

# WORKING-CLASS STUDIES BEYOND <sup>THE</sup> HEARTLANDS

Working-Class Studies Association Conference  
3-6 September 2019 • University of Kent, Canterbury

@wcstudies • @dindustrialkent • #WCSA19



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### **Social Events: Quick Guide**

**Meet and Greet** – Tuesday, K Bar, 18:00-21:00

Come and say hello, make new friends and meet old ones.

**Conference Dinner and WCSA Awards Ceremony** – Wednesday, Darwin College Conference Suite, 19:30

**The Foundry** – Thursday 19:00 - late

We have hired a part of this city centre brewpub where you can buy excellent local beer and good bar food. Join us for the evening, stop by, or use it as a base for the evening's activities.

## **Working-Class Studies: Beyond the Heartlands**

Welcome to Kent! This year's theme celebrates that 2019 marks the first WCSA conference to be held outside of the United States. This conference aims to build and consolidate work being carried out currently in the UK and Europe, with the US, and elsewhere in the world. We hope that it will be a platform for the growth of Working-Class Studies into new areas, and provide all of us with a more international perspective.

Kent Organising Committee: Triona Fitton, David Nettleingham, Emma Pleasant, Sophie Rowland, Tim Strangleman.

WCSA Organising Committee: Terry Easton, Scott Henkel, Cherie Rankin

Special thanks go to Louisa Harvey at Kent Hospitality.

## **The Working-Class Studies Association**

Working-Class Studies is a field that seeks to bring together academics, activists, practitioners, artists and others interested in working-class issues and themes. As an interdisciplinary field, it draws from sociology, literary studies, anthropology, geography, history, cultural studies, economics and organisational studies, among others.

The Working-Class Studies Association exists to promote the study and visibility of working-class issues, cultures, peoples, histories and politics. Our annual conference, awards, and the peer-reviewed open-access *Journal of Working-Class Studies*, are all aimed at providing spaces and opportunities to come together to discuss and celebrate the work that goes into building this project.

For more information about the WCSA: [wcstudiesassociation.wordpress.com](http://wcstudiesassociation.wordpress.com)

## **School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR)**

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research was one of the founding departments of the University of Kent, and today has an international standing and reputation as a leading research and teaching centre for the social sciences. We are a large school with programmes in sociology, cultural studies, social policy, criminology, social work, and health and social care; and incorporate specialist research centres for social and health service practitioners.

Within the school, our research cluster for *Work, Employment, and Economic Life*, and *(De)Industrial Kent* research collective, bring together scholars of work, class, community, and economic and cultural change from across the university. We have hosted national and international events, and have a vibrant community of postgraduate scholars.

## **The Student Success Project**

This year's Working Class Studies Association Conference is proud to be a part of the University of Kent's Student Success Project, which works to research, design and embed educational strategies to help students at risk of academic under-performance. This year the project has funded seven student bursaries, allowing undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds to attend the conference and become members of the WCSA.

## **Code of Conduct**

The WCSA is a professional association of scholars, activists, artists and practitioners that aims to broaden academic and public understandings of, engagements with, and the inclusion of working-class experiences. This conference welcomes students, members and participants of every national and ethnic origin, racial, gendered or sexual identity. It welcomes people from diverse class backgrounds, trajectories and experiences. Freedom of expression is a pillar of academic, artistic and activist practice, as is a mindful approach to disparities of power, security and difference. Hate speech or discrimination of any kind based on someone's identity creates and reinforces hierarchical structures of power, and undermines solidarity. We look forward to your participation and encourage open, respectable dialogue.

# **THE JOURNAL OF WORKING-CLASS STUDIES**

The Journal of the Working-Class Studies Association ISSN 2475-4765

An open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes scholarly and creative work relating to global and intersectional working-class experience.

Issues published in June and December.

We welcome suggestions for guest-edited and themed issues.

[workingclasstudiesjournal.com](http://workingclasstudiesjournal.com)

Editors: Sarah Attfield and Liz Giuffre  
Email: [editorial@workingclasstudiesjournal.com](mailto:editorial@workingclasstudiesjournal.com)



## Advice for Presenters and Session Chairs

### For Presenters

- *Standard panels* will consist of 3-4 papers, with time for questions. In a 3 paper session, the presenter(s) will have 20 minutes to present their work. In a 4 paper session, each will have 15 minutes.
- *Roundtable sessions* will allow presenters to each briefly introduce their work or theme (up to 10 minutes), with the aim of generating discussion from the discussant, other panel members and the audience.
- *Workshop sessions* will be led by one or more facilitators and involve more direct participation from the beginning.
- Please arrive to your session early to upload/prepare your slides or online presentation. All rooms have a PC, connections for a laptop, a projector and sound system, a DVD player, and access to PowerPoint.
- If you are presenting virtually, make sure your device's camera and microphone are switched on, and that you are logged in, 15 minutes before your session.
- Please ensure that you have provided the chair of your session with a short introductory biography.
- Be conscious of the make-up of your audience. Your audience may come from different backgrounds, disciplines and geographical regions.
- Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or ableist remarks, and personal attacks, are not acceptable under any circumstances and may result in your removal from the conference.

### For Session Chairs

- You will introduce the theme of the panel and the presenters, and facilitate the discussion periods following the presentations.
- Please keep an eye on the time, and ensure the panel runs to schedule. Offer warnings at 5 minutes and 2 minutes to ensure the speaker knows when they need to round up their talk. Do not allow them spare time unless the schedule allows it.
- Encourage questions from students and non-faculty audience members when opening it up to the floor
- Please double-check whether any of your panellists is presenting virtually. If so, you will need to set up a link 15 minutes before the start of the session.

### Finding Rooms

- Keynotes and screenings will be held in *Keynes Lecture Theatre 1 (KLT1)*, accessible from the main foyer on the ground floor of Keynes College.
- Panels and workshops will be held in *Keynes Seminar Rooms (KS) 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16*. These can be found on the first floor of Keynes College.
- Refreshments and lunch will be served in Keynes main foyer on the ground floor. Book stalls are located in the first floor foyer near the seminar rooms.

