

Institutional Ethnography

Newsletter of the International Sociological Association Working Group 06

Table of Contents

From the President	2
From the Newsletter Editor	3
ISA Forum Update	4
WG06 Elections for 2021-2025	5
Interview with LaNysha Adams	11
Interview with Morena Tartari	13
Regional News	16
IE Handbook	20
New Publications	22
Announcements	22
WG06 Board of Directors 2017-2025	23

From the President...

it's hard to believe that four years have gone by since I began serving as President of what was then TG06 – and is now WG06 (we've moved up in institutional status). These have been exciting years of continuing growth in our international IE network, marked by the establishment of several regional IE groups who are actively promoting IE and supporting IE researchers in their regions. In celebration of our international community, I am sharing a photo I made this summer in my garden: I call it *Circumnavigating the Globe Thistle*



As this four-year term of office draws to a close, two officers are stepping down, and I want to take this opportunity to recognize their contributions. **Suzanne Vaughan** was one of the founders of TG06 back in 2011, and she has served as Secretary/Treasurer for the past nine years. My term as President would not have gone nearly so smoothly without her institutional knowledge of ISA processes and TG/WG06 statutes. **Eric Mykhalovskiy** came on as Vice-President four years ago, and in that time he has developed the newsletter into a richly informative vehicle that plays a key role in keeping us connected and aware of what other IE researchers are doing. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with both of them. Thank you, Suzanne and Eric! My warm thanks also go out to the two Board members who are stepping down: **Lois André-Bechely** and **Laura Ferreño**.

I am offering to stay on as President for another term, but eagerly hoping that former Board member **Frank Wang** will be elected to join me as Co-President and eventually take over more of the presidential duties when his very active workload allows. Former Board member **Debra Talbot** is standing for election as Secretary/Treasurer and our current Program Coordinator, **Rebecca Lund**, is standing for Vice-President. There are terrific new recruits to join continuing Board member **Kjeld Høgsbro**: **LaNysha Adams**, **Adriana Suárez-Delucchi**, and **Morena Tartari**. What a great international and trans-generational team! I am looking forward to this next stage in the development of our international IE network.

Stay safe and be well. I hope to see many of you virtually at the ISA Online Forum in February.

Liza McCoy

From the Newsletter Editor...

Welcome to the 13th issue of what is now the ISA WG06 newsletter. Over the past four years I've enjoyed working on the newsletter and have appreciated the many contributions of our members as we continue to develop the newsletter as a way to communicate with one another about IE and about the activities and accomplishments of our members. Many thanks to Leigha Comer and our other editorial committee members for their support and involvement over the years. I would also like to single out Liza McCoy for her steady engagement and guidance and for her extraordinary efforts in pulling this issue together. I'm very pleased that Rebecca Lund has stepped forward as a candidate for WG06 Vice-President. Pending a successful election result, she will take over the editorship of the newsletter as part of her VP responsibilities. It is heartening to know that the newsletter will be in such capable hands.

In addition to our regular greetings from our President, Liza McCoy, this issue includes an update from Rebecca Lund on the ISA WG06 conference program. You'll also find information on the WG06 election process and statements from our candidates. In our "Getting to Know our Members" section you can read interviews with new WG06 member LaNysha Tufuga Adams, current IE Division Chair at the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and Morena Tartari, who talks about efforts underway to develop a European IE network. The newsletter also features regional IE news from Norway, Australia, Brazil, and the UK, highlighting the growing global reach of IE. Finally, you can read an update about Paul Luken and Suzanne Vaughan's soon-to-be-released anthology on IE which is being published by Palgrave and Nerida Spina's new book *Data Culture and the Organisation of Teachers' Work: An Institutional Ethnography* published in 2020 by Routledge.

As always, please remember that in order for the newsletter to be a continued success we need to hear from you. We want to hear about your ideas for content and we want to share information about your publications, your research, readings that you've done, conferences that are upcoming or that you've attended, career milestones and accomplishments, scholarly events and other matters of interest to your WG06 colleagues. If there's something you'd like to see happen in the newsletter send an email to me or, following the election, to Rebecca Lund (rebecca.lund@stk.uio.no) with your suggestions. And if you'd like to be featured in our Getting to Know Our Members section send us a bio. Don't be shy. This is your newsletter!

Eric Mykhalovskiy

Update on the ISA conference WG06 program

From Rebecca Lund, Program Coordinator



As most of you will (hopefully!) have learned by now, the ISA Forum in Porto Alegre has been digitalized as a result of the ongoing global pandemic. Online conferencing has its possibilities and limitations. The good news is that the conference fee has been lowered, travel costs cancelled (making the conference more inclusive and affordable for more people), and not least, we are contributing to the reduction of the massive carbon footprint otherwise made by privileged academic tourists

on an annual basis. While we unfortunately cannot gain from the creative and energizing benefits of meeting physically/face-to-face, we will still get the chance to listen in on and discuss all the interesting IE research being carried out across the globe, re-establish existing connections and perhaps make some new ones.

The bad news is that the time zones are difficult to coordinate. For symbolic reasons the conference is held in Porto Alegre time, which makes it particularly inconvenient for WG06 participants from Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan.

In responding to the need for taking into consideration time-zone differences when reorganizing conference sessions, some sessions have been merged and themes mixed. But overall, the program remains pretty much unchanged as we only had a few paper withdrawals and no session withdrawals. WG06 includes presenters from India, Brazil, Chile, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, UK, Belgium, France, Denmark and Norway (did I miss anyone?) giving papers on a wide range of themes. We have three sessions on health care and mental health social services, two sessions on the social organization of knowledge, one session on educational settings, and one on theoretical hybrids and thinking differently with/about IE. Finally, we have two exciting panel discussions. "The work of Social Justice activism and the Ontology of the Everyday" focuses particularly on anti-racism and the indigenous critique of colonialism and capitalist exploitation of the earth. The session is organized by Liz Brulé and Suzanne Vaughan, offering contributions and perspectives from Asia, Canada and Latin America. "The Premise and Promise of Institutional Ethnography" offers a trans-generational and trans-continental discussion of the challenges of doing IE and how we can draw on IE to question conventional research practice and change the conditions of our lives. The panel is organized by Sarah Murru, Emily Springer and Adriana Suárez-Delucchi.

