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Please complete Katies survey!

IE Newsletter

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

Dear SSSP IE division,

I am writing to you from Vancouver, British Columbia, where spring is in full swing. The cherry blossoms are in full bloom, tulips are up and lilacs just around the corner. I hope you are all enjoying some aspect of nature wherever you are!

This newsletter is full of updates about the upcoming SSSP conference in Montreal, as well as news about publications and recent graduates. We have some great conference sessions planned, and there will be many opportunities to share and connect.

On the note of conference planning, I would like to ask everyone to take the survey below. We are trying to get an idea about how many people will be attending the conference in Montreal, gather feedback on the format of our upcoming business meeting, and I'd also like to hear if there are any resources or events and activities you'd like to see organized through our division.

I'd like to thank Colin Hastings for all his help with organizing the conference this year. As well, many others have devoted their time to award committees and planning the conference workshop - thank you! Thanks also to Gina and Jayne for all their hard work putting this newsletter together.

Please complete the survey ASAP, at the latest before May 20! I'll share the results with everyone soon after.

https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pTKGF0IXTEE9Se

Thank you,
Katie

Congratulations Doctor!

Welcome to the IE Division Newsletter's New Column, where we invite new IE PhD's to tell us about their thesis, IE's contribution to their thesis and what they are up to now.

This month's Doctor is **Hasmik Tovmasyan**. She earned her PhD from the University of Calgary, Department of Sociology in 2023.

Thesis title

Syrian Armenian Refugees in Canada: War, Forced Migration, Resettlement, and the Collective Memory of the Armenian Genocide

What made me choose IE for my thesis:

I study the experiences of Syrian Armenian refugees of the recent Syrian war who are also 3rd- and 4th-generation Genocide survivors (1915) and diaspora members. IE helped me to start my quest by entering this interesting intersectional position of complex power relations and see how each of them informs the experiences of people. Thanks to the IE approach I was able to demonstrate how abstract notions such as transgenerational trauma, diaspora, refugeedom, political loyalty, and integration come to materialize in everyday doings of ordinary people, exist only in their actions, and inform their choices and their actualities. It was also very interesting for me to pioneer using IE to study transgenerational trauma, diaspora, belonging and war.

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

My project demonstrated that the transgenerational traumatic memory of a past atrocious history acts as a lens to make sense of war and forced migration but also a resource which people draw upon to remove themselves from a war zone and to bring themselves all the way to Canada's safety. It made clear that to understand refugee experiences and avoid generalizations that might lead to stereotypes, we need to consider the biographies and histories groups have. My project demonstrated the resourcefulness of refugees and problematized the act of seeing refugees as passive victims in need of salvation by investigating the work that people do to get to safety as they navigate the Canadian refugee sponsorship program. This work takes place within current institutional and policy relations but also, and crucially, within transnational and trans-generational relations of diaspora.

Methodologically, my work also demonstrates a case where "institution," a core concept at the base of IE, does not always have set boundaries, such as education, healthcare, or immigration, but can also be something as fluid and unfixed as a transgenerational trauma or diaspora and that it can operate through a multiplicity of organizations and texts across time and space.

What I'm doing now:

Apart from teaching, I am now preparing articles in three directions: diaspora and transnationalism, the social organization of transgenerational trauma-memory, and the private sponsorship of refugees in Canada. I use IE to demonstrate how each of these ruling relations coordinate people's everyday world and explains how these experiences happen the way they do.

Members' News and Notes

Jim Henslin's new editions of *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*, (15th edition) and *Essentials of Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach*, (14th edition) have been published by Pearson.

Jayne Malenfant announces an upcoming Special Issue of the Canadian Journal for the Study of Adult Education for spring: "For the People: Dorothy Smith & Adult Education," Co-edited by Sara Carpenter and Genevieve Ritchie. It will include contributions from co-editors as well as **Himani Bannerji, Shahrzad Mojab, Shauna Butterwick, Hye-Su Kuk, Mitchell McLarnon, Jayne Malenfant** and **Naomi Nichols**.