- The conference dinner/WCSA Awards ceremony will be held in *Darwin College Conference Suite*, a short walk across the central campus.
- All rooms have disability access.

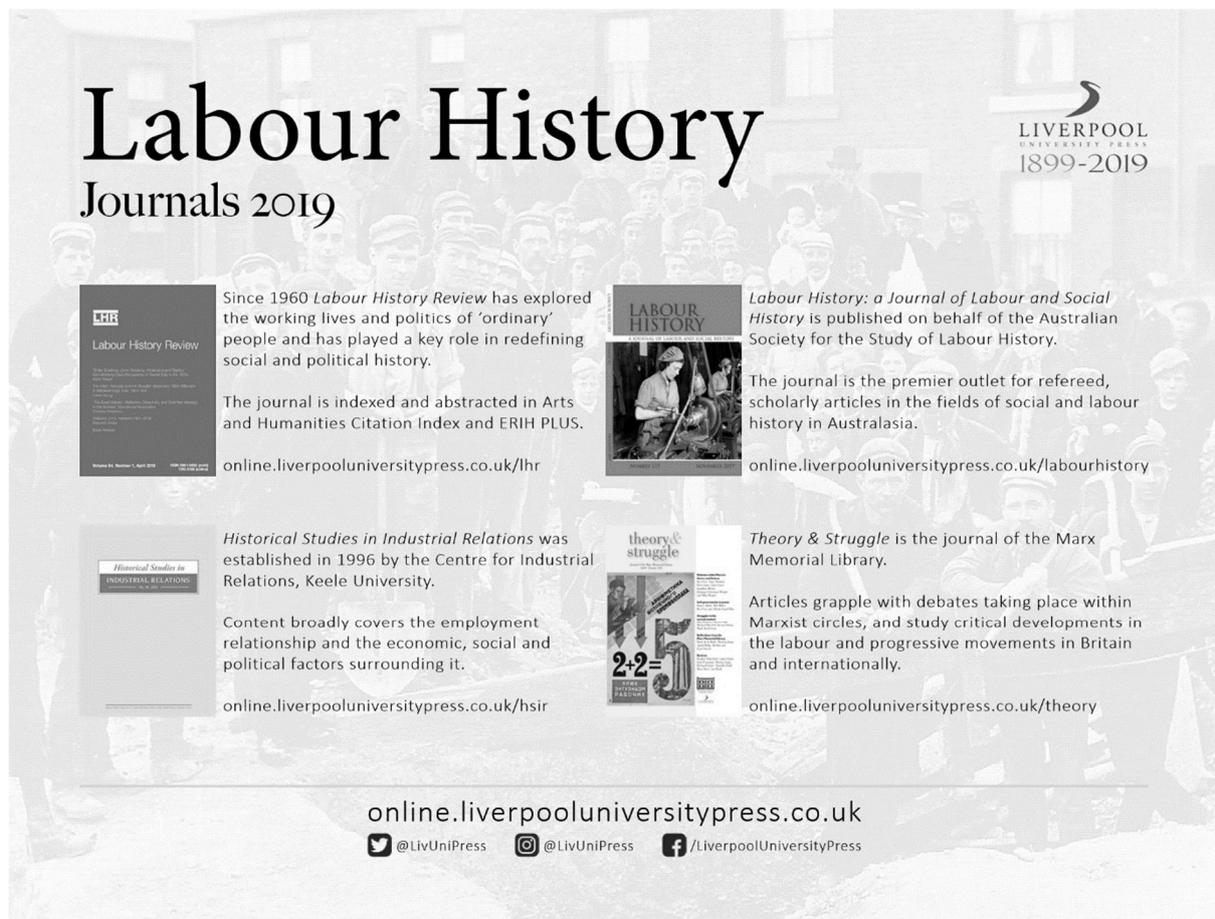
## Optional Activity Information

For those booked on to the optional events, please read the following information carefully.

### Thames Sailing Barge Trip – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Transport will leave campus from outside Keynes College at 11:30. Please be in the college foyer by this time, where one of the conference organisers will meet you. This will take you to the nearby coastal town of Whitstable (about 6 miles) where the Thames Sailing Barge *Repertor* will be waiting at the harbour to pick you up. The journey will take an estimated 3.5 hours, and transport will be waiting for you at 15:00 at Whitstable harbour.

Please note: due to the low tide in the morning, getting aboard the barge will involve climbing down a ladder. Lunch and refreshments will be provided on board during the journey.



The graphic features a background image of a group of men in historical work clothes. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with journal titles and descriptions. The Liverpool University Press logo is in the top right corner.

# Labour History

## Journals 2019

**LHR**  
Labour History Review

Since 1960 *Labour History Review* has explored the working lives and politics of 'ordinary' people and has played a key role in redefining social and political history.

The journal is indexed and abstracted in Arts and Humanities Citation Index and ERIH PLUS.

online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/lhr

**LABOUR HISTORY**

*Labour History: a Journal of Labour and Social History* is published on behalf of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History.

The journal is the premier outlet for refereed, scholarly articles in the fields of social and labour history in Australasia.

online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/labourhistory

**Historical Studies in Industrial Relations**

*Historical Studies in Industrial Relations* was established in 1996 by the Centre for Industrial Relations, Keele University.

Content broadly covers the employment relationship and the economic, social and political factors surrounding it.

online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/hsir

**theory & struggle**

*Theory & Struggle* is the journal of the Marx Memorial Library.

Articles grapple with debates taking place within Marxist circles, and study critical developments in the labour and progressive movements in Britain and internationally.

online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/theory

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## Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

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11:30-15:30 Activity: Thames Sailing  
Barge Trip  
(pre-booked ticketholders only)

From 12:00 Registration  
*Keynes College Foyer*

> 12:00 Steering Committee Meeting  
*Seminar Room 12*

> 13:00 Student Success Bursary Holder  
Meeting  
*K-Bar, Keynes College*

### 14:10 – 15:40 Session 1

**1a: Time, Affect and Identity**  
*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Dawn Lyon

**Wen Xie** (University of Chicago) 'Mismatched temporalities: life course, economic ethos, and capitalist transformation in the Chinese Rust Belt'

**Jana Golombek** (LWL-Industrial Museum) 'This must be the place – the industrial heritage of the Ruhr as place for (narrative) engagement in the age of deindustrialisation?'

**Petra Seitz** (Royal College of Art and Victoria & Albert Museum) 'Where do you cry in an open office? The cubicle, the open office, and the dehumanisation of white collar work'

**Barbara Jensen** (Community and counselling psychologist) 'Post-traumatic living: precarious employment and learned helplessness'

**1b: Literary Representations of the Working Class**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Emma Cooke

**Ben Clarke** (University of North Carolina) "'It may be a dump but I quite miss it": class, gender, and nostalgia in Andrea Dunbar'

**Surya Simon** (University of East Anglia) 'Intersectionality and performativity in Bama's *Karukku*'

**Matti Ron** (University of East Anglia) 'Zadie Smith's and James Kelman's counter-narratives of working-class (de)composition in globalised London'

**Alessandro Scanu** (Freie Universität Berlin) 'What is it like to be a girl in a working-class context? A reading of Sergio Atzeni's *Bella mariposas* (1996)' (*Virtual*)

**1c: Collaborative Preservation – Constructing Durable Working-Class Histories**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Tom Woodin

**Jessica Pauszek** (Texas A&M University - Commerce) 'Preserving working-class voices through archival curation'

**Vincent Portillo** (Syracuse University) 'Building a path towards archival texts'

**Dave Chambers** (Newham Writers) 'Newham Writers and the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers'

**Pol Nugent** (Pecket Learning Community) 'Pecket Learning Community: barriers to learning including class and trauma'

**1d: Working with Social Haunting against a Right Populist Capture of 'Class' in the UK Coalfields**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Geoff Bright

**Geoff Bright & Gabrielle Ivinson** (Manchester Metropolitan University) 'A haunting within a haunting: women's affective practices in the socially haunted UK coalfields'

**Valerie Walkerdine** (Cardiff University) 'Artwork as an affective practice in response to social haunting in de-industrialised communities'

**Joseph Varga** (Indiana University) 'Magic words and haunted spaces: NAFTA and the UK miners' strike in comparative perspective'

**Mark James** (Unite Community, South Yorkshire) 'Fossil fools: social haunting and

the struggle against shale gas extraction in the English coalfields'

## Refreshments

*Keynes College Foyer*

## 16:00-17:30 Plenary Session

### Welcome and Why Working-Class Studies?

*Keynes Lecture Theatre 1*

Discussant: **Sherry Linkon** (Georgetown University)

**Geoff Bright** (Manchester Metropolitan University)

**Sweta Rajan-Rankin** (University of Kent)

**Paul Sng** (Filmmaker and Writer)

**Valerie Walkerdine** (Cardiff University)

## 18:00-21:00 Meet and Greet

*K-Bar, Keynes College*

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## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

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## 7:30-8:45 Registration

*Keynes College Foyer*

## Refreshments

*Keynes College Foyer*

## 9:00-10:30 Session 2

### 2a: Revisiting Poor and Working-Class

### Motherhood: Cultural Engagements with Biopolitics, Colonialism, #BlackGirlsMatter

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Pamela Fox

**Clare Callahan** (Sacred Heart University) 'You can die: weathering maternal and reproductive health disparities in Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*' (*Virtual*)

**Nicola Wilson** (University of Reading) 'Buchi Emecheta and "self-documentary" fiction: motherhood and a press of one's own'

**Pamela Fox** (Georgetown University)

'#noteenshame: poor and working-class teen mothers rewrite maternal trauma narratives'

### 2b: Education and the Labour Movement

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Joseph Varga

**Robert M Zecker** (Saint Francis Xavier University) "'Carry the light to the masses": the International Workers Order and Proletarian Workers' Schools'

**Lynne Turner** (CUNY) 'Labor education for social change in an era of right (and left?) populism'

**Keith Venables** and **Colin Waugh**

(Independent Working Class Education Network) 'Knowledge is power: rebuilding working-class education in the UK'

**Parshuram Pudasaini** (CLASS Nepal) 'Social movements: with reference to trade unions and Cooperatives in Nepal'

### 2c: Place, Race, Space and Class:

### Intersectional Approaches to Contemporary Working-Class Literature

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Cherie Rankin

**Terry Easton** (University of North Georgia) 'Falling down, falling apart, and finding home in *Reservation Blues*'

**Mary Gibaldi** (California State University, Chico) 'Labyrinth of labor: central and peripheral horrific space in Grady Hendrix's *Horrorstör*'

**Nathaniel Heggins Bryant** (California State University, Chico) 'Plantations among the stars: the intersectional future of Rivers Solomon's *An Unkindness of Ghosts*'

**Chloe Ashbridge** (University of Nottingham) "'It aye like London, you know": region, nation and nostalgia in the British Brexit novel'

## **2d: WORKSHOP Working with Social Haunting**

*Seminar Room 15*

Facilitator: **Geoff Bright** (Manchester Metropolitan University)

### **2e: (Re-)Conceptualising 'Working Class'**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Jack Metzgar

**Michael Zweig** (SUNY Stony Brook) 'Threshold concepts for Working-Class Studies'

**Allison L Hurst** (Oregon State University)

'Resurrecting class: how post-war affluence distorted academic thinking on class'

**Michael Seltzer** (Oslo Metropolitan University) 'The new savages: the scholarly demonization of working-class Americans'

**Nick J Fox** (University of Huddersfield) 'Re-materialising social class'

## Refreshments

*Keynes College Foyer*

## 10:50-12:20 Session 3

### **3a: Changing Occupational Identities**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Emma Pleasant

**Mike Wayne** (Brunel University) 'Industrialism and British capitalism'

**Akhila Kumaran** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) 'Modernisation and the creation of an 'abject' working class: a study of marine coastal fisheries in Kerala'

**Emma Cooke** (University of Kent) 'Legal marginality: "second class" lawyers for "second class" citizens'

**Isabel Roque** (Coimbra University) 'Precarious workers and social mobilisation in Portuguese call centre assembly lines'

### **3b: Gender, Resistance and Deindustrialisation**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Joseph Varga

**Marie Hällander** (Association of Working-Class Writers & Södertörn University)

'Among the girls and machines of the textile dust'

**Valerie Wright** (University of Glasgow) "'I

know he's trying": gender, deindustrialisation and unemployment in Ferguslie Park, Paisley'

**Natalie Thomlinson** (University of Reading)

"'We're not political": activists, "ordinary women", and the 1984-5 miners' strike'

**David Swift** (Ben Gurion University) 'The remaking of the working class in a time of deindustrialisation: West Yorkshire, c.1960 to 1981'

### **3c: The Unmaking of the Working Class**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Gary Jones

**Alice Tihelková** (University of West Bohemia)

'Low-pay life amidst the images of plenty: the Czech working class in the post-industrial society'

**Valerie Walkerdine** (Cardiff University) 'A working-class hero is something to be? The shaming of Leave voters'

**Lisa McKenzie** (Durham University) 'Breaking Britain's working class'

**Jenny Thatcher** (The Sociological Review)

'From communism to capitalism, from East to West: the experiences of Polish migrants in the UK'

### **3d: Hands, Bodies and Biographies**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Sophie Rowland

**Susanne Becker** (Independent Researcher)

'Doing nails, doing class? – nails as an embodied marker of class'

**Jenifer Vernon** (Sierra College) 'Surviving their care of us'

**June Melody** (Goldsmiths) 'The shaming of working-class women's lives and ambitions: the case of the Playboy Bunny'

**William Burns** (University of Glasgow) "'We just thought we were superhuman and we got on wae it": an oral history of health and work in Paisley's thread mills'

### **3e: Roundtable Book Launch: *Voices of Guinness***

*Seminar Room 16*

Author: **Tim Strangleman** (University of Kent)

Discussant: **Jack Metzgar** (Roosevelt University)

**Steven High** (Concordia University)

**Alice Mah** (University of Warwick)

**Andrew Perchard** (Wolverhampton University)

**Christine Walley** (MIT)

### **12:20-13:20 Lunch**

*Keynes College Foyer*

### **13:20-14:50 Keynote / Public Lecture**

*Keynes Lecture Theatre 1*

**Satnam Virdee** (University of Glasgow)

*Race, Class and the Politics of Solidarity*

### **Refreshments**

*Keynes College Foyer*

### **15:10-16:40 Session 4**

#### **4a: 'On Behalf of the People': Class, Community and Place in the Nationalised British Coal Industry, 1947-1994**

*Seminar Room 11*

Chair: Sophie Rowland

**Keith Gildart** (Wolverhampton University)

'The history of the British coal industry revisited: mining, memories, heritage and conflict in Lancashire and North Wales'

**Grace Millar** (Wolverhampton University)

'Looking at the post-war "affluent worker" from Easington in 2019'

**Andrew Perchard** (Wolverhampton University)

'Fighting for life: locality and the "half-life of deindustrialisation" in the Scottish coalfield'

**Rab Wilson** (Poet) 'Poems from the coalfield'

### **4b: Working-Class Women's Protests against State and Institutional Violence**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Tara Young

**Stephanie Fortado** (University of Illinois) "'We will match them, thug for thug": state violence and the 1937 CIO Laundry Workers Strike in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois'

**Kerry Pimblott** (University of Manchester)

"'We are black, we are poor, we are women": black women and state violence in Manchester (UK) during the Black Power era'

**Emily E LB Twarog** (University of Illinois)

'Violent talk: perpetrators and gender violence in the service sector, 2000-2018'

### **4c: Deindustrialisation, Heritage and Memory: Outcomes from a Collaborative Network**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Andy Clark

**Emily Tench** (The Common Room of the Great North) 'Deindustrialisation and heritage: The Common Room of the Great North'

**Paul Barnsley** (Wolverhampton University)

'Deindustrialisation, work and class in the Black Country'

**Emma Copestake** (University of Liverpool)

'Emotions at work: solidarity in the Liverpool Dock Dispute 1995-98'

**Matt Beebee** (University of Exeter) 'Identity,

belonging and community during the closure of Bilston Steel Works, 1975-80'

### **4d: WORKSHOP Amplifying Unheard Voices in Documentary Film-making and Photography**

*Seminar Room 14*

Facilitator: **Paul Sng** (Filmmaker and Writer)

### **4e: Riot, Rebellion and Remembering**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Gary Jones

**Layli Uddin** (Lahore University & Royal

Holloway) 'Dreaming and rioting: a micro-

history of the 1954 working-class riots in East Pakistan'

- Pål Brunnström** (Malmö University) "What would be most fair is no doubt if the workers in all factories would have the same opportunities for profit." Moral economy in the relationship between workers and owners of capital'
- Marc Mulholland** (University of Oxford) 'The social psychology of Chartism'
- Gavin Stanbrook** (University of Technology Sydney) 'Aboriginal riots – from Redfern to Kalgoorlie'

#### **4f: Who was T-Bone Slim? Rediscovering the "Laureate of the Logging Camps"**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Michele Fazio

- Owen Clayton** (University of Lincoln) 'Puns, politics, and pork chops: T-Bone Slim's radical satire'
- John Westmoreland** (Musician) 'Singing from the shadows: rediscovering Uncle Matt/T-Bone Slim'

### 17:00-18:30 Session 5

#### **5a: Widening Participation in Higher Education**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Triona Fitton

