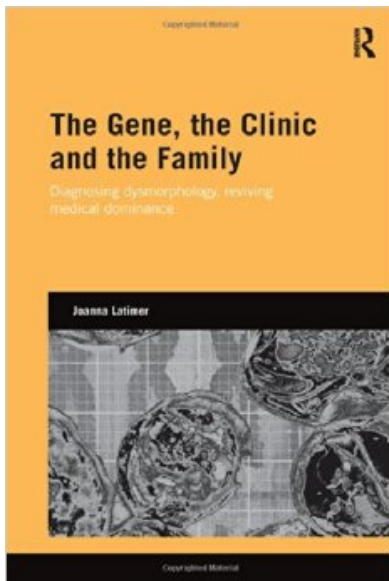


Science Under Siege? Being alongside the life sciences, giving science life

Joanna Latimer,

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Studies Unit, Dept. of Sociology



Healthy ageing guide

- Healthy body
- Mind & spirit
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- Planning ahead
- Finding help

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Healthy ageing health centre



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Foods to boost bone health.

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12 ways to fight fatigue.

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Weight gain shockers.

Healthy ageing overview

More and more, ageing is something we need to fear less and less. With today's medical advances, many adults are celebrating good health along with greater longevity. It's important to be aware of the many components of senior health, including physical health, mental health, and emotional well-being. With healthy lifestyle habits, plenty of exercise and activities, and strong social support, many senior citizens can look forward to personal fulfilment and a long life.

Select a chapter:

Today in healthy ageing



QUIZ
How is your memory holding up?



SLIDESHOW
Surprising ways to reduce wrinkles



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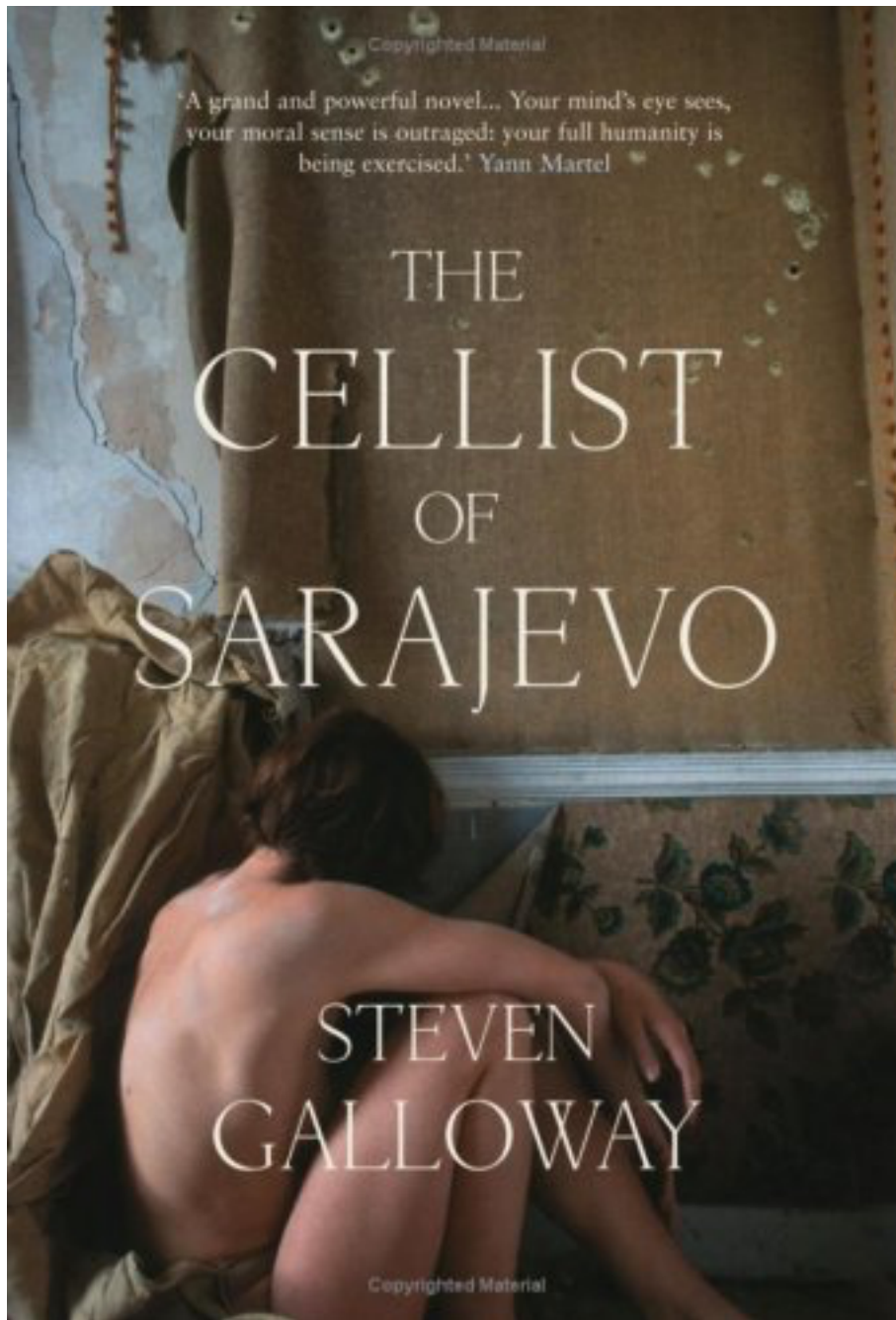
on our smallest



