

RN 3: Biographical Perspectives on European Society

Convener: Robin Humphrey, Newcastle University, UK

Session 1: Biography and the Baltics

Tuesday 4th, 09.00-11.00, Room W324

Chair: Aili Aarelard-Tart & Li Bennich-Bjorkman

1. Li Bennich-Bjorkman: A Farewell to Communism? Anticommunism and Non-communism among Baltic political elites.
2. Baiba Bela: Everyday life, power and agency in Soviet Latvia.
3. Vaida Jasiukaityte: 'Gentlemen of success' - Former Komsomol functionaries explaining their lasting success throughout societal change.
4. Laura Assmuth: Discussing ethnic identities with Russian-Speakers in rural Estonia and Latvia.
5. Dace Bormane & Edmund Shupulis: Oral history of an exile community: identity and communication.
6. Aili Aarelard-Tart: Tell me Your story – Russians in independent Estonia.

Session 2: Biography and Ageing

Tuesday 4th, 14.00-15.30, Room W324

Chair person: Robin Humphrey

1. Kaja Kazmierska: Identity Memory and the Sense of Closure
2. Harald Künemund: Changes in life history during transition to retirement – the validity of retrospective reports in qualitative biographical research
3. Regine Koeller: Biography matters! The impact of the work biography on the shaping of retirement -

Session 3: Transnational Biographies

Tuesday 4th, 16.00-17.30, Room W324

Chair: Maggie O'Neill & Brian Roberts

1. Irina Isaakyan: Cosmopolitanism limited: The feeling of ambivalence and the sojourner's discomfort through narrative biographies of Russian academic emigrants
2. Silvia Sansonetti: Family strategies across societies: a cross-societal use of the ethno-sociological perspective
3. Thea Boldt: Constructions of ethnic belonging in biographical presentations of Polish emigrants in Germany.
4. Tamar Raporport & Edna Lomsky-Feder: Enlisting the 'Ethnic Script' for Social Mobility
5. Maggie O'Neill: Transnational Refugees: ethno-mimesis as performative praxis

Session 4: Biography, Risk and Uncertainty 1 (Joint session with Risk & Uncertainty RN)

Wednesday 5th, 09.00-11.00, Room W324

Chair: Jens Zinn

1. Erika Alleweldt: Friendships of young women in the risk society – consequences of modern societal living requirements
2. Helga Pelizäus-Hoffmeister: The Importance of Social Networks for Biographical Certainty
3. Victoria Semenova: Coping with risks in risk society' through biographical research in Russia
4. Chantal Magnin: Individual coping with risks of precarious employment in Switzerland
5. Herwig Reiter: Biographical uncertainty in the transition to working life among young people in post-Soviet Lithuania
6. Robert Miller: 'Matriarchy' as a Means of Coping with the Risk of Sexual and Political Violence

Session 5: Biography, Risk and Uncertainty 2 (Joint session with Risk and Uncertainty RN)
Wednesday 5th, 14.00-15.30, Room W324
Chair: Robin Humphrey

1. Jens O. Zinn: The biographical management of risk and uncertainty – British veterans
2. Tatiana Safonova & István Sántha: The Biography of a Buryat Shaman: Risks as Resources of Reputation for Authority among Hunters
3. Peter Simmons, Nick Pidgeon & Karen Henwood: Nuclear narratives: risk, biography and place
4. Lesley Murray: The negotiation of the risk landscapes on the way to school

Session 6: Biography and Social policy
Thursday 6th, 09.00-10.30, Room W324
Chair: John Given

1. Joanna Zalewska: Between maintaining power, loneliness and dependency - aging in the world in motion. The case of Warsaw
2. Ann Cronin: "Would you like me to tell you my life story?": Some reflections on doing narrative work with people who have experience of homelessness
3. Adelina Calvo Salvador, Marta García Lastra & Teresa Susinos Rada: Contributions of the Biographical-Narrative Methodology to the Study of Education and Social Exclusion
4. Gwynyth Overland: Trauma and survival - a refugee perspective

Session 7: New Approaches to Sociology (Joint session with Evolution & Sociology RN)
Thursday 6th, 11.00-12.30, Room W324
Chair: Anna Bagnoli

1. John Given: The evolution of language and the storying of the world
2. J P Roos: The origin of life stories
3. Hans Petter Sand: One sociologist, two biographies
4. Anna Bagnoli & Bren Neale: Tracking Young Lives over Time: a Review of Longitudinal Evidence on Young People and the Young Lives and Times Study