



# Network

Issue 118 Autumn 2014

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## Clouds on our horizon?

### Also in this issue:

- Six-page feature on the 46th MedSoc conference
- Talking shop gives Pamela a mass audience
- Sociology survives in Greece, despite the cuts
- We celebrate the 50th anniversary of departments

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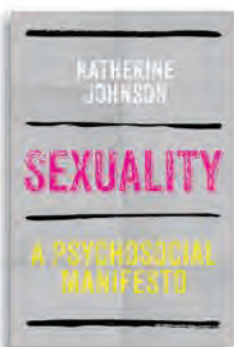


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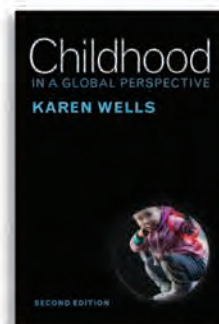
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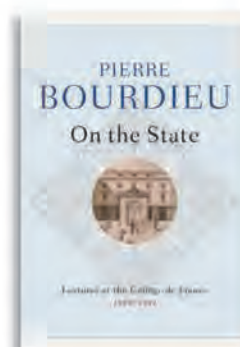


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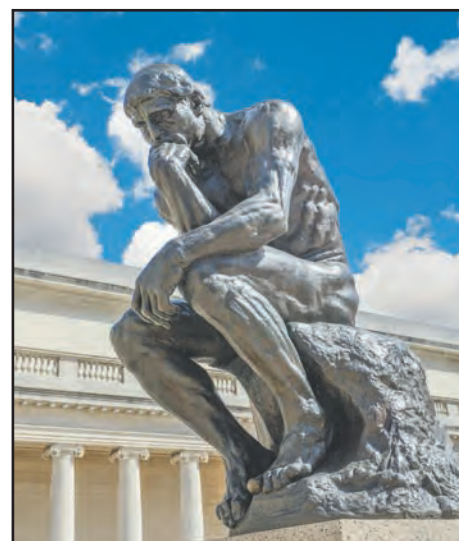
Our main feature is a look at sociology's future by outgoing BSA President, Professor John Holmwood

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# Roehampton recruits new sociologists

The **University of Roehampton** has appointed Dr Michele Lamb as its new Head of the Department of Social Sciences, and recruited three sociologists.

Dr Lamb is Principal Lecturer in Human Rights and founder and Convenor of the BSA Sociology of Rights study group. She has worked at Roehampton for five years.

The three new staff are Bryony Hoskins, Professor of Sociology, Dr Amanda Holt, Reader in Criminology, and Dr Charlotte Faircloth, Senior Lecturer in Sociology.

Professor Hoskins has an international reputation for research on citizenship and European policy. She has led international ERSC projects on inequalities and has worked widely in institutions including the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Her current work combines quantitative and qualitative analyses to examine the factors that facilitate active citizenship in the EU.

Dr Holt has worked on studies in family violence and the relationship between families, identity and harm, drawing on psychology, sociology, criminology, social policy, social work and research methods. Her recent work, *Adolescent-to-Parent Abuse: Current Understandings in Research, Policy and Practice*, is the first academic book to address this subject.

Dr Faircloth is a Leverhulme Trust early career scholar working on parenting, gender and equality. Her book *Militant Lactivism? Attachment Parenting and Intensive Motherhood in the UK and France*, was shortlisted for the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize this year.



**Dr Michele Lamb**

Dr Lamb said: "The demand from students for ever-widening study within the social sciences has allowed us to deepen our research portfolio, and I'm delighted to welcome Bryony, Amanda and Charlotte to Roehampton."

"They are joining a well-established and active department with a strong reputation for both academic research and public commentary on issues concerning our society as a whole."

• Social Sciences at Roehampton is based on research clusters in sociology, criminology, human rights and law. Researchers have expertise including human rights, war and conflict, criminal justice, migration, multiculturalism, gender violence, forced marriage, 'honour' killings, young people, families and security.

# Troy Duster is appointed LSE Visitor

The **LSE** has appointed Troy Duster, Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, as Visiting Professor during this term. He gave the *British Journal of Sociology* annual public lecture in November on 'A post-genomic surprise: the molecular reinscription of race in science, law, and medicine'.

LSE sociologists have published several books recently, speaking at public events to launch them. Professor Nigel Dodd gave a lecture after the publication of his new work, *The Social Life of Money*. Professor Judy Wajcman, the Anthony Giddens Professor of Sociology and author of *Pressed for Time: The Acceleration of Life in Digital Capitalism*, is giving a lecture on 27 November. New staff member Dr Sam Friedman, gave a talk on his new *Comedy and Distinction: The Cultural Currency of a 'Good' Sense of Humour*.

The Race, Ethnicity and Post-colonial Studies PhD Network, organised by research students in the department, is holding a series of autumn events, including two film screenings and a guest lecture by anthropologist Professor Ruth Behar, University of Michigan.

The department is launching a new Masters programme next year in 'Inequalities and Social Science'. The study of inequality has become one of the most important areas of interdisciplinary social scientific study, and this programme draws on expertise from leading academics. More details of sociology at the LSE can be seen at: [www.lse.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.lse.ac.uk/sociology) and on a blog at: [ResearchingSociology@LSE](mailto:ResearchingSociology@LSE)

# LSBU runs events on migration and sisterhood

Dr Susie Weller and Dr Chamion Caballero, of the Weeks Centre at **London South Bank University**, have been promoted to Reader. Professor Beverley Yamomota, Osaka University, Japan, has taken up a visiting professorship at the centre, presenting on social mixing in the UK and Japan, with Dr Sumi Hollingworth.

Weeks Centre researchers have been involved in a number of recent events. Professor Tracey Reynolds ran a two-day AHRC conference on the topic of migrant mothers, and Professor Yvette Taylor received a Jack Shand award to present findings from her ESRC-funded project 'Making space for queer identifying youth' at the Scientific Study of Religion conference in Indianapolis.

Dr Emily Falconer and Dr Shaminder Takhar presented at the Feminist and Women's Studies Association on the subject



**Jaya Gajparia**

of 'Rethinking sisterhood: the affective politics of women's relationships'.

Weeks Centre Emeritus Professor Janet Holland published *Understanding Families over Time: Research & Policy*, with Visiting

Professor Ros Edwards.

This edited collection pulls together contributions from Timescapes, a five-year qualitative longitudinal study of changing relationships and identities over the lifecourse, which includes projects based at five universities in the UK as well as a multimodal archive which can be seen at: [www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk).

Centre PhD students have also been active. Jaya Gajparia produced a video on delegates' feedback at an event on education for sustainable development, co-organised by the centre. Jill Wilkens had an article accepted for a special edition of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* examining the role played by community, kin and friendship in the lives of older lesbians. Ellis Ciruello received a grant to attend the Transgender Europe conference in Budapest.

# Repute, not loot, at heart of 2011 riots

A new book argues that street gang members were much more heavily involved in the 2011 English riots and looting than was commonly thought. However, their motive was not financial gain but to build up their reputation – ‘street capital’.

*The Street Casino: Survival in Violent Street Gangs*, argues that the proportion of those involved in rioting was much higher than the one in five stated in official figures.

“Many of the gang element were smart and didn’t get arrested,” said its author, Dr Simon Harding. “They covered their faces and moved their stolen goods on quickly, unlike the opportunists.

“But the riots had very little to do with politics or making money from stolen goods. Instead they represented an enormous opportunity for people involved in gangs to build their street capital – it was a reputational extravaganza. They might only have sold each stolen plasma TV for £50, but the opportunity to advance their reputations quickly was priceless.”

Dr Harding, of **Middlesex University**, said that his book sets out the first wholly new theory of gang behaviour for many years.

“I develop an explanatory theory which argues that young people are struggling to survive by generating, and then fighting to maintain, street capital.

“This theory helps explain why violence in the street world of gangs is increasing. Among the reasons for this are the increase in the number of gang members, which makes membership more competitive, and the influence of social media, which makes it easier for gang members to argue online and fall out.”

Social media had played a huge role in the increase in the frequency, intensity



Dr Simon Harding

and severity of gang violence in the capital in recent years, with relationships generated or destroyed at the click of a button, said Dr Harding. He found that gang members faced a daily struggle to build and defend their own personal brands, leaving them in “a hyper-vigilant state of perpetual high anxiety”, as they attempt to navigate an ever-shifting “landscape of risk”.

“All of them are in competition to achieve a level of distinction. They are compelled to play the game on a daily basis and they all think they’re going to be winners but, in reality, the ‘house’ always wins.” This was because gang members were likely to be arrested or injured in fights with rivals.

# Flip-flop study reveals global trade secrets

Professor Caroline Knowles has completed a six-year quest to investigate the sociology of the production and distribution of flip-flops, the world’s biggest-selling footwear.

The result of her research, which took her to Hong Kong, Beijing, Fuzhou, Addis Ababa, Kuwait and Seoul, is *Flip-Flop: A Journey Through Globalisation’s Backroads*, published by Pluto Press.

In this book Professor Knowles, Co-director of the Centre for Urban and Community Research, **Goldsmiths**, gives a ground-level view of the lives of those involved in the new global industries.

Her journey began during a visit to Mozambique for a conference, where she noticed most that people wore flip-flops when walking, often for long distances. She decided to investigate further, making research visits to many countries involved in the trade.

Her book, and a website, [www.flipfloptail.com](http://www.flipfloptail.com), look at the production of oil in the Middle East needed for plastics, the making of the flip-flops in China, their transport to East Africa, and the dumps where they end up when no longer needed. She examines the lifestyles of the very rich in the oil-producing countries, the industrial workers of China who sleep above their machines in the factories, and those who live by scavenging rubbish dumps in Ethiopia.

“What my study does is to put flesh and bones and clothes and lives together so that you can see not just who the people are involved in this trade but also the places they live and how they live,” she told *Thinking Allowed* on Radio 4.

“You get up close to the social texture of globalisation which most accounts probably don’t.”

# Expert sheds light on Italy’s soccer crisis

Dr Mark Doidge has given expert opinion to a leading newspaper in Italy about the country’s troubled football culture.

Dr Doidge recently completed a project, funded by UEFA, on anti-racism in European football, looking at Italy, Germany and Poland. He also has a book, *Italia Football*, due to be published early next year.

*Il Mattino* newspaper in Naples contacted Dr Doidge after the death of a Napoli fan who was shot by a supporter of another club before the Italian cup final. The game was marked by disturbances from the Napoli fans after they heard about the killing.

Dr Doidge, of the **University of Brighton**,



Dr Mark Doidge

discussed the problems in Italian football with the newspaper, highlighting the negative role of the police in imposing draconian security measures on all fans

that made it harder for many to get to matches, meaning only the most persistent and aggressive supporters would make it to the stadium.

Dr Doidge’s research has recommended that the model of the German club, Borussia Dortmund, should be followed. The club has a more collaborative approach with its fans, and is in constant dialogue with police, the council and other interested parties. It helps run educational workshops against racism, anti-semitism, and far-right extremism.

• Dr Aaron Winter, of the University of East London, was quoted in *The Times*, giving his views on a survey about immigration.



# Sex, conversation and concrete at York

The **University of York** has appointed two new members of staff in its Department of Sociology. Dr John Gardner, Research Fellow, joins from Brunel University and works with Professor Andrew Webster on an ESRC-funded project on regenerative medicine, which explores regulation, commercial strategies, and ethical and social considerations. Dr Steph Lawler, from Newcastle University, is appointed Reader in Sociology.

In other York news, Dr Nisha Kapoor has recently been awarded an ESRC Future Research Leaders Award for research on the topic of 'Race and citizenship in the context of the war on terror', a three-year project beginning in January. She will investigate the use of extradition, deprivation of citizenship, and charter flight deportations after 9/11.

Current and past department members were among those featured in the Faces for Fifty exhibition as making a significant contribution to the university in its first half century: Kelly Bennenworth-Gray, Paul Drew, Barry Sandywell, Laurie Taylor and Andy Tudor were featured. For more information see: [www.york.ac.uk/50/people/facesforfifty](http://www.york.ac.uk/50/people/facesforfifty)

York sociologists have written various books: Professor Ellen Annandale published *The Sociology of Health and Medicine*, second edition; Dr Laurie Hanquinet, *Du Musée aux Pratiques Culturelles*; Dr Paul Johnson, *Law, Religion and Homosexuality* (co-author Robert Vanderbeck); and Brian Loader *The Networked Young Citizen: Social Media, Political Participation and Civic Engagement* (edited with Ariadne Vromen and Michael Xenos).

The Centre for Urban Research has hosted several public events and interdisciplinary conferences on the role of landscape and cities in the shaping of wider cultural currents. In May, the food and architectural



Dr Nisha Kapoor

writer Jonathan Meades read from his autobiography, *An Encyclopaedia of Myself*. In July a day event, Archiving the Future, was held to mark the 40th anniversary of J.G. Ballard's novel *Concrete Island*, and brought together Ballard scholars.

Other department events covered topics including sexual orientation and the European Convention on Human Rights, organised by Dr Paul Johnson, and masculinity and modernity in the UK and South China, organised by Professor Stevi Jackson and Dr Xiaodong Lin. An event was organised by the Language and Social Interaction Research Cluster to mark the significance of 2014 in the history of conversation analysis, as it is 50 years since Harvey Sacks gave his first lecture.

Forthcoming events include a series of seminars on race, citizenship and security. More details: [www.york.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology)

## Protest book

Dr Cristina Flesher Fominaya, of the **University of Aberdeen** and National University Ireland, Maynooth, has published a book, *Social Movements and Globalization: How Protests, Occupations and Uprisings are Changing the World* (Palgrave). This has led to a series of speaking engagements, including a talk in London in September on digital media and political participation in the new 'hybrid' political parties – parties with a strong grassroots social movement base. She shared the podium with the writer and *Guardian* commentator Owen Jones, film director Ken Loach and parliamentarians from Spain's new Podemos Party. More information: [pctwitter.com/yc7GZvo4HS](https://pctwitter.com/yc7GZvo4HS)

## Garfinkel biog

A concise intellectual biography of Harold Garfinkel, the major figure in ethnomethodology, has been written by Dr Dirk vom Lehn, of **King's College London**. *Harold Garfinkel: The Creation and Development of Ethnomethodology* explores how Garfinkel developed ethnomethodology under the influence of Talcott Parsons and Alfred Schütz, and demonstrates its important influence on recent developments in sociology, particularly in science and technology, gender, organisation and computer sciences studies. It explains key elements of Garfinkel's thinking in accessible language and has a foreword by Professor Robert Dingwall, Nottingham Trent: [www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=481](http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=481)

## Videos help brain injury victim carers

A new online resource composed of a series of 250 video clips has been set up by a sociologist to help family members and others who care for people with severe brain injury.

The new resource is drawn from interviews with 65 family members and leading medical practitioners in the field of serious brain injury, as well as academic research published in journals.

In the videos the families explore their experiences of having a relative in a vegetative or minimally conscious state and discuss the choices that they confront. The clinical and legal context of decision-making about medical treatment are discussed.

The resource was created by Professor Celia Kitzinger, of the Department of Sociology at the **University of York**, and her sister, Jenny Kitzinger, a Professor of Cultural Studies at Cardiff. They have founded the Chronic Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre.

The new resource was funded by the ESRC, the charity DIPPEX, and the Health Experiences Research Group at the University of Oxford. It forms part of the website [healthtalk.org](http://healthtalk.org) and can be seen at: <http://tinyurl.com/mfublj4>

Professor Celia Kitzinger said: "Our research revealed some key areas in which we need improvements in the health service."

"We found that although the law states that family members are not responsible for making serious medical decisions about severely brain injured patients, many family members had never been told this, and felt burdened by guilt and responsibility."

"Many family members had never been asked about the patient's personal wishes, values and beliefs, meaning that doctors cannot make person-centered decisions concerning the patient."

"We also found inevitable distress caused by their relatives' catastrophic injuries was sometimes exacerbated by subsequent treatment, and families often felt that concerns raised were seen as something that could be addressed by counselling or psychiatric support, rather than changing what was happening."

The sisters founded the research centre after their sister Polly was severely brain injured in a car accident in 2009. Some of their research questions arose out of their experiences, such as dealing with her long-term care needs. The centre examines the ethical challenges presented by scientific, clinical, political, legal and technological aspects of chronic disorders of consciousness.

The research is the basis of a Radio 3 programme about coma, *Between the Ears*: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04l30wr](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04l30wr)

# Biography network set up after event

**Durham University** held a conference on biographical research that has led to the formation of a regional network in the north east of England to bring together scholars working in the area.

The conference, in September, looked at creative applications of biographical research, and was organised as part of a European Sociological Association project.

The event attracted 45 scholars from nine countries including Poland, Australia, Sweden, Northern Ireland and Israel.

It led to the setting up of a Biographical Research Network for universities in the region. The event was part of Durham sociology's 50th anniversary celebrations.

It is the second such event: one in 2012 led to a collection entitled *Advances in Biographical Research: Creative Applications*, published this October and edited by Professor Maggie O'Neill and Professor Brian Roberts, of Durham, and Professor Andrew Sparkes, Leeds Beckett University. See: <http://tinyurl.com/qdon5fg>

In other Durham news, the university held a conference entitled 'Transformative feminist methods', which featured Professor Sandra Harding as the keynote speaker. The 36 presenters and 80 delegates included academics, practitioners, and activists from the US, Finland, Australia and the UK.

As well as the workshops and panel sessions, an interactive art installation was displayed. New ways of approaching feminist research and research methods were discussed. For more details see: [www.dur.ac.uk/criva/feministmethods14](http://www.dur.ac.uk/criva/feministmethods14)

Sociologists also took part in a new university initiative called the 'Sutton Trust teacher summer school: supporting



**Professor Maggie O'Neill**

independent study in school'.

This was set up to build research links with schools and colleges and brought together teachers with university academics. The sociologists presented their research into computer games, cybercrime and inequalities in education.

Two seminars were organised by the School of Applied Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Studies at Durham, on the theme of the Slow University. These led to a thematic section within the Forum for Qualitative Social Research, published in October. A further seminar series is planned: <http://tinyurl.com/q5p72af>

A Sex/Gen seminar will be held at Durham on 18 February hosted by the Centre for Sex, Gender and Sexualities and by St Aidan's College. This is entitled 'Sex work in the north'. Speakers will debate issues of theory, methodology and policy

## O'Reilly is Loughborough head

Professor Karen O'Reilly has been appointed Head of the Department of Social Sciences at **Loughborough University**. She has worked at the university for seven years, having previously worked at Aberdeen and Essex.

She is researching migration, ageing and gender and is planning an exhibition in Hong Kong next year based on her work on lifestyle migration in East Asia, with Professor Maggy Lee, of the University of Hong Kong, and Professor Rob Stones, University of Western Sydney. Her new book, *International Migration and Social Theory*, won the Choice Outstanding Academic Titles Award 2014.

In other departmental news, Dr Christian Greiffenhagen, with Professor Wes Sharrock of the University of Manchester, was given the American Sociological Association's

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section best paper award for the paper 'Does mathematics look certain in the front, but fallible in the back?' *Social Studies of Science*, December 2011. This looks at the difference between the way mathematics is presented and the reality of how it is carried out. See: <http://tinyurl.com/pybc8yw>

Emeritus Ruth Lister has been invited to give the 2015 British Academy lecture in February on "To count for nothing": poverty beyond the statistics.'

Elizabeth Stokoe, Professor of Social Interaction, spoke at the annual TEDxBermuda event. The talk was based on a 'conversation analytic role-play method', a practical tool kit she has developed on the dos and don'ts of conflict resolution.

## Five new staff appointed at Manchester

**Manchester Metropolitan University's** Department of Sociology has recently recruited five new members of staff. They are: Dr Mike Salinas-Edwards, lecturer in criminology, Dr Helene Snee, lecturer in sociology, Dr Sal Watt and Dr Haridhan Goswami, senior lecturers in research methodology linked to the Q-Step programme, and Dr Jessica Ozan as a research assistant for the Policy Evaluation Research Unit. Dr Julie Scott-Jones has been promoted from principal lecturer to Associate Head of Department.

Two major research developments in the department are MyWeb and Q-Step. MyWeb (Measuring Youth Well Being), led by Professor Gary Pollock and Professor Chris Fox, is a feasibility study for a Europe-wide longitudinal study into the wellbeing of children and young people. The €1.5 million project runs until 2015 and includes 13 consortium partners in the UK and Europe.

Q-Step is led by Dr Julie Scott-Jones and Dr John Goldring, as MMU Centre Director and Deputy Director. There are 15 Q-Step centres nationally, delivering a variety of programmes on quantitative methods. The university's centre is developing new postgraduate and undergraduate routes in quantitative methodology, and features staff training, outreach to A level students, and numeracy support.

Professor Jon Bannister has helped develop a research and teaching partnership between the university and Greater Manchester Police. The project, funded by the College of Policing, sets up police fellowships supervised by university staff to evaluate policing techniques and share research.

