

**CMRB**

Centre for research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging



**Annual Report**  
**2013-2014**



# **CMRB**

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## **Aims and Objectives**

The Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB), based in the School of Law and Social Sciences of the University of East London, is led by the Director, Prof Nira Yuval-Davis. It brings together interdisciplinary work carried out within the school in the related areas of migration and refugee studies; diasporas and social cohesion; racism, nationalism and political religions and citizenship, identity and belonging. CMRB collaborates with individuals, academic institutions and organisations inside and outside UEL on a national and international level. The aim is to facilitate research, conferences and seminars, in order to build knowledge and provide a space for debate and creative thinking. Disciplinary and methodological approaches employed by CMRB members demonstrate an enriching heterogeneity, ranging from history to ethnography, narrative analysis to performance, anthropology to cultural studies, and sociology to film studies. Research seeks to engage with political and policy debates as well as more abstract theoretical concerns, and aims to involve participants in various stages of the research and dissemination of results.

CMRB benefits from its unique location at the heart of East London, an area which has seen some of the highest rates of international settlement in Europe. The Refugee Archive and other related collections held at the University enhance the potential of the Centre to be at the cutting edge of its fields of study.

### **Aims and objectives:**

- to advance excellence in theoretical, applied and policy-oriented research on migration, especially forced migration, and on citizenship and belonging
- to promote multidisciplinary approaches
- to contribute to consolidation of systematic and coherent perspectives on migration and belonging in the areas of theory, policy and practice
- to give the views of migrants and other marginalised and racialised groups an active voice
- to promote dissemination of information about migration, especially forced migration, from migrant/refugee perspectives
- to inform the practice of those working with and for migrants and other marginalised and racialised groups



- to maintain and develop the Refugee Archive at UEL as a leading international resource in the study of forced migration and other related areas of concern to the Centre, and to encourage wide access
- to promote links with migrant and racialised communities in East London, especially refugee communities
- to serve as a centre of reference for those interested in migration to/from East London, and the latter's role as an historic place of asylum
- to support teaching programmes in the field of migration, notably the postgraduate programme in Refugee Studies, Refugee Studies and Community Development and Conflict, Displacement and Human Security.
- to organise seminars, workshops, conferences and other activities which will serve internal and external audiences
- to liaise among UEL staff and postgraduate students with the aim of initiating and sponsoring research projects consistent with the aims of the Centre and which are to be funded by external agencies
- to strengthen international links with academic and non-academic institutions in related fields.

## Message from the Director

Welcome to this edition of the CMRB Annual Report.

This has been the fifth year of the centre's existence, full of vibrancy and expanding Centre activities. I want to thank CMRB members for their continued engagement and support of CMRB's activities. We could not have sustain such level of activity, however, without the dedicated and loyal support of our wonderful administrator, Dr. Jamie Hakim, who tirelessly organized the administrative work of the various CMRB activities, edited CMRB publications, struggled heroically with the website 'demons' and so on. The character of CMRB activities this academic year, however, has also been deeply affected by its major involvement with the Borderscapes research programme (in which Jamie is also fulfilling a major administrative role) and our two wonderful research fellows, Dr. Georgie Wemyss and Dr. Kathryn Cassidy. During this academic year we carried out fieldwork on everyday situated bordering in Dover/Calais as well as work on our theoretical framework and presented papers in various conferences. In December 2013 we also held a meeting of the Work Package 9 (which CMRB leads) at the UEL docklands campus in order to consolidate and coordinate our research activities for the coming year.

One direct benefit to CMRB from the Borderscapes research programme has been the seminar series on Borders and Bordering that we hosted this year, as well as the continuation of other research seminars, symposia and conferences, which are reported in the Annual Review. Highlights included Prof. Stephen Wolfe on literature and borders, Dr. Delwar Hussain on sexuality on the Bangladesh/India border, Dr Myrto Tsilimpounidi's innovative performance seminar on the contemporary political situations in Greece and Turkey and our on-going seminar series on Gender and Fundamentalism, co-hosted with SOAS's Centre for Gender Studies. All details of the past year's CMRB seminars are included on p.6.

CMRB has also published two on-line edited volumes – Cardullo, P., Gupta, R., Hakim, J. (eds.) (2014) *Sociology, Politics, Thinking and Acting: A Festschrift for Nira Yuval-Davis* and Cardullo, P., Gupta, R., Hakim, J. (eds.) (2014) *London: City of Paradox*. Both are available to download from: <http://www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/publications>.

We must also mention our ever-expanding virtual CMRB community, which now stands at 500 members, all connected via the CMRB jiscmail list. In terms of personnel, we have some excellent research fellows

join us in recent years – Rahila Gupta, Erene Kaptani, Arlington Trotman, Fran Cetti and Tahir Zaman.

The coming academic year will see the continuation and expansion of our present CMRB activities. Already confirmed are seminars from Prof. Phil Cohen, Dr. Eric Woods, Prof. Georgia Dona and Marie Godin; the continuation of the Gender and Fundamentalism symposia and the second conference on 'Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine/Israel'.

CMRB, as can be seen from its varied and rich activities, works closely together with various partners, academic and non-academic, local, national and international. It is considered an international centre of excellence and as can be seen from the member's activities we are in constant demand to engage in various forums. Among others, two of our members were asked to be plenary speakers in the BSA conference on 'Mapping the Field: Contemporary Theories of Race, Racism and Ethnicity' and the Director was asked to take part in a plenary session at the International Sociological Association Congress in Yokohama on 'Social Inequality and social justice'.

We are looking forwards to another year with a full programmes of activities. I am pleased to announce that from September, Prof. Gargi Bhattacharyya, one of our active members, will join me as a co-director of CMRB. In these testing times, locally and globally, CMRB work is probably even more important than ever.