Marj DeVault provided these articles from the December 2023 edition of the US journal *Sociological Theory*. The journal published a symposium on Dorothy Smith's legacy, organized by Prof. Freeden Blume Oeur that recalls an earlier symposium highlighting Smith's writing, published by the same journal in 1992. Feminist scholars **Barbara Laslett** and **Barrie Thorne** organized the earlier symposium. Both were working in that period to position feminist scholars as worthy of note in the ASA's theory section.

Contents:

- **Blume Oeur, Freeden.** (2023). Dorothy Smith's Legacy of Social Theorizing: Introduction. *Sociological Theory*, 41(4), 283-289.
- **Sweet, Paige L.** (2023). The Particular and the Provincial: Thinking with Dorothy Smith's Phenomenology. *Sociological Theory*, 41(4), 290-300.
- **Lund, Rebecca W. B.** (2023). Retrieving Materialism: The Continued Relevance of Dorothy Smith. *Sociological Theory*, 41(4), 301-313.
- **DeVault, Marjorie.** (2023). Dorothy Smith's Sociology for People: Theory for Discovery. *Sociological Theory*, 41(4), 314-323.

Welcome New Members

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

Cristina Ariza

Wendy Laminack Cash

Jiwon Choi

Ismael Lopez

Rehana T. Odendaal

Emily C. Schubert

Shaneya Nyasia Simmelkjaer

Mariann Skahan

Deborah White

IE at ASA

Marj Devault reports: **Prof. Blume Oeur**, along with **Profs. Amy Best and S. J. Crawley**, have organized a tribute to **Dorothy Smith** to be held at the ASA meeting in Montreal this August (simultaneously with our SSSP meeting). That event will likely be held on Sunday, Aug. 11, the day of many ASA Sex and Gender Section events.

Here is the lineup:

- **Monica Casper** (San Diego State U.) & **Katelin Albert** (U. of Victoria), "How Things Work: Dorothy Smith's Legacy"

- **Monetta Bailey** (Ambrose U.), “Unmasking the Taken for Granted: Using Institutional Ethnography and Critical Race Theory to Uncover Hidden Institutional Racism”
- **Marjorie DeVault** (Syracuse U.), “Discovering Dorothy Smith”
- **Colin Hastings** (U. of Waterloo), “Where We’ve Got to and Where We Can Go: Reflections on Dorothy Smith’s Sociology for People and the Collective Work of Institutional Ethnography”

After a few years’ absence, Marj is looking forward to seeing everyone at both ASA and SSSP!