**The Golden Faces of Ageing:
Health Glowing with Wealth & Potency**



Healthy Ageing



Thinking with the Cellist of Sarajevo

Attachment and moments of intimacy

THE SIEGE

Gatherings and resistance

Creating openings and possibilities

The Sociological Review Monographs Series

Volume 67 | No.2 | March 2019

Intimate Entanglements

This monograph rethinks the abstract and generalised connection between entanglement and knowledge-making by grounding it within specific socio-material relations. As a focus of sociological research and theory, intimacy is usually discussed in the context of distinguishing local and experiential knowledge from universal and scientific knowledge. In contrast, by foregrounding what is so often made invisible in extant accounts of how knowledge is done, the authors explore how a focus on affect restructures possibilities for a more situated knowledge that involves non-anthropocentric modes of relatedness in a wide range of substantive domains and communities of practice. Drawing on research on laboratories, spaces of care and disability, twinning and eco-experiments, as well as human-nonhuman relations with animals and objects, the issues addressed include the politics of intimacy and its different characterizations – as attachment, belonging and companionship, but also as ordinary and dangerous sites of alterity and contamination.

Intimate Entanglements brings together international scholars from a range of disciplines to open-up the value of intimacy as an often overlooked or disregarded quality of socio-material relations. In reworking human/nature and socio/technical boundaries in knowledge-making, the various chapters press the affective turn in Science & Technology Studies to explore how intimacy can be foregrounded as a site for the social production of knowledge across the social, human and life sciences. Adopting a different perspective and involving a wide array of empirical and speculative methods, the focus is on how a dominant politics of knowledge can be undone as expressions of what is being cared for. Papers are particularly concerned with the kind of attachments and detachments that appear crucial to understanding affective relations and ecologies – inside and beyond the sciences, including the social sciences – and with helping to readdress the balance over what is at stake in notions of care and over what is usually concealed.

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Intimate Entanglements

Joanna Latimer and Daniel López Gómez, editors

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**Entanglings: Multiplicities which fold,
position,
emplace, and call forth**

Sciences in the Academy Under Siege?

Twin strategies to make the sciences more accountable, more relevant, more ethical, more impactful – but on whose terms? As ‘others want them’?

Strathern: *Commons and Borderlands*

not only does ‘interdisciplinarity’ as envisioned imagine the production of some kind of ‘hybrid fora’, but suggests that ‘society’ is also being enlisted to audit science and make it more accountable on other than its own terms. This, she suggests, begs the question of what might ‘count as an adequate description of society in agentive mode, not just there in the background but already caught up (in co-evolutionary fashion) with science? (p.89).



Stengers: *A Manifesto for Slow Science*

the industrialisation of science demands for it to become faster and faster and more and more productive – what gets extruded are possibilities for intimate knowledges accumulated over time and through immersion and contemplation



Encountering science,
being strategic

- Being gathered around ageing
- Being strategic or building coalitions with unlikely allies?

‘Becoming-with’ the Life Sciences?

