

Spring Newsletter 2008 No.5

# Sociology for all?

## **A warm welcome to the fifth edition of 'Sociology for all?'**

This is the first edition of our newsletter for 2008. In the year ahead, we hope the Sociologists Outside Academia group (SOAg) continues to grow and becomes an important networking and campaigning group. We have set up a new Google Group mailing list which we hope will facilitate communication between SOAg members.

This year sees SOAg and the BSA Postgraduate Forum joining forces at the BSA annual conference on March 28th-30th at Warwick University with a joint social meeting point and a Saturday night quiz. We were also delighted to have been consulted by the Medical Sociology study group about providing support for sociologists outside academia to attend their conference as well as calling for speakers. More information on these topics along with other news, biographies, forthcoming events and articles are included in this issue. If you would like to contribute anything to a future newsletter please get in touch. Contact details are on the last page. We look forward to hearing from you! **Annika & Julie.**

## SOAg and the Postgraduate Forum at the BSA Annual Conference

Annika and Julie are very happy to announce that SOAg will again have a presence at the BSA's Annual Conference. Our experience last year of being somewhat 'tucked away' in a classroom for our 'Meet and Greet' session led us to request a higher profile position at the 2008 event. The conference organisers were happy to oblige and so this year we have a joint stall with the Postgraduate forum in the main thoroughfare of the conference in Warwick University art centre.

We know from experience that attending a conference can be a daunting and lonely experience. It is hoped that this stall will act as a social meeting point for anyone who wants to meet up with others in the same situation. The stall will be attended by a member of SOAg and the PGF in the breaks and during lunchtimes, so do come along and say hello. The PGF and SOAg are co-hosting a quiz on the Saturday night compered by Prof. David Inglis. Look out for the poster in your conference pack and on the walls around the university.

*include the perspective of medical sociologists engaged with the voluntary and community sectors; in support, pressure group, campaigning or activist work relating to health-care; or elsewhere employed 'beyond the academy'. We are inviting people to speak for around 10 minutes each on how they would like to see the sub-discipline develop over the next 40 years, and the role and contributions they envisage for it. Participants may also want to address themes such as: potential substantive areas of work; research methods and approaches; the organisation of the field; developments in training and education; connections and collaborations; hopes and fears.*

If you would like to participate in the panel as a medical sociologist 'outside academia', or can recommend someone who might be willing to take part, please contact Lydia Lewis ([lydia.lewis@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:lydia.lewis@warwick.ac.uk)) by Friday 13th April. For an informal discussion, please contact: 02476 523120. Please note that a limited number of funded places for those without institutional support to attend the conference will be available.

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## Calling all Medical Sociologists

An invitation from the BSA Medical Sociology study group for a speaker at the Med Soc conference 'Futures thinking: the next 40 years of medical sociology within and beyond the academy,' at the University of Sussex, 4th-6th September 2008

Message from Lydia Lewis;

*In recognition of 40 years of medical sociology we have decided this year to organise a closing plenary session at the conference about the future of medical sociology. Paralleling the opening plenary which will look back over our history, we are inviting a panel of presenters to reflect on their visions for the future of the sub-discipline. We are hoping to bring together a constellation of speakers who will reflect the diversity of people engaged with medical sociology and settings where it is practised. The idea is to have representation from a variety of perspectives, including medical sociologists in the NHS, in sociology departments, and in medical schools, and we would also like to*

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## Conference support

Public History Conference, Liverpool, 10th -12th April 2008. <http://www.liv.ac.uk/history/public-history/>

The Liverpool conference will offer a meeting ground for all those engaged in the production, dissemination, and consumption of historical knowledge and heritage, including those active in the higher education, museums, heritage, media, and commercial sectors, and members of the public.

In core strands, speakers from three continents will explore:

- \* The Professional Practice of Public History in North America and the UK
- \* Museums and Identity: City and Minority Museums
- \* How do we Remember Slavery? International Museums and Sites of Public History
- \* Public History in Theory and Practice: Art, Archaeology, Film, Sport

For postgraduate students a limited number of bursaries are available to help with the costs of travel and subsistence. To be considered for these bursaries, please send to Dr Holger Hoock: hhoock@liv.ac.uk as email attachments:

\* a brief cover note, explaining your reasons for attending the conference and the benefits you anticipate, plus a breakdown of expected expenses and statement of other sources of support applied for or granted (no more than 1 page)

\* a brief CV (no more than 2 pages)

For those who are eligible, but have already registered and paid, please do apply for the bursary, especially if you have decided to only attend for one day due to the cost of accommodation, and would really have liked to have attended all three days. If you are selected we will backdate the award to your original registration date.

