

Network



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Conference Special

Memories, experiences and interviews from this year's conference and more. See Pages 14 - 20



The British Sociological Association

Serving and Supporting the British Sociological Community



☺ CONFERENCES ☺ JOURNALS ☺ STUDY GROUPS ☺ EVENTS ☺ COMMUNITY ☺ NETWORKING ☺ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The British Sociological Association is the professional membership organisation representing sociologists in Britain. Our aim is to represent the intellectual and sociological interests of our members. We support the development of sociology as a discipline and provide professional development opportunities for our members. Our members are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds - research, teaching, students and practitioners in a variety of fields. The BSA provides a network of communication to all who are concerned with the promotion and use of sociology and sociological research.

BSA MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES TWO-FOLD BENEFITS:

☺ Through membership fees, the BSA is able to help sociology develop as a discipline and help members develop professionally.

The BSA coordinates two conferences annually and supports many other events organised by members. BSA conferences offer members an opportunity to present their research and to network with fellow sociologists and publishers.

The BSA publishes two prestigious journals - *Sociology and Work*, *Employment and Society*. These consistently high-ranking journals provide a high-profile platform for publication and contribute greatly to knowledge in the disciplines they represent.

The BSA supports more than 30 study groups. From ageing to youth, from family to food, BSA study groups create a specialised community to enable you to network with colleagues working in your area and to organise events to promote your research.

☺ BSA members also enjoy many personal benefits such as free subscription to one of the BSA journals, discounts on publications and events, eligibility for prizes, a members' newsletter and more...

If you would like more information about the BSA and how to join please visit our website, www.britsoc.co.uk or email: enquiries@britsoc.org.uk



WHO RUNS THE BSA?

The activities of the BSA are co-ordinated by an elected Executive Committee made up from ordinary members. The day-to-day running of the BSA is managed by a small, dedicated team of staff based at our Durham Office.

BSA PRESIDENT

Geoff Payne
University of Plymouth

BSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Gayle Letherby
University of Plymouth

BSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

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www.britsoc.co.uk

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Membership Subscription

New Rates and Categories for 2007

The changes to your membership subscription categories and rates below reflect the changes agreed at the 2005 Annual General Meeting, which were to bring the membership categories into line with the new Single Pay Spine and to raise the subscription rates in line with inflation. The inflation rate applied is the Retail Price Index (the UK's most familiar measure of inflation) as published in the month of September each year (the rate published on 12 September was 3.4%*). Therefore, a 3.4% increase has been applied across the board for all categories.

* Source: National Statistics Online, RPI as at 12 September 2006

From January 2007 the Membership Subscription Rates and Categories will be:

Band	Boundary	Rate
UK Concessionary	Full-time students, unwaged, or in receipt of benefit	£27
UK Standard A	Earning between £12,850 and £21,467	£59
UK Standard B	Earning between £21,468 and £25,663	£80
UK Standard C	Earning between £25,664 and £39,935	£96
UK Higher	Earning over £39,936	£117
Retired		£37
Non UK 1	Full-time students, unwaged or country of residence in Category B – all countries not listed in Category A below	£49
Non UK 2	Waged (earning between £12,850 and £39,935) and country of residence in Category A. Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bermuda, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Rep., Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United States.	£97
Non UK 3	Waged (earning over £39,936) and country of residence in Category A	£133

Note: Categories A and B are based on World Bank GNI figures and criteria, and are similar to those used by the ISA, who similarly differentiate by country of residence.

Membership subscription renewal forms will be prepared and mailed to the full membership separately. Could we ask that you check your payment band and return your renewal form to the BSA office with the relevant payment or preferably a completed Direct Debit Form as soon as possible after receipt.

Should you have any comments or enquiries, these may be directed to: members@britsoc.org.uk

The British Sociological Association was founded in 1951 and is a registered charitable company (charity no: 1080235).

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Please see the BSA website for Notes to Contributors

Please note that the views expressed in *Network* and any enclosures or advertisements are not necessarily those of the British Sociological Association (BSA). Whilst 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.

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VICTORIA GOSLING EDITOR



This issue features reports from numerous conference delegates, reflecting on the most successful and memorable experiences of the conference as well as some of the not so successful (but equally memorable) aspects. Also included is a report from the Annual General Meeting, an interview with the BSA Philips Abrams Memorial Prize winner, Adam Hedgecoe, and also an excellent and thought provoking interview with plenary speaker Angela McRobbie. And, before you begin to think that all we care about is the BSA annual conference, you will also find reports from other conferences including the American Sociological Association and the International Sociological Association.

In addition to our conference coverage, I'd like to draw your attention to some of our usual features. Gayle Letherby provides us with a list and discussion of her favourite books in Desert Island Discourse, Lee Marshall provides us with his Sociological Eye on bootlegging and Yvette Taylor gets on her Soapbox in her article 'That'll Teach Em'.

I'd like to conclude my Eds this time round on a positive note. At the last editorial meeting the team expressed sheer delight at the number of articles we received and even more so because many of them were unsolicited. However, we cannot afford to get complacent so, as always, I want to encourage you to continue sending us your letters, articles and ideas to contribute to the spring issue and thank both the team and our contributors for all of their hard work.

Victoria Gosling
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Autumn is here, which can only mean one thing, no not that the whether is miserable, but that the conference issue of *Network* is here.

This issue is packed full of memories, experiences and interviews inspired by this year's BSA annual conference, entitled Sociology, Social Order(s) and Disorder(s) held for the first time in Harrogate. It was nice for a change to attend the conference in a non-university setting because this way I was fooled into thinking that I was having a weekend away rather than working.

extended extended extended extended
extended and extending families
international conference
JUNE 27TH - 29TH 2007
The University of Edinburgh

Families take many different forms, and these are reflected in changing expectations of family life. This conference provides an opportunity to explore changing expectations of personal life through a consideration of the ways in which families are extending and extended, across generations, households, lifecourse and relationships.

Discussants: *David Morgan*, Visiting Professor in the School of Social Relations at Keele University and *Ulla Björnberg*, Professor of Sociology at Göteborg University, Sweden.

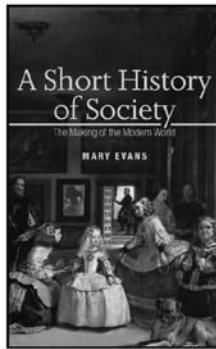
Speakers to include: *Karen V. Hansen*, Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies - Brandeis University, USA, *Lynn Jamieson*, Professor of Families and Relationships - The University of Edinburgh, *Janet Carsten*, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology - The University of Edinburgh, *David de Vaus*, Professor at La Trobe University, Australia.

 To find out more please email us at crfr@ed.ac.uk or go to our website **crfr.ac.uk**
centre for research on families and relationships

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A Short History of Society

The Making of the Modern World
Mary Evans




"This is historical sociology at it's best: judicious, theoretically informed, carefully crafted, grounded in empirical research, and above all intellectually clever."
Brian Turner, National University of Singapore

A Short History of Society is a concise account of the emergence of modern western society. It looks at how successive generations have understood and explained the world in which they lived, and examines significant events since the Enlightenment that have led to the development of society as we know it. Spanning the period from 1500 to the present day, it provides an essential foundation for undergraduate students in the social sciences who are perplexed by the myriad of events and theories with which their courses are concerned, and who need a historical perspective on the changes that shaped the contemporary world.

Contents: *The Making of the Modern / Reason, Revolution and Reaction / The Technological Revolution / Contested Modernity / What Happened in History*

Dec 2006 192pp 0 335 22067 3 RRP: £17.99 Your price: £14.39

20% discount on all sociology titles at www.openup.co.uk/sociology
Use promo code NETWORK - Valid until 31 December 2006

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View from the Executive Officer

Easing the pain of subscription payment

It's that time of year again when the office is preparing for membership renewals. Subscriptions are one of our main forms of income but the complexity and cost of managing their collection is a growing concern. Switching your annual subscription payments to direct debit would really improve things both for members and the BSA. I know that there is much debate about this method of payment but I do want to emphasise the benefits.



∴ All direct debits are covered by a guarantee that ensures members are fully protected in the event of error.

∴ Direct debits ensure that subscriptions are not forgotten.

∴ There is a cost in bank charges when collecting subscriptions. The bank charge for processing an individual subscription cheque can be as high as 98p, but the cost of collecting the same by direct debit is 20p. On present subscriptions, the extra cost of collection is some £1,500 a year.

∴ Members, who pay by cheque, quite often forget. The office then sends reminder letters. Taking account of the time it takes to check, write and process each letter costs about £10. At the end of August there were 400 members who still had not paid. The minimum cost of the unpaid subs, taking into account the reminder processes, will be £4,000, more if we send more than one letter.

∴ Some members allow membership to lapse, and then phone asking to be reinstated. We estimate this costs a minimum of £30, which covers all of the administration work needed to re-establish records. We lapsed 300 members during September. If only 50% of these ask to be re-instated, there is a potential cost of £4,500.

∴ Taking all of these factors into account, if you are not paying by direct debit you could be contributing to a cost of some £10,000 a year!

Please think carefully about how you pay your subscription. Extra money spent on collecting subscriptions cannot be used for your benefit. Just phone the office for details of direct debit, or check our website at: www.britsoc.co.uk/join/DirectDebit.htm

Details of the new subscription rates for 2007 can be found on page 3.

Judith Mudd
BSA Executive Officer

Call for Nominations for 2007-2009 Presidency of the BSA

Our current President, Geoff Payne, is nearing the end of his term of office and the Executive Committee is charged with finding someone equally qualified and suitably committed to the Association to take up the role.

Nominations are therefore now being sought for the next President of the British Sociological Association. The Presidency will run from the Annual General Meeting 2007 to the Annual General Meeting 2009. A description of presidential duties is detailed below.

As there are obvious sensitivities about a public competition for such a role, where there is more than one nomination, the President is chosen by secret ballot of members of the Executive for recommendation to the wider membership at the AGM.

BSA President: Description of Duties

The Presidency of the BSA is an honorary position, which runs for 2 years, and which is held by an eminent and senior member of the Association. Over the years it has developed very much as a 'working' role with the post-holder being an active participant in the work of the BSA. The President represents the Association at meetings of the International Sociological Association and addresses the BSA Annual Conference once during the term of their Presidency. The President is also a co-opted member of the BSA Executive

Committee, which meets seven times a year, and the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize Judging Panel, which conducts its business by telephone and email.

There are a number of specific tasks that attach to the role that the President is expected to undertake. These include:

- attend meetings of the BSA Executive
- participate in the judging each year of the entries submitted for the Philip Abrams prize
- present the award of the Philip Abrams Prize at each Annual Conference
- deliver a Presidential Address to the BSA Annual Conference at its meeting following their appointment
- convene and oversee the meetings of any Presidential Working Groups set up in agreement with the Executive Committee to address issues affecting the Association
- review annually the Register of Professional Expertise
- represent the Association in a variety of fora
- provide advice to the Chair and other officers of the Executive Committee and staff of the Association

If you would like to nominate someone for the presidency, please email Judith.Mudd@britsoc.org.uk by no later than Wednesday 24th January 2007.

Nominees must be committed to, and long-serving members of, the BSA. Those nominating must indicate how their nominee meets these criteria.



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06 INTERVIEW ANGELA McROBBIE

Network Newsletter of the British Sociological Association. Autumn 2006.

Angela McRobbie

Angela McRobbie is Professor of Communications at Goldsmiths College. Her early research explored the relationship between teenage girls and magazines, investigating what had hitherto been under-researched when compared with research on boys' and men's cultural experiences. Nonetheless her views about magazines as sources of positivity and empowerment have been subject to much debate and revision, including self correction. Yvette Taylor caught up with Angela McRobbie after her plenary paper 'Illegible Rage: Young Women's Post Feminist Disorders' and enjoyed a much animated and enthusiastic discussion. Having just delivered her plenary, Angela McRobbie still had much to say about shifting feminist agendas, 'Chavs', and the need to develop a more public sociology.

You began your career at the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies and your early work constituted such a notable departure from work focusing on masculinity; what were your own motivations and inspirations for doing so?

My starting point when I entered my academic career was that young women's lives, outlooks and experiences had no place in sociology at all. There was a very driving sociology of crime and deviance, there was a sociology of youth and adolescence but whether in terms of pathology or in terms of normativity, there was very little attention to young women's lives. In Birmingham it seemed very important that we, young women scholars, also actually look to working-class women's lives to document their experiences because we were aware of that debate inside sociology and cultural studies about class was just terribly important.

I remember feeling so adamant about giving meaning to and defending the sorts of different ways of coming to feminism and I was very keen to argue that feminism need not always take one particular shape and size. There was a point at which there was a slightly older generation of Socialist feminists, like myself, and Marxist feminists in the academy, who had what seemed a much more prescriptive and a narrower kind of definition of what it was to be involved in gender politics than I thought was useful. So I also remember a point in time, again this slightly older generation than myself, seemed to think that what

'I think academics have got an ethical responsibility to show how power operates'

feminism in the academy might mean was simply reproducing oneself and then when that reproduction seemed to stop there was a sense of 'Oh well, younger women are all Thatcher's children. We trod this pathway but if others aren't adhering to this kind of feminism we developed then that's just a loss, and that's it'. So in the early 90s I was involved in all sorts of rather angry debates.

I remember being very influenced by two or three pieces, one of them was by Judith Butler. She was arguing that dynamic political engagement within feminism was not fragmenting the discipline, as some feared, but expanding it. The point at which, say, a young black feminist says 'That might be your feminism but it's not ours' was a point of productivities. I think she put it in terms of extending the possibilities of what it was to be a woman. I thought 'Yes, that's totally right!' I'd been saying 'Well, it's perfectly alright to dress up in whatever way you want' there shouldn't be a kind of feminist conformity. I

‘What Not to Wear... That ethos of female independence permits the return of class cruelty’

was very adamant about the proliferation of different forms of feminism but I think that then becomes associated with this idea of self-invention and you can do your own thing and people can create themselves and those kind of celebratory rhetorics.

In many ways your current ideas, including those in your plenary lecture at the BSA conference, represent a bit of a shift in your thinking.

