

Inequality Research Trajectory

To Address:

Bev's Books

Research: Universal Issues, the Relationship Between Values and Value

- Began with: “why do people consent to their own subordination” (PhD question....), what alternatives do they have?
- Understand different variations of capitalism eg significance of financialisation as they frame action
- Hence the study of the making of subjectivity in context of relations, institutions, power, structures
- Have researched many areas of social life and different groups; detailing how people make lives livable in cramped circumstances
- Theoretically adept: take it on and take it apart eg theories of individualisation, rational action, gender-blind theories
- Work at and with multiple intersections
- Pay close attention to the role of history, representation and narration
- Usually investigate through theoretically informed empirical research
- Attentive to the perspectives from which people can speak and perform
- But... “the sociologists have only interpreted the world, the point is to change it”

Major Areas of Research 1: Moral Economies: Care Work, Domestic Labour, Caring Subjectivities, Affective Economies, Class & Gender Relations

- Eg *Class, Self, Culture*: a conceptual study of self-making
- Maps how “subjects of value” v “abject subjects” are made
- Explores the history of techniques for telling the self as un/deserving
- Details how only some culture can be converted into property
- Eg: culminates in 2013-16 *ESRC Professorial Fellowship “Values and Value Project”*: prosperity theology and the monetising of faith
- Eg *Formations “Becoming Respectable”*, 11 yr longitudinal ethnography (from SSRC PhD)
- A thick description and structural critique of how women’s lives are shaped and lived through judgement: respectability, (dis)respect, (in)dignity.
- This generated theories of how marginalised subjects are produced through: reactive defence, dis-identification, mis-recognition
- Demonstrates how classification shapes how lives can be lived with and without value

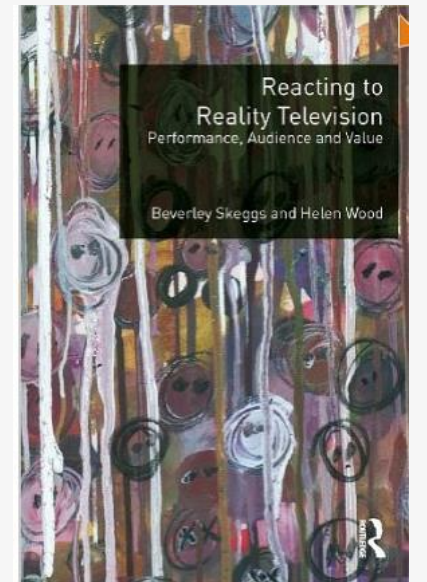
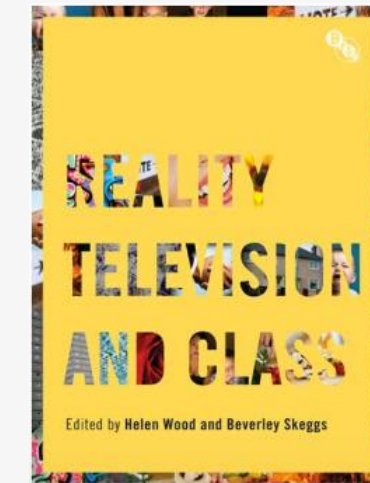
Research Area 2: Space, Security, Violence

- ESRC funded multi-method (census space survey, focus groups, interviews, citizen's inquiries, GIS, SPSS) project on sustainability of gay space(2 cities), published as *Sexuality and the Politics of Violence and Safety*.
- Involved managing a large interdisciplinary team (law, policy, literature, sociology, criminology, geography)
- And managing different political investments (gay, lesbian, queer, trans interests)
- Investigates who can make claims on both the state and space: highlights assumptions of recognition politics.
- Explores relationship between propriety and property in the making of safe spaces.
- Demonstrates significance of sustainable space to identity formation.
- Outlines the significance of both ontological and physical security for livable lives.



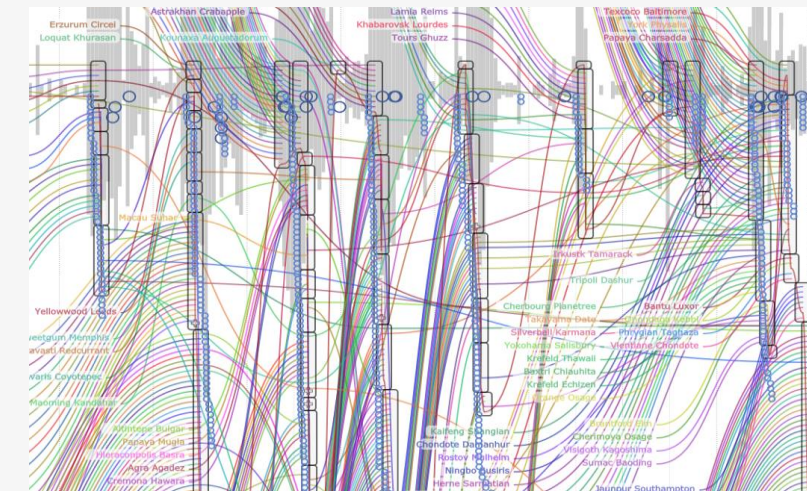
Research Area 3: Media and Representations

- Early textbook
- Race, resistance and music in LA
- ESRC project “The Moral Economy of Reality Television” (gender, race, class differences), published as “*Reacting to Reality TV: Performance, Audience, Value*”
- Fully develops conceptual framework for exploring the significance of representation to the judgement and valuing of persons.
- Develops method after revealing the significance of affect to how we relate to TV representations eg disgust.
- How “telling the classed/gendered self” has moved into “performing the self”
- Further maps a moral economy of im/proper persons



Research Area 4: The Inequality of Digital Economies

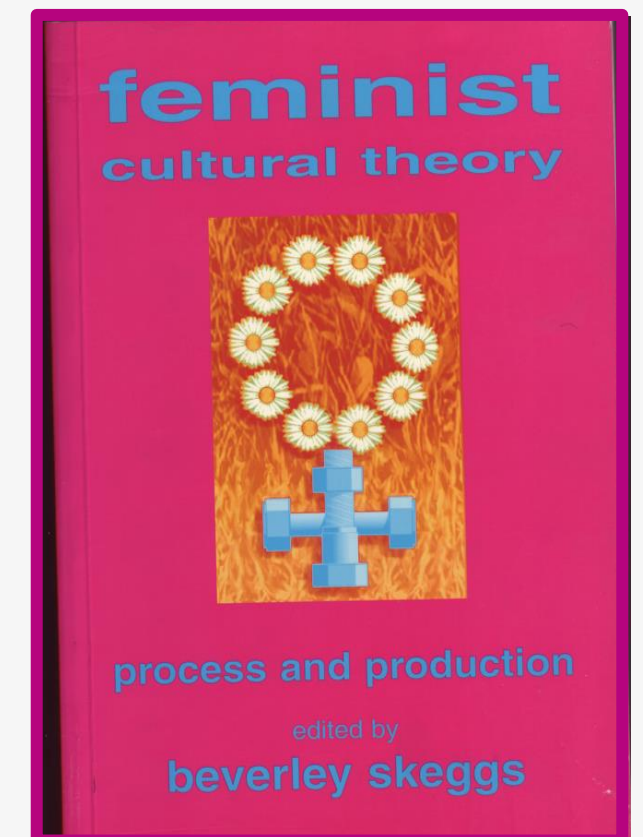
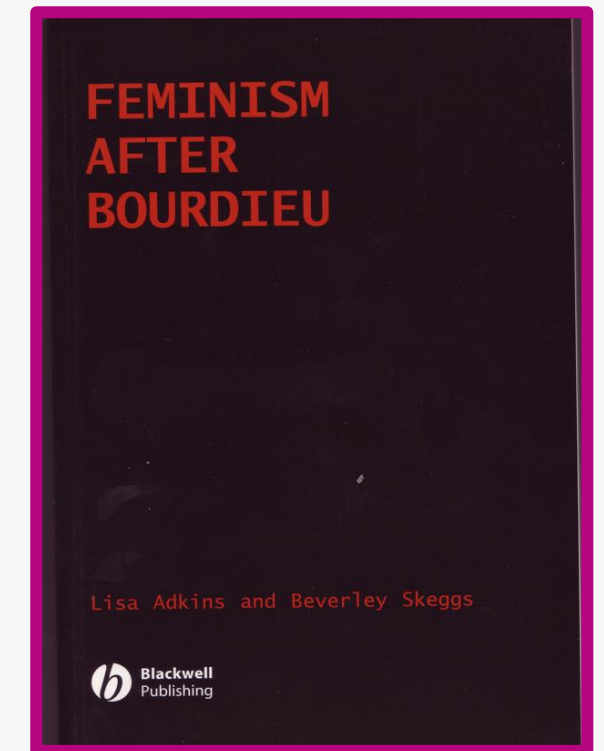
- Culmination of previous investigations into values and value (ESRC Professorial Fellowship)
- Tracking the trackers: using software to explore how digital companies' desire for profit infrastructures social relationships
- Shows how ALL browser activity is collated to generate person-profiles.
- Inequality generated from capacity/potential to spend eg data brokers trade the most valuable consumers and silo “sub-prime” consumers: eg worth and waste.
- Traditional theories of self and subject challenged (dividuated)
- A new regime of capital accumulation identified: personal data trading beyond regulation and accountability
- Challenges for research as digital infuses our lives but very difficult to research how.



Person Worth and Waste

Analysis Informed by a Feminist Perspective

- Women, especially mothers, always at the forefront of inequality across the world
- Developed feminist theory through critique of theorists (eg Bourdieu, Foucault), of concepts (eg ideology), of feminist use of concepts (eg performativity, affect, identity)
- Developed research methods for different areas (eg violence, TV, law)
- Always worked on intersections eg through a moral economy framework, with thematics such as: respectability/indignity/resentment
- Developed theories of person-value/s through analysis of struggles for value, universally applicable



Universal Issues, Local Particularities, Geopolitical Frames

- **Access** to ecology/physical resources: water, air, sustenance
- **Access** to economic resources: for other equalities eg housing, clothing, mobility
- **Access** to security: protection from violence and abuse
- **Access** to education: media/literacy
- **Access** to personhood: dignity, legitimacy, ontological security
- **Access** to futures
- **Access** to political representation
- **Control** of personal data/control of tracking (202million wearable tracking devices given out by companies in 2016, estimated 500m in 2017: FT 28.03.17)

Multiple Method/ology:

- Longitudinal ethnography (11 yrs – lived in area, stayed in contact with research participants as their lives radically changed)
- Developed innovative methods using visual incitements for studies with those without high literacy
- Conducted action research with practitioners in schools, developed training materials (eg anti-racism in FE/HE)
- Have conducted large scale surveys, census space surveys, big data network analysis, GIS and SPSS analysis
- Can move between structural, institutional analysis and lived experience
- Alert to contradictions between respondents words/deeds and words/words and deeds/deeds as key to analysis
- Aware of most methodological pitfalls eg interviewing can be construed as a state method eg for immigration control



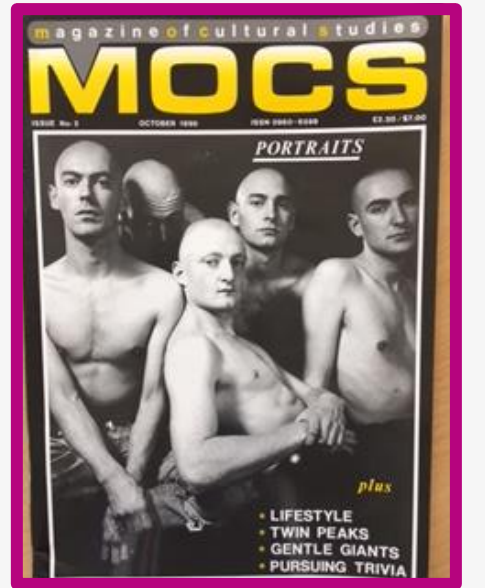
Multiple Method/ology continued...

