



Welcome to our Autumn 2019 Newsletter!

A very warm welcome to all of our First Year Students and welcome back to all students who are joining us from the Foundation Degree, and to those returning to us (Years 3&4). Hopefully you have all had relaxing and enjoyable summers and that you are looking forward to the academic year ahead. The various political, social and cultural events this year have certainly demonstrated that it is a very exciting time to be a sociologist. From Brexit, to debate around private schools, to the axing of the Jeremy Kyle TV show, to the rise of climate change activism, there is certainly a lot of debate to be had and scope to apply our sociological understandings of the world.



We are very excited about the coming academic year and working with you all. This newsletter provides more information about some of our activities; what you can expect from the coming year and also what we academics have been up to!

A very warm welcome to all of our new Level 4 students!

If you are still trying to find your way around campus, get a grip on how it all works and who is who, here are some pointers beyond attending your lectures and seminars:

1. Join a Society relevant to your degree for example:

Criminology & Sociology society - contact patrick.keetley@northumbria.ac.uk

Debating Society — contact @NSUDebating debatingsocietynu@gmail.com

If you are a mature student, you may also be interested in the Mature Student Society - contact nsumatsoc@gmail.com

2. Check your Programme Blackboard (elp) and email regularly

At Northumbria, our main ways of communicating with you are via email and Blackboard. It is therefore very important that you remember to check your emails regularly for important updates.

3. Stand as a Student Rep!

Being a Student Programme Rep is a great opportunity for you to represent the students on your Programme. If you are interested in becoming a rep, please contact the Programme Leader, Dr Emma Casey [by Friday 4 October](#)

4. Attend academic skills sessions

The Library holds regular academic skills sessions. We know that you have written essays and given presentations before but school and college are not university, where we do things differently. Attend and check whether you know it all or need to brush up!

5. Come along to staff research seminars and talks from invited speakers

Look out for announcements for forthcoming talks on BlackBoard and emails.

6. Contribute to the Sociology blog!

Please contact Ned at edmund.coleman-fountain@northumbria.ac.uk if you have any ideas for blog posts. We would love to hear your ideas.

Student Activities—stories from current and past students

Rebecca Lindley—final year Sociology student tells us about her Placement Year

During my third year at university I undertook a sandwich year with Nepacs, a North East charity who support prisoners and their families. With Nepacs I worked in four different projects, Operations Management, Visitor Centre, Family Support and Courts project. My favourite project was Family Support as it gave me the confidence to work with prisoners alongside professionals. I felt this project was mentally draining but very rewarding!

While I was helping with the Operations Management role, I would attend meetings with prison staff and other external agencies who work within the prison establishment, work closely with the Chief Executive, the Senior Management Team.

The Visitor Centre is in existence to meet the needs of adults and children who come to visit relatives or friends in prison. The aim of the Centre is to offer a safe, welcoming environment where all visitors are met with dignity and respect.

Family Support makes a difference by supporting families and the offender by maintaining family ties. To also ease worries and concerns, answer questions, provide 1 to 1 support to help the prisoners and family members to cope with the impact of a custodial sentence, both during the sentence and leading up to the release and resettlement. During this role, I would assist with the arranging and planning of special family visits, including father child, homework club and family day visits, which are essential to maintaining family ties.

The purpose of the Courts Project is to have a visible presence and to offer support, advice and information to families and the defendant who may be sentenced or remanded in custody.

Being on a sandwich placement with Nepacs has helped me in deciding which career path to take. During my first two years at university, I acknowledged that I wanted to work in the criminal justice system, but I was not sure on which department of the system to work in. I now know I wish to work in or be based in a prison, helping defendants and their families, assisting to any problems each party may have.

If you are interested in studying abroad, doing a work placement either at home like Rebecca or abroad, or indeed a combination of the two between your third and final year of study, please look out for information coming to you via email or BlackBoard soon.



Research News

- A special podcast was recorded in March 2019 to discuss with Professor Diane Richardson her paper 'Rethinking Sexual Citizenship', which was the winner of the 2018 Sociology Journal Sage Prize for innovation and Excellence. The interview was conducted by Dr Emma Casey Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Northumbria University and Editorial Board Member of Sociology. Diane is Professor of Sociology at Newcastle University where she has worked since 1998. She has written for many years on the topic of sexual citizenship and is one of the leading international experts on the topic. In the podcast she talks about the themes of her paper and shares her insights into future directions for sexual citizenship studies. The link to the Podcast is here: ow.ly/jxWn50qD1lp
- Dr Darryl Humble alongside his colleague Oliver Moss (Teesside) has been awarded an ESRC Festival of Social Sciences Grant for a research project entitled: *Weathering the British Climate: refugee and asylum seeker perspectives* Weather affects us all; but it affects some more than others, and in ways we still do not fully understand. This event will explore, using participatory photography methods, some of the everyday ways in which the British climate - and its manifestation as weather - is perceived and negotiated by refugees and asylum seekers.





