

# Here illegally? We are here to help you return home...

Representatives from your Local Immigration Team will be holding a number of surgeries to aid you in your return to your home country.

We will be at: Quindens Karamsar 400 High Road Ward,  
Essex SS1 1TQ.

On 8

Home Office

Refugee Advice

Immigration Department Team

400 High Road Ward

Essex

**CMRB**  
**Centre for research on Migration,  
Refugees and Belonging**  
**Annual Report**  
**2014-2015**

# **CMRB**

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## **Aims and Objectives**

The Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB), based in the School of Social Sciences of the University of East London, is led by Directors Profs Nira Yuval-Davis and Gargi Bhattacharya. 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 Directors

Welcome to this edition of the CMRB Annual Report.

This year has been once again full of research activities, both collective and individual for the CMRB members. We continued to sustain our previous areas of activities and expanded into new ones. We want to thank CMRB members for their continued engagement and support, but once again we need to mention our special thanks to our wonderful administrator, Dr. Jamie Hakim, whose tireless work on our behalf enabled our multi-dimensional activities.

As during the previous academic year, a central plank of CMRB activities continued to be our involvement and leadership of Work Package 9 (on everyday situated intersectional bordering) of the EUBorderscape research programme. We have now finished the data collection stage of the research and are starting to be engaged in the dissemination aspect of our activities. In addition to signing a book contract on *Bordering with Polity* Press and a special issue on *Roma and Bordering in Europe* with *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, different members of the research team have presented findings from our research in various universities in the UK and Europe (eg Warwick, Glasgow, Nottingham, Umea and Zurich). We have also, in cooperation with some of our civil society partners – i.e. the Migrants Rights Network, Southall Black Sisters and Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London produced a film, directed by Orson Nava (who has become one of our Associated Members), *Everyday Borders*, which is based on our London research data. The film is freely available on the web and we have received some excellent feedback regarding its potential impact. Another film associated with our research project is going to be produced and directed by our associate member Catherine Donaldson and will focus on migrants in the South coast of England, especially in Hastings. Our team have also been chosen by the Borderscapes Programme to host in November 2015 the major European policy and impact conference of the Borderscapes programme as a whole.

This academic year we also continued our related Bordering seminar programme. This academic year we also continued our related Bordering seminar programme which include presentations delivered by Nicholas De Genova (Kings College), Miika Tervonen (University of Helsinki), Carly McLaughlin (Potsdam University) and Tom Vickers (Northumbria University) Other CMRB seminars this academic year included those delivered by Phil Cohen (Birkbeck), Floya Anthias (UEL), Gargi Bhattachryya (UEL) and Aaron Winter (UEL).

We also continued our series of once a semester symposia on different aspects of Gender and Fundamentalism co-hosted with SOAS's Centre for Gender Studies and are hoping to publish a special issue of the journal *Feminist Dissent* based on a selection of papers presented in these symposia.

We organized two major conferences this academic year. The first one, in cooperation with the Middle East Institute and the Centre of Palestine Studies in SOAS, the Runnymede Trust and the Centre for the Study of Human Rights in LSE on Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine/Israel, followed our previous LSE by-invitation-only conference the previous year. This conference was open, international and had more than 30 papers and 200 participants.

The second conference launched the ESRC seminar series "racism and political mobilisation, learning from history and thinking internationally" that CMRB is leading alongside Glasgow University. The conference was attended by over 100 people with plenary sessions led by Prof John Solomos and Prof Stephen Small and many excellent papers from scholars working in Britain and in different parts of Europe. The following event in the series took place in Birmingham on September 9<sup>th</sup>, discussing the impact of radical intellectual traditions on movements against racism and for social justice.

CMRB has also continued its publications activities and has launched an on-going papers series on 'Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine-Israel', edited by Nira Yuval-Davis and Jamie Hakim, in co-operation with the Runnymede Trust and the Centre for Palestine Studies, London Middle East Institute, SOAS. Papers from this online series appeared on the front page Open Democracy from the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015, which Prof. Yuval-Davis and Dr. Hakim guest edited.

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 – Leyli Behbahani, Fran Cetti, Catherine Donaldson, Rahila Gupta, Erene Kaptani, Norbert Mbu-Mputu, Orson Nava, Arlington Trotman, Saara Pellander and Tahir Zaman.

The coming academic year will see the continuation and expansion of our present CMRB activities. Already confirmed are seminars from Dr. James Renton, Dr. Brendan McGeever, Dr. David Feldman, Dr. Eylem Akatav and Dr. Mastoureh Fathi. CMRB is also hosting a major European conference on the findings and impact of the

EUBorderscapes research project, which will take place in UEL 10-12 of November 2015.