- Cherie Rankin** (Heartland Community College) 'Shell game: student debt crisis and public service loan forgiveness in the US'
- Chima Anyadike-Danes** (Sheffield University) 'An education in time: working-class encounters with university time discipline'
- Lynn Arner** (Brock University) 'First-generation university students who earn English Doctorates in Canada'
- Benjamin Brundu-Gonzalez** (London School of Economics) 'How to be working-class in elite places: cross-class interactions and experiences of class prejudice in French elite liberal arts colleges'

#### **5b: Class in Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

##### **Literature**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Pamela Fox

- Owen Clayton** (University of Lincoln) 'Punks, Prushuns, and Gay-cats: on the road with Jack London and "A.No.1"'
- Gordon J Tait** (University of Hull) 'Class and (the) capital – the middle-class "creation" of a working-class poet'
- Courtney Pina Miller** (Brandeis University) 'D.H. Lawrence's erotic carnival: British working-class labour and language'

#### **5c: SCREENING with Q&A: 6 Short Films –**

***Who Am I? (2006), Bars Behind Bars (2009), Bare Inequality (2011), Who Benefits? (2016), Water (2016) and The Foodbank Film (2018)***

*Keynes Lecture Theatre 1*

**Deirdre O'Neill** (Inside Film)

#### **5d: Class and Countercultural Movements**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: TBC

- Pete Dale** (Manchester Metropolitan University) 'Success on the decks: DJing, music education and the white working class in the North East of England'
- David Wilkinson** (Manchester Metropolitan University) 'Rethinking class and countercultural legacies in Brexit Britain'
- Matthew Worley** (University of Reading) 'Whose culture? Punk fanzines, politics and agency'
- Ben Pollock** (University of Kent) 'Playing with class: art, space and gentrification in the alternative soccerscape'

#### **5e: Metropolitan Deindustrialisation**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Jackie Clarke

- Steven High** (Concordia University) 'The "normalised quiet of unseen power": a critical reflection on wounded identity and the structural violence of capitalism'
- Lauren Laframboise** (Concordia University) 'Beyond the "docile" workforce: gender,

class and deindustrialisation in Montreal's garment industry'

**Fred Burrill** (Concordia University) 'Thinking through the role of whiteness in navigating deindustrialisation and displacement in Saint-Henri, Montreal'

**Laurence Hamel-Roy** (Concordia University) 'Gendering the working class: the politics of unemployment insurance benefits in Canada'

## 19:30 Conference Dinner and WCSA Awards Ceremony

*Darwin College Conference Suite*

Co-hosted by **Cherie Rankin**, Immediate Past-President, and **Terry Easton**, former President.

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## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

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### 8:30-9:00 Refreshments

*Keynes College Foyer*

### 9:00-10:30 Session 6

#### **6a: The Cultures and Conflicts of the Everyday**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Sweta Rajan-Rankin

**Jiwoon Yulee** (University of Washington) 'Constellating spatial intimacies: lifeworlds of struggles beyond intimate labour and care' (*Virtual*)

**Katelyn Juerjens** (Northeastern Illinois University) 'Radical nourishment and cross-ethnic solidarity in *If Beale Street Could Talk*'

**Robert Snape** (University of Bolton) 'Working-class leisure and everyday life in Mass Observation's Worktown'

**Tatiana Gavrilyuk** (Industrial University of Tyumen) 'Russian working-class families' gender regimes'

#### **6b: WORKSHOP Class after Industry**

*Seminar Room 13*

Facilitators: **David Byrne** and **Jon Warren** (Durham University)

#### **6c: Literary and Performative Expressions of Social Change**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Sherry Linkon

**Martin Goodhead** (Keele University) 'Sitting ducks and working-class literature: from haunting through refusal to reinvention'

**Luka Lei Zhang** (Nanyang Technological University) 'Forgotten voices of Singapore: a study of working-class literature'

**Phil O'Brien** (University of Manchester) 'Deindustrial theatre: Thatcherism and unemployment'

**Timothy Francisco** (Youngstown State University) 'Working class villains: dramatizing the white working class in Trump-era *Othello*'

#### **6d: The Fight for Representation**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: David Nettleingham

**Fredrik Egefur** (Lund University) 'Radical archives: collecting political material in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'

**Dan Thompson & Dawn Cole** (Appletye) 'Print works'

**Alison Atkinson-Phillips** (Newcastle University) 'Save our Shipyards: revisiting a lost campaign through film and oral history'

**Deirdre O'Neill** (Inside Film) 'Film as a radical pedagogic tool'

#### **6e: On Belonging and Not Belonging**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Scott Henkel

**Debbie Humphry** (Kingston University)  
‘Working-class geographies of getting by and getting on’

**John Russo** (Georgetown University) ‘Two tales of a city: undocumented immigrants in Youngstown’

**Paul Watt** (Birkbeck) ‘Left behind or moving ahead? Class, ethnicity and pre-Brexit attitudes towards migration, nation, community and Europe’

**Laura Reeves** (Open University) ‘The impact Brexit is having on EU citizens’ sense of belonging in the hotel sector in the UK’

## Refreshments

*Keynes College Foyer*

### 10:50-12:20 Session 7

#### **7a: Labour Mobilisations and Capitalist Development in Today’s Italy**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Lorenzo Feltrin

**Bartek Goldmann & Lorenzo Cini** (Scuola Normale Superiore) ‘The displacement hypothesis revisited: insights from the Italian logistics sector’

**Gabriella Cioce** (University of Nottingham) ‘Why do low-paid migrant workers mobilise in the Italian logistics sector?’