**Being gathered around ageing:
Being strategic or building
coalitions with unlikely allies?**

As ‘the social scientist’ I was **positioned by life scientists** as:

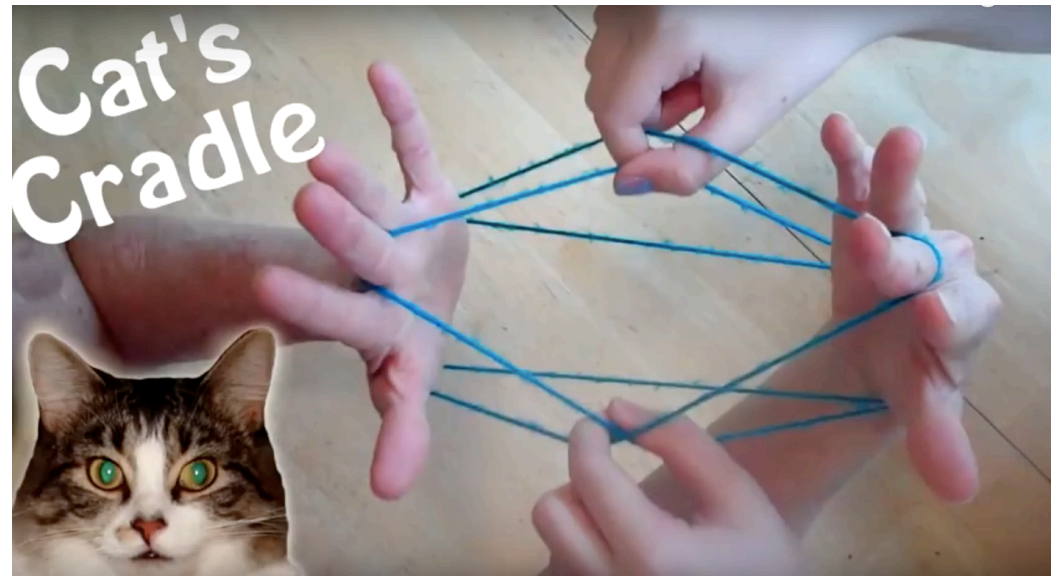
a) the conduit for ‘The Public’ –

“As part of our work, and in line with current policy on connecting public engagement of science and biotechnological development [Wynne et al 2005], we aim to open our work to ethical and community scrutiny as it evolves.” (NDA proposal)

b) helping to translate biogerontology & make it ‘respectable’

The moment of the blush: “I have a tame Social Worker with me, Joanna Latimer” (Fieldnotes, Biogerontology Conference, Brighton, 2011)

Resisting the siege



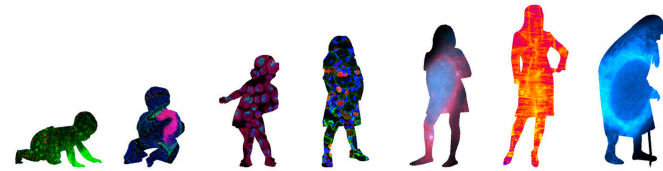
Finding ways to affirm the ontological basis of “being-in-common” (Barad) and find ways to “(re)present complex practices that take place in the folds of a society overrun by the simplified messages of late capitalism.”

(Karen Barad, *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning* Durham: Duke University Press Books, 2007. p. 84)

An ethnography of Biology and Ageing 2008-2018

Doing ethnography by ‘immersion’ & ‘indirection’ (Strathern 2004) and ‘getting lost’ (Lather 2007)

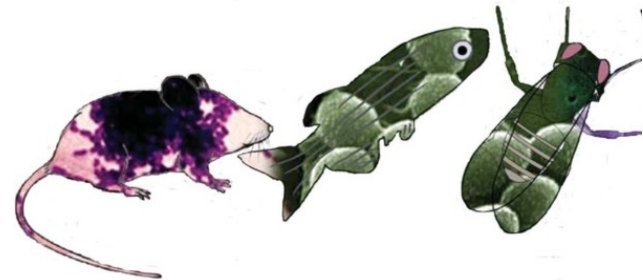
Attaching to each
others belongings:
not a cigarette or
a cello
but ageing and
the animal



