

Call for Chapter Abstracts:

Working-Class Lives and the Continuity of Crisis: Pasts, Presents and Futures

Dr Carli-Ria Rowell & Dr Hannah Walters

Book Outline

The UK's relationship to social class is one that is deeply rooted, all pervasive and ever enduring. Social class (and its intersections) remains a central structuring factor of inequalities in UK society, yet there is still work to be done on bringing these discussions into popular discourse around contemporary social justice.

The UK's cost of living crisis has now entered its third year. Just as the world was emerging from the peak of Covid-19 and related measures - well documented to have disproportionately impacted working-class people, families and communities - the country was plunged into increasingly uncertain and ever-changing financial conditions. Post-pandemic, low-income families were already walking a 'financial tightrope' (Hill and Webber 2022, p.3). The cost of living crisis that followed has intensified these already precarious conditions, and further impacted working-class communities.

At the same time, we acknowledge the ways in which living in 'crisis' is nothing new for working-class people in the UK. Indeed, though the current political and cultural moment is one punctuated by this discourse, experiencing crisis is and has long been the everyday experience of working-class communities.

In this edited collection, we want to tell the story of working-class people's experiences of living through *crises* - old and new; whether named as crisis or not. To this end we hope to bring together contributions which share current and emerging research and theorising pertaining to class inequality in the contemporary UK as well as welcoming abstracts which grapple with the UK's longstanding, historical issues of class inequality. In doing so, class will be explored as it is rendered across various social, cultural and economic landscapes, and through the lens of crisis/crises. Following Gilroy (2013), we note how '[c]lass analysis must be opened up so that it can be supplemented by additional categories which reflect different histories of subordination' (p.48). We encourage papers which speak to social class and classed experience which grapple with these myriad, complex intersections.

In this book we hope to widen the scope of traditional studies of social class. In doing so we hope to both acknowledge the post/industrial origins of social class studies, while also examining the cultural, affective, social and contemporary policy implications of this kind of work.

Key Words: Social class, Working class, inequality, precarity, sociology, crisis, cost of living crisis.

Call for Abstracts

Contributors will be those researching and theorising the UK cost of living crisis, or those whose work on class inequalities speaks to broader themes of life in/times of crisis. We welcome contributions that span a range of methodological approaches, including but not limited to ethnography, interviews, creative and participatory methods. We specifically call for abstracts from researchers working in the field of sociology or its cognates (including but not limited to social policy; politics; cultural studies; and education). Contributions are welcomed from both established and emerging academics, and abstract submissions are especially welcomed from traditionally underrepresented voices.

The scope of the book is wide ranging, and we encourage contributions on the following (non-exhaustive) thematic topics as well as topics outside of this list that fall under the theme of the book:

- The cost-of-living crisis
- The enduring nature of class inequality
- Social class in times of crisis
- Working-class lives
- Theorising social class
- Class inequality and its intersections
- New and emerging conceptualisations and manifestations of social class
- Empirical works related to the current cost of living crisis, e.g. housing; food insecurity; personal debt; the lives of low income families; work and labour; social policy; parenting; health, public health and mental health.

Book Editors

Dr Carli-Ria Rowell, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Sussex and Dr Hannah Walters, Lecturer in Education Policy, King's College London.

Chapter proposal/abstract submission

Please submit an abstract (approx. 300 words) with a potential title and topic area to Carli-Ria Rowell, (c.r.rowell@sussex.ac.uk) by Monday 29th July 2024. The abstract should include a clear overview of the focus of the chapter and the different topics that will be addressed. In addition, please include a short biography (max. 100 words) of the author(s). If you have any questions or would like to discuss a chapter idea, please contact Carli (c.r.rowell@sussex.ac.uk) or Hannah (hannah.1.walters@kcl.ac.uk) via email.

Final contributions will be limited to 8,000 words maximum (including bibliography). Please note accepted chapter abstracts will form the basis for a full volume proposal made to Routledge via the BSA Sociological Futures series (who approached us to edit a book and who have expressed a keen interest in the books theme).

Please also provide information on the following:

- a) Approximately how many tables, diagrams or illustrations do you plan to include in the chapter (if applicable)?
- b) Are there any stipulations by your funding body or institution that require any of this material to be published Open Access? If you have funding, or wish to find out more about our Open Access options, please visit: <https://www.routledge.com/our-products/open-access-books/taylor-francis-oa-books>