Criminology, Sociology, Politics and International Relations
RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES 2023-24

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AUTUMN SEMESTER

Tue Oct 10th – Gordana Uzelac
Seminar title: *Main Predictors of Rape Outcomes in Police Investigations*
Location: TM1-01 Collaborative, Yellow Zone
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract:
As a part of the project *Soteria Bluestone*, police data on rape cases recorded in five forces in England and Wales in the period of 2018-2020 has been analysed in order to examine what characteristics of the case determine rape cases outcomes. Overall, comparative analysis included 37,858 rape cases where the percentage of cases resulted in Charged outcome ranges from as little as 2.3% in Force A to 7.8% in Force B. This presentation will examine what impact victim, suspect and offence characteristics have on those outcomes.

Thu Nov 2nd – Mark Wheeler
Seminar title: *The Godfather Doctrine: A Foreign Policy Strategy You Can't Refuse*
Location: TM1-01 Collaborative, Yellow Zone
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract:
The Godfather Doctrine: A Foreign Policy Parable (2009) was written by two United States (US) 'realist' foreign policy specialists John C. Hulsman and A. Wess Mitchell who contended the challenges which confronted the Corleone crime family in Francis Ford Coppola's classic gangster movie *The Godfather* (1972) were analogous to the geo-political problems facing the US in the early Twenty-first century. Accordingly, when Don Vito Corleone becomes the object of a 'hit' the responses of his sons Tom Hagen (Liberal Institutional), Santino 'Sonny' Corleone (Neo-Conservative) and Michael Corleone (Realist)) provide options on how the US could position itself in the multi-polar world. This paper will situate Hulsman and Mitchell's arguments within a growing literature concerning International Relations (IR) theory and popular culture; provides a critique of their realist perspectives and considers whether such popular cultural analogies to US foreign policies have validity.

Tue Nov 21st – Glyn Robins
Seminar title: *Researching the need for investment in council housing*
Location: TM1-01 Collaborative, Yellow Zone
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract:

On 10th July, at the House of Commons, the All-Party Parliamentary Group of MPs (APPG) for council housing launched a national inquiry into the state and future of the sector. A similar piece of research was conducted in 2009, with the title "Time to Invest". Using data from academics, combined with testimony from tenants, unions and economists, the report argued that direct State spending on new and existing council housing was a better use of public money than the various privatisation mechanisms being promoted by the government at that time. Fourteen years later, council housing remains starved of investment, despite now being the only genuinely affordable form of rented housing and an ever deepening housing crisis. This research seminar will provide background to the latest inquiry and updates on the evidence received so far.

Glyn Robbins is one of the lead researchers for the inquiry and is a long-time supporter of the Defend Council Housing campaign, which provides secretarial support to the APPG.

Thu Dec 14th – Shovita Dhakal Adhikari
Seminar title: *"I wish I wasn't treated like a criminal. It should be treated as work"*: Criminalisation, Victimisation and Policing Sex Work in Nepal
Location: TM1-01 Collaborative, Yellow Zone
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract:
How can policy debate be shifted from a focus on criminalisation towards a focus on rights and freedom? How can sex workers be included as participants in efforts to tell their own stories and protect their rights? Politicians, policymakers and some NGOs talk about 'sex trafficking' as a problem in Nepal, and say the solution is tougher law and law enforcement. Sex trafficking and the sex trade are so closely intertwined that national policies and programmes relating to the sex industry have been developed with a view to deterring trafficking activities rather than addressing the violence, exploitation, and other harms associated with the sex industry. The sex industry in Nepal has witnessed a massive resurgence, largely due to the expansion of the entertainment sector in the last decade. This has resulted in an unprecedented rise in a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with a range of programmes deploying abolitionist strategies.

This presentation is based on my ongoing research in Nepal. This presentation draws on the entertainment workers' narratives on the impact of policing sex work in Nepal. It unpacks the debate surrounding 'choice', 'agency' and 'victimisation' of sex work in Nepal, and draws out the implications of policing by state and non-state actors in light of the challenges presented by women at the margins.

SPRING SEMESTER

Tue Feb 6th – Joe Simpson
Seminar title: *From philosophy to politics: Saul Alinsky and Marshall Ganz s exemplars of MacIntyrean political practice*
Location: TM1-01 Collaborative, Yellow Zone
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract:

Alasdair MacIntyre from *After Virtue* onwards is famously regarded as a pessimist about modernity, yet for the first 25 years of his adult life MacIntyre was as focused on changing the world as he was in philosophising about it. In his analysis of modernity MacIntyre develops an analysis which puts great emphasis on traditions of enquiry/rationality, the goods of practice (and the ensuing tensions with institutions) and storytelling/narrative. My argument today will focus on the latter two points in particular (though outlining how in so doing we help address the first). From Saul Alinsky we will draw some lessons about the world of action (often in challenging the abuse of power by institutions) whilst Marshall Ganz shows how to use narrative to engage others in change, usually against the odds, or why David sometimes wins. In summary I will argue that MacIntyre is one of our best guides to a better future (as well as warning us how not to attempt to get there).

Thu Feb 29th – Diana Stirbu
Title: *Deliberative Processes and Constitutional Change at Sub-State Level: The Case of Wales*
Location: TM3-01 Collaborative, Yellow Zone
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract: In this talk, I will introduce a project that seeks to investigate the challenges and opportunities associated with embedding deliberative approaches to constitutional change, at sub-state level, using Wales as a case study. This research aims to contribute to our understanding of how instruments associated with participatory and deliberative democracy can play a role in shaping constitutional reform and in strengthening democracy in multilevel systems. The talk will focus on framing 1) an evaluative paper positioning the work of the Independent Commission for the Constitutional Future of Wales within the broader deliberative democratic constitutional practice and 2) a large bid investigating the implications of the first 3 Commission recommendations for the governance of Wales and for the main stakeholders in the process (The Senedd, The Welsh Government, Local Government in Wales and social actors).

Tue Apr 9th – Francesca Romana Ammaturo
Time: 4:00-5:30pm
Location: TMG-61, Red Zone
Title: *Queering Southern Italy: Challenges and Opportunities*

Abstract:
Traditionally, research on LGBTQIA+ issues in Italy tends to focus on urban contexts such as Rome, Milan, Bologna or Turin, because these are perceived to be the ideal places where people are free to express their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, compared to rural, provincial or peripheral contexts. Currently, most research on the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in Italy focuses on these areas, following a 'metronormative' perspective (Halberstam 2005) insofar as urban areas are considered as the ideal destination for people who are trying to escape heteronormativity and/or cisnormativity. However, this metronormative approach in the Italian context does not just privilege the urban dimension, but it also adopts a North/South dichotomy, where Northern Italy is considered to be 'queer friendly', and Southern Italy is considered to be 'backwards' in relation to LGBTQIA+ issues (Barbagli and Colombo 2008). This creates the impression that Southern Italy exists in a situation of subalternity in relation to these themes. Starting from the work of the Italian sociologist from Bari, Franco Cassano (2011) on the concept of 'Meridian Thought' as a form of agentic subjectivity for Southern Italy opposed to a proto-

orientalist depiction of this area as being 'backwards' socially unevolved, this contribution offers a queer perspective on the potential to approach Southern Italy as a locus of knowledge production (not just knowledge-reception) in relation to identities, experiences, and theoretical contributions of LGBTQIA+ people in Italy. In particular, this contribution analyses some of the representations existing at the intersection between sexuality, gender identity, and meridionalist perspectives, offering both theoretical and methodological insights.

April 25th – Wendy Stokes
Title: *Women, Party, and Pressure*
Location: TM2-36
Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Abstract:
The 300 Group was formed in 1980 to promote women's election to Parliament (300 = approximately half of the House of Commons; women's membership was about 5% at the time, despite the election of Margaret Thatcher, the first female PM, the previous year). It was pretty successful at raising awareness and putting the issue of women's participation on the political agenda; less successful at actually getting women elected. It was formed and active at the same time as a number of other initiatives for women: women's committees in local government, Women Against Pit Closures, Greenham Common peace camp, and the creation of policies in the Labour and Conservative parties to promote the selection of female candidates. While these were all focussed strongly on women's public roles and participation, the extent to which they saw themselves as feminist is not entirely clear. However, the 300 Group was unusual in that it was focussed purely on getting women elected, and it was non- partisan ("women of all parties and none"). Since the Group folded in around 1990 there have been at least two similar initiatives launched in Britain, as well as a Womens Party in Britain, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition in Belfast, mechanisms specifically focussed on getting women selected in the Labour Party at general elections and elections to the Scottish and Welsh Assemblies, and legislation to permit pro-active measures. Initially, I was just interested in the Group as part of history - the 1980s was a period of considerable women's/feminist activism in the UK - but as I looked into it more (archives and interviews) the question arose of whether, in the highly partisan politics of Britain, any cross- or non-party initiative can be successful. This paper is in part an examination of an odd and under-documented pressure group, in part a consideration of women's activism in the 1980s, and in part a reflection on whether it is ever possible to act effectively in British politics across the electoral interests of the two dominant parties.