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LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

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## CeASR Newsletter Spring 2023

"Welcome to another CeASR newsletter where you can read about all of the work we have done across Criminology, Sociology and Politics and International Relations (PIR) in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

We have re-started our seminar programmes now that the restrictions of the pandemic are no longer with us. Just in the last few months we have enjoyed presentations from PhD students, staff members and our Professor Emeritus of Criminology Colin Webster.

We have a lot more to do before we get the research culture right, but I believe we are heading in the right direction. We want a culture that supports and encourages all staff to do research and to create impact. We want our postgraduate research students to feel like they belong to a wider academic community. We want to do good work that makes a difference, and what everyone to feel valued. In the next few months new research clusters will be emerging around PIR and around Criminology and Sociology. So watch this space!"

***Professor Karl Spracklen, Director of CeASR***



## Publications

Bramwell, D., Checkland, K., **Shields, J.** and Allen, P. (2023). '2000s: Transforming Community Services. In Community Nursing Services in England: An Historical Policy Analysis (pp. 61-73)'. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

**Taylor, S.** (in press). 'DisConnected: The Roots of Human Cruelty and How Connection Can Heal the World' book. John Hunt Publishing.



## Good news

**Dr Joseph Ibrahim** was lead editor for a special issue of Capital & Class 47 (1) which gathered articles focusing on 'Social Theory and Social Movements: 21st Century Innovations and Contentions' in March <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/CNC/current>

**Professor Karl Spracklen** was an external examiner for PhD student Phillip Borell at the University of Canterbury, NZ, and took part in the viva for his study 'PolySaturated: Illuminating the experiences of Polynesian athletes in professional rugby' in November 2022.

**Dr Chris Till** delivered a talk based on his paper 'Creating "Automatic Subjects": Corporate Wellness and Self-tracking' at the 'Wellbeing and Corporate Wellness under Neoliberalism' event, co-hosted by Reading School of Art and Henley Business School and funded by the British Academy in January.

**Dr Chris Till** delivered a paper 'Sociological insights on reflexive control: steering the construction of social reality' to the EU and NATO backed "hybrid threats" think tank 'Hybrid Centre of Excellence' for their opening symposium on Cognitive Intrusions in Helsinki in March.

**Dr Steve Taylor** had an article published in The Psychologist based on his recent book Extraordinary Awakenings in March, <https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologist/old-self-dissolves-new-self-arises-out-its-ashes>

**Dr Steve Taylor** has been invited as a Keynote Speaker at the annual Open University Conference, on The Psychology of Violence at the University of Warwick to share his research on 'Disconnected Minds: How a lack of empathy generates cruelty, and how empathy leads to altruism' in May <https://www.oups.org.uk/event-details/annual-conference-psychology-of-violence-1>

**Dr Waqas Tufail** was interviewed for leading academic news website 'Faculti' to discuss his research 'Failing victims, fuelling hate: challenging the harms of the 'Muslim grooming gangs' narrative' in February: <https://faculti.net/failing-victims-fuelling->

**Dr Elliot Cohen** is collaborating with Boston University, Daesoon Academy of Sciences and Three Pines Press to host the 'Daoism, Psychology and Psychotherapy - Exploring Heart, Mind and Body Conference' at Leeds Beckett University in June <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/events/conferences/16th-international-conference-on-daoist-studies/>

There was a huge uptake in the **January CeASR funding call**, and we are delighted to be supporting over 10 research projects. Some of these include:

- The extent to which the discipline of politics has responded to the 'decolonisation' movement in the way that it engages with issues of race and ethnicity
- Where are we NOT looking for Women, Peace and Security (WPS)? Bringing in Voices, Experiences and Expertise on WPS in the North of England
- Inclusion of Survivor's Voices
- From Seed to Compost: Urban Food Cultivation and Consumption in Seoul (and Leeds)
- Affective capitalism, digital labour and the production of 'digital people'
- Between the Barricades: Gay Men's Experiences of Cross Community and Cross Border Relationships during The Troubles: A Pilot Study

CeASR funding 'ad hoc' applications are now invited which will be reviewed on a weekly basis, please submit these to **Cat Brooke by each Monday midday**.



## Research Student News

We are delighted to welcome Criminology and Sociology PhD students **Jack Denny and Luana Scopel** in February 2023.