The only thing left is to encourage all to visit as many sessions as possible, and to participate actively in commenting and discussing the presentations. Our digital connecting and engagement are very important, not least for PhD students and new members of WG06.

See you in February.

WG06 Elections: Time to elect a new board and officers

We are preparing for our election of officers for the ISA Working Group on Institutional Ethnography. The next term of office will go from **January 2021 to December 2025**.

The Nominations Committee (Eric Mykhalovskiy and Suzanne Vaughan, with Liza McCoy) is grateful to the WG06 members who expressed interest in standing for offices, and we are very pleased with the slate of candidates that are being presented to you in this issue.

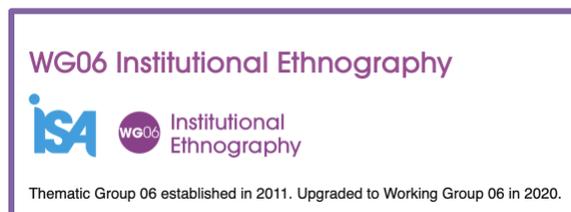
We have two nominees to share the presidency (something new for this election cycle); for all other positions there is one nominee. The nominees are scholars from a mixture of disciplines who reside in different regions of the globe and are at various stages in their careers.

The offices and candidates proposed are the following:

President:	Liza McCoy, University of Calgary, Canada
Co-President:	Frank T. Y. Wang, Chengchi University, Taiwan
Vice-President :	Rebecca Lund, Centre for Gender Research, University of Oslo, Norway
Secretary-Treasurer:	Debra Talbot, University of Sydney, Australia
Board Member:	LaNysha Adams, Edlinguist® Solutions LLC, USA
Board Member:	Kjeld Høgsbro, Aalborg University, Denmark
Board Member:	Adriana Suarez-Delucchi, Bristol University, UK
Board Member:	Morena Tartari, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Election process

The election will be conducted using a secure voting app (ElectionRunner). The link to the ballot will arrive shortly in your email. Please complete your ballot within three weeks. Newly elected officers will be announced in December and they will begin their terms on January 1, 2021.



The Slate of Candidates for 2021-2025

The following candidates for the Board have all been approved by the Nominations Committee.

For the office of President:

Liza McCoy

University of Calgary, Canada

Liza McCoy is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. She studied under Dorothy E. Smith and has participated in the international network of institutional ethnographers for over 30 years. Her current research areas are migration, specifically the settlement and employment of immigrant women in Canada, ageing, and photographic representation; she also engages in visual research. For the past four years she has served as President of what is now the ISA Working Group on Institutional Ethnography.

For the office of Co-President:

Frank T. Y. Wang

National Chengchi University/Transitional Justice Committee, Taiwan

Frank T.Y. Wang is professor in the Graduate Institute of Social Work, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. In May 2020, due to his long-standing work on human rights, he has been appointed by the Taiwanese government as a member of Transitional Justice Committee to design and implement a healing program for the victims and their families of political violence during the period of Martial Law (1947-1992). He has been teaching social work at graduate program for 21 years. He earned his Ph.D. in social work from U. of Toronto in Canada in 1998, and his MSW from Columbia University in USA in 1990. He studied with Dorothy Smith and applied institutional ethnography in his PhD thesis.

He is the first public gay academic in Taiwan. His course on LGBT+ in NCCU, adopting story-telling to promote reflexive conversation, won the First Award of the First Dialogue Impact in 2019 from CP Yen Foundation. He initiated an oral history interview project for elderly LGBT in collaboration with Tungzhi (LGBT+) Hotline, publishing the first book on elderly gay men in Taiwan in 2010 and another one on elderly lesbian in 2020.

He has published 66 peer-reviewed journal articles and 47 book chapters and reports. He has been involved in editorial work of eight journals both in English and Chinese, including *China Journal of Social Work*, *Social Work and Policy Studies: Social Justice, Practice and Theory*, *International Journal of Care and Caring*, *Journal of Life Education*, *Transnational Social Review*, *Soochow Journal of Social Work*, *Taiwan: Radical Quarterly*, *Hong Kong Journal of Social Work*. He was the editor in chief for *Taiwan Radical Quarterly in Social Science* (2009-2012), the leading journal of critical scholarship in Taiwan.

Dr. Frank T.Y. Wang is the leading figure in promoting institutional ethnography in Taiwan. After his return to Taiwan, he involves in social activism by applying IE into his teaching. Through his arrangement, Dorothy Smith visited Taiwan twice in 2005 and 2012. Frank Wang organized a study group of twenty scholars during 2015-16, building an active IE community and leading to the first book on IE in Chinese edited by Frank Wang and Li-Fang Liang and published in 2020. He has been an active member of IE community. He has been a member of Society of Study for Social Problems since 2007 and a member of International Sociological Association since 2014. He is currently a board member of Institutional Ethnography Working Group in ISA.

For the office of Vice-President:

Rebecca Lund

Centre for Gender Research, University of Oslo, Norway

Rebecca Lund, based at the Centre for Gender Research at the University of Oslo in Norway, has been working with IE and been involved in IE network activities since starting her PhD in 2010. She currently acts as coordinator for the very active Nordic Network of Institutional Ethnography; she has co-edited a recent book on Institutional Ethnography in the Nordic Region published by Routledge in 2019; and has taught/co-planned PhD courses on Institutional Ethnography; and published work about (or drawing on) IE. In the context of ISA TG/WG06 Lund has presented her own research, acted as discussant, session organizer and most currently as coordinator for the TG/WG in relation to the conference in Porto Allegro, Brazil (now digitalized).

