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IE Newsletter

Institutional Ethnography Division of the Society
for the Study of Social Problems

From the Division Chair: Katie Koralesky

Hello SSSP IE division!

As incoming division chair, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am originally from Wisconsin, USA, but for the past 8 years, I have been living and working as a student and now postdoctoral research fellow in the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. I learned about IE at a conference workshop organized by Janet Rankin in 2018. At the time, I was planning my doctoral work and knew I was interested in studying animal welfare law and policy. After learning about IE and its distinct approach to inquiry and focus on how policy shapes everyday experiences, I knew it was something I wanted to use in my research. I completed my PhD exploring the social organization of animal sheltering and protection in British Columbia in 2021 and am now researching the social and ethical dimensions of gene editing in farm animals. I love IE and continue to use IE principles as much as possible in my work.

As incoming division chair, I'd like to thank Colin Hastings and for all his help and support and for everything he did and continues to do for our division. As well, many previous chairs over the years have offered helpful guidance, thank you! Moving forward, I would like to get some feedback from you about what you would find helpful in your work: IE webinars, newsletter features, or other resources. Please keep an eye out for how you can offer feedback!
Have a wonderful fall!

Katie

Call for IE Division Awards

INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY

Deadline: 1/31/24

The [Institutional Ethnography Division](#) is pleased to solicit papers for its 2024 George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition. To be considered, papers should advance institutional ethnography scholarship either methodologically or through a substantive contribution. For an overview of institutional ethnography and the purposes of the IE Division, see <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1236/m/464>. Authors must be currently enrolled graduate students or have graduated within the last 12 months. Submissions are to be 25 pages long or less, excluding notes, references, and tables, and be submitted in Word-compatible and PDF formats, following the latest APA guidelines. An electronic letter from the student's supervisor attesting to the lead author's student status must accompany the submission. Co-authors are permitted but they must also be graduate students.

The recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$100, a plaque of recognition, student membership, conference registration, and an opportunity to present the winning paper at the 2024 SSSP meetings. The winner of the 2024 paper will be invited to sit on the adjudicating panel for the 2025 paper submissions. Please note that any paper submitted for consideration for the George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Award must also be submitted through the SSSP [Call for Papers](#) to be presented at the 2024 meeting of the SSSP.

Send submission to: Colin Hastings c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca and Jayne Malenfant jayne.malenfant@mcgill.ca

Please be aware that a paper submission may only be submitted to one division.

INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY: DOROTHY E. SMITH AWARD FOR SCHOLAR-ACTIVISM

Deadline: 3/31/24

The [Institutional Ethnography Division](#) is pleased to solicit nominations for the 2024 Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism. This award recognizes the activities of an individual or group who has made substantial contributions to institutional ethnographic scholar activism in either a single project or longer trajectory of work. The contributions may involve IE research conducted and used for activist ends, or it may involve activist efforts that have drawn upon or contributed to IE scholarship. The award committee invites members of the Division to send a one-page statement of the nominee to Committee Chairs:

Frank Ridzi frankridzi@gmail.com and Eric Mykhalovskiy ericm@yorku.ca
by March 31, 2024.

Two Institutional Ethnographers Win Major SSSP Awards

Frank Ridzi and **Janet Rankin** received two prestigious awards from the Society for the Study of Social Problems at the Society's annual meetings in Philadelphia, PA, USA in August 2023.

Frank Ridzi, Associate Professor of Sociology, Le Moyne College, and Vice President of the Central New York Community Foundation won the Lee Founders Award given in honor of Alfred McClung Lee and Elizabeth Briant Lee's life work and commitment to social justice.

Janet Rankin, Professor of Nursing, University of Calgary, and Interim Dean, University of Calgary at Qatar, was a co-winner of the Kathleen S. Lowney Mentoring Award given in recognition of the value of quality mentoring relationships between mentor and mentees and mentoring particularly for younger scholars and activists.



Both Frank and Janet were recognized for their exemplary work in institutional ethnography by their respective committee chairs.

The committee lauded Frank for his body of research and service leading to the "betterment of human life" and "commitment to social action programs that promote social justice." Particularly notable was "his creative use of institutional ethnography to map pathways of justice-oriented community change on issues ranging from welfare reform, educational and racial inequalities, quality of life indicators, and combating lead poisoning for refugees from global social conflicts in Syracuse, NY." His work not only "expands the social justice aims of Dorothy Smith and others whose research is a *sociology for people* but demonstrates ways in which the tools of IE provide practical applications for making institutional change happen."

The committee pointed to Janet's sustained and intensive commitment of time and expertise to students and colleagues within her department, university, and internationally by "fostering a deep understanding of the significant problems of social life, promoting problem-centered social research, and encouraging social activism." To illustrate Janet's stellar mentoring skills, the committee quoted a letter of nomination: "Her ability to guide a diverse group of scholars and faculty speaks to her dedication to mentoring, her superior facilitation skills, her ability to articulate her firm grounding in the ontology of IE and to gently guide other toward this ontological shift." Additionally, several letter writers noted how Janet had changed their lives by providing "a collegial environment to challenge and explore competing viewpoints" and by

"fostering a community and sense of belonging especially for those who have not been able to access IE instruction at their own institutions."

Congratulations Frank and Janet for your outstanding work in IE.

NEW! RESOURCES FOR IE SCHOLARS

RAD Talks

The Research For Social Change Lab, **Naomi Nichols**, Director, presents Rad Talks from their 2023 Dorothy Smith Open School. For more information check out their [webpage](#).

And do attend to the beautiful stills where each speaker is channeling the spirit of Dorothy Smith! (you will understand when you check out the website).

The speakers were:

Colin Hastings, Assistant Professor at University of Waterloo

Jayne Malenfant, Assistant Professor at McGill University

Alex McLelland, Assistant Professor at Carleton University

Aron Rosenberg, Assistant Professor at McGill University and

Maxime Goulet-Langlois, Doctoral Candidate at McGill University

Their talks are available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

Online IE Workshop!

The Institutional Ethnography Workshop is inviting interested scholars to their 2024 online workshop: Introducing Institutional Ethnography: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Approach to Social Research. The workshop will be held January 15-16, 2024. The workshop is run in collaboration with the National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM). [Here is the event link](#) and here is the [registration link](#). There are 17 places left at this writing (November 2023).

Congratulations Doctor!

We are starting a new feature with this newsletter where we spotlight the post-defense world of a recent graduate. Congratulations to: **Dr. Courtney R. Petruik**. Courtney recent defended her thesis titled: "Caring for people on the margins: an institutional ethnographic exploration of community palliative care work for people who are precariously housed."

Here are some questions Katie Koralesky posed to Courtney and her responses:

What made me choose IE for my thesis:

IE helps us look at the way things are put together and I was really interested in how this team spoke about their work, went about shaping their work through the language they use, and how this allowed them to do the type of work they do. I felt like an IE approach would allow me to really get at some of the ways in which this team successfully cared for its patients (or not) had not seen this approach in the palliative outreach field and so I wanted to take up this project to start filling that gap. I also really admired how this work was done in previous healthcare

projects by veteran IE'ers and how it allowed the researcher to be part of the shaping of the project.

Here are a few of my thesis's take-home messages:

My project showed that a small non-profit palliative outreach team approaches their work differently than mainstream palliative systems. The team has put together a strategy mobilizing common discourses in healthcare, such as, "harm-reduction" to help others understand the legitimacy of the way they work. My project tackles issues of access to and availability of mainstream publicly delivered palliative care by illustrating from the clients' standpoint how they are made structurally vulnerable by poverty and are systemically excluded from specialized palliative care.

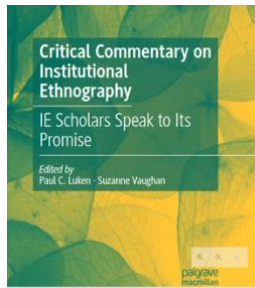
What I'm doing now:

I am currently working with the team conducting research on how their clients navigate the health care system. We have submitted an abstract for a conference to present our preliminary findings and are also expanding the project to include service provider and administrator perspectives. Much of my work in this project so far is inspired by institutional ethnography and mimics some of the ways in which I was trained on collecting and analyzing data through an IE lens. Paying close attention to language and discourse as well as interfaces between people representing systems they shape and are shaped by. I often think that now that I'm trained in IE, I'll always have that lens as part of my work!

Congratulations Dr. Courtney R. Petruik!

Members' News and Notes

Laura Lubin and Thomas G. Reio, Jr. published in 2023, "From the Standpoint of Instructional Designers: Critically Investigating the Coordination of ID Contributions to Collaborative Online Course Development," in the *New Horizons in Adult Education and Human Resource Development*, Vol. 35: 117-140.



Leigha Comer published in 2023, "The social organization of opioid policies and their implications for people with chronic pain and clinicians: An institutional ethnography," in *International Journal of Drug Policy*, Vol. 120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104173>

Paul Luken and Suzanne Vaughan's edited volume, *Critical Commentary on Institutional Ethnography: IE Scholars Speak to Its Future* was published in July 2023 by Palgrave.

The book is a tribute to Dorothy E. Smith and her collaborators and their faith in carrying the work of institutional ethnography forward. They gather top scholars from across disciplines, generations, and countries in this book to provide constructive commentary on the theory, methods, and practices of institutional ethnography. Contributors explore themes of relevance to institutional ethnographers: how institutional ethnographers can take an expanded view of social institutions, how they might explore the dynamics of ruling relations over time and context, what results from understanding experience as dialogue (including internal or in-skull dialogue), the significance of "standpoint," and the opportunities for institutional ethnographers to move beyond texts as they discover and describe social relations. Although the essays overlap in important ways, Luken and Vaughan have organized the critical commentary around several

topics fundamental to the ontological assumptions of IE: standpoint and experience (Brenda Solomon, Marie Campbell, Frank Ridzi), around institutions (Colin Hastings and Eric Mykhalovskiy, Nancy Naples and Ashley Robinson), around ruling relations and history (Marj DeVault, Christin E. Nilsen, Rebecca Lund, and May-Linda Magnussen, Suzanne Vaughan), around settler ruling relations (Sophie Hickey, Magdalena Ugarte), and finally a new exploration into relations beyond text into the internet (Tanya Osborne). What they see at the starting point of each essay is a fundamental understanding of Smith's little hero diagram, first laid out in her book, *The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology* (p.171).

University of Toronto Press Book Series

Eric Mykhalovskiy is the editor of the **Institutional Ethnography: Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge**, the first book series to curate book manuscripts that showcase research excellence and innovation in the field of institutional ethnography. The series serves 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 contemporary societies are governed. The series critiques relations of exclusion, marginalization, and oppression, and contributes new perspectives about how they can be altered in pursuit of better futures.

Eric is delighted to announce that the second book in the series will soon be published. Colin Hasting's book ***"It's someone's job to get those quick crime stories out there:" The social organization of digital knowledge about HIV criminalization*** is scheduled for release in Fall 2024. Colin's book offers an insightful and original analysis of how news about HIV criminalization is created in an age of digital and convergence journalism. This is book that moves institutional ethnographic research into new empirical domains, while expressing a deep commitment to ending discrimination against people living with HIV. Stay tuned for updates and news of a book launch!!

As always, Eric encourage anyone with book ideas to reach out to me.

Eric Mykhalovskiy
ericm@yorku.ca

Welcome New Members

Five new members have joined the IE Division since the publication of our last newsletter. Welcome all!

MacKenzie Bonner
Veronic Lapalme
Katerina Melino
Laura Parson
Lucas Z. Wiscons

Recent IE Books and Papers Published

A regular feature of the Fall *IE Newsletter* is to compile a sampling of recent publications involving IE for our members. If you know of any papers, articles, or books that you would like to see posted here in future issues, please contact Gina Petonito at gpetonito@gmail.com.

Margaret Mary Downey & Ariana Thompson-Lastad, (2023) "From apathy to structural competency and the right to health: An institutional ethnography of a maternal and child wellness center," *Health and Human Rights Journal*, 25:1.

Garry R.S. Barron, (2023) "How university rankings are made through globally coordinated action: A transnational institutional ethnography in the sociology of quantification," *Higher Education*, 86:809–826, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00903-y>

Zeynep Tekin Babuc, (2023) "Institutional ethnography: Main aspects and theoretical foundations," *International Anatolian Journal of Social Sciences*, 7: 210-221.

K.A. Small, M. Sidebotham, J. Fenwich, & J. Gamble, (2023) "The social organisation of decision-making about intrapartum fetal monitoring: An institutional ethnography," *Women and Birth*, 36:281-289, DOI: 10.1016/j.wombi.2022.09.004

I.-H.B. Bennwik, I. Oterholm, & B. Kelly, (2023) "'My disability was my own responsibility': An institutional ethnography of the transitional experiences of disabled young people leaving care," *Children and Youth Services Review*, 146, DOI: 10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.106813

Apondi J. Odhiambo, Patricia O'Campo, La Ron E. Nelson, Lisa Forman & Daniel Grace, (2023) "Structural violence and the uncertainty of viral undetectability for African, Caribbean and Black people living with HIV in Canada: an institutional ethnography," *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 22:33, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-022-01792-4>

Fiona Webster, Laura Connoy, Abhimanyu Sud, Kathleen Rice, Joel Katz, Andrew D. Pinto, Ross Upshur, & Craig Dale, (2023) "Chronic Struggle: An institutional ethnography of chronic pain and marginalization," *The Journal of Pain*, 24:437-448, DOI: 10.1016/j.jpain.2022.10.004

Anna Hawkins, (2023) "Spatial barriers to the effective delivery of school food policy in UK primary schools: Findings from an institutional ethnography," *People, Place and Policy Online*, 17:59-81, DOI: 10.3351/ppp.2023.533563266

K. Harvey & M. Griffin, (2023) "(In/Ex)clusive fitness cultures: An institutional ethnography of group exercise for older adults," *Ageing and Society*, 43:251-275, DOI: 10.1017/S0144686X21000507

C.E. Wright, (2023) "Methods matter: Learning from institutional ethnography and intersectionality to inform interview research methods for social justice in stem education," *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Education*, 29:1-27, DOI: 10.1615/JWomenMinorScienEng.2022043390

J. Mosseray, N. Aernouts, & M. Ryckewaert, (2023) "Institutional ethnography: a transformative mode of inquiry in the renovation of a Brussels high-rise housing estate," *European Planning Studies*, 31:392-408, DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2022.2057186

Chen J. Wang, (2023), "An institutional ethnography analysis on skilled Chinese immigrant mothers' experiences in Canada," *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/12259276.2023.2240535

Ola Pilerot, (2023) Information literacy theorised through institutional ethnography. In: Hicks, A., Lloyd, A., & Pilerot, O. (eds.), *Information Literacy through Theory*, 2023, Facet Publishing. Preprint available at: <https://hb.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1783743/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Devaka Kumamri Acharya, Kittikorn Nilmanat, Umaporn Boonyasopun, (2023) Institutional ethnography of hemodialysis care: Perspectives of multidisciplinary health care teams in Nepal, *Belitung Nursing Journal*, 9, DOI: 10.33546/bnj.2691



Call for Papers

Below are the IE sponsored or co-sponsored sessions calling for papers for the **2024 SSSP Meeting in Montreal, August 9-11, 2024**. All papers must be submitted by **midnight, January 15, 2024** to be considered for inclusion in the program. To submit, please consult [this link](#).

Session Title: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Decolonizing the Academy Using Institutional Ethnography and Other Approaches: From Theory to Praxis

Sponsors: Community Research and Development; Critical Race and Ethnic Study; Global; Institutional Ethnography

Co-Organizers: Urmitapa Dutta: Urmitapa_Dutta@uml.edu
Angela Fillingim: afillingim@sfsu.edu

Session Title: THEMATIC: Theorized versus Everyday Experiences of Violence

Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Institutional Ethnography

Co-organizers: Naomi Nichols: naominichols@trentu.ca
Michael C. Awsumb: c.michael.awsumb@gmail.com

Session Title: THEMATIC: The Social Organization of Medical Violence

Co-Sponsors: Drinking and Drugs; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Institutional Ethnography; Sociology and Social Welfare

Co-Organizers: Kathryn Nowotny: kathryn.nowotny@miami.edu

Colin Hastings: c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca

Session Title: Ethnography/Institutional Ethnography and the Environment

Co-Sponsors: Environment and Technology; Institutional Ethnography

Co-Organizers: Lauren Eastwood: eastwole@plattsburgh.edu

Haisu Huang: haisuh@uoregon.edu

Session Title: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Teaching Institutional Ethnography

Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography

Co-Organizers: Eric Mykhalovskiy: ericm@yorku.ca

Suzanne Vaughan: suzanne.vaughan@asu.edu

Session Title: THEMATIC: Institutional Ethnographies of Everyday Experiences of State Violence

Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography

Co-Organizers: Jayne Malenfant: jayne.malenfant@mcgill.ca

Helen Hudson: hHUDS099@uottawa.ca

Session Title: New Directions in Institutional Ethnography

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Co-Organizer: Katherine E. Korelesky: katie.koralesky@ubc.ca

Session Title: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Institutional Ethnographies of Law, Crime, and Justice

Co-Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography; Law and Society

Co-Organizers: Catherine Hastings: catherine.hastings@mq.edu.au

Colin Hastings, Colin: c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca