Faculty of Social Sciences

Graduate School Conference

29 March 2019

Delegate booklet
The Graduate School

The Faculty of Social Sciences' Graduate School aims to promote an interdisciplinary doctoral research environment across the four Schools in the Faculty:

School of Education
School of Law
School of Politics and International Studies
School of Sociology and Social Policy

The Graduate School is also an administrative structure supporting the work of the four Schools in relation to postgraduate research.

It works closely with staff in Schools, in particular with Postgraduate Administrators and Directors of Postgraduate Research Studies (DPGRS), to discuss and implement policies and initiatives in support of PhD researchers in the Faculty.

The Graduate School works with the Leeds Doctoral College, helping to bring together PGR support from across the institution, working in partnership to provide an excellent PGR experience throughout the PhD journey. It is also the first point of contact for prospective applicants, coordinating admissions and scholarship processes for all four of its Schools.

The Graduate School also oversees research training and the overall research environment across the Faculty.

Stuart Lister, Head of Graduate School

As Head of Graduate School in the Faculty it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this year’s Graduate School Conference. The conference has run annually since 2008, and is an important event that allows us to celebrate the intellectual diversity and academic excellence of postgraduate research within the Faculty.

We have over 300 postgraduate researchers (PGRs) studying for a research degree in the Faculty who bring a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, as well as methodological innovations, to their studies. So, I hope that you can take the opportunity afforded by the conference to make new acquaintances, share your experiences of doctoral research and education, and gain something, perhaps intellectually, perhaps emotionally, from learning about each other’s studies and the challenges and opportunities that they present. Most of all I hope that you all have a rewarding, valuable and enjoyable day!

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the organising committee of our three PGRs, Junaid Ahmad, Giorgia Faraoni, James Greenwood-Reeves, and to Vicky Burrett, the Graduate School Manager, whom have expertly and diligently brought the proceedings of the day together.
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<td>Accountability in cyberwarfare: Reprisals and emerging human rights issues</td>
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The Conference Organising Committee

Junaid Ahmad, School of Sociology & Social Policy
Junaid S. Ahmad has a Juris Doctor (law) degree from the College of William and Mary, USA, and is currently a PhD student in Islam and Decolonial Thought at the University of Leeds. He is also the Secretary-General of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST) - Malaysia, as well as the Director for the Center for Global Studies in Lahore, Pakistan. In addition, he is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) - Istanbul.

He has been teaching law, religion, and politics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and the University of Management and Technology (UMT) since 2009. Before that, he was a lecturer and researcher at the University of Cape Town in the Dept. of Religious Studies. He served as president of the US-based National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA), and is on the Board of Peace for Life (PFL), a global interfaith liberation theology network of faith-based thought-leaders and activists for social justice.

Giorgia Faraoni, School of Education
Giorgia is a first year PhD student in the School of Education at the University of Leeds. For her PhD project she will investigate the perceptions and experiences of UG students of languages during their Year Abroad in Italy. Giorgia's academic background is in languages, interpreting and language teaching. She obtained her BA in Italy, at the School for Interpreters and Translators of Trieste, specialising in English, Russian and Portuguese. In her years in Trieste, she also attended extracurricular courses on learning and memory techniques and gained experience in teaching English to Italian remedial students in preparation for the BCCI (British Chamber of Commerce for Italy) exam. Between 2015 and 2018 Giorgia worked as Lector of Italian at the University of Hull, where she also taught English in the Summer School pre-sessional courses for overseas students. In 2017 Giorgia completed her MA in TESOL with Distinction at the University of Hull with a dissertation on "Inspiring Language Teachers". Her main research interests are teaching and language learning, the study abroad experience and the affective components involved in learning.