Sociologists are prominent in two new research centres launched in the Faculty of Humanities, Languages and Social Science. The Manchester Centre for Youth Studies has Dr Hannah Smithson as a Co-director, and the Centre for the Study of Football and its Communities has Dr Chris Porter as a Co-director. More: <http://ctss-mmuc.co.uk>



One of the giants of the sociological world, Albert 'Chelly' Halsey, died at the age of 91 in October. (He is pictured above, in 1992, ©The Guardian). His death made national headlines. *Network* will run its own extensive tribute in its Spring edition.



# Events and books mark busy time for Sports study group

The **Sports** study group will hold three events next year. At the BSA annual conference in April it will run a 'Culture, media, sport and consumption' stream plenary on the topic of 'Sport and national identity in a transitioning Scotland'. The scheduled date is 15 April.

It will also run a conference on 'Sport and social protest' at the British Library Conference Centre, London, on 15 May. This will study the relationship between sport and collective action for social change. It will examine protests about the staging of large sporting events, the actions of athletes and spectators in sports arenas, and the role of sport in campaigns such as the anti-apartheid and British suffragette movements.

A keynote speech about sport and the anti-apartheid movement by Peter Hain MP will start the event. Other speakers include: Professor Jean Harvey, of the University of Ottawa, Professor Chris Gaffney, Zurich, Dr Malcolm MacLean, Gloucestershire, and Dr Gemma Edwards, Manchester.

In September 2015 Edge Hill University will host the study group's annual Postgraduate Forum. This will help develop a postgraduate research community by informing students about current postgraduate research in sport and the social sciences.

Recent books written by study group members include *Sports Events*, *Society and*



**Professor John Horne**

*Culture*, an edited collection that considers how sports events contribute to personal, community and national identities. This has contributions from sports studies, media studies, sociology, cultural studies, communications, politics, tourism and gender studies. It is edited by Dr Katherine Dashper, Dr Thomas Fletcher, and Nicola McCullough, of Leeds Beckett University.

Professor Jay Coakley, University of Colorado, and Dr Elizabeth Pike, Chichester, have written *Sports in Society*

(second edition). This is an accessible introduction to research and theory in the sociology of sport, tackling issues such as how more young people can be encouraged to take part in sport, and how sport funding is allocated.

Dr Kevin Dixon and Dr Tom Gibbons, Teesside University, have edited *The Impact of the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games: Diminishing Contrasts, Increasing Varieties*. This has a collection of sociological case studies which critically assess the diverse impact of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Professor John Horne, University of Central Lancashire, Professor David Jary, Birmingham, and Professor Alan Tomlinson, Brighton, edited *Sport, Leisure and Social Relations*. The contributions bring the sports field, the leisure centre and everyday leisure activities to a more central position within sociology.

Dr Kitrina Douglas, Bristol, and Dr David Carless, Leeds Beckett, have written *Understanding the Experiences of Elite and Professional Athletes through Narrative*, which presents the life stories of elite athletes, and uses psychology, sociology, counselling, psychotherapy and narrative theory to explore their mental health, development and identity. The book calls for strategies to minimise difficulties and distress for athletes.

## Health, happiness and care investigated

The **West Midlands MedSoc** study group organised a one-day conference at Coventry University entitled 'Under-served or hard to reach?: community and participatory approaches in health research'.

Speakers explored community and participatory approaches to health and health research, showing that better engagement with those who are designated as hard-to-reach can improve their health. The keynote speaker was Professor Mark Johnson, of De Montfort University.

The group's Conveners, Dr Geraldine Brady and Dr Pam Lowe, are editing the 21st *Sociology of Health and Illness* monograph, *Children, Health and Well-being: Policy Debates and Lived Experience* with Professor Sonja Olin Lauritzen, of Stockholm University. It will be published in 2015.

The study group ran a roundtable event at the MedSoc annual conference, tackling ethical and methodological issues in researching young people's health. The organisers were Dr Brady, Dr Lowe and Shahreen Bashir, of Aston University.

• A special section of *Sociological Research Online* was published in May on the theme of happiness studies, edited by members of the **Happiness study group**.

The section included articles on shifting historical understandings of the idea of happiness, the relationship between happiness and memory, the effect of age on happiness, and the contribution of sociology to critiquing the UK government's Measuring National Well-being project.

The study group is holding a one-day seminar entitled 'Qualitative approaches to happiness and well-being research' at Northumbria University in November.

This is open to scholars working on areas including biographical, life history and narrative research; ethnographic approaches to the study of happiness; participative and action research approaches; and other qualitative studies on the topic of happiness.

A group member, Dr Laura Hyman, of the University of Portsmouth, published a new book in October. *Happiness: Understandings, Narratives and Discourses* is based on a

qualitative study of British people's understandings of their experiences and perceptions of happiness.

• A **Sociology of Residential and Foster Care** study group has been proposed by BSA members Dr Delyth Edwards, University of Leicester, and Zachari Duncalf, Strathclyde.

The study group would aim to bring different sociological theories, methodologies and analyses to help understand the identities and experiences of people now in care, or who have been in the past.

Dr Edwards said: "We envisage organising a range of programme activities, including seminars, workshops, networking events and exhibitions where academics, practitioners and young people and adults can come together to share ideas and engage in debate."

Proposed study groups require the support of at least 15 current BSA members in order to be established. Those wanting to support the group's formation should email the proposers at [de59@le.ac.uk](mailto:de59@le.ac.uk) or [zachari.duncalf@strath.ac.uk](mailto:zachari.duncalf@strath.ac.uk)



# Pencil bombing sets off youth activism

A 'Youth activism and resistance' day was held at the University of Leicester as part of this year's series of **BSA regional postgraduate events**. Postgraduates, academic staff and young activists discussed current issues relating to young people and political action.

The keynote speeches were by Dr Leah Bassel, Leicester, and Dr Jacqui Briggs, Lincoln, and the presentations were by PhD students in sociology, politics, management, and computer and information sciences.

A roundtable discussion was held with activists campaigning on issues as varied as anti-fracking, public libraries, trade unionism and feminism. The discussion tackled the role of academic research in supporting young people's political participation.

The event ended with an art exhibition that displayed original pieces by young artists and designers on the themes of the conference. This was curated by the London-based designer Joe Williams as part of his Act With Love project. Leicester's then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Robert Burgess, attended the exhibition.

Original pieces and reproductions were sold on the night, and the proceeds, £780, were donated to two activist organisations: Envision, which helps young people to design their own local community projects, and Green & Black Cross, which provides legal support for people protesting against government cuts.

The event was organised by PhD students Rose Holyoak and Oli Williams. Rose said: "We wanted to use this opportunity to bring together not only postgraduates and academics but also the young activists who



**The Pencilbombing artwork**

are the focus of research, in order to facilitate dialogue and break down perceptions of the academy as elitist and removed from everyday life."

Oli Williams said: "The exhibition was a hive of activity and it was great to see the artist's work engaging and entertaining people, young and old, with socio-political issues."

The event will leave a lasting impression at Leicester as Joe Williams donated one of the pieces, Pencilbomb, to the university's art collection. It will go on permanent display in the Fielding Johnson South Wing after it was unveiled in a ceremony by the Vice-Chancellor.

For more information:  
[www.actwithlove.co.uk/youth-activism.html](http://www.actwithlove.co.uk/youth-activism.html)

# Climate change tackled at religion event

The **Sociology of Religion** study group held its annual conference this year over three days at the University of Sussex.

The keynote speeches were given by Professor Sophie Watson and Professor John Wolffe, of the Open University, and Professor Manuel Vásquez, of the University of Florida. They spoke on: 'Cultural practices of religious attachment: an exploration of religious sites in East London'; 'The secularisation and re-sacralization of martyrdom: the first world war and its legacy' and 'The crisis of sociological representation: toward an ecological sociology of religious efficacy'.

Other topics tackled during the conference included the interchange between religion and climate change, sexism, and the current crisis of capitalism. The event was hosted by Dr Paul-François Tremlett and Dr Marion Bowman, of the Open University, and attracted more than 100 delegates and speakers.

The Socrel study group, the second largest in the BSA, celebrates its 40th anniversary next year, at a time of increasing scholarly output and public interest in this area.



**Professor Sophie Watson**

Its wider impact is shown in a number of events and initiatives. One was a symposium it held entitled 'Achieving gender equality in the academy,' organised by Dr Abby Day and Dr Sonya Sharma, which was run following a recent report which says that just one in six professors in the disciplines is a woman.

As part of its response to the report, the study group has launched a mentoring scheme to facilitate women's career progression. This is open to all women in academia working in the field of religion, and matches mentors and mentees based on their scholarly interest and location. The mentors offer personal and professional help.

Socrel will also hold a postgraduate and early career researcher study day on 8 January to tackle the ethical issues around being a practising insider and an objective outsider in the study of religion.

See [www.socrel.org.uk](http://www.socrel.org.uk) for more details including a call for papers from postgraduates working on any aspect of contemporary religion, to be entered for the 2015 Peter B. Clarke Essay Prize.

# IVF event leads to new network

**Postgraduate students** at De Montfort University hosted a conference on 'The sociology of technologically mediated reproduction'.

The keynote lecture was given by Professor Sarah Franklin, of the University of Cambridge, who spoke on 'Conception through a looking glass: the paradox of IVF'. The event included a writing workshop providing advice on publishing in the field, as well as presentations from 10 postgraduate and early career researchers on their work.

The conference, supported by a £1,000 grant from the BSA, and attended by delegates from five European countries, led to the establishment of a new network of researchers, called Postgraduate Social Scientists in Assisted Reproduction.

This aims to bring together postgraduates



**Conference delegates**

and early career researchers working in this area for networking and running events. Those interested in joining the network can do so using the Jisc mailing system at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/olg97ev>

More information about the conference:  
<http://tinyurl.com/oefvgn>

# Bourdieu event looks at elite universities

The **Bourdieu** study group hosted an event looking at his theories in relation to access to elite universities in the UK.

The event, at Cardiff University, heard presentations from Professor Diane Reay, of the University of Cambridge, and Dr Vikki Boliver, Durham University.

Dr Boliver spoke on admissions to elite universities, disputing that school attainment was the biggest barrier for ethnic minority applicants to enter elite universities. She said that those with good grades were still less likely to receive offers.

Professor Reay drew on Bourdieu's works, *The State Nobility: Elite Schools in the Field of Power* and *Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture*, arguing that there was not enough difference among students at elite universities, which compounded inequalities in social class and institutional racism. Oxbridge was the equivalent of a finishing school for the privately educated, she said.

"Positive discrimination is at play in Oxbridge – it works to help elite students gain further advantage," she said.

The event featured a panel debate on fair access in higher education.

Professor Harriet Bradley, of the University of the West of England, spoke about the sense of superiority inflicted by the privileged on the working-class. Comparing current social mobility to previous years, she said that "we are seeing a fossilisation of the class structure and the re-emergence of a narrative from the working classes that 'university is not for the likes of us'. The concept of meritocracy is a sham that needs to be exposed."



Dr Vikki Boliver

Professor David James, of Cardiff University, said: "We need to understand where and when capital is gained and the misrecognition that functions to manufacture inequalities in education."

Richard Smith, of Hefce, said he felt sorry for Oxbridge, as it was regularly used as the "whipping-boy" in the debate on fair access at Britain's top universities.

From the floor, Dr Richard Waller argued that if elite universities were so confident in their own superiority then they should accept lower performing students.

Jessie Abrahams, BSA Bourdieu study group Co-convenor, spoke about how she had been inspired to organise the event after reading an article published in *Times Higher* on Oxford students denying the role of class in admissions to elite universities.

and Rupy Pandaal.

A book based on the proceedings is planned. The presentations are available on the study group's website, and a briefing from the event has been compiled, available from Dr Lydia Lewis at [Lydia.lewis@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:Lydia.lewis@wlv.ac.uk)

The event was organised by Dr Dina Poursanidou, University of Manchester, Dr Patsy Staddon, Plymouth, and Dr Lewis. It proved popular, with positive feedback.

• After founding the study group and acting as a co-convenor for 10 years, Dr Lewis is stepping down. She would like to thank all members and co-convenors for their help.

The co-convenors are now: Dr Poursanidou; Angela Cotton, Edge Hill University; Rich Moth, Liverpool Hope University; and Lisa Morriss, University of Salford. The group website is at: <http://tinyurl.com/pqf72hu>

# Meeting held on reproduction study ethics

The **Human Reproduction** study group and the **East Midlands Medical Sociology** group are holding a regional joint event at De Montfort University on 5 December. This half-day event examines the methods and ethics of conducting research in the field of human reproduction.

This event, held with the Reproduction Research Group at the university, is open to those at all stages of their research and includes a discussion of qualitative methods and approaches used when researching human reproduction.

The keynote address, entitled 'Researching family sensitivities: donor conception, secrecy and family life,' will be delivered by Dr Petra Nordqvist, University of Manchester, who will draw on her recent project on non-genetic kinship.

Talks will also be given by Dr Juliet Rayment, City University, on 'Emotional labour: doing qualitative research in maternity care,' and Dr Gareth Thomas, Cardiff University, on "'Everything's data, darling': an ethnography of screening for Down's Syndrome in UK antenatal care.' For more detail see the BSA website or contact Kylie Baldwin at: [kbaldwin@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:kbaldwin@dmu.ac.uk)

• This summer saw the re-launch of the East Midlands Medical Sociology group after several years' hiatus. The new convenors, led by Dr Nicky Hudson at De Montfort University, will organise medical sociology events in the region, including smaller seminars by local speakers and larger events featuring key researchers in sociology.

An event was held to relaunch the group which included a keynote address by Professor Anne Kerr, University of Leeds, and talks from two local postgraduates, Kylie Baldwin and Robyn Lotto. More details can be seen at: [www.britsoc.co.uk/study-groups/east-midlands.aspx](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/study-groups/east-midlands.aspx) or by contacting Dr Hudson on [nhudson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:nhudson@dmu.ac.uk)

The **Violence Against Women** study group has appointed Dr June Keeling, University of Chester, and Dr Olivia Smith, Anglia Ruskin University, as co-convenors of the group.

Dr Keeling worked as a nurse, midwife and domestic violence worker before moving into education. Dr Smith is a lecturer in criminology whose research on criminal justice responses to violence against women, which observes trials of adult rape and sexual assault cases, has received national media attention. Dr Keeling and Dr Smith join Dr Louise Livesey, Ruskin College, as co-convenors.

# Mental health symposium held

The **Sociology of Mental Health** study group held a symposium entitled: 'Social movements and sociological knowledge on mental health: where are we now?'

More than 40 people attended the event at the University of Wolverhampton. They discussed mental health issues in relation to social movements such as trade unions, civil rights groups and survivors' organisations.

Speakers included representatives from the National Survivor User Network, the Wolverhampton Women's Wellbeing Centre, Unison, Women's Independent Alcohol Support, the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, and Wolverhampton, Bath and Central Lancashire universities.

The symposium also included a poster display from the Success Group of service users and carers at the University of Wolverhampton, organised by Sarah Connor



# Taking the biscuit: event studies diets

The **Food study group** held its fourth annual conference at the British Library Conference Centre in London. More than 50 papers were presented on a variety of subjects including sugar and meat consumption, food packaging, supermarkets and pellagra.

Professor Lotte Holm, of the University of Copenhagen, gave the plenary address on 'Regulating obesity and handling bodyweight in everyday life'.

Amy Godfrey gave a performance from her 'Biscuit Chronicles' – a show that, in her own words, "tackles the sticky-fingered question of the obesity epidemic and dieting with a spoonful of scepticism and a healthy helping of social theory". Nineteen posters were displayed.

The study group also ran a seminar at London Metropolitan University in October which presented findings from an ESRC Knowledge Exchange-funded project, 'Supporting interventions for healthier catering'. Sue Bagwell and Professor Eileen O'Keefe, of London Metropolitan University, spoke on 'Healthier takeaways: a bumpy voyage going upstream'.

The project is working to develop a more nuanced understanding of the barriers fast-food takeaways in deprived areas face in adopting healthier catering practices. It identifies the extent to which sustainable healthier business models can work.

The project has surveyed healthier



Amy Godfrey ©Penny Dixey [www.pennydixie.co.uk](http://www.pennydixie.co.uk)

catering initiatives across the UK, worked with suppliers to encourage them to reformulate their products, and interviewed staff in London to identify best practice.

The study group has hosted a one-day workshop at the University of Westminster in October for postgraduates, early career researchers and those working outside academia. This comprised three parallel sessions and group discussions, and gave delegates the chance to discuss research methods with experienced social scientists.

## Crime award

This year's British Society of Criminology's annual conference was hosted by the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology at the **University of Liverpool**.

More than 400 social scientists from around the world met for the event, entitled: 'Crime, justice, welfare: can the Metropole listen?'. It explored how a voice could be given to those who stand outside the dominant narratives of the metropolitan Northern hemisphere.

The keynote speakers were Professor Raewyn Connell, of the University of Sydney, Professor Chris Cunneen, University of New South Wales, and Professor Didier Fassin, of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

In other Liverpool news, Professor Sandra Walklate, Eleanor Rathbone Chair of Sociology at Liverpool, has been awarded the BSC Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of her distinctive and long-standing intellectual contribution to sociological criminology.

## Cool culture

Dr Julian Matthews, of the **University of Leicester**, has co-edited a book about 'cultural intermediaries', the people who define good taste and cool culture.

*The Cultural Intermediaries Reader* is the first comprehensive introduction to this phenomenon in the UK and US, and draws on the work of Bourdieu, Michel Callon and the new economic sociology.

The book offers a practical guide to methodology and includes case studies of creative directors of advertising and branding, music critics, lifestyle chefs, staff in bookshops and fashion outlets, personal trainers, bartenders and others.

Dr Matthews is the Convenor of the BSA Media study group, and researches the sociology of journalism and news media.

The book's other editor is Jennifer Smith Maguire, of Leicester's School of Management.

For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/kmuq7yg>

## New group to study arts is proposed

A **Sociology and the Arts** study group has been proposed.

Dr Katie Appleford, of Kingston University London, says the group's remit could include fashion, art, music, photography, dance and architecture, and it could bring together sociologists researching art and design with those working in various arts institutions.

Dr Appleford said: "As a sociologist most keenly interested in fashion and class, my research interests also include fashion's relationship with subcultures, music, body image and other areas of art and design."

"I sometimes wonder where my work sits within the streams at the BSA conference, or in terms of BSA study groups."

"I often find my work bridges between art and design, and sociology. Perhaps there is potentially a gap in our study group list, and scope for one which focuses on the arts."

To set up a new study group the proposer needs the support of 15 BSA members.

Those interested should email Dr Appleford at: [k.appleford@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:k.appleford@kingston.ac.uk)

Dr Jo Woodiwiss, University of Huddersfield, and Dr Kathy Almack, Nottingham, have been appointed as the new convenors of the **Families and Relationship** study group. Dr Woodiwiss and Dr Almack, who were voted in at this year's BSA annual conference, take over from Professor Val Gillies and Professor Yvette Taylor.

The **BSA Climate Change** study group has appointed Dr Tom Roberts, of the University of Surrey, as a co-convenor. Dr Roberts is a research fellow in the Centre for Research in Social Simulation, which examines social practices related to energy use. He has a background in human geography and environmental sociology. He joins current convenors Dr Catherine Butler, Exeter, Professor Elizabeth Shove, Lancaster, Dr Tom Hargreaves, East Anglia, Maya Gislason, Sussex, Dr Jessica Paddock, Cardiff, and Dr Chris Shaw, Oxford.

**Malcolm Brown**, who has written on sociological aspects of his career as a pharmacist, has published a book, *Winning Words*. This features 5,000 phrases on a variety of topics taken from a writer's notebook he has kept for 40 years, intended as an aid to fellow writers. It is published by Watermint Publications. More detail: <http://tinyurl.com/q2h4rb3>

# Lively letter wins Amy sixth-formers' prize

A letter written by a sixth-former in West London to her cousin has won a major national sociology prize.

Amy MacKenzie, a student at St Benedict's School, Ealing, won the **BSA Sixth Form competition** for her entry on the theme of 'Changing society – what is the role of the sociologist?'.

Amy was presented with her prize, an iPad 2 for herself and £250 for her school, at the school assembly.

"I was very surprised but excited to have won," Amy said. "Sociology is my favourite subject so I am overjoyed to have done well."

This is the second year the competition has been run, and entries were received from sixth-forms across the country. It is organised by the BSA's Teaching Group, and sponsored by Polity Press.

The entrants, aged 16-19, were set the task of answering the question about sociology's role in a 2,000-word written piece, a 10-minute podcast or a YouTube clip.

Amy's work took a novel approach: putting herself 11 years into the future, she wrote a letter to her 18-year-old cousin explaining what she thinks sociology has done to improve the life chances of his generation.

The judges, Professor Garry Crawford, Pam Law and Dave Morton, were unanimous in their decision.

Pam Law said: "Amy uses a range of sources in a highly integrated fashion, going beyond mere regurgitation of the usual textbook material to present her key ideas in a lively and highly readable format."

