



2023

Summer

Symposium

**A celebration of interdisciplinary research
in the Social Sciences.**



**London Interdisciplinary
Social Science Doctoral
Training Partnership**



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Doctoral Training Partnership**



Agenda

10:00 Registration

10:30 Introduction

Professor Pietro Panzarasa

10:45 Oral Presentations 1

The Power of Numbers in Social Sciences

12:00 Lunch and Poster Session

13:30 Oral Presentations 2

Bringing Together Community Voices

14:45 Oral Presentations 3

Adaptive Methodologies

16:00 Alumni Talk

Dr Vas Papageorgiou

16:30 Talk 3

Professor Michael Sanders

17:00 Closing Remarks

LISS-DTP Directors

17:15 Short Poster Presentations

17:45 Networking and Poster Session

19:00 End





Professor Pietro Panzarasa

Pietro Panzarasa is a Professor of Networks and Innovation at Queen Mary University London and the director of the LISS-DTP. Pietro's research concerns the structural foundations of social capital within networked communities. He frequently collaborates with people in industry and policymaking. Pietro is passionate about engaging with the next generation of social science researchers to push the boundaries of conventional methodologies and expand insights generated within the Social Sciences.





Dr. Vas

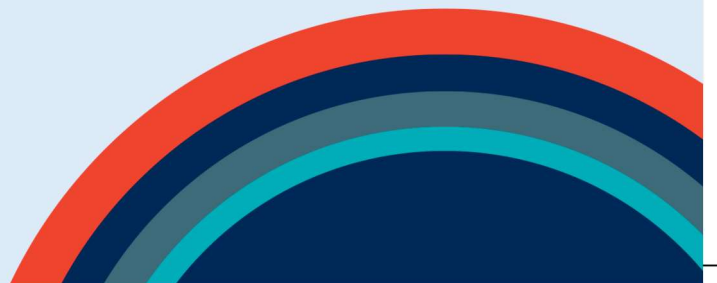
Papageorgiou



Vas Papageorgiou was recently awarded her PhD in Public Health from Imperial College London (LISS DTP Cohort 2019-22). She has been working as a Senior Researcher at the Royal College of Psychiatrists since January 2023.

In her current role, Vas is responsible for overseeing the research programme of the Public Mental Health Implementation Centre which sits in the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health at The Royal College of Psychiatrists. This includes conducting literature reviews, supporting the writing of policy responses, and working with experts by experience to inform the work of the Centre.

In her talk, Vas will reflect on her experiences since completing the PhD including how research works outside of traditional academia





Professor Michael Sanders

Michael Sanders is a Professor of Public Policy in the Policy Institute at King's College London. He was previously Chief Executive of What Works for Children's Social Care, and Chief Scientist and Director of Research at the Behavioural Insights Team, also known as the world's first nudge unit. In his academic and policy work he has conducted and overseen hundreds of randomised controlled trials, with his own research primarily focused on social and human capital, pro-social behaviour, and social mobility.



The Power of Numbers in the Social Sciences



How is city living associated with psychosis?

*Rosanna Hildersley, Lukasz Cybulski, Milena Wuerth,
Peter Schofield, Jayati Das-Munshi*

UK cities show higher incidence of psychotic disorders, but the reasons remain unclear. This case-control study uses data from one of the first and largest person-level data linkages between mental health records and the UK census to explore associations previously only assessed using ecological or smaller studies in England.

The SocioEconomic Predictors of Mental Disorders (SEP-MD) project dataset comprises of data extracted from electronic health records (EHR) from the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation trust (SLaM). These EHRs were linked to the 2011 UK census as a collaboration between SLaM, the ONS and KCL.

Cases with clinical diagnoses of non-affective (schizophrenia spectrum) and affective psychoses (bipolar disorder, depression with psychosis) were identified. Population controls were sampled from the area.

Weighted adjusted (age and sex) odds ratios (waOR) were calculated to model associations. Robust standard errors were used to account for clustering. 16,863 linked cases with psychosis (affective n=5,694; non-affective n=11,169) were identified alongside 596,125 population controls.

Cases with psychosis were more likely to live in areas with the highest population density (waOR 1.17 (1.05, 1.30)). Non-affective disorders showed a stronger association with population density.

Being born within the UK was associated with a higher risk of psychosis, and risk for migrants increased with length of stay in the UK. Racialised minorities were at higher risk of non-affective psychoses. Indicators of isolation (marital status and living alone) were highly associated with psychosis risk.

Our findings regarding urbanicity and social circumstances both confirm and provide further depth to previously identified associations. Novel findings relating to migration and interactions with ethnicity will require further investigation.

These insights will provide valuable information for future public health and policy development.