I've been so distressed by the way in which various forms of popular culture are associated uncritically with the word 'empowerment' or 'agency' that I've really seen, if you like, the err of my own thinking and the need for a self-critique of that work. Perhaps it would have been more important to hedge one's qualifications, to hedge one's endorsement of the magazine industry more cautiously. I think I jumped in and launched this very forceful defence of magazines throughout the 1990s, saying 'Oh, *Just Seventeen*, my ex-students all work there. There are a generation of young women out there in these magazines who have been influenced by us and by gender studies. They're not just going to sign themselves away as the pawns of the political economy of the mass media, they are not going to reproduce the exact same kind of self-flagellating femininity'. Now I can see that was probably unwise because actually at the time it was true that within sociology of culture and cultural studies there was less attention to the political economy of magazines and it was quite clear that a magazine could shift in one direction but within certain limits.

I think I have completely shifted my position absolutely. In the climate of such aggressive neo-liberalism, and particularly in the light of the great disappointment of New Labour, I think academics like ourselves really have got an ethical responsibility to demonstrate how power operates in ways which might be less visible and microscopic. It's actually dangerous to be occupying

the space of academic feminism and celebrating empowerment or even talking about empowerment, whether one is talking about disadvantaged women across the world or whether one is talking about women's lives here in the UK.

You are highlighting the importance of engaging with the 'everyday'. How do you incorporate or reconcile using highly theoretical frameworks, such as the work of Judith Butler? You've discussed her in your plenary and made use of her work in your chapter exploring the TV series *What Not To Wear* in *Feminism After Bourdieu*.

That's really the role of fantastic and abstract thinkers like Bourdieu and Butler, to provide a conceptual vocabulary which other people then find useful in a more grounded, localised, modest sort of way. Using Bourdieu to analyse *What Not To Wear* again asks the question 'what is the job of the sociologist?' Let me put it this way, where programmes like that have got such a mass appeal, have got such a huge audience, where they become part of the everyday life, where they are points of reference in people's everyday lives, it seems one's obligation to present a reading of what those text actually tell us about the wider social world.

You have given attention to the classed binary between the 'can dos' and the 'at risk', girls. Can you say more about that?

I think *What Not To Wear* overlaps a bit with what we were talking about today, which is the way in which forms of self-hatred which would have been pretty much unacceptable in a public milieu, to actually be part of public broadcasting and certainly part of public entertainment, now are reinstated and are almost legitimated. I really wanted to query how that could be and on what basis those sorts of symbolic violence could be considered acceptable and now seen as prejudicial, as just 'good fun'. It's almost seen as a mark of women's enfranchisement. There's a kind of ethos of independence that underpins all

‘This rigidification of perfectability creates even greater barriers between gay and straight’

of those narratives but it is as though that ethos of female independence then permits the return of forms of class cruelty.

Those narratives are also heavily heterosexualised. How do you see sexuality, gender and class as interconnecting in these moments?

Absolutely, that's a good point. If the stakes are higher for perfectible femininity then, it's a very important question, how does that impact on young women who are not heterosexual, also of course young Black and Asian women, i.e. how are class, sexuality and ethnicity, reworked through this norm of perfectibility? I haven't answered that question as yet but I think what one might want to say is that again there's a sort of double bind because on the one hand there is a freedom to be the sexual identity you want to be, this kind of ethos of less discrimination, less prejudice, fine to be in gay or lesbian marriage and, at the same time, I think this rigidification of perfectibility is a subtle means of creating even greater barriers between gay and straight young women. There is a kind of dis-articulation, or making more rigid, formalising the division between gay and straight.

You are optimistic about a new feminist moment. What about the place of class analysis in public debate?

It might well be that working-classness or working-class politics doesn't have the kind of place in public debate that it should have. On the other hand there is a sense again of returning elitism and snobbery, captured in the work that Bev Skeggs does. I think that's perhaps the destiny of sociology right now, to have this capacity to explain the un-thought known. There is a sense in which sociology exists as a discipline, which of course can explain why it's unacceptable and unpleasant when Prince William gets dressed up as a 'Chav' or where you read about in Oxford and Cambridge there are 'Chav' parties.

As soon as that is reported then of course sociologists are going to immediately involve themselves in what that means and how it reflects the extent to which there are still values which repudiate people who are disadvantaged. But the very fact that those arguments do immediately surface I think precisely points to sociology's effectivity.

Interviewed by **Yvette Taylor**
University of Newcastle

CAMBRIDGE

Journal of Public Policy

For over a quarter of a century the *Journal of Public Policy* has examined the issues of policy making and policy implementation across the industrialised world. Cross disciplinary subjects are often covered with environmental matters, European Union processes and the international political economy all having been studied in recent issues.

Examine a sample article at
www.journals.cambridge.org/PUP

www.cambridge.org

 CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

A fond farewell to Nicola Gibson...

We would like to record our thanks to Nicola Gibson who left the BSA at the beginning of September. She has moved on to a new administrative job in an insurance company.

Nicola worked for the Association for nine years, starting out in March 1997 as Clerical Officer but very quickly taking on the role of Conference Manager.

As anyone who worked with her will know, Nicola was a highly committed and efficient member of the BSA Office team. She worked above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the BSA Annual Conferences and the BSA Medical Sociology Group Annual Conferences ran smoothly. Of all the recent members of staff, she is perhaps the one that the largest number of members will feel they know best because of regular correspondence with them as conference paper presenters and conference delegates.

Nicola was very supportive to everyone in the office, always ready to roll up her sleeves and help others at the drop of a hat and showing a caring concern for her colleagues.



© Joyce Campbell

Executive Committee Vice-Chair Pat Allatt presents Nicola with a bouquet.

...And a warm welcome to Donna Willis and Liz Jackson

The office is very pleased to welcome two new members of staff.

Liz Jackson joins the office as Conference Manager. Liz has recently graduated with a BA (Hons.) Events Management having previously worked for a leading conference and event management

company based in Newcastle. She has been involved with events including the UK Public Health Association annual conference at the Sage Gateshead and a Briefing on the Housing Act 2004

at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. If you have any questions about the forthcoming BSA or MedSoc conferences, do email Liz: liz.jackson@britsoc.org.uk



Liz Jackson - Conference Manager



Donna Willis - Website & IT Officer

Donna Willis has joined the BSA on a one year temporary contract as Website and IT Officer. Donna's background is in IT and Marketing and she has spent the last eight years in manufacturing. She has over fifteen years commercial experience and is currently studying the CIM Diploma to further develop her skills.

Donna is looking forward to adding value to BSA membership through continuous development of the website. If you have any suggestions/comments regarding the BSA website, please contact her: donna.willis@britsoc.org.uk

Please see Donna's report on the new web forum on page 24

The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2007

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



bsa

IDENTITIES, TECHNOLOGIES, RELATIONSHIPS

The British Sociological Association invites members to participate in the 2007 Annual Conference and AGM. Taking place at the new, modern facilities of the University of East London's Docklands Campus, this year's conference offers excellent professional development opportunities. Alongside the presenting and attending of papers, networking opportunities, and meeting publishers, the London Docklands provide an interesting backdrop for the conference theme of Social Connections: Identities, Technologies and Relationships.



Thursday 12th - Saturday 14th April 2007
University of East London

Key note speakers:
Bruno Latour (Ecole des Mines, Paris)
Saskia Sassen (Chicago)
Anthony Giddens (LSE)

www.britsoc.co.uk



New from The BSA:

The World of Sociology DVD and *Studying Sociology* leaflet

The BSA are pleased to announce two new resources promoting the discipline to potential undergraduate students.

