowledge was brought together with other ways of knowing and perceiving the space of the road, we were able to observe the difficult work of separating out objects into different domains of responsibility. This was a necessary process in dealing with the ambiguity of incompatible ways of knowing. It was these moments of ambiguity in the road building process then, as much as the presence of a physical road itself, which we found to produce the powerful social and cultural effects of technological intervention.

Another interesting feature of engineering practices is their use of new forms of digital mapping and the visualisation of social spaces, and it is in this direction that my current research is heading. Visualisation technologies, like the interactions described above, draw together into the technological problematic different dimensions of knowing. 3D mapping for example, combines mathematical calculation with the affective power of the image. I am currently working to take forward this perspective on technologies into new research on the city, where digital visualisation is increasingly being used by planners. I will be looking at the ways in which information technologies are becoming implicated in the planning and management of cities and their populations, and the ways in which an understanding of the dynamics of technical processes of measurement and visualisation might be a useful way of revisiting the role of states and markets in the making of city spaces.

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Social Participation and Identity

Andrew Miles

CRESC researchers are collaborating with colleagues from the Centre for Longitudinal Research at the Institute of Education on a new ESRC-funded investigation of social participation through the life course based on the 1958 Birth Cohort Study (also known as the National Child Development Study). The project is carrying out 180 qualitative in-depth interviews with cohort members, who are now aged 50, which will be linked back to longitudinal quantitative data from the previous waves of the Cohort Study.

In recent years the issue of participation has become central to both academic debates about stratification and inequality and the policy agenda, where there is a particular interest in the effects of 'social capital' on inclusion and social cohesion. Perhaps the best-known contribution here is Putnam's (1995) claim that social bonds have weakened and civic engagement is in decline, while other prominent lines of interpretation include the argument that socialisation and participation are integral to elite reproduction (Bourdieu 1986), social capital allows disadvantaged people to get ahead (Coleman 1988), and the formation of activist identities is underpinned by the dynamics of networks and ties rather than fixed social categories (Mische 2007). However, most of the evidence informing these arguments is cross-sectional, which means that we know little about the provenance, duration or dynamics of the processes they describe or to what extent and in what combinations they are informed by age, cohort or generational effects.

Up to now only limited use has been made of cohort studies in debates about the role of social participation in stratification. While they have been employed comparatively to explore trends between generations they have rarely been used to look at change across successive waves. Therefore the potential of survey evidence to reveal life course trends and the individual level factors which affect people's engagement over time remains to be realised.

The 1958 Birth Cohort Study comprises a representative sample of more than 17,000 infants born in March of that year. The main sample has been followed at ages 7, 11, 16, 23, 33, 42 and 46 and about 12,000 people are still participating. Now core funded by ESRC, the Study collects data every four years, including the current wave in which cohort members are being surveyed at age 50. From its origins as an investigation of perinatal mortality, the Study developed into a multipurpose survey covering family life, education, employment, skills, housing, health, finances and citizenship.

In common with other recent work, preliminary analysis of data from the Study

suggests a more complicated picture than the one originally painted by Putnam. Overall, Cohort members' participation in social, economic and political organisations declined across the 1990s but only marginally – from 49 per cent in 1991 to 46 per cent in 2001. The main shift over this period (Table 1) is a decline in men's involvement with trade unions or staff associations, which is offset by women becoming more likely to become members of this type of organisation. Otherwise, except for a fall in women's attendance at religious services or meetings, membership of other voluntary, charitable and environmental organisations is mostly stable.

Table 1: Membership of organisations at age 33 and 42

Type of organisation	Age 33			Age 42		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
Trade Union or Staff Association	34.7	23.5	29.0	30.9	26.0	28.4
Religious meetings /services	10.0	19.9	15.0	9.9	16.6	13.3
Political Party	2.6	1.8	2.2	2.6	1.5	2.0
Environmental Charity	3.4	4.2	3.8	2.9	3.1	3.0
Voluntary group/ other charity	6.1	8.3	7.2	7.5	8.8	8.1
Women's Group	0.0	3.3	1.7	0.0	2.1	1.0
Women's Institute	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.3
School group or PTA	2.5	11.1	6.9	3.4	10.2	6.9
Tenants Association	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6

One of the problems with the quantitative data on participation from the survey waves is that it is both limited and inconsistent. Other than in 1991 and 2000, the format and content of questioning on participation varies (which is why figures from the other waves are not included in Table 1), while overall the survey focuses on a relatively narrow range of affiliations and activities. Nor has the survey probed class or other forms of identity, which analysis of the data indicates to be highly significant in determining participation (Figure 1).