Thanks to C-SAP at Birmingham University for the information.

## Progress of current issues

Annika attended the last BSA council meeting held on the 15th of February. She put forward the idea of the BSA looking into buying a full text journal database for its members. This would mean we could have access, via Athens, to many electronic sociology related journals. The BSA said they would consider this proposal but needed a lot more information. For example, how much does a subscription cost? In light of the fact that BSA members have full text access to all of SAGE's current and past journals is there a need for more electronic journals? How many people would benefit from this? Would people be willing to pay more for the subscription? Annika would appreciate as much help and input as possible when she researches this over the next couple of months.

A new SOAg member has raised the issue of mentoring for new and early career sociologists. This would be an interesting initiative, not just for sociologists outside of academia, but undergraduates and perhaps A level students too in turn widening the profile of the BSA. Such an initiative may also enable 'retired' sociologists to continue to exercise and pass on their skills and remain valued members of the sociological community.

Again, we will need to gather more information about what mentoring involves and how it would work in a practical sense so that we can put forward a more structured proposal to the BSA. If anyone has experience of mentoring or if anyone is interested in being a mentor please get in touch.

The next council meeting will take place on June 6th.

## Forthcoming Events

### 3rd ESRC Research Methods Festival 30th June – 3rd July '08 at St. Catherine's College Oxford.

The Festival aims to engage social scientists across a wide range of disciplines and sectors and at different points in their research careers and to stimulate interest, raise issues, highlight opportunities and showcase new developments.

This festival is of relevance to anyone interested in social science research methods. Specific groups of people can include:

Geographers  
Government researchers  
Policy researchers  
Economists  
Anthropologists/ethnographers  
Psychologists and Sociologists  
Statisticians/survey researchers  
Business sector  
Methods teachers & PhD Students

Costs:

\* Registration for UK residents is £50 per day and £20 for the first day.

\* Registration for full-time students is £30 per day and £10 for the first day.

\* Registration for non-UK residents is £175 per day and £70 for the first day

All bookings include lunch, coffee and tea. (excluding Monday). Overnight accommodation at St. Catherine's including dinner will cost £60 per night or £80 per night with ensuite facilities.

To book and for more information go to:

<http://www.ncrm.ac.uk>

## Presentations

Five SOAg members - Tam Sanger, Chris Shaw, Stefan Alexis, Stefan Bertschi and Isis Sanchez will be presenting at the BSA Annual Conference in Warwick on the following times and dates. Room numbers will be listed in the conference pack:

\* **Sanger, T. and Hines, S.** 'Transforming bodies: transgender embodiment and the limits of the nature/culture dichotomy' Friday 28th 11:30am

\* **Chris Shaw** 'The measurement of disaster: facts, values and communicating climate change.' Friday 28th 3:30pm

\* **Stefan Alexis** is presenting at Post-graduate Forum Session in the 'communicating sociology' section on Friday 28th at 11:30am

\* **Stefan Bertschi** "Sociological Naturalism' Nothing new after Simmel and Weber?" Saturday 9am

\* **Isis Sanchez** has a poster presentation in the Mead Gallery at Warwick Arts Centre titled 'The impact of the anti war movement in Spain 2001-2004,' on Saturday 3pm

## Rescue!History Conference 2008

*Thursday 3rd April*

Chris Shaw is presenting a paper at 11:30am titled 'When 2 becomes 3; defining safe limits in the climate change debate.'

<http://rescue-history-from-climate-change.org>

Why not send a summary of your paper for inclusion in the next edition of our newsletter or write an article about your conference experience? Details on how to submit are found at the end of this newsletter.

## Our new mailing list

I have set up a Google Group for Sociologists Outside Academia. This is a mailing list system similar to Listserv and JISCmail. To post a message to the whole group you send an email, (once you have registered), to [sociologists-outside-academia@googlegroups.com](mailto:sociologists-outside-academia@googlegroups.com). People can then reply to you individually, or responses can be sent to the whole group.