For the office of Secretary/Treasurer:

Debra Talbot

University of Sydney, Australia

Debra Talbot have been a member of the TG/WG06 and a board member since her first ISA conference in Vienna, 2016. Her contact with the Canadian IE community began, however, in 2014 when she co-organised Lindsay Kerr's visit to Australia to present IE workshops in Sydney and Adelaide. Attending Dorothy and Susan's workshop at OISE and the ISA Toronto, 2018 conference expanded her international connections and supported a stimulating exchange of ideas in a continuing collegial network. At the University of Sydney, she convenes a fledgling IE reading group. She is a member of the editorial board for the new University of Toronto publication series Institutional Ethnography: Ruling in the 21st Century: Exploration and Critique.

Her empirical research focuses on the link between teachers' learning and the learning of their students. She employs IE to examine the ways in which teacher and student learning is externally governed by regimes of accountability but differently enacted at the frontline of teacher and student work. Full list of publications available at: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/arts/about/our-people/academic-staff/debra-talbot.html>.

For the office of Member of the Board:

LaNysha Adams
Edlinguist® Solutions LLC, USA

Elected by the Institutional Ethnography (IE) community to serve as Chair of the IE Division at the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Dr. LaNysha Adams' efforts to grow the IE Division during the COVID-19 global pandemic have done well, and she was even able to create a "Pay IE Forward" Initiative where student memberships are sponsored by other generous IEers. As Chair, she holds monthly membership meetings and has increased the Division's presence in online communities around the world. In her dissertation, "An Institutional Ethnographic Account of Mandatory Professional Development in New Mexico," analyses of interview, institutional text, and survey data revealed that the effects of state power, or ruling relations, within the institution of mandatory professional development are achieved through moments of text activation that join together teachers and educational stakeholders in diverse, yet coordinated sequences of action focused on external compliance mandates rather than teachers' needs and input.

Dr. LaNysha Adams serves as Chief Technology Officer at Edlinguist Solutions, bringing more than 15 years of experience from her roles as an educator teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), education policy analyst, and applied researcher. An award-winning consultant, Dr. Adams' work has been recognized as a key part of Edlinguist Solutions' success as one of the most innovative companies in Washington, DC for its people first + technology + process integration for two consecutive years. As an active member of key professional research, program evaluation, and coaching associations, she is also a certified dissertation coach with expertise in administering the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Assessment, Learning Styles, and the Benchmarks 360-degree Assessment Suite. Dr. Adams holds a Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies from the University of New Mexico, M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages/Applied Linguistics from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a B.A. in Linguistics & Rhetoric from California State University, San Marcos.

For the office of Member of the Board:

Kjeld Høgsbro
Aalborg University, Denmark

Kjeld Høgsbro, Professor of Social Work at Aalborg University, has published books on disabilities, mental illness, social work and community development in Denmark. His research comprises institutional ethnographies of specific rehabilitation programs for people with cognitive difficulties. He has been strongly inspired by institutional ethnography when investigating national programs for people with mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, ADHD and Autism in a period between 2002 and 2016. These investigations had an impact on services as well as professional discourses. He has recently published a book comprising the methodological challenges and experiences from these investigations (*How to conduct ethnographies of institutions for people with cognitive difficulties*, Routledge). Previously, he has published an article about IE and single agency studies of rehabilitation programs in the *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research* and one about IE and the tradition for applied sociology in *Nordic Social Work Research*, plus a chapters on IE for people in a vulnerable

situation in an edited book published by Ian Shaw and Kjeld Høgsbro, *Social Work and Research in Advanced Welfare States* (Routledge), and a chapter in an edited book about IE in the Nordic by Lund and Nilsen. He is a member of the Nordic Network and has been a board member of both the Research Committees on Sociology of Mental Health and the Thematic Group on Institutional Ethnography of The International Sociological Association and attended assemblies of IE, both in SSSP and ISA. He recently was selected as chairman of the Danish part of NNDR (Nordic Network of Disability Research).

For the office of Member of the Board:

Adriana Suárez-Delucchi
Bristol University, UK

Adriana Suarez-Delucchi studied Geography in Chile, where she was born and raised. She developed an interest in socio-environmental conflicts and rural livelihoods, and merges insights from different disciplines to enrich conversations about social and environmental justice in conservation initiatives.

She came across Institutional Ethnography when doing her doctoral research at Bristol University (in the UK). She used this approach to explore the organisation of community water management in rural Chile and its relation to the wider neoliberal context of water management in the country. She empirically examined the work processes and textual practices that connect people's activities in multiple settings to create what is known as the Rural Drinking Water programme wherein "community water management" takes place. A specific water delivery project in North Central Chile served as the starting point for this inquiry. Through the use of IE, she was able to show how water management texts frame essential aspects of institutional actions where people apply for water access. She also explained how the categories of "vulnerability" and "water rights" are fundamental in ruling differential access to drinking water.

She currently working as a Research Associate at Bristol University with a team of entomologists and botanists. She is looking at the social organisation of agro-ecological projects offered to farmers in the Colombian Amazon, which aim at reducing deforestation by intensifying cattle raising in deforested areas.

In November 2020, together with two other colleagues (Órla Murray and Liz Ablett) she organized an online IE workshop for post-graduate students from the South West of England where IE is not (yet!) widely known. The workshop was fully booked in only 3 days. She and her colleagues have had requests to run another workshop which they will try to organise in the near future, this time for Early Career Researchers and senior academics.

For the office of Member of the Board:

Morena Tartari
University of Antwerp, Belgium

Morena Tartari is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie research fellow at the Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp, Belgium. She is also an Associate Researcher at the CRFR-Centre for Research and Families and Relationships based at the University of Edinburgh.

Her ongoing research project STRESS-Mums (funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant) is an Institutional Ethnography in four European countries (Belgium, Italy, Spain, and the UK) that investigates the single mothers' experience with the legal/judicial system during their transition from double parenting to single mothering.