ALUMNI STORY—IDA VELDE-MACLEOD (BSC CRIMINOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY)

In 2014 I came to Newcastle as an international student. At that point, I was not really sure about who I was or what I wanted out of life; much like many in their late teens and early twenties. Enrolling at Northumbria was a decision more spontaneous than I would normally go for. From the time I applied to the time I packed my life into four suitcases, ready for the next three years of my life, was probably just about two months. The course I had been accepted to was Bsc Criminology and Sociology, which to me sounded like a great mixture of topics I was interested in; social issues, feminism, human rights, globalisation, crime prevention etc. During my three years at Northumbria, my enthusiasm for women's issues and rights was something that especially grew further. For my dissertation, I wrote about maternal filicide: women who kill their own children. As

I did my research, I became fascinated with the portrayal of these women in media. Unlike men who killed, which was treated as rather normal and mundane, these women were portrayed as inhuman monsters and often compared to myths and legends, stripped of their humanity. This rather unintentionally became a big part of my thesis discussion. I graduated Northumbria with a 1st (hons), and with the knowledge that I wanted to do *more*. I wanted to study more, I wanted to do more research, and most importantly, I wanted to make a difference. Even if it was just a little one.

Following my graduation in 2017, I moved back home to Oslo, Norway, to start my master degree in Criminology. My then fiancé, now husband, who I actually met at my course at Northumbria, moved with me. We married in 2018, and live together with two adorable cats and many not-as-adorable dustbunnies. In addition to being a full-time master student, I got a job working 60 % in a lingerie store. My love for animals also led me to volunteer for a local shelter, where I primarily worked with taking care of homeless cats. Academically, my topics of interest largely remained the same, and I focused on issues such as human rights and gendered violence. When it was time for me to write my thesis, I knew I wanted to explore these issues even further. I chose the topic "How local NGOs work with GBV violence in Sri Lanka", curious to study what was provided in terms of help and support offered to victims of gendered violence in a post-conflict society. I travelled alone to Colombo to conduct my fieldwork, where I met with three different NGOs. Everyone I met were so kind and generous, greatly helping me attain the information necessary to complete my thesis. I still think about some of the victim's stories which were shared with me; more so than ever before, I knew I could not be satisfied returning to my everyday life, knowing the horrors of what goes in the world. I mean, I already did know, but I didn't *know*. As I went home and finished my thesis, I knew I could never do the stories justice. I wouldn't be able to convey them as *real* as I wanted to. As real as they actually are. Nevertheless, I finished it, and graduated my masters with a B (2:1) in June 2019.

Then, what happened was rather un-exciting. I continued my job in retail. I applied for every job I found at all relevant to someone with my academic background, but my brief experience with fieldwork turned out to not exactly be the kind of experience most employers were after. Just four months after graduating, I was ready to give up. I had resigned myself to the idea that I would end up working retail forever, unless I did a whole different degree to get myself a more usable working title. Then, just a little over a week ago, I got a phone call. It was from a GBV coordinator, for a job I had previously applied to but lacked experience for. Without as much as an interview, she offered me a paid trainee position for their program working with GBV in Syria and Lebanon, based on my very specific and relevant research experience. Of course, I jumped on this opportunity. If all goes as planned, I will move to Jordan in November, to spend a couple of months as part of their trainee program. It might turn into a more long-term job, or it might not. Either way, I cannot wait for this experience. It will, regardless of anything else, be a chance to do what's most important to me: what I love.

ROSIE COURT—Sociology BSc graduate, offering current students an opportunity to become a Domestic Violence Champion at Northumbria

Domestic Violence Champions act as listening ears for anyone experiencing abuse, while supporting individuals in contacting the relevant agencies for help and advice. Across 3 full days, West End Women and Girls will be training selected students to take on this important role. No prior knowledge of domestic abuse is needed to take part in the training, but compassion and understanding are important qualities. This training is for women only. Once graduated as a Domestic Violence Champion you will be expected to attend regular networking meetings. For more information please contact Rosie Court

at: rosie_court@live.com OR Ruth Lewis at: ruth.lewis@northumbria.ac.uk



NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome **Dr Thomas Raymen** to the Department. Tom is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology, and joined the department from the University of Plymouth in June 2019. His main research interests revolve around consumer culture and its social and environmental harms. An ethnographer, he has done research and published on topics such as gambling, climate change, violence, and parkour and freerunning. Tom will be teaching a third-year optional module related to his research called 'Deviant Leisure', which focuses upon the normalised harms of contemporary leisure and consumer culture. *Welcome Tom!*



We are also delighted to welcome **Dr Helena Farrand Carrapico** who will be the new Head of Department of Criminology and Sociology. Lena is also Associate Professor in Criminology and International Relations. Lena says: "I joined Northumbria University in April 2019. My work sits in the intersection between International Relations and Criminology, which has enabled me to focus my research on European Union Justice and Home Affairs governance. It comprises three strands: 1) The governance of specific policy fields within Justice and Home Affairs, namely organised crime and cyber crime; 2) the governance of the external dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; and 3) the governance of Brexit in relation to internal security.



I hold a doctoral degree in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute (Florence), where I developed my thesis on European Union organised crime policies. Prior to my current position, I was a Senior Lecturer at Aston University, where I also co-directed the Aston Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and the Aston Centre for Europe. Previous academic positions include the University of Dundee, James Madison University, the University of Coimbra and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. I was also a visiting fellow at the DG. Justice, Liberty and Security of the European Commission, and at the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS). I am an elected member of UACES and a co-convenor for the BISA European Security Working Group." *Welcome Lena!*

SABBATICALS

Dr Ruth Lewis (Associate Professor of Sociology) will be on a research sabbatical in Semester 1. Here Ruth describes how she will be spending her sabbatical.

"My sabbatical is going to be so busy I'll not have time to miss teaching! I'll be travelling to Boston to work with my colleague – Professor Susan Marine to complete the book we're editing – *Collaborating for Change: Transforming cultures to end gender-based violence in higher education*. It should be out summer 2020, published by Oxford University Press. While I'm in the US, I'll travel up to University of Maine to give a talk there and meet folk inside and outside universities who are working on gender-based violence.



I'll also be working on a new book with another colleague – Professor Sundari Anitha at Lincoln University. The book focuses on new manifestations and new conceptualisations of violence against women. We'll be discussing, for example, 'upskirting', 'stealthling', coercive control and trans-national abandonment of wives and examining how these topics are discussed and 'framed', and what that tells us about the contemporary gender regime.

I'll also travel to Helsinki, Finland to talk about gender-based violence (GBV) in academia at an EU conference on Gender Equality in Research and Innovation, and to give a paper at the University of Helsinki. It'll be interesting to see whether Nordic countries have a different approach to these topics – and, perhaps, more success at eradicating them.

When I'm back in Newcastle (or at my desk at home in Whitley Bay) I'll continue work with others to address GBV at our own university. We're training academic staff to be able to respond to disclosures of GBV with understanding, knowledge and compassion. And with West End Women and Girls and Rosie Court, a graduate of our department, we're running training for students to be 'domestic abuse champions', able to identify abuse and talk to their friends and peers about how to deal with it.

For me, sabbatical is a wonderful time to have a concerted period of time focusing on the research topic that I have found so compelling for more than three decades now, and, hopefully, to make a positive difference to the contemporary gender regime."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Casey, Emma (2019) *Gambling, Status Anxiety and Inter-Generational Social Mobility: Findings from the Mass Observation Archive* in *Sociology*

Casey, Emma (2019) *From Cookery in Colour to The Great British Bake Off: Shifting gendered accounts of home-baking and domesticity* in *European Journal of Cultural Studies* Volume 22, Issue 5-6

Cieslik, Mark (2019) *Sociology, biographical research and the development of critical happiness studies* in edited volume Hill, N. et al *Critical Happiness Studies* (Routledge)

Humble, Darryl (2019) *Recasting Professionalisation: Understanding Self-legitimizing Professionalisation as a Precursor to Neoliberal Professionalisation*. *Geoforum*, 106, 135-143.

Lewis, Ruth and Marine, Susan (2019) *Special Issue of Violence Against Women, Transforming Campus Cultures: Activism to End Gender-Based Violence* 25(11)

McLaughlin, Janice and **Coleman-Fountain, Edmund** (2019) *Visual Methods and Voice in Disabled Childhoods Research* in *Qualitative Research*

Stephenson, Carol (2019) – entitled *Toward a Sociology of the Sociology of Work in the UK Since 1945: The Myth of the 'Golden Age'*. In *The Palgrave Handbook of The Sociology of Work* (Palgrave)