James Greenwood-Reeves, School of Law
James read BA Law at Queens’ College, The University of Cambridge, graduating in 2013. He then worked in private legal practice for four years, specialising in Wills, trusts and estate planning. He still teach trusts and inheritance tax modules for the Society of Will Writers. James joined the School of Law at the University of Leeds in 2017 to study MSc Security and Justice. He is now studying for a PhD in the sociolegal and constitutional theory of violent protest, supervised by Dr Conor O'Reilly and Dr Jen Hendry.

James’ PhD research focuses on violent protest. In particular, he is studying the democratic constitutional foundations for peaceful protest, and how these contrast to the prohibitions on violence in political protest, drawing upon jurisprudential, sociolegal and constitutional theory. James also has research interests in security and justice, including security networks and surveillance.
Keynote Address

Dr Gilberto Algar-Faria, University of Bristol

Dr Gilberto Algar-Faria is an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow within the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies at the University of Bristol. His research, which combines his fieldwork in post-war states such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kosovo and Sri Lanka with critical theory, centres around representations, trust and the liberal peace project. He is particularly interested in state-society relations and local-international interactions in post-war contexts, and specifically in unpacking the complex characters behind those labels.

Prior to becoming Principal Investigator of his current project, "Local International: State-society relations and international-local interactions in post-war states" (ES/S011439/1, £101,017, January–December 2019), Gilberto was a Project Officer and Senior Research Associate for the Horizon 2020 research project “Preventing and Responding to Conflict: Developing Civilian Capabilities for a Sustainable Peace” (EU-CIVCAP) from 2016–18. He was also the Co-Investigator for an ESRC IAA impact project called “PeaceCapacity: Building capacities in civil society for inclusive peace processes in the Horn of Africa and the Western Balkans” (£20,000) from 2017–18 and for a WUN RDF project entitled “Resilient Peace: Exploring resilient peacebuilding actors, cultures and policy transfer in West Africa” (£33,663) in 2018.

Outside the University, Gilberto is a Country of Origin Information Expert at the Rights in Exile Programme. He is also listed as an Academic Friend of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, and was previously a Research Associate at the Foreign Policy Centre. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Sydney in 2014, a Visiting Academic at the University of Auckland in 2015 and a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University in 2016.

Gilberto was awarded BA(Hons.) and MSc degrees from the University of Leeds in 2011 and Durham University in 2013, respectively, and he received his PhD in Politics from the University of Bristol in 2018. His latest publication is entitled “EU local capacity building: ownership, complexity and agency”, published in Global Affairs with Timothy Edmunds and Ana E. Juncos (Vol. 4, No. 2–3, 2018, pp. 227–239).

Abstract

Small steps or a giant leap: Social science researcher development during and after the PhD

Making the transition from the PhD to early career research employment is a notoriously difficult task, especially in the social sciences. Less of a clean-cut move from one to the other, the process is often characterised instead by periods of employment alongside the PhD, unemployment, part-time employment, or working on multiple projects at the same time, or any combination of these. This is not even to consider additional complexities owing to employments "outside" academia and personal commitments. PGRs reading person specifications for Lectureships / Assistant Professorships today will notice a significant range of competencies finding their ways into the Desirable and Essential categories, usually encompassing teaching, publishing, impact, academic citizenship and administration, amongst others. Meanwhile, opportunities for postdoctoral fellowships can be difficult to decipher, and the stresses related to developing the competencies mentioned above will inevitably limit one’s time and headspace available to put together quality applications. But there are ways to manage these priorities and indeed to proactively harness opportunities to develop as a researcher. In this lecture, Dr Gilberto Algar-Faria (University of Bristol) offers reflections on his development from PGR to postdoc and shares his strategies for navigating the challenges of being an early career researcher whilst balancing the competing objectives of doing quality work, maintaining a good social life and looking ahead to further rewarding employment. This lecture is for any PGR at any stage of their journey who is considering their own researcher development.
Abstracts

Paper presentations – session 1

Blake Lawrinson
School of Politics & International Studies

‘Act or do nothing?’: Continuity and Change in New Labour’s Commitment to Human Protection (1997-2010)

