

Institutional Ethnography

Newsletter of the International Sociological Association Working Group 06

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Statement of Solidarity



As the world is reopening after two years of Covid-19, we are witnessing the Russian invasion of and attack on Ukraine. War has returned to Europe. It is hard to accept and understand. On behalf of WG06 we extend our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and our support of the Russian Anti-War movement as they carry out their important work in the streets and on the internet.

We also stand in solidarity with people in other regions of the world who are living in situations of ongoing war and displacement, amid humanitarian crises which often do not receive the global outrage they deserve.



From the Co-Presidents

Liza McCoy:

Looking on the bright side, these past two years of online classes and meetings and workshops have been a gift for the international community of institutional ethnographers. We're more connected than ever before, not just through one-off meetings or workshops, but in continuing ways that are building a wider, stronger network. Although we will again be holding in-person events, maintaining online trans-regional activities will be vital for the growth and enrichment of our research international community. I have so enjoyed having regular online conversations with students and researchers living in other countries and other parts of Canada -- I don't want to give that up!

One exciting WG06 initiative is the monthly online IE mentorship seminar established by the ad hoc mentoring committee formed at last year's business meeting. Another great initiative is the establishment of trans-regional IE research interest groups. And something I consider very important is that these activities are open to anyone who is learning or doing IE; WG06 membership is not a requirement. It's also great to see all the research and activity happening in the regional IE groups. You can read all about these seminars, groups and activities in this newsletter.

I'm thrilled to see the new IE dissertations and publications listed in this newsletter — congratulations to all! — but I know this list only captures a portion of what's been done in the last year. Don't forget to send us your publication news! Let's make this newsletter the go-to place to find out about new IE work.

Frank Wang:

Although where I live, Taiwan, has not been impacted by Covid 19 as hard as other parts of the world, the ways that we connect and coordinate with each other have changed dramatically. The often-heard word in IE, trans-local, has never been so obvious as in the post-Covid period. In other words, the pandemic also opens new territory for IE research.

The two initiatives mentioned by Liza are new ways to build IE communities across generations and on common interests. I hope all of us take advantage of the two initiatives. As you choose to be an IEer, you have chosen to be a different scholar which makes us need a supporting community in our academic journey. The IE networks in Nordic countries, Australia and Taiwan are also exciting for the IE community.

Great to see the list of publications, a strong testimony to the thriving IE community. I know there is also a growing list of IE publications in Chinese in Taiwan. They are small in number but are growing. I hope there will be a way for the Chinese IE work to be shared with international IEers in the future, so that trans-local can become trans-language.

From the Newsletter Editor

Rebecca Lund, WG06 Vice President

I'm back from maternity leave and now putting together the newsletter, with good support from Liza. Thank you to everyone who sent in material. We extend warm encouragement to all WG06 members to share information about your new publications, career milestones, and IE activities in your regions. Consider writing a short piece about your research in progress, or some other topic, or volunteering to take part in a "Getting to Know Our Members" interview. The next newsletter will come out in Autumn 2022. This is your newsletter, and your contributions make it a vibrant and useful vehicle of communication in the international IE network.

The "Getting to Know Our Members" interview in this issue features new WG06 co-Program Coordinator, Lauren Eastwood, a Professor of Sociology at SUNY Plattsburgh, USA, and Policy Field Convenor at Center for Global Cooperation, Germany.

In this issue I am also introducing a new concept, in which one recently completed PhD dissertation is introduced by the author him-/her-/themselves. In this issue it will be Maria Volckmar-Eeg who introduces us to her PhD dissertation, *The Making of Immigrant Clients. An Ethnographic Study of Categorisation Work in the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV)*. If you or one of your students would like to introduce their recently-completed dissertation, please get in touch with me.

The world is re-opening after two years of Covid-19 and online events. While we appreciate that online events allow participation of people regardless of their economic situation, we are also excited for the IE network to be able to meet in person in the near future. This issue contains upcoming deadlines for conference submissions (World Congress of Sociology, Nordic Sociological Association) and SSSP in-person conference in August and SSSP free digital international conference in May; make sure to check them out as there are deadlines coming up in already in March 2022.

In addition, the WG06 mentoring seminars are up and running. Read more about this, and how to participate, on p. 10.



ISA XX World Congress of Sociology: Deadlines

It's time to start planning ...

[The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology](#) will be held in **Melbourne, Australia, from June 24-July 1, 2023**. It will be in hybrid format, with both in-person and online sessions, the details of which have not yet been determined by the ISA.

Our WG06 Institutional Ethnography program coordinators are Adriana Suárez-Delucchi and Lauren Eastwood. Our session allotment (based on membership) is 13 sessions plus a business meeting.

Organizing for the conference starts now. We need your session proposals!

You can organize a session even if you think or know you can't attend the live conference in Australia. At this point we don't know how it will be determined which sessions are in-person and which online, or even if there will be joint in-person and online sessions. So if you have an idea for an interesting session -- don't hold back.

Here's an outline of the process:

Step 1: RC/WG/TG Members submit proposals for sessions on the ISA website between May 2 and May 31, 2022 (the portal will be open only during these dates).

Different types of session are possible: regular presentation style; panel; keynote speaker; invited participants; roundtable; author meets critics; joint session, etc. You can read about the different session options and find other guidelines [here](#).

Note: if you want to propose an author-meets-critics session or an integrative session, please email Adriana and Lauren before May 1, as there is an earlier deadline for these.

Step 2: The program coordinators, in consultation with the WG06 executive, review the session proposals and determine the slate of WG06 sessions; the call for abstracts is posted (June 2022).

Step 3: ISA members submit abstracts to the session(s) where they would like to present their work (July, August, September 2022).

Step 4: Session organizers select abstracts and program coordinators finalize the program (October and November 2022).

If you have any questions, contact Adriana and Lauren.

Adriana Suárez Delucchi
Lauren Eastwood

adriana.suarez@bristol.ac.uk
eastwole@plattsburgh.edu

Getting to Know You: **Lauren Eastwood**

Interviewed over e-mail by Rebecca Lund

Lauren Eastwood is Professor of Sociology at SUNY Plattsburgh, USA, and Policy Field Convenor on Global Governance of Climate Change and Sustainability at the Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. She is co-Program Coordinator for WG06 for the upcoming XX World Congress of Sociology.



RL: As someone engaged in an area (environmental sociology, degrowth etc.), not that commonly associated with IE, could you tell us what attracted you to IE? What are some of the IE projects you have carried out, and how has your IE research program evolved over the years?

LE: This is a really good question! I can tell you how I became interested in IE, and then how my thinking has changed over the years. One of the things that I can say at the start is that I haven't so much changed my understanding of IE—the things that drew me to it in at the start are still the things that I find really important—but I've been able to clarify how I think about what those core things are. This clarification has come with an engagement with other scholars—sometimes in the form of articles I would be asked to

review, where I would have to really think about the core components of IE, for example.

So, I became interested in IE when I was moving closer to my dissertation process as a PhD student working with Marjorie DeVault at Syracuse University. I was so lucky to have had that experience—she brought me to Canada for a couple of the beginning IE conferences (before IE became institutionalized in SSSP and ISA). We also organized one of these conferences at Syracuse. I was very much interested in the 1992 “Earth Summit” in Rio De Janeiro, as it had produced massive amounts of texts (“Agenda 21” for example) and “Agreements” (such as the UN Climate convention), but there were so many discourses threading through the texts that clearly did some form of “work” (such as that of “sustainable development”) and there was no indication in the texts of how it was that those texts came to be. These were my initial impressions, so Marj introduced me (quite literally!) to IE.

What ended up happening is that I entered the UN forest policy arena with the basic tenets of IE in mind—that people’s doings were being coordinated by larger ruling relations, and that it was possible to see, in the work that people did to make policy, just how it was that things were “put together.” Of course this is a simplification, but to me, this is the core ontology of IE as I understand it. This is why I tend to eschew discussions of “standpoint” and such, as I feel like what is most important is to find a way to see what it is that people are actually doing. Then, we need to find ways of asking questions about how those doings are coordinated by translocal (and often ruling) relations. When I say that I have developed more clarity regarding how to think about IE, it is related to these central dynamics. This then begins to allow a researcher to open up any sort of institution to see how it is put together, and furthermore, what the implications of this particular social organization actually is. Why, for example, do organizations that want to make economic change (“degrowth”) encounter impediments, in spite of the prevalence of larger discourses of “sustainability”? This is something that can be investigated from a perspective that really focuses on people’s activities and how those are organized by larger ruling relations. One ends up with a very different sort of analysis than saying “people just need to change their behavior and we’ll achieve environmental sustainability.” In fact, we can begin to analyze how a focus on individual behavior ends up serving as a powerful discursive tool.



RL: What is the Centre for Global Cooperation Research and how did you get involved with it? What is it like being there? What do you do there? What are your current projects? What do you see as the benefits and downsides to doing research for policy development?

LE: It is funny, but I came to find out about GCR from a fellow institutional ethnographer—Marie Campbell clued me in to their fellowship program several years ago, and it was only when I was really struggling with the reality of teaching in the pandemic at an institution that was experiencing massive economic problems and I was frankly extremely burned out that I looked them up again. GCR is a research institution that is associated with the University of Duisburg-Essen and that is funded by the German Ministry of Education. The funding period spans 2012 to 2024 and is framed around bringing in about 12 research fellows a year to work with each other and with the core staff to explore dynamics that require global cooperation. It just so happened that they were looking for someone to take over the “Global Governance of Climate and Sustainability” policy field, which is one of the four “policy fields” around which the Centre organizes its research. So, I applied and was hired—I will be here until the funding period for GCR ends, which is in 2024, when I will return to my position at SUNY Plattsburgh (hopefully refreshed!). Here I work on my own projects, which pertain to my own research but also the coordination of projects that I initiate. While I’m still following UN environmental policy, I also am looking at the increasing criminalization of anti-fossil fuel activism. This is not an institutional ethnography, and I’m not quite sure where it is going, but there is an important level of governance that is playing itself out in the confluence of local/regional/national governments and the

legal system. In addition, I'm starting a new project where I want to talk to people who are trying to make change in their communities. I am really interested in this discourse of "scaling up" local action, and I think that an institutional ethnographic orientation to places where people are endeavoring to make broader social and environmental change through community organizing can result in some interesting insights. I also help out with "research transfer" here, so being a staff member (rather than a faculty person) has been an interesting shift for me, as my daily life is organized differently now. There are some overlaps for sure, but things are quite different for me here, which is a good thing for now!

