Dr Roger Green, Senior Research Fellow Community Studies/Director, Centre for Community Engagement Research, STACS, was invited to lecture to staff and postgraduate students at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya on ‘Community Engagement, Community Development and Research’ in early January, 2019.

He also facilitated a seminar on ‘community engagement in practice’ with staff from the university’s Department of Sociology, Gender and Development that included discussions on developing academic links between Kenyatta University, the Centre for Community Engagement Research and STACS.

To find out more, contact r.green@gold.ac.uk or visit Community Engagement Research
Civil Society needs ‘radical change’ to take on decade of turmoil

Academics drawn from the Departments of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies and Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies contributed to the Civil Society Futures inquiry, a two-year examination of the state of civil society in England including large and small charities, voluntary and community groups.

The inquiry in November warned that the country is facing a challenging 10 years with deep uncertainty over democratic, digital, political, economic and environmental affairs. Findings from the Inquiry say that civil society can provide a bulwark against these issues but that many organisations must go through significant change to be able to do so.

AHRC: Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement

Professors Adam Dinham & Chris Baker

Reimagining Religion and Belief is a new programme being taken forward by Goldsmiths, University of London, with support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. It is designed to improve the effectiveness of central and local government, statutory bodies and service providers in engaging with religion and belief diversity among service users, particularly in the areas of welfare, community cohesion and security. The programme will be developing a new framework to support policy-making in this area along with dedicated online resources, an annual conference and a national policy network.

‘Innovative Spaces of RE for Real: analysing and showcasing new ways of learning’

The Faiths & Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London, and the Education for Social Justice research group at London South Bank University, are launching a new project to explore and showcase innovative approaches to education about religion, belief and worldviews in schools. This will showcase classroom practice which meets the learning proposed in the new National Entitlement for Religion & Worldviews launched by the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) in September 2018.

The project builds on the Faiths Unit’s 2015 report RE for Real – The Future of Teaching and Learning about Religion & Belief (Dinham and Shaw 2015) which helped lay the ground for the new Entitlement and National Plan.

A particular focus is on the study of the category of religion and belief – what counts, and how does it relate to ideas of the secular – as well as exploration of the real religious landscape, as opposed to that which has often been imagined in traditional RE.

There is much brilliant, innovative RE going on already all around the country which is exciting to students but which is patchy and could be extended. This project will highlight key examples and will complement debates about change in policy and practice among sector leaders, with evidence of existing new practices from which others can learn.
New Town Culture: Art & Social Work Project

A team of Goldsmiths Social Work staff, led by Professor Adam Dinham are working with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD), the Serpentine Gallery and the Foundling Museum to develop New Town Culture, a major new programme to explore how artistic and cultural experience can enhance the work of social care professionals and support the needs of adults and children within social care. The Goldsmiths Team, including Professor Chris Baker, Tom Henri, Rachel Hughes & Dr Kalbir Shukra will track the programme and share ideas and processes with social care professionals in order to enhance their continuing professional development.

There are two programme strands:

1. In Your Time will take the form of a series of small group projects taking place over the course of two years, bringing together artists, young people, carers and social care staff;
2. Radio Ballads is based on the BBC Home Series programmes in the 50s and 60s and will explore contemporary issues around work such as precarity, zero hours contracts, self-employment, unpaid care and the histories of industrial action.

New Town Culture

Social Work: Child Protection

Professor Claudia Bernard has presented her research at several events over the last few months including:

- A keynote address on safeguarding black children to the State legislators and senior policy makers working in public child welfare in Wisconsin-Madison, USA;
- Claudia’s book, Safeguarding Black Children: Good Practice in Child Protection, co-authored with Perlita Harris, was also chosen as the book club choice for the Wisconsin-Madison Public Child Welfare Training Programme;
- a talk on understanding child protection services to a public engagement event in Glasgow entitled Occupying the space: families of African descent and child protection services in Scotland. This event aimed to create a safe space for people of African descent who have had experiences within child protection services in Scotland, the African led community organisations and social workers of African descent who have provided support; a keynote address on Social Work with Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Families, at Glasgow Caledonian University.
- Claudia was also invited by the Local Safeguarding Children Board for the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster to give a talk on child neglect in affluent families.

Improving the sleep of children with disabilities and their families through social work practice

Rachel Hughes is working with the Royal Borough of Greenwich to look into changes that social work teams can make to their practice which will have a positive impact on the sleep of the children and families they work with.