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, including the major event on Migration that the London Higher Forum is organizing in November in Brussels.

We are looking forwards to another year with a full programme of activities. Given the current major international refugees crisis and the continuing tightening of the UK Immigration Bill, our activities are needed more than ever.

**Nira Yuval-Davis**  
**Gargi Bhattacharyya**  
**CMRB Directors**

## Events 2014-2015

### CMRB Seminar Series

#### **What was Gaza About? Prof. Avishai Ehrlich**

Sunday 7 September 2014, Institute of Education

In this fascinating and timely talk, Israeli sociologist Prof. Avishai Ehrlich probed the causes and effects of the Gaza conflict of summer 2014 in light of the rapidly changing geopolitical context of the Middle East.



#### **CMRB Annual General Meeting + 'Intersectionality, Inequality and Bordering Processes', Prof. Nira Yuval-Davis (CMRB)**

Monday 29 September 2014, University of East London

CMRB's regular AGM was a well-attended event that attracted participants from in and outside the university. Prof. Gargi Bhattacharyya was introduced as the centre's new co-director and she, along with other centre members, spoke about a host of initiatives they were involved in for the upcoming academic year.

After the AGM, centre co-director Prof. Nira Yuval-Davis delivered a paper entitled, 'Intersectionality, Inequality and Bordering Processes',

The abstract was as follows: Traditional sociological stratification theories privileged class and equated societal boundaries with national boundaries. The challenge for contemporary Sociology is to establish a theoretical framework which would go beyond the limitations of the traditional paradigm. Such a framework would recognize specific spatial and temporal as well as other situated locations of social actors and will incorporate their structural as well as epistemological effects, but would not be contained by them. In order to do so, the paper presents an intersectionality stratification theoretical framework in which the different axes of social power, including gender, race/ethnicity, stage in the life cycle, sexuality, ability etc., are being considered when discussing systems of inequality. At the same time this theoretical framework also recognizes that in the contemporary world state boundaries often do not overlap with national boundaries and neither of them necessarily overlap with societal and market boundaries. Such a framework would also recognize that any simplistic notion of boundariless global society can be just as misleading. The paper, therefore, focuses on constructions and processes of bordering as often borders and borderzones separate as well as combine social systems of inequality and provide exclusionary as well as permeable boundaries of political projects of belonging, economic zones and informal networks of kinship and friendship. Their constructions, which are often shifting and contested, affect and are affected by structures/processes of unequal social, economic, cultural and symbolic relations of power and thus can provide an important site to examine the framework presented in the paper.



## **On The Making of a National Tragedy: The Transformation of the Meaning of the Indian Residential Schools in Canada, Dr. Eric Woods (UEL)**

Monday 27 October 2014, University of East London

The Indian residential school system has become the pre-eminent symbol of the historic maltreatment of Aboriginal peoples of Canada, triggering, among other measures, numerous official apologies from political and religious leaders, the largest compensation payment in Canadian history, and the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. However, the current representation of the school system as a terrible tragedy is in sharp contrast from the way in which it was formerly represented by its champions, who once heralded the residential schools as a humanitarian – even sacred – enterprise designed to save Aboriginal people from their ostensible obsolescence in the face of higher civilization. This seminar traced the process by which this remarkable transformation in the meaning of the residential schools occurred. To bring this process to light, it drew on Jeffrey Alexander's strong program in cultural sociology.



## **Gender, Fundamentalism and the New Politics in the Middle East**

Saturday 13 December 2014, SOAS

This symposium explored various issues relating to gender and fundamentalism with regards to the rapidly shifting political terrain in the contemporary Middle East. The following speakers spoke on the following issues: Nira Yuval-Davis (UEL), 'Some of the gendered aspects of the Israeli/Palestinian current encounters', Nadje Al-Ali, (SOAS), 'Beyond ISIS: Islamism, militarism and gender-based violence and resistance in Iraq and Syria' and Magdolein Abaida (Hakki) 'Women rights post the revolution in Libya'.