RL: You are involved as an organizer in SSSP [Society for the Study of Social Problems] and as program coordinator in WG06: what are your ideas for the future of IE and where would you like to see the community going? What kinds of debates and scholarship would you like to see more of?

LE: Yes! SSSP is really an organization that I appreciate in terms of the people who it brings together and its larger mission. I'm thrilled that SSSP and ISA have managed to provide a space for people who use IE to come together and discuss their work. This is crucial as many of us don't have other institutional ethnographers down the hallway in our own departments or that sort of thing. So, even though people are increasingly crunched financially in academic institutions, which is why I began to focus only on SSSP, I'm hoping that we can maintain both SSSP and ISA as vibrant spaces for such interactions. It is a challenge, but one thing that the pandemic has provided is an acceptance of technology as a means of meeting. It's not ideal, but hopefully we can leverage these means of communicating with each other in order to maintain the community.

As far as scholarship, I can't really speak to the sorts I would like to see more of, but I do think that there is an interesting debate about "gatekeeping" and IE that I'm not sure I fully understand. So far, I haven't been able to get a satisfactory response to my query of why IE should be expanded to incorporate other frameworks. It seems to me that anything "social" can be studied by using the ontology of IE, but not all social research is informed by that ontology. I personally don't find this problematic, and, in fact, one of my own favorite personal publications is a piece I published about the World Bank's revision of its social and environmental policies—this piece was not at all institutional ethnographic. I think we need research that is framed around a variety of different ontologies, so I think it would be more productive to not try to expand IE but instead to see which other ontologies are productive in helping us to unpack particular elements of "the social." I feel that Dorothy really has done a lot of work to articulate the core elements of IE, and the challenge is not whether it can apply to particular social dynamics, but instead whether we as researchers have access to the information we need in order to be able to do IE. Sometimes we don't—and that's okay! I guess my point here is that there is IE and then there are a whole lot of other frameworks that are also really useful, and I like the idea of embracing them all for what they allow us to do and see, rather than trying to find a way to make them fit under the IE umbrella. But I hope to have conversations about this with others, and perhaps my views on this change over time as I grapple with this particular critique that I've been hearing over the years. Regardless, I appreciate the scope of projects that people bring to the table, as I think they all provide important pieces of a much larger puzzle.

Introducing My PhD Dissertation: **Maria Volckmar-Eeg, University of Stavanger, Norway**

On January 12th, 2022, I defended my PhD-dissertation titled *The Making of Immigrant Clients. An Ethnographic Study of Categorisation Work in the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV)*.



In my PhD-project, I make use of an abductive approach where I combine a street-level perspective with analytical concepts from institutional ethnography to unpack the categorisation *work* of caseworkers in NAV, thereby contributing to our understanding of the welfare services provided to immigrants. Through four scientific articles, I explore the following: *How do street-level bureaucrats make sense of and further categorise immigrant clients? How does this work relate to the larger institutional relations of street-level practices?* My primary source of data is five months of ethnographic fieldwork at a frontline office in the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV).

How street-level bureaucrats make sense of and categorise immigrant clients determines the services provided to them. When they categorise people into institutionally manageable clients, street-level bureaucrats must balance two interrelated demands: a) they must recognise critical differences in people's needs so that they buffer social inequalities, while b) not overemphasising these differences so that they assure equal access to services. This categorisation has both individual and societal implications: it affects the immigrants' chances of living a 'good life' and the structures of social inequality, as well as the sustainability and legitimacy of the entire welfare state. However, we know little about what street-level bureaucrats *do* when they differentiate between and translate immigrants into institutionally manageable clients and how they do this during the course of their daily work. This is where my study makes a novel contribution.

Link to fulltext: <https://uis.brage.unit.no/uis-xmlui/handle/11250/2834333>

See p. 18 for a list of other IE dissertations defended in the last year. Don't forget to let us know about new dissertations so we can list them in the next newsletter.

