



Network

Recording the working lives of sociologists for over 40 years

Issue 140, Spring 2022



Violet ribbons: stopping violence against women

Also in this issue:

- **A researcher writes about her PhD on mass protest in Ukraine**
- **Sociologist is youngest Black woman professor at Oxbridge**
- **Academics on teaching-only contracts 'feel invisible'**
- **Graham Crow on his distinguished service award**

BRITISH
SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Sociology from polity

polity

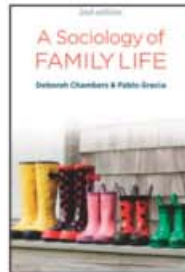
politybooks.com

A Sociology of Family Life

Change and Diversity in Intimate Relations

2nd Edition

Deborah Chambers & Pablo Gracia



"An authoritative, wide-ranging and up-to-date overview of current social scientific understandings of family and personal relationships. Few contemporary texts on family provide the breadth and depth of analysis to be found here. It is required reading for students and teachers of family life today."

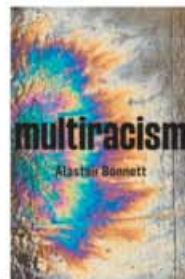
Brian Heaphy, University of Manchester

Pb 978-1-5095-4136-2 | £17.99 | December 2021

Multiracism

Rethinking Racism in Global Context

Alastair Bonnett



"Elegantly written with a breath-taking level of global reach, this highly readable account draws on a varied and engaging set of examples to articulate and elaborate the fundamental argument about global multiracism. This is a central paradigmatic challenge to mainstream positions in the field of racial and ethnic studies which fail to recognize and account for the huge range of racisms operating across the planet."

Ian Law, University of Leeds

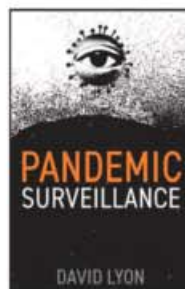
Pb 978-1-5095-3732-7 | £17.99 | December 2021

Pandemic Surveillance

David Lyon

"With patience, rigor and his signature compassion, David Lyon's prophetic voice guides us through the many complexities of pandemic surveillance, the predations of surveillance capitalism, the legitimate public health data gathering, the intensification of social inequality and injustice across the globe. Professor Lyon's book will stand as an important chronicle of these days."

Shoshana Zuboff, Professor Emeritus, Harvard Business School and author, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*

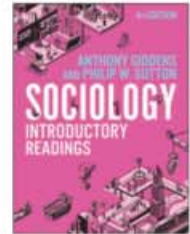


Pb 978-1-5095-5031-9 | £15.99 | November 2021

Sociology: Introductory Readings

4th Edition

Anthony Giddens & Philip W. Sutton



The fourth edition of this best-selling introductory reader has been thoroughly revised and updated to offer a stimulating and wide-ranging set of readings for anyone who wishes to engage with the scope of sociological thought and practice today. Among the new selections are readings on the decolonial turn; the persistence of racism and its consequences; global health issues and the social impact of COVID-19; digital sociology and the digitization of social life; feminist research and shifting forms of misogyny; climate change and the emerging Anthropocene era; income and wealth inequalities, national populist movements and the spread of 'fake news'.

Pb 978-1-5095-4913-9 | £24.99 | January 2022

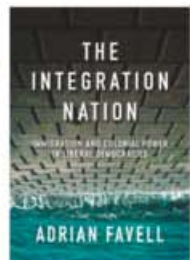
The Integration Nation

Immigration and Colonial Power in Liberal Democracies

Adrian Favell

"Written by the inimitable Adrian Favell, this work of brilliance is one of the most stimulating books on a migration-related topic that I have read in a long time. Sure to stimulate debate for years to come, The Integration Nation will be required reading for scholars and students alike."

Roger Waldinger, University of California, Los Angeles



Pb 978-1-5095-4940-5 | £16.99 | February 2022

Machine Habitus

Toward a Sociology of Algorithms

Massimo Airoidi

"I strongly suspect that Massimo Airoidi's 'machine habitus' is a concept that will be utilized and debated for years to come. At its centre, this book is a lively and original take on how we can understand social connections and society itself in a world laced with algorithms: it is an agenda-setting text."

David Beer, University of York



Pb 978-1-5095-4328-1 | £15.99 | December 2021

Join our mailing list at www.politybooks.com

 @politybooks  facebook.com/politybooks  instagram.com/politybooks

For further information and to order books,
visit www.politybooks.com or email us at ukmarketing@politybooks.com

News

- 4 Patricia Kingori is **youngest Black woman appointed full professor** at Oxbridge
- 5 **Sociologists played their part in the recent strike** action at UK universities
- 6 Donald MacKenzie is ranked among the **most influential sociologists in the world**
- 7 Sasha Roseneil becomes the **first woman V-C at the University of Sussex**
- 9 People claiming Universal Credit **'have to skip meals because of lack of money'**
- 10 Academics on teaching-only contracts **'feel excluded and almost invisible'**
- 13 A new centre has been set up at the University of Bristol **to look at digital futures**

Opinion

- 20 Emma Mateo writes about her PhD **on Ukraine, and the bravery of its people**
- 28 Graham Crow talks about winning the **Distinguished Service Award this year**
- 30 The authors of Migrant City write about **re-interviewing participants** about their lives
- 36 Michael Dunning writes on teaching **by taking students out of the classroom**

Features

- 18 **We take our regular look at the sociological world** beyond the shores of the UK
- 32 Corey Wrenn tells us about **the five books that have inspired her research**
- 34 Our reviewers look at books on **love, social mobility and working families**
- 37 Matt Reynolds tells us about how **researching his PhD has inspired him**

Spring 2022 ▶

Main feature:

Our six-page feature is on the latest work by charities and researchers to tackle domestic abuse

Graphic: the violet ribbon that symbolises the fight against domestic violence

See page 22



BSA Trustees:

Jason Arday
 Aminu Musa Audu
 Sarah Cant
 Elizabeth Cotton
 Mark Doidge
 Stevi Jackson
 Janice McLaughlin
 Karim Murji
 Catherine Pope
 Louise Ryan (Chair)
 Rima Saini
 Richard Waller
 Chris Yuill

Editorial Team:

Judith Mudd
 Tony Trueman

Note: where not stated, copyright of photographs generally lies with the researchers featured in the article, their institutions or the BSA

Network:
 ©2022 BSA Publications Ltd
 ISSN: 2634-9213

Production/Enquiries:

tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk
 Tel: 07964 023392

Network is published three times a year:
 Spring
 Summer
 Autumn

Available online to members:
www.britsoc.co.uk

Longer versions of some *Network* articles can be seen at:
<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/members-area/network> (login needed)

Disclaimer: Please note that the views expressed in *Network* and any enclosures or advertisements are not necessarily those of BSA Publications Limited or the British Sociological Association (BSA). While every care is taken to provide accurate information, neither the BSA, the Trustees, the Editors, nor the contributors undertake any liability for any error or omission. BSA Publications Ltd is a subsidiary of the British Sociological Association, registered in England and Wales, Company Number: 01245771. The British Sociological Association was founded in 1951. It is a Registered Charity (no. 1080235) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (no. 3890729).

Kingori is appointed youngest Black woman professor at Oxford

University of Oxford: Patricia Kingori has been appointed to a full professorship, making her the youngest Black woman to receive this status at Oxford or Cambridge.

Professor Kingori was awarded the professorship in recognition of the “quality and global impact of her research on academia and beyond,” the university said.

She studies the everyday ethical experiences of frontline workers in global health, and has obtained large funding grants, written well-cited publications and taught hundreds of students during her eight years at Oxford.

Professor Kingori grew up in St Kitts and her family moved to the UK during her early teens.

After completing her PhD, she was awarded a Wellcome Research Fellowship to do postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford’s Ethox Centre. Within five years, she progressed from being a research lecturer to an associate professor.

She currently leads an interdisciplinary team of researchers exploring global concerns around fakes, fabrications and falsehoods in health. Her research cuts



Professor Patricia Kingori

across the sociology of science and medicine, STS, bioethics, misinformation and pseudoscience.

Professor Kingori, who is in her 40s, has also served as an adviser to organisations

including the World Health Organization, Save the Children, Médecins Sans Frontières, the Nuffield Council of Bioethics, and the Obama administration’s White House Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa initiative.

She said that her passion for sociology began in St Kitts as a teenager and developed after moving to London. “You find yourself wondering what makes a society work and why this society is different to another one.

“I’m really happy that I’ve stuck with sociology. I love what I do and have done since I was 14 years old when I picked up my first sociology book. The idea that I can do this for a living is just so wild.”

She said that academic culture was changing slowly. “I think academia is just still very conservative in the way that people are hired and promoted.

“As a Black woman from a single-parent, working class background, I’m very conscious that diversity is sometimes skewed to a very narrow interpretation – it’s generally gender diversity, so racial, social class and other forms of diversity get put on the back foot. That is changing, but it’s changing very slowly.”

Women sensitive to others’ pain

University of Oxford: Women are no more vulnerable to the impact of stressful life events than men but are more sensitive to others’ difficulties, according to a new study.

Researchers from the Department of Sociology analysed data on more than 30,000 UK adults from the annual Understanding Society survey to study the effect on mental health of stressful life events such as job loss, divorce, serious illness and miscarriage.

In a paper published in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, they found that “stressful life events are associated with

men’s depressive symptoms just as much as women’s.”

They also found that there was no evidence of greater vulnerability among the less well educated.

However, the study found that women were more likely to become depressed if those close to them suffered stressful events. “A given level of exposure to events occurring to other household members leads to an increase in depressive symptoms that is close to 50% greater for women than men.”

This “vulnerability to stressful life events occurring to friends and family may be implicated in sex differences in mental health”.

Dr Lewis Anderson, who led the research, said: “This study overcomes some important limitations of earlier research and the result has something perhaps unexpected to say about both men’s and women’s mental health.

“While women do suffer higher rates of depression on average, this piece of evidence suggests that it isn’t because they are somehow more psychologically vulnerable to stressful events.”

The research team was: Dr Anderson, Professor Christiaan Monden and Professor Erzsébet Bukodi. The paper is at: <https://tinyurl.com/yeyruyb6>



Dr Lewis Anderson

Amos first to get Garter award

Baroness Valerie Amos has become the first Black person to be appointed to the Order of the Garter. The appointment, which can only be made by the Queen, was one of three made at the end of last year.

Baroness Amos was made Lady Companion of the Order, the oldest and most senior British Order of Chivalry.

She received a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Warwick in 1976 and a master’s degree in cultural studies from the University of Birmingham in 1977.

She worked initially for local governments in London and then for the Equal Opportunities Commission. In 1997 she was made a life peer by the Labour government.



Baroness Valerie Amos

Sociologists (and dogs) picket over pension, pay and conditions

Sociologists played their part in the recent strike action at many UK universities.

The UCU union staged strikes over five weeks in February and March.

Staff in 44 universities went on strike to oppose cuts in their pension, joined later by staff in another 24 institutions who were protesting about pension reduction, pay, and working conditions.

Staff were also engaged in action short of a strike, which involved working strictly to contract, not covering for absent colleagues, not rescheduling lectures cancelled due to strike action or undertaking any voluntary activities.

In tweets, Professor Janice McLaughlin, of Newcastle University, said: "The #UCU strike kicks off again, normal service will resume once our pay and conditions have."

Dr Saffron Karlsen, of the University of Bristol, wrote: "Support the UK #ucustrike against exploitation, even if you can't strike and especially if you're in the UK."

Dr Ruth Pearce wrote: "The temporary contracts and low pay mean it is overwhelmingly the most privileged who can climb the ivory tower. This has to stop and the only way is to join the UCU and fight for all our rights to be valued at work."

Professor Sally Hines, of the University of Sheffield, struck a lighter tone, with a photo of 'dogs on strike'. See above

The BSA issued a statement: "We are here to support our members and will keep all communication to an absolute minimum in



solidarity with all those who are taking part in the action.

"We are thinking of all those who will be on the picket lines and affected by the strike."

The strikes are the latest in a series of industrial actions over pension and working conditions.

The pensions dispute is focused on the management and financing of the Universities Superannuation Scheme, the UK's biggest private pension scheme, which provides pensions to the UK's older universities as well as to research institutes



and academic think tanks. The USS is planning cuts that the UCU says are unnecessary and will reduce pensions by 35% for many.

The two sides are also arguing over issues such as the widespread use of insecure fixed-term contracts used to employ an increasing number of teaching staff, as well as heavy workloads and equality pay gaps.

On pay, the union is demanding a £2,500 pay increase for all staff,

The UCU has told university employers to expect more industrial action, including a marking and assessment boycott.

Book studies sociology of peace processes

Queen's University Belfast: A new book that establishes the study of peace processes as part of the mainstream of sociology has been published.

Advanced Introduction to the Sociology of Peace Processes, by Professor John Brewer, is a comprehensive introduction to peace processes, bringing the consideration of war, violence and peace further into sociological thought.

The book, published by Edward Elgar, has chapters on the sociology of war and peace, compromise, post-conflict emotion, peace building and trauma:

<https://tinyurl.com/2va72vf8>

Dr Neil McLaughlin, McMaster University, Canada, said that, "World peace and healing is hardly on the verge of breaking out, but Brewer draws on a lifetime of theorising and empirical research to offer both an introduction as well as a way forward for a sociology of peace.



Professor John Brewer

"Brewer has developed a theoretical language and a research agenda for studying peace-making in a broader frame, in everyday life, in movements for social change, policy proposals and education. He does all this with an eye towards a long-distance sociological marathon for social transformation in a world at peace."

John Brewer, a former President of the

BSA, is Professor of Post Conflict Studies at the Senator George J Mitchell Institute of Global Peace, Security and Justice at QUB.

Cardiff University: Professor Tim May has been appointed an Honorary Distinguished Professor in the School of Social Sciences.

Professor May, who is currently employed in the Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, has focused on methodology and the relationship between knowledge, policy, practice and context.

He has authored, co-authored or edited 18 books, including new editions, which have been translated into 15 languages. The more recent (with Beth Perry) are: *Reflexivity: The Essential Guide* (2017), *Cities and the Knowledge Economy* (2018), *Social Research: Issues, Methods and Process* (5th edition, 2022), and, with the late Zygmunt Bauman, *Thinking Sociologically* (3rd edition, 2019).

Chopin, colonialism, childbirth and climate change at Edinburgh

University of Edinburgh: Three researchers have edited the *Research Handbook on Energy and Society*, which looks at the connections between the globally organised fossil fuel energy system and the changing structures of society.

The book, by Professor Jan Webb, Dr Faye Wade and Dr Margaret Tingey, features an examination of current research in the field by 50 expert international contributors.

Professor Webb spoke about research into investments in 'green' hydrogen at an event held as part of the UK Research and Innovation's COP26 Programme in November, and discussed changes in Scotland's energy systems over the last decade at the Royal Society of Edinburgh's conference on climate change.

She also took part in a workshop entitled, 'Poetry and the climate crisis: Scotland and India', which looked at how poetry can help to make the societal changes urgently needed in facing climate crises.

The event, held at the University of Glasgow, looked at the works of two international writers, Patrick Geddes and Rabindranath Tagore, and featured short talks, readings, writing activities and creative responses.

In other Edinburgh news, Dr Lisa McCormick gave a keynote lecture entitled 'Un bon article, c'est comme une oeuvre d'art!' at 'Publish and relish! Ce que publier veut dire aujourd'hui', a colloquium on publishing today, organised at the Université



Professor Jan Webb

Catholique de Louvain in Belgium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the journal *Recherches Sociologiques et Anthropologiques*.

She also travelled to Warsaw to present an invited paper at the fourth International Chopinological Congress, on the theme 'Through the prism of Chopin: reimagining the 19th Century'.

RACE.ED, a cross-university network concerned with race, racialisation and decolonial studies, has launched an multidisciplinary introductory course,

'Understanding race and colonialism'. This traces race and racialisation under modern colonial life.

Dr Katucha Bento, Dr Shaira Vadasaria and Professor Nasar Meer worked with the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) to create an Early Career Researchers race network. The network will support scholars carrying out critical work on questions of race and ethnicity.

Dr Karen Gregory organised the 'Digital worker inquiry' event, which explored the use by gig workers of tools that collate and organise data on their working lives as a way of empowering them. Developers have built apps to monitor working time, identify and combat wage theft, track underpayment and monitor living wages. More details: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9fd9c7>

In June, Dr Nathan Coombs and Dr Eugenia Rodrigues will take over as directors of the Centre for Science, Knowledge and Policy.

They plan to examine the uses of science in the Covid-19 pandemic governance and to invite expert speakers to address the debates and controversies of the past two years.

Professor Roger Jeffery had a virtual launch of his book, *Childbirth in South Asia: Old Challenges and New Paradoxes*, edited with Dr Clémence Jullien, of the University of Zurich. This is a comparative study of maternal health in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, and examines conditions of childbirth and the lack of technology and medical systems across south Asia.

Mackenzie ranked among top sociologists

University of Edinburgh: Professor Donald MacKenzie has been ranked among the most influential sociologists in the world.

He was placed 22nd on Academic Influence's '25 top influential sociologists today' list for his work on financial and technology issues between 2010 and 2020.

Academic Influence is a group of academics and data scientists who employ machine learning to measure the impact of work produced by academics through their number of citations and web presence.

Professor MacKenzie has studied topics including the history of statistics, nuclear weapons systems and finance. He is currently focusing on automated high-frequency market trading and the technical and economic systems of online advertising.

His books include *Trading at the Speed of Light: How Ultrafast Algorithms Are Transforming Financial Markets* (2021) and *An Engine, Not a Camera: How Financial Models Shape Markets* (2006).



Professor Donald MacKenzie

He has held visiting faculty positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

the Max Planck Institute, Harvard University, and the École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris.

Professor MacKenzie is one of two British researchers on the list of 25: the other is Michael Burawoy, placed 12th, a former President of the International Sociological Association.

Professor Burawoy has carried out ethnographic studies of workplaces in Zambia, Chicago, Hungary, and post-Soviet Russia. Most recently, he has been studying the life and work of W.E.B. Du Bois. He is also a proponent of public sociology.

Ranked first was Omar Lizardo, of the University of California, Los Angeles, who studies social networks, sociological theory, cognitive science, and cultural and organisational sociology.

Others ranked include Jürgen Habermas, Judith Butler, Mark Granovetter, Raewyn Connell, Saskia Sassen, Arlie Hochschild and Michèle Lamont.

Roseneil appointed first woman V-C at University of Sussex

University of Sussex: Professor Sasha Roseneil has been appointed as the university's next Vice-chancellor, taking up her post in the summer. She is the first woman to hold the post at the university.

Professor Roseneil is currently Pro-Provost (Equity and Inclusion) and Dean of the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences at UCL.

