

Institutional Ethnography

Newsletter of the International Sociological Association Working Group 06

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From the Co-Presidents...



Liza McCoy: We're now into the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. For some of us, things have got better, while for others of us, things are the worst they have been. My heart goes out to our colleagues, friends and family living in India and Brazil and in other regions experiencing rapid infection and overwhelmed healthcare systems. In recent months, my province of Alberta has been going through a third wave of Covid-19 with the highest infection rates per capita in both Canada and the US; thankfully, due to vaccines and more stringent public health measures, new case numbers have now begun to drop.

The work of WG06 has gone on, albeit under altered conditions. The ISA Forum, postponed from July 2020, was successfully held online this past February. It was great that so many people could participate via Zoom who would not have been able to attend an in-person conference. On the other hand, since we were all participating from home, many of us had to juggle teaching and family obligations, while time zone incompatibilities created additional obstacles (why does that interesting session have to be at four in the morning?!). We missed the opportunity to visit Porto Alegre

and learn from close encounters with our Brazilian colleagues in ISA. But despite those limitations, it was good to connect virtually with new and old IE colleagues, sharing and discussing the latest IE research. Dorothy Smith's Zoom talk was a special treat.

In December 2020 we held our WG06 elections, and the new Executive and Board took office this past January. I am delighted to be working with new Co-President, Frank Wang (Taiwan), new Vice-President, Rebecca Lund (Norway), and new Secretary-Treasurer, Debra Talbot (Australia). The Board has one returning member, Kjeld Høgsbro (Denmark), and three new members: LaNysha Adams (USA), Adriana Suárez-Delucchi (UK), and Morena Tartari (Belgium). This is a terrific international team of institutional ethnographers, representing both older and newer generation researchers. Already we have some exciting initiatives under way. Read on in this issue to find out more!

Frank Wang: It is my great honour to be co-president for WG06. The IE community has been the most important support of my academic career. As a beneficiary, it is time for me to give and contribute to the expansion of IE community. As Liza writes, my heart also goes out to all of you living in regions experiencing impacts by the pandemic. Taiwan, where I live, has been blessed and able to maintain daily living as usual, like a bubble immune to the pandemic for now, but it is still at risk of community infection. The pandemic reminds us how closely connected we are in the global village.

A big thank you goes to the previous administrative team led by Liza. Their excellent leadership has enabled the IE community in ISA to grow from a thematic group into a working group. The new team is composed of representatives from different continents, making WG06 more international than ever. Given the constraint of my full-time commitment to the Transitional Justice Commission, Liza is willing to extend her administrative support to serve as co-president with me to facilitate the transitional period. Again, it is my honor and pleasure to serve the IE community. I look forward to working with all of you and supporting the development of the IE community around the world!

In This Issue

Newsletter Editor Rebecca Lund is currently on parental leave (see birth announcement on p. 17), so this issue was assembled by Liza McCoy with help from Debra Talbot. 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 November, and we'll need to have copy and suggestions by October. 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-President, Frank Wang, an IE researcher/activist based in Taiwan. There is also an excerpt from the inspiring Zoom talk Dorothy Smith gave during the ISA Forum.

A striking feature of this issue is the many networking and workshop opportunities announced in the following pages. In the Regional News section starting on p. 13, three different IE events are announced, all of which will be held virtually over the coming months. Check them out while there's still time to register for the one(s) you might be interested in attending. Also announced, starting on p. 9, are five IE interest area networks that are currently in formation, addressing a range of topics and research areas and offering multiple possibilities for connecting with other institutional ethnographers.

A report from the recent WG06 business meeting and information on new publications, including the IE book series edited by Eric Mykhalovskiy, round out the issue.

WG06 Business & Community Meeting

During the ISA Forum, the WG06 business and community meeting took place virtually on Sunday, February 28. After a round of introductions, a report from the Executive and updates from regional IE groups, the assembled participants discussed ways that WG06 as a research network could do more to support international institutional ethnographers, especially those who are new to IE or working in isolation. Two initiatives were identified for further development: 1) facilitating a process for organizing and supporting consultation and mentoring within WG06; 2) facilitating the establishment and promotion of IE research networks in areas of shared interest.