"It is a thought-provoking and excellent



Amy MacKenzie

piece of work which we think deserves this year's prize. It was a pleasure to read and Amy should be congratulated warmly on her considerable achievement."

BSA Chief Executive, Judith Mudd said: "Congratulations to Amy, who is a worthy winner of our second competition with an entertaining and informative piece."

"We were very pleased with the imaginative entries we received from across the country – one entrant even sent a very entertaining rap video."

"It shows that sixth-formers realise the importance of sociology today. Many of them will go on to study it at university and benefit from its insights and rigorous research methods in their careers."

# BSA welcomes reprieve for 2021 census

The BSA has welcomed the government's decision to reprieve the **national census** and go ahead with the 2021 survey as planned.

The BSA and other social science bodies responded to the government's consultation about the census last year. The BSA opposed the idea of replacing the census with administrative data gathered for other purposes.

In line with the Academy of Social Sciences's view, the BSA recommended that the full census continued, although it could be enhanced by using other data and be conducted online, rather than on paper, to save money.

"Separate databases may have their value, but the census provides the essential bridging data that allow these to be retrospectively connected," the BSA said in its submission to the consultation.

BSA Vice-Chair Professor Eileen Green, who drafted the response to the consultation for its External Affairs Group, said: "We are pleased that Francis Maude [Cabinet Office Minister] has accepted our recommendations and agreed to continue the full census."

"Census data delivers a rich set of population statistics for the full range of geographical areas in England and Wales, providing comparability across areas on a reliable, long-term basis. Users benefit from detailed cross-tabulations produced for a wide range of topics, and the census has a proven ability to deliver detailed statistics for small geographical areas, providing a single, high quality snapshot and a high degree of continuity in 10-year cycles."

However the situation after 2021 remains unclear. Mr Maude is quoted in an article in the *Financial Times* as writing to MPs on the Public Administration Select Committee saying that the census was "outdated" and could be delivered more effectively and more cheaply. "It is the government's ambition that beyond 2021 the decennial census would not be undertaken, instead more regular and timely administrative data would be used to produce statistics."

Nominations for the **Peter Townsend Policy Press Prize** are invited. The British Academy will award the prize, of £2,000, to the author of a piece of outstanding work with policy relevance and academic merit in areas that Peter Townsend made a major contribution to – poverty and inequality, ageing, the lives of older people, disability, and inequalities in health. The closing date for nominations is 31 January 2015. Further details at: <http://tinyurl.com/o2k23lz>

# Award nominations requested

The BSA is inviting nominations for the 2015 **Distinguished Service to British Sociology Award**.

The award is given to the individual who has contributed most to the discipline and is open to all BSA members.

The winner will be given the award by BSA President, Professor Lynn Jamieson, during a special ceremony at the annual conference in April, and will be invited to deliver a public lecture at a presidential event later.

BSA members who wish to nominate a fellow member should email their name and the reasons for the nomination to the Chief Executive, Judith Mudd at: [judith.mudd@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:judith.mudd@britsoc.org.uk)

The deadline for nominations is 15 December. For more details of the award and other prizes, see: [www.britsoc.co.uk](http://www.britsoc.co.uk)

- A new **BSA Citizenship** study group has been set up. Three researchers at Nottingham, Dr Kristoffer Halvorsrud, Anisa Mustafa and James Tangen, say that this area of study draws on politics, cultural studies, anthropology and other disciplines. It is "important to reach out to the wider community and accommodate the interests of disadvantaged groups," states its webpage: [www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/citizenship.aspx](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/citizenship.aspx)
- A new **Violence and Society** study group has been set up by Professor Larry Ray, Kent. This covers interpersonal violence, collective violence, war studies, gendered violence, ethnicity and violence, genocide, historical trends in violence, and colonialism and violence. See the group's website: [www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/violence-and-society.aspx](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/violence-and-society.aspx)



# New race advisory forum gets to work

The BSA has set up a **Race Advisory Forum**. This will take action on racial and ethnic equality and diversity issues in the BSA and in UK sociology in general.

The forum will promote equality, diversity and wider representation and a more diverse sociological curriculum, and help ensure compliance with equality and human rights legislation. It wants to see greater black, Asian and minority ethnic participation among sociology students taking A levels and undergraduate degrees.

Its first convenors are Dr Aaron Winter, University of East London, Dr Kehinde Andrews, Birmingham City, and Dr Nirmal Puwar, Goldsmiths. They are the co-convenors of the Race and Ethnicity study group.

The Forum has a seat on the BSA Council and the convenors will rotate the position of representative.

The Forum has already begun one of its first tasks: selecting the 2015 BSA-British Library Equality Lecture speaker. Also, Dr Winter took part in the BSA strategy meeting in October (see right hand column of this page) where diversity, in terms of membership and conference organisation, was a key item for discussion.



**Dr Kehinde Andrews**

• The BSA has set up a **Website and Online Services Working Group** to oversee the development of its site. Group members have met with BSA staff, the website designers and the providers of the database behind the site.

The group has recommended that the BSA investigates upgrading its current ThankQ database rather than introducing a new system. This would save money and staff training time. The site's design would be rebranded at the same time. A project manager would be recruited to oversee the process.

Chief Executive Judith Mudd will investigate how feasible this is before the Trustees make a decision.

# Strategy event helps map BSA's future

The BSA held a **strategy meeting** in London to map out the next seven years of the association's work. Attendees included trustees, journal editors and BSA staff.

Among the topics discussed was increasing the BSA's membership, inside and outside of academia. Ideas mooted included allowing whole undergraduate classes to sign up, and creating an associate member category.

The BSA's communications strategy was discussed, including the use of online media to communicate fully with constituent groups such as regional networks and school teachers.

The meeting discussed publications, and how BSA journals can continue to be an important outlet for sociological discussion while maintaining income in the face of the significant changes brought about by open access publication. Setting up an online repository for PhDs in sociology was one specific area examined.

Ways of widening engagement were discussed, including bringing in a broader range of speakers for event plenaries.

The BSA will now consider how suggestions made at the event can be put into practice over the next few years.

## New titles from Emerald Sociology

## EmeraldBooks



### Intersectionality and Social Change

Editor: Lynne M. Woehrle  
ISBN: 9781784411060  
Published: September 2014



### Gender Transformation in the Academy

Editors: Vasilikie Demos, Catherine White Berheide and Marcia Texler Segal  
ISBN: 9781784410704  
Published: October 2014



### Family and Health Parts A and B

**Two-part bookset**  
Editors: Sampson Lee Blair and Jennifer Higgins McCormick  
ISBN: 9781784417628  
Published: October 2014



### Environmental Contexts and Disability

Editors: Barbara Altman and Sharon Barnartt  
ISBN: 9781784412630  
Published: October 2014



### Can Tocqueville Karaoke? Global Contrasts of Citizen Participation, the Arts and Development

Lead Author: Terry Nichols Clark  
ISBN: 9781781907368  
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## New Additions to the *Sociology* Podcast Series

We are pleased to announce that these new additions to *Sociology's* podcast series are now available on the journal website: <http://soc.sagepub.com>

### Thinking about Class

Danny Dorling and Kath Woodward

Danny Dorling and Kath Woodward speak about Professor Dorling's paper 'Thinking about Class' – which was written in reflection on the Savage et al. 2013 paper on the BBC Class Survey. It forms part of a series of papers about 'class' and how we engage with it.

### Public Reasoning without Sociology: Amartya Sen's Theory of Justice

John Holmwood and Kath Woodward

In this podcast, John Holmwood discusses his paper on Amartya Sen's capabilities approach to social justice, "Public Reasoning without Sociology: Amartya Sen's Theory of Justice", with Kath Woodward, Editor of *Sociology*. Posted May 2014.

### Public Discourses and Migrant Stories of Integration and Inequality: Language and Power in Biographical Narratives

Maja Cederberg and Sophie Watson

Maja Cederberg discusses her paper on the role of public discourses in biographical narratives, "Public Discourses and Migrant Stories of Integration and Inequality: Language and Power in Biographical Narratives", with Sophie Watson, Editor of *Sociology*. Posted May 2014.

### The Price of the Ticket: Rethinking the Experience of Social Mobility

Sam Friedman and Sarah Neal

In this podcast interview, Sam Friedman discusses his paper on social mobility, "The Price of the Ticket: Rethinking the Experience of Social Mobility", with Sarah Neal, Editor of *Sociology*.

We hope you will all enjoy all of these podcasts. Watch out for more coming soon!



# BSA recruits two staff members to build on its achievements

The BSA has appointed two staff members.

**David Hetherington** replaces outgoing Communications Officer Lee Coleman, who leaves the association after two years.

David, a graduate of Kingston University and the University of Hong Kong, has worked for publishers and as a financial journalist.

In his new role he will be responsible for continuing the association's marketing and brand development, including responding to member queries, contributing to development plans and ensuring a high level of member satisfaction with incoming and outgoing communications.

He will also work closely with study group convenors to develop close links with stakeholders at academic institutions.

David's work will build on the work of Lee Coleman, who enacted many initiatives during his time with the BSA and was instrumental in its recent rebranding. The BSA wishes him success for the future.

**Sophie Jaques** joins as Publications



**David Hetherington**

Assistant, replacing Chris Grieves, who leaves to work for publishers in London.

Sophie studied sociology at A level and graduated from Queen Mary, University of London in 2009 in Hispanic Studies.

After graduation she joined Routledge as a Senior Editorial Assistant on its English language, linguistics and translation studies books list.

After four years she began working as a

Development Editor, undertaking market research and working with textbooks, including sociology and criminology works.

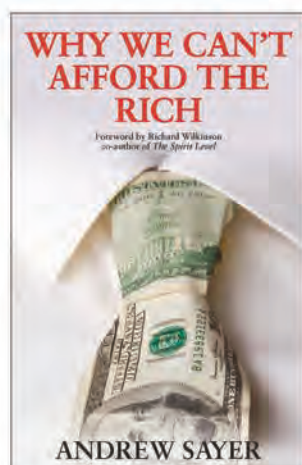
Sophie's key duties will be working with the BSA's journals, providing support across the range of publications and assisting the Publications Officer, Alison Danforth.

She will be responsible for maintaining the journal manuscript tracking system and will act as first point of contact for any related queries.

The former BSA President, Professor John Holmwood, has been elected to the International Sociological Association's Executive Committee. Professor Holmwood is one of 16 newly elected members on the committee, which also includes Dr Marina Kurkchiyan, Deputy Director, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford. The committee administers the affairs of the association between its four-yearly World Congress.



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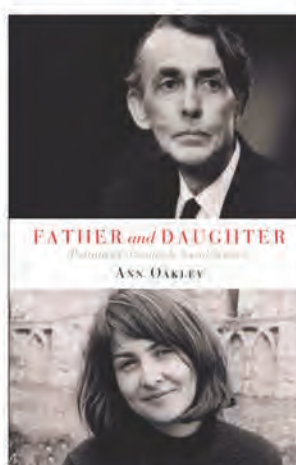


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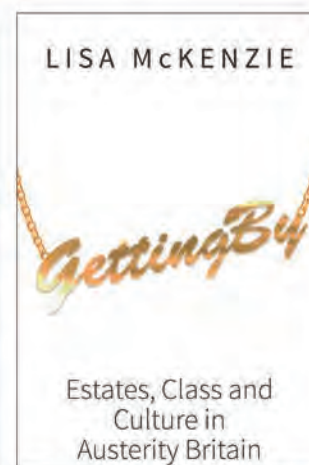


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# All around the world

## Network takes a look at sociology beyond our shores

### Arab failure on social science

The Syrian-Palestinian sociologist Sari Hanafi, recently elected as the first Arab Vice-President of the International Sociological Association (ISA), has spoken of the failure of Arab states to take social science seriously.

Professor Hanafi, chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies at the American University of Beirut, told the *Daily Star Lebanon*: "It's got nothing to do with the Arab Islamic culture, it's something to do with the institutional culture.

"There's really no excuse – it's a question of resources but it's also a question of awareness. The presence of Arabs is not only extremely important scientifically if we want to engage in science and technology in the world, it's also...to say there's a message we want to deliver to the world."

Professor Hanafi grew up in the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk in Damascus. He studied civil engineering at Damascus University and went on to take sociology, studying in France on a scholarship and obtaining a PhD at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

His work in France made him more aware of how the state encouraged its citizens to study and learn and supported organised discussion, something largely lacking in the Arab world, he said.

For instance, despite having conducted 40 consultancies for NGOs and the UN on various topics, none of these were for an Arab state or organisation.

"This shows that we have a real problem here: that social sciences are not taken seriously by the decision-makers."

Professor Hanafi said conservative religious groups were looking to delegitimise the social sciences in the fear that they may show evidence contrary to their ideals.

The International Sociological Association was an example of the problem: it had around 7,000 members, but only five Arabs from Lebanese and Saudi associations attended this year's World Congress of Sociology in Japan. This compared with 76 from Israel, 16 from Iran and 45 from Turkey.

Professor Hanafi is committed to the rights of Palestinians refugees. He lived in the West Bank's Ramallah until Israel began limiting his stays and then asked him to leave.



Photo: by Melissa Rose  
<http://tinyurl.com/1w5ezgp/>  
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### Ruining the fun of Miley

Students at Skidmore College in New York state can now discover that behind the seeming triviality of Miley Cyrus's music and twerking persona lurks a deep inequality in our society.

The College (fees \$60,000 a year) has launched a course entitled 'The sociology of Miley Cyrus: race, class, gender and media'. This is taught by visiting assistant professor Dr Carolyn Chernoff, who aims to examine Cyrus' transition from Disney star to sex diva, and what that says about our society.

In interviews with various media Dr Chernoff said that Cyrus is "a useful primary document" for discussions of sex and power in media. "One of the jokes I make in my class is that sociology ruins everything you think is fun because it forces you to reveal the deep inequalities that are being reproduced through seemingly trivial channels."

### Bomb sentence overturned

Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals has overturned the life sentence handed to the Turkish sociologist Pinar Selek for the deaths of seven people in an explosion in Istanbul 16 years ago, *WorldBulletin.net* says.

Supreme Court of Appeal judge Ekrem Ertukul said the sentence handed to Ms Selek by an Istanbul court was overturned because of a legal error in the sentencing process.

Ms Selek was first arrested in 1998 but released two years later when forensic experts concluded the blast at Istanbul's spice bazaar, which also injured at least 100 people, had been caused by an accidental gas leak.

Since then she has been tried and acquitted on three occasions, but these were later overturned by a court which sentenced her in absentia to life in prison last January.

Ms Selek is known for her work with women, the poor and Kurdish communities, and had met members of the terrorist organisation PKK as part of this. Her father, Alp Selek, said her interviews with the PKK were the reason the police detained her – he said his daughter was tortured when she refused to give information about the interviews.

Ms Selek is now studying for a PhD in politics at the University of Strasbourg.

### Saudi sex education needed

A Saudi academic has called for sex education for students in schools, claiming half of divorces in the Kingdom were because of sexual problems between couples.

Mohammed Al-Saif, Professor of Sociology at Qassim University, said sexual problems were the main cause of the rising rate of divorces and crimes, *SaudiGazette.com* reports.

"Most sociologists and researchers deliberately avoid mentioning sex as a main cause for divorce and focus instead on other reasons," he said.

Professor Al-Saif said books containing information and scientific facts about the topic should be distributed to boys and girls in each family.

"About 50 percent of divorce cases are due to sexual issues while the remainder are caused by the wrong choice of partner," he said.

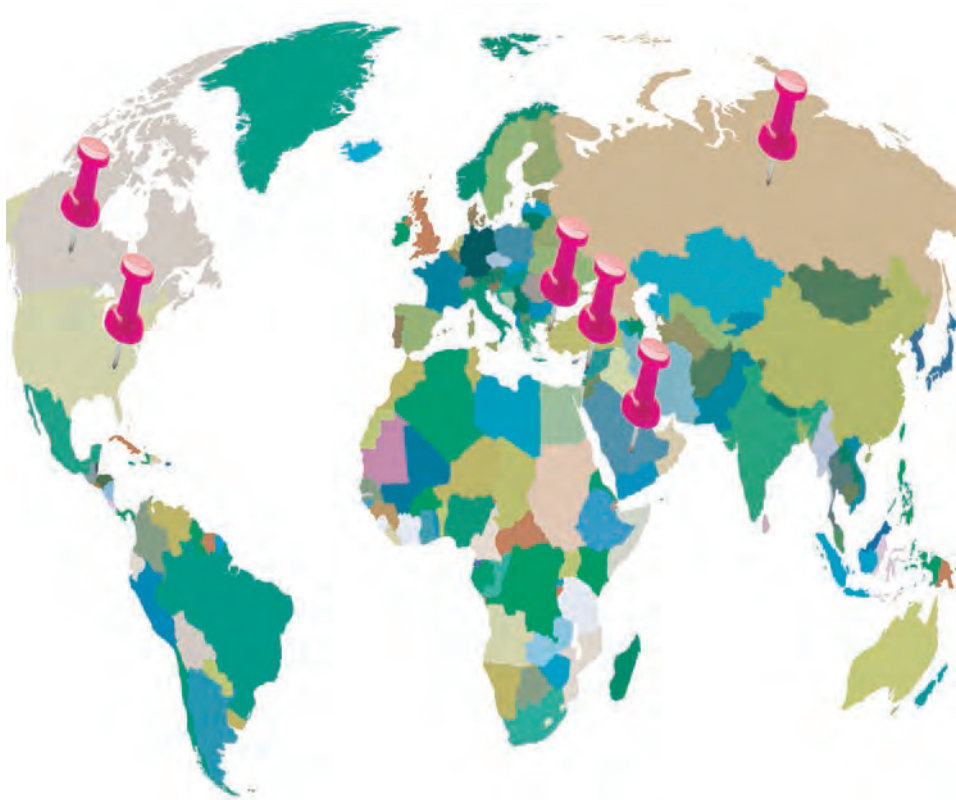
Professor Al-Saif said researchers prefer to talk about the obvious causes of divorce, such as the husband not giving money to his wife, family interference and domestic violence, rather than dealing with the main reason.

"Many family affairs researchers do not want to delve in these matters because they believe they are personal," he said.



d...

Links to online articles about these topics can be found at  
[www.britsoc.co.uk/members/network](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/members/network)



## Russians seek world status

**About 42% of Russian citizens think that Russia should regain its status as a superpower, suggests a recent opinion poll by sociologists at the Russia Public Opinion Research Center.**

The percentage of respondents wanting Russia to return to the status the Soviet Union enjoyed before its collapsed in 1991 has increased from 34% in 2003.

This opinion was most often expressed by senior citizens, people with primary education and supporters of the Russian Communist Party.

The Center's statistics show that 82% of citizens are convinced that Russia has a great influence on the international arena – only 58% shared this opinion six years ago.

Only 11% of those polled said that Russia's impact on the situation in the world was not as great, while 3% said Russia was almost excluded from participating in international affairs.

The survey was conducted after the Russian-provoked crisis in Crimea.

The rating of Russian President Vladimir Putin reached its highest for six years after the Crimea crisis, rising to 86%.

## No dreaming in Baltimore

**Anyone in the States hoping that the American dream will lift them from poverty into status and luxury should avoid Baltimore, says *Baltimoresun.com***

Research over 25 years by Karl Alexander, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins University, showed that just four per cent of the students he studied from low-income families attained a college degree. Students from a middle class background were 10 times as likely to graduate.

Professor Alexander followed nearly 800 children from different socio-economic backgrounds from the time they entered first grade in 1982 until they were 29 years old.

Better off parents were able to give their children more time, taking them to the library and checking their homework, for example, than could lower income families.

Baltimore may not be exceptional, of course – the work echoes similar recent research that finds increasing disparity between social classes in the US.

Professor Alexander thought the research project he began when he was 36 would last just few years.

## PM is still uncommitted

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues to urge his fellow Canadians not to “commit sociology” when analysing crimes.**

Last year Mr Harper was asked about the factors behind terrorism, in the light of the arrests of two men accused of conspiring to carry out a terrorist attack on a train. He replied: “I think, though, this is not a time to commit sociology, if I can use an expression.”

Now, following the recent death of a 15-year-old girl, Mr Harper responded to calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women by rejecting the idea that this could be seen a “sociological phenomenon”. He instead suggested Canadians should just “view it as a crime”.

According to a writer for *The Star.com*: “In doing so, the prime minister neglects the reality that crime is an inherently sociological phenomenon and the heightened threat of violence faced by aboriginal women more than warrants a sociologically informed response.”

## And finally...

**A professor at Charleston Southern University in the US was fired for allowing his image to appear on a beer can, reports *universityherald.com***

Paul Roof was sacked from the position of Associate Professor of Sociology, after a photo of his impressive facial hair was used by a local brewing company, Holy City Brewing, on its ‘Follicle Brown’ beer can.

Professor Roof displays a curling beard and white cowboy hat in the shot, taken by a professional photographer during the freestyle portion of the 2013 Beard and Moustache National Championships in New Orleans.

When Holy City approached him for the image, he gave them the go-ahead. The university then declined to renew his contract, telling Professor Roof that the beard was “not in accordance with the Christian environment and principles”. He has since begun work at the College of Charleston.



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 see: [www.holycitybrewing.com](http://www.holycitybrewing.com)

# MedSoc gathers big international audience for Japanese chit-chat

**This year's Medical Sociology study group annual conference at Aston University attracted delegates from all over the world. Network takes a look at the plenaries, prizes and people**

Around 350 people attended this year's Medical Sociology study group annual conference at Aston University in September, the second highest total for MedSoc events.

The conference, the 46th held, attracted delegates from 18 countries, including Australia, Canada, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway and South Africa. The conference streams included ethnicity, ethics, gender, health policy, lifecourse, mental health and risk. There were 159 oral presentations and 28 poster-presentations.

The plenary speakers were Professor Tiago Moreira, of Durham University, who spoke on 'Methods and measurement in medical sociology' and Professor Arthur Frank, of the University of Calgary, Canada, on 'From sick role to narrative subject: the sociological career of ill

people and what's called "experience"'. *see pages 20 and 21 for more details of their plenaries*

The conference trialled a presentation format based on pecha kucha – Japanese for chit-chat – in which each session has four or five presenters and 20 slides are shown, each for 20 seconds. This encourages discussion on cross-cutting themes.

The conference included 11 special events, including the committee session 'Putting the public back into the NHS', nine symposia, and an author-meets-critic event with the 2013 Sociology of Health and Illness book prize winner Michael Montoya.

A mentoring corner was run for a second year, this year featuring four senior academics who offered advice to delegates on subjects including writing and getting published.

MedSoc's annual general meeting, attended by around 50 members, heard a report from co-convenors Professor Jude Robinson and Dr Helen Eborall.

They said that a new South Coast regional group had been launched this year, holding its first meeting at the conference. The new Applied Qualitative Health Research group held its inaugural meeting in May.

MedSoc's healthy financial situation allowed it to fund 32 free places at the conference for postgraduates and those on low income or working outside academia. The conference fee for all delegates was lower than in 2006, said the convenors.

The funding for *Medical Sociology Online* finished this year, coinciding with the end of the Open University editorial team's term. The team had put the journal's archive online, and a special event celebrating this would form one of the plenary slots at the 2015 conference.

The MedSoc group continued to fund the Cost of Living blog, which features the politics, economics and sociology of health and health care. Dr Simon Carter, one of its editors, told the meeting that the site had attracted 67,000 visits from 26,000 users in over 150 countries since it launched two years ago. Guest posts were coming in from people at all stages of their careers and he welcomed ideas for blog items. The blog is at: [www.cost-of-living.net](http://www.cost-of-living.net)

MedSoc members thanked Dr Eborall and Professor Robinson, who stepped down as convenors. They were replaced by Dr Ewen Speed and Dr Fiona Stevenson.



**"Aston has been a fantastic venue – it's been a great networking opportunity for meeting people you can write papers with – I've met two people in this way. Some of the presentations have been fantastic."**

**– Gareth Thomas,  
Cardiff University**





“This is my first time but I wish I had come here before. One of the things I enjoyed the most is that people are so friendly – it’s been good to network”

– Shadreck Mwale,  
University of Brighton



“I’ve had a lovely conference – it’s been really nice to see postgraduates presenting for the first time, as well as colleagues, and the posters this year have been great”

– Professor Catherine Exley,  
Newcastle University



“We had incredible meals and the rooms were really nice. There was a wide range of interests – my topic area was covered and a lot of my wider interests”

– Nicole Daniels,  
University of Cape Town

Elected to the MedSoc committee were: Dr Sasha Scambler, Dr Donna Bramwell, Professor Flis Henwood, Professor Paul Bissell and Sharon Spooner, with Sarah Hoare as the new postgraduate representative. Stepping down are Dr Julia Hiscock, Dr Ian Spencer, Dr Catriona Rooke and postgraduate representative Laura Knight.

Professor Rose Barbour and Dr Catherine Will were elected to the *Sociology of Health and Illness* journal committee.

The study group also supported an early careers event, held the day before the main conference.

- Dr Eleanor Johnson won the Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowship award, run by the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness, for her PhD, ‘The business of care: the moral labour of care workers.’

This award is named for Professor Mildred Blaxter, a previous editor of the journal, in recognition of her contribution to the discipline. It provides full salary costs for one year and £2,500 to enable Dr Johnson to publish and present her findings and to develop a new programme of work related to her thesis.

- The £1,000 Foundation for Sociology of Health and Illness book prize was won by Professor Joanna Latimer, of Cardiff University, for her book *The Gene, the Clinic, and the Family: Diagnosing Dysmorphology, Reviving Medical Dominance*.

The prize is awarded annually for the book that has made the most significant contribution to medical sociology over the previous three years. Professor Latimer will

“The plenaries were very well organised and there is an easy layout and fantastic food. I always enjoy the networking – that is just as important as the papers.”

– Professor Anne Rogers,  
University of Manchester



be one of the plenary speakers at next year’s MedSoc, which will be held at the University of York. *See pages 22 and 23 for an interview with Professor Latimer about the book and her career*

- The Phil Strong Memorial Prize was awarded to Rose Cotton, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and this will go towards the cost of her ethnographic fieldwork in Nairobi.

The £1,200 prize is given each year to a postgraduate working in medical sociology. The prize was established in memory of Phil Strong, 1945-1995, who influenced the development of UK medical sociology.

#### Photos:

Images in the quote boxes are stills taken from videos by Dida Media.

Images to the right are (above) Professor Latimer, left, with Dr Fiona Stevenson and (below) delegates at the conference.



**Arthur Frank, whose research has sought to reduce the psychological suffering of patients, gave a plenary at the conference entitled ‘From sick role to narrative subject’**

Professor Frank, of Calgary University, told the audience: “The question that’s oriented my work since the late 1980s is how to reduce the gap between the physical and existential suffering caused by disease, and the suffering that results from socially organised conditions that include specific medical institutional practices, and the stigmatisation and marginalisation of the ill.

“To illustrate this gap, let me tell a story that I’ve been living with and writing about for three decades now. My illness story is from the 1980 memoir written by the African-American poet and feminist activist, Audre Lorde. It describes a specific experience that she had, but it speaks to an experience that I have heard dozens of ill people talk about when ill people speak together.

“The story begins 10 days after Lorde has had a mastectomy. She returns to her surgeon’s office to have her stitches removed, and I quote, ‘The doctor’s nurse, a charmingly bright and steady woman of about my own age, who had always given me a feeling of quiet, no-nonsense support on my other visits, called me into the examination room.

‘On the way, she asked how I was feeling. ‘Pretty good,’ I said, half expecting her to make some comment about how good I looked. ‘You’re not wearing a prosthesis,’ she said a little anxiously, and not at all like a question. ‘No,’ I said, thrown off guard for a moment. ‘It really doesn’t feel right.’

‘Usually supportive and understanding, the nurse now looked at me urgently and disapprovingly, as she told me that even if it didn’t

# ‘Sociologists can, as an ideal, help people to become a bit more free’

look exactly right, it was better than nothing, and that as soon as my stitches were out, I could be fitted for a real form. ‘You will feel so much better with it on,’ she said. ‘And besides, we really like you to wear something, at least when you come in, otherwise it’s bad for the morale of the office.’ I could hardly believe my ears. I was too outraged to speak then. But this was to be only the first such assault on my right to define and to claim my own body.”

Professor Frank said: “By the 1990s, when I read Lorde’s story, a decade after she wrote it, I’d already written and published my memoir of having cancer myself. I was lucky never to experience anything directly analogous to what Lorde describes, but the general issue of the ill person giving up claim to his or her body as a condition of becoming a patient

had immediate resonance for me. Lorde’s story did for me what other people’s stories can do for anyone. Sometimes, stories articulate what has been felt, but cannot yet be said.”

He said that the nurse had been “the representative of an authority that has a collective form obligated to do what the office requires.

“Healthcare workers and administrators, as well as clinical practitioners, act with a reflective awareness of being accountable to a profession, to specific institutions, to a collegial group, and to a diffusion of textual accountabilities that range from billing codes to standards of practice.” In this, they were described by theorists as ‘artificial people’.

“They experience more or less dissonance in different situations between what that

## Address tackles method and measurement

In his plenary address Professor Tiago Moreira spoke about ‘method and measurement in medical sociology’.

In this, Professor Moreira talked about how medical sociology has benefited from research focusing on the role of evidence, measurement and standardisation in health care.

His work has detailed how standards are developed, and how they work in local contexts to alter institutions.

He spoke about how this could be used



as a stepping stone for a critique of contemporary biomedicine and as a way

to fuel imagination for research in the sociology of health.

- Professor Moreira is trained in sociology and science and technology studies. His research has looked at the role of knowledge-based tools and standards in contemporary biomedicine.

*Please note:* videos of Professor Moreira and Professor Arthur Frank’s addresses have been posted at:

<http://vimeo.com/108471823> and <http://vimeo.com/109902249>



**Professor Frank giving  
his plenary address**  
Photo by Dida Media



artificial personhood requires and what they themselves want to do and feel is right to do. We call that moral distress.

“That’s the always difficult and potentially contradictory demand that patients make on those who care for them. Patients want engagement that exceeds professional competence. They want a capacity to recognise suffering that comes from a shared vulnerability to that suffering.

“In the face of this patient need, the healthcare worker engages in an encounter that is part of a routine. For the nurse in the surgeon’s office, Audre Lorde’s appointment is one slot in a day that’s filled with similar appointments. All day long, she will deal with women 10 days after their mastectomies.”

Professor Frank said that when he began in medical sociology in the early 1970s, “there was no niche for talking about illness experience. Being ill was understood, then, exclusively in terms of Talcott Parsons’ theory of the sick role, which described a few binding normative expectations that regulated relationships between patients, physicians and society as a whole, especially the patients’ employers and family members.

“To summarise Parsons’ account: the person who gets sick has a normative obligation to become a patient; that is to seek and accept medical orders. Those around the patient have a normative obligation to suspend the patient’s normal duties – the patient’s normal responsibilities in work and family life.

“The physician has an obligation to validate the patient’s disease, but then to move the

patient back to health. In this role, the physician is explicitly a social control agent. In the logic of the sick role, empathy from the physician is suspect, as it can become a secondary gain that will encourage the patient to stay sick.

“Audre Lorde’s story is important to me as a social theorist, because it so dramatically illustrates one person’s refusal to play the sick role as defined by Parsons. The ill person is expected to engage in tactfully minimising its appearance and its consequences. Lorde refuses all of this.”

Since Parsons, a ‘discourse of illness’ had emerged from Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and other writers, in which the patient was being treated as a subject who seeks, in her own speech, the truth of her own experience.

“But it’s debatable whether the intensity of medicine’s claims on the patient’s life have decreased or actually increased.

“Parsonian jargon, to me, remains relevant...patients feel their individual suffering is not being recognised, and healthcare workers feel that their intensely physical work, their hours, their labour, is underappreciated.

“The sociological task, as I understand it, is to be an active witness to people’s storytelling. We hear stories of suffering. They’re told to us generously in our research work. We amplify those

stories when we tell them in lectures like this and when we have the possibility of publishing them. We connect stories that are otherwise isolated from each other. And I think over the years, that’s the work that I’m proudest of. If I’ve done that, it’s been a good career.

“We can also help people to understand better what is at stake in the discourses between which they position themselves. We all buy into discourses, and we all need help understanding what’s at stake in the choices we make to buy into those discourses.

“Sociology can offer a vocabulary that allows people to reflect on the implications of their choices, including what they are tacitly supporting, and the cost of that support. We can, as an ideal, help people to become a little bit more free. And that, I believe, is what Audre Lorde truly wanted.”



# 'I worry we can use gene

**Professor Joanna Latimer won this year's SHI prize for a book about the way doctors have to decide the boundaries of being human**

This year's winner of the *Sociology of Health and Illness* book prize looks at medicine's dual role of protecting children born with genetic conditions while at the same time having to decide which syndromes should be discouraged as not fully human.

*The Gene, the Clinic and the Family: Diagnosing Dysmorphology, Reviving Medical Dominance* (Routledge) argues that advances in genetics have created a greater need for medical expertise rather than reducing it, as some analysts had predicted.

The book is written by Professor Joanna Latimer, of Cardiff University, who led an ESRC-funded team which observed almost 40 consultations with expert medical geneticists by families of children with Marfan, Angelman and other genetic or congenital syndromes. The team also observed case conferences of professionals, looked at patients' notes and interviewed genetics experts of national and international standing.

"The doctors we observed were incredibly conscientious in identifying problems which could be addressed, not by necessarily them, but by other specialists," Professor Latimer told *Network*.

"These conditions are incurable, but some of the symptoms can be treated. Because the doctors can spend a long time with families, and they do a lot of homework on the family when they're not actually seeing them, they can explore fully what the possibilities might be. I was deeply impressed by that – it was very good medicine on the ground."

The doctors' work was vital because genetic tests could not always be fully relied on, she said. Some syndromes involved many complicated genetic mutations that tests could not always reveal, and the severity and progress of the syndrome could not be predicted in the laboratory, only by clinical judgement.

This had the effect of maintaining medicine's powerful role, said Professor Latimer. "The theoretical idea has been that there would be more and more molecular laboratory-based technologies which will obviate the need for clinical examination and



**Professor Joanna Latimer**

judgement. Whereas what you find when you get inside genetics is that clinical examination is very complex and is essential to knowledge-building in genetic science. There is an assembling of lots of different forms of evidence to arrive at a diagnosis. The doctors can actually use some of the clinical evidence to refute a laboratory test if the clinical evidence doesn't support the laboratory test.

"For the time being, there is no possibility of a computer or a machine or a technology taking the place of clinical perception, process and judgement. In fact, I'd suggest that the new genetics actually opens up even more need for clinical judgement, not less, not just in terms of individual patient diagnoses, but in terms of building scientific knowledge about how our genes work and what they do."

Her work has also shown that doctors have a dual role: that of researching, treating and protecting the patient while at the same time discouraging families from having another child with the same condition if that syndrome was particularly severe.

"The clinic at its best is where people are given shelter, as worthy of medical attention. The clinic can help give shelter, for example, to children who are incredibly disabled. Medicine stands for a particular form of humanism – it involves the protection of this child, the living, breathing child that's there in the clinic, sitting on their lap.

"But in a switch of a moment, medicine has to tackle the potential for another child to be born similar to this one. There will be an indication by the geneticist of whether this should arise or not. It's done very subtly.

"I cite this consultant in the book and it's an incredibly interesting way that she puts it –

she is teaching younger geneticists, and I was able to sit in on her talk to them. She said 'the family is like a garden that hasn't grown quite right. We have to help them see that – that it's not growing quite right – and suggest ways that they can grow better'.

"It's this idea of giving the family knowledge of itself and maybe seeing that it needs to grow differently. They're talking about reproduction, obviously, and controlling how people reproduce, changing how they reproduce."

But subtly influencing parents against having a child with a particular syndrome places medicine in the position of having to decide which syndromes should be discouraged and which accepted as fully human, she said. In doing so it had to define what being human means.

"There is the potential for a soft eugenics, which is legitimated because the children have been medicalised.

"But it's not really medicine deciding whether or not children with a syndrome are just other ways of being human. We put medicine in that position – we rely on it to sanitise those kinds of decisions and make them not on social, but on clinical grounds.

"I show in my book how medicine and science do not just shape culture – they are conduits for culture, they are where culture is done.

"I worry that we can use genetics to try and refine the human race in ways which I think are deeply problematic. I can't say that's medicine's fault – it's a social institution, and from what I saw and from all my reading, they do their very best not to be too engaged in that. But medicine does get involved. That is where we've put it, because we need and allow the medicalisation of certain things in order to identify and protect the frail and vulnerable, but also to define what is normal and dispose of what doesn't fit.

"In my book I resist making too many judgements, but I do suggest that we need to hang on to many different ways of being human. We need to hang onto a broader idea of what being human is."

Professor Latimer's unusual background has helped her get different perspectives on her work: her first degree was in English Literature and then she worked as a cleaner and nursing auxiliary in a hospital in Kent, going on to train and work as a nurse in Edinburgh and London for 10 years.

"I suppose I have this embedded experience in both the patients' and families' side of things, as well as the medical side. I was really immersed in it and saw every side of things, but was able to switch between the



# etics to refine humanity'

patient's side and the more clinical perspective. I still draw on some of that understanding and knowledge that I gathered while I was working in hospitals.

"I was very fortunate in that I worked in a hospital and in a training programme at University College Hospital in London, which was very patient-centred, and in a nursing set-up that was both pioneering and meticulous.

"Some of the doctors I worked with at UCH had done degrees in something else before they did medicine, such as PPE [philosophy, politics and economics] or English. It broadens them and helps medicine be more open to different perspectives.

"In my last job I had a ward in Edinburgh, a big acute medical ward. That's where I got the idea for doing my PhD, on older people in acute medicine, which arose because most of my patients were elderly and yet they were seen as such a huge problem by medicine, as not really what it's there for.

"I once got a phone call from Casualty saying, 'I'm so sorry, I've got another 85-year-old stroke for you'. So I replied, 'that's what we're here for'.

"I became interested in this. I was able to observe the practices that can go on around people who are thought to be not quite appropriate, or 'we don't really want them here'. That is what kicked me off and because I'd done a degree in English I was really sensitive to how people framed things, how they talk about things.

"I'm a critical sociologist, but I don't see medicine alone as the problem. I think the problem is how dominant it is when it excludes other possible ways of seeing or knowing or understanding. Then it can become too dominant and then it can become problematic, because it's limited in how it sees things and how it constructs things, so you need other perspectives, other possibilities alongside the purely biomedical

one. This for me is how medicine can be done with care, and it's this complexity that I have tried to show and theorise in my work."

• Professor Latimer and her team carried out the fieldwork in 2002-03 with funding from the ESRC, and wrote various papers from it published in leading journals in science studies, anthropology and medical sociology. She wrote the book from 2008 to 2012.

She is now trying to get funding to do a follow-up study on teenagers' experiences of genetic and congenital conditions.

She also supervises PhD students working in this area, including one on new technologies in prenatal testing and another on Down's Syndrome. Her own recent research has moved from studying genetic medicine to researching ageing, both the new sciences of ageing as well as how growing older is understood and approached from inside medicine. She is writing a book on this.

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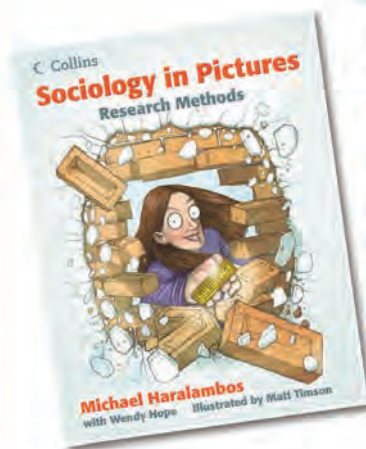
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Michael Haramblos with Wendy Hope

Illustrated by Matt Timson

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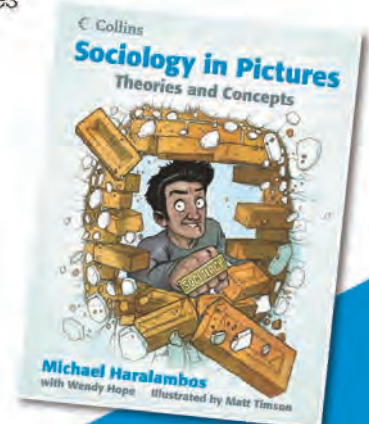


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# The forecast? It's overcast, says outgoing BSA President

**Professor John Holmwood finished his term as BSA President in September. Here, for Network's main feature, he sums up some concerns he has for sociology in the immediate future**

**A**s my term of office is ending, I'd like to leave *Network* readers with a few thoughts about the immediate future. I see a few clouds on the horizon for the discipline over the next few years and I'd like to say something about these:



**The first cloud** is the Research Excellence Framework. Sociologists are, in the main, returned to one of two REF sub-panels: Sociology or Social Work/Social Policy. But if past trends continue, a disproportionate number of sociologists will be submitted to the latter for the 2014 REF.

We know that for the REF's predecessor, the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, the work of 1,243 academics was submitted to the Social Policy/Social Work sub-panel, and only 927 to the Sociology sub-panel, despite the

fact that there are many more sociologists than there are social policy and social work researchers combined (recent Hesa data puts the figures at 3,500 and 2,000, respectively).

The number of universities submitting their researchers to the sociology sub-panel was 38 in the 2008 RAE, but it is possible this figure will fall in the 2014 REF, perhaps to under 30.

So we have a situation where less than half of sociologists are having their work submitted to the sub-panel for their main discipline. Many universities which teach and research sociology are not submitting to it, even though there are significantly more undergraduate courses in sociology than in social work and social policy.

This has implications for the teaching and research activities of colleagues. Undergraduate student numbers in sociology have become the platform for REF submissions in social work and social policy, creating difficulties in the integration of teaching and research strategies.

