



Positive Communities Research Seminar Series

We are delighted to announce our seminars for this coming term. These include presentations from nationally renowned speakers on a range of topics. All welcome to these informal seminars, hosted by the Research Centre for Social Change: Community Wellbeing and Health, Disability, Ageing and Wellbeing, Manchester Metropolitan University. Dates and venues below; all sessions take place in **Brooks Building, Birley Fields Campus, Bonsall Street, Manchester M15 6GX**.

9th January - Disability in Fact and Fiction

12-3pm, BR G.44 (Lecture Theatre 4) Brooks building

Traveling Blind

Fact and fiction: We apply these categories as though they were clearly opposite to one another – the one, real and the other, made up. Yet, this binary is itself fictive. This presentation demonstrates how accounts of human life, including individual life, are, as Thomas King says, stories since stories is all we are. Traveling blind, especially when you are so, is indeed a story, one with many chapters. I will tell this story and show how it weaves fiction and non-fiction together and how the binary disappears within the fictional fact of storytelling.

Dr Rod Michalko is a retired professor of disability studies from Toronto. He believes that there is nothing greater than retirement and he hopes that many of you are extremely envious of him. After many scholarly publications, Rod has turned to writing fiction. His first collection of short stories will be released in the spring of 2017, titled *Things Are Different Here*—the title of the collection's feature story, set in Manchester

Reimagining the Dis/appearance of Disability in the Academy

The management of disability in the academy often proceeds by establishing the fact of impairment. *Disability* is made to appear *as if* it is a naturalized fact of disadvantage and is used to mark the spot where critical work stops and regular Western knowledge regimes of science and/or bureaucratic management are invited to begin. Disability is imagined, then, as that place where identified people with problems are managed as misfortunate; yet, rarely do we learn what cultural fictions are organizing this perception. My paper will show how the ordinary perception of disability is organized by and for a race-based thinking. Paul Gilroy (*Postcolonial Melancholia*, 2005, 37, 38) tells us that the "proliferation" of "race thinking," not only includes the "hatreds forged" by the tracing of the color line but, also, now includes boundary building accomplished through "genomics, biotechnologies and self-conscious biocolonialisms." Through these new ways of "doing" race thinking, the brutal production of people classified as less-than-human occurs; as Gilroy puts it, those with an "unadorned inferiority," the "lowest ontological rung," the bare life of so called "real" difference. By attending to the movement of disability facts in academic bureaucratic processes and knowledge production, my presentation will interrogate the lines that sustain the status quo. I do so with the hope that by drawing out this narrative structure we may nurture change.

Dr Tanya Titchkosky, Professor, Social Justice Education, OISE University of Toronto, is author of *Disability, Self, and Society*, as well as *Reading and Writing Disability Differently* and, most recently, *The Question of Access: Disability*,

Space, Meaning. Tanya works from the position that whatever else disability is, it is tied up with the human imagination -- interpretive relations – and needs to be studied as such. Using critical approaches that question the grounds of Western ways of knowing, such as Critical Indigenous Studies, phenomenology, Black and Queer Studies, Tanya hopes to reveal the restricted imaginaries that surround our lives in and with disability, especially in University settings. Tanya’s work is supported by a Canadian SSHRC grant, “Re-imagining the Appearance and Disappearance of Disability in the Academy.”

11th January – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Exploring Resilience and Place-Making with Street Connected Young People in Guatemala City

Dr Andrew Stevenson is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, MMU. Andrew holds: BSc. (Hons.) Psychology (University of Manchester); PGCE Education (University of Leicester); MA Social Anthropology (University of Manchester); PhD Psychology (Manchester Metropolitan University); 'Arrival Stories: how international students develop meaningful attachments to and knowledge of their new city'. He has taught Psychology since 1991, at various times on both a full and part time basis. Outside education and research, Andrew has worked as a freelance journalist, travel writer and short order cook.

Dr Jeremy Oldfield is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, MMU. Jeremy was awarded a BSc (Hons) Psychology degree at Coventry University, and a MEd Psychology of Education at University of Manchester. He completed his fully funded PhD in 2012, which investigated risk and protective factors for behaviour difficulties in children with special education needs and disabilities. Outside academia, Jeremy has worked within primary and secondary schools with children with special education needs and disabilities and has taught English as a foreign language in Spain and Guatemala. More recently, he has had various roles working at the University of Manchester and Edge Hill University before coming to Manchester Metropolitan University.

