

Made Up People:

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Labelling and the Construction of People in Post-War History

Keynote speaker: Professor Ian Hacking (*University of Toronto*)



University of Warwick

25th October 2013

Convenors

Jennifer Crane (University of Warwick)

Claire Sewell (University of Warwick)

In Conjunction With

Dr Mathew Thomson (University of Warwick)

With kind sponsorship from the Wellcome Trust, the Centre for the History of Medicine and the Warwick History Department

**Made Up People:
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People in Post-War History**

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Venue

Seminar Room (F204), Institute of Advanced Study, Millburn House

The Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) is located in Millburn House within the University site – it is marked as building 43 on the main campus map. This can be downloaded at:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/maps/campusmap/> Please

note that the building numbers on printed versions of the map may be different. For more information on visiting the University of Warwick please see our web:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting>.

Accommodation

For those staying in accommodation;

Please be advised that speakers have been booked at **Arden House**, located within the University site – it is marked as **building 1** on the main campus map.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/maps/campusmap/>

Further information for your stay can be found via the Arden site:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/conferences/ourvenues/arden>.

For attendees who wish to book their own accommodation on Warwick campus, further details can be found via:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/conferences/ourvenues>.

Alternatively, please do feel free to contact the organisers for information on off-campus accommodation available in the local area.

Parking

Millburn House has limited visitor parking, however there are also multiple (short and long stay) car parks within the University campus. For more information on visitor parking please see our web: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/car/parking/> For parking maps:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/maps/parking/>.

Accommodation venues do have their own parking which can be used for those staying with us.

Taxis

The University uses Trinity Taxis for travel arrangements.

Tel: 02476 631631

For those claiming expenses, we ask that you please keep your receipts.

Should you have any dietary or access requirements please contact the Centre for the History of Medicine Administrator (Sheilagh Holmes) via email:

Sheilagh.Holmes@warwick.ac.uk or tel: 024 765 72601.

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Provisional Programme

Thursday 24th October 2013

From 18:00 Wine Reception (Graduate Space, Humanities Building)

Friday 25th October 2013

(Institute of Advanced Study, Millburn House, University of Warwick)

9:30-9.45 **Welcome** - Registration and Refreshments

9.45-10.00 **Introductory Remarks** (Jennifer Crane and Claire Sewell)

10:00-10:40 **Keynote: Professor Ian Hacking** (University of Toronto)

10:40-11:00 *Refreshments*

11:00-11:40 **'A Vital Role': The Emergence of the Carer for Mental Disorder**
in 1960s and 1970s Britain

Claire Sewell (University of Warwick)

Stranger Danger: Changing Conceptions of Perpetrators of
Child Abuse, 1960-2013

Jennifer Crane (University Warwick)

11.40-12.20 **Addicts: The Emergence of the 'Pathological Gambler'**
and the Contradictions of Consumption

Professor Gerda Reith (University of Glasgow)

12.20-13.20 *Lunch* (Millburn House Foyer)

13:20-14:00 **Citizens: 'Nation Branding, Subjectivity and Citizenship'**
Dr Christopher Browning (University of Warwick)

14:00-14:40 **Motherhood and the Emergence of the 'Regressed'**
Shaul Bar-Haim (Birkbeck College, University of London)

14:40-15:00 *Refreshments*

15:00-15:40 **Munchausen: Self-harm, Child Abuse and the Internet**
Dr Chris Millard (Queen Mary, University of London)

15:40-16:50 **Roundtable Discussion**
16:50-17:00 **followed by Closing Remarks**

Biography

Professor Ian Hacking

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, ian.hacking@college-de-france.fr

Biography

Ian Hacking is a Professor Emeritus of the Collège de France and the University of Toronto. His books cover many topics, from experimental physics to mental illness, from statistical thinking to social construction. His next book, to appear early 2014, is titled *Why is there Philosophy of Mathematics at all?* Hacking introduced the phrase, “making up people,” as the title of a paper published in 1986, and has since used it in numerous contexts including multiple personality, criminality, poverty, obesity and autism.

Abstract

“Making Up People” 30 years later

My first “making up people” talk was given in the summer of 1984 at a conference in Stanford, *Reconstructing Individualism*. It described itself as a kind of “dynamic nominalism”—as concerned with the interaction between people and how they are called. I focussed on how kinds of people can come into being, hand in hand with the ways that they are classified and named. Later I came to emphasize looping effects—not only can names influence people, but also people classified in a certain way can themselves change and so modify what the classification means. I also broadened the framework from a simple relation between people and names, to include institutions, experts, knowledge, and collective practices and popular beliefs.

The ideas have been adapted in many ways that I did not anticipate, witness this conference. This talk will describe the evolution of the project, as I see it. I still hold to the final sentence of the original paper: “I see no reason to suppose that we shall ever tell two identical stories of two different instances of making up people.” I will conclude with a few reflections on the recent DSM-5, taking off from (but not repeating) my piece in the *London Review of Books*, 8th August this year.

Abstracts

Claire Sewell

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'A Vital Role': The Emergence of the Carer for Mental Disorder in 1960s and 1970s Britain

Whilst caring for mental disorder has taken place within the family for many centuries it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that this caring role became the object of social policy and social scientific research. One of the main reasons for this was the move towards the deinstitutionalisation of mental disorder following the 1959 Mental Health Act and Enoch Powell's 1961 Water Tower speech. The threat of hospital closures prompted interested parties to begin to discuss whether care *in* the community would in reality mean care *by* the family. In response to this growing interest in the issue of caring and mounting concern over short-falls in community-based service provision, the White Paper *Caring for People* (1989) acknowledged familial carers as the main providers of community care for the first time, stating that 'the role of the informal carer is vital'. The emergence of the category of the carer was part of a complex interplay between changing understandings of the family by the state and medical professionals, a growing interest in caring among social researchers, a new era of mental health care in the form of community care and the inception of carer group organisations to promote carer voice. This paper will examine some of the key events, episodes and issues which are fundamental to the story of the acknowledgement and negotiation of the category of the carer for mental disorder. I will argue that the study of this category can inform understandings of not only the place of the carer within post-war mental health care, but can also provide a fresh perspective on the history of community care.

Jennifer Crane

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Stranger Danger: Changing Conceptions of Perpetrators of Child Abuse, 1960-2013

Regular media frenzies attest that child abuse is conceptualised as British society's 'worst possible vice' (Hacking, 2001). Perhaps most recently, sustained media, public, and political attention has been paid to the deaths of Victoria Climbié, Peter Connelly, and Daniel Pelka. Newspapers regularly label those who commit child abuse as 'evil', and 'monsters', who should 'rot in hell' (Daily Express, Sunday Express, The Telegraph, 2013). These emotive and sensationalist presentations may be contrasted to the conceptualisations of child abusers offered by the perpetrator intervention programmes emergent since 2000, such as the helpline *Stop It Now!*. Facilitated by demands for worldwide policymakers to engage with perpetrators (World Health Organisation, 2002), these programmes enable anyone harbouring violent thoughts towards children to proactively seek counselling, and understand those who abuse children as capable and deserving of rehabilitation.

This paper will demonstrate that such contradictory presentations of those who abuse children have been politically and socially influential since the emergence of the 'battered child syndrome' in 1961. Since the 1960s charities, social policies, media, and medical and social researchers have categorised those who abuse children as either 'dangerous strangers' who are a 'breed apart', or as flawed individuals often positioned within 'problem families'. Hence, this paper will analyse the changing classifications of those who abuse children in order to draw broader conclusions about the shifting meanings and significance of 'child abuse' in modern British society.

Professor Gerda Reith

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Making Up Addicts: The Emergence of the 'Pathological Gambler' and the Contradictions of Consumption

This paper traces the emergence of the 'pathological gambler' as a distinct historical figure during the later part of the 20th and early 21st centuries. It argues that this figure is made up through the intersection of various types of discourse: those of addiction, risk, irrationality and control. Each of these expresses a particular epistemological orientation and articulates a distinct vision of personhood and identity. It is further suggested that these discourses are themselves created through some of the tensions inherent in late modern consumer societies. Although historically, gambling was criticised for undermining the ethic of production, today the notion of problem gambling is expressed in terms of a 'consumption ethic' based on the values of self-actualization, responsibility and reason. This is related to wider socio-economic trends in which external regulation is replaced with an emphasis on internal self-control that is carried out through appropriate types of consumption. In the case of gambling, the recent deregulation and liberalization of Western markets, together with an emphasis on individual player responsibility, expresses the tensions inherent in consumer capitalism, and creates the conditions for the emergence of the pathological gambler as a unique historical type.