This will replace the old distribution list system which

was one directional. Only Julie or I could post notices to the whole group. Any messages we got from members were sent directly to Julie and I. No one else in the group was able to see what topics members were talking about. The problem with this old system was that the group wasn't able to evolve easily and that no one knew who their fellow SOAg list members were.

The new google group emailing list will improve communications allowing us to continue to throw around ideas, talk about issues, make new contacts and ask each other questions more freely. It will enable us to discuss the issues we bring to the attention of the BSA council and then give you the feedback, help us research and discuss big concerns like library access down to smaller issues such as the content of our newsletter, ideas for future meetings or personal issues we may have, like a call for help on a project you are working on, job interview tips etc.

We are a bunch of exciting and dynamic people with lots of interesting experiences and ideas and I look forward to us being able to communicate with each other via Google Groups.

I encourage those who haven't to make the switch over to Google Groups right away. The quicker you make the switch the sooner we can start talking!

Go to <http://groups.google.com/group/sociologists-outside-academia> and request an invitation to join.

Any problems do not hesitate to contact me:

[annika.coughlin@gmail.com](mailto:annika.coughlin@gmail.com)

## SOAg Member Publications

Congratulations to all SOAg members who have recently had their work published. More details can be found in the publications and resources section of the newsletter.

# biographies

Our biographies this issue show how some of our members firmly identify themselves as sociologists even though they may be on the 'edge of academia.' Michael Hughes who works for the Audit commission hasn't 'done' sociology since the 1980's but still believes in the value of it in his everyday life and as a force for changing the world.

Judith Monks is an Honorary Fellow at the University of Keele and works on a self employed basis researching people with MS and as a study mentor for disabled students. She feels in and out of academia at the same time and hopes SOAg will provide a 'base' for sociologists in a similar position.

Viv Mackay has had a difficult time hunting for that perfect job in academia after completing her PhD. She has now come full circle and is coming to the conclusion that perhaps her destiny is to go back to her roots working in a Trade Union doing work she loves and believes in.

Richenda is a sociologist and a freelance journalist. Her life and work is informed by a sociological imagination which helps her uncover and understand social issues, such as elder abuse which is an issue that has affected her family.

## Michael Hughes

A Sociologist 'on the edge of academia.'



I am a sociologist 'on the edge' of academia. My main job is as a Director of Studies for the Audit Commission. I manage a team of 17 researchers working on the Commission's national studies on value for money in local public services. I am also an honorary Professor of Public Management at the University of Birmingham (I was Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies from 2002 - 2006), a member of the ESRC's Research Resources Board (which oversees the ESRC's major investments in data resources), and

a member of the Local Authorities Research Council Initiative (working to improve the dissemination and use of academic research that is relevant to local public services).

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Sociology from the University of Bath in 1976. This was a four-year course with a strong vocational element. Most of my colleagues graduated ready to work in social work, teaching, or as social psychologists (though over time they have drifted away a bit - one is now a head brewer in the Cotswolds). I dabbled in all these areas - but not enough to get on the vocational ladder: instead I graduated with a broad understanding of sociology and social sciences. Apart from one academic year teaching A-level sociology, I have not done anything called sociology since 1980. But sociology has been an important foundation. Sociological insights have supported my further study (teaching certificate, MA in Industrial Relations, MSc in Research Methods, and MBA) and at other times have supported my work as a trade union official, environmental activist, health and safety campaigner, consultant, local government officer, and as an academic studying local governance and local public services.

I still read Sociology and articles have stimulated further research or contacts with the authors. I still tell people that I am a sociologist, and I continue to support the value of sociology in understanding the world - and sometimes changing it.

michael-hughes@audit-commission.gov.uk

# biographies

## **Judith Monks**

### Both 'in' and 'out' of academia

I work, on a self-employed basis, with 'Disability Services' at Staffordshire University. Mostly I act as a study mentor but occasionally I take lecture notes, summarise texts or act as a scribe or reader in examinations. I have been doing this work since 2004, after retiring from a lectureship at Keele University. I am now an Honorary Fellow at Keele, which means I am both 'in' and 'out' of academia: 'in' through my contact with students and my good fortune in having access to at least some of the facilities of two universities, and 'out' through my limited contact with academics, especially those who share my research interests.

