



# Gender and Communication Section International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) – Newsletter May, 2021

The Gender and Communication section would like to bring attention to its members to the series of events that the section will be hosting in the next months ahead of the IAMCR conference in Nairobi in July, 2021.

# May 2021

**Forthcoming  
events**



**Ecologies of care', health and despair in the  
Covid-19 pandemic age.**

## **A) Webinar event - Ecologies of care', health and despair in the Covid-19 pandemic age.**

In the current context of the gender and health inequalities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the debate around care provision and how this is being carried has begun to take central stage. What has been the impact of government approach to “care” as a result of austerity policies? And how can we understand these “ecologies of care” and discursive practices, considering their different political and cultural uses? How can we make sense of everyday acts of mutual aid, in contrast to the manipulation and use of care rhetoric by governments or by corporations attempting to brand themselves as “caring”? How have media narratives, such as TV fiction, explored the “crises of care” rhetoric in their representations of care workers in the NHS?

These discussions are explored in the webinar event, Ecologies of care', health and despair in the Covid-19 pandemic age, through presentations delivered by Professor Beverly Skeggs (Lancaster University); Dr. Hannah Hamad (Cardiff University); Dr. Jamie Hakim (Kings College London) and Professor Jo Littler (City, University of London), top scholars in the fields of Gender and Sociology, and chaired by Dr. Carolina Matos (City, University of London). This event will be held online on Friday the 4th of June, 2021 from 1 to 2.30 pm, with the presentations followed by a 30 min Q&A session. It will be free and open to IAMCR members.

**Date:** Friday 4th, June, 2021, 1- 2.30 pm (with 30 mins for Q&A)

Registration for IAMCR members can be done by accessing the following link:  
<https://iamcr.org/webinars/Ecologies-of-care>

For non-IAMCR members, please send an e-mail to [register4iamcrwebinar@gmail.com](mailto:register4iamcrwebinar@gmail.com) to be added as a guest.

## The necroeconomics of care.

### 1) The necroeconomics of care – Professor Beverly Skeggs.

The pandemic intensified almost impossible conditions of care previously produced through austerity, and as UK immigration policies stealthily restructured care provision, this presentation asks if the government's approach to care is one of malevolent neglect or purposeful calculation? And what happens to social reproduction as a result?

Beverly Skeggs is one of the foremost feminist sociologists in the world. Her book *Formations of Class and Gender* (1997) has been profoundly significant in drawing attention to the intersections between class and gender inequalities as experienced by working class young women dealing with the vulnerabilities of daily life in harsh conditions. Bev has been head of two of the UK's leading Sociology departments at Manchester and Goldsmiths and has been credited with transforming Britain's oldest Sociology journal, the *Sociological Review*.



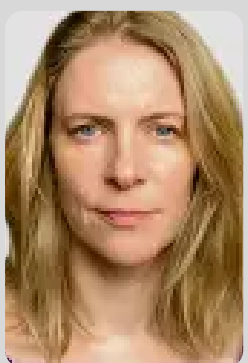
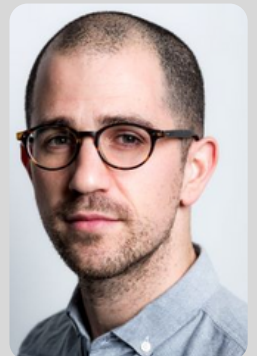


## Care and despair.

### 2) Care and despair – Dr. Jamie Hakim and Professor Jo Littler from The Care Collective.

In this talk we reflect on the expanding use of the term 'care' since the Covid-19 pandemic and consider the different political and cultural uses to which it is being put. These include everyday acts of mutual aid and neighbourhood support; the appreciation of institutional care provision through clapping, murals and mediated testimony; the manipulation and use of care rhetoric by governments; and the 'carewashing' activities of corporations attempting to hide exploitative practices by branding themselves as 'caring'. We describe this array of practices as a 'discursive explosion of care', and read them through our work in The Care Manifesto, which argues for a care politics that recognises mutual interdependence and vulnerability at every scale of life. The book is itself part of a wider ecosystem of progressive care alternatives, policies and practises; and so we also outline some of these initiatives as part of building broader 'ecologies of care'.