Why are so many sociologists being assessed under other areas? It's difficult to say for certain, but it's likely to be because of a tactical approach by their universities, who feel they will get a better score from the Social Policy/Social Work sub-panel, for various reasons. But that's a whole new topic in itself.



**Another cloud I can see** is the lifting of the student number cap after 2015. This will have a further disruptive effect in an already highly volatile higher education market.

The lifting of the cap on undergraduate numbers will bring for-profit higher education strongly into the game. The government, for example, sees a more competitive market as having the effect of pushing fees at some institutions down closer to the £6,000 they initially sought as standard by bringing in more for-profit providers who don't have research obligations and who employ a higher proportion of cheaper casual staff. This will likely create a more polarised higher education sector, one which is already prefigured in other policies for research concentration and selectivity.

Even leaving aside the rise of the for-profit institutions, it is likely that some universities will experience a drop in applications, as others recruit more strongly and successfully. The former may be the ones employing most sociologists, of course.



**A third cloud** I see is as a result of changes in the A and AS level system. The government is pushing hard for schools to adopt the new Ebacc performance measure for GCSEs and A levels. While it is not compulsory for pupils to take it, Ofsted takes it into account when inspecting schools, putting heavy pressure on them to ensure many students follow it.

Some subjects are deemed part of Ebacc, and some not: geography and history are, but sociology and politics aren't, for instance. This may affect what until now has been a strength for sociology, with 52,000 pupils taking the subject at A or AS level.

Sociology has been a popular subject to take at AS level, and until now an AS level could form the first year of an A level, so if students liked it they could then go on to study it for another year to convert it to an A level.

But a recent change to the system effectively prevents AS level students using their course as the first year of an A level. So we lose an entry method to A level this way, something likely to hit sociology disproportionately harder.





**And last, but not least:** the type of sociology being funded is changing. The ESRC has moved to funding fewer and bigger projects and this risks opening up a division between a newly reconfigured behavioural science and the other areas of social science.

The problem is that if you give fewer bigger grants to a smaller number of places then you'll get a concentration of research funding and with it a concentration of perceived excellence. That might have some logic with the natural sciences, but it doesn't really fit with humanities and social sciences, which generally require less money, and where excellence is more widely distributed.

The government's view is that small grants are the sort of thing that should be funded by universities from QR funding from the REF. But universities are following the ESRC's lead – they are all seeking to maximise their returns from funding agencies, and therefore directing their research to follow the direction given by the funding councils. This means that we're getting a highly centralised research system and one which is squeezing out particular kinds of study – not sociology per se, but particular kinds of sociology.

The ESRC is pushing interdisciplinary work



across research councils, and the most obvious kind of research that's funded across the councils is the new behavioural cognitive science, which is a combination of psychology, biology, cognitive science and neuroscience. This excludes sociology, with its orientation toward the significance of context and social structures. It also excludes a number of other disciplines as well, especially those with a strong critical orientation.

People have adapted, and accepted the impact agenda. The problem is that the agenda requires that we co-produce research with external bodies. So, for example, if we are going to do research on schools, and this has to be co-produced under the impact agenda, we will find ourselves working with academy trusts to carry it out. But given that those academy trusts are part of for-profit education systems that we're trying to study objectively, this could inhibit a critical appraisal of the system. So it's not that sociology will receive less funding – instead, the kind of sociology that is done will be shaped by the funds that people get. *See panel on the right for more on this*

The failure of senior colleagues to speak out, and so create the opportunities for others to debate, is a real weakness – there's no debate taking place, even though this must be seriously affecting people.

**So, overall,** my forecast is that the future will no doubt bring some blue skies – we are not reliving the cuts to higher education of the 1980s. However, we must now practice sociology in a university system that is no longer designed to ameliorate social inequality, but instead serves a renewed patrimonial capitalism and its ever-widening inequalities, as Thomas Piketty has outlined. So sociology must keep a weather eye open for the effects on the discipline of the far-reaching changes in the education system brought in by the government.

• For more information, see:  
<http://tinyurl.com/mtecdw59>

**Do you have a point to make about John's forecast, or sociology's future more generally?**

**If so, please send a comment or letter to Network:  
[tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk)**

## The BSA's submission to the ESRC

Professor Holmwood drafted a response by the BSA and the Heads and Professors of Sociology group (Haps) to the ESRC's consultation about its future direction. In it they express "serious concerns" about some aspects of the ESRC's funding system.

The BSA and Haps highlighted the move to restrict funding of projects to a few areas, including sustainability, food security and economic growth. This could lead to "conservative consequences" that could constrain innovative research, they say.

It could also lead to "a new division" among the social sciences, placing those having a closer affinity with the natural sciences including economics, and psychology, above those such as sociology that are concerned with social contexts. "In our view, the social problems that form ESRC priorities are best addressed via a healthy variety among social science approaches."

The BSA and Haps were also concerned about "the specification that all research must be constructed with pathways to impact in mind" which could have "conservative consequences for innovation".

"In this context, we are particularly concerned by the tightening of the impact agenda across all activities and stages of research...we have a worry that the shortening of the time from idea to use has the consequence of producing research that is oriented to more routine and short-term objectives."

The response had reservations about the lack of emphasis on research carried out for the public good. "In the case of business, we are concerned that the emphasis on partner relations has led to the funding of some research that was not justified on social science grounds, but was essentially consumer or market research that should be funded by the private sector itself."

It also raised concerns about postgraduate funding. While it endorsed the idea of doctoral training centres, it was "concerned by the wider policies of concentration and selectivity by which direct investment in social science capability benefits researchers and post-graduates at an increasingly narrow range of institutions (a form of concentration that is also geographic in nature). We believe that it is important that access to this capability should be kept as open as possible."

The response endorsed the ESRC's investment in big data and its encouragement of quantitative skills training. However, "we are also concerned that the public value of big data is often confused with its potential economic value. The commercial use of big data is a potential practical and ethical risk for social science, one that may undermine public trust in social science (this is evident in disquiet over Care.data)." For more, see: <http://tinyurl.com/oppu7nk>

# Talking shop gives Pamela mass appeal

At a time when funders demand ever more engagement with the world beyond the lecture hall, sociologists can be reassured at how prominent they are in society: whether it's running universities, leading pressure groups or editing prominent blogs, we make our presence known.

Broadcasting is the most immediate way of engaging with millions of people, of course, and here the signs are positive too. We have *Thinking Allowed*, with its weekly audience of over a million listeners, and the publicity last year about the Great British Class Survey, which brought the term 'cultural capital' to the TVs of millions of people otherwise unfamiliar with Bourdieu's thought.

The sociologist and social historian Professor Pamela Cox has become a prominent part of sociology's recent visibility on our screens, presenting two successful BBC 2 series, on servants and shop workers.

'Shopgirls: the true story of life behind the counter', which aired this summer, showed how popularising academic research does not have to mean trivialising it. Professor Cox was able to use the three one-hour programmes to chart the working lives of a large slice of British society which has been largely neglected by academia. She highlighted women's struggle for decent working conditions and a change to a culture that was very male-dominated until the mid-19th century.

As the BBC's publicity department puts it, the series mapped "the journey of the shop girl from an almost invisible figure in stark Victorian stores to being the beating heart of our glossy, modern shops. With retail the biggest private sector employer in the UK today, this series charts how shop girls have been central to Britain's retail revolution and at the cutting edge of social change." Each episode had over a million viewers, drawing an audience outside the usual TV history demographic of men aged over 50.

The programmes also mark Professor Cox's own journey from lecturing to students to talking to a mass audience, a career development that began quite by chance.

She has a background in research on crime history and youth offending, writing her PhD at Cambridge on the history of girls' delinquency in Britain. From this she published a book in 2003, *Bad Girls in Britain:*

## Network interviews Professor Pamela Cox, the presenter of two BBC series on life below stairs and behind the counter

*Gender, Justice and Welfare, 1900-1950.* This was about girls who were runaways, delinquent or destitute, or who had been taken away from their homes because of abuse, who were all trained to be servants.

In 2012 the production company Betty asked her to help with some background research for the series on servants they were planning, and give an interview to camera.

"I was going to be a contributor talking about the training of bad girls to be servants," she told *Network*. "Then, unfortunately, the series' presenter had to pull out for health reasons, so I was asked to go for a screen test.

"I'd had about two days' notice and I went in thinking, 'it won't come to anything because with no preparation it can't possibly work'. I think as a result I was quite relaxed about it and it went from there.

"Once I was hired, they gave me some training with a stage actor before I began presenting. It was the most incredible and rigorous two hours – we just walked around a large empty room and he'd say, 'talk about why the series matters to you – why should you tell this story?' It was quite testing. His point was that I'd have to be able to get a response from the audience, whether one of curiosity, intrigue, shock or outrage.

"He'd record this on an iPad and would then play it back to me, and, initially, I was in lecture mode. He'd say, 'okay, now if you were talking to me as a friend, how would you say it?' It was a lot of trial and error, but it eventually sounded right and seemed to work. It's partly about making direct eye contact with the camera and treating it as if it's a person – you have to imagine someone on the other end of the camera. You're

looking to make a relationship with the audience, not just simply giving them information."

The result was 'Servants: the true story of life below stairs', a history of domestic service from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries, which aired in 2012. The success of this made it easier to pitch for the idea of *Shopgirls*, which took nine weeks of almost full-time work to film three hours' of footage.

Not that filming was without its difficulties, even for someone with a lengthening track record of presenting. "It is tricky – you do feel like a complete fool some of the time, especially in the street. When we were on trains and walking in the street it's public – we were filming on the Harrods escalator when it was being used by their staff, who naturally wanted to know what we were doing. You just have to try and screen out other people when talking to the camera." The shots of her speaking on a bus going down Oxford Street were easier – the bus had been hired privately by the production team and her 10-year-old son went along for the ride.

Her own background gave her insight into the history and lives of her subjects. "My grandmothers were shop girls. They both worked in bakers' shops in south London before they were married. When I was growing up I had the chance to talk to my mum's mum about her working life. She told me about working in the shop, and how hard the life could be, but also how assistants would 'drop' cakes on the floor so they could take them home later for free – it was a little bit of resistance.

"She met her husband there – he was a policeman who used to come in and buy his lunch in the shop, so it's a classic 'shop girl marries customer' a very common occurrence that we found in the wider history."

Professor Cox has also experienced shop life for herself. "I was a grammar school girl in Southend. All my friends worked in the high street and I worked in two stores – Sainsburys and a DIY place – as a Saturday girl and then part-time before I went to university and during the holidays.

"On the one hand, shop work is very varied because it's a public job in a public setting and you never know who is going to appear at the end of your till. You never know what



Photo courtesy of the BBC



kind of questions are going to be asked.

“A lot of interviewees said it was like a front row seat on life, which sounds a bit overblown, but I think that’s kind of right in a way because you do see all sorts of people on the checkout. It was interesting in that way, but it’s also incredibly tedious: you’re sitting on a checkout for eight hours a day.”

Professor Cox’s academic ability saw to it that shop work was only a phase in her career. After a first degree and PhD in Cambridge she got a permanent post at the Chichester Institute of Higher Education, now University College Chichester. She worked there for two years in the History Department before taking a two-year contract at Essex, and then a permanent post in its Sociology Department.

She considers herself to be both a sociologist and a historian. “My work is genuinely interdisciplinary, which hasn’t always been easy. It’s really not straightforward to do interdisciplinary work, particularly with things like the REF, where you still have to be in one camp or another.

“I’ve always done modern history and politics and gender history, there has always been a mix, which is easier at Essex because there are a lot of historians in the sociology department.” Despite the demands of TV, she is still able to continue her academic work, and is now part of a team researching the long-term impact of youth justice sentencing in the 19th and early 20th century.

Although *Shopgirls*, part-funded by the ESRC, is a historical series, she was able to use it to explore classic sociological issues, drawing on the work of writers such as Arlie Hochschild, Danny Miller, Miriam Glucksmann and Jenny Shaw on emotional

**‘Academics have been snooty about shop workers, but that’s my background – I was the first in my family to go to university,’**

labour, women’s work and shopping. Despite the constraints of communicating with a mass audience, she could explain the battle of shop workers to cut their 70-hour week, have the right to use seats so they didn’t have to stand the entire day, earn a minimum wage and get a full hour for lunch.

“The programmes are really rigorously researched, much more intensely than people might think. Just because it’s done in a short time, it doesn’t necessarily mean it’s inferior.”

She was also able to argue with the producers her case for making the series as up to date as possible. “The biggest debate was how to end it. One idea was to finish it with the story of the Angry Brigade bombings of the Biba boutique in 1971, but I was absolutely determined that Thatcher would be in it. She, famously, grew up in a shop, helped her parents behind the scenes and lived by the mantra that customers should have what they wanted.

“We couldn’t end on her because she wasn’t a formal shop girl, so there was a debate about whether we could push it

forward. We decided on going back to the Sainsbury’s store where I worked.” It allowed her to point out that two-thirds of the 2.7 million people working in retail now are women, many concentrated at the lowest paid jobs and still under-represented at the most senior level. “It’s definitely improved, but there is still a glass ceiling, and part-time or zero hours contracts are a real problem.”

Professor Cox and the TV production company have put forward more ideas for programmes. “We’re focusing on groups of people that a lot of historians and a lot of sociologists have ignored. There has not been a broad history of shop workers in Britain, and that poses a challenge, I think, to social scientists too – why not? It wasn’t my field particularly – I don’t work on the history of retail or specialise in the history of women’s work, or I hadn’t up until now. But something like one in five women who were working in the 1960s were working in shops.

“I think they’ve been neglected because they’re drawn from classic lower middle class groups, or petit bourgeois groups and, as such, they’ve not been desperately popular among historians or social scientists. They’re not seen as agents of change, they’re seen as quite passive, small ‘c’ conservatives, looking out for themselves and their families, rejecting any kind of collective response to inequality, that sort of thing. Academics have been quite sniffy about them. There is a kind of exasperation that people have felt about them.

“But that’s my own family background – I was the first in my family to go to university. I come from a long line of working class conservatives. I’m not one, but I get where they’re coming from.” by Tony Trueman

Diana Leonard



**The story of Essex Sociology has been one of considerable success, and not just because it has been ranked top in every research assessment exercise since 1986, writes Ken Plummer.**

From its start in 1964, it has had a strong international graduate community, with over 500 PhDs now awarded, alongside a dynamic research programme linked to teaching.

Founding Professor Peter Townsend's own research focused on poverty, inequality and the development of social policy, and much early work was linked to the study of social class, with David Lockwood, Michael Mann, Duncan Gallie and Dennis Marsden amongst early prominent figures. The scene was set to make social justice a key concern.



#### Photos

Left - Essex staff on an awayday in 1997  
Right - Mary McIntosh

Peter's vision was inspirationally wide. He worked to create a climate that was research-orientated – within its first two years it had funded 13 projects – as well as multi-disciplinary.

The department soon became the home of oral and gender history (with Paul Thompson, Leonore Davidoff, Mike Roper); sociological theory and philosophy (with Alasdair MacIntyre, Ted Benton, Ian Craib, John Scott, Tony Woodiwiss); and critical criminology

(originally with Stan Cohen and now, a major feature of the department, with Nigel South, Eamonn Carrabine et al).

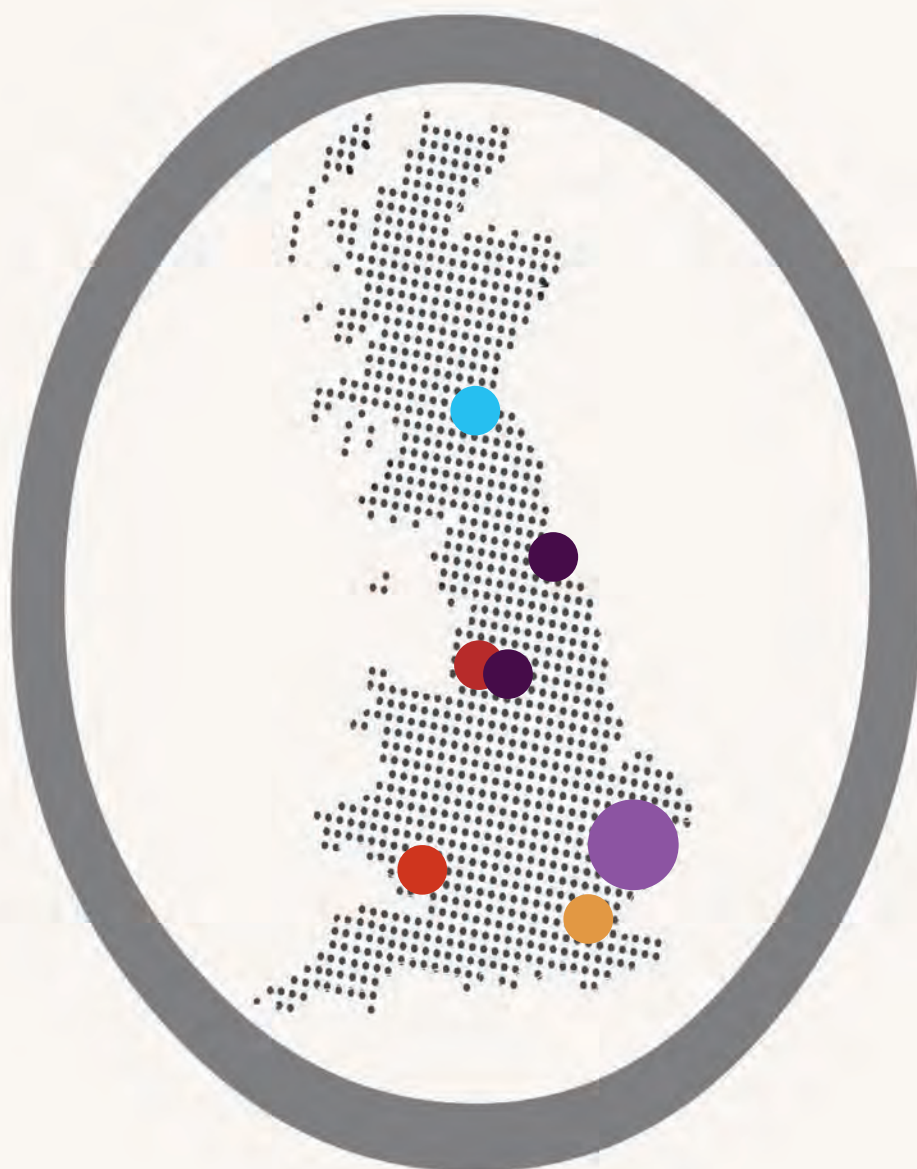
Other notable areas included: gender and feminism (Diana Leonard, Leonore Davidoff, Lydia Morris, Miriam Glucksmann, Joan Busfield and Mary McIntosh); development studies (Harold Wolpe, Maxine Molyneux, Diane Elson, Alison Scott); lesbian and gay studies (Mary McIntosh, Ken Plummer, Tony Coxon, Roisin Ryan



Flood); and anthropology (Judith Okely).

**This year sees seven sociology departments in the UK celebrate their half century. In the next six pages Network takes a look, starting at Essex...**





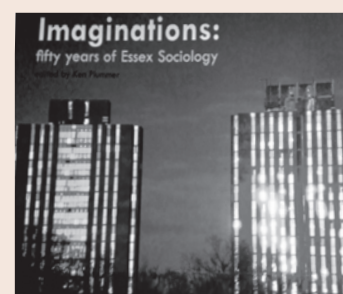
## Essex sociology's 50th anniversary

Essex was probably the first department to run a cultural studies course (in the late 1960s), a feminist course (in the early 1970s), a lesbian and gay studies course (in the mid-1980s) and a sociology of human rights course (in the 1990s).

It has been open to wide ranging theory and critical thinking. At the same time, it has worked to sustain a sense of a core, producing many key textbooks, in the works of John Scott, Ken Plummer,

Ian Craib, Paul Thompson, Rob Stones et al, and also the *Oxford Dictionary of Sociology*, which was initially edited by Gordon Marshall and written by members of the department.

It has also produced a string of vice-chancellors (Howard Newby, Gordon Marshall, Colin Bell, Michael Harloe and others) and a large number of its students and researchers now hold chairs in the UK, including Sylvia Walby, Graham Crow, Liz Kelly, Graham Allen,



To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the department has organised a conference, a staff reunion lunch, regular seminars, an interactive time-line and an alumni web site, [essexsociologyalumni.com](http://essexsociologyalumni.com)

A 200-page illustrated book, *Imaginations: Fifty Years of Essex Sociology*, edited by Professor Ken Plummer, has been published and tells the story of the department through 50 contributions. For more details see: <http://tinyurl.com/mqo56lz>

Despite a changing university climate, the department now looks forward to another productive 50 years.



**Photo:** Professors David Lockwood (left) and Peter Townsend at conference in 1997

Stephen Ball, Fiona Devine, Ruth Lister, Nigel Parton, Alan Walker, Karen O'Reilly, Harry Collins and many more.

