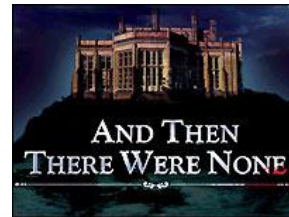


And then there were none: Agatha Christie and Class

Dr Dawn Mannay
School of Social Sciences
Cardiff University
ManayDI@cardiff.ac.uk



Millennium Stadium



Wales's Beautiful Game

- Symbolic source of unified Welshness
- Powerfully unites a nation
- Engenders a sense of national identity
- Classlessness



Complex and Divided Land

- Mackay (2010) argues, the distinctiveness of Wales, in terms of its political life and culture, has grown considerably over the last decade. Nevertheless, beneath the imagery of the definitive nation, Wales remains a complex and divided land

Divided Wales

- Linguistic
- Financial
- Political
- Geographical
- Cultural
- Spatial

Measuring Divides

- Between 1945 and 1980 the income differential between individuals in Wales narrowed- since 1980 the gap between rich and poor has widened (Evans 2010)
- Increase in social and spatial polarisation
- Divide through geographical distribution
- ‘Los Angelization’ of socio-economic terrain demonstrated in the creation of new ghettos of prosperity and poverty

Visibility of Class for Christie

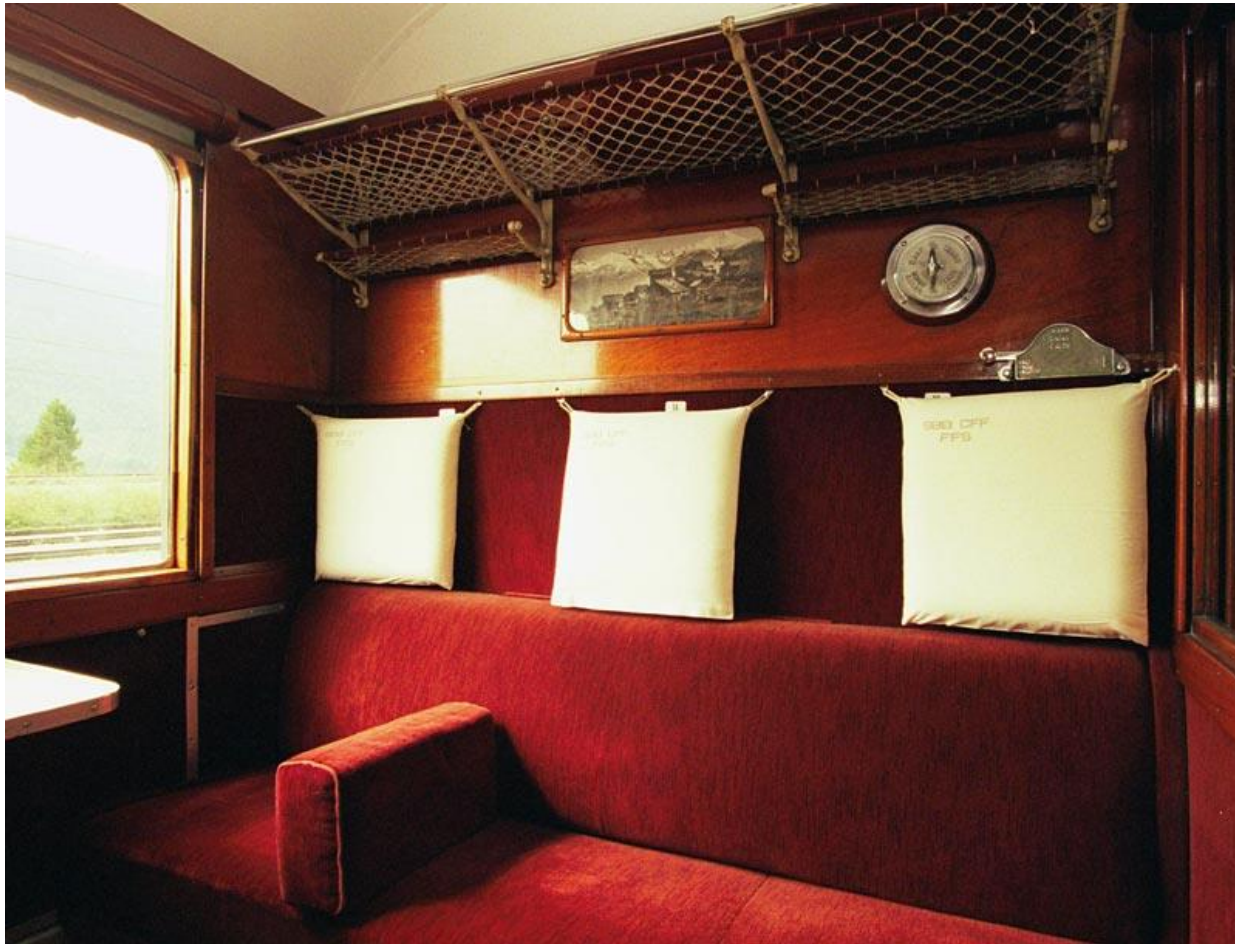
- Railway carriage
- Holidays
- Profession
- Geography and Ethnicity
- Possessions
- Servitude

Class and Carriage

- Class is denoted by carriage



Mr Justice Wargrave 1st Class

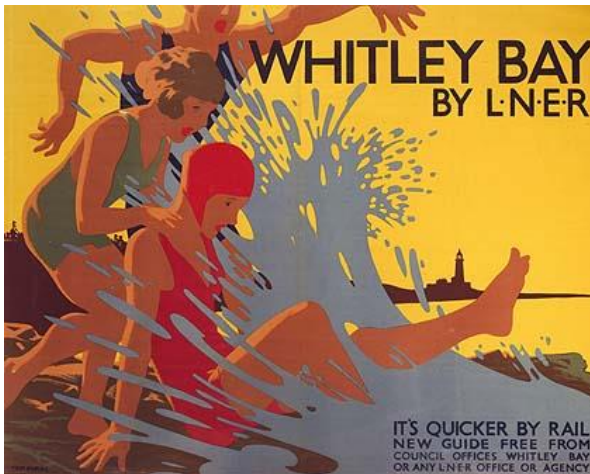


Vera Claythorne 3rd Class



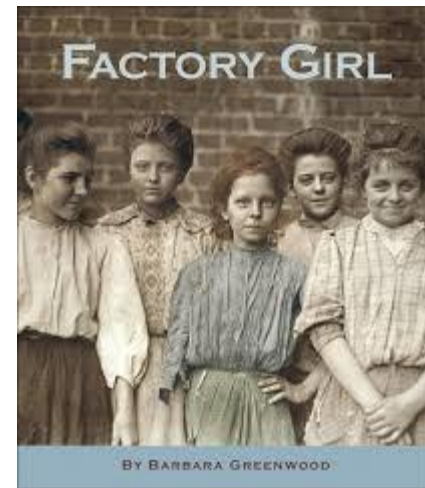
Bourdieu, distinction and Skeggy

- Miss Brent of Justice Wargrave – ‘*quite unlike the usual type of man in seaside guest houses*’



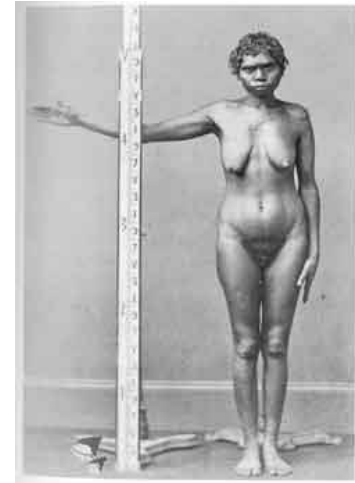
Profession

- Vera – *'I'm Mrs Owen's secretary'*
- Lombard – *'Just imperceptibly his manner changed. It was slightly more assured'*



Geography and Ethnicity

- Davis – natal South African faces snobbery about colonials
- Vera – 20 deaths – *‘they were only natives’*



Veblen – Conspicuous Consumption

- Narcott of Anthony Marston – *‘what a car!... Born to money he was’*



Rank, file and servitude

- Rogers
- Hoax
- Clears the table
- Wife murdered
- Makes breakfast
- Lombard – *‘wonderful animal the good servant... carries on with an impassive countenance’*



In the end...

- Justice Wargrave – *‘a very distinguished old gentleman’*
- Economic capital, social capital, cultural capital, symbolic capital
- Power to Judge
- Capitals for murder
- And then there was one