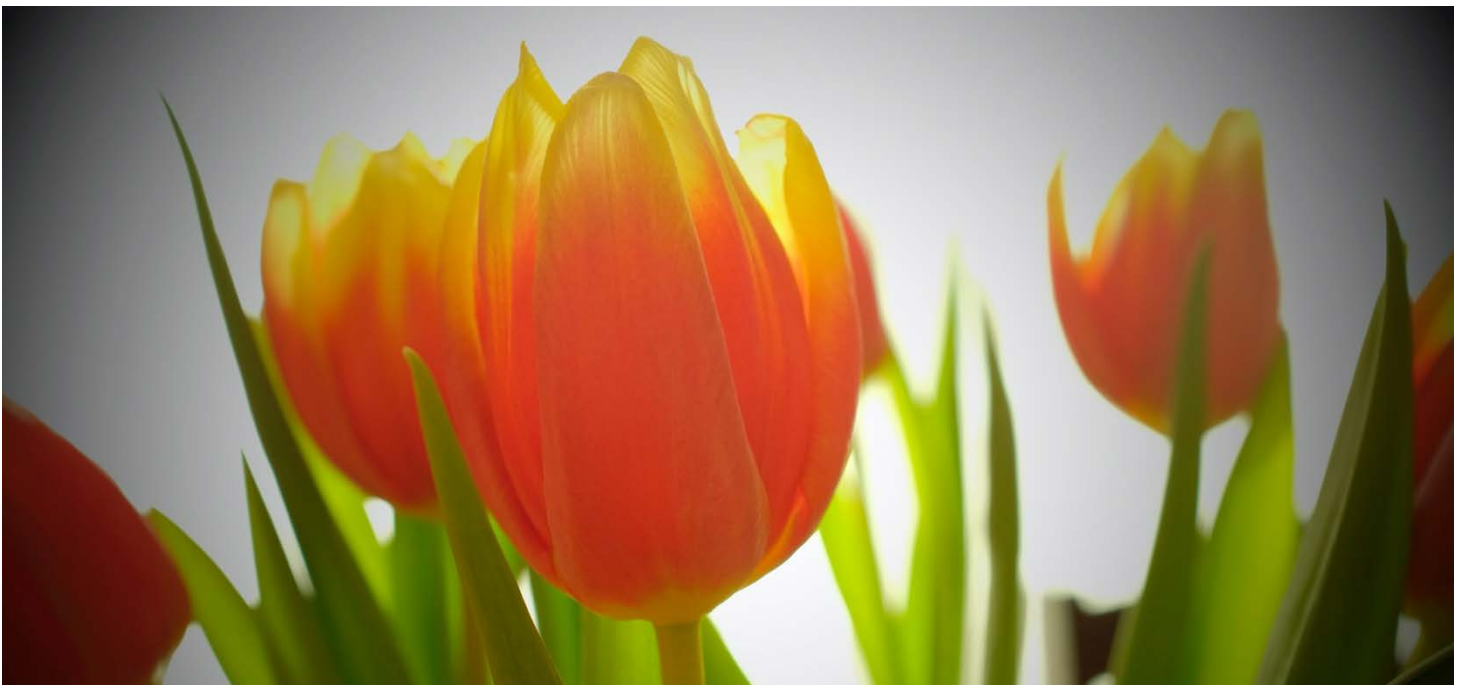
WG06 Mentorship Seminars

The WG06 Mentorship Seminar has been meeting via Zoom since October 2021 to discuss IE projects in all phases of implementation. We meet once a month on the third Wednesday every month from 9 to 10:30am Mountain Standard Time. **Our next scheduled seminar is March 16, 2022.**

Regularly attending facilitators include Janet Rankin as lead, Adriana Suárez-Delucchi, and Suzanne Vaughan. Lauren Eastwood has recently joined us. Those who have attended the seminar over the last several months include researchers who are in the early stages of learning IE, graduate students who are planning and/or writing dissertations, as well as seasoned IEers who are writing research articles or putting together funding grants. WG06 or ISA membership is not a requirement.

Although the seminars are informal, they are built around core IE “topics” that we (the facilitators) may place onto the seminar agenda. We also invite participants to suggest topics they would like to discuss. Occasionally, we invite guests to discuss their IE journey and research for part of seminar with time for Q and As. In addition, we ask participants to indicate in the chat if they would like to establish further 1:1 contact with those people present, and we also facilitate introductions to other members of the IE community who may share topical or methodological areas of interest. For our March 16th meeting we invited Liza McCoy, co-president of W06, to share her IE journey.

If you would like to participate in these seminars, please contact Janet Rankin [jmrarkin@ucalgary.edu.qa] with a short 250-word introductory statement about you and your research. We will send out a zoom link to you.



IE Research Interest Networks

There are currently several regional groups of institutional ethnographers, for example, in the Nordic countries, in Europe, in Australia, and in the U.S. To complement these regional linkages, some WG06 members have developed or are working to develop trans-regional networks around specific research areas or topics of shared interest. Updates on the networks currently active are described by their convenors below.

These networks are open to ISA/WG06 members and non-members, so if you have IE colleagues or students who are not in ISA but who might be interested, feel free to share information about these.

If you are interested in joining a network/group, or want more information, contact the convenor listed for the particular group. If you are starting an IE network/group and wish to publicize it through the WG06 mailing list, contact Debra Talbot, WG06 Secretary/Treasurer.

SHIE Network (Studying Healthcare using Institutional Ethnography)

The SHIE network now has 80+ members from around the world. You can find out more and sign up [here](#).

Our membership is broad, including some very well-established SHIE researchers and others who are new to IE. Thank you to all who have been involved so far. The aim is to evolve the group as a supportive and collaborative community for people at all career levels and knowledge of the IE approach.