With the 2003 invasion of Iraq often taking precedence in debates on New Labour’s interventionist foreign policy, there is a tendency to overlook the UK’s commitment to human protection despite the perceived ‘humanitarian interventions’ in Kosovo (1999) and Sierra Leone (2000). This paper traces the UK’s commitment to human protection from mass violence and atrocities under the New Labour government (1997-2010). Particular focus is on identifying the notable periods of both continuity and change in UK foreign policy towards human protection and analysing why such shifts have occurred. In drawing on theoretical scholarship in the field of foreign policy change, initial findings reveal three notable shifts towards human protection under the New Labour government. It is argued that accounting for such shifts is a combination of three interrelated factors: (1) changes in government between past and present administrations; (2) changes in political leadership among key foreign policy agents, such as Prime Ministers and Foreign Secretaries; and (3) changes in the broader international normative environment regarding the international community’s engagement with protection issues. Such findings offer some preliminary empirical insights into the reasons why UK foreign policy may change towards human protection.

Fen Greatley-Hirsch
School of Law

We’re All in This Together: The Need for Neighbourliness in International Criminal Law

Since its inception with the Nuremberg trials after WW2, international criminal law has implemented a regime of individual responsibility. Despite this historic milestone, progress within the field to date has been notoriously intermittent, leaving us with a scheme of individual responsibility that is dangerously under-theorised.

The Rome Statute system is fragmented. It lacks a coherent philosophical theory of crime or criminal responsibility and serves no single clear purpose; rather, it has multiple, non-hierarchical, conflicting aims and objectives. It rests predominantly upon implicit assumptions and ideals drawn exclusively from Western States (including the promotion of personal autonomy) and employs several key terms without definition.

As a result, State interest levels and sign-ups to the International Criminal Court have stagnated, while scholars have questioned its claims to universality; moreover, several States have challenged the Court’s legitimacy, threatening or beginning withdrawal.

This paper will outline the current model of responsibility before discussing a number of problems it presents. The paper will argue that the way forward is an overhaul of the Rome Statute – a retreat from ideals of (neo)liberalism (instead reconceiving the legal subject as a vulnerable individual) that makes proper use of (much-needed) expertise from other fields.
"Islamophobia: Rooted in their Religion, or our Politics?"

The term Islamophobia has always been a highly contested term. The debate about whether it actually exists gained prominence since the 9/11 attacks in the US, 7/7 here in the UK, and a host of other violent attacks during the age of the 'Global War on Terror.' For a good part of the past two decades, Islamophobia was considered to be either a figment of our imagination, or a justified response to 'violent Muslim behavior,' or merely a fleeting phenomenon as an understandable reaction to particular events, and would eventually disappear. The fact that Islamophobia has not vanished but only intensified and 'traveled' throughout the world compels us to critically assess the claims of its roots and ongoing persistence.

Chinese student experience of home-based TNHE and study abroad options: A comparative case study of two MA TESOL programs provided by an English university in partnership with a Chinese higher education institution

This study focusses on the experiences of two groups of Chinese students following an MA TESOL program in contrasting circumstances. Documentary analysis, classroom observation and phenomenology interviews will be employed to explore and compare the young people's personal experiences and growth from the perspective of key stakeholders. The stakeholders are the students and staff in the programs. The students' voice in whether and how they have achieved personal growth through the TESOL program will be explored and, what development is anticipated for the learners by the program staff and how the program is offered to assist the development will be indicated in this research. One of the two MA TESOL programs is a transnational higher education (TNHE) program located in China and was established with the cooperation between a Chinese university and a UK University. The other is a traditional academic degree course located in and supplied independently and entirely by the UK University.

Accountability in cyberwarfare: Reprisals and emerging human rights issues

The research aims to explore the legality of the self-help mechanism, belligerent reprisals in the context of cyberwarfare within international law. The research first aims to address the applicability of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in light of the modern means and methods of warfare. The most innovative aspect of the research originates from the interdisciplinary approach, which seeks to examine the implications of emerging online human rights under International Human Rights Law (IHR) on cyberwarfare. Current trends reflect an increasing number of international actors which have recognised that human rights apply online as well as offline, although they have omitted how this development would be upheld in practice. The research seeks to explore the current legal gaps and bridge the two regimes by addressing whether the online rights act merely as substantive limitations or could be regarded as complementary in upholding humanity in cyberspace under both IHL and IHR.
Ryan Swift  
*School of Politics & International Studies*

**The North-South Socio-Economic Divide**

My research examines politicisation and the party-political dynamics of regional devolution in the North of England to consider whether we are moving towards a distinct 'Politics of Northerness'. In framing this study, I have considered whether the North is a distinct region. I argue that the North is culturally, socio-economically, and politically distinct from the rest of the country. Of the three, Northern socio-economic distinction is most marked. In this presentation, I explore the key themes and issues that characterise the socio-economic North-South divide. I highlight the historic and persistent nature of economic imbalance within England. I also detail how this economic divide has a profound socio-economic effect negatively impacting the life chances of those in the North. Finally, I note how policy initiatives in recent decades have failed to address the issues highlighted, concluding that much more needs to be done to remedy the North-South socio-economic divide.

James Greenwood-Reeves  
*School of Law*

*When to Disobey Legitimate States: Theorising “Legitimacy Claims”, Authority, and Dissent*

Legitimate authority" has been taken by legal and political theorists to define the quality of a state which demands justifiable obedience from its citizens. Several legal philosophers presume a duty of obedience in "mostly just" states. Where the authority of states in founded on a constitution underpinned by declared moral principles, such as equality and justice, this authority manifests in widespread obedience to law. However, even in liberal democratic states with robust human rights institutions, egregious laws, unjust policies and reprehensible actions by the police can transpire. In those circumstances, a static, state-focused concept of legitimacy may fail the interests of justice and equality. Indeed, a duty to disobey and dissent may arise notwithstanding state institutions of redress.

The aim of this presentation is to elaborate on the concept of "legitimacy claims," encompassing moral arguments for obedience by the state and for disobedience from dissenters, in light of recent literature which suggests that a presumption of a duty to obey may be morally arbitrary and unjustifiable, even in otherwise "legitimate" states. Theoretical arguments will be outlined and contrasted with cases studies such as Black Lives Matter and *gilets jaunes* movements.

Declan Falconer  
*School of Law*

*Police-public encounters and body worn video: Performing across a broad policing stage*

Police use of body worn video cameras (BWCs) is on the rise. A range of benefits are envisaged from their introduction and there is a burgeoning body of research which indicates that some of these benefits are realisable. However, a focus on evaluating formal outcomes has provided limited insight into the influence of BWCs on police-public encounters. Based on research conducted within West Yorkshire Police, funded by the N8 Policing Research Partnership, this presentation draws on data from observation of frontline officers, alongside interviews with users and their supervisors. It offers findings on how officers utilise BWCs in different encounters and how this is perceived to impact the quality of the interaction. It is suggested that a narrow focus surrounding BWCs as crime fighting aids or accountability tools ignores the wider array of functions served by the cameras.
Tahir Abass  
School of Law

*Doing sensitive research with minority ethnic communities*

This presentation will outline some of the challenges faced in the process of conducting research which can be considered to be sensitive, with minority ethnic communities. It will draw on a sample of qualitative interviews that were conducted as part of a Masters (by Research) and a PhD which is still ongoing. These studies have focused on the impact of imprisonment on Pakistani families in the UK. Besides discussing the suitability of qualitative approaches and the merits of semi-structured interviewing for research in this context, the researcher will discuss some of the challenges he has faced and how these have been overcome. These include gaining access to research participants considered to be vulnerable, addressing cultural sensitivities and associated barriers, discussing sensitive topics and the wellbeing and welfare of research participants and the researcher.