An ad-hoc working group to look into ways of facilitating mentorship and consultation was formed. Members of the working group are Janet Rankin, Adriana Suárez-Delucchi, Suzanne Vaughan, and Nicola Waters. The committee has met several times and reports that planning is under way. Stay posted!

Various members volunteered to convene research networks in their areas of interest. For a list and description of research networks in development, see p. 9.

Membership report from Debra Talbot, Secretary-Treasurer:

WG06 currently has 62 active, international members. This includes 5 new members since the ISA Forum: 3 from Canada, 1 from Australia, and 1 from India.



Getting to Know You: Frank T.Y. Wang, new Co-President of WG06

Interviewed over e-mail by Liza McCoy

LM: Frank, your field is Social Work and you have said that for you, the potential for IE to be used in activism and social action is very important. What are some of the research and social action/activist projects you have undertaken with IE?



FW: I became a social worker because of my lived experiences as a family member of a spine-injured sister. I believe social work can bring justice to the society for the marginalized. IE makes the integration of research and social activism possible in my academic career. I give you two examples to show you how I use IE in my advocacy work. The first example shows you how I work with frontline social workers to develop knowledge based upon their daily work. In 2012, I was invited to work with a group of social workers in the area of family violence. I adopted an IE framework by starting to ask about experiences of disjuncture in their daily work. A social worker talked about a woman telling her, "You don't understand my fear" and "the violence I experienced is not listed on your manual." These social workers called these kind of cases "strange cases," indicating cases which should be closed as soon as possible. We then explored the institutional context that constructed these cases as "strange" in the family violence system and found these cases invisible because these women suffered from coercive relations rather than typical physical violence.

The second example is my research on indigenous elderly care for the past ten years. My research focuses on the gap between government long-term-care policy and indigenous daily lives. Front-line community workers are my key informants as they are the ones who are doing cultural translation in their work to fill in the gap or serve as buffer to create social space for potential decolonizing practices against state violence. I found that IE provides a space for front-line workers' voices to map their relationship with the state. To reinforce the peer support among front-line workers, we established a coalition for community workers and scholars to share their struggles and serve as an advocacy and lobby group to the government during the research process. In the circle of research and action, my IE research is integrated with the coalition's activism.

LM: You encountered institutional ethnography when you were doing your PhD in Toronto and then, back in Taiwan, as a professor and researcher, you were instrumental in bringing IE to Taiwan and establishing a community of IE researchers. Institutional ethnography was originally developed in North America to examine the kinds of institutional relations that are common there. What has been

your experience of teaching and doing IE in Taiwan? Have you had to adapt or interpret IE as an investigative project so that it works for exploring institutional relations of power in Taiwan?

FW: Dorothy Smith has used mountain as a metaphor for IEers: that we start our investigation/mapping from different locations, but we are exploring the same mountain. The mountain metaphor can also apply to the question of whether IE is applicable to the institutional relations in Taiwan. Although Taiwan is distinct from North America in various aspects, Taiwan is not exempt from the influence of dominant neo-liberal discourses, especially in the fields of social services, health care, higher education. In fact, some IE work is very relevant to Taiwan as the patterns of social organization are similar. I still vividly remember my graduate student, who was a nurse in private hospital, crying out, "I heard exactly the same sentence in my hospital!" when she read a quote from Marie Campbell's work on cost-consciousness and restructuring in Canadian hospitals. In other words, globalization has connected us all into the same knowledge/power network which makes IE analysis in North America highly relevant to the struggles in Taiwan.

LM: This year you have been very busy serving on Taiwan's Transitional Justice Commission. What is the focus of the commission and what has your role on it involved? Has your knowledge and experience as an institutional ethnographer been a resource for you in this work, and if so, how?