**Nira Yuval-Davis**  
**CMRB Director**

## **Events 2013-2014**

### **CMRB Seminar Series**

#### **Israel/Palestine: New Perspectives**

28th October 2013 – University of East London

In this seminar early career researchers working within media, cultural and literary studies presented work, which developed new perspectives on different aspects of Israel/Palestine. Tom Tlalim (Goldsmiths) presented 'Resounding Conflict: Sonic Strategies for Political Critique in Israel/Palestine'. CMRB's Dr. Jamie Hakim, presented 'Affect and Popular Zionism in the British Jewish Community after 1967' and Nora Parr, (SOAS) presented 'Novel Imaginings of the National Community: Inter-textuality in the works of Ibrahim Nasrallah'.

#### **Gender, Fundamentalism and Nationalism**

16th November 2013, SOAS

This seminar was co-organised by CMRB and SOAS' Centre for Gender Studies. It explored different intersections between Gender, Fundamentalism and Nationalism in a variety of national contexts. Speakers included Kumud Rana, (Erasmus University), Dr. Nayia Kamenou, (University of Cyprus, Dr. Rashmi Varma, (Warwick University) Dr. Maja Korac, (University of East London) and Daphna Baram.



## **Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine/Israel**

17th December 2013, LSE

This symposium explored the multiple, complex and inter-related ways that anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim racisms are being constructed in relation to the question of Palestine/Israel. In particular it examined how the histories of Zionist settlement, anti-colonial and nation-building struggles and 20th century warfare in the Middle East region are being transformed in the current historical conjuncture. Of particular importance in this context will be ideological and political alliances that have emerged locally, regionally and globally around notions such as the 'New Antisemitism', and 'Islamophobia' and how these relate to racialised discourses against Jews and Muslims. Drawing on the expertise of scholars and activists from a variety of backgrounds, the aim of the conference was to serve as a first step for building a transversal anti-racist political vision that will aim to destabilize some of the oppositional dichotomies which are currently hegemonic in discourses around Jews, Muslims and Middle East politics. CMRB organised this event with the Runnymede Trust, the LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights and the Open University's Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change.





## **Understanding Syria's Conflict: Revolution, Repression and Refugees**

17th March 2014, UEL

This seminar was based on new fieldwork that Dr. Tahir Zaman (UEL) and Dr. Ali Ali (LSE) had conducted separately in Syria. Dr. Zaman's paper was entitled, 'What's faith got to do with it? Negotiating religion in humanitarian interventions on the Turkish–Syrian border' and Dr. Ali's paper was entitled 'Local Administrative Councils in Syria: the challenges of governance in, and conducting research about, rebel-held areas'.



## **Gender, Fundamentalism and Racism**

10th May 2014, SOAS

Continuing CMRB's and SOAS's Centre for Gender Studies' successful Women Against Fundamentalism seminar series, 'Gender, Fundamentalism and Racism' explored the intersections between these three crucial issues. Paper titles were as follows: Georgie Wemyss (UEL) and Rebecca Durand, 'Voices from Adult Education'; Pragna Patel, (Southall Black Sisters), 'Excusing the inexcusable: Some reflections on the place of gender in the politics of race and religion in the UK'; Rita Chadha, (RAMFEL) 'Faith, the new Border Agent for

Immigration: Perpetuating sexism and inter-community racism within faith based organisations—an East London case study'; Hana Riaz, (LSE) 'The Woolwich Attack: The racialisation of Islam and Muslim identity in Britain'.



## **Representations, Uprisings and Violence: Vignettes from Turkey and Greece**

21st May 2014, University of East London

This evening brought together documentary film and testimonial performance in an event that staged (or projected) the underlying tensions between popular uprisings and political responses. The two contributions to the event aimed to unpack the relationship between the politics of representations and the mediation of conflict and violence. With solidarity and struggle as the central motifs the event considers both form and content as the site of contestation.



## Borders and Bordering Seminar Series

### Edge Writing: Imaginary Geographies of Waiting at the Border, Prof. Stephen Wolfe (University of Tromsø)

30th September 2013, UEL

This paper interrogated the borders of states and their borderscapes by concentrating on three literary texts focused on waiting at a border of the nation state: C.P. Cavafy's poem "Waiting for the Barbarians" (1904); the parable "Waiting for the Law" by Franz Kafka (1914-15, published 1925); and John Maxwell Coetzee's novel *Waiting for the Barbarians* (1980). Prof. Wolfe used these texts to argue that the waiting act consists of three dimensions which are mutually reinforcing: waiting, in terms of subjectification and internalization of the State by which citizens are made and often act; waiting performances, as they are enacted by border guards and the legal representatives of the State; and finally waiting as it is done by the Other at the border.



### Living with the Border. Prof. Catherine Nash, (Queen Mary, University of London)

7th October 2013, SOAS

This paper focused on everyday lived experience of the Irish border as it has changed over time from the perspective of borderland residents. It did this by bringing together an understanding of the border as material, practiced and symbolic and an attentiveness to meaning, memory and mobility in borderland life. The experience of the Irish border is entangled with questions of identity

and difference in complex ways. The accounts of the meaning and experience of the border that this paper drew on suggest that ethno-national categories of identity in the Irish borderlands both persist and intersect with other local, regional and social identities. At the same time cross-border collective identities reflect the shared experience of the Irish border.



**EUBORDERSCAPES: Borders, intersectionality and the everyday – a project introduction, Dr. Kathryn Cassidy and Dr. Georgie Wemyss**

14th October 2013, University of East London

In this presentation, CMRB Senior Research Fellows Dr. Kathryn Cassidy and Dr. Georgie Wemyss introduced CMRB's role in the EUBORDERSCAPES project. See [www.euborderscapes.eu](http://www.euborderscapes.eu) for more information on the EU Borderscapes project and [www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/borderscapes](http://www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/borderscapes) for details of the role of CMRB in the project.

**Hard and Soft Borders: The Politics of European Border Enforcement, Matt Carr**

4th November 2013, University of East London

In this seminar, journalist Matt Carr discussed the politics of Europe's 'hard' and 'soft' borders, based on his recent book *Fortress Europe: Dispatches from a Gate Continent* (2012). He noted that in the last two decades, borders have acquired an unprecedented international visibility that has produced

a seemingly contradictory dynamic in Europe. On the one hand, he argued, European governments have dissolved national border controls that once seemed permanent and irreversible, while simultaneously expanding the EU's external borders to absorb new states. At the same time the EU has conducted the most extensive border enforcement program in history, based on a constant escalation of exclusionary measures and controls that extend both inside and outside its territorial frontiers - a process that is largely intended to prevent the entry of undocumented Third World migrants.



**Identity, Migrants and Class Politics: Critical Perspectives on Migrant's Engagements, Dr. Davide Però (Nottingham)**

3rd March 2014, University of East London

This seminar addressed issues of class-based collective action. Through an ethnographic case study examining migrant workers' political engagements, Dr. Però discussed the current relevance of class politics and the role that culture, identity and intersectionality seem to play in it. By focusing on the collective political practices observed among Latin American migrant workers in London, he sought to contribute to the 'new sociology of class', an emerging strand within the discipline which has begun to explore the identity and cultural dimension of class. In particular, this seminar aimed to broaden the scope of this strand beyond the individual so as to include the collective and contentious dimension of class and to enhance its sensitivity to new migrants and to the 'super-diverse' nature of contemporary society.



## **Europe's Securitized Border Controls: A Parallel World, Dr. Fran Cetti**

31st March 2014, University of East London

This seminar explored the following issues: privatization and securitization are quietly transforming the European Union's immigration and asylum policies and practices into a parallel regime of extra-legality. The forced migrant to Europe is increasingly hostage to a tight "migration-security nexus". The European Union not only outsources its border control activities to private security concerns but it also consults the security industry on the direction of its policies, adopting its discourse and practices. It is using the industry's expertise to meld member states' border technology into an apparatus of detection and deterrence that stretches far beyond the region to intercept forced migrants long before they reach its borders. As a consequence, Europe's border control agency, Frontex, and its private security partners not only patrol outside Europe's geopolitical boundaries but also appear free to operate outside national legal structures, and without regard to either refugee rights or international human rights legislation.



## **Affect, Borders and Bordering**

28th April 2014, University of East London

This seminar explored perspectives developed within the 'affective turn' to understand issues related to borders and bordering in different transnational contexts. Paper titles are as follows: Virginia Signorini (International University Institute for European Studies) 'Feeling the Paradox: Experiences of refugees and social workers living the asylum cycle' and Ron Cambridge (London

Metropolitan University) Polygonal Hope: Migrant mothers in Higher Education.



**The Sexual Lives of Borderlanders - Hijras on the Bangladesh-India Border, Dr. Delwar Hussain (Edinburgh)**  
19th May 2014, University of East London

Boropani is a coal-mining district situated on the Bangladesh-India Border. It is one of the largest land-ports between the two countries, dedicated exclusively to the import and export of coal. Amongst the thousands of seasonal, long and short term migrant workers to the area are hijras, traditionally known as the 'third sex'. Members of the community travel from all across Bangladesh to participate in the coal trade. In this seminar, Dr. Delwar Hussain looked at what draws the hijras here, to what is ostensibly a male-dominated industry. It presented an alternative argument to how hijras are presented in popular and established understandings and academic literature, placing them firmly within a larger political economy of cross border resource extraction and sociality.

## **EUBORDERSCAPES**

Financed through the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, EUBORDERSCAPES is a new international research project that tracks and interprets conceptual change in the study of borders. It is a large-scale project with a consortium that includes 22 partner institutions from 17 different states, including several non-EU countries. The EUBorderscapes project is studying conceptual change in relation to fundamental social, economic, cultural and geopolitical transformations that have taken place in the past decades. State borders are the frame of reference, rather than ethnographic/anthropological boundaries. However, this approach emphasises the social significance and subjectivities of state borders while critically interrogating "objective" categories of state territoriality and international relations. EUBORDERSCAPES will also compare and contrast how different and often contested conceptualisations of state borders (in terms of their political, social, cultural and symbolic significance) resonate in concrete contexts at the level of everyday life.

CMRB's Prof. Nira Yuval-Davis is co-ordinating work package 9 of the project - Borders, Intersectionality and the Everyday. The central objective of the work package is to promote hitherto neglected areas of border research agendas that address lived, situated and intersectional aspects of state borders. The bordering perspective will thus be developed in terms of discursive, practical and interpretational categories that reflect issues of citizenship, identity and transnational migration. This work package will also explore how borders affect groups with regard to gender, race, citizenship, socio-economic status and sexuality. The comparative perspective will encompass in-depth case studies that involve internal Schengen borders (UK/France), external European borders (eg with Turkey and North Africa) and the external EU border (Finland/Russia). In addition, an urban case study (London) of intersectionality and bordering will be carried out.

Work Package 9 research partners include: University of Umea, University of Eastern Finland, Middle East Technical University, University of Gdansk, VN Karazin Kharkiv National University, The Leibniz Institute of Regional Development and Structural Planning, Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Centre for Regional Studies, Centre for Independent Social Research (St Petersburg, Russia).

2013/2014 has primarily been focused on fieldwork at the British/French border including a number of trips to Dover, Calais, Folkestone and Ashford. Preparations for the fieldwork in London has already begun.



In December 2013 CMRB hosted a WP9 progress meeting at the University of East London (Docklands Campus) attended by all the partners. CMRB also hosted a workshop on the EUBorderscapes project at the annual ASEN conference on National Belonging in April 2014. In June 2014, Prof. Nira Yuval-Davis and Dr. Kathryn Cassidy attended the Association of Borderland Studies conference in Joensuu, Finland and St Petersburg, where they delivered the following papers on preliminary findings from the project: 'Beyond A Situated, Intersectional, Everyday Approach to Bordering' and 'Beyond illegal immigration: Intersectional narratives of the UK/Schengen border'.



EUBORDERSCAPES Work package 9 Team



## CMRB Publications

CMRB members and affiliates continued to publish throughout 2013/2014. Highlights include:

Yuval-Davis, N., Hakim, J., Cardullo, P., (eds.) (2014) *CMRB Working Papers: London - City of Paradox* [Online]. Available at: [www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/publications](http://www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/publications)

Hakim, J., Cardullo, P., (eds.) (2014) *CMRB Working Papers: Nira Yuval-Davis' Festschrift* [Online]. Available at: [www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/publications](http://www.uel.ac.uk/cmrb/publications)

## Refugee Council Archives

The Refugee Archive was opened at UEL in 2004. It has continued to expand its collection and develop links with the wider community. The Refugee Council Archive is one of the foremost archival collections relating to the study of migration and refugee issues. Materials held are relevant to research in refugee studies, demography and migration studies, politics, history, geography, law, legal studies, international relations, sociology, social welfare, ethnic and gender studies, diasporic studies, psycho-social studies, community studies and social studies. There are rare documents unique to this collection including the early minutes and administrative records charting the foundation of what was to become the Refugee Council and an extensive archive of the Refugee Council as an organization. There are also an extensive special collection of books and journals; a large quantity of published and unpublished articles and reports; conference papers and grey literature; newsletters, research documents; field reports and working papers.

Details of all our archival collections can be found on the Archives Hub (<http://archiveshub.ac.uk/contributors/universityofeastlondon.html>) and we can also confirm that in 2012 details of the Refugee Council Archive and the British Olympic Association Archive were added to the United Nations History Project website. A number of online resources have also been developed in order to make news and information about forced migration issues available to students, researchers and those interested in issues of forced migration. Resources include a Wordpress website and blog focusing primarily on new developments in Britain and Europe (<http://refugeearchives.wordpress.com/>). There is also a Twitter account available for the Archive at [@refugee\\_archive](https://twitter.com/refugee_archive). There is also a Refugee-Research Jiscmail list.

Recent outreach activities for the Refugee Council Archive have included a conference panel paper at the Society of American Archivists annual conference in 2012, in a session entitled [Beyond Resettlement: Overcoming Hurdles to Document the Experiences and Contributions of Refugees](#). Paul Dudman, the Archivist, has also presented a conference paper focused on the challenges associated with archiving the refugee experience at the international Refugee Voices conference, held at the University of Oxford in 2014.

## **MA Refugee Studies**

The MA in Refugee Studies Programme has developed in the context of increasing concern about forced migration. It recognises the importance of (forced) migration at the global level and of the multiple factors associated with refugee crises – the interplay of economic, political, social, cultural, and environment pressures, which stimulate the search for asylum. The MA in Refugee Studies enables students to examine forced migration as a global phenomenon. It familiarises students with the relevant theories in the fields of (forced) migration studies, law, sociology, anthropology, psychosocial and cultural studies. The course equips students with advanced skills in interdisciplinary analysis and research, and enhances their career prospects and development. For more details follow this link: (<http://tinyurl.com/btp228w>).

## **MA in Refugee Studies and Community Development**

UEL's innovative new MA in Refugee Studies and Community Development focuses on the increasingly important and highly relevant area of social care and refugees, and the communities to which they belong. Drawing on elements of our successful programmes in Refugee Studies and International Social Work, the MA offers a unique programme that builds on UEL's expertise in this important field. The programme examines key issues in the field of refugee studies and the communities in which refugees live. The course attracts students of diverse origins and experiences, including refugees, from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, south-east Asia, the Americas, western and Eastern Europe. They bring together academics and those who work professionally in the refugee field, including teachers, counsellors, welfare workers, legal advisers and community workers. Such diversity encourages productive exchange of ideas and enhances the learning environment. For more details please follow this link: (<http://tinyurl.com/pvg76t6>).

## **MA Conflict, Displacement and Human Security**

This MA offers an advanced and comprehensive understanding of the relationship between conflict, displacement and human insecurity. Distinctive features of the programme are its focus on conflict and displacement, its people-centred approach, and its emphasis on human security that combines both human rights and human development. The proposed programme approaches development as an important security strategy and considers displacement a measure of human security.

The programme adopts an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of the conflict, generalised violence and social inequality in contemporary global contexts; it examines the complex intersections of global, regional and local structures and their linkages to the changing character of conflict; it encourages independent critical approaches to contemporary theories of conflicts, human rights and human security; it examines global and local dimensions of conflict, displacement and development; it adopts people-centred approaches to security; it views displacement as a lived experience; it considers links between theoretical and applied/policy issues in conflict, displacement and development.

The programme is especially relevant to employment in the fields of conflict management and resolution, humanitarian assistance and displacement, human rights and development initiatives. It has general relevance to non-governmental as well as government sector employment both in developing and developed countries. For more details follow this link: (<http://tinyurl.com/cqtz77a>).

## Director's Activities



(l-r: Dr Jamie Hakim, Prof Nira Yuval-Davis, Dr Kathryn Cassidy, Dr Georgie Wemyss)

During 2013-14 Nira Yuval-Davis was heavily engaged in the two major activities she had taken on the previous year. She worked as the leader of Work Package 9 at EUBORDERSCAPES working on situated everyday bordering in metropolitan cities and European borders. This involved working with the UEL team on situated intersectional bordering in the UK (in particular in Dover/Calais border and in London) as well as with the other teams involved in this WP, from Hungary, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, Germany and Turkey.

This academic year has also been when most of her work as member of the 2014 REF (Research Excellence Framework) Sociology sub-panel has taken place.

It left little time for other activities. However, on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, Nira was a plenary speaker at the conference 'Major themes in contemporary racisms', plenary presentation at the BSA Race and Ethnicity conference 'Mapping the Field', Birmingham, and on 13th July she gave a plenary address at the International Sociological Association Congress, Yokohama on 'Intersectionality, inequality and bordering'.

She also continued co-editing the book series *The Politics of Intersectionality* for Palgrave-MacMillan and being on the editorial advisory boards of Editorial Advisory Boards of *Das Argument* (Germany), *Ethnicities* (UK), *Hagar* (Israel), the *Journal of Inter-cultural Studies* (Australia), *The International Feminist Journal of Politics* (Routledge), *Signs: Journal on women and culture and society* (USA),

*Social Inclusion* (Switzerland), *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* (American Sociological Association).

Her publications during the 2013-4 academic year included:

‘Religion and gender in contemporary political projects of belonging’, in N. Reilly & S. Scriver (eds.), *Religion, Gender and the Public sphere*, NY & London: Routledge pp. 31–44.

And the edited volume *Women Against Fundamentalism: Stories of Dissent and Solidarity* (London: Lawrence and Wishart), which she edited with Sukhwant Dhaliwal, where, in addition to co-writing the introduction, she wrote the autobiographical chapter ‘Intersectional contestations’.

A theoretical/methodological paper on autobiographical writing, inspired by the experience of interviewing and editing this collection was presented by Nira at a NOVELA conference on autobiographical narratives which took place in Warwick University during November 2013 and is also going to be discussed at the workshop on ‘Intellectual autobiographies’ at the ISA conference in Yokohama in July.

## Members & Associated Members



**Molly Andrews** is Professor of Political Psychology, and Co-director of the Centre for Narrative Research ([www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/index.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/index.htm)) at the University of East London. Her research interests include the psychological basis of political commitment, psychological challenges posed by societies in transition to democracy, patriotism, conversations between generations, gender and aging, and counter-narratives. Her current project, 'The Unbuilding of East Germany: Excavating Biography and History' is supported by the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung and the University of East London. Her monographs include *Lifetimes of Commitment: Aging, Politics, Psychology* (Cambridge, 1991/2008) *Shaping History: Narratives of Political Change* (Cambridge, 2007) and *Narrative Imagination and Everyday Life* (Oxford, 2014). *Shaping History* won the 2008 Outstanding book of the year award of the American Education Research Association, Narrative and Research Special Interest Group, and is currently being translated in to Chinese. She is a co-investigator on the NOVELLA project (Narratives of Varied Everyday Lives and Linked Approaches) a three-year project funded by Britain's National Centre for Research Methods.

### **Prof Floya Anthias**

Prior to becoming a Professor of Sociology at UEL in 2013 Floya Anthias was Professor of Sociology and Social Justice at the University of Roehampton (where she remains as Emeritus Professor). She has also been Professor of Sociology at the University of Greenwich and Oxford Brookes University. Floya was born in Cyprus and migrated as a small child with her parents to Britain. She was educated at the London School of Economics (B.Sc. Soc.) the University of Birmingham (M.Soc.Sc) and Royal Holloway College (Ph.D.). She is an Academician of the Academy of the Social Sciences (AcSS). Her main academic writings have explored different forms of stratification, social hierarchy and inequality, and how they interconnect. Her research spans a range of theoretical and empirical concerns relating to this. This has included a focus on racism, diaspora and hybridity, multiculturalism, gender and migration, labour market disadvantages and class position. Her most recent work has been developing the concept of translocational positionality as a way of addressing some of the difficulties identified with concepts of hybridity, identity and intersectionality. She has published on these issues in a range of top peer reviewed journals. Floya's books include *Woman Nation State*, Palgrave (with N. Yuval Davis), *Racialised Boundaries: nation, race, ethnicity, colour and class*





and the anti racist struggle (with N Yuval-Davis), Routledge, *Ethnicity, Class, Gender and Migration*, Greek Cypriots in Britain, Avebury, *Into the Margins: Migration and Exclusion in Southern Europe*, (with G. Lazaridis), Ashgate, *Gender and Migration in Southern Europe: women on the move* (with G. Lazaridis), Berg, *Rethinking Anti-*

*racisms: from theory to practice*, (with Cathie Lloyd), Routledge, *Paradoxes of Integration: Female Migrants in Europe*, (with M. Kontos and M. Morokvasic), Springer, *Contesting Integration, Engendering Migration*, Palgrave (with M. Pajnik), and *Work and the Challenges of Belonging* (with M. Pajnik), Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

**Prof. Gargi Bhattacharyya** joined UEL in Spring 2013, after living and working in Birmingham for over twenty years. Previously, she worked at the Universities of Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Aston. Her work centres around issues of racism, gender and sexuality, injustice and inequality and global cultures. My publications include: *Tales of Dark-Skinned Women* (UCL, 1998), *Race and Power* (Routledge, 2001), *Sexuality and Society* (Routledge, 2002), *Traffick, the illicit movement of people and things* (Pluto, 2005), *Dangerous Brown Men* (Zed, 2008) and *Ethnicities and Values in a Changing World* (Ashgate, 2009). Recently, in common with many colleagues, she has been concerned to understand more about the construction and workings of 'austerity'.