We are currently running quarterly **Symposium Days** supported with video presentations on the [SHIE YouTube channel](#) (most talks are distributed via private-links to SHIE members so are not publicly accessible). Symposium days consist of two sessions, to suit different time zones: Session 1 at 9.00am UCT; Session 2 at 3.00pm UCT.

Symposium Days to date have included talks on: Accountability Circuits (Grainne Kearney); Nominalisations (Kirsten Small); Ideological Codes (Darren McLean); and Examining a Quality Improvement Programme (Janet Rankin).

SHIE members are welcome to contact me if there are particular topics that they would like to see addressed, or ways in which they would like to be involved. Also, if you have a SHIE paper published, do let me know and I can circulate to the network.

Contact: Caroline Cupit
Caroline.Cupit@Leicester.ac.uk
[or CarolineCupit101@gmail.com]

Using IE in Socio-Legal Studies – IE-SLS Network

The proposal is to establish an online international network of scholars interested in developing the potential of IE applications in the field of socio-legal studies and research that focuses on the study of people's needs and actualities concerning legal institutions in their social, cultural, and historical contexts. In this field of research, theoretical approaches vary and methods are quantitative and qualitative, but IE has not still been considered with its strong potential. This network aims to provide opportunities for members to share their work and facilitate continuous networking and collaborations.

So far some scholars have expressed interest. The convenor will continue work to expand the network so they can organize a first meeting. Requests to join the network can be sent by this form:

<https://forms.gle/Hm7dMEaDvLshBcki6>

Contact: Dr. Morena Tartari,
morenatartari@gmail.com

A new online IE resource and invitation from Susan Turner:

Mappingforchange.ca offers IE knowledge I gained from decades of learning and teaching with Dorothy Smith and practicing IE in the world. My focus with IE practice is working with people for making change.

Please check out the site! It includes videos of my collaborative graphical mapping technique in action and descriptions of how I used and developed it with different groups and projects.

It is a work in progress. Coming next are the resources I provided in the IE Workshops and Working Weeks that Dorothy and I gave annually at OISE/UT (Toronto), including on methods of working with texts in IE.

I hope you find mappingforchange.ca useful and will be glad to hear from you.

Regional News

Nordics

In August 2022 the Nordic Sociological Association is hosting an in-person conference "[Myths and Realities of the Nordic Welfare State](#)" in Reykjavik, Iceland. There will be an IE panel and sessions. Sessions topics and names will be specified based on abstract submissions. We strongly encourage early stage researchers and PhD students to submit work in progress. Sessions will be in English and as such invite international participation. Deadline for [abstract submission](#) is **March 15th 2022**.

Majken Jul Sørensen (PI), Rebecca Lund, Marjo Kuronen and Satu Heikkinen were in November 2021 awarded a NOS-HS grant from the Joint Committee of Nordic Research Councils to organize and facilitate three exploratory Nordic workshops about: Everyday resistances in the Nordic welfare state - Exploring the methodological potential of institutional ethnography. We explore the potential of bringing together resistance studies, welfare state user research and institutional ethnography. The first workshop will take place in Karlstad, Sweden, in August 2022, and include 30 academics from across the Nordic countries.

Europe

In February 2022, the IE in Europe Network Facebook Page has reached 127 participants. The Network has now also established a website and a YouTube Channel "Institutional Ethnography in Europe", which soon will offer new content. The next activities of the group will be working on micro calls for contributions to upload to the website and the channel interviews with senior IEs and other useful materials.

In July 1, 2021 The University of Antwerp (Belgium) in collaboration with the IE in Europe Network hosted the international webinar "Exploring the potential of Institutional Ethnography. Experiences, reflections and new pathways from and for the European context", organized by Morena Tartari and which was part of the final activities of the MSCA-IF-2018 grant (no 843976) awarded by the European Union to her. Over 80 people registered for the event. Prof. Liza McCoy gave an introductory talk on transnational and comparative institutional ethnographic research. Then, the first part of the webinar - moderated by Prof. Marjorie DeVault (Syracuse University, US) - hosted a presentation of the "The Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography" by Prof. Paul Luken and Prof. Suzanne Vaughan, and the presentation of the book "Institutional Ethnography in the Nordic region" by Dr. Rebecca W. B. Lund (University of Oslo) and Prof. Ann Christin E. Nilsen (Agder University). The second part - moderated by Adriana Suárez-Delucchi (University of Bristol) left the floor to Dr. Morena Tartari (University of Antwerp), Dr. Sarah Murru (University of Louvain), Prof. May-Linda Magnussen (University of Agder), Dr. Orla Murray (Imperial College London), Dr. Liz Ablett (University College Dublin), and Prof. Marjo Kuronen (University of Jyväskylä) for reflections and short presentations of some Institutional Ethnography projects based in Europe, the UK, and the Nordic countries.