The Power of Numbers in the Social Sciences



Food insecurity and mental health during the first UK Covid-19 lockdown

Marina Kousta, Karen Glaser, Rachel Loopstra

Background: Food shortages and shielding requirements during the first UK COVID-19 lockdown resulted in a food insecurity (FI) rise, including among groups usually at low financial risk. FI has been linked to poor mental health, but it is unclear if this relationship is independent of financial insecurity. To better understand these relationships, we assessed the association between FI and mental health at this time, and whether it varied across socio-economic groups.

Methods: Data came from an online survey of 4,350 UK participants in July 2020. An adapted version of the USDA FI module measured inability to access food for financial or non-financial reasons. Mental health was measured by the GAD-7 and PHQ-9. Predicted probabilities from logistic regression models, adjusted for socio-economic variables, were employed to examine the relationship between FI and mental health, and stratified models were used to assess relationships across socio-economic groups.

Results: The predicted probabilities of anxiety and depression, respectively, were 35% (95% CI: 30% to 40%) and 50% (95% CI: 45% to 56%) for people with FI compared to 22% (95% CI: 21% to 23%) and 34% (95% CI: 32% to 35%) for those without FI, across socioeconomic groups. Among those of low socio-economic risk, the predicted probability of anxiety was 63% (95% CI: 23 to 102) for those with FI, compared to 13% (95% CI: 10 to 16) with no FI. The magnitude of the FI effect was smaller for the high-risk group.

Conclusion: FI is significantly associated with anxiety and depression. At a time when FI was more widespread among higher socio-economic groups, the association between FI and mental health also extended to this group. These results suggest that the impacts of FI on mental health are in part, independent of the financial insecurity that most often underlies FI.



Bringing together Community Voices



“A Photo is Worth a Thousand Words”: A Systematic Scoping Review of Photovoice within Mental Health Research Involving Adolescents

Madison Stephens, Eleanor Keiller, Maeve Conneely, Victoria Jane Bird, Paul Heritage, Mariana Steffan

Photovoice is a research method that can change perceptions of mental health. However, a paucity of evidence explores the application of Photovoice in mental health research involving adolescents. Our review aimed to understand the nature and key themes across findings of Photovoice studies exploring mental health among adolescents. We used pre-existing data and updated a search strategy. Popay and colleagues’ guidance was used to analyse the studies and the quality of each study was appraised. Our review found that Photovoice studies exploring mental health among adolescents are limited in quality and that Photovoice is a flexible, adaptable, inclusive, and emerging method. Coping; resilience; beliefs about oneself; family; friends; safety; living in a lower socioeconomic area and treatment emerged as key themes across study findings. Our review is the first of its kind and highlights ways in which future Photovoice studies can be developed and is helpful to multiple stakeholders.



Bringing together Community Voices



A poststructuralist approach to exploring the role of education in a climate crisis: navigating dominant

Sophie Perry

This research explores education in the context of an environmental and climate crisis. The study in question explores both educators' and learners' perceptions and experiences of this education by collecting interview and observational data about the Intended, Enacted and Experienced curricula. This means the work is concerned with understanding the journey of these educational programmes from educators' perceptions, plans and understandings about their work (Intended curricula), to what happens in practice (Enacted curricula), and finally how learners experience and respond to that practice (Experienced curricula). I will share data collected from three case study sites which span formal, non-formal and informal approaches to learning, and interpret it with the help of Foucauldian poststructural analysis. This lens helps to highlight the inherent struggle whereby educational programmes are created with the ideology of challenging our environmentally damaging habits and norms, and are thus counter-hegemonic, but they often need to align with dominant discourses in able to be taken seriously or to justify their existence. This tension is apparent in all of the case study programmes and provides interesting insights into how educators and learners navigate this complexity. The work leaves us with interesting questions about the 'purity' and potential of any counter-hegemonic approach to learning.



Adaptive Methodologies



Understanding and Addressing Food Insecurity in the Council of Westminster: a Community-Based System Dynamics Approach

Charan Bijlani, Paraskevi Seferidi, Eszter P Vamos, Connie Junghans

Background: With the current cost of living crisis, food insecurity rates are at the highest ever seen in the UK. Local and national policies exist that target those who cannot afford food. These policies include: food banks, Welfare programmes, Healthy Start vouchers, Free School Meals and more. Unfortunately, these strategies: offer short term solutions, fail to address the underlying causes of food insecurity or have problems with implementation and resource allocation. The Church Street ward in Westminster, London is within the 10% most deprived areas of the country and food insecurity continues to disproportionately impact those from highly deprived areas.

Aim: To understand the drivers of food insecurity in the Church Street community of Westminster and co-develop tailored policy recommendations, using a community-based system dynamics approach

Methodology: Food insecurity is considered a dynamic and complex problem. This is because several factors impact food insecurity, and these factors interact with each other and change over time. To capture these interactions, a systems dynamics approach is needed to understand the components without reducing the problem into smaller components.