At UCL Professor Roseneil led the development of a concordat that improved working conditions, contracts and career opportunities for teaching staff, and she headed a group to reduce workloads during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences at UCL has been the most successful in Europe at securing European Research Council grants in the social sciences and humanities, and its disciplines are highly ranked in national and global league tables.

It has launched a number of initiatives, including UCL Anthropocene, UCL Social Data Institute and the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialization.

Over more than 30 years as an academic, Professor Roseneil has developed an international reputation for her research on the sociology of gender, sexuality and intimate life, and on citizenship, social movements and social change. She played a



Professor Sasha Roseneil

leading role in establishing the gender studies and psychosocial studies in the UK and she is a qualified psychotherapist and group analyst.

Before joining UCL in 2018, she was Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Essex. She has been Director of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, and was the founding

Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Leeds.

Professor Roseneil said: "The world is currently facing enormous challenges, particularly relating to environmental sustainability and intensified inequalities, and Sussex has a vital contribution to make in tackling these problems.

"My goal is to ensure that we attract a diverse body of students with the potential to benefit from a Sussex education and that we offer them an inspirational, life-changing, challenging and supportive education that equips them to flourish beyond university."

Professor David Maguire will continue as Vice-chancellor until Professor Roseneil takes up her post in August. *Network* will feature an interview with Professor Roseneil in the next issue

Dr Jill Timms has moved from being Associate Head of Research at the School of Strategy and Leadership, Coventry University, to senior lecturer at the Department of Sociology, University of Surrey. She will be the Programme Director for the Masters in Social Research Methods and short courses, and will continue to co-lead the Sustainable Flowers Project and co-convene the BSA Work, Employment and Economic Life study group.

Goldsmiths sociology digs into pie and mash

Goldsmiths: Dr Alex Rhys-Taylor has worked with artists on a project called 'The full English'. This looks at the growing integration of typical British cuisine into the lives of 21st century British Muslims.

The project includes a photo gallery of British Muslims enjoying standard British fare such as fish and chips, pie and mash, and Sunday roast. It also features films, exhibitions and recordings of Muslims talking about their food habits.

Dr Rhys-Taylor worked with Nurull Islam, the co-founder of the Mile End Community Project and a filmmaker. For details see: www.nurullislam.com

In other Goldsmiths news, department members have published various books and articles recently.

Professor Evelyn Ruppert, with Dr Stephan Scheel, of the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, published an edited collection, *Data Practices: Making Up a European People*.

This is based on the findings of an ERC-funded project, Arithmus, and is a collection of essays to help us understand how European people are categorised through counting. Five core chapters explore key categories of people – usually residents,

refugees, homeless people, migrants and ethnic minorities – and how they come into being through specific data practices such as defining, estimating, recalibrating and inferring. The book is open access: <https://bit.ly/3g49pEi>

Dr Martin Savransky discussed his recently published book, *Around the Day in Eighty Worlds*, at an event at the Centre for Theoretical Periphery in Berlin. The book explores new ways of approaching the politics of radical difference and the possibility of transforming reality: <https://bit.ly/3g7JIYR>

Professor Les Back has completed a book, *The Unfinished Politics of Race: Histories of Political Participation, Migration, and Multiculturalism*, written with Michael Keith, Kalbir Shukra and John Solomos, which will be published by Cambridge University Press shortly.

A new podcast, *Decoding Culture*, has been published. It features Professor Back talking about his book, *The Art of Listening*, in which he shows how, by adopting a sociological mindset, one can uncover many rich components of culture through listening: <https://bit.ly/3s2KIxn>

Dr Jennifer Fleetwood has been appointed

as an editor of *The British Journal of Criminology*, replacing Professor David Gadd.

Department members have been involved in various events, including the UK City of Culture series. Dr Nirmal Puwar took part in 'Sampling sounds of the future', organised with the University of Warwick for the Coventry City of Culture programme, which looked at what the future of Coventry might sound like. This involved researchers and members of the public working together to create sound compositions and performances using field recordings of the city.

Professor Caroline Knowles gave talks on 'Infrastructures of plutocratic London' and 'Investigating the super-rich: representations of great wealth in British cultures' at Leipzig University, and on 'Globalisation on the ground' at venues in Britain, Germany and Pakistan.

Dr Fay Dennis launched an exhibition at the Constance Howard Gallery at Goldsmiths, entitled 'I am a work in progress'. It is based on a collaboration between her, two artists and a group of individuals in recovery-treatment for drug or alcohol dependency, and forms part of her Wellcome Fellowship project.

Children in the North more likely to be in care, research says

University of Lancaster: a new report paints a stark picture of inequality for children growing up in the north of England compared with those in the rest of the country.

More than 40 academics at universities in the north contributed to the report, 'The child of the north: building a fairer future after Covid-19'.

Its main findings were that children in the north have a 27% chance of living in poverty compared to 20% in the rest of England. They are significantly more likely to be in care than those in the rest of England – of the local authorities with more than 100 children per 10,000 in care, 21 of 26 are in the north.

During the pandemic, children in the north were lonelier than those in the rest of England – 23% of parents reported that their child was 'often' lonely compared to 15% in the rest of the country.

Children in the north have a 58% chance of living in a local authority with above average levels of low-income families, compared to 19% in the rest of England.

They missed more schooling during



Professor Karen Broadhurst

lockdown than their peers elsewhere in England – only 14% received four or more pieces of offline school work per day, compared with 20% country-wide.

Professor Karen Broadhurst, one of the lead authors, said: "For too long, we have

known that children in the north face the greatest risk of family breakdown. As we move through the pandemic, resetting services must mean increasing investment in the lives of vulnerable children in the north."

Another researcher, Professor Uta Papen, said: "North-south educational inequalities are not new and the pandemic is only adding to what has been a longstanding issue. There is an urgent need to recognise and build on the enormous effort, knowledge and experiences of schools and families in the north to support all children's education, setting up local plans and initiatives that reflect local needs and aspirations, with proper funding and longstanding commitment."

The authors put forward a set of recommendations to tackle the inequalities suffered by children over the course of the pandemic. They include increasing child benefit by £10 per child per week, bringing in universal free school meals, and the government investing more in schools and social care.

'Stigma' led to forcible adoption of babies

Lancaster University: Dr Michael Lambert gave evidence to an inquiry looking into the experiences of thousands of unmarried women who had their babies forcibly removed by the UK state in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

Dr Lambert, a Fellow in Social Inequalities in the Sociology Department, was part of a panel of academics outlining the social, political and psychological background to the issue. He carried out research on the issue as a doctoral student at Lancaster University from 2013 to 2017.

The inquiry, launched by the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, centres on the testimonies of hundreds of unmarried mothers who were pressured to give up their children by the welfare state, and who were then adopted by other families.

The inquiry, chaired by Harriet Harman, covers cases that arose between the Adoption of Children Act 1949 and the Adoption Act 1976.

Dr Lambert told the hearing that, "Ultimately the choice was limited because all the agencies and apparatus of the state were trying to compel women [who were unmarried mothers] to choose the 'right' option, which was adoption, not the 'wrong' option, which was any other alternative, so

the whole structure of decision making was pushing people down that route".

He said that the "shame, stigma and guilt" that were associated with unmarried births were the driving force that precluded outcomes other than adoption.

Dr Lambert said that a similar issue of forcible adoption occurred in the US, Australia, Canada, Greece, Spain and Ireland, as well as the UK.

The inquiry is broadcast on Parliament Live TV: <https://tinyurl.com/2p98hhxv>

Speaking about the hearing, Dr Lambert said: "This inquiry is important in publicly recognising the injustice perpetrated by the British welfare state for more than a quarter of a century. It has hidden in plain sight for a long time and it is crucial that the voices of those affected are central to any process of redress.

"The fact that these events took place within living memory is striking, as can the harsh and moralising tones of those involved.

"It is crucial that we seize this opportunity presented by the Joint Committee on Human Rights to understand that many of the same dynamics of power and authority persist through to the present and represent an enduring form of inequality.

"My interest in the issue of the forcible



Dr Michael Lambert

adoption of children of unmarried mothers came from reading social work case files for my doctoral thesis. Whilst each contained a moving family history, together they raised questions about how the welfare state operated.

"This, particularly at a time when we often think that Britain never had it so good. The background to the inquiry and my own research show that many did not."

Universal Credit claimants go hungry

University of Salford: Research has found that a quarter of people claiming Universal Credit have had to skip meals or reduce their portions because of lack of money.

Almost six million people claim Universal Credit, so the findings suggest that over a million are having to reduce their food intake to make ends meet.

The research was conducted by the universities of Salford, Kent, Leeds, LSE and Deakin University, Australia. It was produced for 'Welfare at a (social) distance', a major national research project funded by the ESRC.

The report's researchers used a nationally-representative YouGov survey of 6,300 claimants, taken before the ending of a £20 a week uplift in October.

It found that one quarter were severely food insecure, defined as having to cut the size of a meal or skip a meal in the past 30 days. Another quarter were food insecure, defined as when the quality and variety of their diet was affected by lack of money.

One of the researchers, Dr Ben Baumberg Geiger, of the University of Kent, said: "Benefit levels are too low to consistently keep claimants out of food insecurity."

He said that even when the £20 a week Universal Credit uplift was operational, a quarter were severely food insecure. "Put



Dr Ben Baumberg Geiger

simply, to avoid widespread food insecurity among claimants, all work or income-related benefits need to be made more generous."

The report found that food insecurity was noticeably higher among claimants receiving deductions from their benefits, including those repaying loans and claimants subject to the bedroom tax or a benefit cap, and also disabled people.

New role in police oversight

University of Liverpool: Dr Aminu Musa Audu has been appointed to the Merseyside Independent Advisory Group.

The group, comprising members of the community, advises police on matters including stop and search practices, police training and crime statistics.

Its Chair, Sharon Williams, said that the group comprised "people from all different

walks of life. We are independent to the police but all have a vested interest in Merseyside and supporting those living, working and visiting our region. Like the police, we prioritise community safety but aim to do this by improving and challenging the police service.

"All members of the group have different specialisms and life experience. From working with the homeless to representing hard to reach communities, we aim to represent everyone in our community and ensure that they're not only heard but really listened to."

Dr Audu has joined the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology at Liverpool, teaching seminars on the community and the problem of crime.

His book, *Police Corruption and Community Policing in Nigeria: A Sociological Case Study*, was based on his PhD research at Liverpool.

In it, he recommended that the police in Nigeria be better paid and trained and that the public be encouraged to trust them enough to report crimes to them.



Dr Aminu Musa Audu

Relaunched network to hold annual lecture

UCL: A network to link sociologists to the rest of the university and beyond has restarted.

The UCL Sociology Network has been relaunched to bring together the large number of sociologists who work across the university and who at present do not have any institutional home. The network will celebrate the work of UCL sociologists and ensure the discipline's visibility to researchers, funders, prospective students and the public.

It held its inaugural annual lecture in March, when Professor Gurinder Bhambra spoke on, 'Contemporary sociology and the reconstruction of its canons'.

Professor Bhambra, President of the BSA, discussed the need to reconstruct the basis of sociology by addressing broader shared histories than those currently used.

The network was originally established in 2009, chaired first by Professor Graham Scambler and later by Professor Paul Higgs.

King's College London: Professor Linda McKie has been appointed the new Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy.

Professor McKie was formerly Dean and Head of the School of Social and Political Sciences, and Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Edinburgh.

Before joining Edinburgh in 2017, she was Head of the School of Applied Social Sciences at Durham University.

She is currently principal investigator on the 'Healthier working lives and ageing for workers in the care sector' programme.

Sheffield Hallam University: A book that gives an overview of the forcible displacement of people has been published.

Introducing Forced Migration, by Professor Patricia Hynes, looks at who and where forced migrants are, why international protection is critical and how migrants recreate their worlds in the face of increasingly restrictive legislation and policy.

The book, published by Routledge, introduces key thinkers from a broad range of disciplines, including sociology. It is intended as part of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and for practitioners, journalists and aid workers.

Professor Hynes has recently left the University of Bedfordshire to work as Professor of Social Justice at the Helena Kennedy Centre at Sheffield Hallam.

Notts researchers tackle Probation dementia, youth justice and disability

University of Nottingham: Professor Alison Pilnick has been awarded an NIHR grant to examine ways of averting and alleviating distress in people with dementia who are admitted to hospital for acute, non-dementia related illness.

The project, which began in March, will develop and trial communication skills training for hospital healthcare staff.

Professor Pilnick, who is working with colleagues in the School of Health Sciences, will lead part of the research which will video-record and analyse interactions on wards for older people at two sites in the UK. This analysis will be used to underpin training.

Professor Pilnick is also a participant in the Academy of Medical Science's 'Future leaders in innovation, enterprise and research' programme. This develops leaders who can create collaborations across academia, industry, the NHS and government.

She is the first sociologist to participate in the programme and will present her work to an audience of national medical and health-care leaders, including Sir Patrick Vallance, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government.



Professor Alison Pilnick

In other Nottingham news, Dr Nicola Carr and others have been awarded an ESRC grant for a three-year project which will explore recent reforms of probation services.

The research will examine the consequences of bringing the service fully back into the public sector after its part-

privatisation in 2014.

It will study the experiences for staff, service users and policy makers of the reform.

A report of a research study led by Dr Carr and Dr Siobhán McAlister, of Queen's University Belfast, entitled 'Tracing the review – developments in youth justice in Northern Ireland 2011-2021' was launched in the Northern Ireland Assembly in November.

Dr Philippa Tomczak hosted an international conference online in November, entitled, 'Prisoner death investigations: improving safety in prisons and societies?'

This conference reported on research undertaken with the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman in England and Wales.

The research found that the Ombudsman could adopt a broader systemic focus rather than considering single deaths in prisons. In this way, the Ombudsman could encourage coroners to make findings that encompass problems in prisons, such as mental illness, drugs and inadequate staffing, and so improve safety.

This event was attended by more than 200 representatives from the Ombudsman,

Teaching-only staff feel 'excluded and invisible'

Cardiff Metropolitan University: Academics on teaching-only contracts feel excluded and "almost invisible" within their department and university, when compared with research staff, research says.

A survey of 113 staff in 20 Russell Group business schools, and 34 follow-up interviews, found that on average they did not feel as valued or incentivised to work.

Dr John McCormack, of the Cardiff School of Management, and Dr Matthew Bamber and Dr Brent Lyons, of York University, Canada, said that teaching-only staff "simultaneously identify with their role but strongly dis-identify with their organisation".

Their survey found that on a five-point Likert scale, where 1 was 'strongly disagree', 3 'neither agree nor disagree', and 5 was 'strongly agree', the average response to the statement 'In my institution, teaching-only staff are viewed as key assets' was 2.29.

The response to 'I believe my institution incentivises high-quality teaching' was 2.24. The response to 'I believe that 'teaching-only' staff are viewed as key assets within the academic community' was also 2.24.

The respondents thought that research staff were more valued, with an average response of 4.39 to the statement 'I believe my institution incentivises high-quality research'.

In interviews, respondents said that they were not viewed as full colleagues, with one telling the researchers that "once you opt to go teaching-only, you close every door possible – we always, therefore, suffer a discrimination."

Another said they felt "squeezed into a sort of never-never land where nobody looks at you or talks to you."

Several respondents reported being excluded from formal and informal email correspondence, departmental groups and broader decision-making forums.

One said: "I've been here 14 years, and every time that somebody says they want to sit near somebody they research with, the teaching-only people will be moved out to other offices – it's always kind of like, 'Oh, you don't need to sit in the department because you don't do research. You go and sit in some other building'."

Another said: "Nobody could give a damn whether I was good or bad because beyond research articles nothing else counts at all – we've lost any kind of teaching culture, really."

In an article in the BSA's *Work, Employment and Society* journal, the researchers say that "teaching has always been one of the primary duties of academics. However, a

standalone teaching-only faculty pathway has only recently emerged."

The first formal count of teaching-only staff, made by Hesa in 1994/95, found that there were 11,688 UK-based academics employed on teaching-only contracts, 10% of the total. By 2018/2019 this had risen to 66,355, or 31% of the UK university faculty.

The study noted that universities employ more teaching-only staff during the run up to the REF exercise periods "to allow those on the traditional academic career pathway (i.e. research and teaching faculty) to maximise their opportunities for research output."

The researchers said: "Reinforcing this sense of inequity, we were told that RTF [research and teaching fellows] members who failed to publish in accordance with REF targets were punished with extra teaching."

As one interviewee said: "I mean the very fact [that] when you fail in research, you're basically given teaching. Teaching is there for a punishment, a failure'."

The article, 'Conceptualising "within-group stigmatisation" among high-status workers', is at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/09500170211041287>

on Service, bility

inspectors, coroners, prison staff, government departments, academics and people personally affected by deaths in prison. The conference report can be read here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9djbcn>

Staff in the School of Sociology and Social Policy will organise a conference in July, hosted by the British Academy and funded by the Wellcome Trust, entitled 'Constructing and contesting veterinary expertise: professionals, publics and prospects'.

The event will be convened by Professor Pru Hobson-West, Dr Alistair Anderson and Professor Kate Millar and will explore the evolution and contemporary significance of veterinary expertise, and identify ethical challenges. More information is at: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2a2p3y>

Professor Sarah Dauncey gave a lecture at University College Dublin entitled, 'Gendering para-citizenship: an exploration of men, women and disability in modern Chinese history'.

This showed how traditionally accepted notions of personhood are fundamentally challenged by understandings of disability and gender.

Kent researcher has got rhythm (in her new book)

University of Kent: Dr Dawn Lyon's edited volume, *Rhythmanalysis: Place, Mobility, Disruption and Performance*, was published in November.

This collection brings together original research on the concept and practice of 'rhythmanalysis' in urban sociology as a means to analyse the relationship between the time and space of the city.

In other Kent news, The SecondHand Cultures research network, co-convened by Dr Triona Fitton, hosted an online workshop in February on the theme of 'Waste and reuse, secondhand challenges'.

This event, funded by an ESRC impact grant, brought researchers and industry people together to tackle practical challenges faced by a secondhand economy.

The BioGovernance Commons initiative, founded by Dr Joy Zhang late last year, held two online sessions in February and March on the security implications of CRISPR, the tool for genome editing. Discussants included scientists, ethicists, sociologists and policy makers in the US, the UK and China.

Dr Corey Wrenn organised the Annual

Meeting of the International Association of Vegan Sociologists in October. Presentations are available at vegansociology.com

Dr Wrenn is due to give a seminar at the American Humanist Association on the topic of 'Why animal rights is a humanist issue' on 20 April.



