

A one-day symposium at the University of Manchester
Co-organised by the Morgan Centre at the University of Manchester and the Centre
for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London

Everyday Belongings: Theorising the self, society and change



Friday 17th February 2012, Kanaris Theatre, Manchester Museum

Programme

10.30	Registration, tea and coffee
10.55	Welcome
11.00	Sources of Belonging Dr Jon Bannister, Glasgow University: Young people, territoriality and identity Dr Michael Skey, UEL: The significance of (national) belonging
12.30	Lunch (vegetarian)
1.30	Modes of Belonging Dr Sarah Wilson, University of Stirling: Living across the space: sensory explorations of belonging Dr Debra Ferreday, University of Lancaster: Online belongings
3.00	Coffee and Tea
3.30- 5.00	Round-table discussion Professor Nira Yuval-Davies, UEL Professor Gill Valentine, University of Leeds Professor Richard Jenkins, University of Sheffield

The fee for this event is £10.00; please note that places for this event are strictly limited to 35. If you would like to attend, please email victoria.higham@manchester.ac.uk by 16 January 2012. For further information please contact: Dr Vanessa May (vanessa.may@manchester.ac.uk) or Dr Michael Skey (m.skey@uel.ac.uk)

Abstract

Belonging has been identified as a 'fundamental need' for humans across time and space. Moreover, questions of belonging continue to dominate the media and political agendas, whether in relation to youth gangs in inner cities or ethnic minorities in national settings. This one day symposium offers a

framework for thinking critically about the different scales, sources and modes of belonging. It draws together experts from a range of disciplines and will conclude with a round-table discussion featuring some of the leading scholars currently working in the field. We invite academics, policy-makers and other interested groups to participate in what promises to be an intellectually stimulating event, which will discuss the latest approaches to conceptualising and researching belonging.

Speaker Biographies

Jon Bannister is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social and Political Sciences at Glasgow University. Jon's current research interests include the investigation of the foundations and interplay between (in)civility and management of (dis)order in the public realm, and the perception of behaviour, territoriality and youth 'gang'; and, knowledge mobilisation and community safety. He is a co-founder of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Social Justice Research and Managing Editor of *Urban Studies*. He has published over 50 learned articles and research reports and has held research awards from a number of organisations, including; the Economic Social Research Council, the National Council of Research Methods, the Home Office, Scottish Government and the Urban Studies Foundation.

Debra Ferreday is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University. She has published widely on digital cultures, queer theory, and feminist cultural theory. Her work explores the questions of belonging and technologically mediated subjectivity across a range of media sites and drawing on a heterogeneous archive including digital cultures, subculture, global media and performance spaces. Her book on digital cultures, *Online Belongings*, was published by Peter Lang in 2009. She is currently working on a book on feminine identities entitled *Rethinking Femininity*, which will be published by Berg in 2013.

Richard Jenkins is an anthropologist who has always worked in multidisciplinary settings, having done field research in Belfast, the West Midlands, south Wales, Denmark, and south-west England. He has investigated the transition to adulthood, ethnicity and racism, nationalism, informal economic activity, the social lives of people with learning difficulties, and modern supernatural and witchcraft beliefs. Perhaps the central theme unifying these diverse projects is a concern with processes of identification, as discussed in *Social Identity* (3rd edition, 2008), *Rethinking Ethnicity* (2nd edition, 2008) and *Being Danish* (2nd edition due in 2012).

Michael Skey was awarded his PhD in October 2008 from the LSE and has since taught sociology at the University of Leicester and Media and Cultural Studies at University of Kingston. He is currently a senior lecturer in Sociology at the University of East London. His research interests are in the areas of national belonging and globalisation, ethnic majorities, discourse theory, media, and everyday life. He has published work on mass rituals, theories of nationalism, home and cosmopolitan identities, and his monograph, entitled *National Belonging and Everyday Life*, came out at the end of 2011.

Gill Valentine is a Professor of Geography at the University of Leeds. Her research interests include social identities and belonging (including work around gender, sexuality, disability, religion/belief and migration), family life, and consumption cultures. Gill has been awarded research grants and contracts from UK and European Research Councils, charities, Government Departments, and non-governmental organisations to a value of over £4 million'. She is currently holds a European Research Council award titled 'Living with Difference: making communities out of strangers in an era of superdiversity and supermobility'

Sarah Wilson is a lecturer in Sociology at the University of Stirling. She is currently working on an ESRC-funded project ('Young People Creating Belonging: Spaces, Sounds and Sight') which combines theoretical interests in the sociology of family and relationships with developing sensory (primarily

visual and audio) methods. This project builds on two projects on young people's experience of parental substance misuse.

Nira Yuval-Davis is the Director of the Research Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London. She has been an expert consultant to various international organisations such as Amnesty International, the UNDP and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. She is a partner in a four-year EU research programme on *EU borderscapes* due to start in March 2012. Professor Yuval-Davis has written three major monographs, about 20 refereed articles and chapters in books on theoretical and empirical aspects of intersected nationalisms, racisms, multiculturalisms, fundamentalisms, citizenships, identities, belonging/s and gender relations. Her latest book is a monograph, entitled: *The Politics of Belonging: Intersectional Contestations* (Sage, November 2011)