



The Open
University



Contemporary Life Practices: Risks, Moralities and Psychosocial Research

Thursday 11 June 2015, 09:30-17:00

The Open University in London, 1-11 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town, London, NW1 8NP

The Psychosocial programme from CCIG is hosting a workshop with the School of Social Sciences and the Understanding Risk Group at Cardiff University at the OU Camden, London.

Contemporary Life Practices: Risks, Moralities and Psychosocial Research

Contemporary life practices are simultaneously material, sociological and psychological, interrelated, risky and imbued with contemporary practical moralities. Qualitative social science generates knowledge of contemporary life practices, and explores the implications for understanding the agent, subject and object of practices. New moves in psychosocial research advance such understanding while resisting reduction to either the social or the (psychological) individual.

The aim of this workshop is to bring together researchers who have an interest in the potentials and challenges of conducting psychosocial research into contemporary life practices, risk and moralities. In particular, the workshop will consider the fields of environmental risk, sustainability and energy studies; family life and relationships, and contemporary work practices and new modes of the self, including discursive and affective practices.

This workshop is for attendees with related interests who are actively seeking new writing and research collaborations to be followed up in the near future.

The workshop will address the following questions:

- * **How is it possible, in contemporary society, for people to live more or less routinely with personal, social and global uncertainty and risk?**
- * **What methodological approaches, strategies and methods enable us to study contemporary life practices, risk and moralities?**
- * **How do the forms of understandings we are developing illuminate contemporary life practices, moralities, and ways of living in times of rapid socio-cultural and environmental change?**

PROGRAMME

There will be three 90 minute discussion sessions, each with a panel of 5 minute presentation to get the discussion started. The final session of the day will be on future developments such as writing and funding application plans which can follow on from the discussions of the day.

SESSION 1 (9.30 - 11.00) Contemporary moralities of a working self

Panel to include Stephanie Taylor and Jean McAvoy (OU)

SESSION 2 (11.30 - 1.00) Environment/sustainability/energy use

Panel to include Karen Henwood, Nick Pidgeon, Chris Groves (Cardiff)

SESSION 3 (2.00 - 3.30) Family identities in transition

Panel to include Johanna Motzkau (OU), Margunn Bjørnholt

PLANNING SESSION (4.00 - 5.00) Next steps

Chaired by Karen Henwood and Stephanie Taylor

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: Places are limited (30 maximum). If you are interested in attending and can commit to this date, please send a short statement about your research interests and details of a publication or current project relevant to the workshop. We would also welcome suggestions for possible 'next steps' to be discussed in the final session of the workshop.

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM Stephanie Taylor stephanie.taylor@open.ac.uk

To register please visit the CCIG website and complete the online registration fields:-

<http://www.open.ac.uk/ccig/events>