Dr Dawn Lyon

New from Brill



International Journal of Social Imaginaries

Managing Editors:
Suzi Adams and
Jeremy Smith

brill.com/ijsi

The *International Journal of Social Imaginaries* offers the premier scholarly forum for the interdisciplinary and diverse interest in social imaginaries, capturing increasingly prominent and versatile contributions in one globally accessible journal. It seeks to bring theoretical and analytical clarity in discussions on imaginaries, carefully distinguishing the concept from related notions, such as culture, representation, ideology, and identity. It provides a forum for theoretical and conceptual debates, as well as empirically driven studies, and invites contributions from a range of disciplines.

 **BRILL**

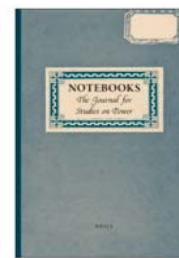


Protest

Editor-in-Chief:
Larbi Sadiki

brill.com/prot

A "protest turn" is upon us. The Arab Spring uprisings, Occupy Wall Street, anti-immigrant mobilization, and Black Lives Matter – all speak to this historical juncture. Against this backdrop, *Protest* inaugurates a forum for capturing this expanding global phenomenon of contentious politics. It invites contributors to interpret the evolving nature of power and power dynamics and relations across various terrains of protest. Protest is neither single nor fixed, and the journal champions the diversity of ontology, epistemology, and methodology of knowing protest, undertaking to reflect it in the "writing" of protest.



Notebooks: The Journal for Studies on Power

Editors-in-Chief:
Francesca Congiu and
Margherita Sabrina Perra

brill.com/power

Notebooks: The Journal for Studies on Power is an academic, peer-reviewed publication intended to serve as a dialogue-generating conduit for research on power. Power is a complex phenomenon and can be defined in multiple ways. For the purposes of this journal, power implies submission either by consent or by coercion. This means that, apart from being exercised through violence, power can be exercised through hegemony produced by "common sense". However, power still implies exploitation. Exploitation, via the exercise of hegemonic power, occurs in many domains: global politics, institutional administration, the state, legal systems, social dynamics, family, the workplace, and more.

‘My office was mistaken for the library’: 20 years of book reviewing

Edwin van Teijlingen, of Bournemouth University, writes about his 20 years as a book review editor for the BSA’s journal, Sociological Research Online

In late 2001, I applied to become book review editor for *Sociological Research Online* (SRO) and, to my surprise, I was offered the honour in March 2002. I started as the ‘apprentice’ of my co-book review editor Nicola Green, who soon after moved on to become an editor of the journal. Since then, I have had the pleasure to work with four further book review editors: Mark Sherry, Anne Holohan, Emma Casey and my current, and longest serving, joint book review editor, Katharine Venter.

When I started, the journal had some general advice to give to book reviewers in terms of the required reference style and word length, etc, of the review. After editing many draft book reviews, and some were cut/edited quite drastically, I wrote a piece on how to write a book review for new reviewers and this was added to the SRO website in 2007. This advice evolved over the years and the latest version, written with Katharine Venter, is currently on the SRO website: <https://tinyurl.com/yn242htm>

We have since expanded this advice further for a book chapter called ‘Writing a book review’ in the forthcoming edited volume, *Academic Writing and Publishing in Health and Social Sciences*, (to be published by Himal Books/Social Science Baha: Kathmandu, Nepal).

In two decades, the number of e-books being offered by publishers to SRO has increased quite a bit but, perhaps surprisingly in this digital age, printed books are still in the majority. The journal also changed from an independent journal to become part of the large international social science publishing house, SAGE.

One of the things that has not changed is getting book reviewers to submit their review on time or even within a reasonable time period. Academics may agree to write a review but subsequently discover they don’t have time to (a) read the book or (b) write the review. On occasion authors ask us: “What is happening with the review for my book?” The only answer we can give is: “We don’t know, still waiting for the reviewer to submit the review, we have sent reminders, but no reply yet.”

Our problem as editors is that once we have put the copy of the book in the post, we don’t have a second copy to send to another reviewer, so once a review is allocated it is out of our hands.



Professor Edwin van Teijlingen

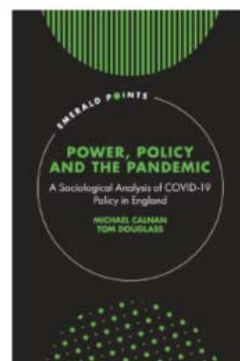
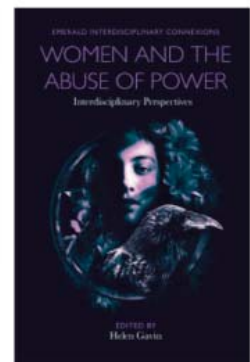
Obviously, as a book review editor you need to like books. I do like books and I possess a few thousand. When I had to move office in my previous post as Reader in Public Health at the University of Aberdeen, I received a great compliment from one of

the joiners whose job it was to move furniture and fixings. He walked into the secretary’s office asking for the key for the library. The secretary apparently looked puzzled and said: “We don’t have a departmental library here”, to which the joiner replied: “The first door on the right in the corridor.” It turned out he was talking about my office!

I would like to take the opportunity to mention the wonderful support we have had over the years from our office volunteers and editorial assistants behind the scenes. Those wonderful people who know the ins and outs of the editorial office, the workings of the computer system, the website, the reviewers’ database, and so on, better than I ever will, and who make the role of a book review editor much easier.

Last, but not least, Katharine and I would like to invite and encourage social scientists to come forward and volunteer to write a book review for SRO or any of the other BSA-supported journals, such as *Sociology or Work, Employment and Society*.

New from Emerald for 2022



books.emeraldinsight.com

Centre set up to find a fair and sustainable digital future for all

Professor Susan Halford writes about a new centre that she leads with Professor Dale Southerton at the University of Bristol, which looks at digital futures:

The ESRC has funded a new Centre for Sociodigital Futures (CenSoF). The starting point for the centre is that the social and the digital 'intra-act' in what is now a socio-digital world. This is clear when we look at the past and the present, particularly over the pandemic, which has turbocharged investments in sociodigital transformations and re-configured everyday practices (how we work, shop, learn and so on).

The new centre will focus on sociodigital futures and what might be done to drive these towards fair and sustainable ways of life. This is built on a paradox in existing evidence, which shows that sociodigital intra-actions are complex and contingent rather than predictable and, at the same

time, that socio-digital intra-actions are critical to the pressing and inter-related societal challenges of inequality and sustainability and how these will play out over coming years. In short, sociodigital futures are both unpredictable and critical.

The centre will move beyond this impasse by shifting attention from 'the future' to 'futures in the making'. The future cannot be known, but how futures are claimed, and by whom, and how these claims are acted on in the present, can be known and matters a great deal. We need only look at recent claims for artificial intelligence or the metaverse to see how these drive investment and policy, as well as popular expectations of sociodigital futures. Understanding the nature of these sociodigital futures-in-the-making, examining how they are being made, and exploring where it might be possible to tip the balance towards inclusive, reflexive and sustainable trajectories, is the work of this centre.

CenSoF will be a national and international hub for sociodigital futures research and practice. The centre draws together in-depth and internationally recognised expertise from across the social sciences, engineering, arts and design, and will work with partners from government, industry and civil society and an international network of researchers to meet a range of clear and pressing needs for sociodigital futures research and capacity building.

The research will focus on five substantive areas of social life – consuming, caring, learning, moving and organising – integrated with four key areas of digital innovation (AI, AR/VR/XR, robotics and high-performance networks). The centre



Professor Susan Halford

will integrate this work through a Futures Studio, which will drive the development of theoretical, methodological and applied capacities for interdisciplinary and collaborative sociodigital futures research and experimentation. The inter-related challenges of inequality and environmental sustainability – which are central to, and for, sociodigital futures – will run through the programme of work, which will actively seek opportunities to both pluralise and democratise processes of futures-making.

The centre will be located at the University of Bristol and will draw in a wider network of specialist expertise from the universities of Birmingham, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Goldsmiths University of London, and the University of the Arts, London.

It has six strategic partners from: civil society (the locality); international governance (UNESCO); the government (the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs); security (the National Centre for Cybersecurity); business (British Telecom); and data analytics (Maybe*).

Transnational reach and engagement will be facilitated through an international academic network (the University of New South Wales, Oslo Metropolitan University, Federico II University of Naples, Stellenbosch University and the New School in New York).

Overall, the centre will bring together social science expertise, technical expertise, expertise in futures research and expertise from across our partnership ecosystem to build critical and reflexive capacity amongst individuals, governments, researchers, industry and civil society for socially responsible and democratised sociodigital future-making.



@Emerald_Books

Meet our new Sociology
Commissioning Editor



bit.ly/MeetKatyMathers

Follow @katy_mathers

kmathers@emerald.com



Professor Dale Southerton

New Sociology team will widen leadership

A new team of editors based at the University of Surrey has begun work at the BSA journal, *Sociology*, with a promise to broaden its audience.

They are: Professor Rachel Brooks and Professor Rob Meadows, who are editors-in-chief, and Professor Ian Brunton-Smith, Professor Ranjana Das, Dr Vicki Harman, Dr Paul Hodgkinson, Professor Andrew King and Dr Emily Setty, who are editors.

They replace a previous team at the University of Manchester, and will edit the journal until 2024.

In a statement the new team said they were, “thrilled and honoured to take on editorship of *Sociology*, a truly leading journal that we all hold in the highest esteem.

“Editing such an important and prestigious journal is an awesome responsibility and one we take on with the utmost commitment. We are lucky to inherit *Sociology* in a very strong position as a result of the brilliant work of the outgoing editorial team from the University of Manchester – a truly difficult act to follow.

“As editors, we hope we will be able to build on the admirable work of the outgoing team, sustaining the quality of the journal and ensuring it retains its place as one of the leading sociology journals in the world, rigorously engaging with key sociological debates at a time when their importance is difficult to over-estimate. We are also developing plans to broaden the audience of the journal, to further



Professor Rachel Brooks

internationalise its contributors, readership and profile, and to help foreground issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion.”

Sociology is the BSA’s flagship journal, with an impact factor of 4.816. It publishes peer-reviewed articles advancing theoretical understanding of a wide range of sociological topics, and reporting empirical research. The journal encourages submissions using quantitative and qualitative research methods.

New editors at WES journal

The BSA has made three new appointments to the editorial team at its *Work, Employment and Society* journal.

Laurie Cohen is Professor of Work and Organisation, and Marek Korczynski is Professor of Sociology of Work and Human Resource Management at the University of Nottingham. They are both editors-in-chief.

Professor Cohen and Professor Korczynski, who have been involved with the journal as authors and editors, said in a statement: “We love the journal’s vibe, its commitment to quality, collegiality and, above all, its desire to honour the history of the sociology of work, whilst at the same time pushing its boundaries.

“We have some exciting ideas for the future. In the short term, we will be publishing sub-themes on power, control and resistance, migration, and meaningful work. In line with our commitment to development, we plan to introduce a new section showcasing outstanding doctoral work. And consistent with our commitment to the

foundations of the sociology of work, a section on Working Classics is also in the pipeline.”

They thanked the previous editors, Dr Elizabeth Cotton, Dr Ian Roper and Professor Eleanor Kofman, for handing over “a journal that’s in great shape. The content goes from strength to strength and has an ever clearer identity. Submission numbers have never been higher.”

The journal also appointed Dr Knut Laaser, Lecturer in Work and Employment at the University of Stirling, as an editor.

Dr Laaser, who was an editorial board member, said that, “as an editor, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues at WES on the collective vision of the journal as an inclusive and critical intellectual outlet for the best scholarship in the sociology of work.”

Work, Employment and Society is a leading international peer-reviewed journal with an impact factor of 5.116.

New Cultural Sociology team appointed

Five new editors of the BSA journal *Cultural Sociology* have been appointed for the period 2021-2026.

They are: Dr Nadya Jaworsky, of Masaryk University, Czech Republic; Professor Ming-Cheng Lo, University of California, Davis; Dr Marcus Morgan, University of Bristol; Dr Christopher Thorpe, University of Exeter; and Dr Rin Ushiyama, Queen’s University Belfast.

The editors welcome innovative, sociologically-informed work concerned with cultural processes and artefacts, broadly defined. They are particularly interested in submissions on cultural analyses of contemporary issues, such as: climate change; populism and racism; research that serves to globalise, diversify, or decolonise cultural sociology; and the sociology of arts, music, literature or other cultural products.

Dr Morgan said: “What I’m most excited about in this respect is encouraging scholarship that demonstrates how a cultural sociological perspective can help illuminate, and possibly even indicate solutions for, a variety of social phenomena that are often considered non-cultural.”

Dr Ushiyama said: “I have always thought of *Cultural Sociology* as a broad church, which appeals to authors and readers that work on academic debates well beyond culture as a narrowly defined area of research.”

To submit, see:

<https://tinyurl.com/fj22ap7a>

• The latest book in the BSA-Routledge *Sociological Futures* series looks at family life today. *Negotiating Families and Personal Lives in the 21st Century: Exploring Diversity, Social Change and Inequalities* is edited by Dr Sheila Quaid, Dr Catriona Hugman and Dr Angela Wilcock.

The book explores personal choices about reproduction, life choices, family forms and conflict, ethnicity, sexuality and gender.

Specific chapters have topics including lesbian couples, ‘troubled’ families in poverty, domestic violence, the lives of women post-divorce and over 50, families living apart in China, and stories of adults who were in care.

Sociological Futures is a forum for new and innovative theories, methods and approaches to sociological issues and debates in the 21st century.

The series has published 14 books in the last four years on topics including sport, food, youth, climate change, higher education, social mobility and citizenship. A 15th volume, *Digital Femininities: The Gendered Construction of Cultural and Political Identities Online*, by Dr Frankie Rogan, is due to come out in July.

Workers feel outrage, anxiety, guilt and hope about climate change

University of Leeds: A new survey of workers in the UK has shown that two-thirds (65%) feel that climate change should be tackled with a “high” or “extremely high” level of urgency.

Over a third of workers said that actions to decarbonise were happening in their workplace, the report, by the Leeds University Business School, finds.

For the research, Dr Jo Cutter, Professor Vera Trappmann, Dr Ursula Balderson, Dr Andrew Sudmant and Dr Helen Norman surveyed 2,000 UK workers.

The most common emotion about climate change was outrage (41%), anxiety (38%), and fear, guilt and hope (36%-37%).

Half thought government had the main responsibility for climate action, with 24% saying business had the main responsibility, and 20% individuals.

Although 36% of workers said that actions to decarbonise were happening in their workplace, only around a half had been consulted on these changes and just over a quarter had received relevant training.

About 47% thought the green economy would bring more jobs to their community, and 27% thought it would lead to job losses. Four out of ten thought better quality jobs would come.



Dr Jo Cutter

A quarter (26%) thought they would need to learn new skills, 16% thought they would get a better quality job, 14% said they would need to change jobs and 12% that they would need to move to find work. Over a third, (37%) thought that work in the green economy would be interesting.

Dr Cutter, of the Centre for Employment

Relations, Innovation and Change, and the other academics, wrote that the report explored “more concretely how workers view the challenge of climate change, their readiness for green jobs and the principles and policies around which they think a just transition should be based.

“Workers are generally optimistic about the community level benefits that the green economy transition will bring, although they seem less confident that they personally will be able to access those opportunities.

“The results on climate emotions are also intriguing, as recent work has shown that the ‘eco-anger’ captured as outrage, is a particularly good predictor of pro-climate actions and behaviours. However its impact can be negated by fear and other negative emotions such as eco-related anxiety.

“Many workers express interest in switching jobs to work in the green economy or climate neutral jobs. Our findings highlight the value that workers place on moving to ‘greener’ jobs [and] that green jobs are attractive because they provide interesting work and offer elevated status.”

These findings indicated that workers were attracted to jobs that produced a tangible sense of social value, which was a distinct but often invisible component of job quality.

Pam Cox returns to screen in Victorian film

University of Essex: Professor Pam Cox has returned to the TV screen, in a documentary giving viewers a fresh look at the Victorian era.

Professor Cox was one of a team of experts featured in ‘Victorian Britain: the lost films’ on Channel 5. The programme shows colourised footage from the era, captured on what was then an exciting new invention, the motion picture camera. It features triumphant events, disasters, criminals, sporting events, soldiers at war and children playing.

The programme shows the story of William Booth’s Salvation Army tackling safety conditions in the match industry, and the celebrities of the music hall era, such as Little Tich, Annie Oakley, and the world’s first bodybuilder, Eugen Sandow. It can be seen at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc57htya>

Professor Cox said: “These moving images of Victorian Britain are incredible and help us understand that time in a new way.

“Being able to see the faces of match girls, dockers, shoppers and emigrants, as well as celebrities of the day, brings their stories right into our living rooms.”

Professor Cox has also presented a BBC Two series, ‘Shopgirls: the true story of life



Professor Pam Cox

behind the counter’, which traced the history of Britain’s shop workers and consumer cultures from 1860.

In other Essex news, a new book by Professor John Preston explores how artificial intelligence is being used to exploit academic labour.

Artificial Intelligence in the Capitalist University argues that artificial intelligence in higher education commodifies learning and research.

By examining its impacts on the control

and regulation of academic work and labour, on digital learning and remote teaching, and on the value of learning and knowledge, the book challenges the idea that AI is a break from previous capitalist technologies.

The book draws on Professor Preston’s research on the ways in which technology is revolutionising production processes.

Professor Preston said: “Marx predicted that the future of production would be that workers might simply become ‘conscious linkages’ in a network of machines orientated towards profit.

“The same technologies that are being used in digital manufacturing are being used in higher education to increase surpluses and streamline workforces, and our universities now embody this nightmare where, disciplined through AI and other advanced technologies, academics labour in unison to produce vast ‘data commodities’.

“Data analytics is animated and characterised through software packages and management consultants. The University is becoming ever more unrecognisable, but as academics are dismissed and capitalism becomes increasingly unsustainable, the future may lie in co-operative forms.”

Experts in citizenship and music join group

The **BSA Youth study group** has welcomed Dr Eveleigh Buck-Matthews, of Birmingham City University, as its new early careers co-convenor.

Dr Buck-Matthews has expertise in youth and music, and is well known for her work on music festivals and her involvement in the innovative 'People and dancefloors: narratives of drug-taking' project, which gives a voice to people's experiences of drug use and aims to spark debate about drug policy.

The group also welcomed its new postgraduate co-convenor, Janina Suppers, of the University of York, who studies young people's citizenship and citizenship education. Both researchers bring expertise in participatory research, a growing area of interest to youth researchers.



Dr Eveleigh Buck-Matthews

They join Dr Benjamin Hanckel, of Western Sydney University, Dr Karenza Moore, Newcastle University, and Sophie Atherton, University of Manchester, as convenors.

