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Cultural Studies Takes On Policy: (Re)forming the Nation, the Corporation and the Family

This panel seeks to further develop Cultural Studies interventions into cultural politics and policy-work. Policy itself involves the “power to name; the power to represent common sense; the power to create ‘official versions’; the power to represent the legitimate social World” (Jordan and Weedon, 1995, 13). Cultural Studies has a vital role to play in challenging policy in all forms and at all levels be it local, national or global. We offer an examination of policy’s impact on three cultural forms—the nation, the corporation, and the family. Negotiating the intersections between these forms, this panel explores questions of power in relation to particular policy formations concerning nation-branding, immigrant labor, digital media, and paternity testing. Using specific examples, we seek demonstrate how Cultural Studies can demystify the relations of power involved in creating, passing and implementing particular policies to open up a space for alternative policy formation.