## **The Role of Churches in Asylum and Migration politics – Ethical Reflections and Perspectives for the 21st Century**

Wednesday 17 December 2014, UEL

Organised by CMRB Research Fellow Arlington Trotman, this symposium examined the political and social crisis in migration and asylum politics, and the intersections between Christian churches, government and intergovernmental approaches to displacement. It seeks responses to why the desperate search for safety and human security among many migrants and people seeking asylum of ten ends in tragedy on different levels. As one of a series of events that was held to mark the 50th Anniversary of Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), the symposium also explored the role of Christian faith-based approaches fit for purpose in the 21st century. To this end, this symposium explored what might an alternative radical proposal look like for addressing the present situation, particularly where the value of life and human wellbeing is at stake in Britain and Europe? What approaches by the international community, so often driven primarily by party politics and international cross-border security, might be deployed to turn the tide of unnecessary migrant deaths such as in the Mediterranean, Calais or Tilbury? What role might the Churches and other religious bodies play in helping to reshape the social and political landscape?

## **Beyond the Beast of Austerity: Inequality and the lives we hope to lead, Prof. Gargi Bhattacharyya (UEL)**

Monday 12 January 2014, UEL

The language, logic and practices of austerity seem to have saturated everyday life. In the process, we have lived through a concerted attack on ideas of entitlement and equality. This seminar tried to understand the manner and nature of the shift in popular discourse and institutional practices brought about through austerity measures. It argued that (i)



austerity is not and has never been designed as a short-term measure (ii) austerity represents an attempt to reshape the political terrain in a manner that dismantles many of the partial gains of the twentieth century (iii) this dismantling goes far beyond a cutting of service provision and threatens to corrode social connections and confound the articulation of entitlement, solidarity or conviviality. As always, the question is how we think beyond the constraints of this unhappy moment.



**Hierarchy, Inequality and Stratification: classing intersectionality and intersectionalising class. Prof. Floya Anthias (UEL)**  
Monday 26 January, UEL

The complexity of social divisions and their inter-relations, both as analytical categories and categories of practice asks us to rethink the terms that we use for understanding both 'identity' formations and forms of inequality. In this paper Prof. Anthias cross-referenced debates on class and debates on intersectionality. These debates rarely engage with each other. She argued that both debates fail in different ways. Intersectionality debates rarely provide a clear analysis of the role of class formation in power relations. Stratification approaches rarely engage with the inter-relationships of different modalities of power, for example around gender and race in ways that don't subordinate them to 'class'. She reflected critically on some approaches to class that attempt to move away from a traditional focus on relations of production and labour markets, thereby attempting to incorporate gender and ethnicity into class theory and the newer more culturally nuanced political economy. She also considered how intersectional frameworks could be developed in ways that attend more centrally to classed social relations.





**Conference: Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine/Israel**  
Monday 9 February 2015, SOAS

This conference sought to explore 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 sought to examine 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 will be 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.

The conference was sponsored by University of East London's Centre for research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging, SOAS's Centre for

Palestine Studies (London Middle East Institute), the Runnymede Trust and the LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

**Constellations of Women's Political Engagement in the Diaspora, Marie Godin, Prof. Giorgia Dona, Dr. Maja Korac (UEL)**

Monday 16 February 2014, UEL

While political engagements among diasporas continue to be dominated by a focus on men's transnational politics, this study aims to expand the emerging work on women's political engagements. The paper adopted a transnational social field framework to examine constellations of women's political engagements in the diaspora across social fields that are not confined to diasporic fields. Drawing upon research with Congolese women in Belgium and in the UK, this paper argues for the need to move beyond an ethnic approach to the study of diasporic political engagements. The paper relied on the concept of bonding versus bridging social capital to look at how external dynamics are intersecting with internal ones, how they are being connected and how they influence one another. This paper highlighted both the heterogeneity of Congolese women's struggles, which are embedded in a variety of social fields, and the convergence mechanisms that make possible, in certain contexts, the emergence of transversal campaigns with transnational women's networks as well as with the global justice movement.



## **Secessionism, Separatism and Survivalism in America: Racism and White Supremacy in Times of Perceived Crisis, Dr. Aaron Winter (UEL)**