**Lorenzo Feltrin** (University of Warwick) ‘Working-class environmentalism versus capitalist greening: the case of Porto Marghera’s petrochemical complex’

**Loris Caruso & Riccardo Emilio Chesta** (Scuola Normale Superiore) ‘Top-down Toyotism and social movement unionism: from FIAT to FCA’

#### **7b: The Deindustrial Experience**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Sophie Rowland

**Emma Pleasant** (University of Kent) ‘Dirty work: cultural iconography and working-class pride in industrial apprenticeships’

**Luke Telford** (Teesside University) ‘Deindustrialisation, lost futures and political discontent on Teesside’

**Andy Clark** (Newcastle University) ‘“There is decent people here, it’s not our fault it gets a bad name”: deindustrialisation, stigmatisation, and the impacts of organised crime’

**Melissa Meade** (Villanova University) ‘Memory and post-industrial place: environmental classism and the *Coalcracker* identity’

#### **7c: Housing as a Working-Class Issue**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: John Russo

**Sarah Attfield** (University of Technology Sydney) & **Lisa McKenzie** (Durham University) ‘Council Housing as a right’

**Housing activists from Focus E15** ‘The Focus E15 campaign’

**Paul Watt** (Birkbeck) ‘Changing places, changing class: social housing estates and urban regeneration’

#### **7d: Roundtable: The Long Haul: Building and Sustaining Workers Culture and Labor Culture Programs**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: John P Beck

**Paula Geraghty** (Video Journalist and co-founder of the Dublin Workers Film Festival)

**Chris Garlock** (Metro Washington Council Union Cities/Street Heat co-ordinator and DC LaborFest organiser)

**Anna Burton** (Film producer & director of London Labour Film Festival)

**Elise A Bryant** (Labor Heritage Foundation)

**John P Beck** (Founder and co-director of *Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives*, Michigan State University)

#### **7e: Writing our Own Experience**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Christie Launius

**Lisa Blower** (Bangor University) ‘Working-class fictions as a creative practice: a two-way street’

**Ian Gwinn** (University of Liverpool) ‘Can workers still write their own history?’

Culture, class and education in a time of crisis'

**Maximillian Alvarez** (University of Michigan)

'Sound and longing: re-humanising the working-class'

**Annette Rimmer** (Freelance Radio Producer)

'Breaking the silence: community radio, women, intersectionality and empowerment'

12:20-13:20 Lunch

*Keynes College Foyer*

**Lunchtime Event: Introducing the Association of Working Class Academics (AWCA)**

*Seminar Room 16*

Facilitator: **Craig Johnston** (University of Winchester)

13:20-14:50 Session 8

**8a: Roundtable: Supporting Working-Class Students at the People's Universities**

*Seminar Room 11*

Chair: Colby King

**Colby King** (University of South Carolina-Upstate)

**Wendy Wright** (Bridgewater State University)

**Mia Ortiz** (Bridgewater State University)

**Sean McPherson** (Bridgewater State University)

**Michele Fazio** (University of North Carolina)

**8b: WORKSHOP Working with Oral History**

*Seminar Room 12*

Facilitator: **Arthur McIvor** (University of Strathclyde)

**8c: Being and Doing: Working-Class Research in South Wales**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Valerie Walkerdine

**Richard Gater** (Cardiff University) 'The insider – a Valley boy perspective: the South Wales Valleys, young working-class men and employment'

**Jonathan Jones** (Cardiff University) 'Aspiring to survive: precariat constructions of mobility and social justice' (*Virtual*)

**Rhiannon Morgan** (Cardiff University) 'What, someone like me? A working-class insight into the realities of post-schooling trajectories for young people from a small village in the South Wales Valleys'

**Valerie Walkerdine** (Cardiff University) 'Being a working-class researcher in and around the South Wales Valleys'

**8d: Finding a Voice**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Alison Atkinson-Phillips

**Tom Woodin** (UCL) 'Working-class writers: negotiating life histories and generational change since 1945'

**Jennifer Reid** (Broadside Balladry) 'Songs of work in Manchester and Bangladesh'

**Jodie Childers** (University of Massachusetts) 'Hvoru megin stendurðu? Performing Labour History in Iceland'

**David Michalski** (University of California) 'Creative problem solving: working-class creativity in Buffalo, New York'

**8e: Deindustrialisation and its Histories**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Tim Strangleman

**David Nettleingham** (University of Kent) 'Deindustrialisation, ruralisation and the problems of narrating industrial heritage in places that aren't supposed to have one'

**Irene Díaz** (Universidad Oviedo) 'Narratives of deindustrialization in the Asturian Coal Basins: between epic and disaffection'

**Rubén Vega** (Universidad Oviedo) 'Artistic representations of work, pride, and struggle. Naval Gijón as a *lieux du mémoire*'

Refreshments

*Keynes College Foyer*

15:10-16:40 Session 9

**9a: The Work of Neoliberalism**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Jack Warner

**Matthew Sparkes** (University of Cambridge)

“Deproletarianising” the working class:  
the origins of the economic ideas of  
financialisation in Britain’

**Tim Libretti** (Northeastern Illinois University)

‘Why labouring lives matter: reading the  
consequences of the US Supreme Court’s  
Janus decision for efforts to achieve  
democracy and equality’

**Panagiotis Manolakos** (Panteion University of

Social and Political Sciences) ‘Living on the  
edge: the case of delivery workers in  
Greece’

### **9b: WORKSHOP Writing for Wider Publics**

*Seminar Room 13*

Facilitators: **Sherry Linkon** and **John Russo**  
(Georgetown University)

### **9c: Deindustrialisation, Health and Embodiment**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Emma Pleasant

**Arthur McIvor** (University of Strathclyde)

‘Blighted lives: deindustrialisation, health  
and well-being in the Clydeside region’

**Christine Walley** (MIT) ‘Embodied labour and  
its loss: storytelling through artefacts in  
the Southeast Chicago Historical Museum’

**James Patrick Ferns** (University of  
Strathclyde) ‘Occupational identity and the  
post-redundancy employment of Scottish  
steelworkers’

**Sophie Rowland** (University of Kent)

‘Searching for a deindustrial body: health,  
work and post-industry life in the Kent  
coalfield’

### **9d: The Uneven Geographies of Schooling**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Triona Fitton

**Crystal Hester** (University of North Carolina)

‘Rending the veil: exposing the class-less  
teacher in a rural setting’

**Anna Uboldi** (University of Milan)

‘Disadvantaged pupils and artistic dreams:  
research on Italian secondary art schools’

**Sol Gamsu** (University of Durham) ‘Historical  
geographies of educational power:  
accumulation, schooling and memory as  
radical inheritance’