Well Being in Urban Communities: A Multilevel Analysis of Local London Boroughs’ Policies and Well Being

Dr Keren Cohen and a team from STaCS, Psychology and the Institute of Management Studies have received funding from the Goldsmiths Research Themes Funding under the theme, Bodies, Minds, Society (Wellbeing in Context).

Goldsmiths Teaching Award Grant (TALIC)

David Woodger, Dr Naomi Thompson & Susan Westman from STaCS are working with the Educational Studies Department to research and evaluate three approaches to teaching and learning about race and racism on three different programmes, drawing on the views of students and staff.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 Update

The Department has completed the first REF Outputs Review and is now preparing for a Mock REF later this year. Impact Case Studies are also being completed. More information can be found here.

Documenting incidences and impact of torture and cruel and inhumane treatment (CIT) of children and adolescents - Developing a practical guide for practice

Dr Maya Mukamel and Dr Keren Cohen have received Goldsmiths Research Development Funding to explore current practices and adapt the existing guidelines for documenting torture and CIT and their impact to children and adolescents. There are two events planned, the first will be a broad knowledge exchange of international experts in the field, both academic and practitioners. The second will include a steering group members who will work together to achieve additional funding for the development of the practical guide for practice.

Deptford: Empowerment, tension and social movement

Andy Turner has recently published an article in the online journal, Radical Community Work. Abstract: This case study analyses the experience of a community group confronting the development of luxury apartments, initially unable to generate change. How does community development provoke empowerment and enable social change? What tensions emerge and how is this managed as part of growing social movement? The case study highlights contrasting community development approaches, from ‘turn up at meetings’ to radical social movement and the ease community development can become de-politicised and domesticated. The case study identifies the challenge for community development groups developing social movement, becoming empowered and working to grow agency. The full article can be read here.
**PUBLICATIONS**


Baker, Christopher, Paul Cloke, Callum Sutherland, Andrew Williams. 2019. Geographies of Postsecularity: Re-envisioning Politics, Subjectivity and Ethics [Book]


Westwood, Jill. 2019. ‘Art Therapy in Australia; Taking a postcolonial, aesthetic turn’ (Eds) Gilroy, Linnell, McKenna, Westwood [Book]

More information on STaCS research publications can be found on Goldsmiths Research Online (GRO) here.

**CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

**Faiths Unit Fellows’ Public Seminar Series 2019 Religion, Belief and Brexit: challenges and opportunities**

The series of events are on Tuesdays/Wednesdays 5.30-7pm, Richard Hoggart Building, Goldsmiths, University of London:

**19 MAR RHB 137A**

Religion, Brexit & Populism - A UK perspective
Panel: Dr Daniel DeHanas, Dr Katie Gaddini, Dr Shanon Shah & Greg Smith
Book your place here

**21 MAY RHB 137A**

Equities and Human Rights outside of Europe
Panel: TBC
Book your place here

**25 JUN RHB 137A**

Populism and Religion in Italy and Europe
Dr Francesca Cadeddu
Book your place here

**16 OCT TBC**

Grassroots faith movements: a future with meaning & hope
Panel: Matthew Barber, Martin Hasani, Julie Siddiqui and Laura Marks
Book your place here

**12 NOV TBC**

‘No-religion’ and unbelief under Brexit
Dr Lois Lee
Book your place here
Findings of the British Academy Funded Project: Beliefs, Values & Worldviews at Work
5.30-7pm, RHB 142, Goldsmiths

The Faiths & Civil Society Unit is pleased to invite you to the launch of Geographies of Postsecularity: Re-envisioning Politics, Subjectivity and Ethics co-authored by Prof Chris Baker.

The book explores the hopeful possibility that emerging geographies of postsecularity are able to contribute significantly to the understanding of how common life may be shared, and how caring for the common goods of social justice, well-being, equality, solidarity and respect for difference may be imagined and practiced.

Further details & to book your place can be found here

StACS Youth Work students attend press event following the launch of the APPG report into Youth Services

The All Party Parliamentary Group enquiry into youth work and Youth Services released its interim findings on October 31st. Goldsmiths youth and community work students were invited to attend the press event that followed the launch of the interim report.