The IE Research Stream no 4, established for the ESA 2021 Conference and co-coordinated by Morena Tartari (University of Southampton) and May-Linda Magnussen (Agder University), hosted 4 sessions with 17 presentations and one IE in Europe social, business, and community meeting in which many exciting ideas for the future of the network emerged from the participants. Presenters came from 12 different countries (10 from European and associated countries and 2 from outside Europe). An outstanding achievement for this newborn Research Stream! The papers submitted were evaluated by 15 experienced reviewers from different continents. After this amazing start, the coordinators decided to start the process of inquiry about how to transform the ESA Research Stream into a Research Network and have been developing a plan to submit this request by the next ESA Conference. Last November 2021, Órla M. Murray (Imperial College, London) has joined the RS as a third co-coordinator.

Morena Tartari published the blogpost "[Being a transnational scholar and a lone mother in a pandemic](#)", on the blog Social Transformation, owned by Bristol University Press/Policy Press. Check it out!



United Kingdom

Two online workshops were held in October 2021:

Monday 11th October – Tuesday 12th October 2021: Introducing Institutional Ethnography: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Approach to Social Research which was fully sold out and where 30 people attended. The funder was the UK National Centre for Research Methods. A link is copied here: <https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=11387>

From Oct. 25th to Oct. 28th: Institutional Ethnography: Conducting feminist, interdisciplinary & bottom-up research. This time the format was different, and the workshop was split into 4 mornings. The audience was once again of approximately 30 people, and it was also funded by the UK NCRM. Here is a link to the website where this workshop was advertised: <https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=11624>

The most recent workshop was organised by Órla Murray, Liz Ablett, and Courtney Sommer. It was held on 14th and 15th of February 2022, and it was entitled: Introducing Institutional Ethnography: an interdisciplinary feminist approach to social research, again funded by NCRM. You can find a link for it here: <https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=11756>

Australia

We invited Órla Murray to join our most recent Zoom catch-up where we thoroughly enjoyed discussing her paper about text analysis when doing IE – it was great hearing about all things IE from another part of the world (many of the same issues!)

- Órla Meadhbh Murray (2020) Text, process, discourse: doing feminist text analysis in institutional ethnography, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, DOI: [10.1080/13645579.2020.1839162](https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2020.1839162)

Libbie Rogers successfully navigated her Confirmation of Candidature for her doctoral studies at Griffith University. She is going to use IE to examine interprofessional practice in maternity care.

Kirsten Small and Darren McLean presented at the **IV ISA Forum of Sociology** session: “WG06 Institutional Ethnography Studies in Healthcare and Mental Health. Part 3.”

- Dr Kirsten Small presented findings from her recent PhD research: 'Maintaining Organizational Reputation through Quality Improvement: The Role of a Central Fetal Monitoring System'
- Darren McLean presented early findings from his in-progress PhD research: 'How Institutional Forces Shape the Implementation of a Relational Coordination Program in a large Australian Public Hospital.'

First Australian IE Network Quarterly Online Gathering, April 1, 2022

With great pleasure, we invite you to join our first Australasian IE Network Quarterly Online Gathering for 2022!

- **Friday 1 April 2022, 3pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST, Brisbane Queensland)**

We tried to pick a time of day that most people could hopefully attend in our region (equivalent to but please double-check: Fri 1pm Perth; Fri 10.30am Delhi; Fri 2pm Tokyo; Fri 6am Lagos; Fri 6am London).

We will start with each member giving a brief introduction about themselves, their work and their interest and use of IE as well as what sorts of things they would like from the group.

Feel free to share and for more information, please sign up to our mailing list via our contact page or email us to receive the Zoom Meeting details.

<https://austienetwork.blogspot.com/p/contact-us.html>

or

Email: aust.ie.network@gmail.com

USA/North America

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) in-person Conference, August 5-7 2022

After not having an in-person meeting for two years, the Board of Directors approved [an "in-person only" meeting in Los Angeles, California, August 5-7, 2022!](#) SSSP has an IE Division which organizes sessions featuring IE research and panel discussions on topics of interest to institutional ethnographers.

SSSP Free Virtual International conference, May 18-21 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has made more evident persistent, systemic inequalities that are rooted in and shaped by ideological, economic, political, social, and cultural structures. However, there are other transnational concerns that exacerbate these inequalities, including dwindling natural resources, expanding conflicts, increasing authoritarianism, and widening wealth gaps. Amid all these, a deeper awareness of the damage of colonial and imperialistic histories is emerging, making obvious that Western/Euro/American-centric solutions are no longer viable, and are, in fact, sources of social problems.

In response to the challenges these inequalities pose, the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is hosting a **free virtual international conference**. We invite individual contributions to our [themed sessions](#).

Contributions can range from rather "classical" paper presentations in English with slides to elaborated clips with video material or pictures, to extraordinary, experimental presentations with potentially several speakers. Different languages can be used, as long as contributors put subtitles to their recording in English.

Your response to the call for a [themed session](#) should entail a title plus an abstract of 250 to 350 words. Please add a brief biographical note. Submissions should be sent to the corresponding session organizer(s) by **March 20, 2022**.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if we can be of service to you, please let us know.

Best wishes,

Dr. Morena Tartari, University of Southampton
Dr. Pattie Thomas, College of Southern Nevada
SSSP Transnational Initiatives Committee
transnationalconversations@gmail.com



Members' Projects, Work in Progress, and Other News

PACFiND and OPTI-PREM

Caroline Cupit is currently bringing an IE lens into two projects in the UK.

