5/1/22  **Timetable for the Critical Realism UCL Reading Group,** 10/1/2022 to 14/3/2022 6.00-7.00 pm London time, GMT. We have suggested readings. More details about them in later sessions will be sent later in the term. You may prefer to look at the readings after the sessions, and if they are not in your university library perhaps you could ask librarians to order them. The reading list is at the end of this timetable. Link to the course <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/critical-realism-reading-group-tickets-212378538927>

|  | Date | Presenters + readings | CR concepts |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 10/1/22 | Host: Rob Faure Walker (RFW)  Priscilla Alderson (PA)  READING  Alderson, 2013:48-50, 57-61; Faure Walker, 2021; Gorski, 2013; Bhaskar 2016:173-5; Bhaskar 2017. | INTRODUCTION TO BASIC CRITICAL REALISM  Memory of Roy Bhaskar (David Graeber video)  Being and knowing, Natural necessity - EAR  Emergence of ‘Extremism’, seen and unseen, what CR adds;  Under-labouring; 7 tenets of positivism, interpretivism in natural + social sciences; ontology, epistemology, epistemic fallacy  ACTIVITY  How could EAR analysis be used in your research? |
| 2 | 17/1/22 | Host: RFW  Yana Manyukhina (20 mins)  PA  Tamaki Yoshida (10 mins)  READING  Alderson, 2013: 50-51, 55-57;  Yoshida 2011;  Manyukhina et al., 2017  Manyukhian 2018;  Archer, 2003: 1-16; Archer 2013. | FURTHER BASIC CRITICAL REALISM: STRUCTURE AND AGENCY  Agency and identity formation, life style choices  Archer’s internal conversations  Structure and agency; closed and open systems; transitive, intransitive; TMSA; morphogenesis; morphostasis  Physical punishment in schools    ACTIVITY  How could structure and agency analysis be used in your research? |
| 3 | 24/1/21 | Host: RFW  PA  Abdullahi Haji-Abdi (10 minutes)  Andrew Sayer (20 minutes)  READING  Alderson 2013:28-38; Haji-Abdi 2016  Sayer 2011: Chapter 2, 23-58, and Chapter 8, 246-252. | VALUES AND POWER  Search for truth; fallibility; theory-practice consistency; being serious; epistemic fallacy; two kinds of power  The Somalian diaspora in London  Facts and values, implications for social science.  ACTIVITY  How do values and power relate to your research? |
| 4 | 31/1/22 | Host: PA  RFW  Wendy Sims-Shouten  Leigh Price (20 mins)  Discussion  READING  Faure Walker 2021;  Price 2016: 109-29  Sins-Shouten etal., 2007. 2018 | APPLIED CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS - DCA  Semiotic triangle; TINA; DCA + Prevent  How I have used critical realist discourse analysis  Induction. Deduction, abduction, retroduction DREI(C) Climate change research. Work in South Africa and Norway  ACTIVITY:  How might applied critical discourse analysis and/or retroduction help your research? |
| 5 | 7/2/22 | Host: RFW  PA  Brenda Hayanga (10 mins)  READING  Alderson 2021: 128-32, 136-7. | FOUR PLANES OF SOCIAL BEING  Transitive and intransitive; open and closed systems;  Four planes of social being, global ↔ local, quantitative ↔ qualitative; making connections; interdisciplinary research  Elderly British-Africans in London  ACTIVITY  How could the four planes be used in your research? |
| 6 | 14/2/22 | Host: RFW  PA  Rosa Mendizabal  READING  Alderson et al. 2020.  Mendizabal 2017. | TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE (MELD)  Dialectic; absence; difference and change; emergence; dialectical critical realism. Four stages of MELD, transformative change; malign, benign and mini MELD  MELD and research in Mexican neonatal units  ACTIVITY  How could your research involve MELD? |
| 7 | 21/2/22 | Host: RFW  PA    Attenders present their power points  Sam Porter (20 mins)  READING  Porter 2015  Alderson 2021: 25-36 | REALISM + SCIENCE  Possibility of naturalism, interdisciplinary research; ontological realism; epistemological relativism, judgmental rationality  Critical realism and realist evaluation, the debate.  ACTIVITY/FOLLOW UP  How could your research be interdisciplinary? |
| 8 | 28/2/22 | Host: PA  RFW  Attenders present their power points  Gary Hawke (25 minutes)  Reading  Bhaskar 2016, Chapter 6;  Bhaskar 2017 ed. Hawke. | META-REALITY  Transcendental CR, demi-reality, MELDARZ  Memories of working with Roy and writing the book (Bhaskar 2017), Meta Reality  ACTIVITY  How does Meta-Reality relate to your research? |
| 9 | 7/3/22 | Host: RFW  PA  Attenders present their power points  Xiao Qu  READING  Alderson 2021: 167-180; Qu 2019;  Molyneux 2012 | CHANGING THE WORLD?  Examples of applied critical realism and research related to policy and practice: Religion, conflict, peace, justice, utopias, eudaimonia  Inclusive education and Confucianism in China  ACTIVITY  How might your research relate to policy or practical change? |
| 10 | 14/3/22 | Hosts: RFW + PA  Attenders present their power points  Douglas Porpora  READING  Porpora 2015: 188-208 | CRITICAL REALISM AND YOUR RESEARCH  Review of course. Q&A. Comments on what you gained, themes that could have been clearer.  Seven commitments of social research  ACTIVITY  Write a ‘private journal’ account of your experience of the course and your plans for using it. |

**Reading list**

Alderson, P. (2013) *Childhoods Real and Imagined: Volume 1: An Introduction to Childhood Studies and Critical Realism*. London: Routledge.

Alderson P. (2021) *Critical Realism for Health and Illness Research*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Alderson, P., Sutcliffe, K. and Mendizabal, R. (2020) A critical realist analysis of consent to surgery for children, human nature and dialectic: the pulse of freedom, *Journal of Critical Realism,* 19(2) 159-71

Archer, M. (2000)*Being Human*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Archer, M. (2003) *Structure, Agency and the Internal Conversation.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bhaskar, R. (1998 [1979]) *The Possibility of Naturalism: A Philosophical Critique of the Contemporary Human Sciences.* London: Routledge.

Bhaskar, R. (2008) *Dialectic: The Pulse of Freedom*. London: Routledge.

Baskar, R. (2016) Hartwig M. (ed) *Enlightened Common Sense: The Philosophy of Critical Realism.* London: Routledge.

Bhaskar, R. (2017) Hawke, G. (ed) *The Order of Natural Necessity*. *A Kind of Introduction to Critical Realism.* Amazon. £10. Gary’s Introduction is on <http://www.garyhawke.org/garys-foreword-to-the-order-of-natural-necessity-a-kind-of-introduction-to-critical-realism/>

Buch-Hansen, H. and Nielsen, P. (2020) *Critical Realism: Basics and Beyond*: Red Globe Press.

Gorski, P. (2013) What is critical realism and why should you care? *Contemporary Sociology,* 42, 5: 658-70.

Haji-Abdi, A. (2016) *Critical Realism, Somalia and the Diaspora Community*. Routledge.

Hartwig, M. (ed). (2007) *Dictionary of Critical Realism,* Routledge.

Faure Walker, R. (2021) *The Emergence of Extremism.* Bloomsbury.

Fairclough, N. (2005) ‘Discourse Analysis in Organization Studies: The Case for Critical Realism.’ *Organization Studies* 26(6): 915–939

Mendizabal, R. (2017) *A critical realist study of neonatal intensive care in Mexico*. PhD Thesis. London: UCL https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/1546182/

Manyukhina, Y., Emmel, N. and Middlemiss, L. (2017) Exercising moral agency in the contexts of objective reality: toward an integrated account of ethical consumer behaviour*. Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour, 47* (4), 418–434.

Manyukhina, Y. (2018) *Ethical Consumption: Practices and Identities. A Realist Approach.* London: Routledge.

Molyneux, J. (2012) *The Point is to Change It.* London: Bookmarks. £7. Explains Marxism and change.

Porpora DV (2015) *Reconstructing Sociology: the critical realist approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Porter, S. (2015) Realist evaluation: an immanent critique, *Nursing Philosophy*, 16(4): 18–28.

Price, L. (2016) Using retroduction to address wicked problems. In Næss, P. and Price, L. (eds) *Crisis System: A Critical Realist and Environmental Critique of Economics and the Economy*. London: Routledge, 109–29.

Qu, Xiao. (2019) *Inclusive Education in Chinese Primary Schools – A Critical Realist Analysis*. PhD Thesis, UCL. https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10081111/

Sayer, A. (2011) *Why Things Matter to People: Social Science, Values and Ethical Life.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sims-Schouten, W. and Riley, S. (2018) Presenting critical realist discourse analysis as a tool for making sense of service users’ accounts of their mental health problems, *Qualitative Health Research, 29*(7), [https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732318818824](https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1049732318818824).

Sims-Schouten, W., Riley, S.C.E. & Willig, C. (2007) Critical Realism: A presentation of a systematic method of analysis using women's talk of motherhood, childcare and female employment as an example. *Theory & Psychology, 17*(1), 127-150.

Yoshida, T. (2011) *Corporal Punishment of Children: A Critical Realist Account of Experiences from Two Primary Schools in Urban Tanzania*. PhD Thesis, UCL, https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10020614/