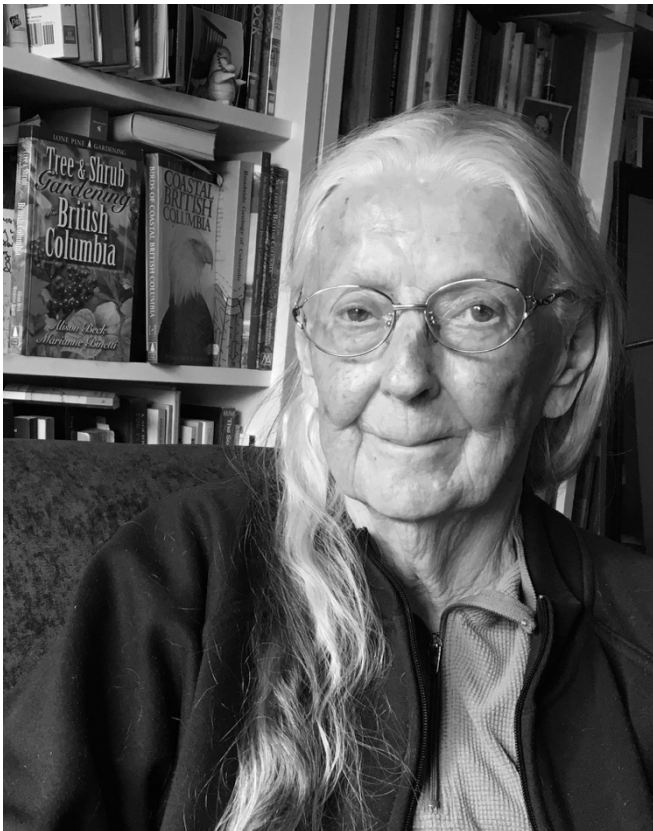
FW: The implementation of 38 years of martial law from 1947-1992 in Taiwan is its dark history. Thousands of intellectuals, social activists, and unionists were put to death or in jail by secret police and security personnel during this period. Suffering political violence not only inflicts physical and psychological stress due to torture and inhumane treatments, but also destroys interpersonal trust and capacity to establish meaningful relationships. As a member of the Transitional Justice Commission, I am responsible for establishing a healing program for the victims and families of political violence, which is estimated to be around 41 thousand individuals. As 70% of the victims are over 80, I established the healing program based upon the long-term care system by training long term care workers about trauma-informed practices. It is my first time to work inside a governmental system, so I am privileged to observe how various governmental processes operate to produce effects that are unexpected. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to do a one-year fieldwork within the government. IE certainly gives me a third eye to read between the lines.

LM: What is your vision for WG06 in the coming years? How might we as a working group in ISA contribute to the growth and support of the international network of institutional ethnographers?

FW: IE has a wonderful tradition of peer support and solidarity. The bonds among IEers are strong and inspiring. This is especially important for newcomers. The IE community has been an important support for my academic development. Regular gatherings, such as ISA and SSSP, have provided important occasions to share research and make connections. In the past few years, regional networks for IE have made impressive progress, such as the publication of the *IE Handbook* and formal associations and post-graduate course established in other parts of the world, such as the Nordic countries, Australia, Taiwan. We should continue to support IE scholars around the world to develop their own supporting networks because we all know how difficult it is to do IE research in a world that is dominated by a positivist paradigm.

Dorothy Smith on Doing “Institutional Primatology”

On February 28, 2021, Dorothy Smith delivered an online talk organized by WG06 to accompany the ISA Forum. Almost 100 people from around the world linked in for the Zoom session. In her talk Dorothy reflected on the processes of discovery that led to the emergence of institutional ethnography, developments in institutional ethnography over the years, current trends, and possibilities for the future. Here is a transcribed excerpt from the final segment of the talk.



I must say I am delighted with where institutional ethnography has been arriving because I think what has been happening has opened up possibilities in many directions. But I do have a problem. It's a problem that I noticed in my own department at the University of Victoria where institutional ethnography is taught as a qualitative method. It is not. It is a sociology.