- University of Oxford: Patient-centred Care for Fibromyalgia: New pathway Design ([PACFiND](#))
- University of Leicester: Optimising neonatal service provision for preterm babies born between 27 and 31 weeks gestation in England using national data, qualitative research and economic analysis ([OPTI-PREM](#))

RE-Green

Morena Tartari won a 2-year research grant (140.000 euros) called 2021 STARS-Grant for the IE research project "RE-Green". STARS-Grants are funded by the Supporting Talent in ReSearch@University of Padua Programme of the University of Padua (Italy). The project will start in September 2022 and I will have the opportunity to create a micro-team and to conduct the project as a PI.

Institutional Ethnography and Applied Sociology

Kjeld Høgsbro will until 2025 be engaged in a project that compares institutional ethnography with the intentions and practices of other approaches to applied social science committed to investigating and developing social services for people. The project addresses the epistemological and theoretical challenges of the different traditions and discusses the dilemmas and conflicts arising when intervening in political processes. This is done by reviewing the articles and books reporting results from institutional ethnographic research and comparing them with governmentality studies as well as recent approaches to evaluation research.

The project is a continuation of the work done in the following publications:

Rieper and Høgsbro (2023) Evaluation: A road to sustainability welfare. In Ida Kristine Lindkvist, Kim Forss and Per Øyvind Bastøe: *Towards Sustainable Futures – A role for evaluations?* (in progress) London: Routledge.

Høgsbro, Kjeld (2020) *How to conduct ethnographies of institutions for people with cognitive difficulties*. London: Routledge.

Rebecca W.B. Lund, Ann Christin E. Nilsen (2019) *Institutional Ethnography in the Nordic Region*. London: Routledge.

Høgsbro, Kjeld (2015) Evidence and research designs in applied sociology and social work research. In *Nordic Journal of Social Work vol. 5 supplement 1 – special issue: Social Work and Sociology*.

New PhD Dissertations

Bård Bertelsen (February 2022) [*Conflict - concern – commitment. A study of parenthood in high-conflict divorce cases*](#) (written in English), University of Agder, Norway.

Heidi Esma Dahl Bønnhoff (June 2021) [*Motherhood, Migration and Digital Media. An institutional ethnography of migrant mothers' digitalized everyday life*](#) (written in Norwegian), University of Agder, Norway.

Katie Koralesky (December 2021) [*The social organization of animal sheltering and protection in British Columbia, Canada*](#), University of British Columbia, Canada. (Katie's degree is in Applied Animal Biology.)

Katie is now a post-doctoral fellow in the Animal Welfare Program researching the social and ethical dimensions of gene editing farm animals.

Jayne Malenfant (January 2022) *Education and Youth Homelessness: Radically Reimagining Educational Responses and Youth-Led Action to Prevent Homelessness in Montreal, Quebec*, McGill University, Canada.

Jayne is finishing the 1st year of a limited term appointment (three years) at Concordia University as an assistant professor

Mitchell McLarnon (November 2021), *Gardening for Social Ills: Exploring the Social and Environmental Relations of School and Community Gardens*, McGill University, Canada.

Mitchell is finishing the 1st year of a limited term appointment (three years) at Concordia University as an assistant professor

Siv Kristine Schrøder (October 2021) [*Young Peoples Entry and Encounter with the Child Welfare Services*](#) (written in Norwegian), University of Agder, Norway.

Maria Gussgard Volckmar-Eeg (January 2022) [*The Making of Immigrant Clients. An Ethnographic Study of Categorisation Work in the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration \(NAV\)*](#). (written in English), University of Stavanger, Norway.

New Publications

Special Issue on Institutional Ethnography, edited by Ann Cristin Nielsen and May-Linda Magnussen, and published in the *Norwegian Journal of Sociology* <https://www.idunn.no/toc/nost/6/1> (Open Access, Published in Scandinavian languages)

Cupit, C., Rankin, J. and Armstrong, N. (2021) Taking sides with patients using institutional ethnography. *Journal of Organizational Ethnography*, 10 (1). doi:[10.1108/JOE-12-2019-0048](https://doi.org/10.1108/JOE-12-2019-0048).