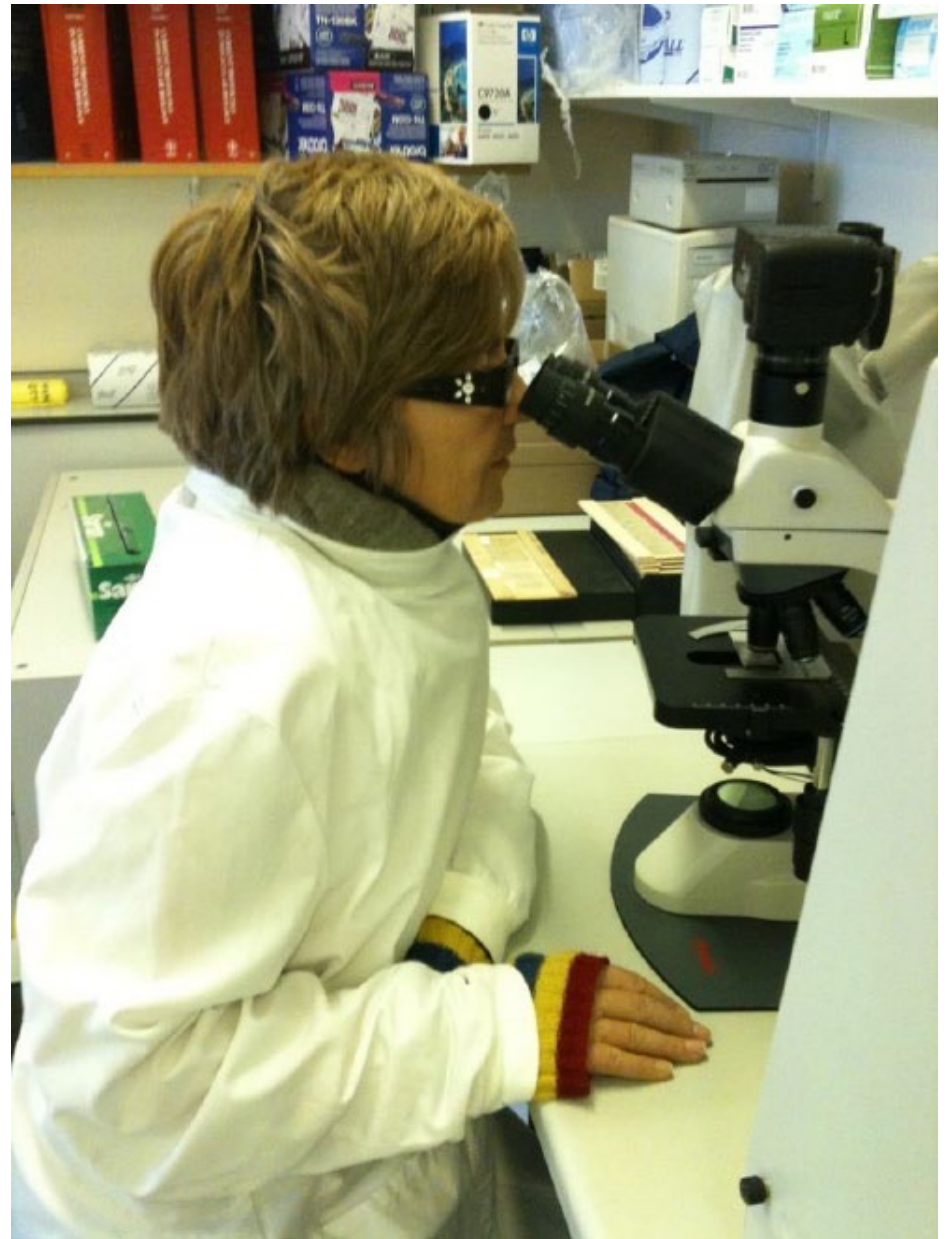
ageing

Gatherings:

the animal



Whose
social? What
society?



Which
science?
What
human?



(Bee courtesy of Tessa Farmer)

Lily puts the agar plates she has prepared (with the differently aged and genetically modified worms) in the hot water bath to induce the heatshock. She puts her special timer on (she uses this also to count with) it counts in fractions of seconds – the plates have to be immersed for exactly 30 minutes. She then has to prepare some things for when the heatshock is finished. She takes some tiny test tubes and labels these in tiny writing (according to each gene to be tested) and puts them ready in a rack next to the microscope, then she prepares a liquid nitrogen bath which she also places on her bench near her microscope and the rack of tiny test-tubes. Then we go to lunch – Lily takes the timer with us. We have exactly 17 mins to collect our lunch and then go back to rescue the worms from the heatshock bath – Lily says the timing has to be exact or else the worms will die. We collect soup and sandwiches in the campus café a few minutes from the lab. Lily adds seeds and things to her soup, and she picks a healthy looking sandwich. We sit outside at a table. Lily puts the timer next to her food so she can see the time. I am excruciatingly aware of the timer while I eat. Lily only eats her soup, then gets up saying we need to get back to the worms. She takes her sandwiches back to the lab with her and we go over and take the worms out of the heatbath.”