SSSP 2024 Annual Meeting: Montreal, CA

Toward a Sociology of Violence

August 9-11, 2024

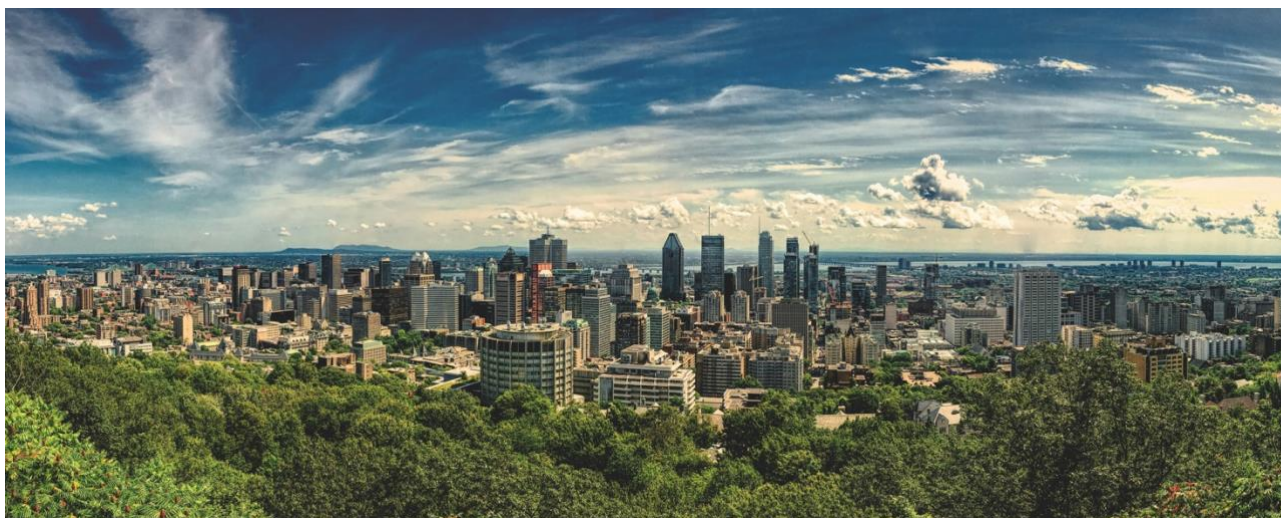


Photo by [Matthias Mullie](#) on [Unsplash](#)

IE Sessions

Friday, August 9

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM
Session 002: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Teaching Institutional Ethnography
Room: Drummond Centre
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizers & Presiders/

Discussants: Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University, Suzanne Vaughan, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University

Description: Institutional Ethnography (IE) is an important alternative sociology with a growing corpus of empirical and methodological writings produced by scholars across the globe. Writing and discourse specially on how to teach IE is far less common, despite its importance for the continued development of IE. As an approach that cuts against the grain of established sociology, IE can be difficult to teach and learn. This session invites speakers and participants to critically reflect on the challenges, possibilities, and future of teaching IE. Our aim is to create a context for sharing ideas, resources, and strategies that can strengthen teaching IE as an alternative sociology.

Papers:

“How Did Dorothy Teach? Reflections on a Memorable Day,” Marjorie DeVault, Professor Emeritus, Syracuse University

“Institutional Ethnography, Sociology, and Undergraduate Teaching,” Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University

“Introduction to Sociology Courses as Moments of First Exposures of Students to Institutional Ethnography: Potentials and Challenges,” Agnieszka Doll, University of British Columbia

“Pedagogue and Praxis in the Classroom: Using IE to Teach Critical Thinking in Undergraduate Students,” Matthew J.P. Strang, York University

“Teaching and Learning Institutional Ethnography inside and outside the University,” Naomi E. Nichols, Trent University and Jayne Malenfant, McGill University

“Experiences of Teaching and Mentoring Institutional Ethnography,” Suzanne Vaughan, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

THEMATIC:

Session 024: Institutional Ethnographies of Everyday Experiences of State Violence

Room: Jarry

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizers: Jayne Malenfant, McGill University
Helen Hudson, University of Ottawa

Presider: Helen Hudson, University of Ottawa

Description: This session will explore the social organization of everyday experiences of State Violence, informed by the work of Dorothy E. Smith.

Papers:

“‘It’s Literally Jail’: Carcerality in School Discipline,” Karlyn J. Gorski, The University of Chicago

“Child Protective Services: Policing, Prosecuting, and Punishing Parents,” Anna Rockhill, Portland State University

“Mortality Tracking as Data Justice: An Ethnography into a Community-based Data Infrastructure Seeking to Address Homelessness,” Maxime Goulet-Langlois, McGill University

“The Intersectionality of Race, Culture, and Income on Oral Language and Literacy Practices in the Black Communities of Montreal,” Tanya Matthews, McGill University

“Topologies of Dispossession: An Exploration on Administrative Data and Reshaping of Racial Capitalist Systems on the Lives Crossover Youth,” Faith Mottahedi, Trent University

Saturday, August 10

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM
Session 041: New Directions in Institutional Ethnography
Room: Drummond Centre
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Katherine E. Koralesky, University of British Columbia
Presider & Discussant: Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

Description: This session features IE research with a focus on using IE in novel ways.

Papers:

"Institutional Ethnography and the Problem of Orthodoxy," Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University

"New Journeys in Learning Institutional Ethnography: Building an International Community of Peer Mentorship," Katerina Melino, University of Alberta, Benjamin Carroll, Queen's University, Claudia Collazo Quezada, University of Edinburgh, Alexa Ferdinands, Athabasca University, Mark Hardy, University of Edinburgh and Jeffrey Sabo, University of Ottawa

"Smartphone Apps and the Social Organization of 'Going Out' amidst Crises," Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

"Social Workers as Willful Subjects," Hagit Sinai-Glazer, Tel Aviv University

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM
Session 050: New Directions in Institutional Ethnography II
Room: Drummond Centre
Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Katherine E. Koralesky, University of British Columbia
Presider & Discussant: Katerina Melino, University of Alberta

Description: This session features IE research with a focus on using IE in novel ways.

