

RESEARCH SEMINAR

17. – 18. November 2005:

Investigating welfare from an anthropological perspective

Dept. of Anthropology and Ethnography, University of Aarhus and
Network for Anthropological Analysis of Welfare

Konferencecentret, Mødelokale 2 og Preben Hornung Stuen i Studenternes Hus, Aarhus Universitet, Ndr. Ringgade 3, 8000 Århus C.

Presentation of speakers:

- **Richard Jenkins**

Professor at the Department of sociological studies
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Working title: 'Problematizing policy: culture, modernity and government'.

Richard Jenkins trained as a social anthropologist at Belfast and Cambridge and is currently Professor of Sociology at the University of Sheffield, UK. He has undertaken fieldwork in Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Denmark, looking at topics such as the transition to adulthood, unemployment, labour market processes, racism and discrimination, families, intellectual disability, and ethno-national identification.

Among his recent books are:

Foundations of Sociology (2002)

Pierre Bourdieu (2nd edition, 2002)

Social Identity (2nd edition, 2004)

Managing Uncertainty (edited with Vibeke Steffen and Hanne Jessen, 2005).

- **John Clarke**

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Working Title: 'What's culture got to do with it? Welfare, states and nations.'

My interest is in the shifting politics and ideologies of welfare, an aspect of which is the deconstruction and reconstruction of welfare states in Britain and comparatively. I have also been particularly interested in the intersection of political, cultural and organizational changes associated with managerialism in social welfare.

Currently I am completing a study on 'citizen-consumers' and the remaking of public services in the UK (a funded study looking at health, policing and social care, details of the project and some of its papers can be found at <http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/citizenconsumers/index.html>). This reflects a more general interest in the reworking of key institutions, identifications and relationships around welfare and the state in the UK and elsewhere. Some of this has been developed in work on managerialism, evaluation and performance management in public services. Questions of publics, peoples, nations and their interrelationships with states and welfare policies and practices continue to fascinate me.

A number of publications include:

Articles:

Clake, J. (forthcoming) 'Creating Citizen-Consumers: Inequalities and Instabilities.' (with N. Smith and E. Vidler) in M. Powell, K. Clarke and (eds) *Social Policy Review* 17, Bristol, The Policy Press.

Clarke, J., Smith, N. and Vidler, E. (2005) 'Consumerism and the reform of public services: inequalities and instabilities. In M. Powell, L. Bauld and K. Clarke (eds) *Social Policy Review* 17. Bristol, The Policy Press/Social Policy Association.

Clarke, J. and Vidler, E. (2005) 'Creating Citizen-Consumers: New Labour and the Remaking of Public Services.' *Public Policy and Administration*, vol. 20 (2), pp. 19-37.

Clarke, J. (2004) 'Performing for the Public: Doubt, Desire and the Evaluation of Public Services.' In P. Du Gay (ed) *The Values of Bureaucracy*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Clarke, J. (2004) 'Dissolving the public realm? The logics and limits of Neo-Liberalism.' *Journal of Social Policy*, vol.33, no.1, pp.27-48.

Clarke, J. (2004) 'Governing in the modern world?' (with J. Newman) in D. Stenberg and R. Johnson (eds) *The Art of Persuasion: New Labour's Passive Revolution*. London. Lawrence and Wishart.

Clarke, J. (2003) 'Turning inside out? Globalization, Neo-Liberalism and welfare states.' *Anthropologica*, vol.45, no.2, pp.201-74.

Clarke, J. (2003) 'Scrutiny through inspection and audit: policies, structures and processes.' In T. Bovaird and E. Loeffler (eds) *Public Management and Governance*. London, Routledge.

Books:

Changing Welfare, Changing States: new directions in social policy. London, Sage, 2004.
New Managerialism, New Welfare? (edited with Sharon Gewirtz and Eugene McLaughlin), Sage, 2000.

Managing Social Policy (edited with Allan Cochrane and Eugene McLaughlin), Sage, 1994
The Managerial State (with Janet Newman), Sage, 1997

• **Michael Seltzer**

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Listening to and Observing Welfare States as an Anthropologist: Research among its Clients in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Research interests :Macro- and microlandscapes of the welfare state, Human services workers and clients, Conversation analysis and ethnographic investigations of interaction at social welfare agencies, clinics and schools, Family therapy, Multicultural education, Racial and ethnic minorities in North America and Northern Europe, Scientific racism, Computerized instruction in schools, Mental health in economically depressed communities, Transracial and transcultural adoption, Finnish immigrants in rural North America, Russian immigrants in urban North America, Maritime workers at sea and urban ports, Mental hospitals and other total institutions,

Among his publications are:

Books:

Listening to the Welfare State: Conversation Analyses, Discourse Analyses and Ethnographic Studies of Client-Helper Encounters in the Nordic Welfare Systems, Ashgate: Aldershot, England, (with C.Kullberg, S. Olesen, and I. Rostila), 2001.

Book Chapters:

Preface to Craving for Sobriety: A Unique Therapeutic Community in Hungary by Kelemen Gábor and B. Erdős Márta. Faculty of Humanities, University of Pécs: Pécs, Hungary, pages 7-12. 2004

Forward: Listening to Talk at Work in the Nordic Welfare State in Listening to the Welfare State: Conversation Analyses, Discourse Analyses and Ethnographic Studies of Client-Helper Encounters in the Nordic Welfare Systems, Ashgate: Aldershot (eds. M. Seltzer, C.Kullberg, S. Olesen, and I. Rostila), pages xi-xl.2001.

We Are All Immigrants Now: Border Crossings and Border Intellectuals in Stifinnere: Pedagogikk og psykologi i det flerkulturelle Norge (Pathfinders: Pedagogy and psychology in the multi-cultural Norway), Antirasistisk Senter: Oslo, pages 65-75, 1999.

Financial counselling at Norwegian Social Offices: Lessons for Constructing Social Work Practice, in Constructing Social Work Practices, Ashgate: Aldershot (eds. Jokinen, A., Juhila K. And Pösö, T), pages 217-37,(with S. Alve), 1999.

Social Welfare Practice in the Welfare State, in Social Work and the Norwegian Welfare State, (ed. Ø. Tutvedt & L. Young), NotaBene: Oslo, (with S. Stjernø), pages 247-67, 1991.

Journal articles:

Haven in a Heartless Sea: The Sailors' Tavern in History and Anthropology, The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs: An Interdisciplinary Journal 19:63-93, 2004.

Co-texting, chronotope and ritual: a Bakhtinian framing of talk in therapy, Journal of Family Therapy 26: 357-382. (with W. Seltzer), 2004.

Tales full of sound and fury: A cultural approach to family therapeutic work and research in rural Scandinavia, Family Process 39:285-306. (with W. Seltzer, N. Homb, P. Midtstigen, & Vik, G.), 2000.

A better start for Urdu speaking children in Norway, Psychological Foundations: The Journal 1:68-76. (with S. Loona), 1999.

- **Susanne Langer**

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Working title: 'Claiming new things': how bureaucratic technologies create persons and objects

My interest in welfare stems from my PhD research in northwest England with a group of self-identified 'normal' people who had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). Many of the people I met in the course of doing ethnographic fieldwork had never before applied for state support and found the process deeply frustrating and often very distressing. This I argue had less to do with any 'kinks in the system' that can be remedied through improved organisation, management, or training, but rather was linked to certain culturally specific notions of productivity and personhood inherent in the ways welfare manifested itself in. With MS many found it increasingly difficult to conform to such hegemonic standards, leading to feelings of exclusion and loss quite unconnected to any physical change.

The paper below grew out of my experience with medical ethics committees but connects to the seminar because it highlights some of the ways in which bureaucratic technologies and personhood become entangled in the UK context:

"Protecting Patients - Managing Persons"; in Special Issue: New Methods in Anthropology – Postgraduate Perspectives, forthcoming Anthropology Matters Journal, May 2005, <http://www.anthropologymatters.com/>

In general terms my approach to the study of welfare is grounded in the work of Marilyn Strathern:

Strathern, M (1991) *Partial Connections*, Savage, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
Strathern, M (1992) *After Nature: English Kinship in the Late Twentieth Century*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Strathern, M, ed. (2000) *Audit Cultures: Anthropological Studies in Accountability, Ethics and the Academy*, London and New York: Routledge.

Michael Herzfeld's idea of bureaucratic indifference and Theodore Porter's study of 'objective' numbers and 'subjective' expertise have also proved invaluable:

Herzfeld, M (1992) *The Social Production of Indifference: Exploring the Symbolic Roots of Western Bureaucracy*, Oxford: Berg.
Porter, T (1995) *Trust in Numbers : The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life*, Princeton, N.J. and Chichester: Princeton University Press.

- **Dorothy Smith**

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Working title: Institutional Ethnography- the significance of texts for the organization of power.

Dorothy E. Smith is a professor emerita in the Department of Sociology & Equity Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Over the past twenty-five years she has been actively involved in researching the development and implications of the standpoint of women in sociology and problematizing the objectified forms of organization and social relations characteristic of contemporary society. Most recently her work has focussed on the significance of texts for the organization of power.

In 1975, with Sarah David, she published a groundbreaking collection of essays by feminists called *Women Look at Psychiatry: I'm Not Mad, I'm Angry*. Since then she has published numerous articles and books, and she is the recipient of a number of awards and honours including honorary doctorates from several Canadian universities, the American Sociological Association's Jessie Bernard Award (1993), and the American Sociological Association's Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award (1999).

Among her many publications are:

Books:

"Der aktive text. Eine soziologie fur frauen" (1998)

"Writing the Social: Critique, Theory and Investigations" (1998)

"The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge" (1990),

"Text, Facts and Femininity: Exploring the Relations of Ruling" (1990)

"The Everyday World as Problematic – a Feminist Sociology" (1987), Northeastern University Press

Articles:

2002: "Institutional Ethnography". In: May, Tim (ed): *Qualitative Research in Action*. London: Sage Publications.

2003 "The world we live in" in *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* (3)

- **Susan Wright**

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Working title: Anthropology of policy: studying processes of welfare reform.

I am interested in studying large scale processes of social and political transformation. I did a multi-site ethnography of the introduction of new forms of governance in the 1980s and 1990s in Britain. This led to a focus on the anthropology of policy, and on universities as an important site for neo-liberal reform. Since coming to Denmark in 2003, with a team of researchers at DPU, I have been engaged in a comparative study of university reform in Denmark.

A fraction of her many publications include:

Books:

(co-edited with T. Bradley, P. Lowe) Deprivation and Welfare in Rural Areas Norwich: Geo (1986)

Anthropology of Organizations. Routledge (1994)

(co-edited with C. Shore) Anthropology of Policy: Critical Perspectives on Governance and Power EASA Series, London: Routledge. (1997)

Articles:

'Markets, corporations, consumers? New landscapes in higher education' LATISS Learning and Teaching in the Social Sciences 1 (2): 71-93. (2004)

'Machetes into a jungle? A history of anthropology in policy and practice, 1981-2000' in Sarah Pink (ed.) Applications of Anthropology, Oxford: Berghahn. (Forthcoming)

'Processes of social transformation: an anthropology of English higher education policy' in Krejsler, J., Kryger, N. and Milner, J. (eds) Pædagogisk Antropologi - et Fag I Tilblivelse, København: Danmarks Pædagogiske Universitets Forlag. (Forthcoming (2005))