- Jack's thesis, supervised by [Dr Bill Davies](#) and [Dr Alexandria Bradley](#), is 'Human Rights in Prisons: Does treating prisoners with dignity and respect and upholding their rights have potential to reduce crime and (re)offending in the long-term?' This builds on Jack's experience of prisons and criminal justice in order to present new ways of thinking and long-term approaches to the Ministry of Justice, HM Prison and Probation Service and others to curve current high reoffending rates.
- Luana's thesis, supervised by [Professor Karl Spracklen](#), is 'The Structure of Mind Revolutions: Human epistemic transillience and its resonance with paradigm shifts in science.'

[Professor Rachel Julian](#) held the 1st hybrid Politics and International Relations PhD students day in March, where the focus was sharing research, journeys and getting to know each other. Over the day the students discovered many links between their research ideas and found places where they could support one another. They also did some training on developing skills of being an independent researcher including networking and engagement as well as methodologies and writing.

**Lucy Adams (PhD Criminology)** was recently appointed to the Student Strategic Advisory Committee for QAA, and will be on the committee for the next year working on student engagement. She had this to say about her recent visit to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust Lessons From Auschwitz Universities Project in November:

*"The visit was to learn about the Holocaust and antisemitism in today's society. The project consisted of a number of preparation seminars where we learned about the history of the Holocaust and the events leading up to it, before then completing a 1 day visit to Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenau. The trip was incredibly eye opening and really helped me to understand the scale of the Holocaust, but also the prevalence of antisemitism today and how it impacts students. The aim of the project is to encourage participants to create change on campus and in their workplace,*

learning the lessons from the Holocaust and the impact of antisemitism. The Holocaust Educational Trust will be continuing with the Universities Project". <https://www.het.org.uk/lessons-from-auschwitz-online>



## External Funding News

Dr Olayinka Ajala has been awarded a **British Academy grant to organise a residential writing workshop in Nigeria**. The aim of the workshop is to develop the capacity of early career researchers in Nigeria working in the field of migration, forced displacement and livelihood transformation.

The workshop is part of the ongoing **CeASR funded research in Nigeria titled 'Sustainable agriculture in Nigeria: Understanding the link between conflict (and terrorism) and climate change in farmers' displacement and livelihood transformation'**. The aim of this project is to investigate the extent to which the highlighted factors - climate change, terrorism and farmer/pastoralist conflict have contributed to forced displacements and understand how farming communities are transforming their livelihoods. Understanding the factors most responsible for unintended displacements/migration and the eventual change of scope of livelihoods is essential in projecting how and whether Nigeria would be able to meet the sustainable development goal to "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" (SDG2).

The workshop will enable mutual learning between editors of high-ranking journals in the subject matter and early career researchers in the country working at the intersection of migration and forced displacement in Nigeria. This will be achieved through coaching, networking, and further

mentoring with the aim of getting the research of early career researchers (ECRs) published in the high-ranking subject matter journals.



Let's Get to Know...

### Dr Emily Hart, Lecturer in Criminology

"I am a new member of staff, having joined Leeds Beckett University from the University of Liverpool. I completed my PhD at the University of Leeds in 2012, so it feels great to be working back in the city of Leeds although I now live with my family in North Wales. I am a critical criminologist and committed anti-prison activist and my research crosses the areas of prisons, desistance from crime and resistance movements. My work takes an anti-carceral feminist and abolitionist stance and is concerned with the harms of imprisonment and its detrimental impact on desistance, post custody experiences and communities. I am really keen to bring this radical approach to my students at Leeds Beckett University and to challenge them to try and think beyond accepted approaches and normalised criminal justice systems. I am a passionate teacher and started my career as a high school and Further Education teacher, so I love getting debates going in the classroom! My current research examines the impact of the new wave of 'mega prisons' on local communities amid the Conservative government's program of prison expansion and am currently inviting applications to a [fully funded PhD entitled: Carceral Expansion and Private Sector Involvement: The impact of a mega prison on the local community.](#)"



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## Meet the Research Development team

The Research Team, **Babita Bhogal**, **Vicki Crossley-Gaunt**, **Nicoletta Mirachi** and Lex Riley support researchers to apply for external research funding, read more about them, their role and how they can work with you [HERE](#)

**Nicoletta** is delivering an **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Hybrid Workshop** to all CeASR members on Tuesday 25th April, please see your MS Teams invite or ask Cat Brooke for further details.



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