My first degree was in nursing and later, following posts in health care and community work, I returned to academia as a research assistant. Notably this was at Brunel University where I worked for around 10 years on projects funded by a multiple sclerosis charity. Through this research I developed an interest in how the lives and experiences of disabled people can throw light on everyday cultural practices, such as talk and mobility. My PhD thesis concerned accounts and practices of conversation by people with MS, in connection with notions of self and person. Almost all of my writing has derived in some way from my research with people with MS and much has involved the analysis of life stories and other narrative forms.

Just before I left Keele, I held a research grant to study the significance of mobility for sense of place and social belonging among older people with MS living in the Potteries. Writing from this research occupies my time when I am not working as a mentor.

I welcome SOAg. My experience with students has impressed on me the degree to which many wish to maintain contact with their discipline on completion of their course, and how little there is to offer them. The same is often true for staff who retire or leave academia for other reasons. I hope SOAg will become an alternative 'base' for making contacts, sharing information and for pressing for facilities.

[j.a.monks@btinternet.com](mailto:j.a.monks@btinternet.com)

# biographies

## **Viv Mackay**

### Going back to her roots



Hmmm...the puzzle is what to say out of what seems to me to have been a fragmented work experience. The central theme of my last twenty years of work experience has been searching for a job. I have probably been a bit too fussy because my search will only be complete if I find a permanent job which is both interesting to me and useful to others - and I haven't got there yet!

In 1971 I joined the civil service at the Ordnance Survey and stayed for 23 years working on a variety of administrative and, latterly marketing jobs. I did work part-time for a year after the birth of my son in 1984 although whilst working part time at my permanent job I also taught shop stewards on a casual basis for the other part of the time. My time at Ordnance Survey was punctuated by my unsuccessful efforts to get a different job, more in line with my interests. My energies were not really on my job for in the same period I was an elected trade union representative at national level and, between 1989 and 1994, with the aid of some others, set up a small pressure group called Friends of Cambodia. I remained national chair until the group's demise in 1994. To tell you here how this came to pass would take too long. The upshot was a six week visit to Cambodia comprising interviews with many women and a short book on their survival strategies in a war-torn country. All this voluntary activity, which included campaigning, policy development, equal opportunities and teaching adults, was much more interesting to me than my paid work. The Cambodia episode whetted my appetite for research and writing, and in 1994 I opted for the then Tory government's very favourable redundancy terms and left the Ordnance Survey to start a new life as a mature student. My aim was to get a degree as a passport to an interesting job!

By 2005 I had gone further than expected and had attained a doctorate. My thesis was, perhaps unsurprisingly, concerned with labour strikes in an historical context. Not a lot of opportunity there for a job! It would not be true to say that I had decided at the start to go for a PhD - indeed after completing my Masters' I spent a year job searching

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without success. I also applied for an ESRC scholarship and so naturally took that when it was offered.

After the PhD I decided to change research tack to deal more directly in social policy, though connected with trade unions. I thought this might provide better job prospects. I began to investigate the relative success of past forms of minimum wages policy compared to the present. This presented an opportunity to construct a research bid with an academic colleague for a three-year project. Although we did succeed in the initial sift and I went on to write a full proposal, we did not succeed in the final sift. We heard the bad news in July 2007.

When my PhD ended I looked for academic jobs, hoping to obtain a fixed term contract but, although I had a few interviews (more than in earlier job searches), no job offers. I realised that I would not get academic work without peer-review published work. So I dedicated myself to produce articles but none have seen the light of day. Well perhaps 'dedication' is a little inaccurate because I took up trade union activity again, campaigning for hourly paid university teachers - of whom I was one.

By 2006 I broadened my job search into non-academic work and did eventually land six months maternity cover as a widening participation officer in the July of that year. That ended in February 2007 and was followed by some seven weeks paid work producing a literature review on social exclusion. In August 2007 I was successful in a job application as a diversity officer for a trade union. This is another maternity leave cover. It is now February 2008 and I am still in this job - and still liking it. It remains to be seen whether it turns into anything else because the new mum whose job I am doing is expected back in June so I'm hunting for jobs again! My wish is that she decides not to come back - we'll have to wait and see. I still have it in mind to 'crack' whatever it is about my academic writing so that I can get something published.

In a sense I have come full circle for the current job uses the skills of campaigning, policy development and teaching shop stewards. It is in a trade union and builds on various diversity initiatives I developed earlier in my life. Maybe it's where I 'should' be? My son is now 23. He has finished university and is - looking for an interesting job!

