

Crime and Justice Research Group London South Bank University

Call for papers

Fighting for justice Families, communities and solidarity networks against state harms and violence

15th July 2021

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Please note that this will be a virtual conference via Zoom and we are planning to run some presentations on Twitter simultaneously to live sessions, if colleagues are interested and if unable to accommodate all selected papers.
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From Grenfell to Stephen Lawrence and before that Hillsborough, as well as numerous lesser known cases, families*, communities and solidarity networks have mobilised against violence of state agents and agencies, their harmful policies, practices, omissions and errors.

Whilst the Argentinian ‘mothers of the Plaza de Mayo’ have become a global symbol of resistance and denunciation of dictatorial state violence, many forms of mobilisation of relatives, partners, friends and communities against state harms, brutality and injustices often go unnoticed. However, it is thanks to these insistent, sometimes invisible, struggles that violence, misconducts, harmful policies and practices are named, shamed and challenged at micro- and macro-levels.

Academic research on social movements and collective action tends to overlook the more marginal and less public forms of mobilisation and resistance to state violence and harms, while criminological and legal studies often prefer to focus on policies, practices and their impacts/outcomes.

This conference aims to bring together different fields of research and theory to explore diverse forms of

- mobilisation against injustices,
- harmful and/or discriminatory practices, policies and omissions in the justice system,
- violence perpetrated by criminal justice agents or in criminal justice settings.

It endeavours to provide a space for presentation and discussion of forms of protest and collective action here and elsewhere that demand truth, accountability, policy reform, reparation or criminalisation of state inflicted harms.

We are particularly interested in discussing strategies and repertoires of action, social and emotional determinants of mobilisation, social conditions and bonds that make campaigns possible, visible, audible and successful. Or, equally, in understanding why some cases fail to

gain support and/or legitimacy or are perceived as 'undefendable' in the public sphere, and why some mobilisations falter or fall by the wayside.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Case studies on specific mobilisations
- Social conditions of mobilisations against state violence
- Victim-Survivor Narratives
- Family Activism
- Communities as sites of resistance, protest and support
- The role of emotions and affects in mobilising for justice
- Strategies and repertoire of actions
- Strategies of de/legitimation of a cause
- Using/managing the media and construction of public identities
- Historical perspectives on activism and collective action.

We are interested in contributions by scholars researching these topics and trying to bridge links between disciplines, theoretical frameworks and methodological traditions.

* We use the term 'family' here in a broad and non-exclusionary way that includes alternative, extended, non-biological, non-binary forms of families, and any other form that is perceived as such by the actors.

Proposals can be submitted at the following email address: crimeresearch@lsbu.ac.uk

They must include:

- Name of contributor(s) and affiliation (if relevant)
- Title and short summary of contribution (max 250 words)
- Expression of interest for a Twitter presentation

The deadline for submissions Sunday 6th June 2021.

We aim to notify participants within a week of the deadline.