With May-Linda Magnussen (Agder University), she is coordinator of the Institutional Ethnography Research Stream at the 2021 ESA Conference in Barcelona (Spain). In 2020, with Prof. May-Linda Magnussen and other European colleagues, she founded the European Network of Institutional Ethnographers. After completing the PhD in Sociology at the University of Padua (Italy) in 2012, Morena taught for four years as Lecturer-in-charge of Sociology, Sociology of Communication, Sociology of Cultural Processes, Health and Sociology at the same university in BA and MA programs.

For 2020-2021, she is chair of the Virtual Ad-hoc Committee for Transnational Initiatives in SSSP. She is a member of the Activist Award Committee for the SSSP IE Division, with Marjorie DeVault (chair) and Suzanne Vaughan. Her chapter "Institutional Ethnography and Visual Research Methods" will be published (January 2021) in *The Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography*, edited by Paul C. Luken and Suzanne Vaughan.



Getting to Know our Members: New member LaNysha Tufuga Adams, PhD

Interviewed over email by Rebecca Lund



Welcome to WG06, LaNysha. Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I've finally joined ISA! I'm LaNysha Tufuga Adams, an independent Institutional Ethnography scholar of Samoan, Native American, and African-American heritage with a background in community organizing, teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), and a mother of two boys. I have an interdisciplinary background in language (Linguistics & Rhetoric) and at Columbia University during my masters degree program, I was trained as an applied linguist with expertise in educational assessments. I hold a PhD in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies from the University of New Mexico.

What initially attracted you to IE?

I was deep in the land of text replication, trying to figure out how state or school-district level policies mandated teachers' professional development experiences. While completing my dissertation proposal, I was working at the New Mexico State Legislature's unique bicameral, bi-partisan Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) as an education policy analyst. Educational policy, as a way of defining institutional relationships across space and time, institutionalizes power and dynamically impacts research, theory, and practice. Because of the

nature of my research questions and day-to-work at the LESL, I spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out how I would do a study that was most useful to teachers, who reported that they were sick of what is commonly known as "death by PowerPoint" in some of these quote-unquote professional development sessions. In the end, I was able to do so but had to incorporate survey data in an IE-kind of way in my report, to really have the results considered across various stakeholders in education at local school, district, and state levels. I can't unsee – so IE informs how I approach every social problem I encounter, where I ask what Marie Campbell has etched into the very fiber of my being: "How does this happen as it does? How are these relations organized?"

I understand that you have your own research and consultancy business now. Could you tell us about your current work? What are the advantages and downsides of doing IE outside of the academy?

After 10 years of receiving many ad-hoc requests to conduct training and design workshops applying linguistics to fields such as K-12 education and technology, I finally incorporated my interests into a small business. One of my current research projects examines 50 years of IE dissertations in a scoping review with Cheryl Zurawski. We have a goal of publishing that work in a peer-reviewed journal. In another academic-focused project, I am examining doctoral student experiences as they write their dissertations, particularly those who are struggling or looking to leave the doctoral program altogether. And lastly, I am planning to conduct a large-scale IE-study of the childcare provider licensing process from the standpoint of childcare providers, with a goal of understanding how the licensing process works in order to identify where and how to improve the process for those providers. From my initial research in the U.S., I've learned that the overwhelming majority of those providers are women of color who are essentially running small businesses without structural support on very slim or no profit margins. With the lack of childcare being a massive social problem in the U.S., where almost all of the 41 million workers with kids under 18 lost childcare as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, 80% of all moms are juggling work and childcare, and nearly 20% of parents are without a partner doing this. Once you factor in demographics, the numbers really skyrocket. On the flip side, childcare centers are shutting down at rapid rates and according to *The Washington Post*, more than a quarter-million childcare workers have lost their jobs.

The benefit of running my own business is that for two of the three studies I'm currently working on, I am paid to pursue my passion. The downside is that I don't get paid to write up my work for others to read about. I'm currently thinking outside the box to pursue postdoctoral fellowships that will allow me to have the support to complete draft publications that are currently incomplete.

You are currently the IE division chair at SSSP. What are your thoughts and priorities in terms of building an IE community in North America and Internationally?

As IE Division Chair of SSSP, I'd love for IEers to join us and attend our monthly membership meetings. In fact, there should be discount opportunities available for all of the IE communities in which members are participants. One major priority I have is increasing the visibility of IE as a way of seeing, investigating, and pursuing social change from below. A second priority is setting up the infrastructure for a podcast, sponsored by SSSP for the IE community at large. We'd feature SSSP members; one incentive to join the Division could be to appear on this podcast. Why do a podcast? Well, podcasts make information personal, they're convenient and easy to consume, and in 2020, over 155 million people listen to podcasts every week. I'd love to collaborate with others on projects where we conduct IE studies of IE.

What is your vision for IE: where would you like the debates and scholarship to go? Which kinds of developments would you like to see in the community?

My vision for IE scholarship is to see a typology of IE across disciplines, emphasizing that IE is way more than a methodology or even a social ontology. I'd love folks on the ground to know IE exists as a way to effect transformational change. In September, the Australian Sociological Association titled an IE session as "connecting the dots between personal crises and systematic injustices." This is exactly what we do as IE'ers, but its real power lies in the change that can be made *after* the dots are connected. I want to connect with, honor, and uplift institutional ethnographers as we continue to grow as a field.

Morena Tartari: On Forming a European IE Network

Interviewed over email by Eric Mykhalovskiy

Morena, it is exciting to hear that a European IE network is being formed. Before we talk about the network, can you tell me a little bit about how you came to be involved in IE research and what it has been like for you to learn about and do IE research in Belgium?

I completed my doctoral program in Sociology in 2012 at the University of Padua in Italy. My doctoral research study was based on the Grounded Theory approach. Along with ethnography, GT was the prevalent approach of many studies in the doctoral program that I attended. I was not completely satisfied by the GT approach, for the classical criticisms and critical aspects that I was meeting in using it, and in particular for the difficulties in connecting micro and macro levels of the social organization.