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# biographies

## Richenda Power

'...freedom involves responsibility...'



Margaret Mead's autobiography 'Blackberry Winter' encouraged me to think about re-entering 'academia' when I was a young single parent in the early '70s, and I started looking for something to suit me. I gained a place on the new 'Peace Studies' course at Bradford, but changed my mind because of sexual harassment (as I see it now) by a senior lecturer.

Instead, I made a pragmatic decision to move to London and get work and study sorted out so I could support my family. I worked as a dinner lady, a residential social worker, and then established a 'hands on' science lab at the Gatehouse Independent Learning Centre (Montessori-inspired). I signed up as an Open University student.

That was more than 30 years ago. Now I reap a harvest of involvement and detachment one might say.

Involvements include:

10 years of the 'Bodylearning' clinic, which I helped to establish for the British School of Osteopathy in a special primary school in Southwark for children with 'Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties'. Here is a most stimulating environment for thought and discussion with students, tutors, but primarily the children. An 'honorary readership' enables me to share current research by colleagues such as Alderson, Mayall and Reay, alongside readings of psychological and neuroscientific matters.

10 years of managing a 'Countryside Stewardship Scheme' on a field where I live, which subsidised 'Education Access', involving visits from the school above, local Brownies, Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society, Basingstoke Art Club and the Basingstoke Conservation Volunteers. This particular space is heavily contested, as although it is within a conservation area, it abuts a proposed Major Development Area, with speculative bidders lapping around. The capacity to take a long term view and to try to keep abreast of policy-making comes directly from my sociological formation.

15 plus years as an Open University associate lecturer in the Social Science faculty. This is me 'within' academia, tutoring the foundation module for the Masters in Social Sciences now, and previous to head

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injury (2001), also for the undergraduate foundation.

25 years, coming up, as a practising naturopath and osteopath. I graduated from the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy in 1983. I'd found the training so victim-blaming in its focus on individual responsibility for health that I'd signed up to the very new MSc in 'Sociology of Health and Illness' at South Bank Polytechnic (1982). In practice I work as a whole person, informed by a sociological imagination together with the clinical and psychological understandings I've learned and developed.

'Detachment':

I use the word in a problematised way, so as to think about particular meanings.

I have found using psychotherapy over the last seven years has led me to better quality thinking around things, so multiple perspectives are possible, a kaleidoscopic view. The regularity of a time detached from 'normal' life is so valuable.

The capacity to consider cross culturally and longitudinally is another form of 'detachment' from the immediate.

Reflection requires time and perhaps other activities. Sometimes insights into problems occur on walks, in water, when painting, travelling. The concept of my book 'A Question of Knowledge' came to me when swimming.

Writing in itself is a particular form of 'detachment'. I am currently wading through documents my mother kept over several decades during which she was suffering from financial harassment and other forms of elder abuse. I have needed the support and assistance of the charity 'Action Against Elder Abuse' and my local 'Independent Complaints Advocacy Service' in order to cope with this painful uncovering and discovery of what happened, and what didn't happen in terms of her protection before her unexpected death a year ago. A sociologist friend has also supported me through this substantially. I am not concerned with blaming individual workers or agencies: what we are still uncovering is a problem with conceptualisation and thence communication, akin to the 'blind spot' about domestic violence that eventually started to get challenged 30 years ago by Erin Pizzey's work.

Harvesting:

I shall write about that particular 'elder abuse', to wake people up to its everyday and unseen nature. I am a sociologist AND a freelance journalist. I remember sociology being referred to as 'slow journalism'. The painful and painstaking process on this is also part of my autobiography.

# biographies

Some recent writing:

<http://www.sebda.org> where 'Teachers don't have no feelings' is a sample article under 'resources', SEBDA News;

'Alethea Watterson' (her dancing life) in 'Flamenco News' , Flamenca Pena de Londres Autumn 2007;

'Living in a 'neurosociety'; Hype or Hope?', meeting report in the 'British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing' Vol 3.12 December 2007

<http://www.bjnn.co.uk>

'Neurosocieties: the Rise and Impact of the New Brain Sciences' and 'The True Cost of Brain Injury' , Conference Reports, in 'Advances in Clinical Neuroscience and Rehabilitation' Vol 7.6 Jan/Feb 2008 p.30 32

<http://www.acrn.co.uk>

'A landscape of portraits' in Leisure,

<http://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk> Thursday January 31st p 40;

'Up close and personal', in 'Basingstoke Art Club Bulletin', February 2008, p.4 <http://www.basartclub.org>

richendapower@btinternet.com

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## **Would you like your biography featured in a future newsletter?**

Please email or post 600 words (approx) and a photo to Julie or Annika at the addresses given at the end of the newsletter.

