

# Practising the Good Life / The Good Life in Practices

An international Conference

Lisbon 2013

<https://goodlifepacticescria.wordpress.com/>

## Programme

Thursday October 17th

9:00-9:30: Registration

**9:30-9:45: Welcome** (*Marta Rosales, João Sardinha, Inês David, Kate Torkington*)

**9:45-10:45: Keynote address** *Dr. Michaela Benson*

### *Keynote Speaker*

Dr. Michaela Benson is a Lecturer in Sociology at Goldsmiths University, UK. She is a key figure in the field of lifestyle migration research, co-author of the paper Migration and the Search for a Better Way of Life, co-editor of the volume Lifestyle Migration and is the author of The British in Rural France (shortlisted for the Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2012). She has conducted ethnographic research with two lifestyle migrant populations – in France and Panama – and has worked on theoretical and conceptual framings of lifestyle migration.

~Break~

### **11:00-13:00 Panel 1: Lifestyle migration in rural contexts**

**S. Gaspar** – Types and patterns of lifestyle rural migrants across Europe

**M. Eimermann** – Ambivalent Dutch lifestyle migrants in rural Sweden

**F. Velez de Castro** – Good life practices/practising a good life in an immigration context. A hedonistic foreigner's perspective of a Portuguese rural area

**J. Sardinha** – 'From the silence to the sights to the sipping': Lifestyle migrants in Central Portugal

13:00-14:30: Lunch

### **14:30-16:30 Panel 2: Community, belonging and identity in lifestyle mobilities**

**M. Korpela** – Western lifestyle migrant children defining home and belonging in Goa, India.

**A. Ahmed** – Retired British women living in the Costa Blanca: Constructing ethnicity, belonging and community

**C. Almeida** – Resident Tourists and the São Brás Museum: Becoming part of the "community"

**M. Hayes** – Practices of racialized identity in the context of residential migration to Cuenca, Ecuador

~Break~

**16:45-18:45 Panel 3: Spatial dynamics in lifestyle mobilities**

**M. Allegra** – “We were looking for a quiet, nice place to live” (on a geopolitical fault line). The suburbanization of Israel’s settlement policy in the area of metropolitan Jerusalem

**L. Wagner** – Cars from ‘outside’: Embodied mobile materialities of summertime diasporic visitors in Morocco

**D. Zuev** – Self-transformation through Work and Travel in USA: Civilizing and decivilizing consequences

**Friday October 18th**

**9:00-11:00 – Panel 4: Ageing and lifestyle mobilities**

**M. Ormond** – Resorting to Plan J: Singaporean retirement communities and nursing homes in Johor, Malaysia

**D. Sampaio** – Ageing as an international retirement migrant in the Algarve: (re)negotiating an active later-life abroad

**S. Kordel** – Being a tourist – being at home: reconstructing tourist experiences and negotiating home in retirement migrants’ daily lives

**C. Betty & K. Hall** – The experiences of older British people in Spain who return to the UK

~Break~

**11:15-12:45 – Panel 5: Mediation of lifestyle mobilities**

**R. Norum, C. McHugh & M. Clark-Barol** – ‘You’ve been serv’d’: Listserv rhetoric in the spaces of Expatria

**I. David** – Mediating lifestyle migration – a radio-graphic approach

**M. Lawson** – *The more wine you drink, the better the French sounds*: Representations of the good life within an online community of practice

12:45-14:00 Lunch

**14:00-15:30 – Panel 6: Language practices in lifestyle migration**

**F. Perdigão Ribeiro** – Lifestyle migrants in the Algarve (Portugal): a multilingual challenge?

**K. Torkington** – ‘The only Portuguese people I know speak English’: lifestyle migrants, local language practices and ambivalent belongings

**A. Etrillard** – Towards a critical and ethnographic approach to language practices in lifestyle migrations

~Break~

**15:45-17:45 – Panel 7: New conceptual approaches to the field**

**G. Halseth** – Opportunities and challenges: An introduction to second-home issues in British Columbia's northern resource frontier

**M. Hühn** – Travelling for Amenities. A discourse on a new type of mobile people within Europe beyond tourism and migration

**H. Zunino & I. Zebryte** – Pursuing the essence of existence: The daily quest of utopian migrants in Patagonia

**U. Akerlund** – Aspiring for 'the best of both worlds': understanding the production and performance aspects of lifestyle mobilities.

**17:45-18:30 – Closing session**

### **Keynote abstract**

Posted on

Michaela Benson, Goldsmiths, University of London

Practising 'the good life': thinking through the negotiation of privilege in lifestyle migration

One of the core tenets of lifestyle migration is that the people undertaking these forms of migration can be considered as *relatively* affluent, with migration made possible by the position of privilege occupied by the migrants in relation to local populations within destinations (Benson and O'Reilly 2009; Croucher 2009; O'Reilly and Benson 2009). In this rendering, relative affluence and privilege is mobilised to bring about migration and inextricably linked to the quest for a better way of life. As I argue in this paper, the historical production of privilege and its influence on the migrants' lives needs to be understood as a structural and systemic condition under which they operate (see also Benson 2013). Through the comparison of two cases of lifestyle migration – the British in rural France and North Americans in Panama – this presentation considers how privilege is shaped by dynamic historical conditions and experienced by lifestyle migrants in and through migration. The comparison of the two fieldsites demonstrates how different historical, social and material contexts shape the awareness and experience of privilege. Drawing on a framework inspired by Bourdieu's account of the interconnections between social space, habitus and field, I present a theoretical model for understanding privilege as negotiated in practice. What becomes clear is that the differences in the constitution of privilege and the embodiment of its effects, result in a more accentuated awareness of privilege in the case of the North Americans, made robust through everyday experience, an awareness that is unmatched in the case of the British residents of southwest France. By theorising the relationship between privilege and habitus, this chapter makes a bold contribution to the study of lifestyle migration, and further understandings of how privilege operates as an objective structure in these migrants' lives, while also recognising how this intersects with practice.