The group thanked Dr Caitlin Nunn, of Manchester Metropolitan University, and its postgrad convenor, Wendy Gill, of Durham University, who have stepped down and whose work has been central to the group's growth over the last few years.

In December last year, the study group held its 13th virtual group meet-up since the pandemic began. The meet-ups are an opportunity for members to discuss how work with young people has been affected by the pandemic. They also provide a welcoming and supportive online space for networking and collaboration.

The team will offer opportunities for members to share research work and ideas this year. These include: quarterly meet-ups, online and in-person where possible; four panels of youth papers at the BSA annual conference in the Lifecourse stream; a PGR engagement seminar; and a seminar series on methods in youth studies with partner youth studies associations.

The group's events will build on a special issue that members published at the end of last year in the *Journal of Applied Youth Studies*, which looked at 'making sense of intersecting crises' for young people.

Further announcements will be made on Twitter via its @BSAYouthSG channel. The group welcomes new members whose work intersects with youth studies.

• *From information supplied by Dr Hanckel and Dr Moore. More details of the group's work and its events, and information about joining, can be read at:*

<https://tinyurl.com/5h39p858>

New convenors for Science study group

STS study group: Dr Tara Mahfoud, of the University of Essex, has joined Dr Emily Ross, University of Sheffield, and Dr Julia Swallow, University of Edinburgh, as co-convenor of the study group.

The plenary speaker for the STS/digital stream at the BSA annual conference in April will be Professor Noortje Marres, of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies at the University of Warwick.

Professor Marres' research considers the testing of intelligent technologies in everyday environments such as hospitals, schools and public spaces. She explores the challenges posed by intelligent technologies for democracy and society, and the opportunities offered to the wider public to become involved in innovation. This links to the conference theme through a discussion of creative routes to equality and sustainable social progress.

Group members have published *Research Methods for Digital Work and Organization: Investigating Distributed, Multi-Modal, and Mobile Work*. This is edited by Professor Gillian Symon, Professor Katrina Pritchard and Professor Christine Hine: <https://bit.ly/3gaMV17>



Dr Tara Mahfoud

Would you like to contribute to Network?

We are looking for letters, opinion pieces and news articles from sociologists

For more information please contact Tony Trueman at: tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk or on 07964 023392, or BSA Chief Executive Judith Mudd at: judith.mudd@britsoc.org.uk Copy deadlines are around two months before publication (please check with Tony or Judith). Network is now published online only.

We try to include all material received, but pressure of space may lead to articles being edited and publication being delayed.

Books for review can be seen at: <http://bit.ly/2gM3tDt>



No way out of the climate crisis without Asia's help, event hears

The **Climate Change study group** held a webinar in November to discuss a new book, *Climate Emergency: How Societies Create the Crisis*, by Mark Harvey, Emeritus Professor at the University of Essex.

The event was chaired by Professor Linsey McGoey and featured Professor Jeremy Krikler, Professor Nigel South and Dr Katy Wheeler, all at Essex.

The event heard that Professor Harvey's central concept of 'sociogenesis' was a challenge to accounts of climate change that assume a uniform impact of societies on the environment.

The book highlighted the ineffectiveness of viewing carbon emissions on a national scale, as globalisation connects us through dynamic cycles of production distribution, exchange and consumption which reproduce and perpetuate historical inequalities.

Instead, it argued that different societies have different connections across the globe, generating varied carbon footprints and unequal responsibilities for climate change between economies. For example, China's lack of agricultural land connects it to Brazil, whose abundance of sun and land provide the resources for crops to grow.

Professor Krikler praised Professor Harvey's attention to the historical legacy of North American and European



Professor Mark Harvey

contributions to the climate catastrophe, arguing that there was no way out of the climate catastrophe unless decisions were also taken in Asia to stop it.

He questioned what this meant for inequalities within countries and how people in countries with high levels of inequality should be consuming in the future.

He reflected on the important role that

activists, scientists and moral critique had played in moving nations to take action.

Professor Nigel South's discussion focused on climate justice and the role for indigenous peoples. While recognising that Professor Harvey's book calls for a "just transition", Professor South questioned how this might be possible in practice.

He highlighted how the impacts of climate change and responsibility for causes were highly unequal, yet Professor Harvey's book did not include the one population that was least responsible for climate change – indigenous peoples – who should be recognised in climate change agreements.

Dr Wheeler questioned what role consumers and citizens should play within climate change debates. While we might question the effectiveness of actions such as recycling schemes, the potential such commitment represented should not be dismissed. She asked how to engage and educate consumers as citizens and what sort of political mobilisation might result from this.

The event, co-hosted with the University of Essex's Centre for Research in Economic Sociology and Innovation, can be seen on video: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8am2zw>

• From information supplied by Dr Wheeler, Co-convenor of the Climate Change study group, For a fuller account of the event, see <https://tinyurl.com/yh2nkymv>

Event explores teaching religion in schools

The **SocRel study group** held a conference on the theme of Teaching Religion, with primary and secondary teachers among the audience, as well as academics.

The event, held in November at the University of Nottingham, sought ideas, experiences and critiques of the state of teaching religion in the UK today, across all stages of education. It was the group's first in-person conference in over two years.

The mixed audience of around 100 arose from the group's new approach of involving teachers of religion at every level, including offering them a new reduced rate membership option.

The 12 papers presented during the panel sessions explored: the impact of the race, class and creed of students and teachers on the practice of teaching religion; interactive and multi-sensory approaches, in particular when working with students with additional needs; the concept of 'worldviews' in religious education; and how researchers can use innovative approaches to better communicate key ideas at every level.

The keynote speaker, Dr Dawn Llewellyn,



Dr Dawn Llewellyn

of the University of Chester, gave a digital interactive workshop inspired by the work of bell hooks, exploring the building of learning communities in the study of religion.

The event ended with a public online discussion on the topic of 'Teaching religion and worldviews in the religious education classroom'.

The group will repeat the format at future conferences in order to engage with and learn from secondary teachers, including at its 2022 annual conference. This will explore the theme of crisis in the sociology of religion, and will run online from 4 to 6 July, with a postgraduate and early career day taking place on 7 July.

The **Families and Relationships and Sociology of Emotions** study groups jointly hosted an event in December celebrating the life and works of the American scholar and cultural theorist, Lauren Berlant.

Guest speakers Professor Bridget Kenney, of the University of Witwatersrand, Professor Carolyn Pedwell, University of Kent, and Professor Sasha Roseneil, UCL, reflected on the contribution of Professor Berlant's work to their scholarship, her ideas on 'intimate publics' and 'cruel optimism', and her influence in various sub-fields of sociology. Organisers said the event was a poignant reminder of the importance of academic friendship.

All around the world

Network takes a look at sociology beyond our shores

Half of gay men have degree

Over half of gay men in the US have an undergraduate degree, compared with a just over a third of heterosexual men, research says.

Dr Joel Mittleman, of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, studied survey data on half a million Americans to find that 52% of gay men have a first degree, compared with 35% of straight men.

Six per cent of gay men have an advanced degree, including a PhD or medical degree, compared with 4% of straight men.

Also, 43% of women who identify as gay have a first degree, compared with 34% of those who identify as straight.

Dr Mittleman found that gay men of every racial and ethnic group outperformed their straight male counterparts.

“Across data sets and across the different educational outcomes that I looked at, gay men outpaced straight men by substantial margins,” he said. “And, on most measures, not just straight men but also straight women.

“I think it’s especially striking within the Asian American population, given the fact that they generally have the highest levels of degree attainment in America. Even within that already high-achieving population, gay men earn more college degrees than straight men.”

For many years, LGBTQ+ Americans had been largely invisible in the data used by social scientists to study population-level patterns of educational attainment, he said, until the Obama administration officials added a sexual orientation question to three household surveys.

“For decades, social scientists have been studying the fact that boys tend to underperform compared to girls, and girls and women have had a growing advantage in educational attainment.

“But although social scientists have looked at all these different axes of variation within gender categories, they haven’t been able to look at sexual orientation. And so we’re in this really exciting moment where sexual orientation measures are finally being added to a lot of our large-scale population representative surveys.” The study is at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3xbhycw>

Lecturer rises to top at the Vatican

A sociology teacher has been appointed as the highest-ranking woman in the Vatican.

Sister Raffaella Petrini was made Secretary-general of the office governing the Vatican City State by Pope Francis.

The appointment, which includes overseeing departments as diverse as museums, the post office and the police force, makes her the most senior female official at the Vatican.

Sister Petrini holds a doctorate in social sciences from Rome’s Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas.

She teaches courses in sociology and economics at the university, as well as working at the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Sister Raffaella, who is a native of Rome, is an Italian member of the US-based Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist.



‘Female’ PhDs = less success

Scholars who write about topics associated with women, or use methodologies commonly linked to them, are less likely to go on to get senior faculty positions than those who do not.

Researchers analysed nearly one million doctoral dissertations from US universities over 40 years.

Scholars whose dissertation abstracts had words such as ‘parenting’, ‘children’ or ‘relationship’, for example, had slimmer career prospects than people who used words like ‘algorithm’, ‘efficiency’ or ‘war’.

Scholars who pursued topics and research designs more implicitly associated with women had poorer prospects: their chances of becoming a faculty advisor were 12% lower than average. The study was published in the journal *Research Policy*.

“Everyone emphasises that academia is based on meritocracy, that everything is neutral and based on the scientific value of research,” said Dr Lanu Kim, who led the research team as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford Graduate School of Education.

“It’s somewhat fake ... some topics are already associated with women rather than men. The process cannot really be neutral.”

Cuban expert dies of Covid-19

The Cuban sociologist Juan Valdés Paz has died aged 83, after contracting Covid.

After graduating in sociology, he served as a professor at the University of Havana and other centres.

He published numerous articles on topics such as rural sociology, international relations, Latin America and different aspects of the Cuban Revolution, and he held responsibility as an official and director of Cuban agriculture.

He was an elected member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of History of Cuba and in 2014 he was awarded the National Prize for Social and Humanistic Sciences.

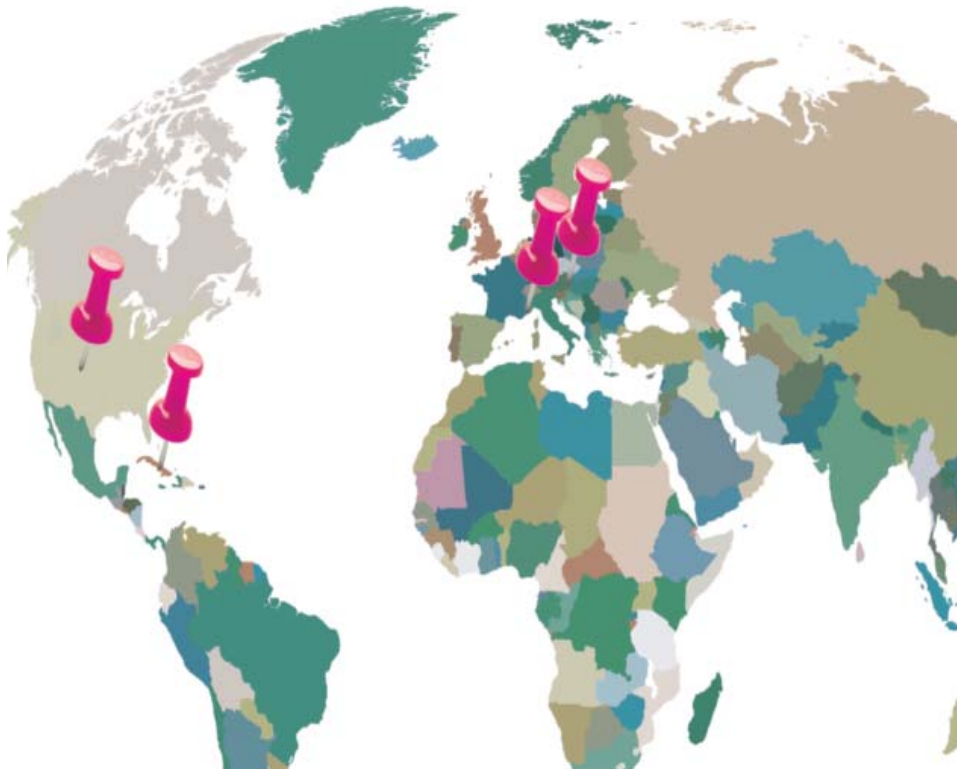
His books include *The Socialist Transition in Cuba*, *Agrarian Processes in Cuba, 1959-1995* and *The Space and the Limit. Essays on the Cuban Political System* (2009).

In the 1960s he was the founder of *Critical Thinking* magazine and its main theoretical figure, and for two decades he was the main theoretician of the Center for Studies on America.

“The author of books that are references for the knowledge of cardinal aspects of the Cuban Revolution, is no longer among us,” said the writer Rafael Acosta de Arriba.

Id...

Links to online articles about these topics can be found at www.britsoc.co.uk/members-area/network



New head for displaced CEU

The Indian sociologist Shalini Randeria has been appointed President of the Central European University.

The university, seen by many as a bastion of democracy, was forced out of its home in Budapest by the illiberal regime of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in 2018.

Professor Randeria, who succeeds Michael Ignatieff, started her career at the university in 2002 as founding director of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. Before that she worked in Germany and India on the issue of forced displacement.

She said that she saw an “uncanniness” in the parallels between aspects of her academic work and the troubles the institution has faced. “I worked for almost 30 years as an anthropologist-sociologist in India on questions of forced displacement and I’ve ended up leading a university which is forcibly displaced,” she said.

One of her most pressing tasks is to oversee the design of a new permanent home for the university’s 2,000 students on the western edge of Vienna. The speed of the evacuation from Budapest meant that the university has been based in a rented office space in the city centre.

Mormons are less religious

Mormons are becoming less religious, a recent analysis has shown. In 2008 more than three-quarters of US Latter-day Saints said religion was ‘very important’ to them, but by 2020 that had declined to around 62%.

Sociologist Dr Ryan Burge, of Eastern Illinois University, analysed survey data on nearly 7,000 mormons and found in 2008 that 93% said their religion was either ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ important to them. In 2020, the figure had fallen to 89%.

The fall in strong religious belief was across all ages among mormons and is not a simple story of less religious young people causing the drop in enthusiasm.

Mormons are still more religious than average: in 2018 a poll found that 72% of Americans ranked religion as ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ important in their lives.

Membership of the mormon religion has been growing steadily. In 2011, there were 6.14 million members, rising to 6.7 million in 2019.

For the last three years, about 1.3% of Americans have said they were mormons.

More details at: <https://tinyurl.com/3hvud7u3>

Tributes given to bell hooks

Tributes have been paid to the sociologist bell hooks, who died in December, aged 69. She published more than 30 books in her lifetime, covering topics including race, feminism, capitalism and intersectionality.

She was born Gloria Jean Watkins and adopted her admired great-grandmother’s name as a pen name, using lowercase letters to distinguish herself from her.

Her first major work, *Ain’t I a Woman?*, was published in 1981 and became widely recognised as an important feminist text. She went on to write *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* in 1984, *All About Love: New Visions* in 2000 and *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity* in 2004.

She taught at Yale, San Francisco State University and other institutions, moving to Berea College in Kentucky in 2004, a liberal arts college that offers free tuition.

“I want my work to be about healing,” she said in 2018, when she was inducted into the Kentucky Writers’ Hall of Fame. “I am a fortunate writer because every day of my life practically I get a letter, a phone call from someone who tells me how my work has transformed their life.”

UCL Emeritus Professor Heidi Safia Mirza said: “bell hooks really influenced my work in the early ’80s. She was one of the titans of black feminist thinking. Above all, she described herself as a teacher and she has influenced generations of teachers and scholars on the issues of black feminism.

“Her core beliefs were around what we call intersectionality now, looking at racism and sexism, but within an understanding of white supremacy and capitalism. This was the power of her work for me, the way in which she combined ideological beliefs about the exploitation of others – that capitalism could not exist without slavery, racism and sexism.

“In the ’80s we used to have a very vibrant Black radical group around the Black bookshop New Beacon Books and we would have conferences on race – we would be sitting in rooms, exchanging ideas.

[When she attended a conference] “she was an incredibly powerful speaker. She took no prisoners, she was vociferous in her position and was verbally attacked many times for her strong views on sexism and white feminism – that black women weren’t being brought into white feminism – and she remained stalwart that a feminism that embraced all of us was the way forward.”

The author Margaret Atwood said: “In finding her own words and power, she inspired countless others to do the same.”

Emma Mateo, who is researching mass protest in Ukraine for her sociology PhD at Oxford, writes about the bravery of its people in the war with Russia

How do you write up academic research, as news of war crimes breaks in the country you're writing about?

As I sit down at my desk, on the 40th day of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, I consider this question. I'm a fourth-year sociology PhD student, studying nationwide mass mobilisation in Ukraine and Belarus. My research primarily focuses on Ukraine's 2013-14 Euromaidan protests, known to many Ukrainians as 'The Revolution of Dignity'. This pro-democracy mobilisation overthrew a president vying for closer ties with Russia, who ordered the brutal repression of his own people as they protested on the streets of their towns and cities. As these protests came to an end, Russia sent its military to annex Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea, subsequently stoking a bloody separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine. This war has been grinding on for eight years, gathering little attention in much of the world. In the meantime, I finished my undergraduate thesis on the Euromaidan, completed a masters, and embarked on a PhD, researching the nationwide aspect of the protests. As I entered my final year as a graduate student, tens of thousands of Russian troops began to amass near Ukraine's borders. And yet, I never thought I'd be completing my PhD as Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. I never thought I'd be editing my chapters as my friends and former fieldwork participants flee their homes, take shelter from bombs, and try to evacuate their families. I never thought I'd be trying to clear my mind from images of murdered civilians, and stories of rape, in order to write about past events in the very cities where those atrocities are taking place.

Of course, writing up a thesis in peaceful, springtime Oxford is an enormous privilege, one made even more striking by the current context. I am safe, and my family, home and livelihood are secure. Tens of millions of Ukrainians cannot take these same things for granted. As I write up my own research, Ukrainian colleagues continue theirs in cities such as Kyiv, informing the world about what is happening in their country, interrupted by air-raid sirens and the sound of shelling. Ukrainian colleagues in western countries are carrying out vital work too, even as they await news on the safety of loved ones, and support or evacuate their relatives. I do not face the same challenges.

Still, Russia's war on Ukraine has thrown

'I never thought I'd be editing my PhD as my friends take shelter from bombs'

my own work into sharp relief. As a sociologist who studies protest, I have found myself organising protests with my Ukrainian friends in recent days, recreating many of the images I study: chanting the same slogans and holding similar signs on our cities' central squares. I have written about how pre-existing networks play a crucial role in the onset of protests, but I have now seen first-hand how my own networks can be mobilised. I have studied how Ukrainian civil society mobilised to support protesters, and now I find myself equally connected to civil society, helping my friends raise money and source crucial equipment and donations to send into the country. Maybe admitting the ways in which the lines between my research and my own life have blurred will have implications for my career into the future, but it's impossible to remain a passive observer as this tragedy unfolds.