We are proud to present our new DVD, *The World of Sociology*. Attractively put together by Tony Grace (Director/Co-producer) and Paul Littlewood (Producer), the DVD presents Sociology in an entirely new and contemporary way. Here Sociology is not just another subject one might choose to study whilst waiting for inspiration for a 'proper' career. It is presented as a genuinely worldlywise discipline which offers a 'method' for analysing the world and forces us to ask difficult questions of those who make decisions on our behalf. It can be a career choice in its own right and even if it's not, the sociological imagination can be applied in most professional settings. To this extent, Sociology can become a way of life.

To illustrate all this, the director and producer have gathered a truly varied range of sociologists: undergraduates, lecturers, researchers, media heads and policy-makers, a few of whom have a high public profile, whose experiences have been ably captured by Lisa Littlewood. They have been cornered wherever they could be found to give their views – at Graduation, in class, at work or even in Spain! And of course the DVD works well at showing that Sociology can be studied in 'old' as well as post-93 universities, with some institutions really emphasising their accessibility to mature students or students from non-conventional backgrounds.

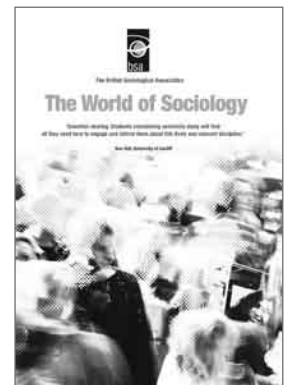
The DVD is divided into four sections – The World of Sociology, Studying Sociology, Sociology in Society and Living Sociology. This

is a really flexible format which allows teachers, careers advisors and all those responsible for introducing new students to the world of Sociology to show each section individually or the DVD as a whole. So, overall, I recommend it, which has nothing to do with the fact that I'm in it, and it's a snip at £25 (+£3 P&P).

Also available, our new leaflet, *Studying Sociology*, answers FAQs from students, their parents and the general public: What is Sociology? Why study Sociology? Etc. We hope the leaflet will stir student curiosity and improve understanding of the discipline. You can download a PDF of the leaflet from the BSA website and print it to distribute at your future events. Please visit www.britisoc.co.uk/WhatIsSociology/studyingSOC to download your copy now.

To order *The World of Sociology* (right), please see the leaflet inserted into this magazine or visit www.britisoc.co.uk/WhatIsSociology/DVD

Emmanuelle Tulle
Glasgow Caledonian University



Associate Board success

Journals have always been at the core of academic life.

Maintaining *Sociology* as a leading UK title requires an enormous collaborative professional effort. Refereeing is a main responsibility of the Editorial Board, overseen by the Editors, currently Graham Crow and Catherine Pope. As the rate of submissions has increased and the journal has grown to six issues a year, we have needed to draw on other referees so that we can turn round articles efficiently. Rather than expand the Editorial Board to an impractical size, we decided to establish an Associate Board to widen the pool of expertise. The main differences are simply that Associate Board members have a reduced workload, and are not expected to attend Editorial Board meetings.

The response to our call for applications was remarkable. We had planned to phase in the Associate Board, electing twenty-four members

over a two-year period, but having received a gratifying seventy-nine applications we decided to appoint the full board in one round. What was particularly welcome was the interest shown by colleagues at an early stage in their career; the journal needs to draw on their expertise if it is to remain at the cutting edge. Thanks to the BSA Publications Manager, Libby Marks, we have an excellent information pack for colleagues who are relatively new to refereeing.

The overwhelming response gives us great encouragement for the future of the journal. Perhaps we should not worry excessively about laments for the golden age of British Sociology, whenever that was.

Alan Aldridge
University of Nottingham
Chair of the Editorial Board of *Sociology*

WORK, EMPLOYMENT & SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2007



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN



First Call for Papers

Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th September 2007 in Aberdeen, Scotland

The triennial Work, Employment & Society conference, like the journal with which it is associated, provides a forum for the critical analysis of work and employment and their connections with wider social processes and structures. Supported by the British Sociological Association, both the journal and the conference series are sociologically orientated but welcome contributions from related academic fields to offer a genuine inter-disciplinary dialogue. Plenary speakers are being approached to reflect this inter-disciplinary and critical approach.

We are keen to maintain and build upon debates and themes from previous WES conferences but also to introduce new elements associated with the central conference theme entitled:

Beyond these shores: sinking or swimming in the globalised new economy?

Based upon this organising theme, we invite papers addressed to the following streams:

- The global and mobile workforce in the new economy
- Resisting the tide – alternatives to neo-liberalism and local responses
- (Dis)Organised labour in the post-industrial economy
- Identity, regulation and resistance
- Home/work boundaries and barriers

- Erosion of public and private identities in the new economy
- Organisational restructuring and its implications for work
- New technology and work
- Work in old and new sectors of the economy: where's the difference?
- New work – same old barriers for women?
- Health, safety and welfare in the new globalised economy

Abstract submission form available from www.abdn.ac.uk/wes2007

Abstracts for presentations should be submitted for review by February 1st 2007 by email attachment to wes2007@abdn.ac.uk. Abstracts will be refereed and contributors will be notified as to whether their abstract has been accepted by March 1st 2007.

For further information about abstract submissions, the conference, plenary speakers, the venue and the city, visit the conference website: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/wes2007>

Important dates:

February 1st 2007	Last date for submission of abstracts
March 1st 2007	Contributors notified of paper acceptance or rejection
April 30th 2007	Last date of registration for presenters
May 31st 2007	Last date of registration for non-presenting delegates

The Dynamics of European Employment Relations, IIRA Europe, 3rd-7th September 2007, Manchester, UK

You are invited to participate in the 8th European Congress of the International Industrial Relations Association, to be held at Manchester University from September 3rd-7th 2007.

Officers of the British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA) - one of the founders of the IIRA - are working together with scholars from a number of leading UK universities in organizing the 2007 Congress addressing the theme: *The Dynamics of European Employment Relations*.

The Congress will provide the opportunity to present and hear papers on the four specific themes:

- Restructuring work: new approaches to pay and working time
- Voice at work: new challenges, new forms
- Regulating employment: towards multi-level governance
- Public sector restructuring: between state and market

In addition, there will be special seminars, symposia, study groups, poster sessions and workshops for new and doctoral researchers. Pre-Congress visits to local enterprises can be made on 3rd September.

Abstracts of between 600-1000 words should be submitted by 1st December 2006.

Full updated information on the Congress can be found on the Congress website <http://www.iiraeurope07.org/>. Registration will open in January 2007.



B U I R A
British Universities Industrial Relations Association

Conference Views

The 2006 BSA Annual Conference was held in Harrogate. The state-of-the-art Harrogate International Conference Centre accommodated the conference sessions whilst almost 400 delegates were housed in comfortable town centre hotels. This is the first year when external conference organisers have been employed to help run the conference and the BSA office have been grateful to receive delegate feedback on this 'experiment'.

Below, four delegates share their memories of the conference: good and bad! Whether you were inspired by our speakers, or put off by the packed lunches, we would love to hear from you so do get in touch.

Sociologists and dancing don't mix...