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# article

I have done commissioned research into sex workers in the past for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and others. I am currently involved in an evaluation of an umbrella organisation working with projects that provide support to sex workers, as well as contributing to a book on sex work, which should be forthcoming in 2009.

The evidence to government in this following article was not commissioned, but was a voluntary exercise for everyone involved, as we were all concerned that policy proposals could be detrimental to the group they were aimed at and that they were not taking account of the evidence that had been produced by academics, researchers and practitioners working with sex workers.

I got into the research area when working as research manager in a voluntary sector organisation. I then continued working as a freelance social researcher on various projects in the UK.

*Jane Pitcher*

## **The Criminal Justice Bill and Prostitution**

By Jane Pitcher

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill which is currently going through Parliament included certain provisions concerning prostitution (in clauses 123-125 - These have now been withdrawn). While there was a positive move to remove the term 'common' prostitute, there was much concern at clauses relating to 'persistent' loitering or soliciting and 'orders to promote rehabilitation', which suggested that sex workers would be forced into drug treatment schemes and penalised if they did not comply. The concerns were that the definition of 'persistent', particularly when applied to what could be deemed to be 'occasional' conduct (i.e. on two or more occasions in any three months), would continue to make sex workers vulnerable to arrest and do nothing to address their safety. There is a considerable body of research evidence showing that an environment where there is a threat of enforcement leads to increased vulnerability of sex workers. It can force them to work in more isolated locations and they have less time to take into account potential dangers and negotiate with clients, as they and their clients are anxious to minimise the likelihood of being arrested. Punitive measures such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) can also distance sex workers from service provision.

In relation to the clause concerning rehabilitation orders, there is evidence to show that compulsory rehabilitation schemes, rather than helping to address complex and diverse needs, may often further penalise vulnerable people, including street-based sex workers, many of whom face significant barriers to remaining in treatment and are likely to struggle to comply with some conditions. Many will need substantial support such as that provided by specialist projects, which are often facing challenges to maintaining services due to lack of funding. Linking service provision for sex workers with the criminal justice system is also likely to have a negative impact on relationships of trust between project staff and service users.

Many academics, researchers and sex worker advocates were involved in providing evidence to the House of Commons and House of Lords regarding these clauses and received considerable support from a number of politicians. Following significant concerns expressed and to ensure the smooth passage of other sections of the Bill, these clauses have now been withdrawn from the current Bill, although it is likely that further proposals will emerge at a later stage.

The provisions in the Bill and much of recent media attention have been focused on street sex markets, which form a relatively small part of the whole of the sex industry (Estimated by most studies to be no

more than 10 - 15% of the entire industry) yet remain its most visible aspect. While it is clear from much research evidence that many street-based sex workers may experience a wide range of problems, including violence, problematic drug use and homelessness, the proposals in the Bill, rather than ensuring the welfare of these workers, would have further penalised and disenfranchised them, making the industry more dangerous and reducing the options and support available to them. To be at all workable, provision to support sex workers in making lifestyle changes should be part of an holistic approach, based on voluntary participation and linked to training and welfare programmes.

Also of concern is that some media debates and policy proposals on sex work appear to have been influenced by a small number of prohibitionists who conveniently extrapolate from limited evidence, generally based on small samples of women working in the street sector, to apply this to all sections of the industry. The vast majority of the sex industry, which includes not only women but men and transgender workers, is based indoors and, as the considerable research evidence shows, displays markedly different characteristics from the street sector, including its demographics, lesser need for health and social services, relatively low levels of drug use and an overall lower level of violence. Some campaigners have argued that a human rights-based approach to the issues, taking into account the welfare and human dignity of those working in the sex industry, will be far more effective than one based solely or primarily on criminal justice measures. The voices of those working in the sex industry should be central to any debates on issues that would have a substantial effect not only on their working but also their personal lives. It is important also for researchers to continue to engage with social and political agendas, to ensure that policy formation is informed by a robust evidence base.