Community-based system dynamics (CBSD) is an approach that facilitates the engagement of communities in the implementation of system dynamics. CBSD is designed to support the implementation of the successful policy by focusing on including the voices of the community in a specific location rather than allowing policymakers to make decisions that they do not deal with first-hand.

As food insecurity is a complex system with no single cause and is exacerbated by several factors using a CBSD approach is necessary. To understand the local context and account for the numerous factors impacting food insecurity in the Church Street area, CBSD will enable us to find appropriate solutions that consider the needs of the local environment and have a higher chance of success.



Adaptive Methodologies



Judged by the Machines? How do algorithms used in criminal justice decision-making impact the legitimacy of the system?

Cari Hyde-Vaamonde

Previous studies of the use of algorithms in criminal justice decision-making have focused on the technical accuracy of algorithms and on the risk of bias. The literature has yet to explore in any great depth the effect of algorithmic interventions on the process of criminal justice reform or on the legitimacy of the system. This paper conducted empirical research to develop a framework to analyse the institutional effects of algorithms on the legitimacy of the justice system of England and Wales. In particular, the paper focuses on the effects of algorithms on the legitimacy of the Single Justice Procedure. Using social scientific research methods, including observation and interviews, to build an algorithmic model to automate decision-making, the study tests a process for building these models in a collaborative way. Participants' reactions to the model were tested by an online survey, incorporating a visual decision-making scenario as a stimulus. Examining the use of algorithms in criminal justice decision-making through the lens of legitimacy allows a common language and an informed dialogue between the state, implementer, and public. Investigating the effect of incorporating algorithms into the justice system on perceptions of legitimacy sheds light on the legitimacy of judicial decisions made by both human beings and machines.



Bringing together Community Voices



Care (imperative) - LGBT+ Voluntary Communities in English Higher Education

Pippa Sterk

As Higher Education in England is increasingly subject to neoliberal discourses and policies, an outcome-focused culture of measuring and auditing progress prevails (Ahmed, 2012; Bullough, 2014; Deem and Morley, 2006; Hazelkorn, 2013). However, this focus on measurement can overlook the importance of the solidarity, care, and connections that are forged in the more invisibilised and unstable parts of the university system. Where previous research into LGBT+ campus cultures has tended to focus on streamlining and making visible LGBT+ communities or individuals (e.g. Garvey et al, 2018; Kulick et al, 2017; Renn and Bilodeau, 2005), I argue that the instabilities and invisibilities of LGBT+ communities can also have benefits for those participating in them

Using a thematic analysis of interview and focus group data with 19 university students and staff who participate(d) in voluntary LGBT+ networks, I argue that notions of 'impact' as quantifiable are not adequate when it comes to communities that cannot always afford to be visible. Instead my interviewees' stories indicate that it is both possible and necessary to consider inconsistent participation, peripheral participation, and even non-participation in LGBT+ volunteer-run events to be meaningful expressions of care and solidarity.

Drawing on queer disruptions of 'success' and 'failure' (Halberstam, 2011), I argue that my interviewees' experiences of facilitating informal care, hidden pedagogies, and 'small' successes, point to an alternative queer system of value, which is more longitudinal and affective, and less immediate and quantitative. At the same time, I critically interrogate my own positioning as a researcher who continues to be involved in voluntary LGBT+ Higher Education communities. I locate the interviews and focus groups themselves as potential sources of care and solidarity between LGBT+ people, and open up a dialogue on how to facilitate these spaces, however fleeting.



Adaptive Methodologies



Flood disasters and their impact on human health

Rita Sharma Pandeya

The impacts of "natural" flood disasters and their consequences for human health and societal wellbeing are examined in this study, along with an in-depth evaluation of Nepal's disaster management policies and practices. The main objective also includes conducting empirical research on how flood disasters have affected the residents of the Rajapur area of southwestern Nepal and the vulnerable communities living along the Bagmati Rivers in Kathmandu, Nepal. Understanding the societal context of risk and vulnerability is the main objective, and it is important to know how this knowledge may be included in Nepal's plan of action for development and disaster risk reduction. The study is applying both qualitative and quantitative methods, including elite interviews with a semi-structured questionnaire, focus group discussions, associated documents, field notes, and observations to give a thorough picture of the case study locations. According to the study, flooding has a direct impact on property and assets as well as on other aspects of daily life, such as agriculture, education, security, housing, water and sanitation, and housing. The study has adopted the viewpoint that natural disasters are caused by a combination of human and physical factors, and reducing disaster risk should take socioeconomic and sociocultural issues into consideration. Flood disasters have an impact on low-income and marginalised people, according to preliminary research findings. This is mostly a result of illegal settlements, substandard house construction, a shortage of essential resources, low educational opportunities, and a lack of economic choices. Political instability and a haphazard approach to disaster risk management have contributed to making these problems exacerbated.