**Prof Haim Bresheeth** is a filmmaker, photographer and film studies scholar, teaching at SOAS in London. He has written on the Israel/Palestine conflict and worked with Palestinian refugees. His books include the best-selling *Introduction to the Holocaust*. His edited volumes include *The Gulf War and the New World Order*, (with Nira Yuval-Davis) published in 1992 by Zed Books, *Cinema and Memory: Dangerous Liaisons*, Co-edited with Zand, S and Zimmerman, M, and published by Zalman Shazar Centre, Jerusalem (Hebrew) 2004, and a special double-issue of *Third Text* (September, 2006), on Palestinian and Israeli art, photography, architecture and cinema (co-edited with Haifa Hammami). His latest film *London is Burning* (2012) info on: [http://www.haimbresheeth.com/lib/London\\_is\\_Burning/Welcome.html](http://www.haimbresheeth.com/lib/London_is_Burning/Welcome.html)





**Kathryn Cassidy** is Senior Research Fellow on the EUBORDERSCAPES project and works in the Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging. She is a feminist human geographer, whose research on informal economies and borderlands is located at the nexus of social and economic geography and anthropology. She has an interdisciplinary PhD (anthropology and geography) awarded by the University of

Birmingham, funded by the ESRC and entitled The Informal Economies of the Ukrainian-Romanian Borderlands, two Masters degrees in the Social Sciences (Birmingham and UCL) and an undergraduate degree in Geography from the University of Nottingham. She is a specialist in post-socialist Europe and has been carrying out ethnographic research in Romania and Ukraine since the late 1990s.

### **Babak Davarpanah**

An international consultant who has worked for the World Bank, UNDP and other agencies in the Middle East, Central Asia and China, as well as communities in London Docklands and Sheffield. As an economist and urban and regional planner he has evaluated the socio/economic impact of local environmental initiatives and has developed national urban upgrading programmes. His prime focus is to help develop sustainable local economic development strategies through participatory planning and partnership, with particular interest in mainstreaming crosscutting issues such as gender, minority rights and information and communication technologies.

**Paul V Dudman** has been the Archivist at the University of East London since November 2002. Paul's remit now includes responsibility for all of the physical collections held at UEL, which at the moment include the British Olympic Association Archive and Library; the Hackney Empire Theatre Archive; the Refugee Council Archive and others. Paul is a Chartered member of CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and is a member of further professional bodies including the Archives and Records Association and the British Records Association.



**Rahila Gupta** is a freelance journalist and writer. Her work has appeared in *The Guardian* and openDemocracy among other papers and websites. Her books include, *From Homebreakers to Jailbreakers: Southall Black Sisters* (ed.) (Zed Press, 2003), *Provoked* (Harper Collins, India, 2007) and *Enslaved: The New British Slavery* (Portobello Books, 2007). Her play, *Don't Wake Me: The Ballad of Nihal Armstrong*, was part of the Brits off Broadway festival 2014 and has been nominated for various awards. She is currently working on a play inspired by Jimmy Mubenga.

### **Dr Narmala Halstead**

Has carried out long-term anthropological fieldwork on East Indians and other groups in Guyana and on migrants in New York. Her research began with an interest in exploring the connections and divergences between the local and the global in terms of people's lived experiences. She has looked at cultural performativity and considered issues of status, identity and forms of socio-political violence. Her research sites included 'wedding houses', 'chutney' music sessions, interactions between people and state-like institutions, and cafes outside law courts among others. She has also carried out research at airports, on Caribbean migrants in London and on Portuguese migrants in Wales.

### **Dr Syd Jeffers**

Senior Lecturer in Sociology at UEL. His research interests include race, public policy and social theory. His most recent research was an evaluation of a mental health project with young people in a school in Newham.

**Dr Roshini Kempadoo** is a photographer, Media Artist and Reader in Media Practice. Her research, multimedia and photographic projects combine factual and fictional re-imaginings of contemporary experiences with history and memory. As a founder member of Autograph ABP, the Association of Black Photographers and having worked as a social documentary photographer for the Format Women's Picture Agency, her recent work as a media artist includes photographs and screen-based interactive art installations that fictionalise Caribbean archive material, objects and spaces. They introduce characters that once may have existed, evoking hidden and untold narratives. Recent projects include: the



photomontage series *State of Play* (2011) on Obama's Presidency; the chapter 'Imagining Her(story): Engendering Archives' in the recently published *Renewing Feminisms: Radical Narratives, Fantasies and Futures in Media Studies*; and 'Gazing Outwards and Looking Back: Configuring Caribbean visual culture' for the current special issue of *Small Axe: A Caribbean journal of criticism*. She is represented by Autograph ABP.

**Yosefa Loshitzky** is Professorial Research Associate at the Centre for Media and Film Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR), School of Advanced Study, University of London. From September 2014 she will be a Leverhulme Trust Emeritus Fellow. She is the author of *The Radical Faces of Godard and Bertolucci* (1995), *Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen* (2001), selected by *Choice Magazine* as an outstanding academic title for 2002, *Screening Strangers: Diaspora and Migration in Contemporary European Cinema* (2010), the editor of *Spielberg's Holocaust: Critical Perspectives on Schindler's List* (1997), and a guest editor of a special issue of *Third Text* on 'Fortress Europe: Migration, Culture, Representation' (2006). She is currently writing a book entitled 'Just Jews? Anti-Semitism and Islam phobia in Contemporary Culture and Beyond'. Author of numerous articles and book chapters, Loshitzky's work has been translated into French, German, Swedish, Danish, Italian, Arabic and Hebrew. She has been a Visiting Research Fellow and Professorial Research Associate at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, The Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, USA, The Yitzhak Rabin Centre for Israel Studies, The Jerusalem Van Leer Institute, The French CNRS, The Italian CNR and The United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility, Barcelona, Spain. Until 2002 she was a Professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 2003-2004 she was a Visiting Professor at King's College, University of London, from 2004-5 she was a Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor at University College London (UCL) and from 2005-2012 she was a Professor of Film, Media and Cultural Studies at the University of East London (UEL). She has given keynote and plenary papers in the USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Brazil, Israel and elsewhere. From 1994-2003 she served on the



editorial board of *Cinema Journal*, the official organ of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the largest Film Studies Scholarly Association in the world. Currently she is a member on the international advisory board of *The Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*.

**Dr Peter G Morey** is a Reader in English at UEL, teaching and researching mainly in the areas of 20th–21st century literature with a particular interest in postcolonial literature and theory, especially pertaining to South Asia and its diasporas. He has recently been a coordinator of an AHRC and ESRC research project on '*Reframing Muslims*'. He taught at Sussex, Leeds and Worcester before arriving at UEL in 1998. Although he mainly focuses on literature, his work is informed by adjacent disciplines such as cultural and media studies and their attendant theories. In particular he is interested in matters of narrative and power, and his research broadly addresses the question of how narrative and representational forms are complicit with (and how they contest and problematise) established power relations.

**Dr John Nassari** is an artist and academic. He has exhibited practice-based research nationally and internationally and is the director of PhotoInsight, an online art and theory website dedicated to issues in forced migration. John works on interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary methodologies in refugee studies, and has published widely on refugee representation, identity, memory and narrative.

### **Prof Mica Nava**

Professor of Cultural Studies at UEL. Her publications include *Gender and Generation* (1984); *Changing Cultures: Feminism, Youth and Consumerism* (1992); *Modern Times: A Century of English Modernity* (1996); *Buy This Book* (1997) and *Visceral Cosmopolitanism* (2007). Since the 1980s her work has been widely cited and reprinted and has contributed to the expansion of cultural studies in UK and abroad. She was founder of the Centre for Cultural Studies Research (CCSR) at UEL. She has been invited to give keynote conference papers and/or special lectures on her research in Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Holland, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States as well as at universities and other venues throughout Britain. Her current research is on race relations social investigators in in the UK in the 1950s and '60s.





**Dr Marta Rabikowska** is Principal Lecturer in Creative Industries at the University of Hertfordshire. Her research incorporates practice-based methods, including auto-ethnography, visual practice and documentary film-making. She has co-directed and co-produced (with Matthew Hawkins) a number of award-winning films, such as *Belonging*, *Consumption and Place* (First Jury Prize at the Film Festival of the Association of Consumer Research in Milan in 2007) and *Migration, Health and Place* (funded by the Leverhulme Trust in 2010). She has also been engaged in community activism in South London, mainly as Director of the Short Film Festival, *Edge of the City*. She is a recipient of research grants from the AHRC, British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust, among others. Dr Rabikowska has published widely on the politics of culture and creativity, Eastern European migration, visual methods, well-being and ethics. She is guest editor of the special issue of the journals *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* on 'The Ghosts of the Past: 20 Years After the Fall of Communism in Europe' (Elsevier, 2009), and *Social Identities* on the negotiations of normality and identity amongst Eastern European migrants (Taylor & Francis, 2010), and editor of the book *The Everyday of Memory: Between Communism and Postcommunism* (Peter Lang, 2013). She is currently writing a monograph on the role of perception in urban regeneration. At the University of Hertfordshire she is a member of T(E)VAD: Theorising Visual Arts and Design Research and of the Media and Screen Studies Research Centres.

### **Dr Ashwani Sharma**



He is a Principal Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies in the School of Arts and Digital Industries and the programme leader for the MA Media Studies at UEL. He is at present co-director of the Centre for Cultural Studies Research (CCSR) at UEL. He co-edits the online journal *darkmatter* ([www.darkmatter101.org](http://www.darkmatter101.org)) and is completing a book on 'Race and Visual Culture in the Global Age' (Bloomsbury Academic). He occasionally writes poetry for *Southern Discomfort* ([www.southerndiscomfortzine.wordpress.com](http://www.southerndiscomfortzine.wordpress.com)) a writing zine that he co-edits, and is a member of the Black Study Group (London).

**Dr Michael Skey** is a Lecturer at the University of East Anglia and researches in the areas of national identity and globalisation, discourse theory, media and everyday life. He has published work on mass rituals, theories of nationalism and cosmopolitan identities and his monograph, *National Belonging and Everyday Life* was joint winner of the BSA/Philip Abrams Memorial Prize, 2012. Future work will look to

explore issues around identity and security, media and diasporic identities, political populism and sports reporting.

### **Prof Corinne Squire**

Professor of Social Sciences and Co-director of the Centre for Narrative Research at UEL; with CNR, part of the ESRC-funded NOVELLA research methods node. Her most recent publications are *HIV in South Africa: Talking about the Big Thing* (2007), *HIV Technologies in International Perspective* (edited with Mark Davis, 2010) and *Doing Narrative Research* (edited with Molly Andrews and Maria Tamboukou, 2013 and 2008). Her research interests are in HIV and citizenship, narrative theory and methods, and popular cultures and subjectivities.

**Dr Myrto Tsilimpounidi** is a social researcher and photographer. Her research focuses on the interface between urbanism, culture, and innovative methodologies. Past work explores the impact of migration on societal changes through an empirical investigation of cosmopolitan theory. Current projects focus on street politics, landscapes of belonging, and the new aesthetics of crisis in Southern Europe. Myrto is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of East London and the executive director of Ministry of Untold Stories. Recent publications include 'Performances 'in crisis': what happens when a city goes soft?' for *City* and 'The disappearing immigrants: hunger strike and invisible struggles' for *Journal of Theory in Action*. She is also the editor of 'Remapping Crisis: A Guide to Athens', a new book on crisis and its urban manifestations.