Monday 2 March 2014, UEL

Just prior to, and following, the election of Obama for a second term in 2011/12, there were widespread reports of far-right activists stating their intention to leave the United States as exiles, secede from it or create their own nation out of fear of the alleged threat he poses to whiteChristian America. In addition to such secessionism and separatism, there has also been a rise in far and more 'mainstream' right-wing survivalism (which emerged in the context of Obama's first election and the economic crisis). Yet, this far-right secessionism, separatism and survivalism, as well as race-based anti-government enmity, have their origins in the post-civil rights 1970s, as responses to the effects of the perceived loss of white supremacy brought about by Civil Rights. Corresponding to this, it was a period that also saw a transformation of far-right racism, from that which asserted and assumed white supremacy and hegemony over African-Americans and the nation to those that asserted and assumed white victimhood and persecution by a federal government that abandoned them. This paper will trace the history of white secessionism, separatism and survivalism, as well ascorresponding responses on the far and mainstream right to whiteness 'in crisis' in the post-civilrights era. I argue that they both emerge (and converge) as responses to social, political andeconomic 'crisis points' that encourage or exacerbate right wing fears about the state of the nationand racial anxieties (albeit ones based on more structural political and economic issues), includingnot only civil rights and Obama, but Vietnam, the cold war, oil and farm crises, and 9/11.



## **Re-Living the Dream? Reinventing East London for the Post-Olympic Legacy, Prof. Phil Cohen (Birkbeck)**

30 March 2015, University of East London

2012 was billed as the 'legacy games'. It was supposed to 'inspire a generation' to greater things on and off the track. It was supposed to create a level playing field in which the life chances of young people growing up in the most deprived parts of East London were to converge with those born into more affluent circumstances in other parts of the city. How far are these material dreams realisable and to what extent do they connect with the actual aspirations of different communities in East London? How are the utopian and commercial dimensions of the Olympic project rhetorically reconciled and how do they come into conflict in the actual strategies of urban regeneration the mega event sets in motion? What kind of economies of worth should be applied to evaluating the success or failure of 2012? Finally, how is the Olympic Legacy narrative being enacted on the ground, in the development plans for the Olympic park and how are those living in this new piece of city actually making sense of the place? To examine these questions concretely Prof. Cohen drew on his current ethno-cartographic research with residents groups in East Village.





**I'm Not Racist But Some Of My Best Friends Are: Paradoxes of xenophobia and structures of disavowal, Dr. Ben Gidley, COMPAS (Oxford)**

Monday 13 April 2015, UEL

This paper explored how xenophobia has risen even as the norm against prejudice has been mainstreamed, showing how this creates a series of paradoxes around the figure of the migrant in popular discourse, opening up a space for disavowal of the racism implicit in xenophobia. The paper argued that the paradoxes of contemporary xenophobia and structures of disavowal built on them require a reorientation of our epistemologies of xenophobia from understanding prejudice to understanding practice.

**Gender, Sexuality, Fundamentalism and the Law**

Saturday 25 April 2015, SOAS

This symposium explored various issues relating to gender, sexuality, fundamentalism and the law. Gita Saghal (Centre for Secular Space), Pragna Patel (Southall Black Sisters), Peter Tatchell, (Peter Tatchell Foundation) all spoke.



## **Racism and Political Mobilisation, Learning from History and Thinking Internationally**

Friday 1 May 2015, UEL

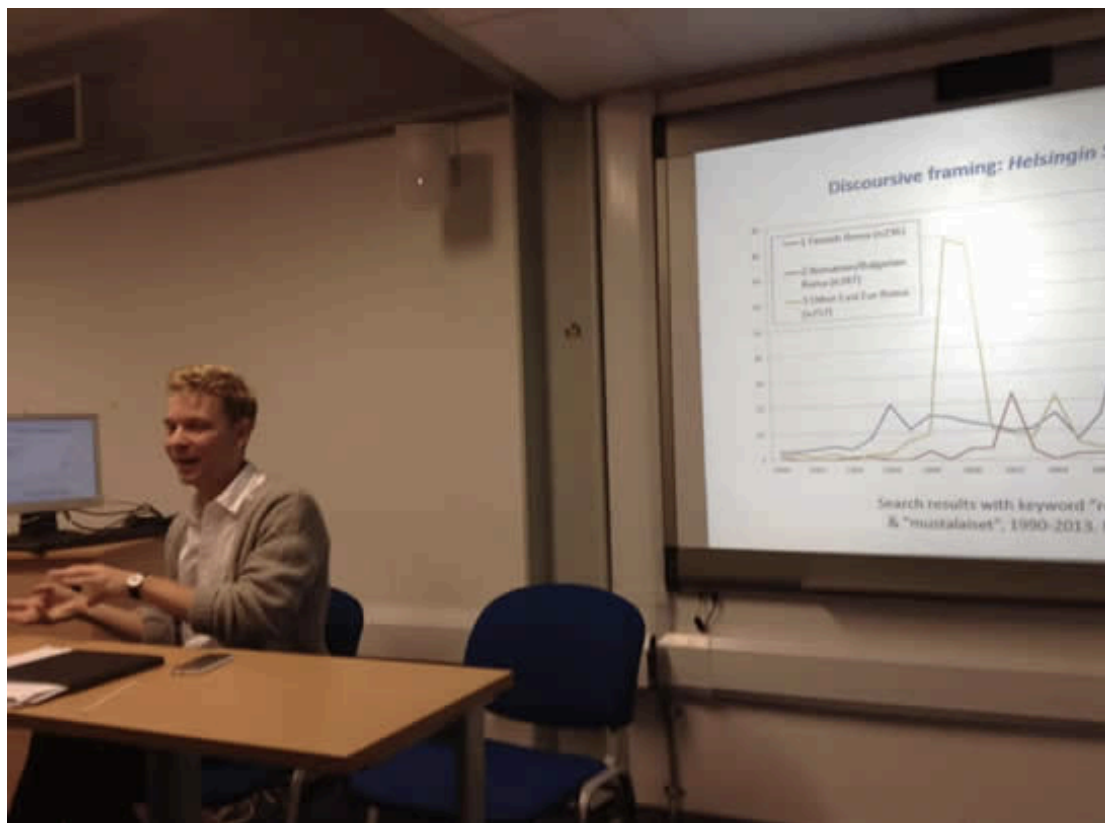
CMRB hosted the opening conference of the ESRC funded series “racism and political mobilisation, learning from history and thinking internationally”. The conference was attended by over 100 people with plenary sessions led by Prof John Solomos and Prof Stephen Small and many excellent papers from scholars working in Britain and in different parts of Europe. The next event in the series will be taking place in Birmingham on September 9th and will discuss the impact of radical intellectual traditions on movements against racism and for social justice.