Overall, I think this year's BSA annual conference was pretty successful. The conference seemed very professionally run and organised, and nobody I talked to had any complaints about the administration side. There was a wide and varied range of papers, and I thought generally the quality was pretty high. Likewise, the plenary lectures were all excellent. There were also some informative sessions, such as one which allowed an audience to meet and grill the new editors of *Sociology*. As with other sessions of this nature, it was light-hearted, but provided people with the sound advice on submitting articles. Also, as always, the BSA annual conference proved a good place to catch-up with people I hadn't seen since last year's get together, as well as making new contacts.

Attendance at some events and papers was a little disappointing, which was a shame. However, I think that this has to do with many departments only being willing to fund conference attendance for presenters. Possibly having the conference at the weekend may have discouraged some, as I did hear a few people grumbling about how they were working on a weekend (so what's new?). However, the BSA will have to look at attendance numbers to see if their 'experiment' worked.

Having the conference in a town rather than university location was an outright success. Harrogate had enough bars, restaurants, shops and cultural life to allow some respite from the conference for those who wanted to skulk off for an hour or two. I had wondered whether I could ever face another conference isolated from the outside world, stuck on a

'I had wondered whether I could face another conference stuck on a university campus...'

university campus for three days. Likewise, the accommodation was a great improvement on student halls of residence.

I did have some grumbles. The room which housed some of the publishers' stands was far too large and wholly uninviting - during the publishers' reception this massive room was virtually empty, and (to my dismay) much wine must have gone un-drunk. Also, having to constantly walk up and down the long winding ramp that went up the middle of the building proved a little annoying - I was literally dizzy by the end of the first day.

But my biggest grumble is reserved for the conference meal on Friday evening. No one I spoke to had a good word to say about it, and the vegetarian option was particularly poor. I ended up with the mushroom stroganoff, which was not particularly nice or filling. But worst of all, there was no dessert. For eighteen pounds a head I was counting on at least a slice of cheesecake. The disco that followed was very 'low-key' and it was hard for the DJ to get too enthusiastic when, as soon as the music began, there was a mass exodus out of the dining/disco room into the bar. For those who stayed behind, the dance floor remained empty until a few brave people ventured up to dance to the mix of cheesy 70s and 80s pop. This led me to conclude that sociologists and dancing do not mix.

Garry Crawford
University of Salford



All conference photos © Max Farrer



Top: Plenary speaker Jock Young.
Middle: Socialising with old friends and new.
Bottom: (left) A book launch (Right) Grilling the Sociology editors

An agreeable experiment

This was, I understand, a first for the Association as it was the first time an Annual Conference had taken place away from a university setting. (No doubt, some historically-minded colleague will tell me otherwise; it was a first for me at least.) On the whole, I found it an agreeable experience and an experiment well worth repeating although I have some reservations.

It was a great advantage in having all the sessions in one building and, once you got used to the vertiginous spiralling effects of the snail shaped walkway, the locations were easy to find. All the rooms that I attended seemed to be reasonably spacious and well-appointed. The main auditorium was ideal for any plenary speakers planning a multi-media, all singing, all dancing presentation. As this was not in evidence, the overall effect was a little overwhelming.

Two features received a lot of adverse comment. The location of the publishers' display in two rooms was very much to the disadvantage of those located in the lower long room which was also a main thoroughfare. I did a modest stint in charge of the *Network* stand and felt a little like a busker who had left his musical instrument at home. There was also near-universal disapproval of the packed lunches which reminded several delegates of school trips. On the other hand my hotel was a brisk walk away and certainly a cut above most university accommodation. And Harrogate is an attractive location with several good places for eating and drinking including, of course, the legendary Betty's.

As to the conference itself I was more than satisfied with the presentations in the stream I attended most frequently, the one dealing with gender and sexuality. The AGM included a brief but enlightening talk on the relationships between Criminology and Sociology by Tim Newburn. Otherwise, this was (in common with most recent AGMs) a relatively low-key affair, although there was some excitement when the future of sociology press was being discussed. It would be nice to see this publishing venture continue. As it is, the Association can be proud of a stream of well-produced and often stimulating publications.

For me, the high point came at the end when, I suspect, many people were making their way home. Geoff Payne's nicely paced address, blending some of his own research with a balanced defence of methodological pluralism was a model of what a plenary session should be. Even the experience of travelling home by train (not an easy task from Harrogate on a Sunday) did not spoil the overall effect of a good conference in a pleasant location.

David Morgan

'For me, the high point came at the end when, I suspect, many people were making their way home...'

Sociology snapper exposed

My job at the recent British Sociological Association conference was to take photographs. Like the US President who had difficulty simultaneously walking and talking, I find it hard to listen to a complex argument and photograph the speaker at the same time. When I was concentrating on one lecture by a world-famous sociologist of crime, whose 1980s work on law and order I thought was utterly reactionary, I was pleased to hear him revert to the radicalism I had admired when I was an undergraduate. Afterwards, some colleagues were less impressed. I realised I was losing my critical edge.

Angela McRobbie, the world-famous sociologist of female youth culture, presented a psychoanalytically-informed analysis of melancholia among young women which was brilliant for its lucidity and daring. Unusually for academics, she criticised her earlier work (which I still think is wonderful) for its failure properly to analyse the corrosive effects of consumerism.

Wearing an expensive jacket in the bar afterwards, I felt bad. It got worse when someone asked me about my work in visual sociology and I couldn't think of anything clever to say. Conferences can be exposing, but that's their point.

Max Farrar

Leeds Metropolitan University

Postgrad perspectives

It is not very often that one has the opportunity to go to a conference where you are not compelled to slavishly follow a specific timetable of sessions related to your research interests, so attending the BSA Conference in Harrogate this year was a rare occurrence. The conference offered some excellent opportunities for networking and we were fortunate enough to meet several people for the first time who may prove to be very useful contacts in the future.

The excellent keynote speakers (Jock Young, Angela McRobbie and Geoff Payne), the study group meetings (the new ideas, research, and knowledge that you are exposed to through other's papers), the opportunity to present your own work, the drinks, dinners, and hotel bars (chatting with people with the same – or often most importantly, with different – interests and ideas to your own), the emails you go on to send, the papers you go on to write, the new ideas and perspectives that develop from this over time, are all highlights of this year's conference.

Attending an academic conference for the first time can be daunting - whatever professional experience you have previously had. You may be interacting with, and presenting to, people whose own writing and research inspired you. But we all must begin somewhere. The conference served as a timely motivator, and after the weekend, we felt much more enthused about the strengths of the discipline, the potential for sociological research, and had made some valuable new connections.

For both of us, the annual conference provided a key time to 'step out' of our own focussed areas of research, and to reflect on and engage with the many broader issues within sociology, before returning, refreshed, to our research.

Kate Woodthorpe, University of Sheffield

Carol McNaughton, University of Glasgow



The BSA Committee Chairs: Meryl Aldridge (Communications), Barbara Harrison (Events), John Brewer (Executive), Liam Murphy (F&GP) and Susan Halford (Publications)

AGM 2006

An AGM is not normally the hottest ticket in town and you might feel a bit concerned for anyone for whom the statutory proceedings of the Association are the high point of a Saturday night, especially since the BSA delegates were freed this year from campus bars and released into the heart of bustling Harrogate.

However, there are plenty of good reasons to attend. The BSA is your Association and with Executive Committee appointments being announced at the AGM, and the Executive Chair and Treasurer open for questions, this is an excellent opportunity to find out who's in, who's out and what your membership fees are being spent on. In the spirit of *Match of the Day*, here are the highlights (right).

Not only was the AGM a chance to probe the powers that be, we were also treated to a world premiere as the new BSA DVD was aired for the first time (see Emmanuelle Tulle's report on page 12). Despite the plush velvet seats of the uncharacteristically luxurious auditorium, Cornettos were sadly on a bring-your-own basis...

Libby Marks
BSA Publications Manager

AGM: What you missed...

- ⋮ Susan Halford, Co-Chair of the BSA Publications Committee, presented Adam Hedgecoe with the 2006 BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize (see page 18 for more information)
- ⋮ Then-Treasurer Liam Murphy noted that the Association has experienced a slight decline in membership over the last few years. As a response, the Association is focusing on improved services for members. Your ideas are most welcome, so please email the Executive Committee via the BSA office: enquiries@britsoc.org.uk
- ⋮ As reported in the last issue of *Network*, the BSA has renegotiated its contact with journal publishers SAGE Publications, resulting in greatly improved financial returns.
- ⋮ The BSA Annual Conference continues to pose a potential financial risk to the Association. Hosting the 2006 conference in Harrogate, using a conference organising team and housing delegates in hotels, is an attempt to make the conference more attractive. More work on this is planned, and detailed evaluation forms have been circulated.
- ⋮ Cementing the BSA's newly forged links with the British Society of Criminology, Professor Tim Newburn of the LSE gave an interesting talk called 'Sociology / Criminology: Investigating the Common Ground'.
- ⋮ Nominations for five Executive Committee members had been sought and three had been received. These were ratified at the AGM and we are pleased to welcome to the Executive Committee:
 - Paul Allender (Coventry University)
 - Abby Day (Lancaster University)
 - Robert Mears (Bath Spa University)

(Mark Freestone, University of Nottingham, and Eric Harrison, University of Essex, have since been appointed to the remaining vacancies.)

BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2006

The BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize was established in honour of the memory of Professor Philip Abrams, whose work contributed substantially to the development of sociology and social policy research in Britain. He is particularly remembered for the encouragement and assistance he provided to many sociologists at the start of their careers. In recognition of his hugely valuable contribution to the discipline, the British Sociological Association established this annual prize. It is awarded to the book that the judges hold to be the best sociological monograph of the year by a first-time author.

A large number of books were nominated for the prize this year, some thirteen monographs on a diverse range of topics, reflecting the vibrancy of intellectual production among early career sociologists. Four titles were shortlisted. These were: Angus Bancroft, *Roma and Gypsy-Travellers in Europe: Modernity, Race, Space and Exclusion* (Ashgate); Adam Hedgecoe, *The Politics of Personalised Medicine: Pharmacogenetics in the Clinic* (Cambridge University Press); Teela Sanders, *Sex Work: A Risky Business* (Willan); and Darin Weinberg, *Of Others Inside: Insanity, Addiction and Belonging in America* (Temple University Press). All four of the books made strong contributions to their respective fields. All of them were grounded on very strong empirical evidential bases.

The winner of the Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2006 was Adam Hedgecoe. His book particularly stood out because of its timely engagement with a number of highly pertinent, and often controversial, issues in medical practice to do with how genetic testing is increasingly used to develop and prescribe particular sorts of drugs. Adam's book unpacks the intricacies of these important developments in medical settings and the pharmaceutical industries, acutely demonstrating the contested and often ambiguous nature of the social processes at play as 'personalised medicine' becomes ever more an important component of drug testing and usage. In the tradition of classic studies of medicine and technology, his book demonstrates that matters are more complicated, and possibly more troubling, than the cheerleaders for pharmacogenetics would have the world believe. Adam's book is most certainly an important contribution to the sociology of medicine,



Shortlisted authors Adam Hedgecoe, Angus Bancroft, Teela Sanders and Darin Weinberg

and it will be much read and cited by medical sociologists. But in its clear depiction of how certain social groups attempt to mobilise wider support for particular technical innovations by defining the apparent effects of those innovations in certain ways, it is guaranteed a broader audience among all scholars interested in the social shaping of technologies and in public perceptions of health, genetics and risk.

The judging panel would like to offer our sincere congratulations, both to Adam and to the other shortlisted authors. They have demonstrated, in various striking ways, how sociology in Britain is continuing to contribute very important insights into matters of great public concern.

Susan Halford and David Inglis
Co-Chairs, BSA Publications Committee

Enter the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2007 – Win £1000!

Nominations are sought for the 2007 BSA Philip Abrams Prize. The prize is for the best sole-authored sociological monograph by a first-time author published between 1st December 2005 and 31st December 2006.

Closing date: Monday 4th December.

The winner receives £1000 plus a year's subscription to *Sociological Review*.

For further information, and to download the nomination form, please visit to the BSA website:
www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/PAM

Interview

Adam Hedgecoe

Author of *The Politics of Personalised Medicine: Pharmacogenetics in the Clinic* and winner of the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2006

What does winning this prize mean to you?

With no formal background in Sociology (I have an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Psychology and a Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science), getting the PAM is an enormous vote of confidence. Having been at Sussex for four years, I do describe myself (and even think of myself) as a Sociologist – but the prize reassures me that is an accurate description.

What do you feel are the most important themes and issues that your book addresses?

The book emphasises the differences between contrasting positions, such as between the views of those at the clinical ‘coalface’ who are beginning to use pharmacogenetics to treat patients – who think of this technology in terms of ethical complexity and scientific uncertainty – and the expectations of those who are involved in promoting pharmacogenetics to policy makers, regulators and the public who suggest that its development and expansion into healthcare will be largely unproblematic. Linked to this is the way the book tries to present pharmacogenetics as an ‘ordinary’ technology – in the sense that it has to fit in with and be shaped by the context, beliefs and values of its users – rather than a ‘revolutionary’ one which will sweep away previous approaches and ideas. Finally, I emphasise that, contra the hopes of those who support the development of pharmacogenetics, it is not at all clear that simply educating doctors about this new technology will guarantee that they will adopt it in their clinical practice. Rather, clinical resistance to pharmacogenetics arises from a complex combination of social, ethical and economic factors which underpin doctors’ reluctance to use pharmacogenetics.

How might your approach to the pharmaceutical industry be of use to other researchers in this area?

My approach to the industry draws on the sociology of expectations, a relatively new area of work pioneered by people like Arie Rip and Harro van Lente in the Netherlands and Nik Brown and Paul Martin in the UK. The point is that rather than dismissing industry’s statements about future developments as ‘hype’ – something many commentators, including sociologists have a tendency to do – these comments need to be seen as performative. By shaping people’s expectations about a new



Winner Adam Hedgecoe

technology companies help prepare the regulatory and public environment into which it will arrive, as well as redirecting the actual form a technology takes. I hope the book shows how, by taking ‘hype’ seriously, sociologists can engage with industry claims in their own terms and highlight the inconsistencies and complexities inherent in companies’ future looking statements.

What have you enjoyed most about researching and writing this book?