Papers:

"Gendered Organizations: Higher Education Practices Support Metaphorical Barriers," Wendy Laminack Cash, Auburn University and Laura J. Parson, North Dakota State University

"Rise through the Cracks: Institutional Ethnography as Praxis for Adult Educators," Katherine Hardin, McGill University

"Understanding the Gendered Experiences and Power Dynamics that Impact Work-life Balance for Women Faculty," Fredricka R. Saunders, Laura J. Parson, Emily C. Schubert, Cailin M. Shovkoplyas, Lisa R. Arnold and Rajani Ganesh Pillai, North Dakota State University

“Using Archival Materials to Conduct an Institutional Ethnography of Prison: Analytic and Methodological Observations,” Helen Hudson, University of Ottawa, Winner of the Institutional Ethnography Division’s Student Paper Competition

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Session 071: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Decolonizing the Academy using Institutional Ethnography and Other Approaches: From Theory to Praxis

Room: Drummond East

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

Organizer, Presiders,

Discussants: Angela Fillingim, San Francisco State University; Urmitapa Dutta, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Description: This critical dialogue session dives into the complexities of decolonizing academic spaces, methodologies, and epistemologies. The papers will showcase how activist scholars center and attend to structurally marginalized voices in pursuit of epistemic justice. Employing anti-colonial, intersectional, and transnational lenses, they interrogate dominant knowledge systems while exploring the liberatory potential of diverse onto-epistemologies and research methodologies. Beyond critique, this critical session seeks actionable pathways, bridging the gap between theory and praxis to dismantle colonial legacies within academia and beyond. Join us as we connect ideas with action to co-create more just and pluriversal ecologies of knowledge.

Papers:

“Black Agency, Racial Imperialism, and the Creation of a Racial State -- the Case of Haiti,” Rodney D. Coates, Miami University

“Ethnography, CBPR, and Theory: Tensions in Sociological Research as Liberatory Praxis,” Molly Clark-Barol, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Filling in the Blanks: South to South Exchanges of Blackness, (Re)Shifting Research as Resistance, and (Re)Negotiations of Difference in the Diaspora,” Masonya J. Bennett, Kennesaw State University

“Intersectionality in Institutional Ethnography: Adopting a Standpoint,” Dara Gordon, University of Toronto

“The Lived Experiences of Beauty and Grammars of the Maricada in the Colombian Insular Caribbean,” Ange La Furcia, Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge, Honorable Mention in the Gender Division’s Student Paper Competition

“Understanding Justice, Equity, Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEADI) from Perspective of Unveiled Histories,” Assata Zerai, University of New Mexico

“What and Who’s Research Is ‘Real’: The Role of Qualitative Social Scientists within Medical Institutions,” Melinda Leigh Maconi, Carley Geiss and Hayden J. Fulton, Moffitt Cancer Center

Sunday, August 11

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM
Session 087: Ethnography/Institutional Ethnography and the Environment
Room: Lamartine
Sponsors: Environment and Technology; Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Lauren Eastwood, SUNY, Plattsburgh; Haisu Huang, University of Oregon
Presider: Lauren Eastwood, SUNY, Plattsburgh

Description: This session presents critical work from India, Canada, and the US, using ethnographic methods to understand societal and environmental interactions. Issues in this session cover community organizing, institutional violence in healthcare, climate disasters, in both rural and urban setting, on both the institutional and individual levels.

