

Sussex Anthropologist

Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

Winter Graduation

Faculty and Graduates from MA Anthropology, MA Anthropology of Development and Social Transformation, MA Social Anthropology of the Global Economy and MA in Human Rights.



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New Research Funding



Filippo Osella has received a Sussex Sustainability Research Programme grant for the project **“Co-production of knowledge and communication tools for safe and sustainable artisanal fishing”**.



The project will explore new ways to make traditional fishing in the south

Indian state of Kerala safer and sustainable by co-producing knowledge on marine weather and fish resources with artisanal fishers and forecasters.

The project blends traditional and scientific knowledge to better understand climatic and environmental risks, as well as vulnerabilities and the risk culture of the fishers. The project will test a set of ICT tools and risk messages, and provide a scalable model to promote Sustainable Development Goals on food security, environmental conservation and community development.



Remembering fishers who died at sea



Evan Killick has been awarded a Networking Grant from the DFID sponsored Global Challenges Research Fund. The project is titled: **“La Comunidad Nativa: A Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Research Project on Land Rights, Livelihoods and Environmental Use in the Peruvian Amazon”**.

The project is centred on the fact that while Peru’s economy has continued to grow in recent years its indigenous citizens have seen few benefits from this development and face problems including internal migration, population growth and the consequent pressures both put on land, resources and the environment. Meanwhile, the state continues to encourage large-scale natural resource extraction projects in the

region while pursuing environmental protection through the creation of extensive protective reserves. Neither of these state interventions fully recognise the needs and opinions of the affected indigenous communities.

Bringing together a group of engaged Peruvian and international scholars and practitioners together with local activists and community members, the project seek to pool collective strengths and experience to engage in these social and environmental challenges. In putting indigenous peoples at its heart, the project will explore the advantages of collaborative approaches while emphasising that local communities often offer their own potential solutions to our shared global challenges.



Staff and students at NOPOKI, an indigenous university in Peru



Further Funding for Sussex Project: Son preferences in the UK



Maya Unnithan has been awarded an impact grant under the ESRC IAA Fast Track Engagement scheme to support her engagement work on prenatal sex-selective abortion among British Asians in the UK.

The wider ethnographic project is investigating generational shifts in family dynamics with regards to son preference and gender roles among British South Asian families. It focuses on the ways in which son preference is practiced, and critically examines whether the educational, socioeconomic, and transnational opportunities available to British South Asian women have shifted gender preferences and expectations over time. The work is linked to a broader interdisciplinary study to understand prenatal sex selection (PSS) against females in the UK. The issue of PSS has been the subject of recent parliamentary controversy as well as media coverage. Yet little is known about how generational shifts in son preference and family-making dynamics are at play in PSS. Clarifying the role of gender preference and family values in PSS will inform appropriate and evidence-based strategies to improve gender equality in the UK.

More details at: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/anthropology/research/uksonpref/about>

The project is part of **CORTH** (the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health) is currently supporting a number of activities.

This including a conference in December "Children's Right to Health" which covered topics including vaccinations, gender, sex and consent in the UK and comparative international contexts.

Look out for the upcoming seminar on **Breastfeeding in Public: This Discomfort Matters** when CORTH member Dr Lucilla Newell and her colleague Lisa Creagh will explore the barriers to public breastfeeding and asks the question: "How can public spaces be redesigned to incorporate breastfeeding?"

Wednesday 28 February 14:00 to 17:00 at ONCA, Brighton.



Sussex writing on the web



Diana Ibañez Tirado contributed to the CESS Blog with the piece: **Yiwu and Transnational Traders: Intersections along Eurasia Central, South and West Asia.**



The CESS Blog

In her piece Diana shows the central importance of the Chinese city of Yiwu in the global trading networks that deliver everyday items to the UK. Using examples of objects from her own life she notes the complex social, economic and geopolitical processes that deliver objects around the world. She gives the example of her own mobile phone case, originally purchased in Yiwu by a UK-based Afghan trader who arranged its transport to a wholesale market in East London from where another Afghan trader obtained a number of goods on a credit basis to supply his shops in Brighton from which Diana actually bought it.

Diana's work is part of the Sussex-based TRODITIES project that is enquiring into the human stories that are embedded within the global movements of goods.