**Sharon Jones** (Anglia Ruskin University) ‘The  
reproduction of class inequalities within  
state schooling and how to promote  
emancipation – a study of lower working-  
class “adults” experiences’

### **9e: Representing Class**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Terry Easton

**Nick Bentley** (Keele University) “‘Our people,  
our people”: intersections of class and race  
in Zadie Smith’s fiction’

**Sarah Attfield** (University of Technology  
Sydney) ‘Attacking the block: demonising  
high rise social housing on screen’

**James V Catano** (Louisiana State University)  
‘Lobster gangs, tribes, and working-class  
identity’

**Owen Clayton** (University of Lincoln) “‘Who  
said I was a bum?’ Transient self-  
preservation in *The Hobo News*, 1915-  
1923’

### **17:00-18:30 Keynote**

*Keynes Lecture Theatre 1*

**Diane Reay** (University of Cambridge)

*The Miseducation of the Working Classes*

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## **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

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### **8:30-9:00 Refreshments**

*Keynes College Foyer*

### **9:00-10:30 Session 10**

**10a: WORKSHOP Working with Social Media**

*Seminar Room 12*

Facilitators: **Emma Pleasant** and **Sophie Rowland** (University of Kent)

### **10b: Geographies of Loss and Resistance**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Iain Wilkinson

**Heather Mew** (Newcastle University)

‘Austerity, inequality, and the geographies of working-class resistance’

**Louise Jezierski** (Michigan State University)

‘Focus on Detroit: films representing and explaining Detroit’s deindustrialisation’

**Ryan Davey** (University of Bristol) ‘Class and coercion in post-industrial Britain: an ethnography of a housing estate in south-west England’

**Jay Emery** (University of Leicester) ‘Blair’s children: the embodied and affective geographies of a deindustrialised generation in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, UK’

### **10c: Artists and Audiences**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Axelle van Wynsberghe

**Alexandra Bickley Trott** (Oxford Brookes University) ‘Kahoon projects: contemporary art residencies examining class in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain’

**Paul Hollins** (University of Bolton) ‘“Meatwhistle”: the catalyst that sparked working-class creative talent’

**David Loumgair** (COMMON) ‘Socio-economic inequality in British theatre and barriers to engagement for working-class artists and audiences’

**Janet Zandy** (Rochester Institute of Technology) ‘I AM REAL: working-class art, artists, and audience’

### **10d: Ways of Remembering**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Jack Metzgar

**Vicki McGarvey** (Staffordshire University)

‘Bound by clay: remembering women’s contribution to the ceramics industry in Stoke-on-Trent’

**Michele Dunleavy** (Penn State University)

‘Steel valley rhythms: dancing Pennsylvania’s industrial histories’

**Christie Launius** (Kansas State University)

‘*Hillbilly Elegy* and *Heartland*: contemporary working-class memoir as political platform and projection’

### **10e: Roundtable: Deindustrialization Studies Now: Why Deindustrialization Matters in the Current Political Moment**

*Seminar Room 16*

Discussant: **Sherry Linkon** (Georgetown University)

**Stefan Berger** (University of Bochum)

**Jackie Clarke** (University of Glasgow)

**Steven High** (Concordia University)

**Alice Mah** (University of Warwick)

### **Refreshments**

*Keynes College Foyer*

### **10:50-12:20 Session 11**

#### **11a: Roundtable: Being a Working-Class Writer**

*Seminar Room 12*

Discussant: **Christie Launius**

**Lisa Blower** (Writer, Bangor University)

**Jenifer Vernon** (Poet, Sierra College)

**Sarah Attfield** (Poet, University of Technology Sydney)

#### **11b: British Fiction in the ‘Working-Class Century’**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Matti Ron

**Nick Hubble** (Brunel University) ‘“Nearer the gate of a strange field”: beyond class and gender in interwar proletarian autobiographical’

**Matthew Crowley** (Independent Researcher) ‘“It’s a hard life if you don’t weaken”: Arthur, Albert and André: rebellion and its radical potential’

**Roberto del Valle Alcalá** (Södertörn University) ‘From society to the abyss:’

British class fiction and the crisis of Fordism'

**Heather Paulson** (University of California) 'Healing from below: working-class women's spaces as resistance and recovery'

**11c: Working-class Academics at the Chalkface**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Scott Henkel

**Cora Lingling Xu** (Keele University) 'Long-term impacts of poverty on rural Chinese academics and their coping strategies'

**Paula Stone** (Canterbury Christ Church University) 'Confronting myself: an auto/biographical exploration on the impact of class and education on the formation of self and identity'

**Lauren Schandavel** (University of Michigan) 'The American Dream: institutionalising class studies in US academia'

**11d: Deindustrialisation, Narrative and Experience**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: David Nettleingham

**June Corman** (Brock University), **Ann Duffy** (Brock University) & **Norene Pupo** (York University) 'Fragmented lives in the aftermath of plant closures'

**Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite** (UCL) "'You could leave one job on the Friday and have another one by the Monday morning": work, community and deindustrialisation in the narratives of working-class women in Britain's coalfields after c.1945'

**Robert MacDonald** (University of Huddersfield) 'Class, place and history: transitions to adulthood amidst the rubble of economic collapse'

**Lisa Taylor** (Leeds Beckett University) 'Witnessing the fall of an ex-industrial community: interactions with nostalgia as a creative response to loss'

**11e: SCREENING with Q&A: Workers (UK, 2018)**

*Keynes Lecture Theatre 1*

**Jay Gearing** (Director and Co-producer)

**Ben Rogaly** (Researcher, University of Sussex and Co-producer)

**12:20-13:20 Lunch and Feedback Session**

*Seminar Room 16*

Hosted by **Scott Henkel**, Incoming President

**13:20-14:50 Session 12**

**12a: Social Mobility and its Discontents**

*Seminar Room 12*

Chair: Iain Wilkinson

**Samantha Evans** (University of Kent) & **Maddy Wyatt** (University of Kent) 'Social class mobility: no sense of belonging'