**Dr Jamie Hakim** is a now Lecturer in Culture, Media and Creative Industries at Kings College London, UK. He is Principal Investigator of the ESRC-funded project 'Digital Intimacies', partnered with the Terrance Higgins Trust, and author of *Work That Body: Male Bodies in Digital Culture* (2019). He is part of the Care Collective and co-author of *The Care Manifesto* (2020). @hakimjamie



**Jo Littler** is a Professor in the Sociology Department and the Gender and Sexualities Research Centre at City, University of London, UK. Her books include *Against Meritocracy* (2018) *Radical Consumption?* (2008) and with Roshi Naidoo *The Politics of Heritage: The legacies of 'race'* (2005). She is part of the Care Collective and co-author of *The Care Manifesto* (2020). @littler\_jo





# Recuperating Care Work in Television Fictions of Nurses and Nursing.

## **3) Recuperating Care Work in Television Fictions of Nurses and Nursing – Dr. Hannah Hamad.**

This talk explores television fictions that foreground 'crisis of care' rhetoric in their depiction of nurses, nursing and care work in the National Health Service at a key moment in its recent history spanning the period of time encompassing the emergence of the Stafford Hospital scandal from 2007, and the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act (2012) in 2013 and its aftermath. It focuses on a case study interrogation of the issues raised by the depiction of care work in the 2017 inaugural series of the BBC drama *Trust Me*, with a view to arguing for its status as a recuperative revenge fantasy that responds to and comments on lightning rod political issues pertaining to the derogation and discursive excoriation of care, care work and frontline NHS care workers in the media and in political culture of the period.

Following a failed attempt at whistleblowing on failures of care at the (pre-2013) NHS trust for which she works, nursing sister Cath Hardacre (Jodie Whittaker) moves to another hospital, assumes the professional identity of a doctor and gets away with it. In itself this is a politically charged premise for a BBC television series, but closer scrutiny of some of *Trust Me*'s expositional set-up in relation to cognate real world events that are mobilised in service to the plot, reveals the very great extent to which the inaugural episode in particular sets up the series to serve as a searing and pointed critique of toxic cultures of public sector management, conspiracies of silence over managerial and political incompetence in the administration of the NHS, the devaluation of the practical skills and emotional labour germane to the nursing profession, and the perils and pitfalls of whistleblowing for ordinary healthcare staff working at the coal face of the situations produced by these things.



**Dr Hannah Hamad** is Senior Lecturer in Media and Communication at Cardiff University, School of Journalism, Media and Culture and the author of *Postfeminism and Paternity in Contemporary US Film: Framing Fatherhood* (New York and London: Routledge, 2014). Her second book *Film, Feminism and Rape Culture in the Yorkshire Ripper Years* is forthcoming from BFI Publishing (2023).

# Symposium

## Gender and communications Symposium.

### **B) Gender and Communications Symposium - Being Marginal-Performing Raced and Gendered Labour.**

With a focus on intersectionality, simultaneity, and reflexivity about the self in context, confrontation of issues of power even within marginal groups, the symposium “Being Marginal- Performing Raced and Gendered Labour,” to be held online on Saturday 3 July 2021 sponsored by the Gender and Communication Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), aims to engage with the layers of being a marginal woman, asking the question of what intersectionality looks like in academia with special reference to the field of Communication.

The symposium invites submissions from women in academia who are reflexive about the intersections of identity that they are located in, and prepared to critically interrogate their own privilege where relevant. **The deadline for the submission of your 300 word abstract is 1 April 2021.**

The notification of accepted abstracts will be on the 15 April and full papers are due on the 15 June. Accepted papers will be presented online at the GEN/IAMCR symposium on 3 July 2021. Participants will be e-mailed the webinar Zoom link beforehand.

**Discussant:** Professor Radhika Gajjala (Bowling Green State University)

**Organizers:** Dr. Maha Bashri (United Arab Emirates University) and Dr. Shobha Avadhani (National University of Singapore) will be working toward publication of presented papers in a journal special issue in 2022.

Send your abstracts of 300 words (max) and brief bio to both: **maha.bashri@uaeu.ac.ae** and **cnmsa@nus.edu.sg**





## Gender and Media Matters.



### **B) Gender and Media Matters Conference - Rosalind Gill, Milly Buonanno and Paola Bonifazio.**

“Gender and Media Matters” is an International conference in line with the activities of the GeMMA Research Unit and of the PhD Programme in Communication, Social Research and Marketing (Department of Communication and Social Research, Sapienza University of Rome).

The Conference has the objectives of advancing discussion about gender and media studies and exchange among scholars from different countries, providing an overview of the most recent and original studies on gender and the media, and giving prominence to research strands that are not always visible in the international arena.

It will be held online and in-person on October 15 and 16, 2021. There will be two keynote lectures, three round tables and several parallel panels.

The opening lecture will be given by Rosalind Gill (City, University of London) and the closing lecture will be a dialogue between Milly Buonanno (Sapienza, University of Rome) and Paola Bonifazio (University of Texas at Austin).

The round tables will cover the following topics: Gender and Media Studies in Italy; Gender and Media Studies in Europe and the Mediterranean Region and GeMMA Research Unit. Work in progress.

The best proposals selected in response to a call for papers will be hosted in the parallel panels.

A selection of papers will be published in partner journals of the conference such as About Gender, Comunicazioneepuntodoc, H-ermes, Journal of Communication, Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies, Mediascapes Journal, Problemi dell'informazione, Sociologia della Comunicazione, Sociologia italiana-Ais Journal.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- 15th February: Call for papers proposals opens
- 15th May: Deadline for abstract submissions
- 15th June: Notification of acceptance/rejection
- 16th June: Registration opens
- 15th July: Deadline for conference registration

**Contact:** [info@gemmaconference.com](mailto:info@gemmaconference.com)

<https://www.gemmaconference.com/>

## Special Issue on Digital Families: Gendered relationships in online spaces.

### **a) Special Issue on Digital Families: Gendered relationships in online spaces.**

The advent of social media and the increased accessibility and affordances of smartphones as networked devices have enabled a proliferation of family focussed content online. Drawing on critical feminist psychological perspectives which question the prioritisation of essentialist and normative conceptualisations of family and gender, this special issue will examine the phenomenon of digital families, or how families engage with and about each other online, through the intersectional lens of gender and relationships. Engagement in digital spaces has, notably, been subject to negative characterisations in both academic and popular arenas.

However, these linguistically gender-neutral characterisations obscure the fact that they are, in the context of online practices, highly gendered and feminized - focusing respectively on young girls and mothers.

While research into social media and families is burgeoning, little has been said about positive engagements or how these digital technological practices can support or translate into family relationships more broadly. This Special Issue departs from a mainstream discourse that rests almost exclusively on problematisation of behaviour, social unacceptability of engagement or threats to mental health. Whilst acknowledging these concerns, its purpose is instead to provide a platform by which we explore a range of issues which highlight the nuances and complexities that are relevant to how families engage with social media in negotiating (and facilitating) their online relationships.

The Issue will extend dialogue around digital engagements by dedicating space to online family relationships and curation in order to foster new and innovative insights into this area. It will welcome contributions from a variety of rich critical theoretical perspectives and approaches in psychology and related disciplines.

We welcome papers from academics and practitioners at different stages of their careers. Submissions may be theoretical, empirical, or methodological, and/or focus on research and practice, and should be no longer than 8000 words. Please contact us if you would be interested in submission in an alternative format.

- Submission information: <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/FAP> . All manuscripts will undergo anonymous peer review.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Guest Editors [networkingfamiliesresearch@gmail.com](mailto:networkingfamiliesresearch@gmail.com) putting "Special Issue" in the subject line.
- You can also visit: <https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/FAP/SI%20Digital%20Families%20CFP%20Final1603116105040.pdf>

## **b) Palgrave Macmillan Books – Gender Studies.**

- Rodriguez, Castro L. (2021) *Decolonial Feminisms, power and place – sentipensando with rural women in Colombia*
- Thimm, V (eds.) (2012) *Re-claiming Bodies Through Fashion and Style*
- Korsvik, T.R. (2021) *Politicizing Rape and Pornography*
- Alm, E et al (2021) *Pluralistic Struggles in Gender, Sexuality and Coloniality*
- Bueskens, P (eds) (2012) *Nancy Chodrow and the Reproduction of Mothering*
- Mora, C et al (eds.) (2012) *The Palgrave Handbook of Gender and Migration*

## **c) Polity Press – Recent books of interest in Gender Studies.**

- McRobbie, A (2020) *Feminisms and the politics of resilience: essays on gender, media and the end of welfare*
- Milestone, Katie and Meyer, Ameke (2020) *Gender and popular culture*

## **d) McGill-Queen's University Press Publication Series. Studies in Gender, Sexuality and Social Justice in the Global South**

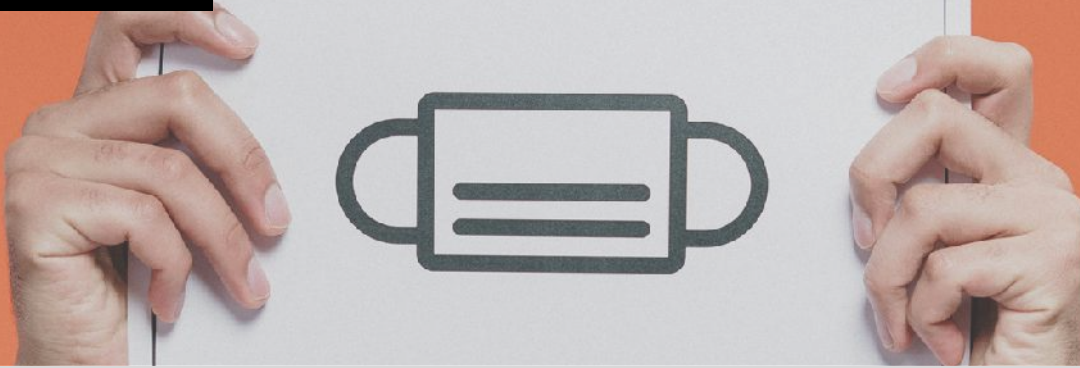
**Series Editors:** Marc Epprecht, Rebecca Tiessen and Habiba Zamen.