Inside Yiwu's 'Futian Market', the main wholesale market complex in the city

Five years after deadly factory fire, Bangladesh's garment workers are still vulnerable

November 23, 2017 1:38pm GMT



Removing bodies from the Rana Plaza in 2012. © Chris Wedel

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Rebecca Prentice and **Geert De Neve**, building on the work and discussions in their recent book **Unmaking the Global Sweatshop: Health and Safety of the World's Garment Workers**, reflect on the recent spate of tragic incidents in garment factories in Bangladesh which have exposed the brutal employment conditions in the garment deadlines and the deadly cost of "fast fashion" to workers who produce clothes under strict deadlines for very low wages. They also assess some of the new initiatives that were set up in the wake of the tragedies to improve factory safety and compensate injured workers and the families of those killed.

<http://theconversation.com/five-years-after-deadly-factory-fire-bangladeshs-garment-workers-are-still-vulnerable-88027>

Student News



Anthropology students are part of a campaign to promote the use of ECOSIA - the search engine that plants trees! Simply follow this link and help add to the total number of trees planted by the university: ecosia.co/UniversityofSussex.

Congratulations to **Zoe Slater** (MA Anthropology) for winning this year's Bill and Scarlett Epstein Prize for the best dissertation in Anthropology. Her thesis was titled 'LGBTI asylum and sexual rights activism: A queering/querying of political solidarity and the creation of sexual citizenship'.



"People sort of insinuate, 'Well, you're a woman...' Yeah, well, watch this space. We get a lot done, women."

Hannah Loosley (MA SAGE 2016-17) has written a piece for the **ECNMY** blog

www.ecnmy.org/engage/women-putting-female-empowerment-union-agenda/

Based on her research for her Masters dissertation the piece examines the increasing voice and role of women in service sector unions.

Hannah notes that jobs in care, catering, cleaning, cashier and clerical jobs (the 5 Cs) have long been neglected in trade unions and politics, while workers in such roles are seen as 'extras' – helping other people be fed, and cared for, so they can do their 'proper' work.

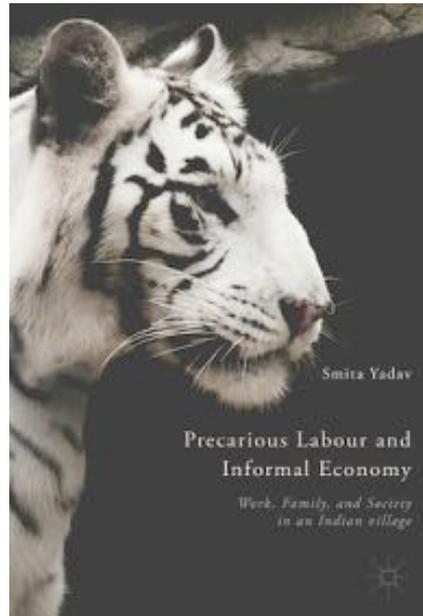
Hannah's writing highlights how women are increasingly fighting against such views and demanding workers' rights in the male-dominated politics of Unions.

"Language in politics can bamboozle... all you need is the fire in your belly"



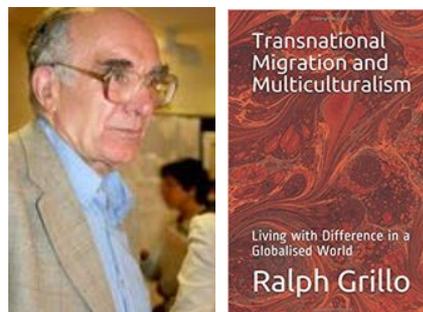
Publications

Smita Yadav, *Precarious Work and Informal Economy in India: Work, Family, and Society in an Indian Village.* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).



The book raises broader questions linking forest, people, markets, economy and society in India. Specifically, the book is developed along the ideas of governmentality of self-governance, politics of social assistance, contextualizing welfare, and explores how labouring in precarious forms of work is an anarchic phenomenon where the poor protest in their most pure genuine form and choose to withdraw from the state.