I met IE in 2015. It happened by chance. I was writing the first version of a proposal for a grant after a long break in my research activities due to family obligations. The project should have investigated single mothers' experiences with the school system. I found Alison Griffith's research on single mothering and schooling, and then I started reading the books of Dorothy Smith, *Institutional Ethnography as Practice* and *Institutional Ethnography: a Sociology for People*. In my home country, IE is not well known, so it was a very personal and "solo" journey through the IE publications that I bought one after the other. I felt many points of contacts between my personal and professional experience (I had worked for many years as a professional in the justice and public health system) and the experience of Allison Griffith.

At that time, I was (hourly paid) teaching with a child dependent on me. Furthermore, I had seen many disjunctures between my professional practice, how it was ruled by institutions, and the everyday experience of the people who I evaluated in my work. It was a difficult point of my career: I left my professional career for an uncertain academic career. I received support from SSSP and other institutions and I started attending the IE workshops at the SSSP annual meetings. Those workshops were very inspiring for me. There was a very welcoming atmosphere and, the first time I participated, I discussed the first version of my proposal in a group with Marie Campbell. That first proposal was not funded, but I was shortlisted at the second place and I collected interesting feedback from the reviewers. In 2018, I improved my proposal, I submit it to the Marie Curie Actions scheme for an individual grant. It was funded, with an excellent evaluation. In the meantime, I had started another small self-funded IE research project.

Thanks to the mobility scheme of the Marie Curie Actions, last year I moved in Antwerp (Belgium) from my home country. In both these academic environments, first at my home university in Padua and then here in Antwerp, nobody knew anything about IE. I felt very isolated. Attending the SSSP IE workshops and the ISA congress in Toronto had given to me the opportunity to meet other colleagues from Europe. My first experience of sharing ideas with colleagues in Europe was with the colleagues of the Nordic IE network. During the first month of my Marie Curie fellowship, I went to the University of Agder in Norway where I attended my first IE workshop in Europe. Outside of the welcoming environment of the Nordic IE network, I met only colleagues who felt and were really isolated like me.

The idea of the European IE network comes from there. The aim is keeping scholars connected and disseminating an IE approach in different European contexts.

How would you say your experiences of doing IE research compare with other scholars working in Europe? Does IE have a presence in scholarly practice, teaching, and research networks in Europe? Are there pockets or places where IE has established a foothold?

Only recently, I have been able to compare my way of doing IE research with the experience of the colleagues in the Nordic region, in the UK and here in Belgium. I found the exchange with the Nordic IE network very fruitful: its members are rigorous but also innovative, open to collaborate and eager to learn from everyone. The workshop at Agder University was a fantastic experience, a very inclusive experience (also for my 8-year-old son). I have been using the IE approach for a few years in comparison to other well-experienced colleagues who have applied it for decades. For this reason, for me networking and discussing with other colleagues is a necessary aspect of doing IE.

During a visit at the University of Edinburgh I met Orla Murray (who I had met for the first time in New York at the SSSP annual meeting). Orla is a supportive colleague, with a myriad of ideas. During my five-month visit in Edinburgh, I felt that there the IE perspective is much more considered and respected than in other European countries. Then, I found the address of another IEer, Sarah Murru, in the proceedings of the 2018 ISA congress and I got in touch with her. I discovered that she works in Leuven, a small Belgian town a few kilometers from Antwerp where I live. We met for a chat about our fieldworks and it was extremely fruitful and empowering.

I think that each of these colleagues has their personal style of conducting an IE, they apply IE to different social problems, but they all have a valuable commitment and passion for IE and for what they are doing. Among colleagues, we shared the idea that we felt alone and we need a means for connecting with each other and also for making our knowledge more valuable outside our own research studies. Not all colleagues in Europe have the financial capacity to attend in-presence workshops outside Europe. Isolation is a bad companion when you have fieldwork to conduct and many doubts, from theoretical to methodological doubts. We can find comfort in reading publications, but sometimes a chat with a colleague can be more helpful.

In Europe, outside the Nordic countries, IE is often not present in scholarly practice, teaching and research networks. For example, in my home country, many scholars do not know IE and confuse it with organizational ethnography or with other ethnographic methods. They ignore IE (and its potential) as a theoretical approach. In the ESA, there is not a working group or a research network on IE. Therefore, I contacted some European colleagues and I launched the idea of participating in the ESA call for a Research Stream. May-Linda Magnussen from Agder University shares with me the role of coordinator of the RS. The writing of the submission was a collective effort shared among me, May-Linda, Orla Murray (Imperial College, London, UK), Sarah Murru (University of Louvain, Belgium), Liz Ablett (University College Dublin, Ireland), Adriana Suarez-Delucchi (University, of Bristol, UK). The RS is an opportunity for networking, for growing as a group of scholars, for sharing ideas about how IE can be developed in academic and professional European contexts.

Are there other aspects of your experiences of doing IE research that have led you to create the European Network of Institutional Ethnographers?

I am conducting an IE in four European countries (online, due to the Covid-19 situation, and at the same time). Doing it by myself, alone, is a challenge. However, knowing that I have colleagues who have experience with European institutions, contexts and cultures and that I can rely on them for a discussion helps me a lot. Then, a network helps us in consolidating the IE approach in European academic institutions, in building opportunities for knowledge exchange for young and less young scholars.

What's the vision for the Network? What are its key objectives, how will it function and what specific challenges do you anticipate?

The key objectives of the European Network are connecting IEers who are based in Europe or who have interest in developing IE knowledge and IE research projects in Europe. However, we also aim to connect scholars who are conducting or are interested in developing research studies inspired by IE. We would like to do it connecting well-experienced researchers from Canada and the U.S. and researchers and students in Europe. Personally, I am grateful to IE “veterans” and I know that also other colleagues who joined the Network are really inspired by the work of the founding members of the IE international community. The European Network will grow in connection with the other networks in Canada and the U.S., for example with the consolidated networks of SSSP and ISA. The Network’s vision concerns consolidating a network that might give a voice to IEers in ESA and in European (academic and not academic) institutions.