Posters

Investigating the prevalence and impact of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) on UK women service personnel: implications for mental health, help-seeking and future support service design

Tamara Obradovic

Path dependence in career mobility: how workers' employment trajectories are affected by insecure employment at the early career stage

Rebecca Florisson

Care-Seeking Behaviour of Pregnant Women from Under-Served Groups in High-Income Countries: A Systematic Review

Tisha Dasgupta, Gillian Horgan, Sergio A Silverio, Hannah Rayment-Jones, Laura A Magee

Physical Activity Interventions in Education Contexts for University Students: A Scoping Review

Hannah Wood, Myanna Duncan, Benjamin Gardner, Eleanor Dommatt

Filling the void: The reintroduction of the Eurasian Wolf in Scotland

Toryn Whitehead, Terry Dawson, Kate Schreckenber



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Posters

Brand 'the Postfeminist Self': An Ethnographic Study of Chinese Female Influencers on Xiaohongshu

Rendan Liu

The Role of Social Determinants of Health in Unintentional Pesticide Poisoning and Barriers to Adopting Agroecological Alternative

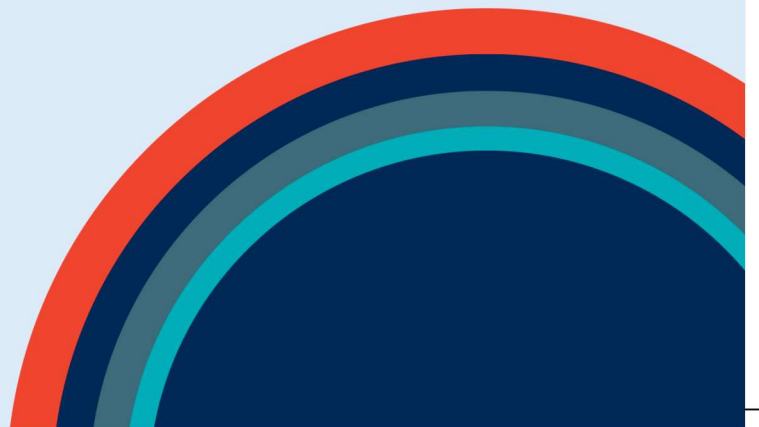
Vidhya Sasitharan

Flood disasters and their impact on human health

Rita Sharma Pandeya

Differentially-Private Smart Meter Data Markets: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Saurab Chhachhi, Fei Teng



Acknowledgements

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The conference organising committee was led by Cairn Macfarland.

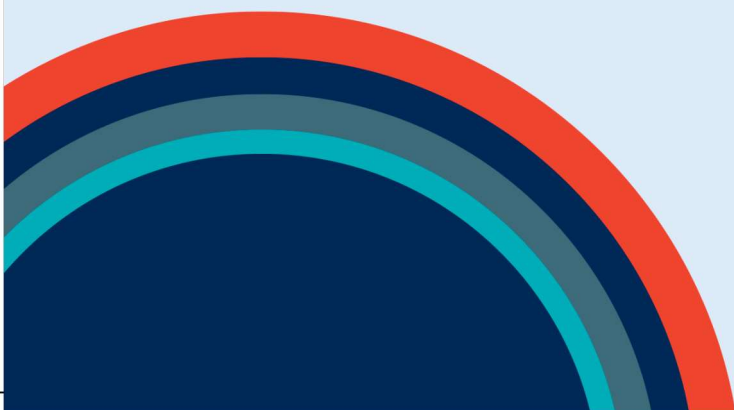
The student organising committee were:

Communications - Rosie Hildersley, Vidhya Sasitharan

Logistics – Charan Bijlani , Wendy Kasenene

Content - Sarah O'Brien, Adam Blandon, Madison Stephens

External speakers– Paula Cristen, Rendan Liu



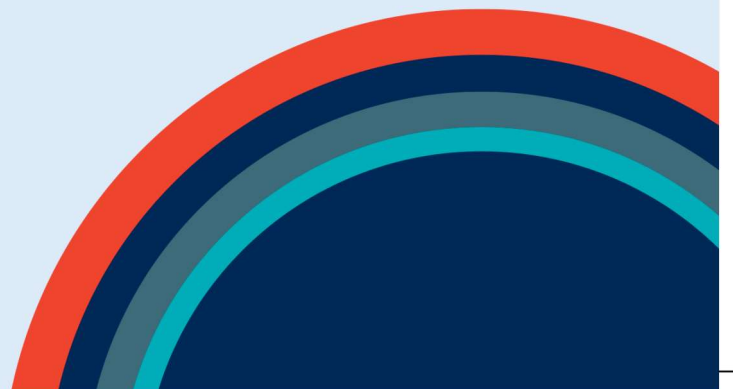
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