**Karin Doolan** was a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute in the spring term of 2009/2010, following receipt of her PhD in sociology of education from the University of Cambridge. Since 2004 she has worked at the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb as a researcher and consultant on projects with a prominent social justice agenda (e.g. gender equity in compulsory schooling, ethnic minorities in Croatia and their involvement in school life, socio-economic inequalities and higher education participation). She has also contributed as a policy analyst to developmental projects both in Croatia and the UK; her most recent international engagement was a project on family policy for the British Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit in London in 2008, whereas in Croatia she is currently involved in a European Commission funded project ‘ACCESS: Towards Equitable and Transparent Access to Higher Education in Croatia’. She has a particular interest in theorisations of social reproduction across different political and economic contexts (with a particular interest in Bourdieu’s conceptual tools), theorisations of social justice, as well as the ways in which educational institutions can be organised to contribute to it.