It has been global too, with hundreds of international graduates now based in Australia, South Africa, Iran, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Japan and many other countries around the world.

See panel above for details of a book on Essex sociology



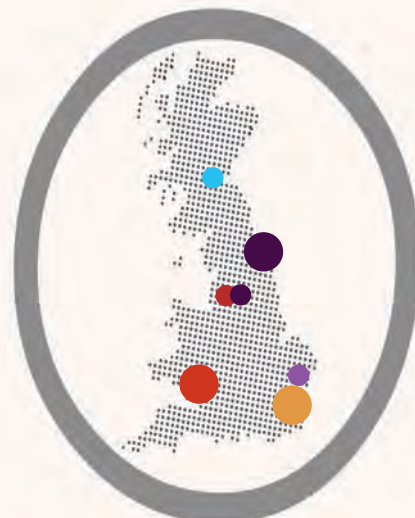
Over the past 50 years sociology at **Durham** has expanded into other related fields and now covers a range of applied social sciences – criminology, sport, social work, community and youth work. However, sociology was its starting point and remains key within the department.

With sociologist Linda McKie taking over as Head of the School of Applied Social Sciences this summer, and a new research methods research group launching later in the year, sociology at Durham is a thriving discipline which is strengthened by, and at the same time strengthens, its neighbouring disciplines within the school.

Colleagues from the early days included figures key to BSA history. The founding professor was John Rex (pictured right), and he was succeeded by Philip Abrams, who was appointed to a Chair in Sociology in 1971, where he remained for 10 years until his death.

Abrams and others engaged as sociologists with key organisations such as the Home Office, the Department of Health and Social Security, and the Benwell Community Development project in Newcastle.

Abrams was elected to the BSA Executive Committee soon after becoming Chair. He was appointed Editor of *Sociology* in 1976.



**Photos:**

Bottom left, Linda McKie

Left, John Rex

Below, Stan Cohen

research specialisms centred on social justice and community action, violence and abuse, and sex, gender and sexualities.

Looking forward to the next stage, we hope to launch a new Centre for Methodological Research in the Social Sciences soon, led by Tiago Moreira and David Byrne (who first joined Durham University in 1970).

With a thriving postgraduate population who are integrated into the core work of the school, we are using this year to take stock and reflect on the previous 50 years while also being excited about the next 50 years of sociologically informed research at Durham.

— by Professor Nicole Westmarland

Following his death at the age of 48 in 1981, the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize was established in his memory. In 1989 the prize went on to be won by a Durham University member of staff – Dick Hobbs.

This prize was an example of the work of a wider body of staff and students interested in the sociology of deviance, which included Stan Cohen, Robin Williams and John Tierney, as well as a strong cohort of postgraduate researchers.

The editorship of *Sociology* has twice been held at Durham – more recently by David Byrne and Steph Lawler between 2003-2006.

Today, Durham University's School of Applied Social Sciences cuts across disciplinary boundaries, with its







**Photos (@Goldsmiths and Cardiff):**

Above - the cake at this year's Goldsmiths anniversary celebrations; students at a hall of residence in Cardiff in the 1970s  
Right - students at Goldsmiths

## 50 years ago at Goldsmiths

36 students started a part-time BSc course in sociology run by a new department which had emerged from the Department of Adult Studies. Sociology was headed by Robert Pinker.

A student from the 1980s, Heidi Mirza, remembers "a rabbit warren of a building over in Lewisham way – it was an old tumbledown Georgian house. I remember rickety stairs and creaking rooms and all the postgraduate students were in a damp basement downstairs and there was a rat that used to run along the floor! There were so few opportunities for young single mums in those days and yet Goldsmiths took a chance on me with a PhD scholarship in 1982."

The beginnings may have been modest, but during its history the department has included notable sociologists such as Caroline Ramazanoglu, Paul Filmer, Paul Gilroy, Michael Keith, Nikolas Rose, Chris Jenks, Andrew Barry, Celia Lury, Lisa Adkins, Chetan Bhatt (below),



Emma Uprichard (below) and others. The department has grown substantially since and now has 45 academic staff and many research assistants, visiting professors and administrative staff.

It held a celebration earlier this year which brought together past and current students and staff. In a message to the department, its Head, David Oswell, wrote: "We continue to develop our strengths in urban, visual and digital sociology, but also we are investing in human rights and social justice."

Reflecting on the early days, Professor Nikolas Rose wrote: "We took an explicit decision to make Goldsmiths work on the edges at the intersections of other currents in social theory, in the intersections between sociology and feminist theory, cultural studies, aesthetics and, a bit later on, the intersections between sociology and the life sciences.

"I would like to think that the sort of Goldsmiths brand of sociology had made a certain kind of rigorous, conceptually informed, qualitative method influential in British sociology.

"There are many cohorts of students who have been trained up and are now making their mark in British sociology."

— compiled from various online sources

1964 saw the establishment of the first Chair in Sociology at **Cardiff**, and the formal inauguration of the Department of Sociology, which at that time included social administration and social work. By 1970-71 a separate Department of Social Administration and a School of Social Work were created, and Sociology became for the first time a specialised department.

In 1974, the headship of the department passed to Martin Albrow, who had joined the staff in 1967 as senior lecturer. This was quickly followed by the establishment of a research unit under the direction of Tony Coxon (pictured below). Research officer posts were created, alongside further lectureships, to meet the growing demands of teaching sociology to medical and education students.

An expansion of the range of courses followed, with the development of a new generation of research projects and a programme of taught postgraduate courses. This included one of the first Masters in social research methods and a women's studies programme.

In the 1980s sociology joined social policy, social work and, in time, criminology in a new School of Social and Administrative Studies. Paul Atkinson and, later, Sara Delamont became heads of this. It merged with education in 1999 to become the Cardiff School of Social Sciences. Under the leadership of sociologist Huw Beynon this went on to become a major centre for sociological research and teaching.

Encompassing sociology, social policy, education, criminology and social work, the school now has more than 1,000 students and more than 200 staff. Malcolm Williams was appointed Head of School in 2010, and Amanda Coffey, a former editor of *Sociology* and *Sociological Research Online*, took over as Head in 2014.



*Taken from Mike Gayle's address to the anniversary celebrations at Salford:*

**In the second year of my sociology degree at Salford I came across some graffiti in one of the stalls in the men's toilets in Crescent House.**

On the wall above the loo roll holder some wag had scrawled the following in biro: "Sociology degrees: please take one." Three years of hard work equated to little more than a square of shiny loo paper.

But if I'm honest the criticism of sociology didn't stop there. There were plenty more pithy comments to come from the IT bods, geographers and chemists that I lived with. On occasion I'd get, 'oh, so you're studying sociology, I'd better be careful what I'm saying, otherwise you'll start analysing me.'

To which I'd have no choice but to roll my eyes and say, 'No, that's psychology.' It's clear to me now that so much of the criticism levelled at sociology came down to the simple fact that so few people really understood what it was.

To be honest I'm not really sure that I fully understood what it was all about, even up to the time I arrived at Salford in the October of 1989. Three years, several hundred lecture hours and a 10,000-word dissertation later, I was in no doubt at all that somehow, without quite knowing it, I had stumbled on a subject that challenged, engaged and entertained me more than I'd ever thought possible.

If sociology gave me anything at all it was a way of making visible, as if by magic, all of the seemingly invisible structures and mechanisms that surround us in everyday life, a skill which, as an author of some 13 novels now, I use on an almost daily basis.

There were so many highlights of my time at Salford studying sociology that it's difficult to narrow it down to any one in particular. I think my favourite was actually the one I started with: that moment sat on the loo reading anti-sociology graffiti. This serves to remind me what the subject I studied taught me best: that, as with the great British tabloid press, you can't believe everything you read while passing time sitting on the loo.

— *Mike Gayle is a bestselling author and a freelance journalist*



Photos above, courtesy of University of Salford Library

Top - a seminar with four students, 1971

Above left - Social Sciences and Humanities library, 1969

Above right - computer training, 1970s

For more photos see: [www.library.salford.ac.uk/resources/special/photographs.xml](http://www.library.salford.ac.uk/resources/special/photographs.xml)

**Edinburgh has a long tradition** of sociological enquiry, going back to Adam Ferguson in the 18th century and the Edinburgh School of Sociology, formed in the late 1890s by Patrick Geddes.

Tom Burns, who founded the current Sociology Department, emphasised the importance of teaching students not just about society but about the methodologies and skills required to study it, a legacy that has contributed to an international standing in teaching and research.

Early highlights of the department's history were the arrival of Charles Jones in 1971, who did path-breaking research with Tony Coxon, a highly sophisticated empirical sociologist – together they gave Edinburgh an unusual edge in quantitative expertise.

The study of culture and social theory were also strengths of Edinburgh sociology, with John Orr's pioneering



work on the sociology of film and art, and John Holmwood's work on social theory and social stratification. Donald MacKenzie's work on financial sociology is world-renowned (he is pictured above).

Edinburgh was one of the first sociology departments to require a compulsory research project in the summer term of the junior honours year and the subsequent vacation. From early on in its history the department sought feedback from its students on the courses.

A series of celebratory events has been organised by the department this year.

— *Compiled from Edinburgh's website*





• *The Manchester 50th anniversary celebration blog can be seen at: <http://blogging.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/mcrsociology/>*

**We are celebrating 50 years of Sociology at the University of Manchester**, marking the appointment of the first Professor of Sociology, Peter Worsley, in 1964, *writes Dr Wendy Bottero.*

There were already sociologists at Manchester as part of the Department of Anthropology (reflecting Max Gluckman's interest in promoting 'anthropology at home'), but with Peter Worsley's arrival Manchester sociology became a force in its own right.

Though the early department was small – just eight sociologists compared to nearly 50 now – it made a big impact, with pioneering work in areas including development sociology, ethnomethodology, social network analysis and family practices.

We're proud of the contribution that Manchester has made to sociology within universities and in the wider world since 1964. The timeline of staff who have worked here (which can be



found at <http://tinyurl.com/obnr38q>) shows the amazing geographical and career mobility of sociologists and, at the risk of sounding immodest, looks like a roll call of British sociology.

The list includes the great Wes Sharrock who arrived as a graduate student in 1965 and who is still working here, some 49 years later! *For an interview with Wes Sharrock, carried out David Calvey of Manchester Metropolitan University, see: <http://ctss-mmu.co.uk/?p=1019>*

Some of the research we do in 2014 would be almost unimaginable to the class of '64, as sociology has addressed new challenges for our society and used new technologies and techniques for understanding them.

**Photos of departmental members, past and present:**

Left - Peter Worsley  
Above - David Morgan, BSA President in 1998  
Above right - Alan Warde  
Right - Fiona Devine

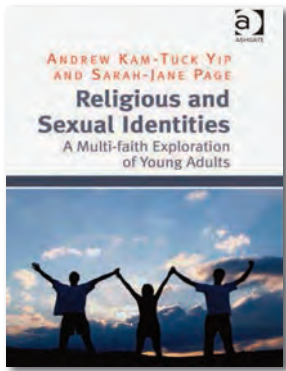
Such projects might be our work on families who use sperm or egg donors to have children, or on improving the environmental sustainability of everyday consumption practices, or research that uses huge datasets and very 21st century technology to understand what factors affect our lives as we age.

But other research, such as our work on undocumented migrants, social network analysis and surveys about class inequalities, would perhaps look pretty familiar to Manchester sociologists in 1964.

This is because the general aim of Manchester sociologists – to understand how social life works and to provide a critical perspective on how and why we might change our social worlds – remains the same.

To look at some of the people, ideas and books that have made Manchester sociology over the past 50 years you can follow our ongoing '50 great ideas from Sociology at Manchester' blog. *See above*





## Religious and Sexual Identities

Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip and Sarah-Jane Page

Ashgate

2013

219 pages

£45 hbk

ISBN: 9781409426370

Yip and Page provide an empirical account of the relationship between religion and sexuality, filtered through the everyday experiences of religious young people and the complex challenges that they face throughout their transition into adulthood in an uncertain world.

The book is divided into seven chapters in which five conceptual themes are explored: faith matters, understanding sexuality, embodying sexuality, stirring passions, and positioning oneself in the world. The first chapter introduces religion, youth and sexuality and the last chapter concludes with an account of young adults' religious faith and sexuality.

The book is based on a research project entitled 'Religion, youth and sexuality: a multi-faith exploration' conducted at Nottingham University with religious people aged 18-25 living in the UK.

It includes experiences of young people with diverse sexual identities and six religious traditions and mixed-faith backgrounds, in an attempt to readdress the empirical and academic gap in research that has tended to adopt a narrow account of sexuality, religion, and youth. The underlying message which runs throughout the book is the need to challenge "well-worn assumptions about religion" that are mapped against a backdrop of a dominant discourse of faith as "sex-negative and sex-repressive" (p2).

Although the title implies that the book aims to explore "religious and sexual identities" of young adults, the authors primarily explore values underpinning the

complexities of religious, sexual, youth and gender identities by focusing on a "lived and everyday religion" (p4). Little reference is made to the fluid boundaries that young people contend with in their spiritual and sexual experiences or the wider social issues, risks, and experiences that face young people today, such as domestic violence and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, teenage parenting, modern slavery, and transgender identities and relationships.

Throughout their evaluation of lived and everyday religion and young adults' sexual identities, the authors put forward an outdated view of religion with little or no recognition of the growing academic interest around the philosophy of religions. To fully appreciate the everyday experiences of young adults and the relationship between religion and their sexuality it would have been beneficial to consider the historical and changing tide of religions mapped against an increasingly visible sexualised culture. Equally so, by problematising the challenges that some young people experience when negotiating and transcending the boundaries of their sexual identity within their faith, the authors overlook the growing and vibrant role that religions and spirituality have in today's multi-cultural society and the way in which some young people are redefining the boundaries of their faith.

Overall, the authors of this book provide a wide breadth of information in their bid to "generate a more comprehensive picture of the intersection of religion and sexuality in the everyday lives of young adults" (p169).



But in doing so, they barely begin to answer some of the more intricate and complex challenges that some religious young adults negotiate and manage; instead, providing a fashionable exploration of the everyday.

Methodologically, it is quite a task to bring social science and faith together within one discourse. Regrettably, however, this book presents only a brief account of the research and its process. It would have been fascinating to have learned of some of the epistemological challenges the authors encountered when conducting this study.

Even so, this is an interesting book. There is value here, particularly for academics currently working and studying within the fields of gender and youth studies. Due to the user-friendly approach adopted by the authors and their clarity in explaining the topic, this book may also appeal to a wide-ranging audience.

■ **Dr Danna-Mechelle Lewis**

Research Fellow at the Home Office, London

## Pills for the Poorest

Emilie Cloatre

Palgrave

2013

224 pages

£60 hbk

ISBN: 9780230282841

In recent years British sociologists have come to attend ever more closely to drugs: to their production, dissemination and consumption in the UK and beyond. Terms such as 'pharmaceuticalisation' now circulate, and speak to the increasing tendency observable in a variety of settings to frame issues associated with health, wellbeing and enhancement as matters that are amenable to pharmaceutical intervention.

Sociologists are not alone in their interest in practices of drug-taking, with the analytic attention of anthropologists and historians to these being especially noteworthy. Lawyers, too, have been concerned with

pharmaceuticals; they have considered in particular the regulation of drug markets and intellectual property law. It is these that form the most apparent focus of *Pills for the Poorest*, although its purview also exceeds these specific relations of governance.

Cloatre, a lawyer by primary training, interweaves approaches from socio-legal studies and science and technology studies to put forward a compelling account of the ways in which pharmaceutical patents shape the distribution of drugs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Far from the sometimes dry 'black letter' legal scholarship that is perhaps most often associated with intellectual property law,



# Reviews of recent books in social science and sociology

# ends

John Urry's new book has a powerful one-word title and no subtitle: "Offshoring". In less than 200 pages and 10 chapters, the sociologist explores the rise and consequences of offshoring with the aim of revealing the "world of offshored power" (p3). Offshoring as a concept originally stems from the practice of relocating a business activity outside of national borders. It remains a slightly imprecise geographic term, since the relocation does not necessarily involve crossing an ocean and arriving at another shore. Urry not only uses the concept to denote the offshoring of work and taxation, two processes commonly denoted as offshoring, but he adds leisure, energy, waste and security, to which he devotes a chapter each.

Broadening the concept of offshoring to include various processes that occur within our increasingly globalised world is ambitious, as is the scope of this book. The discussed cases cover lands and seas across the globe and range from export manufacturing zones across the

Cloatre grounds her analysis in fieldwork in the countries of Djibouti and Ghana, alongside rigorous inspection of relevant documents.

The social life of Trips is her primary concern. This, the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, administered by the World Trade Organization, seeks to define how national intellectual property laws should play out.

As Cloatre shows, international regulation and governance does not translate unproblematically into the legal praxis of individual nations, and its effects depend on pre-existing regulatory frameworks and pharmaceutical flows.

developing world, call centre agents in India, tax havens such as Switzerland and the British Virgin Islands, gambling tourism in Macao, offshore worlds in Dubai, the tax-exempt Olympic Games sport camp in London, oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico, electronic waste recycling in Guiyu, drones remotely operated from Lincolnshire, offshored torture in Guantanamo Bay, and floating islands of plastic garbage in the Pacific, to name a few. "Offshore, we might say, is everywhere" (p71).

A key argument of the book is the relationship between offshoring, secrecy, and law avoidance. Legal and illegal ways are used to avoid regulations, creating secretive and dangerous processes whose implications are not felt, and often not seen, by those who decide and benefit from their existence. "Offshoring provides a different theory of the workings of the contemporary world to that of 'globalisation'. It is an account that emphasises avoidance, rule-breaking, irresponsibility, and secrets as the 'rich class' remade the world in its interests." (p14)

In the concluding chapter, Urry points to possible solutions to the problem of offshoring discussed in the book. In short, re-shoring activities and living more localised instead of globalised lives is advocated to re-establish democratic

Perhaps more importantly, a will to regulate and a material capacity to do so are essential, and without these the specificities of Trips can be reworked to fit local needs – or even be elided altogether.

The empirical material presented in *Pills for the Poorest* certainly demands attention beyond that of lawyers alone – there is much here that will be of interest to medical sociologists, STS scholars, and specialists in regulatory studies. Beyond the important case studies, however, is the innovative conceptual rationale outlined and enacted through Cloatre's work.

Her articulation of actor-network theory and more traditional legal approaches

control, as "offshoring and democracy are in direct conflict" (p178).

However, one country's offshore is another country's onshore and the experiences of places where offshored activities are currently carried out are important to be considered. For example, rising middle classes (and potentially increased political engagement of these) in the global South as a result of offshoring could be part of a debate about offshoring and democracy. The question of how to 'bring home' these offshored processes as discussed in the last chapter then becomes a more complex normative argument instead of a technical issue on how to reverse the processes of offshoring and create more protectionist national economies.

Overall, this is a well-written and timely book, warning readers about many hidden features of the 'dark side' of contemporary globalisation in a succinct manner, and tracing how offshoring has facilitated the rise of the 'rich class', in line with Saskia Sassen's recent *Expulsions* and Thomas Piketty's discussion of tax havens and the rise of global inequality in *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*.

■ **Jana M. Kleibert**  
Amsterdam Institute for Social  
Science Research,  
University of Amsterdam

enable her to make powerful claims about the ways in which the law informs understandings and experiences of materiality, such as how patents participate in the constitution of pharmaceutical identifies, even within regulatory regimes where they do not formally apply. In so doing, *Pills for the Poorest* speaks to a range of sociologists and is highly recommended to them.

■ **Dr Martyn Pickersgill**  
Senior Research Fellow in Biomedical  
Ethics, University of Edinburgh

## Offshoring

John Urry  
Polity Press  
2014  
200 pages  
£15 pbk, £50 hbk  
ISBN: 9780745664859 hbk



## Professor Tim Strangleman

**Tim Strangleman is Professor in Sociology and Director of Employability and Enterprise at the University of Kent's School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. His research includes the sociology of work, deindustrialisation, visual approaches, photography and working class studies. He is a Co-convenor of the Work, Employment and Economic Life study group**



**What made you choose your first book, *The Making of the English Working Class* by E. P. Thompson?**

This book was one of the earliest I read as part of my access course at Ruskin College Oxford; I think it was even on the pre-reading we were given before I ever got there. I must have read it cover to cover three or more times, including for a book review task when I applied to study at Essex University because they didn't really know what a Ruskin Diploma meant. The book keeps coming back to me in various things I've done – working class studies for example, and most recently, the theme of deindustrialisation which, of course, is what the book is in part about.

I guess the Preface is about as good a description of my position on class as I can find, as it really gets to the heart of what many of us are trying to do when we think about the experience of class.

Thompson's writing is also a joy. It is erudite and articulate always, but he also inspires you to think with the idea of culture in a wonderfully humanistic way. I love all of Thompson's writing, especially his polemic, which is often used against his fellow academics – sociologists and economic historians especially. It can be rude but it highlights their lack of human engagement with the subject of their study.