**Andrea Lizama Loyola** (University of Manchester) "'I am objectively socially mobile, but I do not feel that": divergences between teachers' trajectories and their sense of class identity'

**Malik Fercovic Cerda** (London School of Economics) 'Between success and dislocation: the troublesome identity among the upwardly mobile in Chilean society'

**12b: Class, Exploitation and Horror**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Emma Pleasant

**Melissa C Macero** (University of Illinois) 'All work and no play: resurrecting the working class in the horror genre'

**Asia Muhammad** (University of North Carolina at Pembroke) '*The Walking Dead*: Michonne, tropes, and exploitation'

**12c: Coming Up Against the Class Ceiling**

*Seminar Room 14*

Chair: Barbara Adewumi

**Brenda Henry-Offor** (SUNY Empire State College) 'Education disparities in the New York public school system'

**Eric Larsson** (Stockholm University)  
“‘Embodying meritocracy” and Swedish  
post-16 elite schools’

**Bir Bahadur Ale** (Nepal Telecom Worker’s  
Union) ‘Assessing social class inequalities  
and its impact on education in Nepal’

**Michelle Corbin** (Worcester State University)  
‘Politics of public colleges: how austerity  
and inequality threaten the liberatory  
promises of public Higher Education’

#### **12d: Masculinities, Class and Belonging**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Issy Hartmann

**Michael Ward** (Swansea University)  
‘(Un)belonging in Higher Education:  
negotiating working-class masculinities  
within and beyond the university campus’

**Haude Rivoal** (Centre de Recherches  
Sociologiques et Politiques de Paris)  
‘Plurality and hierarchy of masculinities in  
the logistics industry: and ethnography of  
working-class gendered identities’

**Colin Webster & Mohammed Qasim** (Leeds  
Beckett University) “‘Prisons were made  
for people like us”: a political economy  
perspective on long- and medium-term  
experiences of British Pakistani Muslim  
men released from prison’

**Nob Doran** (University of New Brunswick)  
‘From “feminist standpoint” (via “working  
class standpoint”) to “parrhesian  
standpoint”: autobiogra-theory and the  
class experience’

#### **12e: Young Lives and Social Change**

*Seminar Room 16*

Chair: Tim Strangleman

**Dawn Lyon** (University of Kent) & **Lars  
Johansson** (Filmmaker) ‘Remembering the  
future through young people’s  
imaginations’

**Catherine Holloway** (University of  
Winchester) ‘The secondary technical  
school: providing opportunities for  
working-class girls in post-war Kent’

**Lewis Mates** (Durham University) & **Lucy  
Grimshaw** (Northumbria University) ‘Place,

class and identity: teaching local mining  
history in a post-industrial locality’

**Kim McAloney** (Oregon State University)  
‘Faculty’s role in supporting working-class  
college students through the hidden  
curriculum of college academic language’

#### **Refreshments**

*Keynes College Foyer*

#### **15:10-16:40 Session 13**

##### **13a: Roundtable: Class and Higher Education - a Staff-Student Dialogue**

*Seminar Room 12*

Discussant: **Triona Fitton** (University of Kent)

**Barbara Adewumi** (University of Kent)

**Ruth Cassidy** (University of Kent)

**Pamela Mills** (University of Kent)

**Wayne Laviniere** (University of Kent)

**Chima Anyadike-Danes** (Sheffield University)

##### **13b: On What Remains**

*Seminar Room 13*

Chair: Issy Hartmann

**Andrew Warnes** (University of Leeds)

‘Spectral production: figurations of race  
and commodity fetishism in US  
supermarket culture, 1945-’

**Ryan Poll** (Northeastern Illinois University)

‘Communities of hate: destructive and  
productive working-class affects in the  
wake of deindustrialisation’

**Katherine Simpson** (University of  
Huddersfield) ‘Harnessing ghosts: towards  
reimagining education in a former  
coalmining community’

**David Smith** (Anglia Ruskin University) “‘We  
have to rely on each other because nobody  
else gives a damn” – austerity, community  
and managing working-class health’

##### **13c: Roundtable: Working-Class Literature(s): International Interconnections**

*Seminar Room 14*

Discussants: **John Lennon** (University of South  
Florida) & **Magnus Nilsson** (Malmö  
University)

**Benjamin Balthasar** (Indiana University)

**Michael Pierson** (Queen's University Belfast)

**Małgorzata Drwal** (Adam Mickiewicz  
University)

**Eugenio Di Stefano** (University of Nebraska)

**13d: Intersections and Trajectories**

*Seminar Room 15*

Chair: Michelle Corbin

**Michael Dennis** (Acadia University) 'Women and the full employment struggle: forging a cross-class alliance for economic democracy in the post-war years'

**Michael Zweig** (SUNY Stony Brook) 'The mutual determination of class and race in the United States: history and current implications'

**Joseph Varga** (Indiana University) 'Labor is a queer thing: fragmented identities in the US and UK coalfields'

**Karen Bell** (University of the West of England) 'Working-class inclusion in the transition to sustainability'

**13e: WORKSHOP 'Where do we go from here?' Poverty, Downward Mobility, and the Precarity of the Working Class**

*Seminar Room 16*

Facilitator: **Megan Osborn** (Virginia Commonwealth University)

# WCSA20

**20-24 May 2020**

Youngstown State University,  
Ohio

To mark the 25th anniversary of the discipline of Working Class Studies in the US, the 2020 WCSA conference will return to Youngstown State University, May 20-24.

The conference will be hosted by YSU's Center for Working Class Studies in partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and The Youngstown Historical Center for Industry and Labor.

The conference theme will be decided shortly by the steering committee, and the CFP will be released on the conference website following the 2019 WCSA conference.

## NOTES

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**University of Kent** | School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

**WCSA** (DE)INDUSTRIAL KENT

**Gulbenkian**  
University of Kent

THE JOURNAL OF  
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**STUDENT SUCCESS (EDI) PROJECT**  
*Promoting Student Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity*

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