## **Borders and Bordering Seminar Series**

### **Criminals, victims or migrants? Media and political framing of Roma migrants in Nordic countries, Dr. Miika Tervonen, (University of Helsinki, Finland)**

Monday 6 October 2014, University of East London

How have Eastern European Roma migrants, among the most marginalized on the continent, been received in the Nordic countries, often seen as exceptionally open and universalist societies? Based on comparative media material, Dr. Tervonen argued that the Roma migrants have been conceptualized in Nordic countries through the prism of being either 'criminals' or 'victims'. This has been connected with securitized policy responses, in which the focus has been on strategies to hinder the mobility of nominally legitimate migrants. Tervonen analysed the case of the Roma migrants as an 'acid test' of modern Nordic migration regimes, highlighting the friction between European-level debordering and continuing protectionist and nationalist impulses.



### **Border Struggles in the Migrant Metropolis, Dr. Nicholas De Genova (King's College, University of London)**

Monday 13 October 2014, University of East London

Dr De Genova's paper addressed the following issues: transnational migration is a central and constitutive dynamic in the social production (and

transformation) of urban space. These transnational urban conjunctures are indisputably generated within the territorial boundaries and jurisdictions of nation-states, and in relation to the very palpable enforcement of nation-state space through immigration law and border policing. However, they radically destabilize and contradict the spatial premises and conceits of nationalism, and require us to examine the proliferation of sites of border enforcement far removed from physical borders at the territorial margins of states. The spatial practices of migrants and their struggles therefore provide crucial standpoints of critique from which to interrogate the methodological nationalism that has commonly plagued much social scientific research, generally, and also what we may call the “borderological” fetishism of much border and migration studies. The migrant metropolis becomes the premier exemplar, simultaneously, of the extension of borders deep into the putative “interior” of nation-state space through immigration law enforcement that increasingly saturates the spaces of everyday life, and of the disruptive and incorrigible force of migrant struggles that dislocate borders and instigate a re-scaling of border struggles as urban struggles. Thus, on a global scale, the *differential spaces* produced at the intersection of migrant subjectivities and historicities with specific cities challenge scholars in migration and border studies to fundamentally reconceptualise the emergent formations of social and political life.





**Between Innocence and Deviance: figuring the asylum-seeker child in Australia, Dr. Carly McLaughlin (University of Potsdam)**

Monday 10 November 2014, University of East London

In Australia, the depiction of asylum seekers as monstrous parents who throw their children into the sea or force their children to take part in protests in detention centres has rightly been identified as part of the government's campaign to dehumanise asylum seekers. So far, however, little focus has been placed on the children and the discourses which form around them. This paper examines the way in which the figure of the child asylum seeker has been produced and instrumentalised in different discursive contexts. Across the political divide, asylum-seeker children have invariably been figured as victims, an image which has not only served the government's cause of demonising adult asylum seekers, but has also been used as powerful political currency for those campaigning on behalf of asylum seekers. The instrumentalisation of this figure hinges on universal ideas about childhood as a universal, apolitical state of innocence and vulnerability. The paper explores how this leads to the image and behaviour of asylum seeker children in Australia being contained within normative ideas about childhood, thus ensuring that the figure of the innocent and vulnerable asylum-seeker child remains intact. Ultimately, this abstracts children from the highly politicised context of Australia's mandatory detention regime and renders them invisible as political subjects.



**The Reserve Army of Labour and International Migration to Britain: developing a conceptual model, Dr. Tom Vickers (Northumbria University)**

Monday 17 December 2014, Docklands Campus, University of East London

This paper developed a conceptual model to examine the relationship between international migration, UK immigration controls, and the structure of the working class in Britain. With a focus on the period 1999-2014, it argued that policy changes are resulting in an increasingly stratified working class. Immigration controls are combining with 'austerity' measures to enforce increasingly precarious and exploitative working conditions for sections of migrant labour, as part of a wider reshaping of relations between workers and capital. The paper drew on Marx's proposal that a fluctuating industrial reserve army of labour is integral to capitalism and places a downward pressure on wages. Whereas many Marxist studies of migration treat the reserve army as an undifferentiated mass, this paper applied Marx's division of the reserve army into floating, latent and stagnant elements to reflect on the findings of a range of recent studies of migration to Britain and the authors own on-going research with asylum seekers, refugees and Eastern European migrant workers in North East England.



**Borders, Boundaries and Beyond: A Feminist Exploration of the Making of Borders, Boundaries and Identities in Post-colonial Bangladesh, Dr. Rumana Hashem (UEL)**

Monday 9 March 2014, UEL

This presentation drew on PhD research that sought to critically discuss the making of borders, boundaries and identities, especially how borders and boundaries are drawn, contested and redrawn in a particular historical and socio-political location, in this case South-east Bangladesh. With a reference to an empirical study about the post-colonial Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), it explored how the borders of Bangladesh and the redrawn boundaries of the CHT affect groups/collectivities with regard to gender, ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic status within the nation-state. The presentation relied on the concept of situated and contextual narratives to provide a multi-level, intersectional and discursive analysis of the creation of Bangladesh's border. Accordingly, it adopted a translocational social-field framework for grasping the making of boundaries of different groups of women. We demonstrated, going beyond a structural assessment, that while the contested and redrawn borders of the nation-state of Bangladesh have enabled spheres for identity politics and hegemony of Bengali nation over 'other nations/collectivities', the redrawing of territorial borders has enabled the construction of identities of certain groups and individuals who form identities through cultural belonging, whose boundaries are regularly shifting and contested in relation to their gender, religion, culture, language and nationality. The discussion was interdisciplinary in nature and drew on political-sociological and political-anthropological scholarship in particular.



**Challenges in conducting research with Roma women offenders in prison, Can Yildiz (King's College London)**

Monday 11 May 2015, UEL

Can Yildiz's doctoral study focuses on the experiences of Romanian and Bulgarian Roma women offenders as it aims to investigate the crucial social processes which produce extremely disproportionately high numbers of them in a London prison. She is about to start doing with her fieldwork in May 2015. Drawing on her experiences obtaining ethical approval and to formulate her research framework, this paper will discuss some of the bureaucratic, theoretical and practical challenges in conducting research in this field.

## **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).

2014/2015 was a very productive year on all fronts for CMRB's work on the EUBORDERSCAPES project. We have largely completed the fieldwork at the British/French border (including a number of trips to Dover, Calais, Folkestone and Ashford).

The team also delivered a number of presentations in different policy and academic contexts:

- Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism Conference: Nationalism and Belonging, London, 1 April 2014 July 2014, *Paper by Nira Yuval-Davis (UMEA) Georgie Wemyss (UEL) and Kathryn Cassidy (UEL) "Bordering, Belonging and the Politics of Belonging"*
- Association for Borderland Studies First World Conference, Joensuu and St Petersburg 9-13 June 2014, *Paper by Nira Yuval-Davis (UMEA) Kathryn Cassidy (UEL) and Georgie Wemyss (UEL) "Beyond a Situated, Intersectional Everyday Approach to Bordering"*
- British Sociological Association Annual Conference: Borders at the Interface: Mapping Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Beersheva, 7-11 December 2014, *Paper by Georgie Wemyss (UEL) and Nira Yuval-Davis (UMEA) "Everyday Postcolonial Bordering: Partnerships, Relationships and Engagement"*
- British Sociological Association Annual Conference: Societies in Transition: Progression or Regression? Glasgow, 15-17 April 2015, *Paper by Georgie Wemyss (UEL) and Nira Yuval-Davis (UMEA) "Beauty and the Beast: Everyday Bordering and 'Sham marriage' Discourse"*
- Mapping Immigration Controversy: End of Project Conference, Warwick, 10 June 2015, *Paper by Georgie Wemyss (UEL) and Nira Yuval-Davis "Everyday Bordering, Everyday Border-Guards: Bordering and the British 2014 Immigration Act"*
- Roma Network: Dover Practitioner Event, Dover 25 June 2015, *Presentation by Kathryn Cassidy (UEL) and Georgie Wemyss (UEL) "Borders, Intersectionality and the Everyday"*

CMRB have had the following publications based on the EUBORESCAPES research accepted:

- A special issue proposal, ***Racialised Bordering Discourses on European Roma***, that includes papers from WP9 partners RKK, UEF, UEL and UMEA has been accepted by Ethnic and Racial Studies and will be submitted in September 2015.



- A contract has been signed with Polity Press for a monograph, ***Bordering***, and is being authored by Nira Yuval-Davis (UMEA), Georgie Wemyss (UEL) and Kathryn Cassidy (UEL).

In collaboration with film director Orson Nava, CMRB has produced a 50 minute film, ***Everyday Borders***, directed by Orson Nava and in partnership with NGOs Migrants Rights Network, Southall Black Sisters and Refugee And Migrant Forum Essex and London. <https://vimeo.com/126315982>. This year it has been screened at SOAS, Warwick University and Umea University. A national tour of the film has been organized for the 2015 Autumn term.

Finally, in 2014/2015 CMRB attended a series of project meetings to discuss all the above issues. These were held in Joensuu/St Petersburg, Beersheva and Grenoble.



EUBORDERSCAPES Work package 9 Team

## CMRB Publications

CMRB members and affiliates continued to publish throughout 2015/2016. The centre itself has published:

Hakim, J., Yuval-Davis, N., (eds.) (2015) *Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine/Israel Online Paper Series*. 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 is 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 present 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, psycho-social 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>).

## **Democratic Access or Privileged Exclusion? Civic Engagement through the Preservation and Access to Refugee Archives**

In February 2015, under the auspices of the UEL Library and Learning Service, and focusing on the preservation of refugees and migrants lived experiences in London, a bid for civic engagement through Refugee Council Archives at UEL was submitted by CMRB members and associates, Paul Dudman and Dr. Rumana Hashem. The project entitled, “Democratic Access or Privileged Exclusion? Civic Engagement through the Preservation and Access to Refugee Archives,” sought to use existing Archives held within the UEL Library as a basis to forge new partnerships between students, academics, archivists and a community groups. The aims and objectives of the project included:

- a) To engage with local communities in an attempt to establish a Living Refugee Archive and to promote and enable accessibility and engagement with our existing collections. This will be documented through the collection of oral histories.
- b) To encourage student engagement through the contribution of oral histories and archival materials.
- c) To pilot a Refugee Living Archive website to incorporate digital content collected as part of our Oral History Project which, if successful, could lead to a continuation of the project beyond the initial timescale outlined in the bid.
- d) Finally, the creation of Refugee Archives and History Group to help facilitate continued discussions and civic engagement activities, and to help encourage interaction between archivist, historians, NGO’s and the communities themselves as to how the refugee experience can be preserved and documented.

Awarded with an internal fund from the University of East London, Paul and Rumana have undertaken consultation meetings with communities, academics, students, archivists and practitioners within the field of refugee and migration studies. Rumana, as CMRB post-doctoral associate member, has also collected oral history narratives of refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants in London which will be preserved and made accessible through a new website, called the Living Refugee Archives, that Paul has created. The research was seen as more of an outreach project of UEL Archives and CMRB, and the fund was to be finished by the end of July. Within this time, we have collected five oral histories of refugees and undocumented migrants, conducted significant consultations with communities and experts in the field, held a workshop with academics, archivists students, and third sector activists working – both nationally and internationally- in the field, and created a Living Refugee Archives (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/livingrefugeearchive/about/>).

## Director's Activities

**Nira Yuval-Davis** completed her duties as a member of the Sociology sub-panel in the REF. She appeared as a plenary speaker at the ISA Congress in Yokohama as well as in many other events including those organized by the universities of Berlin/Sorbonne, City, Kings, Lapland, Massachusetts, Nottingham, SOAS, Warwick, Zurich, the Rosa Luxemburg Institute in Berlin and the conference in London on Secularism, Freedom and Equality. She also appeared in Radio 4 'Women's Hour' and BBC1 'The Big Questions' programmes.

She also interviewed for and co-edited a book with Suk want Dhaliwal called, ***Women Against Fundamentalism: Stories of Dissent and Solidarity*** which was published by Lawrence and Wishart and launched at the Rich Mix.

**Gargi Bhattacharyya** has been completing a book with Palgrave Macmillan entitled "***Crisis, Austerity and Everyday Life, living in a time of diminishing expectations***" which is due to be published in the autumn of 2015. During 2014/15 Gargi has spoken at a variety of events including; the seminar series of the Race, Education and Equality research centre at the University of Birmingham; the feminist theory seminar series at the University of Manchester; the BSA teaching conferences in Birmingham and in London; the BSA postgraduate conference in Glasgow; the Austerity Futures conference at Goldsmiths College London; the convivium on the Commons at UEL; the day school on race and class, organised by LSE and the Runnymede trust.

Under the auspices of CMRB, Gargi has submitted a large research application to the Horizon 2020 programme, "Reconstructing Heritage from the Margins: European Memories of Belonging and Rupture – ReMEMBeR". We expect a decision on this application by November 2015.

## 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 cross-cutting issues such as gender, minority rights and information and communication technologies.

**Catherine Donaldson** is fascinated by the different worlds in which people live. In 2004 she combined her theatre and film experience with a degree in Archaeology and Anthropology to become a documentary filmmaker. She honed her skills working with community, arts and educational groups, including with Nira at UEL, before founding Eggplant12 Films Ltd in 2007. Eggplant12 works to inform, to inspire and empower others because we are passionate about how people think, feel and live. She is currently a Lecturer in Documentaries at University of Brighton and making a documentary about migration in Hastings

**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. Jamie Hakim** is the research administrator at CMRB where he has been particularly active in the EUBorderscapes research. Whilst working at CMRB he and Nira Yuval-Davis have been co-ordinating the 'Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Racisms and the Question of Palestine/Israel' project that has resulted in two conferences, an online paper series and a week guest editing OpenDemocracy. He was awarded his PhD in 2014 and it was entitled 'Affect and Cultural Change: the Rise of Popular Zionism in the British Jewish Community after the Six Day War'. He is currently pursuing his research interests in affect, popular culture and politics in a new project that looks at male embodiment in the age of austerity.

### **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.

### **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? Antisemitism and Islamophobia 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*.

**Norbert Mbu-Mputu** from the DRC is a journalist, a former United Nations worker and director of an international British charity in Africa. While in Britain, he set up a charity: South People Projects (SoPPro) and is involved in number of asylum seekers, refugee and migrants projects and activities. He coordinated the project sponsored by Heritage Lottery Fund Wales "Bamonimambo" (The witnesses) on the footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley, the greatest explorer of Africa. He published a Congo and Britain common history book and map and, after the Diaspora Change maker course (Common purpose, DFID & Comic Relief), he is working in partnership with the CRMB to improve the charity and to rescue the Exiled Journalists Network organisation.

**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 co-ordinator 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**

Emeritus 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). For her most recent publications, see <https://uel.academia.edu/MicaNava>. 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.



**Orson Nava** is a freelance film-maker and has a background directing dramas and documentaries for the BBC, C4 and ITV. Earlier this year he directed *Everyday Borders*, a 45 minute documentary for the CMRB that looked at the impact of the 2014 Immigration act on British society. He is a graduate of the Northern Media School and The National Film and Television School and has taught Media, Film Studies and Creative Industries modules (at BA and MA level) at Middlesex University, University Of East London, Central Film School and Sheffield Hallam University. He has also run numerous participatory video projects with young people throughout the UK. He is currently doing a PhD focusing on race and the Creative Industries at the University Of East London.

**Dr Marta Rabikowska** is Principal Lecturer in Creative Industries at the University of Hertfordshire. Her research incorporates practice-based methods, including autoethnography, 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.

### **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 UEL and a Faculty Fellow in the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University. He is also an Advisor to the LSE-based Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism. He has been on the editorial team of the 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.

**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 ISA 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 *Woma 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*

### **Dr 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*

### **Dr Rumana Hashem**

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

### **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*

### **Dr 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*