*jepitcher@btinternet.com*

#### Relevant references:

- Brooks-Gordon (2006) *The price of sex: prostitution, policy and society*. Cullompton: Willan.
- Campbell, R and M O'Neill (ed, 2006) *Sex Work Now*. Devon: Willan
- Pitcher, J, R Campbell, P Hubbard, M O'Neill and J Scouler (2006) *Living and working in areas of street sex work: from conflict to coexistence*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Sanders, T (2005) *Sex Work. A Risky Business*, Cullompton: Willan.
- Sanders T, Campbell R. *Designing out vulnerability, building in respect: Violence, safety and sex work policy*. Br J Sociol 2007 58(1): 1-19
- Scouler, J, J Pitcher, R Campbell, P Hubbard and M O'Neill (2007) 'What's anti-social about sex work? Governance, discourse and the changing representation of prostitution's incivility'. *Community Safety Journal*, 6(1): 11-17.

# resources & publications

We are happy to inform you of more publications from SOAg members:

Sanger, T. (2009) *Transforming Desire? The Lives and Intimate Partnerships of Transpeople Basingstoke*: Palgrave MacMillan (forthcoming).

Sanger, T. (2008) 'Trans Governmentality: the production and regulation of gendered subjectivities' *Journal of Gender Studies* 17(1): 41-53.

Sophia Krzys Acord's review of 'The SAGE Handbook of Fieldwork' (2006) by Dick Hobbs and Richard Wright (eds) has been published in the current edition of *Sociology*, Volume 42 Number1, P.207

Viv Mackay's article *Old Doctors or 'Young Researchers'?* Confronting ageism in academia appeared in *Network* Number 98 Autumn/Winter 2007

Hillary Arksey and Dave Harris (2007) *How To Succeed In Your Social Science Degree*, Sage

*Dave Harris has kindly contributed (below) a short article about the above publication.*

Dr Hilary Arksey, a researcher at York University, and I have written a book that takes a rather unusual approach to study skills. Having reviewed much of the existing material on study skills, we noted that: much of it was very general rather than focused on degree-level; much of it was pre-electronic; most of it was driven either from experience or from various psychological approaches. We decided that the sort of students we meet require something specific and up to date, and, since they are studying sociology, it seemed a good idea to draw upon sociological approaches to understand teaching and learning in higher education.

It will come as no surprise that sociological approaches are more critical of teaching and learning in their existing organisations. It is not just students who lack study skills, but universities who fail to recognise the difficulties that students encounter. In particular, we wanted to explore Bourdieu's notion that all kinds of educational and aesthetic judgements inform teaching in HE, and that these are often unconscious but

decisive. Our book intended to use the critical potential of social science to analyse these issues.

We have included some of the better study skills advice, but, generally, we urge students to adopt an ethnographic stance, to try to understand the peculiarities of universities and the ways they communicate, and to research the value positions that underpin apparently technical matters such as lecturing and assessing. Since many students are socially marginal to universities, they might as well capitalise on that marginality to develop a bit of critical distance. Actually, I think that sociologists outside academia have the same critical potential!

We would be very interested to hear any comments about this approach.

Dave Harris  
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## Books for Free?

*Frank Bonner discusses the benefits of book reviewing, some sources of information and brief reviews of some books he discovered through his reviews.*

Book reviewing has been a part of my academic life for many years. For "academic" life read student, but even while studying, reviewing has been a useful, mostly enjoyable part of the scene. Publishers & journal review editors are keen to find volunteer reviewers, so all you have to do is ask, usually by email. But why bother? Apart from the book you get to keep, reviews don't figure much in academic references or CVs. Perhaps we who are outside academia can change this. Two good sources for help, Teacher's College Record [www.tcrecord.org](http://www.tcrecord.org) & Forum: Qualitative Social Research (FQS) [www.qualitative-research.net](http://www.qualitative-research.net) both offer masses of help, with Gunter May Reviews Editor of FQS in particular offering masses of space in the online FQS Review Forum & several thoughtful articles urging us to make more of reviews. The titles below show the range of books read & written about, first while teaching, later while a student. I would never have read or commented

# resources & publications

on any of these books without the chance to review them. I'm studying the work of teaching assistants, trying to show how the gender template, supporting = caring = mothering structures their work.

Please get in touch if you'd like to know more or are also working in this field. Many of you will know what it's like, studying part-time, with other lives to lead. For instance when I'm not getting on with the dissertation, I script & deliver humanist wedding celebrations.

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## Management in Education

**Assessment in Secondary Schools: The new teacher's guide to monitoring, assessment, recording, reporting and accountability** Val Brooks

Open University Press 2002 ISBN: 0 335 20638 7  
£45 (hb) (pb) £14.99 0 335 20637 9

There is an intriguing ambiguity in the title; is it a guide for new teachers or a new guide for all teachers? Actually it can be both. Val Brooks has recognised the poor grasp many student teacher's have of the "concept of assessment for learning as well as of learning".

**Heading Towards Excellence: A toolkit for school management** John R. Rowling

pub 2002 Trentham Books ISBN: 1 85856 257 0  
£15.99

Only 84 pages, not too long perhaps, but like a well-simmered sauce, concentrated with a definite flavour. John Rowling has distilled the hard work, experience and dedication of many people over several years into this book.

## Gender & Education

**Diversity at School** (Eds) Anne Lodge and Kathleen Lynch. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration xi + 131 pp, paperback €9.00 ISBN 1-90451-19-4

This is a remarkable little book; no polemics, even though the editors conclude with twenty-nine major Strategies for Change. Changes are recommended

in every sector of the Irish education system, many of which are radical and summarise severe, though muted criticisms.

**Caring For/Caring About: Women, Home Care & Unpaid Caregiving.**

Grant, K. R., Amaratunga, C., Armstrong, P., Boscoe, M., Pedersen, A. & Willson, K. (eds) 2004 Aurora, Ontario: Garamond Press Ltd  
200 pp No price given (pbk) ISBN 1-55913-048-X

When gender issues come up in conversations with friends, I ask who ensures birthday and Christmas cards are dealt with, even if that person shares the labour involved with others? The usual, rueful glance from man to woman reveals what we regularly experience; the burden of building and maintaining relationships is placed firmly on female shoulders.

**Contract and Domination**

Carole Pateman & Charles Mills 2007 Cambridge: Polity Press  
ISBN-13: 978-07456-4004-4 (pb) ix + 266 pages + references  
Paperback £16.99

## Work, Employment & Society

**Daughters of the Mountain: Women Coal Miners in Central Appalachia** Suzanne E. Tallichet  
Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006, no price stated hbk, no price stated pbk, xii + 212, 0-271-02904-8

Imagine a time and a place regarded as an 'internal colony exploited for its coal reserves' (p 10), where the local inhabitants were regarded stereotypically as lazy and backward, where African Americans were recruited to 'forestall unionization' and where the coal operators thereby 'created a culturally divided, institutionally captive labor force' (pp 12 - 14). This was central Appalachia in the 1980's, the twentieth century.

**Gendering Emotions in Organisations** P. Lewis & R. Simpson. Basingstoke Palgrave Macmillan 2007

# contacts & contributions

We would like to hear from you if you have recently had a book review, journal article, book, video etc. published. Perhaps you've given an interview for radio, TV or a publication or any kind of achievement (no matter how big or small) that you wish to share with us here at 'Sociology for All'? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

We would also welcome any article you may feel would be of interest to our readers as well as events reviews, biographies and anything else you feel should be included in the newsletter. Perhaps you would like to become a regular columnist. Why not send us an abstract of an article you have had published?

## Has Sociology Changed Your Life?

Has becoming involved in sociology changed your life in any way? Have any aspects of studying and / or researching impacted on your life in any unexpected ways (personally and / or professionally?) If you wish to contribute an article about your experiences for inclusion in a future issue of 'Sociology for All', please do drop us a line.

This is *your* newsletter which aims to reflect your interests and experiences. We therefore welcome, and indeed depend on, your input. Please contact us at any of the addresses opposite. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Google Group

Please sign up to our new Google Groups mailing list. Go to <http://groups.google.com/group/sociologists-outside-academia> and request an invitation. Once signed up you can view other SOA members' profiles, post messages and invite other people to join.

The email address to use if you want to send a message to the whole group is [sociologists-outside-academia@googlegroups.com](mailto:sociologists-outside-academia@googlegroups.com)

If you have any questions or difficulties signing up, please email Annika.

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