Being affected by the
'ordinary affects'
(Stewart 2007) of
everyday life in the lab





A timer



A Healthy Sandwich

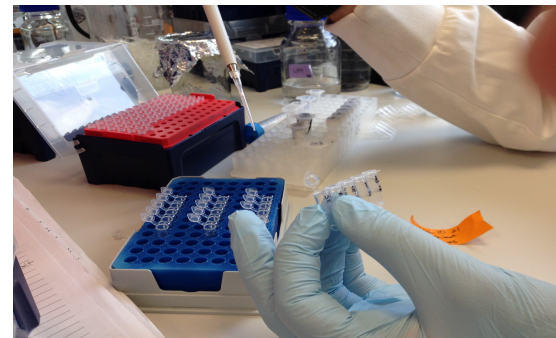


A heatshock bath

“Being like a Robot – its good”(Lily)



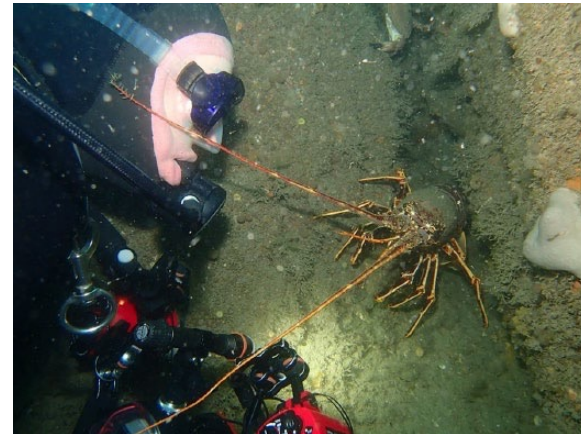
Nematode worms and agar plates



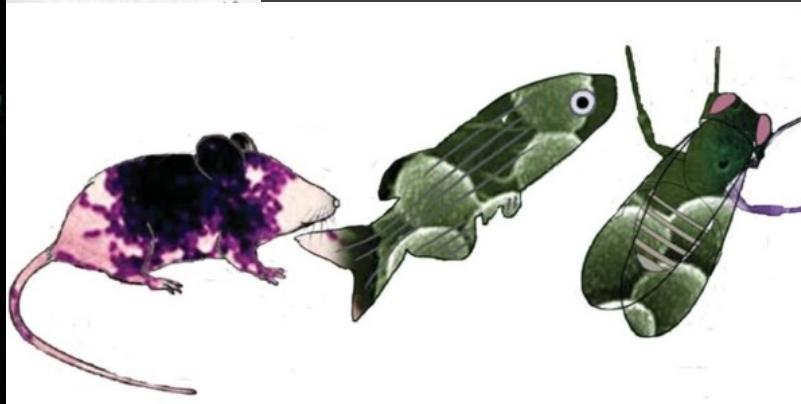
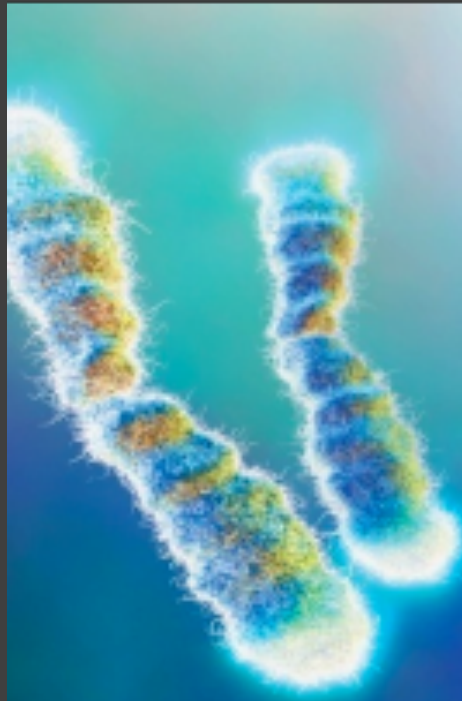
Micropipette, tiny test-tubes, lysing and other solutions

Just a Few of Lily's Extensions

natural science



Giving science life





Intimate Entanglement – ‘risky’ (Haraway 2016)

becoming intimate through attaching to the life sciences of ageing’s attachments
adopting indirection

But it allows one to *intimate* entanglements – their matters of meaning

Conventional approaches tend to keep one outside: seeing what one already knows

Being Open & Critical (Latimer & Skeggs 2011)

‘Becoming with’ (Haraway 2008) the life sciences

Being alongside (Latimer 2013) – becoming intimate but keeping partially connected, preserving difference and knowing ‘in tension’