Until a few weeks ago, when people asked me what I research, my response was often met with looks of vague recognition and limited interest. Some people remembered the Ukrainian protests I was talking about; however, many did not. Since 24 February 2022, though, responses are drastically different. I am met with wide eyes, concern, exclamations, and questions. What will happen? Isn't it awful? Why is Putin doing this? Aren't Ukrainians incredible! I don't have answers for the first three questions, but my research does speak to the latter.

I research mobilisation in locations beyond Ukraine's capital during the 2013-14 protests.

Most of the world's attention, and indeed, even most scholarly attention afforded to these protests, focused on events in the capital city of Kyiv. But, during the Euromaidan, Ukrainians protested in over a hundred locations across the country. My research aims to identify where these protests took place, and at least in part explain why they occurred where they did. Many of the largest protests during this time were in the capital, and in western Ukraine, the more 'pro-western' areas of the country. Nevertheless, protests took place throughout Ukraine, in every single regional capital, as well as many smaller towns and cities. Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city in the east, saw persistent protests organised by a dedicated group of activists, with participants often running into the thousands. In late February 2014 they clashed with pro-Russian protesters for control of the regional council building – a location you may have seen on your evening news, a few weeks ago, struck by a Russian missile. Odesa, on the Black Sea coast, now heavily fortified and awaiting a Russian attack, also saw regular protests. During the Euromaidan, Odesa's activists staged an 'attack' on the regional council building with toy planes and tanks, mocking local politicians' fake claims that right-wing radicals, backed by the CIA, were planning a coup in the city. Now, some of these activists are probably manning the barricades. And Mariupol, a city that now needs no introduction for the most tragic of reasons, had its own protests too; small, but persistent.



Emma Mateo (centre), speaking at a protest in Oxford about the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Ukraine's history of protest and resistance did not begin in 2013. The country has a long history of dissidence stretching back to the Soviet period and beyond. Ukrainian dissidents were amongst the last released from the gulags in the 1980s, and played an important role in Ukraine's route to independence. They supported students who staged a hunger strike on Kyiv's central square in 1990, calling for the resignation of key Soviet politicians and greater sovereignty for Ukraine, in what became known as the Revolution on Granite. The tent camp and protest repertoires of the Revolution on Granite have been echoed in subsequent mass mobilisations in Ukraine. These include the 2001 'Ukraine without Kuchma' protests, which demanded the President's resignation over corruption and the disappearance of opposition activists; the 2004 Orange Revolution, which achieved the overthrow of falsified elections and the victory of Viktor Yushchenko; and, of course, the Euromaidan.

Therefore, the widespread resistance of Ukrainians in response to Russia's invasion is of no surprise to those of us who study mobilisation in Ukraine. The scenes of unarmed Ukrainians protesting the invasion in occupied cities such as Kherson are familiar. Nevertheless, this does not diminish the bravery of civilians who face the tanks and bullets of occupying Russian forces with placards and flags. It makes it all the more extraordinary, because such sentiments and bravery are widespread in Ukraine. Ukraine's president, Zelensky, has become famous

throughout the world for his courage and composure. But as recently written about by my supervisor, Olga Onuch, Zelensky is a 'Ukrainian every person', embodying Ukrainians' tradition of dissent. "What is making him extraordinary in war comes from his very ordinariness as a Ukrainian," writes Onuch.

It is this resistance, resilience and bravery that gives me hope, even as I sit at my desk and try to process images of the devastation left behind by Russian troops. Ukrainians will resist occupation and invasion, and they will fight for every inch of their territory. They will mobilise and re-build the shattered cities and lives left in the wake of the Russian military's brutality. This is not only a deeply-held personal conviction, but also my professional opinion. Millions of Ukrainians have mobilised in the past over corrupt politicians, falsified elections and state-sponsored brutality. Civil society stepped up to support an army hollowed-out by corruption when Russia began its military advances in 2014. Ukraine's military is in a much stronger position now, and civil society is more united than ever before in its desire for a democratic and European future. Faced with an invasion that seeks to wipe Ukraine off the map, Ukrainians are resisting, and securing their freedom.

We, outside of Ukraine, should take the lead from the Ukrainian mobilisations I've been studying. We must keep raising our voices, calling on our government to provide effective humanitarian and military aid to

The BSA and Ukraine

The BSA has issued a statement on Ukraine in which it says that: "The BSA expresses its grave concern about the invasion of Ukraine. This will have profound consequences for all those resident in Ukraine, its citizens (including minorities), and their families and friends abroad. One particular consequence will be the serious threat to the pursuit of research and independent scholarship within its universities, one of which in Kharkiv has already been subject to bombardment. We express our support for colleagues at the Institute of Sociology NAS of Ukraine, for all sociologists in Ukraine, and for all people in Ukraine.

"The BSA extends its support to Institute of Sociology NAS colleagues directly affected, whether currently in Ukraine or outside, and will seek to facilitate free online access to its conferences and other activities.

"We acknowledge that there are many Russian people, including in the Russian academic community, who are opposed to this war. We are troubled by the racism experienced by some seeking to leave Ukraine and by the perception that this conflict matters more because it is occurring in Europe. We express our continuing solidarity with all displaced peoples and those suffering under ongoing conflict globally." <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ce3hm>

The BSA is planning an event for members on the sociological perspectives on war and peace, with a provisional date of 9 June, and members may want to pencil the date in their diaries.

Ukraine, and introduce more sanctions against the Russian regime. We need to lobby for the Homes for Ukraine scheme to be more efficient and effective (and eventually open to all refugees, not just Ukrainians). UK residents have shown a willingness to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees; we should engage with grassroots community networks to support those arriving here. We also need to recognise and support valuable, local NGOs and charities in Ukraine, which have the expertise and ability to provide aid in places international organisations are struggling to reach. And, as academics, we can mobilise our networks and pressure our universities in order to support our Ukrainian colleagues and students – both those who have fled to the country and those that stay. It is our responsibility to do all we can to help Ukrainians resist, and ultimately win, this war which they did not begin.

The Ukrainian Institute in London has compiled resources on how to support Ukraine, as well as advice for Ukrainians coming to the UK and those hosting them: <https://tinyurl.com/m59nwcrcd>

The Ukraine Hub UK is a new initiative, aiming to connect academics, policymakers, community organisations and students to help coordinate the UK response to the Russian invasion and resulting humanitarian crisis. <https://ukrainehubuk.com>

• Emma Mateo
Emma.mateo@balliol.ox.ac.uk

'We must work with offenders'

Strategies to counter domestic violence and abuse must include working with offenders, Nicole Westmarland told a conference on ending domestic violence, organised by the Public Policy Exchange.

Professor Westmarland said that the focus of policy had always been solely on putting the victim first, but she questioned how effective this had been.

"We've focused a lot on making the criminal justice system better. We now have promises of positive policing without a clear, real definition of what this actually means – promises of putting the victim first.

"But if anybody was working in this field in the early 2000s, you'll remember there was a whole campaign then around the idea of putting the victim at the heart of the criminal justice system, not just for domestic violence abuse but for sexual violence and a range of other offences. But did it really? We didn't do it then, are we going to be able to do it now?"

She referred to the "atrocious conviction rate for rape, which at the moment is down to one per cent – one per cent of victims who go forward and report rape to the police will get a conviction for rape. We thought it was bad 20 years ago when it was six per cent and we were campaigning for change."

Rates for domestic violence were little better, she said. The last time it was tracked officially, and her own attempts to track it over the years, had found "very low conviction rates, not as low as for rape and sexual violence but still in the single figure percentages. And even if you get a criminal conviction for domestic abuse – the last time I looked at this – the most frequent sentence that was given was a fine.



Professor Nicole Westmarland

With #MeToo and recent allegations of misbehaviour widely in the news and social media. What are the implications of the recent conference and other events that take place?

She said that most victims of domestic abuse did not use the criminal justice system. Those that used it often did so because they wanted to be safe in the moment rather than to prosecute the offender. So a programme to help the offender change could be useful to them.

"Programmes that help offenders to change their behaviour are rare. Interventions for people who use violence and abuse have been far less of a focus and where they have been in focus, they are on a tiny scale.

"You're talking huge cities with thousands of incidents of domestic abuse a year having, if they're lucky, one or two group-work sessions a week taking maybe nine to 12 men per group. We're talking about a tiny drop in the ocean in terms of the scale of the problem."

She talked about development in the Domestic Abuse Act, which became law last year. "There's very little actually in the Act that tackles perpetrators of domestic abuse, and what is in there blows my mind.

"For example, [one part] is about the introduction of polygraph testing for domestic abuse perpetrators.

"I'd love to be wrong about this because I think we need everything we can possibly get to throw at the problem of people who use violence and abuse, but I am hugely sceptical about this being put forward. I think if you'd got everybody who works with people who use domestic abuse in the country and asked them to give the top five things that they think should be in the Act and what they think we should be doing for perpetrators, I would put money on none of them saying, 'We need lie detectors for perpetrators of violence and abuse'."

But the Act had a positive aspect in that it laid down a legal commitment "to publish a perpetrator strategy within a year, and I think this is very optimistic.

"I also think it's pretty bad that we've never had one until now. If you look at all of the strategies that we've had, violence against women and girls strategies, domestic abuse strategies, we've had these since the early 2000s. So we've had these for 20 years

and we've never managed to get the commitment for a strategy for perpetrators.

"I think it's really depressing that we've had to wait until now for it. But I think it's also very positive that there is now a commitment to publishing it within a year.

"To me, this is an opportunity. And the good news here is that we do have evidence that change can happen. We know what needs to happen, we know what to do, we have the interventions. But we need the resources to be able to roll them out on a much bigger scale than any of the funding sources have allowed so far."

A multi-site study that she helped carry out of such programmes for perpetrators found that people who had experienced abuse said their partner or ex-partner had

Pandemic lockdown

Sophie Francis-Cansfield told the PPE conference about the impact of the Covid lockdown upon domestic abuse.

"We very quickly started focusing our research on this and published our 'Perfect Storm' report, which pulls together what we found about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on domestic abuse," she said.

One woman told the report's researchers, "It's hell on earth. I'm living 24/7 now with my abuser and can't get out to escape to put distance between us when I feel tension rising. More time at home magnifies the issues, you can't get away from it. I have to work harder to keep him happy."

Ms Francis-Cansfield said: "We know that domestic abuse very much worsened during the pandemic, and there has been a real range of concerning impacts on survivors and specialist services.

"If we look specifically at coercive and controlling behaviour, which is very much at the heart of domestic abuse, abusers were using control in a number of ways to manipulate and instil fear in survivors during the pandemic. And they were using the lockdown restrictions as a part of this.

"Over two-thirds of survivors said that

enders to tackle abuse'

ogyny against the police, the issue of abuse has featured
t do sociologists have to say? Network takes a look at a
tackled the issue...

changed for the better. "We saw change across all measures, particularly physical and sexual violence, reducing quite quickly and quite substantially."

One example of this success was the Drive Project, which operated in Essex, West Sussex and South Wales from 2016 to 2019. This involved work by victim services, the police, probation, children's social services, housing, substance misuse and mental health teams, as well as the offender. It was innovative in using disruption and support to change perpetrators' behaviour.

The study found that, following the intervention, the number of abusers perpetrating high levels of physical abuse reduced by 82 per cent.

"So we have this opportunity to build on

'Interventions for people who use violence have been far less of a focus, and where they have been in focus, they are on a tiny scale'

the quite solid building blocks that we already have. And in fact, we are the envy of many other areas in the world. I've been across a range of places in Australia and America talking about our approach in the UK to domestic abuse perpetrator interventions, and so many wish that they had the systems and the foundations and the collaborative working that we have in the UK.

"People will change, choose to change or not, at different speeds. And we need specialist services for different people who use violence and abuse – nearly all of the services at the moment are for heterosexual, mostly working class, men."

• *Nicole Westmarland is Director of the Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse*

own 'trapped women with their abusers 24/7'

their abuser had used the pandemic as part of their abuse in one or more ways. For women experiencing domestic abuse, this increased control, combined with the isolation and very real restrictions we all faced during national lockdowns, has had a huge impact on them.

"Many couldn't get away, because of the pandemic, or friends and family couldn't support them. For women who experienced abuse in the past, there was an additional profound impact. It very much affected their wellbeing and their recovery, and they continued to experience that long-term impact of domestic abuse."

Ms Francis-Cansfield also looked at the impact of the Domestic Abuse Act, which has come into force over the past year.

The Act banned the use of the 'rough sex defence', used by men accused of murder who claimed that a woman's death was caused accidentally during consensual violent sex.

Following that, in July last year, "we saw the priority-need provision come into effect, which means that local authorities will no longer need to consider if a victim is vulnerable as a result of their abuse in order



Sophie Francis-Cansfield

to access accommodation secured by the council.

"And towards the end of last year, in October, we saw the statutory duty on local authorities to fund safe accommodation, and its accompanying statutory guidance, fully come into effect.

"We have seen results through strengthened protections in the family courts."

However, she said that Women's Aid was "deeply disappointed that the government decided to exclude migrant women from equal protection and support within this law.

"We are clear at Women's Aid that all survivors have the right to seek help and live a life free from abuse. The campaign continues to try to ensure that the law will protect all women and children from domestic abuse and provide safety from abusers, regardless of their immigration status."

The Act was important because of the pandemic. "When the country went into lockdown Women's Aid knew that this would have a very real impact on the lives of women experiencing domestic abuse, their children and the dedicated specialist services supporting them."

As a result, Women's Aid launched a campaign called 'Deserve to be heard' to ensure that the mental health needs of women were heard and responded to.

• *Women's Aid was founded in 1974 to create a national network of women's refuges, and now also runs outreach services and a helpline*

Feature continued overleaf ▶

'HE complainants traum

Dr Anna Bull spoke about the “traumatising process” that students can go through if they make a complaint about harassment by supervisors or lecturers.

Dr Bull carried out research at 14 universities in the UK for a report she wrote about students' experiences of making complaints of sexual or other harassment.

Speaking at an event organised by the BSA Violence Against Women study group, she said that the first difficulty was the lack of clarity about the process of complaints.

“They had gone through this very lengthy, often traumatising, process of trying to get universities to take action on their complaint and they were often also very confused about the process. These were not stupid people, these were people who were doing PhDs, often in very scary subjects, to my mind. Even then they couldn't necessarily get their heads around what was going on in the complaints process they had just been through.

“In one case a PhD student saw the evidence for the first time in the hearing. She went into the hearing as a witness to give evidence. She was given a pack of information and told, ‘Turn to page 57. What do you think of this?’ She had to respond to the evidence on the spot, without having been able to see it in advance.”

Dr Bull, of the University of Portsmouth, found that while university complaints procedures stressed an equal opportunity for both sides to put their cases if they were both students, “when we get to student-to-staff complaints this parity disappears.

“What happens is the student makes a complaint through the university's complaints process for students, but if it is about a staff member it would then get channelled into the staff disciplinary process. At that point the student complainant loses a lot of rights.”

One woman told Dr Bull that, having read through university procedures, “I know what to do when it is a staff-to-staff complaint. I know what to do when it is a student-to-student complaint. But a student-to-staff complaint, there is no such thing. So this is why I keep saying they were making it up as they were going along. They literally were, because they said, ‘We don't deal with this kind of thing here’.”

Dr Bull said: “The kinds of ways that things went wrong were in procedural ways. For example, failing to ensure that decisions were made by somebody who was actually independent from the institution.

“And in practical ways [such as] the length of time that complaints processes took. We

Dr Anna Bull talks about her research on women students who complained about harassment by supervisors and lecturers

are talking sometimes years rather than months. Losing significant evidence. Poor notetaking. Poor communication.”

There was no right to see the evidence given by the staff member who was complained about and a “lack of clarity around legal representation. Some universities allow it, some don't.”

One PhD student told her she had asked for legal representation. She was told that because the university had a case against him she had become only a witness to this case, so had no right to representation.

“So she started off the process as a complainant, making a complaint under the student complaints process, and then this got funnelled into the staff disciplinary process to take action against him. What she says is this means that you lose your rights.”

The third issue was the lack of the right to call witnesses: “Students would ask for witnesses to be interviewed and that would not necessarily happen.

“The really big [issue], that made a huge difference to and was very upsetting for many of my complainants, in fact damaging, was the lack of sharing of the outcome at the end of the complaint process.”

One student told her: “The university said I wasn't allowed to know the exact outcome because of data protection. I wasn't allowed

to know what happened to him.” The university told her “appropriate disciplinary action will be taken” but she was not told what this was.

One supervisor had been bullying and harassing four of his PhD students. “He sexually harassed the three female PhD students and had been bullying all of the others as well.

“They made a complaint as a group, which quite a few people did. That was a way to make it safer to go forward, effectively, and be taken seriously. They gave in 200 pages of evidence, including written evidence of sexualised messages from their supervisor.

“Eventually they managed to get a complaint launched and there was an independent investigator appointed. The independent investigator wrote a report which reached the head of department and then the head of department wrote his own report based on that.

“They didn't see the initial report. They just saw what the head of department came up with. What the head of department came up with was that there was no evidence of sexual harassment. There was only evidence of inappropriate behaviour.”

The head of department said a lot of the evidence was ambiguous because the complainants had entered into a dialogue with their supervisor.

But they did this because they were scared of him, said Dr Bull. “They didn't want to set him off. They knew that he could be vindictive. They knew that they wouldn't get any supervision or he would take revenge on them – he had power over them. So of course they replied to the messages. They were trying to keep him on side.”

Often the complainants were believed by the university, but this did not necessarily lead to action against the abuser.

“Against a lot of what we see around sexual violence, of people not being believed, actually a lot of my participants said they were believed when they disclosed. Not all of them but quite a few of them.”

She gave as an example a woman who told her: “I think had the institution been able to get rid of him [the staff member she is



Dr Anna Bull

atised'

ch with about urers

complaining about] they would have. But they were so tied up in red tape, because they didn't have one person willing to take the risk of breaking the rules to get rid of him. So it didn't go anywhere, but they wanted to.

"They did believe me. They all said they believed me, repeatedly, right up to a senior member of HR who gave me a hug before I went into the tribunal hearing and said 'We have got him'. That is what she said to me to get me in the room. They didn't get him. This guy is still in post."

Dr Bull said that PhD students and master's students "were actually even more at risk, because they tend to be reliant on one or two staff members who are their supervisors.

"Unfortunately, professional boundaries between staff and students in higher education are actually not clear at all. Is it okay to get drunk with your students? Is it okay to have sexual relationships with students?