Here the qualitative, in-depth interviews will be instrumental in enabling us to explore the diverse aspects and meanings of participation and to study the mechanisms and individual life-course dynamics of engagement,

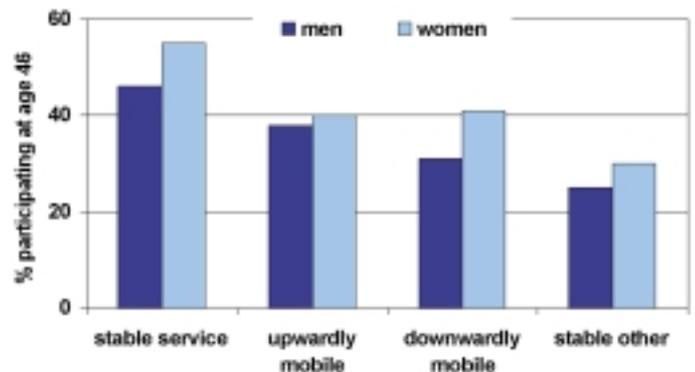


Figure 1. Participation in organisations by social mobility

including how and why some people become involved while others don't, why some participate consistently, others intermittently, and why some people cease to engage altogether. We will then assess how any patterns in the interview narratives refer back to life course variables from earlier waves of the quantitative survey, for example on work, relationship and fertility histories, to study further how changes in key life domains might impact on participation.

The interviews will take place in Scotland and in the North West and South East of England from November this year through to June 2009. To lend the sampling frame shape and purchase in theoretical terms, we are using social mobility profiles to select participants, so that equal numbers of upwardly mobile, downwardly mobile and stable working class and service class individuals will be interviewed from each of the three areas. Designed to produce evidence that will both enable us to reflect on recent work in this subject area and be of relevance to those working in parallel fields, the topic guide for this project includes sections on neighbourhood and belonging, cultural as well as social participation, friendship patterns, life stories, self-identification and on what it is like to be a life-long participant in a birth cohort study.

Methodologically, this project represents the first significant attempt anywhere in the world to interview members of a panel survey in depth, with the possibility of linking such narratives to data collected in earlier waves. Substantively, in focusing on the generation which has been most exposed to the key disjunctures of the postwar period, it promises to provide rich new perspectives on social participation and identity against a historical background of far-reaching social and cultural change.

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The Last Census? Governing Britain with Metrics

Evelyn Ruppert

In business, government and academia, metrics or quantitative measurements are increasingly being adopted as the basis of evaluating and comparing the performance and progress of people, groups, and things. For example, in education league tables and scores evaluate schools, in universities bibliometrics measure academic production and in health care standards such as waiting times evaluate service delivery. To what extent does this apply to population statistical systems and the construction of population?

State identification practices in the UK are currently the object of considerable debate and controversy as governing authorities propose and implement ever more sophisticated techniques to identify, register, track, monitor and know the characteristics and movements of subjects within and between their jurisdictions. Techniques such as biometric visas and passports, identity cards, population registers and the joining up of administrative data are rapidly becoming part of the identification regime. While primarily focused on governing individual bodies, the objective of my current research is to investigate how these same techniques are being deployed to 'better' construct and know the whole—the population—as an object of management and government.

Identification techniques are in part being advanced by new information and communication technologies (ICTs), which enable the storing, maintenance, searching and linking of massive volumes of personal identification and transactional data regularly collected by separate government agencies. They also make possible techniques such as biometrics—digital representations of bodily characteristics such eye retinas and facial patterns. To a large degree, the security imperatives of combating terrorism, organised crime, identity fraud and illegal migration have fuelled many of these technological developments.

However, the same technologies are being advanced to serve other governing objectives such as economies and efficiencies in public service delivery. They are also the basis of recent initiatives and proposals in the UK that seek to constitute the population as a population statistical system assembled from the linking of administrative records, and the introduction of population and address registers, unique personal identifiers, 'smart' identity cards and biometric passports. If successful and fully implemented the system could render the 2011 Census the last in the

UK, as recommended by recent parliamentary inquiries and government agency studies.

I provisionally call this proposed system 'population metrics' for it is through the identification, recording, scanning and monitoring of subjects at myriad sites and the joining-up of different bits of data about individuals that the population and its performance is being constructed and evaluated. I am investigating the implications of this shift to population metrics by building on work I recently completed at CRESC on the construction of censuses, which for many decades were the cornerstones of state population statistics.

The consequences of population metrics for individual privacy, liberty, mobility, policing, data protection, and discrimination are the object of much critical debate and research. However, the same techniques will also fundamentally change how people are identified as subjects and collectively as an object—that is, a population. If identity and the population are constructed on the basis of biometric classifications 'read off' bodies, and, what people do in relation to government (transactions, movements), then this will change the meaning and understanding of who we are and how we are governed.

Instead of people saying who they are in periodic censuses, population metrics will regularly measure their actual movements and conduct. For example, through the traces left by individuals in joined up databases, new associations, patterns and correlations could be discovered that were hitherto not visible or known. The profiling capacity of information processing techniques such as data mining—a procedure for identifying patterns and correlations in large databases—could be deployed to identify new profiles and categories of people as targets of governing in areas such as health, employment and education.

// *Instead of people saying who they are in periodic censuses, population metrics will regularly measure their actual movements and conduct.* //

Alternatively, the same techniques could lead to the formation of new groups who heretofore were unaware of what they shared in common. Indeed, these practices could produce new kinds of biosocialities and identities and become the basis of new claims to social rights. On the other hand, will people become more passive in the making of population as biometrics, transactions and movements reveal who they are? Will information technologies become more influential in mediating and constructing both who we are as individual subjects and collectively as a population?

Towards exploring these issues and questions I am building a textual database to facilitate the analysis of the governing problematisations and rationalities underpinning the development of population metrics. The material is being drawn from UK parliamentary inquiries and government consultations on population statistics that have been conducted over the past few years. Collectively this material includes hundreds of pages of arguments, statements, and assertions of different political actors (bureaucrats, policy makers, technicians, legislators, academics, citizens) engaged in the construction, interpretation and management of population.

The organization of this textual material in a searchable database will produce a different kind of joined-up database that can be scrutinized using the same analytic procedures applied to population metrics. That is, data mining can be used to identify patterns and correlations in the textual material as well as being used to visualize that data. To that end I will be experimenting with various Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis (CAQDAS) tools such as NVIVO, MAXQDA and QDA Miner. So while the project is centred on analysing the methodology and governing effects of population metrics it will also critically engage with recent developments in social science methodology.

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Soldiers, Citizens and Sacrifice

Vron Ware

The recent campaign to challenge the British government's ruling on the rights of Gurkha veterans to settle in the UK has forced the issue of citizenship and military service into the public domain. This publicity ensures that the public is constantly reminded of Gurkhas' historic role within the British army: normally anti-immigration voices from The Daily Mail and The Daily Telegraph declare their shame at being British in the face of the Gurkhas' 'disgraceful' treatment by the government. But, the broader implications of current military recruitment from Commonwealth countries have yet to be explored.

Commentators of all political persuasions, backed by apparently unanimous public opinion, have consistently supported Gurkha campaigns for equity, claiming that Britain has a moral duty to acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who serve in its armed forces. The decision to withhold citizenship rights from Gurkhas is considered a clear breach of the military covenant which says that, "In return for putting the needs of the nation and the army before their own, British soldiers must always be able to expect fair treatment, to be valued and respected as individuals, and that they (and their families) will be sustained and rewarded by commensurate terms and conditions of service." But, what about groups from other Commonwealth countries?

Before joining CRESC I worked on a project researching what might be called in shorthand 'postcolonial Britishness'. Exploring the ramifications of Britain's colonial legacy among young people living in former colonies proved a useful way of revealing the limits of the domestic narrative of national identity. In the course of this research I encountered military personnel who were concerned that the question of where soldiers come from was almost entirely absent from public debates about Britishness, which seems particularly odd given the army's profile in Iraq and Afghanistan. The extent of ethnic diversity is connected to the army's ability to reflect the social profile of the wider population. But what issues are raised by the manner and scope of British military recruitment overseas when the country is involved in deeply unpopular wars and its own citizens are deemed increasingly overweight, unfit and unsure of their place in the world?

When a country is involved in active military operations, the figure of the soldier becomes an especially rich object of investigation, one that is highly symbolic of how the nation is constituted. Looking at army recruitment in Commonwealth countries is a valuable exercise since it entails studying the institution's policies on equal opportunity

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and diversity as well as a range of citizenship issues affecting non-UK nationals. Although it is hard to gain precise figures at any one time, figures released in 2008 showed there were over 6,600 Commonwealth recruits serving in the army. But while we are used to acknowledging the contribution made by postcolonial migrants to key British institutions such as the NHS, the link between the military and migration studies is seldom held up to scrutiny.

Since July 2008 I have been able to talk to soldiers at many levels who are responsible for recruiting and training men and women from Commonwealth countries, and more recently I have begun to interview individual recruits as they enter the system at the Pirbright Army Training Centre in Surrey.

Known as FCs (Foreign and Commonwealth) they are distributed unevenly throughout the troops formed for training purposes. My intention is to track a number of these individuals as they pass on to the next phase of training where they begin to specialize in the particular trade or 'cap badge'.

One of the problems of researching an organisation as opaque and tightly structured as the army is that of absorbing the sheer amount of new information. It's important to know the difference between captains and sergeants, troops, squadrons and battalions, let alone fathom the different phases of training or deployment. No sooner had I begun to understand the weekly stages of the 14-week basic training course for those intending to specialise as engineers, dental technicians or chefs, I then realized there was another whole section of the army where I would get a very different story. The infantry is based at Catterick in Yorkshire where recruits spend six months. My plan to spend some time there this winter in order to hear the experiences of young men (women do not join the infantry) who know that they are not likely to leave the army with qualifications that might be useful in civilian life.

The research is still in early stages as there are many different questions to pursue. How the army, as an employer, manages racism and discrimination in its own ranks is one area to consider, in addition to issues of citizenship rights such as the position of spouses and dependants, pensions and the welfare of veterans. The army is already exempt from many employment restrictions, for example, retaining the right to bring in unskilled labour from outside the EU, but the implications of this are rarely discussed in public debate.

Finally, the issue of military recruitment among foreign nationals demands far-reaching discussion about the relationship between the armed forces and civilian society, not just in the UK but in any country with a democratically elected government. In September, following a panel at the CRESC conference on the military and social citizenship, a workshop on 'Soldiers, Citizens and Security' was held jointly by CRESC and CCIG (Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance) in London, attended by participants from around the UK as well as Canada and Denmark. The fascinating conversation that developed – touching on commercialization/privatisation of the military and its relation to the security industry, social citizenship and welfare history - will provide the basis for further events planned for next year.

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New working papers

The following working papers have been added to the CRESC website
<http://www.cresc.ac.uk/publications/papers.html>

Working Paper No.53

(Re)Politicizing inflation policy: A global political economy perspective

Johnna Montgomerie
August 2008

Working Paper No.54

Postal communication and the making of the British technostate

Patrick Joyce
August 2008

Working Paper No.55

Cultural practices, age and the life course

Simone Scherger
August 2008

Working Paper No.56

Rethinking top management pay: From pay for performance to pay as fee

Julie Froud, Adam Leaver, Siobhan McAndrew, David Shammai, Karel Williams
August 2008

Working Paper No.57

Losing the battles but winning the war: The case of UK Private Equity Industry and mediated scandal of summer 2007

Johnna Montgomerie, Adam Leaver and Adriana Nilsson
August 2008

Working Paper No.58

Spectre of the subprime borrower — beyond a credit score perspective

Johnna Montgomerie
October 2008

Working Paper No.59

Financial innovation: frame, conjuncture and bricolage

Ewald Engelen, Ismail Erturk, Julie Froud, Adam Leaver and Karel Williams
November 2008

Working Paper No.60

Copyright and the conditions of creativity: social authorship in reggae music and open source software

Jason Toynbee
November 2008

Working Paper No.61

Ownership matters: private equity and the political division of ownership

Julie Froud, Sukhdev Johal, Adam Leaver and Karel Williams
December 2008

Forthcoming Events CRESC

21 January 2009

CRESC Workshop - Finance in Crisis

Venue: Room 10.05 Harold Hankins Building, Manchester Business School

Time: 1.0 to 4.30pm

Speakers: Ismail Erturk, Julie Froud, Adam Leaver, Liz McFall, Mick Moran, Karel Williams, Grahame Thompson

The credit crunch around sub prime from summer 2007 turned into acute financial crisis with large scale bank failure after Lehman went under in autumn 2008. Since then, frozen markets, deleveraging and wealth effects have induced a major recession which exposes the limits of existing regulation and management. Hence, the revival of interest in earlier finance-led crashes and the recognition that this crisis is different because of innovations in the wholesale market and mass involvement in retail.

CRESC has an established programme of research and publication into financialization and financial innovation which predated the present crisis. Now CRESC researchers develop their arguments about crisis for an audience of colleagues from across the University of Manchester, the Open University and beyond. Here is a chance to debate current issues and engage with new ideas. The format is of short 20 minute presentations with Q and A.

4–6 February 2009

CRESC methods Course - Simple and Multiple Correspondence Analysis

Venue: University of Manchester

Lecturer: Johs Hjellbrekke (University of Bergen)

Times: Wed 4 February - 11.30-16.00, Thu 5 February - 09.30-16.00, Fri 6 February - 09.30-16.00.

Short Course Description

In the social sciences, multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) is a statistical technique that first and foremost has become known through the work of the late Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002), in particular "Distinction" (Bourdieu 1984), "Homo Academicus" (Bourdieu 1988) and "The State Nobility" (Bourdieu 1996).

As a counterpart to principal component analysis (PCA), a geometric technique for the analysis of metric variables, MCA is a geometric technique for the analysis of categorical or categorized variables. Originating in the early 1960s and the French statistician Jean-Paul Benzécri's work in mathematical linguistics, MCA represents and models data sets as clouds of points in a multidimensional Euclidean space. The interpretation of the data is based on these clouds of points. By combining MCA with inferential techniques and variance analysis, we arrive at an integrated framework of interpretation that also is known under the name of Geometric Data Analysis (GDA).

In a combination of lectures and laboratory exercises, this course will introduce students to the fundamental properties, procedures and rules of interpretation of the most commonly used forms of correspondence analysis, i.e. simple correspondence analysis (CA) and MCA, and also to the most commonly used software.

Particular attention will be paid to how MCA can be used in the construction of social spaces.

This workshop is Co-sponsored by Sociology, University of Manchester

5 February 2009

Public Lecture - Frames of War

Speaker: Judith Butler (UC Berkeley)

Venue: University Place, Oxford Road, The University Of Manchester

Time: 5.30 pm

Organised by RICC and Manchester Feminist Theory Network
Co-sponsored by Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Salford, and the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change.

26-27 February 2009

International Conference - Materialising the Subject: Phenomenological and post-ANT objects in the social sciences

Venue: University of Manchester Museum

Speakers include: Martin Holbraad (University College London); Don Ihde (State University of New York); Harvey Molotch (New York University); Robert Oppenheim (University of Texas at Austin); Morten Pedersen (University of Copenhagen); Nigel Thrift (University of Warwick); Christina Toren (University of St Andrews)

An opportunity to participate in five 'in-conversation' style debates between world renowned scholars. The conference provides the opportunity for inter-disciplinary and trans-Atlantic debate about some of the most recent theoretical moves in sociology, anthropology, geography and philosophy. When considered together these moves reveal multiple approaches to a common theoretical concern - the dissolution of the subject/object distinction - the corollary of which, across the social sciences, is the 'turn to ontology' and the consequent effort to radically rework our understanding of what it is (for humans and non-humans) to constitute a world.

The conversation titles are as follows:

After Networks: spatio-temporal analytics.

- Does it make any Sense to say that Object have Agency?
- Is Phenomenology really an Albatross?
- Skilled Practice: cognition as human-artefact- human orientation system.
- Not Networks Per Se, but Distributed Enactments.

28-29 May 2009

Workshop - The Visual Archive: The Moving Image and Memory

Venue: Walton Hall, Open University, Milton Keynes

Plenary Speakers: Annette Kuhn (Queen Mary, University of London); Christopher Pinney (University College London); Roly Keating (Director of Archive Content, BBC)

Questions of archiving and their relationship to issues of memory have in recent years attracted considerable interest from scholars working across the arts, humanities and social sciences. Much of this attention has focused upon the archive as a repository of written material. This workshop directs attention to the visual archive, particularly archives of moving images, and the role they play in the (re)production, organisation, and contestation of collective memory. These archives are currently experiencing a significant period of change and reassessment, stemming from the impact of digitisation and the challenges and possibilities this presents for their organisation and accessibility. The workshop is presented in combination with the British Film Institute and the launch of their InView archive of digital moving image material.

10-11 July, 2009

International Conference - Migrating Music: Media, Politics and Style

Venue: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Plenary Speakers: Lucy Duran (SOAS, University of London and presenter of 'World Routes', BBC); Charlie Gillett (journalist and award winning presenter of 'Charlie Gillett's World of Music', BBC World Service); Jan Fairley (independent scholar and journalist)

Over the last twenty years or so there has been much interest in music and diaspora, that is in migrating music. No doubt this interest is historically grounded. Movement of peoples and their music across the world has been occurring to an unprecedented extent and in novel ways. Researchers in a variety of disciplines have then responded by studying musical flows and the formation of hybrid styles, but also the way in which apparently similar music can mean quite different things in different contexts. We might sum up the overarching framework as one in which researchers focus on the (largely benign) diversification and pluralisation of musical meaning and experience.

Full Call for Papers available from

<http://www.cresc.ac.uk/events/forum/MigratingMusic.html>

1-4 September 2009

CRESC Annual Conference - Objects - What Matters? Technology, Value and Social Change

Venue: Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

Plenary speakers: Mario Biagioli (Harvard University); Patricia Clough (City University of New York); Avery Gordon (University of California, Santa Barbara); Graham Harman (American University Cairo); Annemarie Mol (University of Twente); Griselda Pollock (University of Leeds); Kathleen Stewart (University of Texas, Austin); Michael T Taussig (Columbia University).

The fifth annual conference of CRESC will tackle Objects - What Matters? Technology, Value and Social Change. As contemporary social theorists continue to signal the need to reconfigure our deliberations on the social through attention to practice, to object-mediated relations, to non-human agency and to the affective dimensions of human sociality, this conference takes as its focus the objects and values which find themselves at centre stage. And we ask, in the context of nearly two decades of diverse disciplinary approaches to these issues, what matters about objects? How are they inflecting our understandings of technology, of expertise, and of social change? How has a focus on objects reconfigured our understandings of how values inflect the ways in which people make relations, create social worlds, and construct conceptual categories? How have objects become integral to human enthusiasms and energies, to transformational ambition, or to the transmission of values across time and space? How do objects move between ordinary and extraordinary states, shade in and out of significance, manifest instability and uncertainty? How do moral and material values attach to objects as they move in space and time? What dimensions do they inhabit and/or reveal?

Full Call for Papers available from

<http://www.cresc.ac.uk/events/conference2009/callforpapers.html>

For more information about the events please contact CRESC@manchester.ac.uk or check our events site at <http://www.cresc.ac.uk/events/forthcoming.html>