A group of BA and MA students attended the event at Honor Oak Youth Club where they met young people and staff from Youth First Lewisham, as well as those who are leading the enquiry, including Leigh Middleton, who is the CEO of the National Youth Agency who validate our programmes, and Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP. They were great ambassadors for youth and community work at Goldsmiths and even got a tweet from Leigh!

For more information contact Naomi Thompson:
Naomi.Thompson@gold.ac.uk
Dr. Perlita Harris was an academic whose contribution to the field of race and ethnicity in adoption was unparalleled, because it drew on both her personal and professional experience. Through a number of edited books, including “In search of belonging: Reflections by transracially adopted people” (2006) and “Chosen: Living with adoption” (2012), Perlita was able to harness the power of art, poetry and autobiographical writing to give voice to the experience of adopted children, young people and adults.

Perlita studied Anthropology and Sociology at Goldsmiths, graduating in 1987. After a Masters at LSE and a PhD at Warwick she worked for the National Association For Young People In Care, becoming a vocal and powerful advocate for the rights of young people, many of whom remained firm friends.

In 1998 Perlita moved into academia, lecturing at several universities before joining Goldsmiths in 2007. As a consummate academic Perlita brought high standards and precision to everything she touched - she engaged with a first-year undergraduate essay with as much conscientiousness as she did with a PhD dissertation. Her passion and commitment to producing high-calibre social work graduates was rooted in her recognition of the powerful contribution social work could bring to marginalised and vulnerable people, a perception informed by her own early life experiences.

Perlita discovered that she was a carrier of the BCRA2 gene. As well as her mother, her half-sister Sam tragically died from the same disease in 2011. When Perlita was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009, she typically used her experience to contribute to an academic study, “What If? part of a doctoral project by Christine Douglass. Nine women diagnosed with breast cancer were given video cameras and invited to film whatever was important to them. The moving films were first shown at the University of Westminster in 2015 and have been screened many times since.

Perlita’s breast cancer was successfully treated, but she became ill during a trip to India in April 2018, and on her return to the UK discovered that cancer had returned and that the prognosis was poor. She bore the news with great courage and stoicism and enjoyed a wonderful final summer with friends and family.

The Guardian - Perlita Harris

Josephine Klein was the founder of the BA Community and Youth Work programme. She established the BA programme at Goldsmiths 48 years ago in 1970 establishing Group Work approach at the heart of the course and central to the learning and teaching which we maintain to this day. She set up this programme with a focus on access for local South East London people involved in community and youth work at a time when such courses were very rare and people from deprived communities did not access HE.

The Group Work to this day is seen by students’ year after year as the place where they engage with their learning that becomes a significant part of themselves. We as staff over the years have had to maintain a strong resistance to HE culture to minimise such spaces and we are proud that it continues to be the heart of the programme and the Goldsmiths experience in training in community and youth work.

The Guardian - Josephine Klein
Aziz Foundation Scholarships
Beginning in September 2017 the Faiths Unit now have several Masters students studying at Goldsmiths, individuals active in British Muslim communities and interested in how the needs of these communities may be met through community development and services. The aim of these scholarships is to help develop a pool of professionals and practitioners capable of addressing the social challenges facing British Muslim communities. The focus is on supporting the development of practical leadership in all areas of community service and at all levels. The objective is to improve the skills of imams and chaplains, community and youth workers, and teachers and counsellors working on the ground, addressing complex social problems, so that they can deliver inspiring solutions to the highest standards in community service. These scholarships will fund 2 Masters students per year for 5 years. More information can be found at Aziz Foundation Scholarships

William Temple Scholarships
The Faiths and Civil Society Unit has, in partnership with the William Temple Foundation, created five full-time funded Ph.D studentships to explore the role and impact of religion and belief in modern British life. These two institutions are committed to critical, innovative and interdisciplinary research on important trajectories in political, social and economic life, as well as policy. The new visibility of globalised religion within UK life, coupled with a steep rise of those within the UK who identify with ‘no-religion’ is a major phenomenon of 21st century life that is redefining several debates in key areas of public life including healthcare, education, our legal system, community development, social cohesion, poverty and exclusion, employment legislation and human rights, well-being and flourishing. William Temple Scholarships

More details regarding Postgraduate funding for Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies students can be found here
For more information about any of the items in this document, please contact:

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Please submit any items for inclusion in further editions at any time, and please circulate this newsletter.