Ralph Grillo, *Transnational Migration and Multiculturalism: Living With Difference in a Globalised World* is a revised and extended edition of *Living with Difference, Essays on Transnationalism and Multiculturalism*. Available through Amazon: <http://amzn.eu/6BeZC4j>



The book brings together over a dozen journal articles and book chapters of Ralph's written between 2000-2018. It is in two (connected) parts. Part One is mainly concerned with transnational migration, principally, but not only, between Africa and Europe, and documents its ongoing significance in the lives of migrants both 'there' (where migrants come from) and 'here' (where they live and work). Part

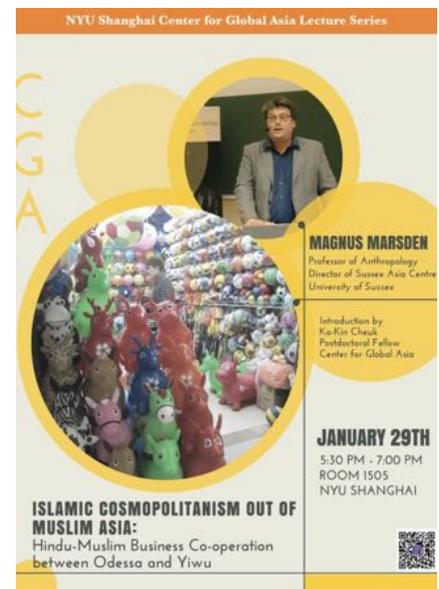
Two then focuses on the 'here', and the ethnic, social, cultural and religious diversity which transnational migration has generated in what were previously thought of as relatively homogeneous societies. The book thus concerns what has been described as a 21st century 'crisis of difference', the cause of much anxiety and heated political debate, not least in the UK, about the governance of diversity in the contemporary world.

Alice Wilson's monograph *Sovereignty in Exile: a Saharan liberation movement governs* (University of Pennsylvania, 2016) received an Honorable Mention in the 2017 American Anthropological Association Middle East Section Book Award.



Alice with her book at the recent AAA in Washington D.C.

Other News



Magnus Marsden has been busy presenting the work of the TRODITIES project that he leads at Sussex.

In November he gave seminars to staff and students at the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences in Lahor. At the end of January he presented to the NYU Shanghai Center for Global Asia. The lecture was titled, ***Islamic Cosmopolitanism Out of Asia: A tale of two cities, Odessa and Yiwu.***

Notes from the Field: Crowdsourced Development in Kenya, Anke Schwittay



Navigating the River in Kibera

In December I conducted research in Nairobi, Kenya with a number of organizations that had won a DFID-funded crowdsourcing challenge called Amplify. Paul Braund and I have been studying the Amplify program since 2015, mainly through online research, interviews with DFID managers in London and Skype interviews with program designers, who belonged to a non-profit design group in California.

Amplify consists of eight challenges that have been posted on the website, ranging from urban women's safety to early childhood development, refugee education, resilience to climate change, agricultural waste, youth economic empowerment and the inclusion of disabled people. Each challenge question invites members of the platform to post ideas that might address the challenge and then to develop these through online 'open collaborations' with other platform members and IDEO designers.

Each challenge has attracted between 300 and 500 initial submissions, which have

been whittled down to a shortlist of around 80, of which five winners receive DFID funding and IDEO design support to develop their ideas and test them with potential users.

Our online research had revealed some interesting patterns of participation.

Through Skype, we had then been able to interview 15 winners from different challenges, as well as organizations who had decided to leave the platform and others who had been 'deselected' by managers for various reasons. Being able to conduct research in Nairobi with winners from three different challenges allowed us to take our initial findings further, and add a richer dimension to our research. For the fieldwork we were able to spend more time with people, visit their offices and project sites and see prototypes of their ideas in action.

Our research interests are focusing on the use of design methods within the Amplify process and how they are shaping its outcomes. We talked to people about the design boot camp that the winner participants had attend, essentially a crash-course in human-centered design methods.

With one organization, we spent the day in Kibera, where it has been working over a number of years to turn patches along the river that flows through the slum into green and productive spaces. During this work they had become aware of the

problem of flooding and through the Amplify program had received funding to design spaces and markers along the river that would help residents become more aware of and able to respond to the dangers of flooding. Seeing the warning signs, notice boards and flags they had set up made us think hard about the possibilities and limits of design for development – band aid solutions or the beginnings of more comprehensive changes?

We also spent a morning in the commercial kitchen of another winner who is using the income from her food delivery business to provide school children from low-income families with free school lunches back in her home town. She is planning to start working on legislation for the Kenyan government to subsidize school lunches in all public schools.

One of immediate things we were able to do as the result of our research was connect these different organizations with each other - maybe the start of a local network of support to complement the global online platform?



Anke Schwittay

Paul Braund



Installing a flood notice board in Kibera



Sussex Anthropology: Who We Are

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