26th January – Abortion, travel and care

1-2pm, room BR 2.31, Brooks building

Northern and Southern Ireland have some of the most restrictive abortion legislation in the world. As a result of severe limitations on services, over 117,000 women have travelled to England alone since 1970. Abortion travel represents the reality of abortion care for women from the island of Ireland. Using qualitative evidence from a scoping study of one ‘abortion trail’ – the Liverpool-Ireland Abortion Corridor – this paper interrogates the relationship between care and abortion travel. In particular, it explores the care needs and forms of care giving which have emerged in response to abortion travel as well as the perceptions, concerns and strategies of care givers.

Dr Deirdre Duffy is a Senior Lecturer in Interdisciplinary Studies at MMU. She has a special interest in governmentality and evaluation in social policy contexts. Deirdre is currently developing work on abortion care and is Principle Investigator for a Wellcome Trust-funded study on the Liverpool-Ireland Abortion Corridor.

Dr Claire Pierson is a Research Associate at MMU, her research interests are focussed on the socio- politics of women’s health. She is currently working on a number of projects on abortion law and policy including a Wellcome Trust project 'The Liverpool-Ireland Abortion Corridor', a survey of Irish Trade Unions views on abortion and is a founding member of the Reproductive Health Law and Policy Advisory Group who are currently investigating abortion law reform in Europe. Claire’s previous research includes 'Political Discourse on Abortion' funded by the British Academy with Dr Fiona Bloomer (Ulster University), 'Addressing Cultural Legacies of Conflict: Women, Peace and Security in Ireland, Colombia and Liberia' at University College Dublin and doctoral research on 'Gender Security and Women's Experience of Policing in Northern Ireland' at Ulster University. Prior to this Claire worked for the

Institute for Conflict Research (Belfast) and the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (East Jerusalem) researching issues of human rights in conflicted societies.

30th January - Universal Basic Income session

1-3pm, room BR 3.31 Brooks building

If you would like to know more about the possibilities of Universal Basic Income in relation to social inequality, come to this free event and hear Karl Widerquist on '*Universal Basic Income: the centrepiece of a just society*'.

Dr Karl Widerquist is an Associate Professor at SFS-Qatar, specializing in political philosophy. His research is mostly in the area of distributive justice—the ethics of who has what. He holds two doctorates—one in Political Theory from Oxford University (2006) and one in Economics from the City University of New York (1996). Before coming to Georgetown he was lecturer in Political Theory at the University of Reading (UK) and a Murphy Fellow at Tulane University in New Orleans (LA). He has written or edited six books. Karl is the author of *Independence, Propertylessness, and Basic Income: A Theory of Freedom as the Power to Say* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013). He is coauthor of *Economics for Social Workers* (Columbia University Press 2002). He is coeditor of *Basic Income: An Anthology of Contemporary Research* (Wiley-Blackwell 2013), *Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend: Examining its Suitability as a Model* (Palgrave Macmillan 2012), *Exporting the Alaska Model: Adapting the Permanent Fund Dividend for Reform around the World* (Palgrave Macmillan 2012), and *The Ethics and Economics of the Basic Income Guarantee* (Ashgate 2005). He is currently under contract to author or coauthor two more books: *Prehistoric Myths in Modern Political Philosophy* (Edinburgh University Press forthcoming) and *Justice as the Pursuit of Accord* (Palgrave Macmillan forthcoming). He was a founding editor of the journal *Basic Income Studies*, and he has published more than a twenty scholarly articles and book chapters. His articles have appeared in journals such as *Political Studies*; the *Eastern Economic Journal*; *Politics and Society*; and *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*.

Please book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/universal-basic-income-the-centrepiece-of-a-just-society-karl-widerquist-tickets-30788778064> (and then please let us know if it later turns out you can't come).

If you would like to read up about UBI, here is blog we wrote earlier in the year raising a number of questions of implementation in the North West: <https://steadystatemanchester.net/tag/universal-basic-income-ubi/> and follow the links from here to find a report of our UBI learn-in on what UBI in practice might look like: <https://steadystatemanchester.net/2016/09/19/lots-of-interest-in-universal-basic-income-ubi-but-perhaps-not-its-time-yet/>.

8th February – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Trans youth: what matters?