Can institutional ethnographers working outside of Europe participate or otherwise support the Network?

Yes, absolutely. In these months, we have found valuable support from IEers working outside Europe. We are glad to host their participation in the events and activities we will organize. Furthermore, we are glad to invite them to participate in the 2021 ESA conference in Barcelona. The call for the IE Research Stream will open by November 2020. Probably, the conference will have a mixed organization (in-presence and online) and this will facilitate the participation of many scholars outside Europe.

What do you see as your next steps in building the Network and IE in Europe?

Our next step in the short term will be giving visibility to the IE Research Stream call for papers for the next ESA conference and allowing the participation of many colleagues. We have already contacted many scholars in different universities who utilize IE or who conduct “IE-inspired” studies. Then we will have a first event next Spring 2021 organized at the University of Antwerp with scholars from the U.S., Canada and Europe. Furthermore, we are planning innovative activities for involving IEers and other scholars in our network and keeping it not only active but also effervescent.



Regional News

Norway

1. FEMPROF: Institutional exploration and change for a more equal and diverse academia, is a three-year research project funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The project will develop new and important knowledge on gender and diversity and contribute to increased gender equality and diversity in the sector. The research draws on institutional ethnography (Dorothy Smith 2005) to ensure that the researchers' attention is not ruled by theoretical concepts or dominant academic discourses. Moreover, it is significant that the research is made relevant to the academics we study. By making visible the practices and relations that shape their lives, we hope to point towards possibilities for change.

The research project, FEMPROF, which is led by Hege Wallewik, is organized in five Working Packages with the following titles: 1) A discourse theoretical exploration of the excellence ideal (led by Jørn Cruickshank) 2) What does the excellence criteria mean for the research conducted at UiA? (led by Rebecca Lund) 3) How is excellence being done by UiA and how does this affect men's and women's research careers? (led by Hanne Haaland) 4) Ways in and out of academia and consequences for research careers at UiA. (led by Tale Steen-Johnsen) 5) Everyday life, academic being and networks at UiA (led by May-Linda Magnussen).

FEMPROF will also connect the participating associate professors/post docs with a team of professors to try out, disseminate from and potentially revise a systematic, effective and ethically sound way of doing professorship promotion.

2. May-Linda Magnussen and Ann Christin Nilsen are editors of a special issue about Institutional Ethnography in the *Norwegian Journal of Sociology*, due to be published in the first quarter of 2022. The editors have invited empirical and theoretical contributions in Norwegian/Scandinavian languages that discuss, problematize and reflect on how IE can enrich sociological thought in the Nordics. As such, the special issue will contribute to the Nordic legacy of IE.

Submitted by Rebecca Lund



Australia

A small group of institutional ethnographers from Australia continue to meet regularly to discuss all things IE.

We would like to wish **Jeanine Gallagher** best wishes for her continued recovery. Jeanine has experienced a great deal of disruption to her IE work and thesis over the past year, after having had an accident that has resulted in numerous surgeries.

IE Event: TASA Presentation by Naomi Nichols

Through The Australian Sociological Association (TASA), we recently organised an online session with **Naomi Nichols**, who gave an excellent presentation. The session was hosted by **Sophie Hickey**, who currently heads TASA's Applied Sociology research group. The recording of Naomi's talk can be viewed on You-Tube [here](#).

IE research projects

Nerida Spina is working on a project with Lisa Van Leent exploring curriculum texts and policies in Australian primary (elementary) schools, and how these texts coordinate teachers' work with regards to diverse genders and sexualities.

Sophie Hickey will present at the TASA national conference in November: *Institutional inertia: Interrogating the everyday work of hospital staff trying to improve healthcare for First Nations people*

Submitted by Nerida Spina

European IE Network

The 2021 European Sociological Association Conference in Barcelona approved an IE Research Stream. The coordinators are: May-Linda Magnussen, University of Agder, Norway, and Morena Tartari, University of Antwerp, Belgium). For more information, go to <https://www.europeansociology.org/about-esa-2021-barcelona/programme>. The ESA Call for Papers is planned to be issued by the end of the year 2020.

The webinar "IE in Europe: connecting and growing as a network" will be hosted by the University of Antwerp at the end of May 2021 through Zoom. It will be coordinated by Morena Tartari. The webinar will host six presentations of research projects and publications, a roundtable and a meeting of the IE European Network coordinators. Details for registration will be announced through Facebook and by mailing lists.

Submitted by Morena Tartari

Brazil

Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcantara, Medical Anthropologist, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil (USP), recently organized a dialogue between Dr. Elnara Negri, an international medical expert on Covid-19, and indigenous Pentecostal Church members of the Dourados Reserve about Perspectives on Covid-19. The dialogue was sponsored by the Department of Medical Anthropology at the University of Sao Paulo.

Dr. Elnara is a physician and researcher with the Clinical Hospital at USP and Sirio Lebanese Hospital in Sao Paulo She has received an award for best article in *Lancet* about Eparina (heparin) as a new clinical treatment for Covid-19.

The purpose of the dialogue, held on 29 September, was to build an intercultural dialogue about how the indigenous populations can protect themselves against the COVID-19, particularly to answer the question: how can indigenous populations adopt WHO protocols? This is one of many dialogues sponsored by the department to promote intercultural understanding among indigenous people in Brazil and the medical world.

Submitted by Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcantara



UK: Institutional Ethnography gets to Bristol

by Adriana Suárez-Delucchi

I was excited at the beginning of 2020 as I had secured funds to run an IE workshop at the University of Bristol. Our special guest would have been Prof. Lauren Eastwood, who was going to visit Bristol to present her work at the School of Geography and sit on my viva panel. However, on March 23rd we realised that having Lauren in Bristol and an IE workshop were not going to happen as planned. Instead, and due to the pandemic, I had an online viva and the workshop got cancelled.