Dr Christopher Browning

Reader of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, c.s.browning@warwick.ac.uk

Making Up Citizens: 'Nation Branding, Subjectivity and Citizenship'

This paper analyses how contemporary practices of nation branding are entailing implications for how subjectivity and citizenship are being reconceptualised in nationalist identity politics. The paper argues that contemporary processes of nation branding are reflective of changing conceptions of the nature of the international system and how best to achieve a sense of national (self)-esteem in that context. In this context, however, nation branding is arguably shifting idealised notions of what constitutes 'good citizenship' away from the selfless exploits and sacrifices of national heroes, to an emphasis on the entrepreneurial instinct and the responsabilisation of citizens as brand carriers and national representatives. One consequence of this is that nation branding strategies typically entail an invocation for citizens to embrace a form of cultural and economic citizenship over their political citizenship. In this respect the paper argues that nation branding programmes often perform significant disciplining functions by framing the bounds of acceptability. Despite this, however, the paper argues that possibilities for resistance remain.

Shaul Bar-Haim

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Motherhood and the Emergence of the 'Regressed'

In the Freudian tradition, the term 'regression' came to designate a situation when a mental crisis forces one to draw back into an early developmental stage of one's own childhood. Following WWI, under the influence of the Hungarian psychoanalyst Sandor Ferenczi, many therapists believed that allowing a traumatized patient to re-live and re-enact the original trauma can serve as a crucial step towards a cure. This regressive language and practice became highly popular again in British psychoanalysis after WWII, when some leading therapists, such as Donald Winnicott, Wilfred Bion, and Ferenczi's successor, Michael Balint, adopted it as a central concept in treating their private patients – as well as in their intensive work in the then new NHS.

This paper aims to describe the emergence of the 'regressed' as a new psychological category in post-war Britain. 'Regression' was considered now not only as a pathological phenomenon, but as a sign of normal mental health – a sign which to some extent can be found regularly in our everyday lives. This post-war 'regression', I argue, is strongly related to some changes in notions of domesticity, and especially with a new understanding of the maternal role. Good mothering was now perceived as the most important element in psychological development, as well as a main key for good citizenship. Regressive states were considered as reminders to the time when we experienced, as infants, the early intimate relationships with our mothers, and therefore as a legitimate manifestation of normality.

Dr Chris Millard

Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for the History of the Emotions, Queen Mary, University of London, chris.millard@hotmail.co.uk

Making up Munchausen: Self-harm, Child Abuse and the Internet

The aim of this paper is to see how a controversial group of diagnoses under the name 'Munchausen' emerge in Britain. It will analyse how people can be made up, make themselves up, or resist being labelled as Munchausen patients. It will show how diverse administrative, intellectual and technological changes allow different Munchausen syndromes to emerge.

'Munchausen syndrome', named in 1951, involves the *conscious* faking of illness for *no apparent reason* (differentiating it from hysteria and malingering respectively). It comes to light due to the increasing availability of psychiatric expertise at general hospitals, and is later explained by importing sociological concepts of 'the sick role' into medical diagnostics. Thus intellectual and practical developments combine for Munchausen to become a possible diagnostic entity and identity. 'Munchausen syndrome by proxy', named in 1977, involves the induction of illness in a dependent child to obtain the 'sick role by proxy'. It emerges out of child abuse concerns around 'battered babies' in the 1960s, and is given extra impetus by a 1974 social work reorganisation that formalises and encourages cooperation between social workers, general practitioners, paediatricians and the police in the service of child protection. Finally, in 2000 'Munchausen by internet' labels a growing phenomenon where illness is feigned in online environments to obtain support and attention. The wide availability of health information on the internet, as well as the development of chronic disease support forums enables this new deception and identity formation.