In one of his later essays he uses the analogy of seeing class as an engine room and talks about the way class is "... not this or that part of the machine, but the way the machine works once it is set in motion – not this or that interest, but the friction of interests – the movement itself, the heat, the thundering noise..." I think that is why I've always enjoyed good ethnography, as it is the chance to capture those things.

**Your second book is *The Hidden Injuries of Class*, by Richard Sennett and Jonathan Cobb – what made you select this?**

I remember reading this at Durham as an undergraduate and thinking what a wonderful account of the experience of class it was. It always intrigued me that two American academics could provide an analysis of class that mapped on so closely to my own, 3,000-odd miles across the Atlantic. It is ages since I last read it but the very simple ideas that animate the book have stayed with me. Over the years I have come to know a lot more about America and its class system, and the similarities in working class experience are really quite profound.

*The Hidden Injuries of Class* is another example of a book that keeps giving in different ways throughout a career. I also use the flipside of the title in trying to think about the hidden rewards of class, which are many and varied but tend to be neglected or ignored.

This is especially true recently, where, for many, being working class is something to be escaped, rejected, pitied or pathologised.

Sennett and Cobb really get the experience of class interaction and the profound ways in which that process can scar working class people in their interaction with middle class authority. The study in some ways is both dated and timeless.

The trajectories of some of the characters described would be very different now, while the experience remains true. Like Thompson, Sennett and Cobb are interested not in classification but rather how class works and how it is felt.



**What led you to your next choice, *Theatres of Memory* by Raphael Samuel.**

Raphael, or Raff as everyone knew him, was one of my tutors at Ruskin. He was a wonderful and inspiring teacher, although not to everyone's taste. He would arrive at seminars with a huge railway guard's bag which he would then proceed to unpack in front of us voluminous quantities of paper – either notes or his latest manuscript. He would then give a wonderful talk on whatever was occupying his mind at that moment, while struggling to brush over the long strand of hair, Bobby Charlton-style.

I know some of my fellow students saw this as completely unstructured (the talk not his hairstyle, that is). They wanted the 'facts' whereas I appreciated that he was inviting us all to think like, indeed become, social historians, in a very democratic manner.

I often think of Raphael and reflect on what he would make of the university of today and things like QA requirements – sadly I don't think he would be allowed to teach, which says something, I'm sure. *Theatres of Memory* is a beautiful baggy book – there is an idea of a PhD proposal in virtually every footnote. It ranges across its subject matter, coming back to the same point from a different angle. I later realised the parallels with the Mass Observation movement and especially the surrealism of Humphrey Jennings.

I know some people don't like the style at all and I do think it helps if you knew Raphael. Whenever I read it his voice and its rich timbre is always in my head. What I love about *Theatres of Memory* is the way it treats





the reader as engaged in a journey of discovery – we are free to think of this material as subject to many readings. I guess I think of myself first and foremost as a social historian but *Theatres of Memory* spans politics, sociology and cultural studies.

**Your fourth book is *Yearning for Yesterday* by Fred Davis – what made you select this?**

I got interested in nostalgia after being attacked at one of the first academic conferences I presented at. The person accused me of being nostalgic in my representation of working class occupational culture – I think on the basis that I found something of value there! It got me to thinking that I needed to know more about nostalgia and its relationship to memory and history.

The result has been one of the main themes in my research and writing, and it still stimulates a lot of what I do. Fred Davis wrote *Yearning for Yesterday* in the late 1970s and the book is a lovely example of someone trying to think through an issue sociologically, creating ideal types and then using these in an applied way. The only thing

that really dates the book are the examples he uses. So he draws on material from the 1920s and 1930s to illustrate cultural meaning of older people in the 1970s. His typologies of simple, reflective and critical nostalgia are incredibly thought-provoking. I am always amazed that the book is out of print and relatively unknown. I suppose I like it because it is a fine example of the historical sociological imagination. *Yearning for Yesterday* provides a basis for further discussion and thinking about nostalgia, a topic which has expanded in importance for sociology and society more generally since it was written.

**Your last choice is *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* by Robert Caro – what led you to this?**

My final choice is the only non-academic book in my list, although it is arguably more scholarly in terms of its research than the others. I began reading this four-volume series in 2012, when the latest book *The Passage to Power*, was published. This book deals with the period from the late 1950s until just after the Kennedy assassination in Dallas and Lyndon Johnson's ascendency to the presidency in November 1963.

Why have I chosen this? Well where to start? Robert Caro is a phenomenon – he has been writing this series since 1976, with the volumes coming out every eight or so years. In the process of his research he has been through hundreds of thousands of the 44 million documents held in the Johnson Presidential Library in Texas and interviewed thousands of people who had some kind of connection with LBJ or who had bearing on his life and career.

What emerges is the amazing complexity of a profoundly flawed, ruthless politician. Reading the books you really run through so many emotions as Caro unpeels another layer of his story. I love the books because they are so heavyweight (literally and metaphorically) while at the same time they read like the best page-turner novel you can imagine.

Caro always says that he is not writing a biography, rather he makes the point that Lord Acton's famous dictum that 'power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely' can be extended so that we can

also see the way power reveals.

What animates Caro is his desire to understand how people obtain power and then use it. In LBJ's case we can see he was ruthless, petty and nasty but also used the power of the presidency to enact civil rights legislation and create the Great Society. So for the subject matter alone it is worth devoting the time to reading these books. However, I think the series is also a chastening and inspiring example of the academic research process and the value of time and commitment.

While no academic (Caro is an investigative journalist by trade) could be allowed to devote four decades to their quarry, the lesson I take from his writing is that we need to take more time and care in our own role as academics. I don't do a lot of new media, and while I can see its value sometimes I worry that time for contemplation and thinking is getting lost in a headlong rush to tweet.

**What would you like to take as your luxury?**

For my luxury my choice is going to sound bizarre. I would like the Westinghouse N Style lever frame from Aldgate signal cabin which was demolished in 1987 to make way for an office block in London above the station in the East End. Aldgate was the first cabin I was sent to as an apprentice on the London Underground in 1983 after leaving school. I have great memories of working there and I am still friends with the people I met. Aldgate was a great place to work, as the box controlled three fast moving junctions on the intersections between the Metropolitan, District, Circle and Hammersmith and City lines. The service was so intense and pressured in the rush hour the box had four staff on duty. The sounds, smells and frenetic action were unforgettable – I have never been interested in computer games because working the signal frame at Aldgate was like three dimensional chess on speed.

Working on the railway, albeit for just over five years, made me political, but also aware of the social – how it was created, sustained, transformed and, at times, destroyed. I think working in a place like Aldgate made me a sociologist before I had heard of the phrase.

## Professor Strangleman's choices:

1. *The Making of the English Working Class* by E P Thompson (1963) Victor Gollancz Ltd
2. *The Hidden Injuries of Class* by Richard Sennett and Jonathan Cobb (1972) Cambridge University Press
3. *Theatres of Memory* by Raphael Samuel (1994) Verso
4. *Yearning for Yesterday* by Fred Davis (1979) Free Press
5. *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* by Robert Caro (four volumes: 1982-2012) Knopf

# Give President your view

**The BSA's new President, Professor Lynn Jamieson, writes about her role and asks members to get in touch with their opinions and ideas**

As the BSA President, I have the pleasure of helping the association display the worth of British sociology nationally and in the world, albeit within the means and capacity at my disposal. You are part of the means and capacity and I would be pleased to hear from you.

My job description is the result of a major revamp in 2009, on the advice of the then outgoing president, Sue Scott. The role plays a part in the outward-facing elements of the BSA mission: influencing policies affecting sociology within the wider social sciences (through the External Affairs Committee and elsewhere); promoting the identity of the discipline and its practitioners and scholars; and maintaining and encouraging links with sociologists throughout the world.

Some quite specific activities are itemised as must-do jobs, like attending some Trustee and wider advisory meetings, helping to judge the Philip Abrams prize, giving an address at one conference, and attending international conferences and events. Some items depend on need, such as setting up working groups in agreement with the Trustees to address issues affecting the association. Then there are injunctions with room for interpretation – ‘helping the association to focus on external perception and reputation in the interests of the greater good’ and to ‘focus on the impact of its work to beneficiaries and to the outside world in the longer term’.

John Brewer, President 2009-12, was proactive in public engagement through an unprecedented number of high profile events. Since 2010, presidential sessions have taken place at annual conferences and involve prestigious figures and hot topics. A series of day conferences was initiated in the British Library, showcasing sociology's contribution to big social issues



– climate change, migration, suffering and humanitarianism.

The next President, 2012-14, my immediate predecessor, John Holmwood, added financialisation and the challenge of big data to this series. Both Johns organised sessions celebrating and

**‘Clearly the BSA must continue to speak up in defence of public universities and teaching sociology as a discipline,**

honouring exceptional careers, including a 60-years-of-sociology celebration with Jeffrey Weeks, and events featuring the work of Ray Pahl, Jennifer Platt, Stuart Hall and Sara Delamont among others, as well as presidential sessions on specific topics.

John Holmwood has played a leading role in the Campaign for the Public University since its inception in 2010 – when tuition fees increases were still just a threat – and has carried on with this work as an active spokesperson as BSA President.

Clearly the BSA must continue to speak up in defence of public universities and teaching sociology as a discipline to

undergraduates and postgraduates. John Holmwood and Sue Scott also make an exceptional contribution to public sociology through establishing and editing Discover Society: [www.discoversociety.org](http://www.discoversociety.org)

While the previous presidents have done this brilliantly, I want to take a consultative approach and invite you to feed into the incipient plan of action. There will be at least one event in the British Library per year. An evening is booked – Monday 12 October 2015 – and the topic is not yet set.

The Trustees have also suggested a presidential session on ‘The future of democracy in the UK’ at the April 2015 annual conference – the focus of this will go beyond institutions of party and government.

The themes that were the focus of previous presidents remain highly salient for events and can be made accessible to a wide range of audiences. Inequality, injustice, migration, immigration and social disruption remain hot topics, albeit sociological reflections on war remain sparse. The catastrophe of climate change is slowly being taken up as a sociological topic, along with issues of sustainability, environmental justice, loss of bio-diversity and human-animal relationships.

Do you have contacts with sociologies beyond the global north we should hear more of? What is exciting you? How could we do more to publicise what we already do, including the substance of research by earlier career sociologists, not just those with established name recognition? Are you already presenting sociology at events with audiences whose natural habitat is not the British Library? How can we draw on and celebrate inspiring teachers of sociology?

Please get in touch, but do put ‘help with president action’ in the heading of any email communication on this topic to me at: [l.jamieson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:l.jamieson@ed.ac.uk)

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Professor Jane Elliott has begun as Chief Executive of the ESRC. Before joining the ESRC she was Professor of Social Research and Head of the Department of Quantitative Social Science at the Institute of Education, University of London, and Director of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Professor Elliott's main research interests include gender and employment and healthy ageing, and her work combines qualitative and quantitative research and narrative.



# Cuts can't stop our work

**Theoni Stathopoulou (right) and Aliki Mouriki say that sociology in Greece continues despite drastic cuts imposed on its funding**

The economic crisis in Greece has brought drastic cuts to higher education budgets and a fundamental restructuring of the public sector. University teachers have seen cuts in salaries of around a third, departments have merged, and many staff have taken early retirement.

These changes have inevitably affected social science research and teaching, including the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE). The centre, based in Athens, was established in 1959 under the auspices of Unesco, and is the only public research institution in the area of social science.

Owing to the fiscal consolidation programmes, the Education Ministry attempted to close the centre, and it was only through a tight vote in the Greek Parliament that this was prevented in 2012. The wages of researchers were cut by 35 per cent and the centre's three institutes – urban and rural sociology, political sociology, and social policy – had to be merged into one, the Institute of Social Research. Because some took early retirement and because of the introduction of a ban on recruiting, the centre now has only 41 researchers and 24 administrative and technical staff, as compared with 50 and 37 respectively in 2009.

The research staff working at the centre are highly qualified and have a wide range of expertise, including sociology, demography, economics, political science, psychology, history and criminology.

Despite the cuts, EKKE, headed by Professor Nicolas Demertzis, is still considered the leading institution in the field of applied social science and empirical research on social and political issues. It provides support to the state by designing and evaluating public policies at the national, regional and local level, and by providing expertise on a range of social policy issues.

It is an acknowledged authority on social exclusion studies, political culture surveys,



and social geography. Over the last decade it has conducted a series of research surveys on immigration to examine its impact on Greek society.

The centre has maintained its leading position in the Greek research area with respect to the archiving, documentation and dissemination of social science data. EKKE has also been very successful in the development of social science research

**‘University staff salaries have been cut by a third and many have taken early retirement, with departments being merged,**

infrastructures. It has longstanding experience in conducting large-scale social surveys and projects, and is the national coordinator for the European Social Survey in Greece. Its recent proposal for including the survey in the Greek national strategic roadmap was approved.

EKKE's recent research activity focuses on poverty and social exclusion, the social impact of the crisis and the austerity programmes, the inclusion of migrants in Greek society, discrimination issues, and gender and social inequalities. The titles of recent projects give an idea of the scope of the centre's work: ‘The European social survey’; ‘The program for the international

assessment of adult competencies’; ‘Dynamic management of social data and mapping representations’; ‘Socio-economic class, status and consumption’; ‘Social inequalities, poverty and social exclusion’; ‘Athens and immigration; social transformation’; ‘Trends in urban space’; ‘Governing urban diversity – creating social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance in today's hyper-diversified cities’; and ‘Establishment of an observatory on combating discrimination’.

The Centre is also taking part in international and European networks and is working closely with Greek universities in research and graduate and postgraduate training. It houses a comprehensive social sciences library with more than 35,000 titles, and provides online access to over 15,000 journals. It publishes the *Greek Review of Social Research*, the oldest social sciences journal in the country, giving free access to the articles' full content.

EKKE also offers undergraduate and postgraduate study programs with universities and technical universities at a national level. The staff supervise undergraduate and graduate interns, as well as PhD candidates, at a national and international level.

A strategic goal for the centre is to continue investing in the research areas in which it has established its reputation and expertise. Its research priorities reflect its long-standing research traditions and areas of excellence: political culture, political elites and personnel; migration issues; aspects of social transformation and change; social inequalities and social cohesion; and spatial segregation in urban areas. The centre will rely on EU Horizon 2020 funding to provide an in-depth analysis of the situation in south eastern Europe, tackling issues such as the European social model, the political challenges for Europe, social cohesion and the inclusive society.

The continuing work of EKKE is a sign that although the economic situation has brought cuts and mergers, significant sociological research is still being carried out in Greece, including work on the causes of the recent economic crisis and its effects on Greece and the rest of Europe.

**Dr Theoni Stathopoulou**  
Research Director  
National Centre for Social Research

**Aliki Mouriki**  
Senior Research Fellow  
National Centre for Social Research

# Examining veganism

**Dr Kay Peggs is examining the provision for vegans at BSA conferences and other events. Here she tells Network about recent research on veganism and about a new project she is leading**

The results of research carried out by a team at the University of Southern California report that eating non-human animal-based products such as meat and dairy might be as unhealthy as smoking.

The researchers tracked a large sample of adults for nearly 20 years, finding that “plant-derived proteins are associated with lower mortality than animal-derived protein”. They conclude that eating a diet rich in animal proteins during midlife increases the likelihood of dying from cancer four-fold, “a mortality risk factor comparable to smoking”.

The news media in the UK and beyond seemed astounded, particularly by the link with smoking. The research was discussed and disputed by a range of experts. For example, *The Guardian* reports that Heather Ohly at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health in Exeter said: “Smoking has been proven to be entirely bad for us, whereas meat and cheese can be consumed in moderation as part of a healthy diet, contributing to recommended intakes of many important nutrients.”

Expert after expert claimed that what people need to do in order to be healthy is engage in a ‘balanced diet’ that includes some animal-based products. Rarely did we hear the voices of vegans, who know well the health benefits of plant-based diets. Indeed, rarely do we hear the voices of vegans on veganism in the news media. When it is reported that a vegan diet is to be discussed, sometimes we do not hear about veganism at all.

For example, the vegan diet has been flaunted as a component of a healthy human diet. Mark Bittman’s book *VB6: Eat Vegan Before 6:00 to Lose Weight and Restore*



*Your Health ... for Good* is an obvious case. Bittman’s book is based on the results of his experience of following a partially vegan diet – i.e. vegan up until dinner.

He reports that his cholesterol was reduced and his weight came down, both outcomes that were essential to his health, according to his doctor.

**‘Veganism has an ethical dimension that extends beyond diet to preclude the human use of any animal-based products,’**

Reviews of Bittman’s book refer to his flexitarian and ‘ethical’ way of eating for human health benefits. But can his partial vegan diet be claimed to be ethical? Are the human health-based benefits of a vegan diet reported in the Southern California study really the central point?

These questions strike at the centre of research that we are doing at the University of Portsmouth. In our project ‘Veganism: ethics and lifestyle’ we are exploring reasons why people become, and remain, vegan.

Our project investigates perspectives on veganism in terms of synergies and

tensions between ethical perspectives that seek to challenge the property-status of non-human animals, the moral values associated with the welfare of non-human animals, the principles associated with sustainability, and the values associated with healthy living.

Historically, veganism has an ethical dimension that extends beyond diet to preclude the human use of any animal-based products (e.g. in clothes and accessories) and products and methods that involve the abuse of animals (e.g. chemical products that are tested on non-human animals).

Individuals who care about non-human animals often feel they are confirming their concern by conducting their lives in line with the moral position that humans should refrain from inflicting harm on non-humans.

This ‘ethical veganism’ is a form of consumer boycott that is regarded as a display of moral integrity. In ‘lifestyle veganism’, the ethical dimension is replaced with an effort to achieve dietary insurance against risks to health.

Thus, lifestyle veganism is said to replace the being of the ethical conduct of life with the doing of the consumer who is more concerned with her or his health. Our project aims to:

- explore the complexities of ethical veganism and lifestyle veganism
- examine marketing strategies for vegan products
- investigate national trends in veganism
- compare and contrast the perspectives of ethical and lifestyle vegans.

More details about the project can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/pbaa4d3>

Those who would like to be interviewed for the project or have ideas about getting involved with the work, please email me at [kay.peggs@port.ac.uk](mailto:kay.peggs@port.ac.uk)

## References:

- ‘Low protein intake is associated with a major reduction in IGF-1, cancer, and overall mortality in the 65 and younger but not older population’ Morgan E. et al. *Cell Metabolism* - 4/3/14 (Vol. 19, Issue 3, pp. 407-417).
- ‘Diets high in meat, eggs and dairy could be as harmful to health as smoking’, *The Guardian* <http://tinyurl.com/n84wgbu>
- *VB6: Eat Vegan Before 6:00 to Lose Weight and Restore Your Health ... for Good* by Mark Bittman <http://tinyurl.com/mwq8jwv>



# A tool to fight bias

**Anika Baddeley writes about how sociology has helped her support herself, and a how a new scheme gives her easy access to its insights**

It has now been 12 months since I became one of the new co-convenors of the Sociologists Outside Academia Group (SOAG). The group was formed several years ago in response to the lack of representation of sociologists who operate on the fringes of academic life or completely outside of it.

Historically, sociology has often been thought about in terms of academic life, and research has been associated with universities. In reality, sociology and its wide range of applications span many areas of social life and is useful far beyond conventional academia.

I came by sociology in an unconventional manner. I had focused on science subjects at sixth-form, but due to worsening disability I was no longer able to cope with laboratory work. At my last parents' evening before I was due to leave, a tutor suggested sociology as a subject I would be physically able to cope with. Looking back I see now that tutors considered it a bit of a soft option. I think that it was seen as less valid than English or science. I arrived at university on the course not entirely knowing what I had signed up for.

Sociology changed the way I viewed the world: it gave me the tools to fight prejudice and support myself – it politicised me. Prior to its study, it never occurred to me that I had the right to an opinion – I had never heard of the social model of disability. One of the first things I was asked on my degree was how I felt as a disabled woman, something that I had never really thought about. Sociology also helped me realise that the barrier was just as much mine as it was society's reaction to me and I had to change my way of thinking to remove it.

Looking at the first destination data for sociology graduates, I was a little demoralised to discover that so many found paid work in the field of catering: 22.7 per cent. I think that a good idea would be to have guest speakers from sociologists working outside academia presenting to undergraduates during their studies, to enable them to think of sociology in different contexts. Sociology



now informs all of my writing, whether academic or for pleasure (in my blog).

Personally I find that one of the biggest issues I face is a feeling almost of lack of credence. When I try to submit papers to journals I often encounter problems because on the submission form it routinely asks for

**‘Sociology changed the way I viewed the world. It had never occurred to me that I had a right to an opinion,**

my institution name and job description, so people do not take me as seriously without these – an institution appears to give a sociologist authority. This is one of the reasons that my membership of the BSA is so vital to me: it offers me the opportunity to network with other sociologists and gives me a voice – well worth the membership fee.