"Most universities have a policy that says, 'We strongly discourage staff from having relationships with students, but actually it is still fine. It is not a disciplinary offence. It is not an issue. And we may or may not need to disclose it to your line manager.' So we don't know what the professional boundaries are.

"Often students will just want to be safe. They will just want to be able to change supervisors and get the teaching that they are entitled to. They just want to finish their degree and they won't necessarily want to go through the whole process. That is actually a very logical, rational decision, to not make a formal complaint, and that has got to be respected.

"Students are disadvantaged in the process and the unequal processes put into practice are done in ways which make sexual harassment and violence illegible, thus disadvantaging women."

However, "the good news is that since #MeToo we are seeing more attention to institutional responses to sexual harassment and violence, not just in higher education but more generally."

'We want to challenge their thoughts and attitudes'

Michelle Hill, Chief Executive Officer at Talk, Listen, Change, a charity working mainly in the north of England, told the conference about its programme of work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, funded by local authorities, charitable trusts and the Home Office.

"We know that most victim survivors want perpetrators to be able to access effective interventions that will help them to change but, nationally, only a small minority of repeat offenders receive specialist interventions.

"There are multiple types of perpetrators. Those who are male and female, those of heterosexual and same-sex relationships, those who speak English as a first language and those who do not. There are different levels of harm caused and risks posed by perpetrators, and different levels of responsiveness to interventions.

"Such a range of perpetrators means that there should also be a range of interventions to meet these different needs.

"Fundamentally, perpetrators pose the primary risk to both victims, survivors and children. To effectively challenge domestic abuse, creating opportunities for sustainable change must address the root cause, holding the right people to account by working with perpetrators to address attitudes and behaviours.

"If we are serious about ending domestic abuse, we must address the behaviour of the perpetrator through robust engagement and intervention where possible and, when not, through enforcement activity. Working with perpetrators is part of the solution to ending domestic abuse."

One of the programmes they ran, Bridging to Change, was delivered on a group or individual basis, she said.

"The perpetrators we work with are, or have been, in an abusive relationship with their intimate partner. They have recognised that they are a perpetrator and have a desire to change their behaviour.

"We want to challenge their thoughts and attitudes, creating a shift in their ideology,

which ultimately alters behaviours. This will enable them to be someone who displays safe, healthy and respectful behaviour, both now and in the future.

"Our focus is to ensure that we are holding to account the right people responsible for creating and sustaining change in abusive relationships. Everything we do is to increase the safety of victims and children, both now and for the future.

"Bridging to Change is delivered by a team of highly experienced professionals, with a mixture of backgrounds in social work, criminal justice and health.

"When the programme is delivered in a group setting, it is always preceded by a series of individual sessions. A group programme is up to 40 weeks in length, or an individual

programme is 25 to 30 weeks.

"Group programmes are delivered for male perpetrators in heterosexual relationships, with English as their first language.

Programmes for women, gay and

bisexual men and those without English as a first language all access an individual programme at present.

"Sessions run on a weekly basis. Each individual session lasts an hour and each group session lasts up to two hours. The timetable allows space for the deconstruction of difficult situations arising during the previous week, as well as interactive exercises.

"All perpetrators have their values and beliefs about partners challenged. They are encouraged to think and feel differently about how they act. They gain strategies to enable them to react positively in certain situations. Once perpetrators have completed the programme, they can access an ongoing peer support group through our relapse prevention programme.

"Running alongside the programme for perpetrators is an integrated safety service for partners and ex-partners. This offers individually tailored support for partners in a way that works for them, through face-to-face, telephone or email contact. Support is offered to partners throughout the duration of the perpetrator's programme and for six months afterwards.

"There are no quick and easy fixes but we wholeheartedly believe, and have seen, that change can happen and can be sustained. It is absolutely key that perpetrator intervention is part of the solution to ending domestic abuse."

'There are no quick and easy fixes, but change can happen and can be sustained'

This six-page feature draws on speakers at the Ending Domestic Violence conference organised by Public Policy Exchange, and various events organised over the past two years run by the BSA Violence Against Women study group. These can be viewed on the group's site: <https://tinyurl.com/2rucz66m>

Feature continued overleaf ▶

'Unimaginable courage' of refugees in the 1970s has changed the landscape

Gill Hague spoke about the history of the movement against domestic violence, praising the "unimaginable courage" of those who challenged male violence.

"The women's liberation movement, in many countries, started in the late 1960s and early '70s, and the violence against women movement grew out of that," said Professor Hague.

"It was full of stunning vibrancy and daily change in making a new world for women. The women's movements nurtured resistance and also new ways of thinking, new ways of living, new ways of being, and they developed powerful campaigns and strategies for change.

"The movement against men's violence back then built, to some extent, on the ferment of political change at the time, the Black liberation movement, Black Power, the anti-Vietnam War struggle, the counter-culture, and national liberation struggles across the world. The gay liberation movement, class struggle, active trade unionism, music, poetry, ferment and transformation were in the air.

"They were heady days of passion and change as it all burst into being. The first initiatives of the new domestic violence movement, in the '70s, were to start the completely unanticipated idea of setting up services, refuges and safe houses. With some exceptions, in the late 19th century, this idea had never been tried out before.

"It is almost impossible to conceive what it was like when this all started to happen, beginning from a base of pretty much zero societal interest, nothing at all. Anyone who, like me, is old enough to remember the 1950s in this country, can attest to that. There were no services, no counselling, no housing options for violence survivors. No specific law. No publicity. Then the women's liberation movement and the movement against violence against women burst onto the scene.

"The original refuges were actually quite revolutionary. At the time they were new to everyone, and the struggles to get them established were conducted with ferocious determination and dedication by the women's groups at the time.

"Women trying to get away from domestic violence situations arrived at these brand-new projects. They had found out, somehow, that there were these other unknown women around and that, almost out of the blue, these other unknown women might help them. So they threw their fates to the winds, with their children, to try to get help. These

Professor Gill Hague talked about the 'heady' of the women's movement 'burst into being' in the

were acts, I suggest, of almost unimaginable courage at the time by the abused women as the refuges came into being.

"The new women's initiatives confronted, in a real and concrete way, an undeniable way, men's rights and power within the male-headed family, the heart and bedrock of how personal family and sexual relations were organised in society at that time. Women were taking unprecedented actions to leave their husbands, who they had promised, probably, to obey. They were getting themselves out of violent marriages and partnerships, often without warning.

"Not only were they doing that – extraordinary at the time – but then they were doing something even more extraordinary. They were going to live together with groups of other women in safe houses run by women. It was quite remarkable and entirely unpredicted really. Stunning, I would say, in its fearlessness and daring.

"The refuges were being set up at secret locations. So the women escaping domestic violence could just, more or less, disappear. At first, many men, husbands, women, agencies like the police, and indeed society as a whole, could not believe it was happening. But it was. Suddenly, in a very significant way, the very fabric of personal and sexual relations between men and women was being challenged.

"The brazenness and braveness of it was and is, without a doubt, something to celebrate. As the movement became established, refuges and rape crisis centres were set up everywhere, really quickly, one after the

other, across the country. And co-ordinating bodies, like Women's Aid, came into existence to co-ordinate these new services across all the countries of the UK, with powerful developments in Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland.

"Some of the other early policies were to try to break down power differences between the women providing the services and those using them, which could be seen as an idealistic attempt but, of course, without idealism we would never have established anything. And it was often very successful. It was an attempt to build completely new services, different from normal housing and social work projects, more democratic, more collective and more empowering of survivors, who then became equal parts, or attempted to become, equal parts of the collective.

"Women survivors were seen as the experts rather than social workers or authorities, and all sorts of challenging policies were put into place to facilitate this and to do things differently. These were brave, difficult and pioneering moves forward.

"As time went on, there were challenges, as there were in the women's liberation movement a lot more widely, from Black women and women from other minorities, that the new movement was slow to take on their needs and sometimes had a sense of white entitlement. As a result, the independent Black women's movement developed services and social action on violence against women, sometimes working with Women's Aid and sometimes independently.

"Leading the way are organisations like the London Black Women's Project, Southall Black Sisters and the Asian Women's Resource Centre, a whole network of projects provided by and for South Asian women across the UK countries, with pioneering developments in Scotland and Wales.

"Now, of course, there is a wide range of specialist domestic violence services for those women who wish to use them, including for African, Afro-Caribbean and Asian women, Chinese women, also for Jewish women, Latin American women, Kurdish and Middle Eastern women, and so on. There have been



Professor Gill Hague

rganisers dscape

ays of passion' when ne 1960s and '70s

similar challenges from lesbians and later from organisations of disabled women.

"But by the 2000s, the domestic violence movement and Women's Aid had become more professionally organised and was coordinating hundreds of projects and also refuges.

"Later on there have been campaigns and service developments, education and awareness. Also political campaigns, for instance through End Violence Against Women, and work on 'honour-based' violence, FGM, forced marriage, women-trafficking, femicide and other forms of gender-based violence, through consortiums of organisations. This was often led by Black and minority ethnic and refugee women working on these harmful cultural practices.

"Now, after nearly 50 years of work, there are powerful activists in all of the countries across the world, in literally all of them, even if they may be very small in number in some places and fighting against extraordinary difficulties.

"The leading actions on violence against women and girls are by no means only Western initiated ones. For example, there are the strong powerful activist movements in India that battle with entrenched violence against women and who have been real heroes. Another example is the international grassroots campaign in many global South countries, for example the Philippines, South Pacific and south east Asia, which was successful in the push to get rape accepted by the UN as a war crime.

"The emphasis really has to be on what activists did, on our triumphs, our victories, our inadequacies and our defeats, but mainly on the fact that even though domestic violence by men continues almost universally, the movements against it have changed the world, in terms of support offered, campaigns, services, policies and transformations. The landscape is unrecognisable to what went before. We have indeed come further in this huge and brave endeavour across the world to take on male violence."

• Gill Hague is Professor Emerita of Violence Against Women Studies at the University of Bristol.

Abusers are using spyware in 'explosion of tech abuse'

Ruth Davison, Chief Executive Officer at Refuge, the largest provider of front line domestic abuse services to women and children in England, told the PPE conference that, "some of the most worrying signs that we have seen through Covid-19 from the front line is a real growth, an explosion actually, in tech abuse. I suppose it's not really surprising. We are all more and more reliant on technology in our day-to-day lives.

"What Refuge is seeing is that tech abuse is now becoming a part of almost every complex case that is being referred to us.

"We know that there are many forms [of abuse] now, as people become more reliant on technology. Not just in our mobile phones but in our everyday life, where people are seeing, and perpetrators are exploiting, more opportunities to abuse us.

"There are widely available, very cheap ways now to abuse women and girls and that is having an absolutely devastating impact on survivors' mental health and on their physical safety, because technology-facilitated abuse can take many forms and occur across a whole range of platforms and devices.



Ruth Davison

"But it's also intricately linked to other forms of real-life abuse. So, monitoring someone's comings and goings through a smart doorbell can help you stalk them. Putting spyware onto someone's device can allow you to know what they're doing, disrupt their life and interfere with their relationships, causing further isolation.

"We recently commissioned some research, in a report that we have called 'Unsocial Spaces', which also really highlighted the scale of online abuse of women and girls. We know now that one in three women in the United Kingdom has experienced online abuse, on social media or on another platform, at some point in their lives.

"If you're talking about younger women, that rises to two in three. And one in six of

those women experienced this abuse from a partner or a former partner.

"And yet, at Refuge, we see these survivors experiencing significant barriers in accessing support from the tech companies and from the police, with many resorting to just coming offline as a result.

"Now that we are living our lives more or less remotely, online or at least in a hybrid world, just disappearing from the online space is not an option for women, and nor should it ever have been. But many women are left feeling they have no other choice.

"One example is a case that we have supported very recently. This was a woman who wore a hijab and the abuse that her perpetrator had exposed her to had led to her leaving and going into a refuge.

"Since he had fled the home, he continued to abuse her online and was posting pictures that Facebook didn't recognise as breaching community guidelines, but to her were humiliating and absolutely terrifying. For example, he was posting pictures of her full face, without her hijab. He was posting pictures of her street address, he was starting to threaten her online.

"She was having absolutely no traction with Facebook when asking for those particular posts to be taken down because they didn't overtly appear to Facebook to be breaching community guidelines. He wasn't making overt death threats against her, she wasn't showing her naked body in any of these pictures. So for them there was no issue.

"Refuge's tech team has trusted flagger status so is able to raise these cases and we were able to get those pictures taken down. But even then, all we were able to do was get the individual images removed. The perpetrator still has his account and he can still continue to post, as and when he wishes.

"She has to tackle every single incident, one by one, to try and address it, rather than that perpetrator being blocked or being told that he is censored online.

"So, whilst we are absolutely recognising there is still more to be done in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act, and will continue to monitor that implementation, we are also now really focusing on the Online Safety Bill, which is coming through Parliament in the year ahead, explicitly asking them to include online violence against women and girls in the Bill, and set up systems and processes that compel the platforms to tackle tech abuse at source.

"Products and services should be designed as safe from the very beginning, and we shouldn't have to be calling [abuse] out incident by incident when we recognise that domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviour, not a one-off incident."

'An absolutely persistent

This year's Distinguished Service Award was given to Graham Crow, 'a tireless proponent of sociology and supporter for early career research of both PhD students and early-stage lecturers'

Most public recognition of excellent research is given to sociologists only after many years of hard work.

But, for Graham Crow, that reward came after the publication of his first paper, in the BSA journal, *Sociology*, in 1989: 'The use of the concept of "strategy" in recent sociological literature', which has been cited regularly since it appeared, including by Pierre Bourdieu.

It was, Professor Crow says, one of the highlights of his career. "The editors were very kind at that time – Janet Finch and Nick Abercrombie arranged for David Morgan to write a commentary on it. Then Claire Wallace subsequently responded, and others. So that got a lot of attention at the time and really helped my career and, I guess, helped me get noticed.

"More than 30 years on, it's still getting cited quite healthily. It's a highlight because if I meet people for the first time, they say, 'Didn't you write something on strategies?' Prompted by that, I generally say, 'Yes, and even Bourdieu cites it'. So, my claim to fame is that I wrote something that Bourdieu was happy to cite. I think the shelf life of the things that we do in terms of publications is interesting, they aren't over in a flash."

Professor Crow, who has worked at the universities of Edinburgh and Southampton, was speaking to the BSA's then President, Professor Susan Halford, after receiving the BSA's Distinguished Service Award.

She said that Professor Crow, who retired from Edinburgh recently, "will be known to many for his contributions to sociology over a career that has spanned more than 40 years. He'll be known to you for the very diverse range of contributions that he has made through his own research, for example in rural sociology, community life, research methods and, most recently, for his work on later careers and retirement.

"In addition to his research contributions to sociology, Graham has been a tireless

proponent for sociology and has taken a leading role in many of the key activities of organising sociology, including through the BSA. For example as conference organiser, as summer school convener, as editor and many other ad-hoc contributions that Graham has made to the BSA over his time.

"There is also a whole host of rather less visible contributions made to sociology over your 40 years. I just want to highlight from my own personal perspective that you have been a tireless supporter for early career research of both PhD students and early-stage lecturers in sociology.

"Throughout all of that time, if I had to say one thing, it would be that you have had an absolutely persistent commitment to fairness and inclusivity in everything that you have done, and in fighting that fight for other people when sometimes academic life is not always about fairness and inclusivity. I have seen you on many occasions fight that fight, as someone who worked with you at Southampton for many years."

Professor Crow picked out other highlights of his career, including a textbook written with Graham Allan, *Community Life* (1994). "I think textbooks really are an important part of the discipline of sociology. It was nice to just know that that was serving a purpose out there, was being adopted on a whole range of courses. Also, because I just love the thing that one reviewer said about it, that the book was 'exhaustive and only occasionally exhausting'."

Another highlight for him was "that sense of achievement through proxy when one of one's research students finally gets their PhD. It's their achievement, but one has a certain sense of wanting to say, 'Look, I told you so', when they've said, 'I'm never going to finish this,' or 'I don't know if it's any good,' and then they've come through the viva and been told that the examiners really liked it. There's a sense in which you're getting some sense of achievement and

passing things on for the next generation."

Professor Crow has more recently worked on research methods and remembers vividly, as a third highlight, two National Centre of Research Methods Festivals held at Oxford in 2008 and 2010, which he helped organise.

"They stick in the memory because of the intensity of the actual event but also all the preparation that goes into it.

"They were such wonderful events because they oughtn't to have worked, in that they were bringing together people from across all the social science disciplines, across all the different methodologies, across all the sectors, across career stages and personality types. There were 700–800 people being brought together over four days, and it might have been a recipe for people just going off into their small groups. Or it might have been a recipe for quite intense disagreement and conflict. But actually, they were wonderful events and it was really good to see people being brought together in that way."

His interest in research methods is somewhat ironic because there was no course in methods in his first degree in the 1970s.

"As an undergraduate, I had zero research methods training – I came into research methods mid-career and that then became my main focus. I am struck by how much more professionalised research methods training is compared to my own experience.

"Many people find it hard to believe that you could go through a whole undergraduate degree and have no training in research methods. But it was within living memory because it's within my living memory. So, I think there has been a professionalisation in various respects."

Along with the professionalism has come "the growth of regulation and formulisation, and so on. I think that that's clearly there, with all the movements towards the research monitoring, both within institutions but also through the REF."

"Another 'isation' would be feminisation. I've been looking back at the history of the changing position of men and women in British sociology and was interested to see that Jennifer Platt's history of the BSA says that by the late 1990s women made up the majority of BSA members. Now, I don't think that means the majority of sociologists were women because, as we know, not everybody who's a sociologist is a member of the BSA. But that was a remarkable shift from when she started out in the late '60s, early '70s – that whole sense of marginalisation that she conveys really well.

"Perhaps it's just an example of a wider trend towards greater diversity. One of the

commitment to fairness'



things I was pleased to do at Southampton was to have the opportunity [when the undergraduate curriculum was reconfigured] to offer a course on disability. It was one of the best decisions I ever made because it was such an interesting thing to do but also because I think students found it good to have that engagement with something that's, perhaps, a little bit different, that wasn't in their A-level textbooks, although it has made its way into textbooks subsequently. So that would be an example of growing diversity within the body of sociologists, and the sorts of things that sociologists talk about."

The BSA had been important to his career, he said. "My first encounter with the BSA was probably the 1980 summer school – back then there were summer schools run for postgraduate research students annually.

"That was a memorable occasion where I was in the middle of my PhD fieldwork. It was just so nice to go and meet other PhD students and also various people who were eminent sociologists at the time. It was just such a great opportunity to meet people from other institutions and to just have people interested in what you were doing with your PhD. I think I haven't really looked back since then.