As a sociologist of science, I enjoyed the way in which this project gave a glimpse of the strong social forces at work within biomedical science, and the matter of fact way in which scientists and clinicians accept this.

What is your current project and how does this follow on from *The Politics of Personalised Medicine*?

My current project, running a comparative ethnography of Research Ethics Committees in four European countries, has, on the face of it, little to do with my previous work. However, at a certain level they are both about bringing sociological approaches to bear on topics that have traditionally been seen as the preserve of bioethics.

Interviewed by
Victoria Gosling
Nottingham Trent University



International Sociological Association

Durban, South Africa. 23 – 29 July 2006

The XVI World Congress of Sociology was held in Durban, South Africa this year. Durban proved to be an interesting, if slightly controversial, venue. Indeed the beliefs and discussions of conference attendees would have provided excellent subject matter for those interested in the epidemiology of risk beliefs. Word that some delegates had fallen victim to street robbery early in the conference spread quickly through the remaining attendees many of whom (myself included) decided to play it safe and stick to a closed circuit of hotel-taxi-convention centre.

Fortunately, the size and scope of the Congress meant that plenty of intellectual stimulation was on offer.

Several thousand delegates attended over the course of the conference, and could choose from a variety of types of session. In the morning, there were plenaries on topics from the public role of Sociology to African modernities. The afternoon offered sessions run by over 50 research committees exploring issues from conflict resolution to the sociology of youth. Those with a thirst for more could then attend evening sessions, such as the democratically entitled 'Authors meet the Readers' events. The Convention Centre was also well-equipped with attractive spaces to eat, drink and relax with fellow delegates for those who couldn't quite hack a schedule running from 9am to 8pm.

In terms of social events, the Beach Party towards the end of the Congress was a big hit. Those who cringe at the memory of BSA Conference discos past may be surprised to hear that there was a genuine party mood, promoted by good food, a lively band, and the chance to paddle in, or merely gaze out at, the Indian ocean. However, the fact that this relaxed enjoyment of the beach was only possible due to the presence of numerous police on horseback provoked the thought that during our time in Durban we were the equivalent of a gated community of sociologists.

Steve Kemp
University of Edinburgh

American Sociological Association

Montreal, Canada. August 11 – 14th 2006

Attending the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in Montreal was a genuinely sociological experience. While there were some interesting papers (which shouldn't necessarily be taken for granted at an academic gathering) it was the similarities and differences with the BSA equivalent that stood out.

At first I thought that American sociologists were simply more formal in their clothing choices than their British counterparts before realising that the suited and booted were doctoral students attacking the job market. Professor Cynthia Fuchs-Epstein, the current President of the ASA, described the ASA as an opportunity for postgraduates to 'show off their wares' to prospective employers. This does not just mean networking and hoping that the 'right' person attends your talk but a schedule of formal meetings and more informal chats (often organised by your

supervisor) with staff from Departments hiring this year. I'm not quite sure where this leaves fair and effective recruitment policies but it does mean that your choice of supervisor is of major importance for your future career.

There also seemed to be cultural differences in the dominant methodological approaches to research. There was an absence of the small-scale qualitative interviews on which much sociological study in the UK is based, and instead the majority of papers I attended used quantitative approaches – often with advanced techniques that many of our colleagues would struggle to even interpret. This could have been anticipated given the prevalence of quantitative material in American based journals but what I wasn't expecting was the amount of ethnographic work that is also going on. Professor Fuchs-Epstein put the quantitative emphasis down to

the wider range of funding sources that are available in the US but confirmed my impression that ethnography has been making a comeback.

The meeting operates, like the BSA, as a forum for sociologists to meet up with friends and former colleagues and catch up on gossip as well as academic matters. As a sociologist from outside the US, making contacts could at times be hard work but the only other major criticism was the long queues for the women's toilets.

The most extraordinary feature for someone from the UK was presenters' ability to keep to their allotted time. Even when five speakers had only 12 minutes each the schedule was adhered to; something which many of us seem to think is an impossible task but would be worthwhile to adopt.

Esther Dermott
University of Bristol

Out of my...

Out of my...lane

If I'm not hungover on a Sunday morning, I collect my friend Lianne at 7.15 and go to a local swimming pool to do our 'lengths' where 'lanes' are provided for swimmers – fast, medium and slow. It is surprisingly busy by the time we arrive with people striving for healthier and/or slimmer bodies.

But it is not the 'body projects' of Giddens that occupy my mind as I do my 30 lengths. No, it is the interaction of the swimmers that interests me. The only rule given explicitly is in which direction to do your particular stroke. But there are many implicit rules that govern the pool which only become clear as they are broken.

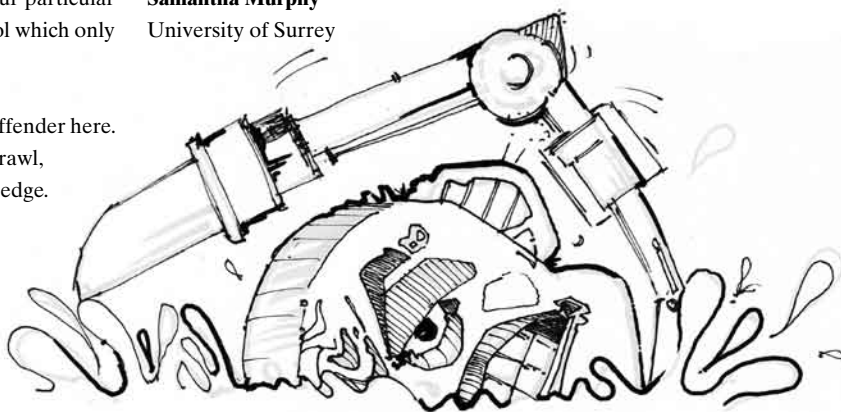
Don't splash too much is one. 'Mr Splashy' was a particular offender here. He seemed to have a rogue foot which, as part of his front crawl, sprayed water from the middle of the pool right over to the edge.

There are the lane hogs who ignore the direction rule. This led to an incident of 'pool rage' with two grown men having a stand-up slanging match: not only was the water blue, the air was too!

You're there to swim, not to chat. One particular woman was particularly embarrassed as her friend swam up and down beside her talking non-stop (thereby blocking any space to overtake). Even a change of lane didn't stop this woman who followed her friend into the middle lane.

Finally, no touching the swimmer in front of you; especially if it's Lianne – she has a very sharp elbow...

Samantha Murphy
University of Surrey



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Postgraduate Opportunity

Co-convenor of the BSA Postgraduate Forum



Two of our Postgraduate Forum Convenors, Becky Barnes and David Mellor, will soon submit their PhD theses. This will leave us with two vacancies on the team of four.

Would you be interested in being a Postgraduate Forum Convenor?

The new appointments will work with our remaining convenors, Kerrin Clapton and Ruth Lewis, to make sure that student members of the Association are kept up to date with matters of specific interest to them. They will also facilitate contact between student members and between student members and the BSA Executive Committee.

The Convenors' tasks include:

- Circulating information to other postgraduates via the Postgraduate Forum email distribution list
- Keeping the Postgraduate Forum pages of the BSA website up to date
- Making contributions to *Network*
- Assisting with the processing of BSA Support Fund applications by joining the panel of members who grant awards from the Fund
- Helping organise the Postgraduate Workshops/events at the BSA Annual Conference
- Representing the interests of Postgraduate members at Executive Committee meetings

If you would like to join the PGF team, please email enquiries@britsoc.org.uk for more information.