However, together with Órla Murray and Liz Ablett we redrafted our proposal and designed an online event that would introduce IE as a feminist approach to analysing texts and mapping organisations. Our audience was made up of doctoral students from the South West of England and our workshop finally took place on October 26.

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Link to our workshop here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/institutional-ethnography-feminist-interdisciplinary-bottom-up-research-tickets-99693832938>

We wanted to offer participants a very practical opportunity to familiarise themselves with IE and for them to feel inspired to explore how it could help them approach their research in an innovative way. To our surprise, four days after registration was advertised, all spaces were gone!

Órla provided her amazing videos where she worked together with an illustrator to graphically communicate IE's main concepts. Liz and I gave a presentation about our doctoral projects which used IE to explore two very different institutions: English local governments, and water management in Chile. We wanted to show IE's versatility and the fact it can be used in a wide range of research areas.

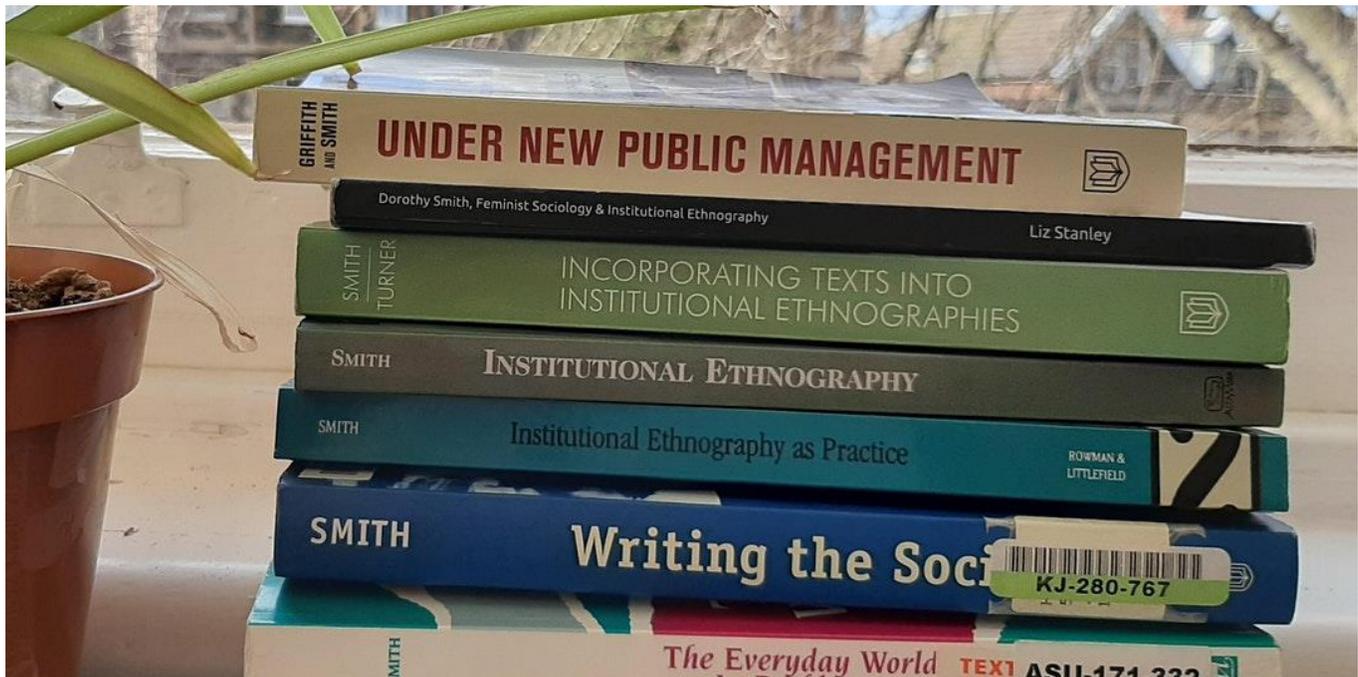
We asked attendees to write a paragraph in advance of the workshop explaining what their research was about. During the afternoon we worked in smaller groups and discussed the ways in which participants could apply IE to their own research. They also brought a text they thought was relevant to their exploration. In this way, they were able to analyse texts with the resources provided.

We received excellent feedback from participants and got messages from across the UK asking us to run another one, which shows how eager people are to learn more about this approach. One of our aims with this workshop was to expand the IE community to the East of the Atlantic, and we are happy to say it is already happening!

We are currently working together with the South West Doctoral Training Partnership to put together another workshop, this time more focussed on Early Career Researchers and Academics.

Adriana's bio:

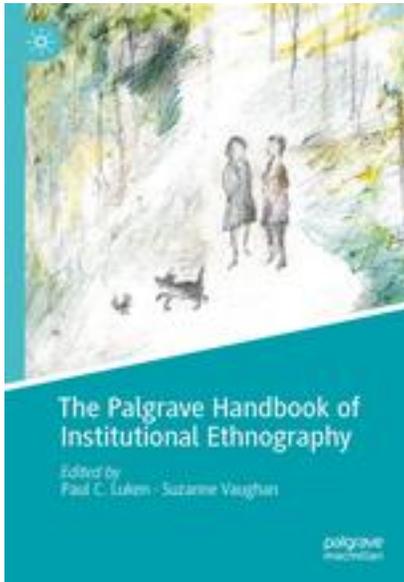
I'm a Geographer and a social environmental scientist currently working as a Research Associate at Bristol University. I am part of an interdisciplinary team of entomologists, botanists, and social scientists, where I am exploring the social organisation of agro-ecological projects offered to small farmers in the Colombian Amazon.



Adriana Suárez-Delucchi

Landmark IE Handbook Out in December

By Suzanne Vaughan



The Palgrave Handbook of Institutional Ethnography, edited by Paul C. Luken and Suzanne Vaughan, will be published in December 2020. Our publisher tells us that the on-line version of the book will be available sometime in December while the hardcopy version will be available in early 2021.