- Developed dexterity for changing methods when use was inappropriate eg focus groups to “safe” small friendship groups
- Developed immanent methods to medium eg “the affective textual encounter” for TV, software for software tracking
- Concerned to feedback to participants eg “databooks”
- Where possible feedback to stakeholders eg policy makers
- Always taught and published widely on methods
- Always consider different “horses for courses”
- Can deploy different writing styles eg for reports, feedback, blogs, press, academic
- Keep up to date: recently trained in software methods & visualisation



Institutional Leadership

- Institutionally I'm a builder and a manager on issues of inequality:
- WCHE: research on “all white areas” led to training on anti-racism for all West Midlands FE/HE colleges
- York University: external MA courses for teachers to do action research
- Established “*Magazine of Cultural Studies*” to publicise academic research in public spaces (eg W.H. Smiths)
- Developed Women's Studies Centre, Lancaster Uni (me plus collaboration from 22 other members of staff, developed 7 MA's, on UG programmes, secured PhD funding, research grants, made essential to 10 department's REF return after 5 yrs)
- Founding member of URBIS Manchester; collaboration between cultural industries and Universities (Manchester, Salford, MMU)
- Developed Cultural Theory Institute, Manchester Uni. Secured interdisciplinary network, funding, events, but then moved...



Institutional Leadership continued...

- Established Values and Value Unit at Goldsmiths, now extended as Political Economy Research Centre
- Rebuilt Sociological Review (with Mike Savage), developed charity foundation, now spending down £1.25m on ECR support. Website development central.
- Have been HoD 2x (Manchester, Goldsmiths), HoD equivalent with budget: Director of Centre (Lancaster)
- Rebuilt: morale and expanded department at Goldsmiths from 27-42 staff
- Recruitment experience: identifying different mixes, eg agenda setters, public interventions, research grant writers, mentors, etc. Also research fund distribution (Helsinki Collegium, ESRC, International PhDs.
- Extensive research managing (ESRC projects); research supervision of over 27 nationalities, 26 PhD students to completion, 36 PhD's examined. Developed PhD training for ESRC recognition and AHRC recognition pathway "Visual sociology".
- Extensive mentoring experience: colleagues, across Uni's, BSA, SocRev



Academic Leadership: Teams, Training, Interventions

- I usually work with interdisciplinary teams; work at making connections across silos
- Have academic influence across different domains (eg wide citation/invites: education, health, policy, media, management, leisure, work, socio-legal, theory, art, digital). I have an international interdisciplinary network.
- Translations of research into: French, Swedish, Finnish, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean
- Reputation: research recognised with honorary professorships: Stockholm, Aalborg, Teesside (home town), Warwick. AcSS academician. Numerous international invites/lecture tours/book launches (eg Australia, Brazil, Mexico, SA, France, Germany, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, Hungary, etc.). BBC Ethnography judge. Public interventions: political (eg presentations, papers for thinktanks eg IPPR, Young Foundation, Runnymede), media interventions eg “Future of TV Debates”, “Data Public”, “The future of Culture” (BL); regular output into debates eg

Academic Leadership: Teams, Training, Interventions continued...

- BBCRadio4. ESRC Professorial Fellowship award.
- Recently extended into art interventions (eg *Pompidou Centre*, *Stroom Den Haag*, “*Beyond East*”)
- Beyond academia: activist, community organiser, press-officer on campaigns, interventions (policy and training) into prisons, rape crisis, domestic violence, HIV support, LGBT issues. Worked on regeneration (radio), magazine, film and TV consultancy.
- Have extensive knowledge of why things don't change
- I learn from mistakes: eg 1980/90s teacher training on anti-sexism, RAT (race awareness training).
- Experience of shaping different narratives and counter narratives for different audiences
- Have learnt the importance of listening and learning (and have dexterity to rethink)
- Have the conceptual and methodological reach to support very different interventions
- Have sociological knowledge of the challenges of (tracked, deregulated) digital futures...

