



**4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies
1-3 July 2013 at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands**

Session Summary	
Session Title:	Emotions in fieldwork
Session Abstract:	This session opens up space for conversation around emotions in research. It aims to explore the different ways in which people engage with emotion, affect and feelings in their fieldwork, analysis, writing, filming, photography (and more besides) to develop understanding and knowledge in their work. How have research methods and practices advanced to embrace the significance of emotion for meaningful research? What theoretical work have researchers found useful when it comes to thinking about feelings in fieldwork? How do we analyse and make sense of experiences and feelings in fieldwork? How do we write or re-present our research in a way that is evocative, meaningful and has an affect? So often researchers are beetling away alone when thinking through these sorts of issues, this session brings people together for inter-disciplinary, thought provoking discussion.
Keywords:	

Session Convenors	
Session Convener Name	Affiliation
Katy Bennett	University of Leicester
Bettina van Hoven	University of Groningen

Session 2 title and chair	
Session 2 Title	Emotions in fieldwork - 'Making connections'
Session Chair name	Affiliation
Liz Bondi	University of Edinburgh

Session presentation details	
Presentation 1 Title:	Travails, Travels, Leaves: Emotional Dynamics in Fieldwork with Queer Refugees
Presentation 1 Abstract	Building upon a steadily enlarging methodological literature on emotions in fieldwork, this paper explores the complexity of emotional exchange between the researched and the researcher in various stages of fieldwork. To do this, I

	draw on my own ethnographic study with Iranian queer refugees who are seeking asylum based on sexual orientation persecution in the transit migratory space of Turkey as well as create a sense of self and belonging amid the conditions of cross-border mobility. Specifically, in this paper, I aim at reflecting upon two main issues. First, I argue that change and transformation in emotions of researchers as well as of participants during the course of fieldwork may alter the research process or even affect the research findings as both researchers and participants shift across identities and multiple boundaries in entering and leaving the field, as well as in sharing and collection of data. Second, I suggest that such a more complex investigation of emotions in fieldwork can also be used as data to deepen our understanding about queer refugee migration as it also illustrates the emotional content of this kind of cross-border mobility.
Author name	Author affiliation
Eda Farsakoglu	Department of Sociology and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, Sweden
Presentation 2 Title:	Messy interactions:- Analyzing my emotional responses in the production of geographical knowledge
Presentation 2 Abstract	<p>This paper discusses my reflections upon fieldwork conducted for my PhD thesis, a relational, emotional and affective investigation into employee coping at a secondary school in North West England. There is limited open consideration of emotion in fieldwork, hence I aim to further debates in this area through an inspection of how the research field and participants shape and co-construct my emotional responses which in turn co-constructs my interactions, interpretations and results. Through reference to my research diary I want to emphasize the importance of reflexivity. The practicalities of my fieldwork are relational, spatial, emotional and affective leading to the production of particular kinds of knowledge. In this way I build upon Hester Parr's suggestion that "different geographical knowledges are produced and contextualized within the politics of research relationships" (Parr, 1998, p.341) exploring this idea in relation to my experiences.</p> <p>This paper argues that relations between participants and the researcher are crucial in geographical knowledge production. In analyzing data from interviews and observations alongside my reflections, the importance of my emotional responses becomes clear. Emotional responses were often the result of the 'messy' nature of the research process such as the personal perceptions of interactions with participants and the occasionally inappropriate spaces I had to interview in. Emotional responses are vital as they sometimes affected the content/style of interviews, who was interviewed and who became long-term participants. The paper will therefore argue that it is impossible to discuss the findings of ethnographic projects like this without consideration of the emotional relations involved in their production. It will further suggest that research methods that may be considered 'unintended' or 'messy' can contribute to the depth and quality of the knowledge produced, as well as to the better representation of the research environment in certain circumstances.</p>
Author name	Author affiliation
Michaela Edwards	Lancaster University
Presentation 3 Title:	Emotion and conviviality: Making sense of how people connect.

Presentation 3 Abstract	<p>This paper develops out of a larger project entitled 'Living multicultural: the new geographies of ethnic diversity and the changing formations of multicultural in England' which is concerned with how people live complex cultural difference in their everyday lives and the role of place in this. The research is based in a range of sites across three case study areas in Hackney (borough of London), Milton Keynes (town in South England) and Oadby (a suburb of Leicester in the East Midlands of England) and draws upon participant observation, interviews and repeat in depth discussion group work.</p> <p>A significant point of departure for our research has been the concept of conviviality, especially its living together/shared life, rubbing along and seemingly slight qualities that underpin how multicultural is routinely experienced in everyday lives. It is a concept that embraces a sociality that is more open, transient and less defensive, evocative of lives that criss cross but are not heavily invested in one another. Yet although transient and fleeting, conviviality is not without feeling and its affective qualities are important in the 'creation of everyday social life' (Overing and Passes 2000). This paper contributes to research practices attempting to make sense of how people feel connected to others (e.g. Tahhan 2012, Bondi 2005), working across cultural difference. Whilst conviviality involves some kind of connection with others, being moved (in different ways) and feeling touched, this comes with the added challenge of momentary, brief interactions and encounters. The paper discusses one tiny strand of our research involving participant observation of individuals attending a bootcamp (exercise class), which was ethnically mixed and largely attended by mostly affluent women, in a suburban park in Leicester.</p>
Author name	Author affiliation
Katy Bennett	University of Leicester
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Short biographical note for presenters	
Eda Farsakoglu	<p>Eda Farsakoglu is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and a junior research fellow at Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University. Her dissertation project examines the intersections of international migration, gender, and sexuality. In particular, she focuses on the lived experiences of Iranian migrants, who are seeking asylum (based on gender identity and sexual orientation) from and waiting for resettlement to a third country or retrying as rejected asylum seekers in the migratory space of Turkey. Her broad research interests include international migration and refugee studies, contemporary Turkey, gender and sexuality and a number of sub-topics of political and cultural sociology including the study of social movements, globalization and transnationalization processes, and anti/militarism. Her previous work has examined framing processes within the Conscientious Objection Movement in Turkey.</p>
Hannah Jones	<p>Hannah Jones is a Research Associate in the Faculty of Social Sciences at The Open University, UK. Her first book, 'Negotiating Cohesion, Inequality and Change: Uncomfortable Positions in Local Government' will be published by The Policy Press in September 2013 and she is co-editor (with Emma Jackson and Alex Rhys-Taylor) of 'Stories of Cosmopolitan Belonging: Emotion and Location', due out in 2014 with Routledge. Hannah previously worked in local</p>

	<p>government in inner London, and has held positions as a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, Teaching Fellow in the Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London, and Research Associate at the Centre on Migration Policy and Society, University of Oxford.</p>
Giles Mohan	<p>Giles Mohan is Professor of International Development at the UK¹'s Open University. He is a human geographer who studies the transnational connections to and from Africa, especially migrants and diaspora organisations. Recent work focused on Chinese migrants in West Africa using ideas of conviviality and everyday multiculturalism. These interests fed into a new joint project on living multiculturalism in UK cities funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Giles has published extensively in geography, development studies and African studies journals and has consulted for a range of BBC documentaries on issues of international development.</p>