"I think my first BSA conference was in

'If I meet people for the first time, they say, 'Didn't you write something on strategies?' – Prompted by that I generally say, 'Yes, and even Bourdieu cites it' '

1983. I think I've been to every one except for one since then. That has just been a fixture and it was never really a question about will I go, won't I go? Or will I offer to do something or not? I was always thinking it's such an important place to be, and it's also such an important opportunity to get some feedback on ideas and to hear about what other people are doing."

"The BSA has just been there as a

constant presence. It's a forum to meet with others and to discuss and to get a sense of what's happening in the field, and to meet some really interesting, dedicated and inspiring people who share that kind of passion for the discipline, and who want to make that case and make sure that sociology is there for subsequent generations."

He enjoyed co-editing *Sociology* journal for three years. "It was also a learning experience, sometimes quite fraught because you're obviously dealing with disappointment if you're having to turn people down. But not everybody who gets turned down sends an angry email. Some people say, 'Well, thank you for that. I'm disappointed not to be published but on the other hand, I'm really impressed by how the referees and the system have treated me'."

He found co-editing *Sociological Research Online* a very different experience, "because we used to at that time say we would publish everything that we had ready to publish. It came out quarterly, so as soon as something was published we had only three months to bring out the next issue and we had nothing in the bag. We had only things that were in the review process and there was great anxiety about whether we would have enough. But we always had enough because it was a very quick turnaround time. I think it was an indicator of things to come.

"That was another learning experience about how publishing doesn't have to take a long time. I think the fastest we got something out was within six weeks of receiving the initial submission – it was out in the next issue because it was reviewed, returned, revised, accepted, and there it was. So that was something that the BSA facilitated by seeing that opportunity in the 1990s to have a new type of journal with new things that could be done, in particular through links and through visual material, and so on.

The Distinguished Service Award was unexpected, he said.

"When I got the email saying that I was going to get this award, that was just completely unexpected. I had no idea I'd been nominated. But it was a real pleasure because it's a recognition of a very interesting journey in which the BSA has played a part. Although, on another level, I'm going to spoil it by saying that all those things were team efforts. None of them could one do on one's own. So, in a way, I feel like I should cut it into bits and share it with all the people who've participated in those various achievements along the way. Because on our own we can achieve some things but we can achieve so much more when we collaborate."

A look at migrants' lives

The book 'Migrant City', written by Shamser Sinha and Les Back, has just been translated into Japanese. In this feature the authors write about re-interviewing many of the participants about their lives since the first edition of the book came out three years ago

M*igrant City* took us a long time to research and write. It is the story of London told from the vantage point of young migrants living in the capital through the torrid anti-immigrant decades of the early 21st century. We started in 2008 and finished in 2018.

Migrants feel they have to justify to immigration officers and police the fact that they are here, and that they are entitled to benefits and have rights. The book took so long partly as a reaction to that. It transformed into an experiment of doing research in a sociable, ongoing way, valuing migrants as humans with insights, feelings and their own stories to tell.

As the experiment unfolded we realised that this required a new type of authorship. Some participants were becoming authors too. Not in the way we were, but in a new way that we were creating together. Doing this required loosening our grip on the research process and opening it up to the young migrants we were working with. Some participants became authors and commentators who were acknowledged and credited explicitly. Others could not, for fear of being revealed and scrutinised by the immigration system that for some might lead ultimately to deportation. It took us a decade to finish partly because of our deep commitment to working with, rather than on, young migrants. The stories of these young lives just kept unfolding, making it hard to portray what we had learned.

For the author-participants, writing *Migrant City* has brought them into the sociological conversation as active knowledge producers. Some, like Charlynnne Bryan, who you'll hear from shortly, have become published authors. Their lives were not merely used as evidence to be presented through sociological ventriloquism. Instead, the process of dialogue made them active readers, interpreters and contributors to theory-construction too.

We repeatedly circled back to them, arranging more meetings in cafés and informal urban spaces to pick up the

conversation. This was our analysis technique.

We wanted to hold to an analytical project, at the same time as staying close to the emotional texture of lives being lived, sometimes against the odds and in the face of real violence and danger. *Migrant City* is a sociology that tried to connect the heart and head. But, perhaps more than anything else, it is a sociology written from the heart, out of deep longstanding affiliations and intellectual friendships that are personal, sociological and political. In 2020, we were approached by Takeshi Arimoto with the possibility of *Migrant City* being translated into Japanese. We thought that one way to introduce this translation might be to return to some of the author-participants whose voices form the heart of this project.

We met Charlynnne again in the summer of 2021 at Westfield Shopping Centre in east London, a regular place for us to catch up over coffee and cake. She came to London from Dominica, where she was born, to study at the University of East London. Charlynnne explained: "I've been here for 14 years now. I mean, that's a long time to be in any place. And in five years' time, I will have lived in London longer than I've lived in the Caribbean."

Through her father's French citizenship, Charlynnne came to Britain as a citizen of the EU. However, after the Brexit vote she had to apply to the Home Office to secure her status. As she said: "[The UK leaving] the Eurozone was particularly important because I felt like I'm going to be sent back to where I came from, which is the term that sometimes comes with immigrants. And I wasn't sure what that would look like, because I was like, where would I be sent back to? Would I be sent back to Dominica that I left ages ago and have no ties to? Would I be sent back to France which I'm a national of, but where I've never lived?"

Charlynnne applied for indefinite leave to remain in the UK through the 'Pilot program of settled status in the UK'. She is a school teacher in permanent employment. However,

there were two years which the Home Office queried and asked her to provide documentary evidence that she lived in London. It was unsettling, but she found documentation to prove her residency and she forwarded the proof. She was granted settled status. Charlynnne reflected on the impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic on the migrant city: "I always start with the fact that this country is built on the back of migrants. And during this pandemic, you saw that lots of the people who are NHS workers, lots of the people who are teachers, lots of the people who are the frontline workers, are migrants in this country."

It was not just the public services too. As the restaurants closed, migrant labourers delivered food via Uber Eats and the like to keep Londoners fed. Also, thousands of small supermarkets staffed by those with global majority heritages stayed stocked and open, meaning food was available within walking distance throughout the capital.

London's migrant workers have been exposed to extreme physical and emotional pressure during the pandemic. Yasmin Gunaratnam pointed out in her article 'When doctor's die' how health care professionals of migrant backgrounds risked and lost their lives while providing care. In March 2020, Adil El Tayar, Habib Zaidi and Amged El-Hawrani were the first NHS doctors to die from coronavirus. All three were from migrant backgrounds. A recent article in the *British Medical Journal* showed, on almost all health measures, that what they termed ethnic minority groups had the worst outcomes. This was especially true for Black and south Asian people. The mortality rates for some minority communities was identified as three or four times higher than those experienced by white Britons.¹ Charlynnne explained that social isolation and the lockdown was more intensely experienced in migrant communities.

Dr Siema Iqbal, who is a GP, summed it up like this in September 2020: "Migrants and people of colour kept this country alive during the pandemic, and still do. Let's address the structural and institutional racism and inequalities that exist in our country and hold those that allow it to flourish to account. What bigger wake-up call do we need?"²

For Charlynnne, one of the deep lessons of the pandemic is how to live in the face of possible infection and premature death. She explained: "Everybody knew that they could die from it. That's all they focused on – death. Covid kind of brought to the forefront of our minds that we're not going to live forever, that there is an end. And we don't know when that end is; it could be any minute."

For Charlynnne, there are moral and

in anti-immigrant times



Photos

Left:
Charlynnne
Bryan

Above:
Les Back

Right:
Shamser
Sinha

philosophical questions about how to live in the face of this. For many, it brought out the worst fears and phobias about others. She explained: “So the reaction wasn’t a reaction of, ‘Oh my goodness, I’m going to do my best and live the best life that I can’.”

For Charlynnne, there is another impulse: to live a better, more open-hearted life. Charlynnne wrote poems as part of her contribution to this research, which were published in *Migrant City*. She published a collection during the pandemic entitled *Letters to my Soul*. Throughout the pandemic, Charlynnne continued with her poetry group, which is based in East London.

“My poetry group moved online and so all of the Colombian people, the Jamaican people and the Trinidadian people, all of us were coming together, and the Bangladeshi people as well, and sharing our poetry and talking about what Covid did to us and how we were affected by it.” In the face of death during the pandemic, Charlynnne points to how to refuse isolation and fear and choose connection and community as a better way to live.

Living in the migrant city through this pandemic has left Charlynnne with a deep sense of pride. “I don’t like to generalise, but when I think of my people – and I’m using ‘my people’ as a general term to talk about

‘We wanted to stay close to the emotional texture of lives being lived against the odds and in the face of real violence and danger’

migrants, be it migrants from the Caribbean or migrants from Europe or migrants from Africa – people know how to make things work when things aren’t working. One of the things that’s always struck me about migrant communities is that you put them in a situation where they have nothing and they will magic something out of nothing; you put them in a situation where they’re illegal and they can’t work to get money, but they will find some way to make it work for their family; you put them in a situation where it’s

hard, and there’s a pandemic, and they will find a way to make something out of that, so that it doesn’t become something that destroys them. This pandemic has definitely proven that even though as migrants we are ostracised in so many ways, we’re needed in so many ways that we can make it in so many ways. And that’s been the beautiful thing for me ... I’m kind of proud of my people, you know, really proud of my people for that.”

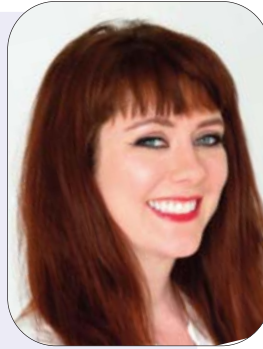
• *Migrant City*, written by Shamser Sinha and Les Back, has just been translated into Japanese. It also has a new preface based on interviews with the participants about living through the Covid-19 pandemic. This was given as a talk entitled, ‘The migrant city and the Covid-19 pandemic’, on 14 December, 2021, City, Public Space & Body, www.citypublicspacebody.com

References

1. Razai M S, Kankam H K N, Majeed A, Esmail A, Williams D R. ‘Mitigating ethnic disparities in Covid-19 and beyond’, *BMJ* 2021; 372 www.bmj.com/content/372/bmj.m4921
2. Iqbal, S. ‘Covid-19: how infectious disease exposes the racism within our healthcare system’, 15 September, 2020, British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy <https://tinyurl.com/yzv8hzrp>

Corey Wrenn

Dr Corey Wrenn is a lecturer on animal rights, environmental politics and vegan sociology, and Co-director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements at the University of Kent. She was elected Chair of the American Sociological Association's Animals and Society section in 2018 and co-founded the International Association of Vegan Sociologists in 2020. She is author of *A Rational Approach to Animal Rights: Extensions in Abolitionist Theory* (2016) and other works



Your first choice is *Animal Rights, Human Rights: Entanglements of Oppression and Liberation* by David Nibert – why did you choose that?

David Nibert is arguably the ‘father’ of vegan sociology and this book has had the greatest influence on my writing and thinking. I had been introduced to David Nibert and his work in graduate school in the early 2000s, a time when “animals and society” was just starting to be recognised professionally by the ASA and the BSA. Until then, I had not been aware that animals were a legitimate area of study. Nibert was actually a major player in organising the Animals and Society section of the ASA in 2001, serving as its first Chair. The publication of this book a year later provided the theoretical groundwork for the new sub-field.

Animal Rights, Human Rights argues that the oppression of all species (humans included) are deeply entangled. Of course, this intersectionality argument is not new (the influence of Patricia Hill Collins is evident in this book), but the inclusion of species, at least in the social sciences, was rather novel. Nibert’s work also contributes to ecofeminist theory (which has historically been more animal-inclusive) by introducing sociology’s critique of the state. The state, along with elites and industries, he argues, have an economic interest in exploiting marginalised humans and other animals, as well as the power to do so.

He traces this process of systemic discrimination across human history, noting how the development of sexism, classism and other forms of oppression emerged with speciesist economic modes of production. For instance, sexism emerged with hunting, given its male valorisation and gendered division of labour, while classism may have emerged with domestication, given its contribution to surplus food and wealth.

Moreover, it is not just a co-emergence but a co-mingling of oppression. The oppression of humans is often intimately bound to that of other animals, both physically and symbolically. Disabled people, women, and people of colour, for instance, are frequently objectified and animalised (as are non-human animals), which facilitates considerable systemic suffering.

While all animal-based economies, in the Marxian sense, create a culture that normalises species-based inequality, capitalism has truly expanded this process. Seventy billion land animals are killed for food each year, a staggering number. For Nibert, the path to a more just society will be radical vegan socialism. So long as speciesism remains unchecked, society will be structurally and ideologically founded on inequality, thereby sustaining human oppression as well. It is a thought provoking read that encourages the reader to see other animals as communities worthy of sociological inquiry and to revisit anthropocentric interpretation of material history.

What made you choose your next selection, *Racism as Zoological Witchcraft: A Guide to Getting Out* by Aph Ko?

The work of Aph Ko is a more contemporary take on the vegan intersectional theory. I met Aph in the early 2010s through our shared blogging work. We both wrote on feminist issues in the non-human animal rights movement and we shared space on a few blogs. Ko is an American woman of colour and was coming to the discourse fresh from a communications masters program. She was brimming with innovative ideas from critical race theory and she was one of the most well-read and critically minded early 20-somethings ever to grace the scene. Because she was not coming to the dialogue as an animal rights activist, but rather from critical race discourses, her perspectives were

a breath of fresh air and, for me, really mind-blowing.

Ko’s work draws heavily on postcolonial theory and, in an Elias Norbert type argument, identifies the category of ‘animal’ as politically potent. With colonialisation, slavery and the institutionalisation of racism came the installation (and enforcement) of the human/non-human binary. Western white men (those who essentially controlled society) are subsequently framed as human, while all others are deemed less civilised and animal-like, regardless of species. Indeed, the animalisation of people of colour is profound and perpetuates considerable state-supported violence, including oppressive (often fatal) policing and disproportionate incarceration.

Ko’s book takes this animalisation argument further, suggesting that people of colour are subject to the “witchcraft” of white supremacy which essentially colonises their minds and bodies. She draws on the metaphor of taxidermy to illustrate. First, she observes that taxidermised animals are often present in popular media to cue the audience to the racist predications of white males and white spaces (suggesting that taxidermy has symbolic meaning in a white supremacist culture). Secondly, like non-human animals, she argues, people of colour are gutted and emptied by an oppressive society, then refilled and repurposed for the dominant class, essentially robbing them of their essence and agency. Like Nibert, Ko argues that this intersectional oppression will require intersectional resistance and examines some of the reasons why anti-racist organisers and animal rights campaigners so often fail to collaborate. The historical animalisation of people of colour has understandably discouraged many from associating with the non-human animal rights movement, and this is aggravated by the predominance of white culture in animal rights campaigning.



Why did you select for your third book, *Our Children and Other Animals* by Matthew Cole and Kate Stewart?

As Ko's taxidermy analysis indicates, the field of vegan sociology has much to glean from critical media studies. Matthew Cole and Kate Stewart are specialists in this area; they have been major influencers on my own work as well as dear mentors. Their work has spanned a variety of media and channels, but these efforts have culminated in *Our Children and Other Animals*. This book examines processes of socialisation that render some animals "sensible" while pushing others beyond human sensibility. In line with Nibert, this presence or non-presence usually banks on the use value of other animals. Food animals are largely segregated from humans and are heavily commodified, so they are less easily noticed by most. Companion animals, on the other hand, often share our homes and are more likely to be granted some semblance of personhood. Non-human animals who trouble these socially constructed boundaries, such as foxes who enter human communities from the anonymous "wild" spaces to which they've been relegated, are frequently subject to human violence in an effort to police categories.

Active boundary maintenance of this kind is important in upholding this social construction but, as Cole and Stewart note,

socialisation is more insidious in reproducing speciesism. We are taught from an early age to internalise these species distinctions. Children's books, films, cartoons, toys and games create mental schemas that organise other animals according to their utility. Even "cute" animal depictions, they warn, can be problematic by infantilising and misrepresenting their real-life counterparts. The end of *Our Children* examines the possibility of disrupting the manufacture and maintenance of speciesism through vegan alternatives. Precious little sociological research had considered disrupting speciesist socialisation processes, but there is an emerging body of research on vegan childhood and family studies, which is poised to extend the utility of Cole and Stewart's early work.

Your fourth choice is *Animal Oppression and Human Violence: Domestecration, Capitalism, and Global Conflict*, by David Nibert – why this book?

It might be tacky to choose two books from the same author, but that's just how influential I've found David's writing. Published a decade after *Animal Rights, Human Rights*, this book ambitiously revisits the many courses of human societal developments. Domestecration (a euphemism he explains is more accurately described as domestecration) is identified as a pivotal point in human/non-human relations. Here, the bodies of other animals are manipulated for economic gain, and this exploitation is linked to the commodification of other marginalised groups such as women, peasants and slaves. As societies shifted to animal-based pastoralism or animal-based agriculture, resources were rapidly depleted (animal-based foodways are far less sustainable than plant-based alternatives), necessitating raids and warfare. Plant-based societies, which tended to be more egalitarian, were especially vulnerable as the conflict approach of animal-based counterparts came to structure global social relations.

Colonialism, as examined in my other book selections, would also emerge from the expansion of domestecration. Nibert theorises that the expansion was central to colonial conquest in Scotland, Ireland, the Americas and beyond. Indeed, this book would be a major motivation for my own case study of colonialism and human-nonhuman relations in Ireland.

Your last book is *Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations*, edited by Carol Adams and Josephine Donovan – what led you to this?

Although ecofeminism (particularly vegan ecofeminism) had been arguing for some decades that the experiences of women and other animals were deeply entangled, scholarship in the animal rights movement still had a long way to go in developing these connections.

I began teaching gender as a PhD student at Colorado State University and, suddenly, all of these very clear similarities between the social construction of gender and species were emerging as I prepared lectures and lesson plans. Around that time, I discovered this book and found it to be immensely helpful in legitimising my concerns but also expanding the realm of possibility in vegan feminist thought. The editors, Carol Adams and Josephine Donovan, are considered "mothers" of animal rights theory, but contributions appear from all of the major theorists of the era, including Joan Dunayer, Lynda Birke, Marti Kheel and Brian Luke. It was then a very groundbreaking book but, even today, remains one of the 'go to' references in critical animal and gender studies. Topics include entanglements in oppressive language, the politicisation of 'freedom of speech' politics in pornography and anti-hunt protest, masculinity and speciesism, and the connections between men's violence against women and companion animals in the home.

And for your luxury?