This project began at an informal dinner with current and past officers and several members of the Thematic Group of Institutional Ethnography (now a Working Group) during the 2018 ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, Canada. As we began this project, these colleagues continued to encourage and support us as we assembled the institutional ethnographic work included in this volume. In addition, Paul and I learned immeasurably from the authors about the potential of institutional ethnography to show us "how things happen as they do": about the diversity of institutional ethnographic work done in various countries; about the struggles many have faced in maintaining epistemological and ontological commitments as they

incorporate other methods or frameworks; about how transnational/global relations organize education, environmental policies and practices, and indigenous and human rights; about how public sector management regimes across different countries and service arenas organized frontline work; and about activists' efforts to bring about change within their communities.

In this volume some twenty-seven chapters written by thirty-eight contributors address the theoretical richness of institutional ethnography as a mode of inquiry and touch upon the debates inside and outside our field. Here scholars and social activists from Canada, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Taiwan, the U.K. and the United States, in sociology and other fields including geography, politics, education, social work, linguistics, health and medical care, child family studies environmental studies, and other social-service related fields use the ontological insights of institutional ethnography to uncover the social relations shaping the everyday world in which we live.

Here is a little about the organization of the handbook. Although we recognize that many of the chapters overlap with other sections, the handbook chapters are organized into six sections. Part 1 focuses on the historical and ontological roots of the alternative sociology in the on-going work of Dorothy E. Smith and others. Part 2 is organized around the ways in which institutional ethnographers are developing new research strategies and exploring new challenges as they investigate institutional relations. Part 3 includes chapters whose beginning point is in the local but move ethnographically to explicate global/transnational ruling relations. Part 4 is about making change in communities. In this section activists/authors discuss the ways in which they use Ellen Pence's Institutional Analysis (Pence and Sadusky, 2005, 2006) and/or George Smith's Political Activist as Ethnographer (Smith, G.1990) to transform people's lives. In Part 5 although authors in this section are inspired by Griffith and Smith's *Under New Public Management* (2014), many of these chapters written by a new generation of researchers have taken up their investigations in very different settings and entirely new geographical locations. The final section, Part 6, bringing together new approaches and perspectives,

includes chapters whose authors have begun to experiment with incorporating other theoretical frameworks with similar epistemological and ontological commitments into their investigations of the social.

A word about the cover is warranted here. The handbook is dedicated to the memory of Alison I. Griffith, our first president of the ISA Working Group of Institutional Ethnography. The cover, titled "Walking the Ravines of Toronto," is a drawing by Herbert Hughes, who we asked to produce a sketch of two women walking through a ravine. It is inspired from a quote by Dorothy Smith about the early days of developing a project on mothering work and schooling with Alison. The quote comes from a chapter Dorothy wrote on "Institutional Ethnography" in Tim May's edited volume, *Qualitative Research in Action* (2002) where she discusses the dialogic nature of inquiry into the social. The chapter ends with further elaboration of terms she uses throughout the chapter. The RAVINES IN TORONTO is one of the terms in the glossary. Here is the quote:

On long walks through the RAVINES IN TORONTO we shared stories of our mothering work, of our children's struggles, of our fear of interfering, of pushing teachers too hard, of not pushing them not hard enough. Our explorations opened up the social relations and organization of schooling as those in relation to which women's work as mothers is done. (p. 24)

We look forward to the publication of the Handbook and hope that its contents enliven discussion among seasoned IEers and those new to field.



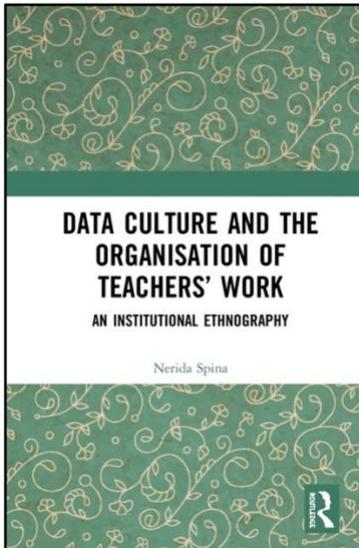
Suzanne Vaughan and Paul Luken at the 2008 ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, Spain, where Suzanne and Paul gathered ISA member signatures to establish the Thematic Group on Institutional Ethnography.

New Publications

Jones, A., Spina, N., Harris, J., & Azordagen, J. (2020). Governing the 'good' casual academic: Institutionalised 'Othering' practices. In M. Murphy, C. Burke, C. Costa & R. Raaper, eds., *Theorising the university: critical perspectives on institutional research*. Bloomsbury.

Murray, Órla Meadhbh. (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)

Spina, Nerida. (2020.) *Data Culture and the Organisation of Teachers' Work: An Institutional Ethnography*. Routledge.



Data Culture and the Organisation of Teachers' Work provides an in-depth look at how the political and media scrutiny of teachers, pupils and schools now organises teaching and learning. Spina also examines how educational data is used in schools, and where it fails to take account of the everyday experiences of school leaders, teachers and students.

Drawing on primary research, and discussing practice in relation to the National Assessment Programme: Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), this book discusses the strengths and weaknesses of a data-driven approach, the restrictions this can impose and how to navigate them as a teacher.

Ideal for scholars and postgraduate students of education, this book provides a comprehensive institutional, ethnographic look into the daily lived experiences of teachers, and the effects of standardised testing.

Announcements

Congratulations to **Kirsten Small** on the completion of her PhD at Griffith University in Australia. Her thesis, entitled "Social Organisation of the Work of Maternity Clinicians Related to a Central Fetal Monitoring System" is available [here](#). Check it out!

Annetta Cayas at Queensland University of Technology is about to present her confirmation (the first major milestone for her PhD) on her research: *Parenting-for-schooling: An institutional ethnography on the parenting practices in support of schooling*. Best of luck, Annetta! We look forward to hearing you present on your research at future IE conferences.

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