Papers:

“Re-emergence of the Commons’: How Central Pennsylvania Communities Find Support and a Voice through Community Gardening,” Andrew Thomas Silliker, The Pennsylvania State University

“Connecting the Social with the Environmental: Bringing Institutional Ethnography into Conversation with Urban Political Ecology,” Mitchell McLarnon, Concordia University

“How Place Matters in Disaster Survivors’ Journey Back Home: An Ethnographic Study of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire,” Haisu Huang, University of Oregon

“Interrogating Power and Politics in Community Development Partnerships: The Case of a Grassroots Community Based Organization in Rural Rajasthan, India,” Prerna Rana, University of Wisconsin Madison

“Violent Space: An Institutional Ethnography on Emergency Nurse Work in a Radically Redesigned Department,” Sophie Pomerleau, Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

THEMATIC

Session 097: Theorized versus Everyday Experiences of Violence
Room: Lamartine
Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Institutional Ethnography
Organizers: Naomi E. Nichols, Trent University; C. Michael Awsumb, University of Tennessee, Martin
Presider: Naomi E. Nichols, Trent University

Description: Papers in this session explore how institutional ethnography can be used to investigate violence (institutional, state, inter-personal) as it is experienced, rather than as it is theorized.

Papers:

“‘But You’re American’- Positionality and Reflexivity among Black Researchers Examining Antiracism in Central/Eastern Europe,” Bryan L. Greene, University of Connecticut

“Anchoring Investigations of Institutional Violence in Experience – Examples from Institutional Ethnography,” Naomi E. Nichols, Trent University

“Identities of Violence, Identities of Healing: Residential School Survivors Represent Themselves,” Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia

“Theory and Practice in Peer Support and Community-led Advocacy: Theorizing as a Tool for Making Sense of Everyday Spaces of Violence,” Jayne Malenfant, McGill University

“Violence, Resistance, Ethnography, and Critical Criminology: Working towards an Institutional Ethnography Agenda in Victimology and Crimes of the Powerful,” C. Michael Awsumb, University of Tennessee, Martin

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM
Session 102: Institutional Ethnographies of Law, Crime, and Justice
Room: Jarry
Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Law and Society
Organizers: Catherine Hastings, Macquarie University; Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo
Presider: Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

Description: This session brings together critical scholars who examine the social organization of legal systems and the everyday work of those caught up inside of these systems. While the empirical sites that these projects examine are vast, they share a common commitment to bringing into view the social relations that shape law, crime, and justice. In making the systemic violence of legal systems visible, these projects enhance understandings of how to mobilize resistance and meaningful change.

Papers:

“Besieging International Law: The Case of Palestine and CEDAW,” Zaina Jallad Charpentier, Harvard Law School

“Counting Crime in the Isle of Spice: How Colonial Legacies Shaped the Royal Grenada Police Force,” Christine Sharon Barrow, Molloy University

“Legitimizing Strategies: Pretrial Risk Assessments and the Logics of Data-driven Judicial Discretion,” Sino V. Esthappan, Northwestern University, Winner of the Law and Society Division’s Student Paper Competition

“The Social Construction of Justice and Rehabilitation in Family Court,” Mary Elizabeth Underwood Hood, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM
THEMATIC
Session 111: The Social Organization of Medical Violence
Room: Hemon
Sponsors: Drinking and Drugs; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services, Institutional Ethnography; Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizers: Kathryn Nowotny, University of Miami; Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo
Presider: Kathryn Nowotny, University of Miami

Description: This session examines how medical systems, knowledges, technologies, and expertise reproduce broad forms of structural inequity and violence. Papers reflect on how people's everyday experiences are caught up in these systems and call attention to openings for intervening in health systems in ways that promote equity and social justice.

Papers:

"Carceral to Transformative: Abolitionist Social Work Strategies and Principles," Craig Fortier, University of Waterloo

"Fractured Sueño Americano and State Violence: Immigration Processes, Labor and Power, and Drug and Alcohol Misuse among Recent Immigrants in Los Angeles," Alice Cepeda, Nefertari Rincon Guerra and Avelardo Valdez, University of Southern California

"Healthwork at the Office: An Explication of Medical History Making," Manda Ann Roddick, University of Victoria

"Producing a Licit Economy of Living Bodies: Symbolic Violence and Living Organ Donation," Matthew J.P. Strang, York University

"Where Does My Blood and Information Go? Early Reflections on an Institutional Ethnographic Study of Sero Surveillance from Clinic to Public Health," Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo