Workshop 6, “1968 schools and universities”
Tuesday, June 12th, 2018, Anatomy Theatre, King’s Building, King’s College London, Strand campus, London WC2R 2LS

Part 1, 11am-1pm: ‘1968 and English schooling: Antecedents, intersections, consequences’

Convener Ken Jones (Senior Policy Officer, National Education Union and Emeritus Professor of Education, Goldsmiths), with Martin Lawn (Honorary Professor, Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh) and Jane Shallice (writer and activist).

The history of English education tends to be written without significant reference to social movements, or to sudden moments of political eruption. Yet in several respects, it was decisively shaped by ‘1968’ – by French and American radicalism, by movements in the Third World and by emergent industrial militancy in Britain. In educational institutions, the insurgencies of that year gave new energy to progressive ideas and practices which were already in the making, and translated them into terms of social
contestation. The panel will discuss the antecedents, impact and consequences of 1968 at various levels of education, and look for its traces in individual lives as well as collective actions.


Ken Jones works on curriculum and assessment policy for the National Education Union and is Professor Emeritus at Goldsmiths, University of London. He was a school-student in 1968, and watched the Paris events while waiting to take his A Levels. Recent work includes Education, Childhood and Anarchism (with Catherine Burke, Routledge, 2014), Education in Britain (Polity Press, 2016), and a contribution to Socialismes et Éducation au XIXe Siècle (2018).

Martin Lawn is an Honorary Professor at the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He is the founding editor of the European Educational Research Journal. He has published widely on European education policy, the rise of education data and the history of the educational sciences across Europe. Recent books include The Rise of Data in Education Systems – collection, visualisation and use (Symposium Books. Comparative
Jane Shallice was a teacher working in London schools from 1964 until the mid ’90s. She was, and is still, an active member of the National Union of Teachers. She was a member of the officer body of the Inner London Teachers Association through the ’80s, worked on an antiracist education initiative for the Inner London Education Authority and from 2001 was an officer of Stop the War. She was chair of the Kenwood Ladies Pond Association for over 12 years until 2017.

Part 2, 2-4pm: ‘Feminism, Activism, and Academia from 1968 to 2018’

Convener Kelly Coate, School of Education, Communication, and Society, with Avtar Brah (Sociology, Birkbeck), Miriam David (Institute of Education, University of London), Gail Lewis (Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck), Pat Mahony (Visiting Professor, Education, KCL), Nira Yuval-Davis (Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees, and Belonging, University of East London).

This panel will discuss the intertwining, since 1968, of the women’s activism that started the second wave women’s movement, and feminist scholarship in the academy. Many feminist academics have been
involved in feminist activism since 1968, but the relationship has not always been easy. What is the role that academia can play in activism, and how can activist practice and ideas inform work within higher education? How might this relationship evolve as we move into the proposed Fifth Wave of the women’s movement?


Avtar Brah recently retired as Professor of Sociology at Birkbeck as a specialist in race, gender and ethnic identity issues. She was awarded an MBE in 2001 in recognition of her research. Her books include Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities; Hybridity and Its Discontents: Politics, Science, Culture (edited with Annie Coombes); Thinking Identities: Racism, Ethnicity and Culture and Global Futures: Migration, Environment and Globalization (both edited with Mary Hickman and Mairtin Mac an Ghail). She spent a year as Visiting Professor at the University of California in 1992 and at Cornell University in 2001 and is a member of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences and the British Sociological Association.

Miriam David is Professor Emerita of Sociology of Education at the Institute of Education, University College London. Previously she was
Associate Director (Higher Education) of the ESRC’s Teaching & Learning Research Programme at the Institute of Education. She is also a visiting professor in the Centre for Higher Education & Equity Research (CHEER) at the University of Sussex. Professor David’s publications include an intellectual biography, *Personal and Political: Feminisms, sociology and family lives* (2003, Trentham Books); and a study of feminist academics, *Feminism, Gender and Universities: Politics, Passion and Pedagogies* (2014, Ashgate). *Reclaiming Feminism: challenging everyday misogyny* (Policy Press, 2016) is both a memoir and critique of feminist activism in neoliberal times. She is currently co-editing (with Marilyn Amey, Michigan State University) a 5 volume *Encyclopaedia of Higher Education* for publication by SAGE in 2019.

Gail Lewis is Professor of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck. She has a mixed disciplinary background with a first degree in Social Anthropology from the LSE, followed by an MPhil in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex. Her PhD in Social Policy was gained at the Open University, where she was a member of the Social Sciences Faculty between 1995 and 2004 and again between 2007 and 2013. Between her two spells at the Open University she worked at Lancaster University in the Institute for Women’s Studies, where she was Head of Department. She is also a qualified psychodynamic
psychotherapist. Her academic interests centre on the constitution of subjectivity as racialised and gendered, psychoanalysis, black feminism, experience as a site of knowing and knowledge production, social policy and welfare practice, psychodynamics of organisational process, multiculture and formations of national belonging.

Pat Mahony is Professor Emerita of Education at Goldsmiths College, London and Visiting Professor at King’s College London. She worked in the Educational Studies Department at Goldsmiths College for 20 years (the last 4 years as Head of Department) before becoming Professor of Education, then Assistant Dean Research at Roehampton. Her research and publications have mainly been in the areas of Social (In)Justice and Teacher Education policy. Currently she is working with Gaby Weiner on “bullying” in universities. The first article from this research, “Neo-liberalism and the state of higher education in the UK”, was recently published in the Journal of Further and Higher Education and the second stage is focused on the position and experiences of BME staff.

Nira Yuval-Davis is Professor Emeritus and Honorary Director of the Research Centre on Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London. She has been the President of the Research Committee 05 (on Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnic Relations) of the International Sociological