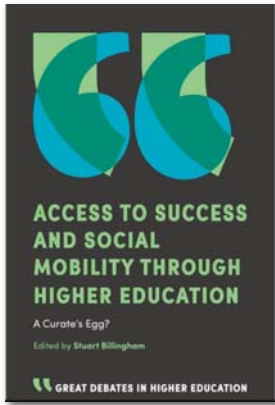
My dog Mishka and cat Keeley Jr. Sometimes I feel we're already stranded on a deserted island amid all these coronavirus waves that have me hiding at home!

Correction

In an early version of the Desert Island Discourse feature by Oli Williams in the last issue of *Network*, a sentence was inadvertently carried over from a previous issue and should not have appeared. Readers are asked to disregard the words "...realism. I have so far only dipped a toe or two in the world of metaRealism. But there's still time." if they feature in any downloaded copy.

Dr Wrenn's choices:

1. *Animal Rights, Human Rights*, by David Nibert (2002) Rowman and Littlefield
2. *Racism as Zoological Witchcraft: A Guide to Getting Out*, by Aph Ko (2019) Lantern Books
3. *Our Children and Other Animals*, by Matthew Cole and Kate Stewart (2014) Ashgate
4. *Animal Oppression and Human Violence*, by David Nibert (2013) Columbia University Press
5. *Animals and Women*, edited by Carol Adams and Josephine Donovan (1996) Duke University Press



Access to Success and Social Mobility through Higher Education

Stuart Billingham (ed)

Emerald

2018

271 pages

£45.99 pbk

ISBN: 9781787541108 pbk

This edited volume contains 15 chapters divided into four sections. It illuminates the drawbacks, benefits, opportunities and challenges in widening access to success and social mobility, through a range of case studies from the UK, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Israel and the US. It addresses issues including the importance of part-time and lifelong learning, BAME students' experiences, increasing access and enhancement in disadvantaged geographies and communities, dealing with the stigma associated with mental health problems, and the role of institutions – staff as well as employers – in widening participation.

There has been some success in this approach, particularly in certain regions of some countries, with increased access and enhanced success for certain populations, but the impact remains patchy – like the 'curate's egg', only good in parts. In this context, education is regarded as the great enabler of social mobility. As Nelson Mandela once said, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", and the book quotes South African respondents as saying "a university degree is a passport to a better life for those who have it". (ch.3, p.35).

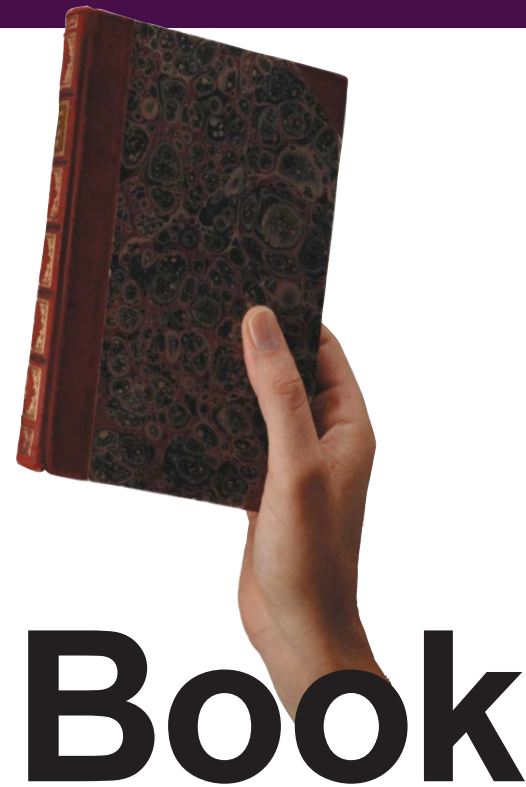
Rising inequality is one of the important characteristics of the contemporary world order. Essays in this collection demonstrate the persistence of educational inequalities, injustices and unfairness in both developed and under-developed worlds. Further, the data on the distribution of participation rates in higher education suggest that it is

disproportionately disadvantageous for the peripheral regions in most countries. The participation rate is significantly lower in rural areas than in big cities, highlighting the absence of higher education institutions in the rural areas as 'higher education cold spots'.

Rural areas also suffer from historical and cultural disabilities, of course. For example, the participation rate in higher education among Maori and Iwi (in New Zealand) and other local ethnic groups is historically low. However, it highlighted government interventions to establish colleges, universities and study centres in geographically remote places which showed encouraging outcomes in widening participation and social mobility.

The book shows that mere accessibility to higher education does not necessarily imply success and social mobility for all in a highly unequal society. Chapters seven and eight argued that lack of social and cultural capital among BAME students and Arab students negatively affects their learning outcomes, their life skills and their employment opportunities. Students who belong to better socio-economic backgrounds (e.g. Jewish people in Israel and whites in the UK) tend to be more efficacious in learning and have higher employment rates.

It also draws attention to the importance of part-time (lifelong learning and flexible) learning in access to success and social mobility. It notes the perception that only people with lower socio-economic conditions participated and benefited from



such programmes, pointing out that it is far from the truth. Part-time education often helps the working population to upgrade skills. The book cites the success of the Converge Programme, a partnership approach between York St John University and an NHS mental health trust, which offers educational campus-based opportunities to people in the community with challenges associated with mental health (ch.10).

To conclude, this book documents ongoing experimental practices and innovative approaches adopted in higher education for widening participation, success and social mobility in the UK and other places. It is recommended for individuals, scholars and policymakers who want to better understand the obstacles for higher education and social mobility and be familiar with efforts in higher education to widen access to social mobility.

■ Kishor Podh
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

A History of Regulating Working Families

Strains, Stereotypes,
Strategies and Solutions

Nicole Busby and Grace James

Bloomsbury

2020

176 pages

£58.50 hbk, £22.49 pbk

ISBN: 9781849465571 hbk

Busby and James chart the development of the United Kingdom's law and policy framework, focusing on the post-war era (though considering a longer historical trajectory where appropriate), aiming to better understand why and how UK governments have chosen to regulate working families. By exploring the past, they hope to better understand the foundation that current laws and policies are built on, such as those designed to enable both mothers and fathers to combine care responsibilities with paid work, the "work-family balance framework".

This is a fresh perspective which illustrates very starkly the implicit ideologies of motherhood and of the male 'unencumbered'

father/worker underlying much legislation and policy. The workplace and the household are still perceived as unconnected and autonomous fields, despite the dependency of the market on the reproductive work performed within the private sphere. While there is a shift in rhetoric away from mothering towards shared parenting and 'new fatherhood', this has not been backed up by enough provision to support a shift in men's behaviour or workplace culture.

Busby and Jones demonstrate that even when designed to challenge and address gender inequalities, laws and policies can have the unintended consequence of reaffirming and entrenching these, due to their ideological framing and practical operations.

Reviews of recent books in social science and sociology

ends

As our capacity for interacting in person has been greatly reduced in the past two years, it's hardly surprising that the ways in which we connect remotely are of more interest to us than ever. *The New Laws of Love* cleverly analyses the ways in which dating – the definition of which filters between finding partners for love, romance or sex – is enacted in the digital world. Bergström draws on her own empirical evidence, including large-scale scientific surveys, 'big data' from a number of online dating platforms, and qualitative interviews with both founders and users of dating sites and applications, to explore this phenomenon. The book identifies the ways in which online dating has changed the world of relationships, but additionally the ways in which it reproduces common modes of interaction.

Bergström's chief claim centres on the 'privatization' of the culture of dating, which is presented as the largest difference between online and traditional dating methods. Traditional venues in which one might meet a partner largely rely on a shared social connection or a shared social space: meeting

Their original contribution is to replace the liberal subject which lies at the heart of much law, valorising autonomy, self-sufficiency and independence, with one that acknowledges vulnerability as a universal human state, where dependency becomes an inevitable and positive corollary of the human condition. By drawing on the vulnerability theory of Martha Fineman, the authors highlight the flaws in established discourses and frameworks and suggest an alternative policy approach that better values care relationships. This approach has the potential to resolve the apparent conflict between the demands of participating in both paid work and providing care, by moving the responsibility solely from the shoulders of

The New Laws of Love

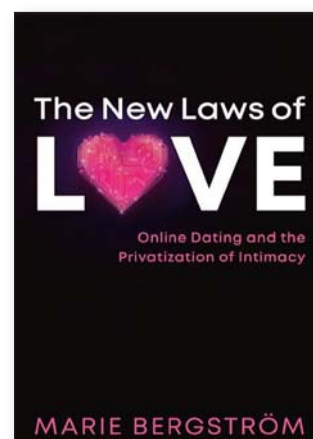
Online Dating and the
Privatization of Intimacy

Marie Bergström

Polity Press
2022

190 pages

£43.21 hbk, £13.57 pbk
ISBN 9781509543519 hbk



through friends or family, or in the school or workplace, for example. Online dating instead provides a "socially insular" environment where interactions can take place in total privacy. It allows one to partake in dating from the comfort of one's home and creates an intimate environment in which no outside observers can be involved. Most importantly, this private environment maintains a distinct separation between one's social and sexual networks. This element of distinction is what Bergström maintains is the strongest draw to online dating. It means that the repercussions of relationship interactions – be it a bad date, a messy break-up or an embarrassing sexual experience – have far fewer ripple effects within your social circle. It is a feature, rather than a bug, of the online dating environment.

This element of privacy casts almost every part of the dating landscape in an entirely new context. Given the freedom to date without interference or judgement from peers, a whole new world of dating potential appears. The relative anonymity of online dating – most profiles simply offer a first name, age and vague location – allows for a person to express themselves without fear of recognition. For straight women (who fear violence from men) and members of the LGBT community (who are seeking to avoid homophobia or transphobia), online dating offers the ability to vet potential partners privately and discreetly before meeting in person. Furthermore, while online dating is

women and equitably redistributing this across all of law's subjects, including relevant institutions, so transforming the state's mission to one of supporting and encouraging resilience in all individuals throughout the life course.

Busby and James take what could become a very dry topic in the hands of some writers, and yet make it engaging. For such an expansive, and ambitious undertaking, their chapters are focused and feel like they are giving the key points, without losing any key details. It is only very occasionally where a reader might feel just a little more fleshing out could be given to, for example, the nuances of the sexual contract or how bonds of mutual trust in the employment contract

often accused of creating a 'hookup culture', where quick and casual encounters with a host of attractive strangers is prioritised over committed, steady relationships, Bergström argues that this is simply the latest evolution in dating culture. Online relationships are faster to reach sex as a milestone because much of the usual preamble – finding out if that person you keep making eye contact with is single, looking for a partner and, above all, interested in you – is established already. Additionally, sex loses some of its taboo nature when fewer people know you are doing it. The discretionary nature of online dating permits casual sexual encounters in a way that traditional dating simply cannot.

What is clear throughout Bergström's analysis is the significance of examining online dating as a phenomenon. In 2019, 30% of American adults had used a dating site or app, and meeting via online dating has become the third most common way of finding a spouse. While critics of online dating may argue it robs the world of romance and fantasy, replacing it with a cold and calculated approach to relationships, Bergström maintains that online dating is neither so damaging nor so transformative. Instead, online dating demonstrates the reproduction of long-standing habits around dating, sex and relationships in a digital – and, more importantly, private – environment.

■ Jade Gilbourne
University of York

have been eroded (although this is more than understandable with all the ground that needs covering).

■ Natalie Tyldesley-Marshall
University of Birmingham

Would you like to review for Network?

We are looking for 600-word reviews of recent social science books. Please see our review list: <https://tinyurl.com/yc98dzmk>

Contact Tony Trueman to arrange for a free copy of the book: tony.trueman@britsoc.org.uk

'Live sociology' takes students to the streets, mosques and police HQ

Michael Dunning writes about a new teaching programme at the University of Leicester which takes students out of the lecture room

That sociology exists in the world beyond books seems obvious to most practising sociologists. But it is not necessarily the experience of many students. In fact, making the jump from the sometimes abstract academic texts that students encounter in lectures and seminars to the outside world can often be challenging. It is, however, something we must support them to do. Key to accomplishing this is that students develop their sociological imaginations through the practice of sociology. This is something that the sociology team at the University of Leicester are helping them to do across a number of programmes. In particular, this is being done through a module we have called Live Sociology.

What do we mean by Live Sociology? It involves teaching sociology in a more interactive way, and sees sociology as needing to be experienced, lived and practised. This means that we take students out of the comfort of the lecture theatre so they can learn the craft of sociology on the streets of Leicester and Leicestershire. This involves developing that crucial sociological skill of walking the field in a range of locations in the city and county.

For example, we recently visited a local mosque and a gurdwara to explore a variety of sociological issues, such as religious diversity in Leicester and the relationships with the local community, as well as the workings and significance of these and other religious institutions more broadly. Another trip is to Leicestershire Police HQ where students are shown around the different aspects of policing, such as the firearms unit and cyber crime division. They then get to ask questions about the complexities of policing a multi-ethnic community like Leicester. We also walk the field in 'Winston Parva', the site of the famous study of community, *The Established and the Outsiders*, by Norbert Elias and John Scotson. In this case, students explore how the area has changed since the 1950s study and discover the complexities of community and power relations.

Other visits include to Leicester City's King Power Stadium, Narborough Road, (Britain's 'most diverse street'), places of



Dr Michael Dunning

consumption and many others.

One of the things that this wide variety of field trips highlights is how lucky we are as sociologists to be located in a place like Leicester. Its rich diversity, heritage and complexity provide the students with the perfect empirical crucible to hone their craft and develop skills that not only can be taken back into the classroom but are also directly applicable to a huge range of post-university careers. In fact, there are few places in the United Kingdom that can rival the city of Leicester as places to learn first-hand about issues of ethnicity, migration, social class, gender and community.

Taking advantage of this, the students perfect their skills by keeping a field notebook over the course of the module. This allows them to get creative, using text, images and ephemera to help develop their sociological imaginations. They observe, record and reflect on their experiences and repeat this for each field trip, building up a compendium of personal, professional and intellectual experiences, which they then connect to key sociological debates.

‘Making the jump from abstract academic texts to the outside can be challenging’

While the students' experiences and their practice of sociology is central to Live Sociology, the approach also allows the students and the university to develop and enhance relationships with the local community. So, for example, students can develop contacts in the city and county that can help them with their research projects later in their degrees. Academics are also able to strengthen their ties with the neighbourhood, and the people of Leicester and Leicestershire not only get a sense that the university is something for them but also that they are sharing in a joint enterprise of pedagogy and achievement.

As to be expected, the opportunity to develop and test their sociology skills outside the classroom is proving popular with students, who are finding the practical work both challenging and interesting. A regular response from students is how engaged with sociology the module makes them feel, as it allows them creative freedom while still being sociologically and pedagogically relevant.

Moving forward, we are aiming to offer the Live Sociology experience to a wider cohort of students at Leicester. But, for now, the principles of Live Sociology are already being practised in other modules in the sociology and related programmes at Leicester. In time, we hope that more students from a diverse range of backgrounds and courses will be able to benefit from Live Sociology while, at the same time, we will continue to develop strong ties with the local community to help grow these opportunities for our students, the university and the people of Leicester and Leicestershire.

Events listing

20 April – 16 September

As at 28/3/22 All events online. For a complete and up-to-date list see:
www.britisoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events-lister

20-22 April	Online	BSA Annual Conference: Building Equality and Justice Now
28 April	University of Lincoln	Early Career Forum: Doing Creative and Participatory Methods
18 May	Online	Theory Study Group: Readings of Niklas Luhman's System Theory
19 May	De Montfort University	Human Reproduction Study Group Annual Conference
31 May	Online	How Can I Steer My Academic Career In My Preferred Direction? Free Event For ECR & Mid-Career BSA members
6 June	University of York	Early Career Forum: Disseminating Research to a Non-Academic Audience
4-6 July	Online	SocRel Annual Conference 2022: Disruption, Crisis and Continuity in Religion
14-16 September	Lancaster University	Medical Sociology Conference



Meet the PhD: Matt Reynolds

'The best part of doing a sociology PhD is the sheer amount of freedom that you have in the direction that you can take'

My research is set in London and the south east of England, areas that are a magnet for global wealth. One impact of this has been the expansion of paid domestic work – live-in and live-out workers such as housekeepers, nannies, au-pairs, concierges, porters and security guards.

I was lucky enough to know my great-grandparents growing up, who told me stories about working as cook and butler in a large country house. This gave me the false impression that domestic service was something from the past, until I started to read about its resurgence and the mistreatment that some migrant domestic workers face. I wrote my MSc thesis on this topic and I realised this was an important area that I would like to keep exploring.

I analyse real-estate listings for high-end homes and job posts for domestic roles, and I carry out interviews with domestic workers, their employers and industry professionals. Rather than asking them about generalities, I am asking them to comment on the real-estate listings and job posts to gauge how much of a gap they see between the promotional literature and their lived experience.

I hope to bridge the polarised views on paid domestic work as, on the one hand, vital reproductive labour and, on the other, as a shallow display of conspicuous leisure. To do this, I draw upon a neglected forerunner of the discipline, Harriet Martineau, who championed the importance of domestic labour, chastised the wealthy for their excesses and criticised the poor treatment of workers. I hope that my thesis will add to the calls to improve the poorly-regulated working conditions of domestic workers.

Before starting, I had been told that the process was an extremely lonely one. While you certainly don't have as many formal sessions as in a Masters, a pleasant surprise has been the community feeling among fellow students, from writing feedback groups to film nights.

The best part of doing a sociology PhD is the sheer amount of freedom that you have in the direction that you can take. Walking into a library without a course reading list to tick off seems intimidating at first, but it is really exciting what you can find off the beaten track. The biggest challenge I continue to face is access to participants. Both the wealthy and precarious workers' groups are bombarded with requests from journalists and fellow students.

My main advice would be not to rush into a PhD. It is a huge time- and monetary- commitment, so you need to be madly in love with your topic and really trust your advisor. I started my PhD when I was 30, and I know people who happily started much later than that. I'd also suggest trying part-time, as I am doing, to help fit your studies around other commitments.

'Domestic work and the moral ordering of space in affluent British homes', Department of Sociology, LSE, 2020-2026

NETWORK

Spring 2022

“This pandemic has definitely proven that, that even though as migrants we are ostracised in so many ways, we’re also needed in so many ways, and we can make it in so many ways”

“Women were getting themselves out of violent marriages and going to live together with groups of other women in safe houses run by women – it was stunning in its fearlessness and daring”

“Temporary contracts and low pay mean it is overwhelmingly the most privileged who can climb the ivory tower in higher education – this has to stop and the only way is to fight for all our rights”

Magazine of the British Sociological Association

Registered Charity (no. 1080235)

Company Limited by Guarantee (no. 3890729)

Network is published three times a year:

Spring

Summer

Autumn

ISSN: 2634-9213

Available online to members:
www.britsoc.co.uk

BRITISH
SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION