

The~Hyphen



Newsletter of UWE **Psycho-Social Studies**

Issue 3 (Winter 2015) • In This Issue:

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Welcome to the third edition of The Hyphen, the newsletter for the Psycho-Social Research theme of the UWE Social Science Research Group. It has been a busy few months.

Social Science Research Group Launch reflections

A very enjoyable and successful launch event was held at the Arnolfini on 10th September with over 70 people attending. The keynote was offered by Professor Havi Carel, talking about vulnerability and the valuing of transience. It was very fitting that across the corridor the work of the contemporary sculptor Richard Long was on show. He is a local and very prominent artist, whose work in nature is itself a celebration of process and not as such built to last as you might notice from the picture below of a very temporary sculpture made from chaff.

Havi's talk was an inspiration to enjoy and value the present moment and gave a philosophical start to ten presentations focused on the theme of vulnerability and resilience from different disciplinary standpoints and showcased some of the excellent work of our research group members with topics ranging from Traveller communities to social work and sexual offending, eating disorders and many more.

A big thank you to both attenders and presenters for a really enjoyable day!

Lita Crociani-Windland



Making paddy-field chaff circle, Warli tribal land, Maharashtra, India 2003

Report on *Climate Change – Connecting Conversations*

This event took place at the Lab Space, Waterside, Bristol, on Wednesday 23rd September 2015, from 7-9pm, and was led by Anne-Marie Cummins and Paul Hoggett.

In the year in which Bristol is the European Green Capital, UWE's Social Science in the City and Institute for Sustainability Anne-Marie Cummins and Paul Hoggett ran a *Knowledge Café on Climate Change* right in the heart of Bristol's Harbourside.

The event was predicated on the idea that as citizens, it can be a challenge to both name and confront climate change - and to have open and creative conversations about it. This event offered a unique opportunity for discovering our thoughts, ideas and insights into this topic and to consider the ways in which there is collective pressure to 'silence' and censor thinking about climate change – both in the wider world but also perhaps in our own inner worlds.

Feedback from the event:

'I wanted to thank you for the session on Wednesday. People seemed to really enjoy it and find it illuminating and useful.... personally found the session invaluable – it brought to consciousness issues and feelings of which I am aware but don't often work through. As a result I feel more confident and less anxious about speaking about climate change in my work and at home – so thank you. A release!'

Anthropology, Psychoanalysis and Psychosocial Studies - Part 2: *Analytical Frictions and Intersections*. Birkbeck University , London, 7th October 2015

Lita Crociani-Windland presented a very well received paper on Siena's Palio at this colloquium. The timing of her presentation followed closely an interesting new documentary on Siena's Palio horse race being released in cinemas in London <http://gb.thepalio.com/#/film>. If you come across the documentary, you might want to look at her research as the Palio is far more than the focus given in the film might lead one to think. The Telegraph gave a worryingly shallow critique and much of the meaning and function of this and other ritual events is clearly misunderstood by some of the press.

Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society Annual Conference, Rutgers University New Jersey

Lita Crociani-Windland presented at this Annual Conference in late October. The paper was extremely well received and dealt with the tension between structure and fluidity in public sector organisations, which have seen a growth in bureaucratic and procedural arrangements, i.e. structural means of managing the increasing fluidity of our time, without necessarily producing the desired outcomes. By contrast business practices have started to experiment with flatter structures and more collaborative work practices to adapt to similar conditions. The paper used the images of Scylla and Charybdis from Homer's Odyssey to characterise the twin dangers of excessive structure and fluidity and the dynamics of their interrelation.

News of a successful ERASMUS+ two-year grant

The members of the UWE music therapy team are delighted to announce a European project supporting teachers to use therapeutic music and arts-based approaches when working with children who have been traumatised. The project is called *Learning in a New Key (LINK): the development of therapeutic music resources for educators*.

'LINK' will bring together groups of experienced educators, therapists, researchers and students from nine different European educational settings and training/research institutions in Bologna, Italy; Lublin, Poland; Porto, Portugal and Bristol and Gloucester in the UK.

In the first year the project aims are to empower teachers by developing practical, therapeutic musical resources through a series of training events, resource tool-kits, evaluation and impact studies and dissemination opportunities. These meetings will take place within each country but also transnationally. The project will also explore how the educators can take care of themselves and safeguard their well-being whilst working with young people with such complex needs.

Abstracts have already been submitted for the British Association of Music Therapy Conference in Glasgow (April 2016) and the European Music Therapy Conference in Vienna (July 2016) but it is anticipated that there is potential for publication in policy and educational journals.

In the UK the UWE music therapy team will be working initially with therapists and teachers working for the Gloucester-based charity, Novalis Trust.

Leslie Bunt, Cathy Warner and Ben Saul

Forthcoming Talks

Heads of University Counselling Services, 6th November 2015

Anne-Marie Cummins

Fetish, Spectacle and Perversions of Care: An exploration of the psychic climate of care delivery in HE.

This session will consider the implications for delivery of counselling in HE in a sector dominated by marketization, targets and *virtualism* – by which I mean the appearance of care as opposed to its actuality.

Drawing on the work of Paul Hoggett (2014) and Rosemary Risq (2012, 2013) we will consider the ways in which there is a pull to perverse states of mind and the fetishisation of governance systems. This is partly masked by the capture of the language of 'choice', 'co-production', 'self-actualisation', 'personalised service' and 'empowerment'.

In this culture, the psychic challenge for Service Managers becomes hanging on to the capacity to *think* in the face of perverse organisational incentives and the capacity to *feel* - in the face of the realities of squeezed resources and real limitations in our capacities to deal with vulnerability and distress in student populations.

Therapists working in and with Time

SSRG seminar series, UWE Frenchay Campus, Wednesday 9th December at 2.30pm

Nigel Williams will talk about issues of identity and memory from his recent book chapter. In this case study you will hear about some of his family origins, early twentieth century science fiction, romance novels and invasion stories. Is Love or War going to win out? We still don't know as we become more and less civilised. Think 1905...2015...

Also read Williams N. (2015) 'Anglo- German displacement and diaspora in the early twentieth century; an intergenerational haunting' (Ch 6) in O'Loughlin M. *The Ethics of Remembering and the Consequences of Forgetting: Essays on Trauma, History and Memory*. London: Rowman and Littlefield.

Nigel teaches on the Doctorate in Counselling Psychology and the Masters in Psycho-Social studies. He is currently writing a book on Intergenerational Dynamics and is extending this work to explore the usefulness of the history of the longer term in clinical work. Somerset Counselling Centre is hosting an event for counsellors to explore this theme. It is an extension of a larger piece of research now being written up into the role deep time has in shaping us and the choices we make.

Forthcoming Conferences

Uncertainty and conviction in groups and organisations is the theme of the group relations conference that the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust will be offering at the Tavistock Centre in London on 14–18 December 2015 with a membership of 88 participants and 14 staff.

Two places are still available to join the conference Training Group of up to 8 members who will work in experiential as well as consultative roles. In addition to the overall conference events, they will have their own separate schedule and events to address their specific needs as trainee consultants.

Applicants should have normally had previous membership of two group relations conferences. The Training Group Associate Director is Dr William Crouch.

Full details, a brochure and registration form can be found here:

<http://www.tavistockconsulting.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Tavistock-GRC-Dec-2015-brochure.pdf>

Carlos Sapochnik
Director
Uncertainty and conviction in groups and organisations
Tavistock Group Relations Conference

PCCA (Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities) Conference, *A House Divided Against Itself? Identities and Cultures in Violent Conflict*. Kliczków Castle, Poland, April 6 – 11, 2016.

Full details of the conference can be found here: <http://p-cca.org/2016>

Introduction to two new PhD students

Karen Sherlock is an International Consultant specialising in the evaluation of projects and programmes in fragile and conflict States. She lives in Brighton.



Her PhD title is *Understanding the psycho-social impact of working in extreme situations of conflict and/or humanitarian disaster on individual humanitarian workers and organisations.*

Karen says 'I have worked for a variety of humanitarian organisations in conflict and post-conflict settings and I became interested in how the work was impacting me as an individual. I was also curious about the impact of the day to day trauma one witnesses in this work in developing countries on that of my colleagues and the organisations where they work. I wondered if anyone shared my experiences? That was the starting point for my research looking into the life history experience of humanitarian and aid workers who are working in some of the most challenging environments on the planet.'

'I have really enjoyed learning about and using psycho-social techniques in my PhD and I think it has helped me explore where I wanted to go in my research – beneath the surface. There is a great community of practice at UWE for this technique, which really helps me develop my methodological processes and make the most of my data.'

Rob Brown is a Management Consultant and lives in Montpelier, Bristol.



His thesis focuses on *Trust in the State*. Rob explains that ‘it is an investigation of how to improve public trust in public services and organisations. The hypothesis is that a form of ‘active’ trust, derived from a psycho-social relational framework, can be used as a practical mechanism for the governance of the citizen/state relationship.

‘Pursuing this line of enquiry has been a fascinating process, revealing many unexpected theoretical issues in the study of trust, and requiring some interesting thinking around research methodologies appropriate for investigation of a relationship.’

Webpages and How to Contact the Newsletter Team

The webpages of the Psycho-Social Research theme of the UWE Social Science Research Group are available here:

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/hls/research/socialscienceresearchgroup/researchthemes/psycho-socialstudies.aspx>

Please send **any news items** (research, publications, events, conferences, prizes ,etc.) to: Catherine.Warner@uwe.ac.uk and Lita.Crociani-Windland@uwe.ac.uk.