I was reading a book not long ago by Jane Goodall about her experiences doing observations of chimpanzees in Gombe National Park in Tanzania. The possibilities that she had realized of understanding and indeed even communicating with the chimpanzees are amazing. Perhaps, if you think for a moment about what we do, maybe we should call it “institutional primatology.” We are exploring the ways in which human beings organize our everyday lives and work, and what we do and what the outcomes are, and how we coordinate our work with others -- and discovering how that's actually put together means doing something that Jane Goodall did not

have to do. Imagine observing chimpanzees but all of a sudden encountering ways in which they are doing things but somehow the forms of coordination are missing from view. Well, we humans are in a world that is organized as texts coordinate what we are doing and what others do in relation to us. The technology, including print, that enables standardized texts to be reproduced as required has enabled a whole organized level that coordinates beyond particular local settings of human engagement. Coordinating via texts has transformed human being.

I was reading a very fascinating book lately about the early days in the shift from monarchy to bureaucracy, after the French Revolution. It's a very significant shift that was being made at that time. Everything was done in writing as standardized rules and information became organized across different regions of France. Technological shifts went on to the development of the typewriter, for

example, and then of course the computer, film, radio, TV and etc. These technologies have transformed and continue to transform the whole mode in which texts enter into our everyday lives and coordinate in ways that we do not understand too well, although we probably know quite a lot of how to deal with what we have to in our everyday. The kinds of investigations that we can do as we work with institutional relations or sequences of action have the possibility of taking up and exploring and discovering just how coordinating our actions and organizing our worlds are being put together. And I'd like to say to you, Go ahead!

I'm fascinated that there are institutional ethnographers in so many different countries. I wrote a preface recently for a book assembling the work of a group of writers that Frank Wang put together in Taiwan, and although I could only read the abstracts written in English it was really interesting; it was taking out issues and making them known and public that would not otherwise have been recognizable. Those kinds of moves, the ways in which IE works for researchers in different countries, are exciting and important. For example, I've been reading a book bringing together institutional ethnographic research and thinking in the Nordic region, edited by Rebecca Lund and Ann Christin Nilsen, and it brings different aspects and possibilities that I don't think I'd have learned from work done elsewhere. Very fascinating work is being done in different places, but at the same time I can only read it if it's in English, yet I find these processes of discovery very exciting.

Institutional ethnography is not a qualitative method in sociology; it is a social science that aims at exploring and discovering and has ways of thinking, ways of proceeding, and research methods, that people have developed as they took up the challenges of discovering how things are actually being put together by actual people. We can do exciting work and exciting work is being done.



Dorothy Smith's new book, co-authored with Alison Griffith, *Simply Institutional Ethnography: Creating a Sociology for People* will be published by University of Toronto Press in 2022.

It will be the first book in the new series Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge, edited by Eric Mykhalovskiy.

IE research interest networks in formation

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, various WG06 members are taking the initiative to develop trans-regional networks organized around specific research areas or topics of shared interest. Networks currently in formation are described by their convenors below.

All of 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 the information.

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, debra.talbot@sydney.edu.au.

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.

Scholars involved will orient contents, discussions, and events that might include:

- Webinars, online pitches, online hackathons, online IE slams (inspired by the format of the science slams) to involve members and new members in presentations and discussions.
- A bi-yearly online conference (a mid-term conference between two ISA congresses)
- A dedicated YouTube channel (if it will be public or private will be decided by the IS-SLS Network members)

Each event will be planned to include different time zones.

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The ontology and range of IE research (Discussion group)

At the ISA conference in February this year, we had an interesting discussion of “the premise and promise of Institutional Ethnography”. It focused on the need of young scholars to “understand its premise, promise and potentials” as well as its “foundation as a method for inquiry”, “the conceptual framework for inquiry” and its relation to the mainstream sociological claim for an implicit theory. Issues were being addressed like the “impulse for theory-based thinking” and the question if it was possible to “avoid using concepts such as justice, racism or resistance without explaining how they actually work”.

During the discussion, one of the young scholars reported that she had travelled to Canada to be sure that she had really followed the exact guidelines for doing IE in her PhD, while Paul Luken held the position that it was up to people to develop the tradition in a non-dogmatic way as long as it followed the very basic premise and intentions of IE.

But then again, what is the basic premise and intention of IE? If we just let go, IE might develop into a tradition where everything is accepted and the concept becomes meaningless. And, if we just copy exactly the design used by the first generation of IE researchers, we might miss some of its unknown potentials.

So at the board meeting, we decided to open up a group which could address all these complicated questions. We wanted to form a group, which could discuss if it was possible to define the premise and intentions behind IE in a way which could be accepted as a kind of consensus within the wider group of people, who have been seriously inspired by the concept of IE and the research practice it has initiated.

Important issues for the discussions could be:

1. How to define the premise, the promise and the potentials of IE.
2. Its relation to sociological theory.
3. The relation between IE and mainstream ethnography.
4. The premise of IE when confronted with the premise of modern hermeneutics.
5. IE as an approach, which emphasize exploration, but what about the generalization of the results?
6. Does IE intend to develop our understanding of how modern institutions work and in the end contribute to sociological theory?
7. Which of the elements in an IE design is ultimately necessary to include in every study, which can get the status as an IE?
8. The relation between IE and other traditions which have had approximately the same intentions and slightly the same guidelines like Grounded Theory, Hermeneutic Ethnography, Neo-institutional Theory, Actor Network Theory, Governmentality Studies, Assemblage Studies, Situational Analysis, etc.
9. Other important questions.

This is an invitation to all IE researchers and IE-interested students, whether or not they are members of ISA. We invite both people who are interested in participating in a group discussion on Zoom and people who would send us some brief essays addressing some of the questions mentioned above.

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Disruptive Technologies

How might IE need to reinvent itself in the face of machine learning algorithms and other technological advances? Opaque, often proprietary, and sometimes unclear to even their designers, machine learning algorithms pose distinct challenges to institutional ethnography as a sociology for people. If you're interested in thinking through how to use IE to study the role of disruptive technologies in coordinating our lives and society, please reach out to form a special interest group. While machine learning algorithms pose a distinct challenge, this group could also explore blockchain ledgers, digital archives and workplace dashboards that update in real time, social media platforms where each person is provided a hyper-personalized feed, and more--this is not a time for boundary setting and all ideas around IE and technologies are welcome.

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IE and Affect

IE is continuously evolving and encourages "discovering beyond any one individual's experience including the researcher's own" to elucidate "what she or he discovers about how people's activities are coordinated" (Smith, 2006, p. 1). Texts have traditionally been an important instrument of such coordination. For some of us, empirical data has raised questions about whether texts, however broadly defined, are sufficient to elucidate the complexity of relations in everyday work. It has become apparent to us that participants in our various research studies utilise their affective capacities to mediate the intended governing effect of extra-locally produced texts resulting in their embodied "actual doing" that is either observed or reported. How can the evolution of IE, as a mode of inquiry, explore the governing effect that affect has on frontline workers' actual doings? Are considerations of affect at odds with a mode of inquiry that seeks to explicate the social relations that govern people's work at the frontline? Are considerations of embodied affect consistent with an empirical materialist approach?

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SHIE Network (Studying Healthcare using Institutional Ethnography)

AIMS: (1) To provide an opportunity for IE researchers to share healthcare-related research; (2) To enable more continuous networking and collaboration than is facilitated through attending ISA/SSSP conferences; (3) To allow healthcare researchers from a variety of backgrounds to explore IE theory and methods.

FORMAT AND CONTENT: This will be guided by those involved but, provisionally, might include:

1. ONLINE SYMPOSIUM - With time-zone challenges in mind, short presentations could be uploaded a dedicated (private) YouTube channel. Comments/discussion added in the chat. Followed by ...
2. VIDEO-CONFERENCE discussion - Alternating times to suit different continents.

This format would be tested, with the potential to hold an online event every six-months. The intention is that the network's activities are supportive - encouraging constructive discussion and debate.

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



Regional News

Australia

The South East Queensland IE Group, led by Dr Sophie Hickey, 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.

Europe

IE Webinar on July 1: Exploring the potential of Institutional Ethnography. Experiences, reflections and new pathways from and for the European context

On Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 6 pm to 8.30 pm (CET), the University of Antwerp (Belgium), in collaboration with the European Network of Institutional Ethnographers, will host a webinar “Exploring the potential of Institutional Ethnography. Experiences, reflections and new pathways from and for the European context.”

The webinar will take place on Zoom and will be an opportunity to gather colleagues in and out of Europe, and it will be the first official event hosted by the European network of Institutional Ethnographers in collaboration with a European university.

This event is part of the final activities of the MSCA-IF-2018 grant (no 843976) awarded by the European Union to Dr. Morena Tartari.

Presentations and discussions will be organized as follows.

In the first part of the webinar, Prof. Liza McCoy will talk on transnational and comparative IE research; Prof. Paul Luken and Prof. Suzanne Vaughan will talk about the *Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography* and Dr. Rebecca W. B. Lund (University of Oslo) and Prof. Ann Christin E. Nilsen (Agder University) will talk about IE in the Nordic region.

The second part of the webinar will give 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), Prof. Marjo Kuronen (University of Jyväskylä) for reflections and short presentations on some Institutional Ethnography projects based in Europe, the UK, and the Nordic countries.

Each part will have room for Q&A and networking.

[Here is the link](#) to register for the webinar.

United Kingdom

Online Workshop in October: Introducing Institutional Ethnography: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Approach to Social Research

Dr Órla Murray, Dr Liz Ablett and Dr Adriana Suarez-Delucchi will be running an Institutional Ethnography online workshop in October 2021 for students, members of staff and researchers at UK/EU Universities, Research Councils, public sector staff and registered charity organisations and recognised UK/EU research institutions.

Órla, Liz and Adriana have previously worked together delivering IE workshops in Scotland and the South West of England. The great turnout to these events and the interest shown from Early Career Researchers and PhD Students to join, encouraged us to seek funding to run a more extensive workshop in 2021.

The overall aim of this workshop is to provide attendees with a comprehensive overview of institutional ethnography as an approach and the opportunity to translate their own research ideas and projects into an IE research proposal or small piece of text-focused analysis. This hands-on workshop is suitable for students, academics, and anyone else interested in feminist methodologies, text and discourse analysis, and institutional or organisational ethnographies. No prior training in, or knowledge of, IE is required.

The content of this course includes an overview of the work of Dorothy Smith, and three case studies from Sociology and Human Geography based on the PhDs of the co-organisers. In addition, Órla will present her innovative three text and discourse analysis methods to develop an Institutional Ethnography. The organisers will work to help attendees see avenues for how to translate their own research ideas or projects into an Institutional Ethnography proposal.

By the end of this course participants will understand the origin and development of Institutional Ethnography and how to use the approach to analyse texts, processes, and discourses. As this is a "hands-on" workshop we expect participants to come with an outline of their own research ideas and an important document from their research to analyse, so we can explore how their projects could become an Institutional Ethnography.

This course is aimed at academics, students, and any other qualitative researchers or policymakers interested in analysing organisational processes. Participants must have at least some experience in qualitative research methods, but no experience of Institutional Ethnography is required.

If you are interested, please sign up for this workshop here: [Introducing Institutional Ethnography: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Approach to Social Research \(ncrm.ac.uk\)](https://ncrm.ac.uk/Introducing-Institutional-Ethnography-An-Interdisciplinary-Feminist-Approach-to-Social-Research)

Funding for this initiative has been made possible through the National Centre for Research Methods.

USA/North America

Online SSSP Conference and IE Workshop in August

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) annual meeting will be held online from August 4-7, 2021. SSSP's IE Division has organized eight sessions, with lots of participation from international institutional ethnographers. The link to the program is [here](#).

There will also be an IE workshop on Sunday, August 8, from 9:00-3:00 pm (EST). The registration fee is USD 50 for employed registrants or USD 20 for unemployed/activist/student registrants; registration is done [through the SSSP site](#).

About the workshop:

The Institutional Ethnography Division is hosting an interactive virtual workshop for researchers who use or are interested in Institutional Ethnography (IE) – the method of inquiry developed by Dorothy E. Smith. The workshop theme, "Challenges & Solutions When Applying IE," tackles practical questions, including but not limited to, addressing how to: a) deal with difficult committee members, b) apply IE in non-academic settings, c) analyze one's data, and e) map ruling relations. The workshop features a keynote presentation as well as opportunities for large and small-group discussions and learning. Participants would either: (1) submit work/ideas that they would like feedback on according to any aspect of IE, (2) offer to serve as "seasoned" institutional ethnographers who would lead the discussions, or (3) observe discussions about IE work and ask questions. The workshop will provide people with opportunities to engage directly with institutional ethnographies in the proposal, analysis, and final writing stages. People who are interested in sharing and receiving feedback on a research proposal, article manuscript, conference paper, or another piece of writing during the small-group discussions should submit these documents to [LaNysha Adams](#) by June 27.

Publications

Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge New Book Series with University of Toronto Press

By Eric Mykhalovskiy

I am delighted to provide an update on the newly established IE book series being published by University of Toronto Press. The first monograph in the series will be *Simply Institutional Ethnography: Creating a Sociology for People* written by Dorothy Smith and Alison Griffith. We expect the book to be published early next year. Next in line is a monograph by Colin Hastings that explores his work on HIV criminalization, media, and convergence journalism.

As the editor of the book series, I'm always open to hearing about new IE book projects. If you are working on or planning a book that you think would work for the series, please feel free to reach out to me: ericm@yorku.ca

Here is a description of the book series:

Institutional ethnography is particularly committed to critical inquiry of ruling relations, conceptualized as that complex of activities and discourses reaching across government, the corporate sector, the mass media, and the professions, among other sites, through which our lives are governed. To explore ruling relations, institutional ethnographers treat language, discourse, and knowledge as social practices and use forms of writing and analysis that preserve the active presence of the experiencing subject. Institutional ethnographic studies explore how ruling relations take shape as people's translocally coordinated activities and explore how such relations are created and operate, how they affect people's day-to-day lives, and how they can be transformed.

Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge is the first book series to curate book manuscripts that showcase research excellence and innovation in the field. The series will be a unique contribution to contemporary knowledge about how ruling relations are organized in our present. It will build on traditions of engaged scholarship to serve as a focal point for scholarly discourse that connects insights about and critiques of the various forms of intersecting knowledge, technologies, and practices through which societies are governed. Taken as a whole, the series will critique relations of exclusion, marginalization and oppression, and contribute new perspectives about how they can be altered in pursuit of better futures.

The series will publish books that engage in institutional ethnography in a range of ways. Institutional ethnographic studies reporting original research written by senior scholars as well as emerging researchers (including those who have conducted innovative institutional ethnographic Ph.D. research) will be a central thread of the series. Manuscripts by scholars whose work is informed by institutional ethnography will also be included as will manuscripts that explore theoretical and methodological issues related to institutional ethnographic inquiry. The series will also consider edited collections with a coherent analytic through line.

New Publications

Kirsten Small has co-authored a paper on critical ethnography that uses IE as an example:

- 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>

Debra Talbot has authored a paper that considers the role of affect in governing workers' actions at the frontline.

- Talbot, D. (2020). Institutional Ethnography and the materiality of affect: Affective circuits as indicators of other possibilities. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 49(5), 691-709. doi:10.1177/0891241620943276

Announcements



Welcome, Hans Eric!

From WG06 Vice-President Rebecca Lund:

Greetings from the neonatal intensive care unit at Oslo University Hospital. Baby Hans Eric had a rough start on the morning of May 9, but things are fortunately looking much better now, thanks to the competence, empathy and care of the wonderful staff here. At this stage we are just waiting for his oxygen saturation levels to normalize. We very much look forward to going home to enjoy some spring weather from our balcony and go for pram walks in the forest, and we hope it will be sooner rather than later.

Here is a picture of baby Hans Eric sleeping in my arms while wrapped up in a duvet and hooked up to a monitor which beeps every time oxygen saturation falls below 85 (I have left the monitor out of the picture, as you see), causing nurses to come running and check up on him.

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