- Cupit, C. and Armstrong, N. (2021) A win-win scenario? Restrictive policies from alternative viewpoints. *Journal of Health Organization and Management*, 35 (9): 378–384. doi:[10.1108/JHOM-06-2021-0239](https://doi.org/10.1108/JHOM-06-2021-0239).
- Cupit, C. and Redman, E. (2021) Supporting people to implement a reduced carbohydrate diet: a qualitative study in family practice. *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health*, p. bmjnph. doi:[10.1136/bmjnph-2021-000240](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjnph-2021-000240).
- Cupit, C. (2021) Extreme weight loss: Life before and after bariatric surgery. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, Online first. doi:[10.1111/1467-9566.13413](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13413). (Full text at <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356870476> Extreme weight loss Life before and after bariatric surgery)
- Guay, E. & Nichols, N. (2021). Ethnography, Tactical Responsivity and Communities of Inquiry. *Ethnography, Tactical responsivity and communities of inquiry. Contemporary Ethnography*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08912416211060870>
- Hastings, Colin (2022). Writing for digital news about HIV criminalization in Canada. *Canadian Review of Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cars.12374>
- Kimathi, Eric; Nilsen, Ann Christin Eklund (2021). Managing categories: The role of social technology in kindergarten teachers' work to promote early intervention and integration. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*. 1 - 13. doi:[10.1177/14639491211045419](https://doi.org/10.1177/14639491211045419)
- Magnussen, M., Lund, R. & Mydland, R. (2022) Uniformity Dressed as Diversity? Reorienting Female Academics. G. Griffin (ed.) *Gender Inequalities in Tech-driven Research and Innovation: Living the contradiction*. Bristol: Bristol University Press. (forthcoming, open access)
- Newnham, E., Small, K. A., & Allen, J. (2021). Critical ethnography in maternity care research: bridging creativity and rigour - a discussion paper. *Midwifery*, in press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2021.103014>
- Nichols, N. Malenfant, J. and the Youth Action Research Revolution Team: Adamovicz, L. Narcisse, S., Plamondon, M. & Watchhorn, M. (Accepted, Dec. 2021). Health System Access for Precariously Housed Youth. *Society and Mental Health*.
- Synnes, Katrine Mayora (2021). Guarding the borders of the Norwegian welfare state. How NAV employees decide on social assistance for unemployed Polish migrants. *Nordic Social Work Research*. 11 (2), 169 - 182. doi:[10.1080/2156857X.2020.1861070](https://doi.org/10.1080/2156857X.2020.1861070).
- Tartari, Morena (2022) Being a Transnational Researcher and a mother amid the Covid-19 crisis. *Families, Relationships and Society* 11 (1), 45-49. <https://doi.org/10.1332/204674321X16342183325643>

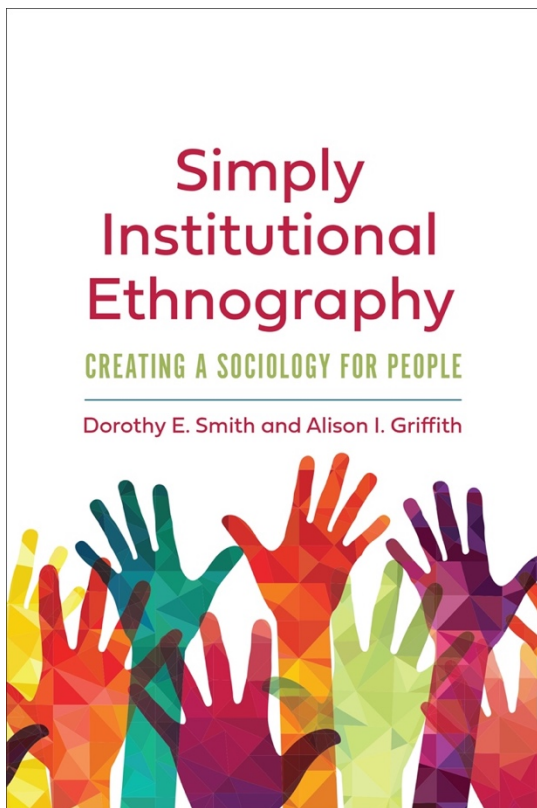
Widerberg, K. (2021) "Academic Star Wars. Pierre Bourdieu and Dorothy E. Smith on Academic Work" in *Constructing Social Research Objects. Constructionism in Research Practice*, Håkon Leiulfstrud and Peter Solberg (eds), Brill, Boston.

Book Reviews

Delucchi, A. S. (2022) *Institutional Ethnography in the Nordic Region*. *The AAG Review of Books* 10:1, 8-10. DOI: [10.1080/2325548X.2022.1999731](https://doi.org/10.1080/2325548X.2022.1999731)

Murray, Ó., Ablett, L. & Delucchi, A. S. (2021) Between Orthodoxy and Openness: a book review essay on *The Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography*. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* DOI: [10.1080/13645579.2021.1984738](https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2021.1984738)

New Book from Dorothy Smith and Alison Griffith



Available in mid-April 2022!

Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge is a new book series at the University of Toronto Press (Series editor: Eric Mykhalovskiy). It is the first series to curate book manuscripts that showcase research excellence in the field of institutional ethnography.

It is a pleasure to announce the publication of the first book in the series: *Simply Institutional Ethnography: Creating a Sociology for People*. Written by Dorothy E. Smith and Alison I. Griffith, and based on decades of ground-breaking work, *Simply Institutional Ethnography* offers a compelling and compact introduction to how institutional ethnography proceeds as a sociology. The book brings to life how institutional ethnographers use key concepts--discourse, work, and text--to organize what they learn from studying people's experiences.

There will be an online book launch in early May featuring Dorothy Smith and a panel of institutional ethnographers. An invitation and details will be shared with the IE community in the coming weeks.

To order *Simply Institutional Ethnography*:

<https://utorontopress.com/9781487528065/simply-institutional-ethnography/>

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