

ABOUT

The Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements was established in 1992, and since then has helped the University of Kent gain wider recognition as a leading institution in the study of social and political movements in the UK. The Centre has attracted research council, European Union, and charitable foundation funding, and collaborated with international partners on major funding projects. Former staff members and external associates include Professors Mario Diani, Frank Furedi, Dieter Rucht, and Clare Saunders.

Today, the Centre continues to attract graduate students and international visitors, and facilitate the development of collaborative research. Recent and ongoing research undertaken by members includes studies of Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, veganism and animal rights.

The Centre takes a methodologically pluralistic and interdisciplinary approach, embracing any topic relevant to the study of social and political movements. If you have any inquiries about Centre events or activities, or are interested in applying for our PhD programme, please contact Dr Alexander Hensby or Dr Corey Wrenn.

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/social-political-movements/>

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SUBMISSIONS

Accepted by email on a rolling basis for Spring and Autumn issues.

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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS

Autumn/Winter 2021

Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 is still with us, putting a damper on things, but at least we were able to get back to the classroom this semester. The forced-downtime in 2021 seems to have been put to good use by our Centre membership. A couple of new books authored by our faculty came out this year, for instance, and student research has really shone.

Thanks for supporting our Centre in 2021, and here's to a safe and happy new year.

Yours in solidarity,

Corey Wrenn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Hensby', with a long, sweeping underline.



MEDIA

Kristof Dhont

The Society for the Psychology of Human-Animal Intergroup Relations (PHAIR Society) hosted [several guest speakers](#) this semester. PHAIR will be launching a peer-reviewed journal in 2022.

Corey Wrenn

[USA Today](#), December 3
[Psychology Today](#), November 21
[Thrive Vegan World](#), November 21
[The Animal Rights Show](#), November 1
[Little Museum of Dublin](#), [120 Dublin Stories](#), July 27

NEW RESEARCH

Dr Balihar Sanghera and **Elmira Satybaldieva** presented their new book *Rentier Capitalism and Its Discontents: Power, Morality and Resistance in Central Asia* at the book launch hosted by Central Asia Program, George Washington University on 16 November.

Balihar Sanghera and **Elmira Satybaldieva** presented a paper entitled 'Rentier Capitalism and countermovements in Central Asia: the moral economy perspective' at the Equality Studies Centre, University College Dublin on 24 November, and at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin on 25 November.

Corey Wrenn presented "[Vegan Food Culture](#)" at the Northeast Popular & American Culture Association, "[Shocked or Satiated? How Long-term Activists Manage Moral Shocks Beyond the Recruitment Stage](#)" at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, "[V-Rated: Sexualization as a Mechanism of Food Justice Depoliticization](#)" with the British Sociological Association Food Study Group Conference, and the keynote speech "[Charities, Computers, and Capitalism: How Animal Rights Entered Its Third Wave and What the Future Holds](#)" for Animal Futures: Animal Rights in Academia and Activism.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MORRIGAN RIMMER

I'm a final year Sociology student, soon to graduate. I came to the idea for my dissertation through a combination of my passion for sociology and sustainable fashion.

I quickly became fascinated with what role contemporary fashion has to play in the likes of identity and expression as well as what values impact fashion consumption.

What I think we need to look at next is the wider systemic influences on current environmentally and socially toxic fashion consumption and greater cultural and ethnic intersections.


Morrigan is a 2021 Sociology graduate and plans to pursue a career in fashion, sustainability, communications or a combination of the three.

Autumn 2021 Speaker Series

PHAIR Talk 8

- **Catarina Possidónio** - November 25: *From Meat to Beets: Exploring Pathways to More Plant-forward Diets*

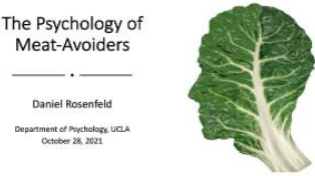
You can watch the talk of Catarina Possidónio here:



PHAIR Talk 7

- **Daniel Rosenfeld** - October 28: *The Psychology of Meat-Avoiders*

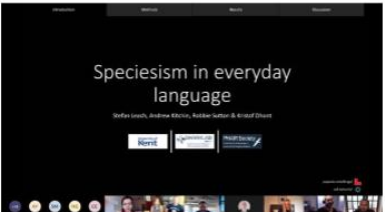
You can watch the talk of Daniel Rosenfeld here:



PHAIR Talk 6

- **Stefan Leach** - September 30: *Speciesism in Everyday Language*

You can watch the talk of Stefan Leach here:



POWER, MORALITY AND RESISTANCE IN CENTRAL ASIA

NEW BOOK BY BALIHAR SANGHERA AND ELMIRA SATYBALDIEVA

This book explains and evaluates today's economic, political, social and ecological crises through the lens of rentier capitalism and countermovements in Central Asia. Over the last three decades the rich and powerful have increased their wealth and political power to the detriment of social and environmental well-being. But their activities have not gone unchecked. Grassroots activism has resisted the harmful and damaging effects of the neoliberal commodification of things.

Providing a much-needed theorisation of the moral economy and politics of rent, this book offers in-depth case studies on finance, real estate and natural resources in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The authors show the mechanisms of rent extraction, their moral justifications and legitimacy, and social struggles against them.

This book highlights the importance of class relations, state-counter-movement interactions and global capitalism in understanding social and economic dynamics in Central Asia. It will be relevant to students and researchers interested in political economy, development studies, sociology, politics and international relations.

ANIMALS IN IRISH SOCIETY

NEW BOOK BY COREY WRENN

This book is the first to explore the vegan Irish epistemology, one that can be traced along its history of animism, agrarianism, ascendancy, adaptation, and activism. This book contributes to the growing field of postcolonial Critical Animal Studies by applying theories of vegan feminism and vegan socialism to the Irish context. From its zoomorphic pagan roots to its legacy of vegetarianism, the country has been more receptive to the interests of other animals than is currently acknowledged. More than a land of "meat" and potatoes, Ireland exists as a relevant, if overlooked, contributor to Western vegan thought.

SHOPPING SUSTAINABLY IN CANTERBURY

WELCOME WEEK ONLINE PANEL EVENT

In September, we hosted an online conversation about strategies for sustainable, local shopping in Canterbury with the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements and featuring emerging scholars in Environmental Politics at the University of Kent and community leaders.

What does it mean to be sustainable? Can we consume ethically under capitalism? How have Canterbury businesses, activists, and shoppers navigate these politics.

[View on Youtube here >>](#)