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**Paper presentations – session 3**

Daniel Fobi  
School of Education

*Conducting Studies in the Deaf Communities: Methodological Issues that Rise*

The aim of this presentation is to highlight some methodological challenges associated with conducting studies on the Deaf communities. I will dwell on the specific issues associated with my data collection processes in Deaf communities in Ghana. The presentation will discuss how getting access to participants is challenging. Issues regarding how data, after it has been successfully gathered, creates other problems such as knowing what you want from it, where to start analysis from, and how to go about the analysis. The presentation will conclude by highlighting the progress made regarding my study on actors of tertiary classroom signed language interpreting: what I have done so far on my data, what seems to be working, and what is not working.

David En-Griffiths  
School of Sociology & Social Policy

*Ritual Distance, Anti-Performativity and the Sexualised Absence of Sex*

In recent years, academics (Attwood, Weeks), government reports (Poppadopalous) and news providers (BBC) in the UK have suggested that British culture (and other wealthy nations) has been undergoing a process of sexualisation. This has been interpreted both in a negative sense (e.g., an increase in the objectification of women via sexualised advertising) and a positive sense (e.g., growing individual sexual freedom). However, little attention has been paid to how this interpretation of cultural change fits with concurrent moves both against some relational practices (such as non-monogamy) and to desexualise public space (e.g., removal of nudity from gay dating apps, closure of saunas or anti-pornography laws). In this paper, I will argue that these two seemingly conflicting phenomena can be understood as part of a single overarching change affecting the state of contemporary sexuality. The insight for this understanding is provided by the work of Sara Ahmed.
Using Ahmed's work on *anti-performativity* and examples from the literature on sexualisation, I will argue that rituals of anti-performative sexualisation produce a distance between individuals and sexuality/sex, constructing an appearance of sexual liberation that masks a growing sexual conservatism.

**Francis Poitier**  
*School of Politics & International Studies, and School of Medicine*

*Gendered Health in Small Island Developing States: Using an intersectionality approach to examine the persistence of obesity in The Bahamas*

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are in flux as issues of social development, such as the gendered aspects of health, take a backseat in political and scholarly discourse to geographical challenges like climate change. The Bahamas is a SIDS that has seen a persistent burden of obesity. Evidence from 1989 to 2012 shows that the prevalence is higher in women in the country but it is growing at a faster rate in men. The research takes an intersectionality approach that combines gender and “islandness” to explore health in a SIDS using the persistence of obesity in The Bahamas as a case study. Through framing the persistence into the wider sociocultural, historical and political context, I interrogate the differential burden of obesity that may be disguised in aggregated data. This presentation will highlight initial findings from a review of local health policy documents and literature ahead of planned exploratory fieldwork.

**Peeraya Utsajit**  
*School of Education*

*A Cross-Sectional Study of the Receptive and Productive Vocabulary Knowledge of English-Major University Students in Thailand*

This cross-sectional study investigates the relationship between receptive vocabulary knowledge and productive vocabulary knowledge of English-major students in Thailand. Receptive vocabulary refers to vocabulary they know and productive vocabulary refers to words they can produce. The study also aims to find out whether their vocabulary knowledge improves along their study years. A questionnaire and two computer-based tests were piloted with Thai students in the UK in order to assure the practicality of the research tools and they were used in the main study with 111 participants from all the four year cohorts at a university in Thailand. The questionnaire was used to collect their personal data, their educational background, and their exposure to the English language outside class. The first test was a receptive-productive vocabulary test. The participants were asked to rate how much they know the 50 tested words, supply a translation or a synonym if they know its meaning, and write a sentence using that tested word. Then they were required to complete a 300-word argumentative essay. Apart from the tests, two reading and writing classes were observed and the teaching materials were also collected to examine what and how vocabulary was taught and learned in class.
Poster Presentations – abstracts

The poster presentations will take place during the lunch break, where delegates are asked to please vote on their favourite poster using the form below. Prizes will be announced later at the close of the conference.

**Poster 1: Sulaiman Al Jamoudi**  
*School of Education*

*A critical evaluation of the professional development programmes in-service for novice science teachers: Omani stakeholders perspective*

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of professional development (PD) of novice teachers in the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Oman and identify the barriers that face professional development from the perspective of key stakeholders, namely policy makers, training providers and trainees. The study has four key aims; to analyse PD policy for Novice Science Teachers (NSTs) at educational training centres in the MoE in Oman; to investigate the perceptions of NSTs and other stakeholders regarding Professional Development Programmes (PDPs) offered to NSTs; to explore stakeholders’ expectations regarding the PD of NSTs; and to analyse the recommendations of stakeholders on how to improve professional development programmes of NSTs based on integration theory, policy and practice. These key aims are achieved through the following three research questions.

1. Why did the MoE create a policy for the professional development of novice science teachers?
2. What are the stakeholders’ expectations of professional development provision of novice science teachers?
3. How successful was the implementation of the policy of professional development of novice science teachers in the MoE?

**Poster 2: Rebecca Porter**  
*School of Sociology & Social Policy*

*Is Personal Independence payment (PIP) necropolitical?*

This paper explores what role necropolitics plays in the execution of Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Necropolitics is a postcolonial theory (Mbembe 2003). Building on Foucauldian theory, necropolitics proposes that modern society has power over death. Society is split into three categories: living, living dead, and dead. Disability studies and postcolonialism have a long history, but few studies explore how the same kind of power relations, like necropower, may work across disciplines.

PIP has been widely condemned for its failure to help disabled people live full lives, with a severe lack of studies asking disabled people directly about its effects. This study will interview disabled people who have interacted with PIP. The expected results are that PIP is a government tool, pushing them out of the ‘disabled’ welfare category (Stone, 1984 Oliver and Barnes, 2012), forcing them to exist as the living dead (disallowing them full life).
Poster 3: Amy Gainford
School of Law

Armchair Detectives and Digilantes: Ethical Issues with Public Sourced Policing Online.

The information afforded to us by the Internet is almost limitless. In the digital age online civilians have assisted the police in several investigations, hinting at the future of public sourced policing. However, others use the Internet to exact justice of their own. This form of digital vigilantism poses a unique ethical dilemma; is their interference with police investigations a violent crime in itself?

In a time where there are massive cuts to policing, digital natives could be an asset. However, we must consider if these individuals are appropriate for the job and are able to work together with the police, or whether there are underlying punitive motivations that drive them.

Looking at case studies of Teacher’s Pet podcast, The Boston Marathon Bombing and paedophile hunting, this research will present the ethical issues of armchair detectives’ investigations and define the difference between public sourced policing and digilantism.

Poster 4: Amina Boukheloua
School of Sociology & Social Policy


Women in Saudi Arabian diaspora exhibit different ways of social interactions in the UK. These interactions are influenced by factors including their commitment to the social norms of their homeland society and the guidelines of their religion. This research explores the impact of the social and religious identities on Saudi women’s social interaction in the British society. A narrative ethnography type of inquiry has been opted for, in which data will be collected through interviews and focus groups with Saudi women in Leeds. The aim of the research is to profile Saudi female diaspora, determine the extent to which their social and religious identities shape their diasporic identities, and finally to establish a Saudi women-based model of diasporic studies that can be applied in future studies of Arab women in diaspora.
# Poster presentation voting card

Please vote for your favourite poster using the form below, and place it in the voting box by the registration desk. Prizes will be announced at the close of the conference later on today.

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*Please tear this page from your programme booklet and submit your Voting card in the box on the registration desk.*