### **Arlington Trotman**

British citizen, born and raised in Barbados; lived and worked in Britain since 1970; Currently Ordained Minister, Methodist Church in the UK (2010); formerly Managing Director, AW Trotman Associates, a research, mentoring, training and management consultancy, (2005-2012), *inter alia*, responsible for Review of Section 75 of Northern Ireland Act 1998 for OFMDFM Northern Ireland. Chief Executive Officer, Churches' Commission for Racial Justice (1998-2006), in the fields of migration, asylum and refugees, racism and discrimination in Britain and Ireland; monitoring community relations and equality and diversity policy trends across UK, Ireland and EU. Moderator Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) (2005-2011), a pan-European ecumenical NGO on policy development and practice in the fields of

migration, asylum and refugees, anti-racism and discrimination 18 European countries; chaired Forum of Non-Governmental Organisations, ECR Preparatory Conference Against Racism, and Thematic Commission (WCAR), Durban 2001. Provides lectures and trainings on Being, Identity and Belonging. Among several publications, Author: Ethnicity, Nationality and Ecclesiological Identity, in *Vieraanvaraisuus Ja Muukalaisuus, Suomalainen teologinen Kirjallisuusseura*, Helsinki 2011, (The theological Finnish Literature Society 'And the Alien in hospitality'). Ed., *Asylum Voices*, The Experience of People Seeking Asylum in the UK, Church House Publishing, (London: 2003), first publication of its kind; *Sanctuary*, Guidelines for Church and Society Offering Asylum Protection, CCRJ (London: 2005).

### **Dr Abel Ugba**

Senior Lecturer in Journalism at UEL. He has worked as a reporter, correspondent and subeditor in newspapers in Nigeria, Germany and Ireland. In 2000, Dr Ugba and Chinedu Onyejelem established *Metro Eireann*, Ireland's most popular multicultural newspaper. He is on the editorial boards of *Translocation* and of *EJN News*. He is also the current President of the Exiled Journalists' Network (EJN).

**Dr Georgie Wemyss** is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging. She is currently working on the EUBORDERSCAPES project. Her interest in the everyday processes of bordering grew out of her D.Phil ethnographic research about Britishness and belonging together with insights gained from 20 years teaching social anthropology to adults returning to education in East London. Her book, *The Invisible Empire: White Discourse, Tolerance and Belonging* explores how differing narratives of Britishness obscure colonial histories in ways that work against the belonging of second and third generation British citizens in the present. She was an ESRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Migration at the University of Surrey from 2005 to 2007 and Visiting Fellow at Goldsmiths College from 2007 to 2011.

**Dr. Eric Woods** is a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of East London and a Faculty Fellow in the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University. He is also an Advisor to the the LSE-based Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism and, since 2009, he has been on the editorial team of the scholarly journal *Nations and Nationalism*. My interests are in the symbolic politics of nationalism, ethnicity, conflict, reconciliation and redress. He has lately become fascinated by the 'performative turn' in macro cultural sociology, and his



recent work has drawn on the insights of Jeffrey Alexander, Victor Turner, and Robin Wagner-Pacifici, among others.

**Prof Nira Yuval-Davis** is director of CMRB. She has been the President of the Research Committee 05 (on Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations) of the International Sociological Association and is an editor of the book series *The Politics of Intersectionality* (Palgrave Macmillan). She is a founding member of the international research network of Women In Militarised Conflict Zones and of Women Against Fundamentalism and has served as a consultant to international organisations such as Amnesty International, the UNDP and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. Among her written and edited books are *Woman – Nation – State* (1989); *Racialized Boundaries* (1992); *Unsettling Settler Societies* (1995); *Gender and Nation* (1997); *Women, Citizenship & Difference* (1999); *Warning Signs of Fundamentalisms* (2004); and *The Situated Politics of Belonging* (2006).

## **PhD Students & Post-doctoral Researchers**

### **Dr. Ali Ali**

Thesis title: *Choice and constraint: narratives of Iraqi refugees in Jordan*

### **Celine Centat**

Thesis title: *Politics of exclusion and the making of migrant identities in Europe*

### **Dr. Frances Cetti**

Thesis title: *Terror and the figure of the refugee*

### **Dr. Mastoureh Fathi**

Thesis title: *Class narratives of Iranian Women Migrants in Britain*

### **Rumana Hashem**

Thesis title: *Gender and armed conflict: the case of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh*

### **Dr. Jamie Hakim**

Thesis title: *Affect and Cultural Change: The Rise of Popular Zionism in the British Jewish Community after the 'Six Day War' (1967)*

### **Helen Margaret Leadbitter**

Thesis title: *Meeting the health care and support needs of refugee and asylum seeking families with particular reference to the impact of illness and disability on the young people within the family unit*

### **Lynn Mhlanga**

Thesis title: *Presumption of guilt: criminalisation and marginalisation of migrant communities in the global war on terror*

### **Nicola Samson**

Thesis title: *Narratives of Belonging: Life Histories of Women in East London post Second World War*

### **Dayjour Sefre**

Thesis title: *Refugee experiences in education: A comparative study of Iranian and Afghani pupils in London's secondary schools.*

### **Mary Sutton**

Thesis title: *From solidarity to sanctuary: refugees' experiences with church communities*

**Dr Helen Taylor**

Thesis title: *Landscapes of Belonging: the Meaning of Home for Cypriot Refugees in London*

**Steve Thorpe**

Thesis title: *Inter-generational Dynamics in Protracted Urban Exile: Southern Sudanese Refugees in Cairo*

**Dr Diana Yeh**

Thesis title: *Beyond (British) – Chineseness: The Politics and Poetics of Art and Migration in Multi-ethnic Contexts*

**Dr. Tahir Zaman**

Thesis title: *The Noble Sanctuary: Islamic traditions and Iraqi refugees in Syria*