Another, and perhaps more fundamental, issue is that of accessing current research. When you are based outside of an institution it is impossible currently to obtain an Athens account, so this can make writing papers a longer and more arduous job than is necessary. This year however I, and others in my position, have been able to take advantage

of a government pilot scheme called Access to Research. This enables those without institutional affiliation to access research databases that are normally only available through universities. This has been very successful on a personal level as it has enabled me to write a paper in half the time it would normally take. I have been able to use the most up-to-date research, making arguments stronger and current.

To take advantage of the scheme you need only to be registered at a local library which is taking part in it. Be warned, you may have to push a little, as in my experience some libraries are unaware that they have been signed up to be part of the project.

However, it has probably been the most positive development for individuals in my situation. At last it would seem that we are all sociologists now.

For more information see: [www.accesstoresearch.org.uk](http://www.accesstoresearch.org.uk)

## **Background note: what is the Access to Research Initiative?**

The Access to Research service is a new initiative to give free walk-in access to a wide range of academic articles and research in public libraries across the UK.

On the back of a successful technical trial, run in libraries in 10 local authorities, the service is being rolled out across the UK as part of a two-year pilot.

Subjects include art, architecture, business, engineering, history, languages, politics, philosophy, mathematics and the sciences, as well as sociology.

All content provided is digital and can be accessed from designated library terminals via a search delivery service called Summon.

Access to Research was launched in response to recommendations from the Finch Group, a committee convened by the UK government, to explore how access to publicly funded research could be expanded.

One of the main recommendations of the Finch Group was that the major journal publishers should grant public libraries a licence to provide free access to their academic articles. The Access to Research two-year pilot, starting February 2014, is the outcome of this recommendation.

Access to Research is available to the general public, and may be of especial interest to students in further education, independent researchers and small businesses. Data will be collected throughout the two-year pilot to better understand the users.

*Drawn from:*

[www.accesstoresearch.org.uk/about](http://www.accesstoresearch.org.uk/about)

# David Lockwood

## 1929–2014

How is society possible? What is the basis of social order? What are the mechanisms of social change? These have always been the big questions for sociologists, and Professor David Lockwood devoted his career to wrestling with them. He saw societies as systems distinguished both by their peculiar need to hang together and their occasional liability to fall apart, hence the title of his magisterial book – *Solidarity and Schism*. Hence, also, his view that, rather like the drunkard, societies just stagger along. How they manage to do so without actually falling over was for him the real challenge to sociological explanation.

Because sociology is uniquely expressive of these alternations of consensus and disorder, David saw the study of social stratification as its unique concern, since the unequal distributions of goods and power in society offer an ever-present potential for conflict. The legitimisation of privilege and the regulation of wants are thus central to both society and to sociology.

David Lockwood's research was grounded in an analysis of the tensions between the claims of citizenship and the power of the market. Citizenship rights – such as the right to vote, the right to join trade unions, the right to health care and social security – are rights of equality won through political struggle. They are about all people being treated equally, about what is 'social' in 'society'. The market, on the other hand, is about inequality. It individualises us; it is about self-reliance not reliance on society. Or in the words of Lady Thatcher, "there is no such thing as society, only families and individuals". This balance between the claims of citizenship and the power of the market is at the very heart of modern democratic politics. David Lockwood provided us with original ways of looking at these issues and their consequences for social cohesion.

Thus he was that rare phenomenon – a theorist with a passionate interest in the real world of both today and of the past, and one who paid meticulous attention to fine detail. As his wife once observed, he was an intellectual terrier. And to his colleagues, he could also be something of an intellectual terror, especially when he decided in conversation to be provocative.

### David Rose, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex, writes about the life of his friend and colleague David Lockwood

At such times he would make sweeping statements of both breathtaking generality and doubtful accuracy which he would then defend with a skill that would have made him a living at the Bar. It was a jest he played on others, part of the fun of intellectual life, but one with a serious purpose: to stand problems on their head and see if new perspectives emerged. Of course, testing the intellectual mettle of colleagues was fun for him, too.

Some would say that all you needed to know about David was that he was a Yorkshireman. He was born to a working class family in Holmfirth, near Huddersfield. Of course, Holmfirth has since become famous as the setting for the long-running BBC television series *Last of the Summer Wine*. It is tempting, perhaps, to try and situate David (who, after all, must have been about the same age as Clegg and Compo) against that background. But whereas Holmfirth is now a smart commuter village cum TV theme park, at the time he was growing up in the 1930s it was a mill town in the middle of a depression. Although he won a scholarship to the local grammar school, at the end of the war family circumstances forced him to leave school and to take a job in a local mill. He might easily have been lost to us as a scholar but for national service.

While serving in the Army Intelligence Corps in Austria between 1947 and 1949 he began to read more widely (including Nietzsche in German). He was duly encouraged in his autodidactic inclinations by an Education Corps corporal who introduced him to Marx and promoted his interest in going to university. He arranged for David to take the London School of Economics entrance examination. In 1952 he

graduated with first-class honours and proceeded to undertake a PhD. Within a year he was appointed to a lectureship.

He was one of a remarkably talented group of sociology graduate students at the LSE, all of whom were to make their mark in the discipline. According to their distinguished biographer, David Lockwood was the most impressive of them all. This was confirmed by the quality of his PhD thesis, a study of the social position and class-consciousness of male clerks, subsequently published in 1958 as *The Blackcoated Worker*. In this book we find one of his abiding concerns, the need to understand the importance of the social status of an occupation, how people see themselves and are evaluated by others, as well as understanding more objective aspects of an occupation's position, such as pay and conditions.

This approach spawned a whole new sociological industry, applying his theory and methods to the study of a host of different occupations, from coalminers and shipbuilders to farm workers and farmers, and culminating in a major conference in 1972. The importance and continuing relevance of *The Blackcoated Worker* may be gauged from the fact that it was republished by Oxford University Press in 1989, with a substantial new postscript that offered new ideas on the changing nature of clerical work.

In 1958 he left the LSE on his appointment to a fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge and a university lectureship in the Economics Faculty. Why economics, you may ask? The simple reason was that Cambridge did not then offer degrees in sociology, but only the odd optional sociology course within the economics degree. It was to be another 10 years before Cambridge decided, after a fierce and acrimonious debate, that sociology was a fit and proper degree subject for its students to pursue. There can be little doubt that the argument in sociology's favour was swayed by the importance of the work of David Lockwood and his colleagues at Cambridge. This culminated with one of the best-known studies ever undertaken by British sociologists, *The Affluent Worker*. As its name implies, this study examined the lives and aspirations of the new working class of post-war Britain.





*The Affluent Worker* was published in 1968, the year David came to Essex as Professor of Sociology. He served the university at various times as Pro Vice-Chancellor, as Dean of Social Sciences and as Head of the Sociology Department, and on retirement became an Emeritus Professor. In 1995, the Sociology Department honoured him with a conference to mark his retirement. So many of the UK's most distinguished sociologists attended that it was said that if the earth had swallowed up the conference venue most of British sociology's past, if not its future, would have gone into the abyss.

In 1996, the *British Journal of Sociology* dedicated a special issue to him. However, his retirement was purely formal – he continued to be an active and influential scholar as a visiting Professor in ISER and was involved in the development of a new government social classification, the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification.

Nor is it any surprise that the quality of Professor Lockwood's scholarship brought him many honours. In 1976 he was elected to a fellowship of the British Academy and in 1990 to a fellowship of the Academia Europea. In 1998, he was awarded a CBE for his contributions to sociology and he had honorary degrees from Cambridge as well as Essex.

So, having a working class Yorkshire background, being born into the depression of the 1930s, growing up during the second world war and being one of the first beneficiaries of the welfare state created by the post-war Labour government – all these were factors in shaping his politics and his scholarship and especially his keen awareness of the importance of citizenship in offering opportunity and security, and of the powers

ranged against it.

But there are two other important observations I should make about David, because they also tell us something of his pedigree. First, he was married for almost 60 years to another distinguished academic, the social historian Leonore Davidoff. Their happy relationship was a vital ingredient of David's success. The second concerns David's love of good company and his ability to communicate with people from all walks of life. Those who knew him only as an acquaintance may have found him somewhat reserved. They may even have seen him as a typical taciturn Yorkshireman. In fact, he was a very sociable person with a rare ability to engage people on their own level, whatever that may be, and to put them at their ease. But he was also endearingly diffident and shy, so that he was only truly gregarious with his family and closest friends. With them he was relaxed, lively, engaged, witty, affectionate and capable of great kindness.

David Lockwood served both the discipline of sociology and the University of Essex with great distinction. Unlike many social scientists today, the latest intellectual fads and fashions did not sway him, nor did he treat sociology as an amateur form of philosophy. Being a modest person, it was no surprise that he was gently sceptical about what sociology can achieve; but, being committed to his subject, he was extremely enthusiastic about its potential to teach us about the world in which we live.

We who were his colleagues are proud of his achievements and grateful to him for his service and for his friendship.

• In the next issue *Network* will carry an appreciation of Leonore Davidoff, who died in October.

**Professor John Holmwood, former BSA President, writes:**

The passing of David Lockwood, along with others who have recently died, such as Rosemary Crompton, Ray Pahl, Stuart Hall and John Westergaard, marks the passing of an era in British sociology. Theirs was a generation committed to the study of inequality and to the integration of theoretical ideas and empirical research.

It is particularly sad for me, since David was my PhD supervisor, and everything I am committed to in sociology can be traced to his influence. He was one of the first sociologists I read as an undergraduate and I fully embraced his ideas about the definitive problems of sociological argument.

Even where we differed, his criticisms were decisive in shaping my views. Perhaps surprising to those who didn't know him well, the combative and forceful nature of his expression was combined with an extraordinarily generous approach to criticisms of his own position.

Being interrogated rigorously and sympathetically in a fug of pipe smoke in his office at Essex was a formative experience. Subsequently, I didn't write anything without him over my shoulder, disagreeing and forcing it to be a better version of something for him to continue to disagree with; sometimes I allowed myself to believe he might concede the point.

He leaves a big gap, albeit one that is partly filled by the lasting significance of his work. His oeuvre is not large, but everything he wrote defined its topic and set the terms of debate. For me, he was truly one of the great figures of post-war British sociology.

# Michael Schofield, 1919-2014

## Professor Ken Plummer writes about the life and work of his friend, Michael Schofield

I first met Michael Schofield in 1966 when I was starting my own research on homosexuality and just as the law was changing. At that time he was one of very few social scientists studying 'homosexuality' in England. He was very welcoming and a great encouragement to a solitary novice sociologist approaching a new and stigmatised field of research: we went on to become lifelong friends. From the 1950s until his retirement he was a prominent freelance sociological researcher and a key campaigner for the law reform lobbies of the 1960s and 1970s. His research played an important role in helping to change the climate for changes to the law on homosexuality in the 1950s and 1960s.

Michael was born in Leeds in 1919, the son of Snowden Schofield, the owner of Schofield's, the well-known department store in Leeds between 1901 and 1996. His training was originally in social psychology (at Clare College, Cambridge University in 1938, where he was also the leader on saxophone of the Footlights dance band) and Harvard Business School in 1946. He spent the war years as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force, a period which he regarded as five wasted years.

During this formative time Michael became puzzled by his own 'homosexuality', and why it was so hard for others to accept it. So he set out on his own to make as full and thorough study of the social aspects of homosexuality as he could. Publishing under his own name was too risky so he assumed the pen name of Gordon Westwood. And this private study became Michael's first book – *Society and the Homosexual*, published in 1952. It became the first non-medical book to be written about homosexuality, long before the famous trials of the 1950s and the appointment of the Wolfenden Committee. It was a very brave and pioneering book, much quoted by journalists, politicians and sociologists during the discussions that preceded the changes in the law.

In the wake of the success of his first book, Michael moved into empirical (and funded) research on the lives of 'homosexual' men. His 1961 study *A Minority* was the first detailed sociological research into the lives of 'homosexuals' who had not got into trouble



with the law and who had not sought medical treatment. It established him for a while as England's major sociological sex researcher and led to his comparative study *Sociological Aspects of Homosexuality* in 1965 (by then, under his own name).

Michael then became the Research Director of the Central Council for Health Education and turned his attention to other issues, including single parent families, teenage premarital sex, birth control, abortion, drug taking and prison reform (he never had a university post). In 1965, his best-known book, *The Sexual Behaviour of Young People*, was published. This was widely used on sociology courses for teaching research methods, studied as much for its rigorous methodology as for its research findings. But it was not a timely publication: the research found relatively low levels of sexual activity amongst young people in the early 1960s. Shortly afterwards, as contraception became more available, this was to change. A follow up book *Sexual Behaviour of Young Adults* was published in 1971 and passed with little comment.

After this, Michael left research behind and became more of a campaigner, activist and philanthropist: a prominent spokesperson for the emerging 'swinging sixties'. He was a member of the then Executive Committee of the National Council for Civil Liberties for nine years (long since renamed Liberty). He was active in the campaign against censorship and appeared as an expert witness for the defence in several trials relating to obscene publications, including *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, the Oz trial and the Forum trial. And he served on the Government Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence, chaired by Baroness Barbara Wootton, producing a report on cannabis that argued legal penalties were far too severe. This was not enough for Michael; he wrote a minority

report claiming that these laws should be abolished. He also campaigned for the Abortion Law Reform Society and for making contraceptives free on the National Health Service.

An early supporter of frank sex education, gay rights and a more tolerant attitude to marital infidelity, he was often to be found opposing Mary Whitehouse and her supporters on TV and radio; but he made few enemies and many friends. In the early 1980s he sat on a Conservative government committee on sex education chaired by William Deedes.

Throughout this period Michael was a prolific writer, publishing a number of other books, including a textbook *Social Research* (1969), two polemics: *The Strange Case of Pot* (1971) and *Promiscuity* (1977); and a fictional *Report of the Committee on the Operation of the Sexual Containment Act* (1979). He also wrote many research reports, articles and introductions to other books.

Michael was a generous supporter of unpopular causes. In 1968, he became the founder and main instigator of a charitable foundation named the Lyndhurst Settlement which donated at least £3 million pounds to small struggling charities, particularly those groups working for civil liberties and for the protection of the environment (it closed in 2005).

In 1985, at the age of 66, Michael Schofield retired. He had become disillusioned at the lack of effective change and was saddened at the war in the South Atlantic. In doing this, he decided to leave public life completely and avoided all invitations to lecture, or chat on TV or the radio. He preferred a quiet, happy and contented private life at home with his much loved partner of over 60 years, Anthony Skyrme. Michael was delighted that he had lived long enough to have a civil partnership ceremony, which was performed quietly with a few friends on 6 December 2005, the second day of the law. Anthony lovingly cared for him throughout the last few years of his life as Michael became increasingly weak and bed-bound at home.

Over the years, Michael remained a key mentor for me. He was a quiet, gentle and modest man who set himself challenging tasks. In his final years Michael lived a simple life of generosity and good cheer surrounded by good friends; he was a little surprised and pleased at the degree of progress that had been made since the long dark years that were part of his own youth.

• This is an abridged version of a longer tribute, which can be seen at:  
[www.britisoc.co.uk/members/network](http://www.britisoc.co.uk/members/network)



# Rob Moore, 1946-2014

## Network celebrates the life and work of Dr Rob Moore, of the University of Cambridge, an expert on the sociology of education

Dr Rob Moore taught at primary, secondary, further and higher levels in English education during his career. His principal experience in schools was as a social education teacher and multicultural education teacher in Inner London Education Authority secondary comprehensive schools.

In higher education he taught sociology and sociology of education at a number of institutions within London University, at the Open University, and at Anglia Ruskin University. The main areas in which he taught involved the sociology of education, sociology of knowledge, social theory and sociological research methods.

In 2001 he transferred to the University of Cambridge, working at the then School of Education and Homerton College.

He made an outstanding contribution to the reputation and success of the sociology of education at Cambridge, earning an international reputation as an exceptional and original scholar for his work on the sociology of knowledge, social theory and the history of ideas.

His extensive and acclaimed opus includes *Education and Society* (2004) and *Towards a Sociology of Truth* (2009), in which he demonstrated the strength of classic social theory for the study of education, the contemporary epistemological challenges facing the social sciences, and the political challenges associated with social inequality and social mobility. His recent writings, which have marked out a new philosophical approach to the field, were brought together in a co-edited collection, *Social Realism, Knowledge and the Sociology of Education* (2010).

Dr Moore is perhaps best known for his superb sustained contribution to the development of Bernsteinian theory. He published *Basil Bernstein: the Thinker and the Field* in 2011, offering a provocative and challenging account of Bernstein's



sociology of pedagogy, and securing his place as one of the most accomplished experts in a worldwide network of Bernsteinian scholars.

**‘He was a scholar who shaped the field not just through his writing: he was an admirable teacher – passionate, powerful and committed,’**

Dr Moore was a scholar who has shaped the field not just through his writing but also through his teaching. He was an admirable teacher – passionate, powerful and committed. He sustained generations of Cambridge sociology of education students on the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programmes with a rich and nurturing intellectual diet. His teaching was the living expression of his profound intellect, practical wisdom, genuine collegiality and respect for what is of true value.

– drawn from the Cambridge Faculty of Education website with kind permission.  
<http://tinyurl.com/l33535q>

### Dr Sandra Leaton-Gray writes:

We were an unlikely couple, you and I. Invariably I would be sitting there in some country pub or other in smart trousers and pearls, with you opposite in your rumpled outfit straight from sociology central casting. Between us would be placed carefully on the table one pint of bitter (for you) and a half of IPA (for me), and some scrappy pieces of academic writing I had created in an attempt to make progress towards my elusive dissertation. We would be in a pub because then I knew I would have you captive for two or three hours at least, during which time I would be asking you all sorts of simplistic questions about sociology while, patiently, you would break down the entire discipline so I could apply it to my rather madcap doctoral project. Now that's what I call teaching.

It didn't stop there. A rite of passage at most universities is to end up doing a lot of teaching, but I had nowhere to do it, so you allowed me to share your office in the attics of Homerton College and use it for supervising undergraduates, and for research. I would sit in there, surrounded by prints of historic Norwich and your Commitments poster, pulling your books off the shelf and generally hearing your calm sociological voice in my head. I do now when I am writing this. If you were still here you would probably take me out for chips somewhere, and you would tell me that if I just calmed down a bit and listened, you had a plan. And then you would relate the plan and it would be immensely logical and brilliant, and the writing would just come. Because that's what you did.

You were the one who first made me read Basil Bernstein's work – Basil had been your own PhD supervisor. You told me to get out of the library and to grab pens and paper and spread out his ideas all over my living room floor. You then introduced me to the great man himself.

But your legacy goes well beyond me, and all the beers and all the reading. You leave behind a body of work on the sociology of education so precisely conceived and formulated that you helped transform thinking in the field, from the highly technical work of Bernstein to the social realism that pervades your writing. This has filtered down to many of your postgraduate students and in turn we have now become research supervisors, bringing on another generation of educational sociologists. So in sociology terms, you live on. RIP Rob, and I hope the beer is good up there.

Taken from Dr Leaton-Gray's blog:

<http://sandraleatongray.wordpress.com>



2015 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

Glasgow Caledonian University  
Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 April

# Societies in Transition



## Progression or Regression?

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Alice Goffman : University of Wisconsin  
Colin Samson : University of Essex  
Guy Standing : SOAS University of London



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# Events listing

12 December 2014 – 9 July 2015

12 December	British Library Conference Centre, London	Auto/Biography Study Group One-Day Winter Conference: Lives in Conflict
8 January 2015	BSA Meeting Room, London	Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Study Day: The Ethics of Representation
16 January	University of York	BSA Yorkshire MedSoc Group Event
28 February	Birmingham City University	BSA Teaching Group Regional Conference
15-17 April	Glasgow Caledonian University	BSA Annual Conference: Societies in Transition – Progression or Regression?
15 May	British Library Conference Centre, London	BSA Sport Study Group Day Conference: Sport and Social Protest
29 May	University of East London	BSA Teaching Group Regional Conference
7-9 July	High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire	Sociology of Religion Study Group Annual Conference: Foundations and Futures



Please note that events are updated frequently. Readers should check the BSA website for the latest information

Would you like to contribute to *Network*? We are looking for letters, opinions and news articles.

For more information please contact:  
Tony Trueman at: [tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk)  
or on 07964 023392; or  
BSA Chief Executive Judith Mudd at:  
[judith.mudd@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:judith.mudd@britsoc.org.uk)

The Spring 2015 edition of *Network* will be published in April. Copy deadlines are around two months before publication (please check with Tony or Judith).

We try to print all material received, but pressure of space may lead to editing or delayed publication; some articles may be carried online only.

Books for review can be seen at:  
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# NETWORK

Autumn 2014

“There is the potential for a soft eugenics – we put medicine in the position of deciding whether children with syndromes are just other ways of being human”

“The failure of senior colleagues to speak out and so create the opportunities for others to debate is a real weakness – there’s no debate taking place”

“Academics have been quite sniffy about shop workers. There is a kind of exasperation that people have felt about them – but that’s my own family background”

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