

2013

Seminar Series

University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life



INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

DATE

Thursday 5 December

TIME

10:00am–12:30pm

VENUE

Female Orphan School
(West Wing)
Building EZ, Ground Floor,
Room 23 (EZ.G.23)

UWS Parramatta Campus
Cnr James Ruse Drive &
Victoria Road, Rydalmere

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INFO

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STEVE WOOLGAR UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Mundane Governance: ontology and accountability

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the ways in which relations of governance and accountability in contemporary life are organized around ordinary, everyday, pervasive objects and technologies. In contrast to the contemporary literature on governance, it is argued that we need to examine how accountability relations are enacted on the ground in relation to mundane objects and technologies. In particular, it is crucial to understand how governance and accountability are implicated in the practical constitution of ordinary everyday objects and technologies. The key to understanding governance is to focus on political constitution at the level of ontology rather than just on the traditional politics of organization, structure, and human compliance. The term ontology is used here to draw attention to the social and cultural processes whereby the nature and existence of ordinary things come to matter. The argument is developed in relation to a wide variety of empirical materials drawn from three main areas of everyday life: waste management and recycling; the regulation and control of traffic (especially speed cameras and parking); and security and passenger movement in airports.

BIO

Steve Woolgar is Professor of Marketing and Director of Science and Technology Studies at Said Business School, University of Oxford. He has published widely in Science and Technology Studies, and social theory. His current projects include the effects of the neurosciences on the social sciences and humanities (<http://www.nesshi.eu/>); and the nature of provocation and intervention in the social sciences. Recent and forthcoming books: **Mundane Governance: ontology and accountability** (with Dan Neyland, OUP, 2013); **Representation in Scientific Practice Revisited** (with Catelijne Coopmans, Janet Vertesi and Michael Lynch, MIT Press, 2013); **Globalisation in Practice** (with Nigel Thrift and Adam Tickell, OUP, 2014) and **Visualization in the Age of Computerization** (with Annamaria Carusi, Aud Sissel Hoel and Timothy Webmoor, Routledge, 2014).

www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/community/people/steve-woolgar

ANNA SPARRMAN LINKOPING UNIVERSITY SWEDEN

Enacting the paedophilic gaze

ABSTRACT

Child sexuality and paedophilia are today intertwined in a complex and delicate relationship. By themselves, both concepts and practices are hyper moral subjects. Put together they become nearly un-talkable. The ontological politics – why one version of reality is enacted rather than another – is therefore interesting to investigate. This paper draws on film, artwork, photography and children's drawings in order to explore taken for granted theoretical and common sense ideas about visuality, child sexuality, and the pedophilic gaze. The presentation draws on theories from visual culture and child studies in order to ask: who is allowed to look at whom and when? Who is allowed to be seen and not, and in what situations? I argue that the pedophilic gaze has become a normalized everyday self-regulating practice. This means that “all of us” – men, women, children, teachers, museum staff, judges etc – now use the pedophilic gaze to evaluate, for example the potential sexual content of pictures of children. What are the implications of this for children in the future?

BIO

Anna Sparrman is Professor of Child Studies at the interdisciplinary research department, Department of Thematic Studies – Child Studies, Linköping University Sweden. She has published on visual culture, consumption and child sexuality. Her current project includes a large study of “Culture for and by children” <http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-b/forskning/pagaende/kultur-for-och-av-barn?!=en&sc=true> investigating amusement parks, theme parks, science centres and children's museums. She is also working on a forthcoming book on the normalization of a pedophilic gaze. Recent books and articles: **Situating child consumption: Rethinking values and notions of children, childhood and consumption** (with Bengt Sandin and Johanna Sjöberg, 2012); Access and gatekeeping in researching children and sexuality: mess in ethics and methods (**Sexuality & Culture**).

<http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-b/medarbetaren/sparrman-anna?!=en&sc=true>