The McGill-Queen's Studies in Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice in the Global South series traces the changing conceptions of gender, sex, and sexuality in the developing world as well as the effects that these changes have had on politics, society, and social justice. Combining studies from a historical perspective with works focused on contemporary issues of social justice, this series welcomes publications from a variety of academic disciplines and backgrounds. At the heart of the series is a desire to raise awareness of forgotten histories and a range of topics including the intersections of gender, sexuality, and social justice in decolonization movements, sex work and questions about autonomy and agency, how gender constructs are shaped by economic, cultural, and religious conditions, and societies' responses to violence, activism, health, youth cultures, and global change.

This series will also illuminate LGBTQ issues and transgender politics in different cultural contexts and the ways in which gender roles and sexual hierarchies are produced, reinforced, and challenged at the state and local level.

**Website:** <https://www.mqup.ca>





### **Gender Studies in the Time of a Global Pandemic: Key Themes, Critical Issues, Challenges & Opportunities**

European Journal of Women's Studies Virtual Spring Symposium  
Hosted by EJWS and Department of Gender Studies LSE

**Thursday 29 April and Friday 30 April 2021**

**Speakers:** Ulrika Dahl, Gail Lewis, Julian Honkasalo, Sarah Franklin, madeleine kennedy-macfoy, Emirhan Deniz Celebi, Elzbieta Korolczuk, Cristina Santos, Aviah Day, Dubravka Zarkov, Nina Degele, Adriana Zaharijevic, Julia Garraio, Kathy Davis, Libora Oates-Indruchova, Eva Fodor, Andrea Peto, Dag Heede, Sabine Grenz, Stacy Gillis, Zuzana Mad'arova, Stanimir Panayotov, Sally R. Munt, Ghiwa Sayegh

This symposium, hosted by the European Journal of Women's Studies, aims to take stock of, and reflect on, the issues, challenges and opportunities that have arisen within, without and in relation to, gender studies, feminist theorisation and activism in European contexts as a result of the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The symposium is also an opportunity to reflect on issues, challenges and opportunities for gender studies, feminist theorisation and activism beyond the immediacy of the global pandemic.

The World Health Organisation declared a global COVID-19 pandemic in the second week of March 2020. And already in April 2020, the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, noted that: 'Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex'.

With little to no warning or preparation, some 20,000 higher education institutions around the world sent close to 200 million students home, suspended normal operations including research, lab, and field work, and shifted to online teaching and learning. As 2021 got underway and infections – including of new variants of the virus – increased; this scenario is being repeated in a number of countries.

Early research into how universities handled unplanned expenditures on distance teaching and learning platforms and tools, and on health prevention measures shows that the Covid-19 crisis has put structural weaknesses in the financing and organisational models of many higher education systems and institutions around the world into sharp relief. The research shows that low-income countries and students from marginalized and under-represented communities – ‘low-income students, girls and women, members of minority groups, and students with special needs’ – especially, have faced great challenges.

Within publishing, data from a study on manuscript submissions and peer review activities in all Elsevier Journals between May 2018 and May 2020 (involving six million participants) showed that ‘women submitted proportionally fewer manuscripts than men during the COVID-19 lockdown months...[indicating] that the pandemic has already created cumulative advantages for men.’ What does, and will, this mean for the state of gender (in)equality in academia?

Clearly, the COVID-19 crisis has exposed existing gendered, classed and racialised inequalities – among others– and underscored the resilience of the norms that underpin them.

The newsletter from the Gender and Communication section is distributed monthly to its members. If you have an event, publication or job ad that you would like to see included in the newsletter, please e-mail the sections' chair and/or co-chair, Dr. Carolina Matos (Carolina.Matos.1@city.ac.uk) or Dr. Patricia Núñez-Gomez (pnunezgo@ccinf.ucm.es). With the help of Yara Cabreira Comesaña and Mariagracia Maestre Lindo, Complutense University students.



### **IAMCR Gender and Communication Section**

Wajiha Raza Rizvi, Co-chair (Film Museum Society | Beaconhouse National University) Carolina Matos, Co-chair (City University of London)

Shweta Arpit Srivastava, Vice-chair (Monmouth College)

Patricia Núñez-Gómez, Vice-chair (Complutense University of Madrid)