Dr Katherine Johnson, Reader, Assistant Head Psychology & Psychotherapy, University of Brighton. Previously Katherine was a Research Fellow at UCL (2000-2002) working on a national study of LGB mental health, and taught social psychology for the Open University and gender studies at Birkbeck College, London. She completed a PhD 'Being Transsexual: self, identity and embodied subjectivity' in 2001 at Middlesex University and graduated from UCL in 1997 with BSc (Hons) Psychology. Her research maintains this focus on the relationship between psychology, gender and sexuality studies and critical theory. Dr Johnson's research interests include gender and sexuality studies, critical and community psychology, and qualitative methods.

15th February - Gender in migration

12.30 – 1.30pm, room BR 2.28 in Brooks building

Gendered lives post migration: challenging preconceptions about home and away

Migration from the new European Union (EU) Member States to the United Kingdom (UK) has been identified as one of the most significant social phenomena of recent times. The largest member of the Accession 8 (A8) countries is Poland and the UK has been the most common destination for Polish migrants post 2004. Arguably, there is limited migration literature that focuses solely on women. In fact, women as migrants were invisible until the 1970s, whilst today scholars argue that we observe a 'feminisation of migration'. However, in relation to A8 migration, gender and gender roles are an under-researched area. The aim of this session is to provide more balance and offer some explanation on how living in the UK affects women migrants' perceptions of Poland, and how Polish nationals resident in the UK perform their Polish and transnational identities.

Through the use of in-depth, semi-structured interviews with Polish migrant women in two locations – the UK (migrants) and Poland (return migrants), it is demonstrated how they negotiate their gendered responsibilities in regard to work (formal/informal) and care across time and space (i.e. post migration). Their perception of gender roles in the UK is compared with what they were taught in Poland. It is concluded that the migratory process may indeed influence their understanding of gendered responsibilities, and, in many cases, it seems to have a positive effect. This should be viewed as an encouraging finding as it can, in the long run, have a favourable impact on wider gender equality.

Dr Eva Duda-Mikulín works as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate (Positive and Sustainable Communities) within the Research Centre for Social Change: Community Wellbeing, MMU. Her background is in social policy, politics and sociology. Eva previously worked at the University of York and the University of Salford where in June 2015 she completed her PhD in Social Policy. Her doctoral research explored gendered migrations and the influence of the process of migrating on women's gender roles. Eva previously researched economic migrants, asylum seekers/refugees, highly-skilled migrants and family joiners. More recently she researched welfare conditionality in the UK. Prior to starting her academic career, Eva worked at a private social research company. She is also well linked up with the voluntary community sector primarily to do with migrant organisations where she previously worked/volunteered (e.g. Boaz Trust, RAPAR, Europa, Rainbow Haven, MRN).

18th February - Fair Living Festival

Fair Living Festival – the Social Change and Community Wellbeing research centre at MMU is holding a lively day celebrating different aspects of Fair Living. On this day we will be launching a report on the psychological impact of a universal basic income by Psychologists Against Austerity <https://psychagainstausterity.wordpress.com/>

Watch out for the Eventbrite links for this.

22nd February – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Conspiracy theories

Dr Ken Drinkwater, Psychology Lecturer, MMU. Ken holds: BSc (2001 - Main study: Memory and Part set cuing effects) and a postgraduate MSc (2007 - 2 Main studies: 1. I.Q. Assessment and the usefulness of the Ravens Progressive Matrices as a predictor of ability and 2. Focus groups with Adults who have Learning Disabilities) at Manchester Metropolitan University. His PhD (Paranormal Belief) was completed in 2015.

8th March – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Title: TBA

Dr Peter Taylor, Clinical lecturer & clinical psychologist, University of Manchester. Peter currently works as a clinical lecture at the University of Manchester. He completed both his PhD and clinical training at the University, before working for three years at the University of Liverpool as a lecturer in clinical psychology. He returned to work at Manchester in September 2016. Dr Taylor's research focuses on the psychosocial mechanisms underlying suicide and self-harm. This work includes investigations of the affective processes surrounding self-harm and suicide (specific mood states like shame and emotional instability more generally), traits related to risk of self-harm (e.g., impulsivity), and the process by which individuals negotiate help-seeking in relation to their self-harm. A second research interest concerns psychological interventions for psychosis. This has included work concerning Cognitive Analytic Therapy (CAT) for people with experiences of psychosis.

9th March - Mental Health Seminar Day

12-2pm, room BR 1.22, Brooks building

Boys Don't Cry – using mobile multi-media to engage young men to talk about mental health in community settings

Mental health is a key societal challenge in the UK, and young people, particularly men are experiencing an increase in mental health issues. Research shows that young men are less likely to visit health and social care services for support with mental health issues. However, less is known about the barriers young men face in accessing health and social care services and why they may not engage. As a result of attending a Higher Education Funding Council England 'sandpit' on social innovation, we were awarded funding to prototype the use of mobile multi-media engagement methods to engage young men across the North West of England to explore their experiences of mental health and their engagement with health and social care services. Co-productive working with a community research partner was central to our project. We located our mobile video booth in a range of community spaces attended by young men. In this paper, I consider the findings of our research to illustrate how a mobile video-booth can be used to engage young men in community spaces, and outline some of the barriers they face in accessing health and social care services.

Dr Jenny Fisher is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Care and Social Work at Manchester Metropolitan University. She has a background in urban regeneration, tenant involvement and community development. Her teaching role involves programme leadership of the MA Health and Social Care, and lead for two under-graduate units focused on community, engagement and social care. Jenny's research interests are centred on community engagement, community spaces, ageing, family and ethnography. She is currently leading research exploring social eating and ageing, and is a co-investigator on a 3 year ESRC – Newton project exploring sense of space and ageing in cities across the UK and Brazil. Jenny is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and her work is interdisciplinary.

Title TBC

Dr Helen Spandler is Reader in Mental Health in the School of Social Work and an Associate of the Psychosocial Research Unit (PRU) at University of Central Lancashire. She is primarily a qualitative researcher in mental health and critical social theory/policy. She is currently working on a number of research projects and is the Principal Investigator on a 2 year research project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on informal support. She is on the editorial collective of *Asylum: the magazine for Democratic Psychiatry*.

22nd March – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Title: TBA

Dr Helen Owton, Lecturer – Sport & Fitness, Faculty of Wellbeing, Open University. Helen is a chartered psychologist and completed her PhD in Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Exeter. Prior to joining the Open University, Helen was Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader at De Montfort University and has previously worked at other universities (e.g. University of Exeter, University of Bath, and University of Northampton). Also, she has done various consultancy work with other companies in the UK, Spain, Uganda, and Kenya. Her research specialisms lie in innovative qualitative investigations of sporting embodiment, sensory dimensions, and gendered sporting experiences covering topics that range from women's boxing, sportspeople with asthma and abuse in sport.

26th April – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Title: TBA

Dr Cheryl Hunter, Research Fellow, University of Leeds. Cheryl is a Research Fellow in the Academic Unit of Primary Care. She works on ASPIRE, an NIHR-funded, five-year programme aiming to support general practices in implementing evidence-based care. She is conducting a process evaluation of a tailored intervention package developed as part of the ASPIRE Programme Grant. ASPIRE aims to develop and test ways to support general practices in implementing evidence-based practice effectively and realistically within the constraints and challenges of real-life general practice.

10th May – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Can Exercise Rewind the Epigenetic Clock?

Dr William Brown, Lecturer in Psychology, University of Bedfordshire. As a Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Killam Scholar, William completed his PhD at Dalhousie University in Canada. In 2003 William received a NSERC postdoctoral fellowship to study genomic imprinting in the USA. In 2006 he founded the Centre for Culture and Evolutionary Psychology at Brunel University teaching evolutionary biology and research methods. William's research interests centre around: 3D scanning morphology; Exercise-associated DNA methylation change; Epigenetic adaptive responses to antagonistic pleiotropy as humans age; Fluctuating asymmetry, health and human performance; Genomic imprinting and evolution.

14th June – Applied Psychology & Wellbeing Research Seminar

12.30-1.30pm, room BR 3.31, Brooks building

Title: TBA

Dr Andrew Denovan, Lecturer in Psychology, MMU. Andrew achieved his BSc (First Class Honours) and MSc (Distinction) from Teesside University before completing a funded PhD (2007-2010) at Sheffield Hallam University. For his PhD Andrew used a synthesis of applied health psychology and positive psychology theory to investigate the relationship between stress, coping and psychological wellbeing. Prior to joining MMU, he held teaching positions at both Sheffield Hallam University and Teesside University.