The BSA Executive Committee would like to thank Becky Barnes and David Mellor for all their hard work for the student and postgraduate community of the BSA.

☼☼ The Aid Effect

Edited by David Mosse & David Lewis
 London: Pluto Press
 2006
 vi + 223
 £18.99 pbk
 ISBN: 0-7453-2386-3

☼☼ AIDS in Africa

Nana K. Poku
 Oxford: Polity Press
 2005
 vi + 235
 £14.99 pbk
 ISBN: 0-7456-3159-2

These books offer interesting and critical discussion centred upon two very pertinent issues. *The Aid Effect* critically explores giving and governing across the World, stressing the complex interaction of context, social hierarchy, power and rules to demonstrate how development often fails to meet the needs of those requiring it most. Comparatively, *AIDS in Africa* explores the context of the AIDS epidemic in Africa, navigating the influence of medical, social, economic and cultural factors that combine to increase the milieu of risk and vulnerability. Thus, both discuss and reflect upon a number of complex factors affecting their analysis.

Indeed, a number of similarities run through both books with poverty highlighted as an issue marginalising specific groups. *The Aid Effect* describes poverty as excluding certain actors from the global market place of aid negotiations, leaving the reader with the idea that development is a Foucaultian expression of power, leading to varied and conflicting social policy. Comparatively, *AIDS in Africa* continuously weaves the salient point throughout that poverty is the major cause of the problem because the poor are more likely to adopt riskier behaviours.

Furthermore, both texts emphasize the importance of power. *The Aid Effect* represents development relationships as an expression of power, with the final chapter calling for a new approach; one that distinguishes the 'marginality' of people and communities encompassed by such processes. However, the issue of how this would be both recognised and dealt with on a policy level is not addressed. Equally, power affects the AIDS epidemic in Africa, as it is worsened

through powerlessness. This leads to a critique of behaviour modification prevention programmes as they fail to recognise the influence of context specific social norms as well as poverty.

Together these books tackle their topics on a micro level. *The Aid Effect* uses an anthropological perspective to critically unpick internal relationships within organisations, to discuss the legitimisation of decision-making and to reflect upon the nature of interactions. Thus, although the critique of global governance and the unfavourable discussion of globalisation as a tool to reduce poverty are not new academic pearls, the analytical framework in which discussion is situated offers an alternative perspective. Similar micro-level analysis is visible to the reader of *AIDS in Africa*, especially where the author takes the reader on a journey through the positive contributions made by community based strategies.

However, despite these similarities, differences are visible when comparing the two texts. *The Aid Effect*, as an edited collection, follows the tradition of providing an array of perspectives from various authors. Drawing upon contexts from Africa to Estonia, the book is a useful access point for the development of critical thinking in areas such as global policy-making, concepts such as partnership and governance as well as project implementation. The wide range of contexts discussed provides evidence for a broadly based and extensively scoped discussion. In contrast *AIDS in Africa* is a singularly authored book, focusing solely upon the disease in that continent. This does not however mean that this is a weaker text rather that it simply discusses the location within which the problem is most widespread and serious.

The concluding chapters of both books open up questions that remain unanswered. *The Aid Effect* suggests that the existing power relationships within global policy-making institutions and development agency interactions, leaves the question of the marginality and exclusion of aid recipients unaddressed, especially within a capitalist and therefore fundamentally unequal governance framework. *AIDS in Africa* offers a clearer message in discussing the main challenges and the need for investment. However decades of under-investment leave the question of whether the remaining challenges will be met.

Louise Warwick-Booth
 Leeds Metropolitan University

☼☼ Culture and Everyday Life

Andy Bennett
 London: SAGE Publications
 2005
 viii + 207pp
 £19.99 pbk
 ISBN 0-7619-6390-1

☼☼ Social Science (2e)

Gerard Delanty
 Maidenhead: Open University Press
 2005
 x+197pp
 £16.99 pbk
 ISBN 0-335-21721-4

These books are both about, in different ways, sociological theory and the production of sociological knowledge.

The Delanty book, an enhanced second edition, provides a concise critical discussion about the philosophical and methodological foundations of social science. This in itself is a complex and weighty task but the style is engaging and, ultimately, a reasonable job is done. Delanty starts his book, 'challenges for social science', with significant questions that frame his reflections: Why does society need social science? What is the current self-understanding of social science? What is the public role of social science? He returns to these concerns in his concluding chapter, 'social science and public discourse'. Interesting reflections are made on the relationship of social science to science and the status/relevance of its knowledge. The wider context is a shift to a more 'communicative concept of knowledge' at the end of the twentieth century. Delanty proposes that social science should be treated as a discursive practice, which is not new trope, but is worth repeating.

Respectively the chapters deal with positivism, hermeneutics and interpretation, Marxism and the dialectical imagination, the reconstructive approaches of Habermas and Apel, the postmodern turn including deconstructionism and post-colonialism, the reflexive and feminist turn, constructivism and realism and finally social science and the public discourse. A lot of ground is covered in a short space, which gives the book a sort of disappointing keywords feel at times, but generally it is far more sophisticated and ambitious than that.

Let me turn to the Bennett book. I agree with the author, about both the centrality of 'everyday life' as a topic of investigation and its marginalization in social research.

He opens his book stressing 'perhaps the most fundamental problem for sociologists, media and cultural theorists in addressing 'everyday life' is the sheer ambiguity of the term' (p1). He follows this stating 'it is precisely the inherent taken-for-grantedness of everyday life that renders it valuable as an object of social research' (p1). For me, this is the centre, not periphery, of the sociological imagination.

After a useful introduction in which Bennett contextualises his concerns, the chapters respectively deal with everyday life and social theory, the mass culture debate, postmodernism, the cultural turn, the cultural terrains of everyday life, media and new media, fashion, music, tourism and finally counter-cultures. It deals with these theories with historical accuracy and relates them to various aspects of late modern culture in an accomplished way.

Both books bring complex ideas, positions and traditions down to earth and hence should become valuable student resources. My problem with both books, is the selective treatment, in different guises, of the ethnomethodological traditions. With the Bennett book, 'everyday life', which is at the heart of an ethnomethodological study policy, is ignored and the phenomenological one, surprisingly, occupies a minor role. In its place is a cultural and media studies focus with a definition of culture and everyday life that is premised on being contemporary, popular and mass. This is not in itself wrong, but for me, it misses the rich aspects of ordinary culture and everyday life and its routine social construction through local practices. With the Delanty book, the ethnomethodological tradition only merits a two page explanation and some minor references elsewhere, which for me causes serious gaps in a student's pluralistic knowledge of sociological history and theory. These books do not claim to be ethnomethodological, they do not need to be and I am not asking for that, but they do need to recognise this tradition more fairly.

Both books are welcome additions to the field and should appeal to wide social science audiences.

David Calvey

Manchester Metropolitan University

☼☼☼ **The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research (3e)**

Edited by Norman K Denzin and Yvonna S Lincoln
London: SAGE Publications
2005
ix+1288pp
£85.00
ISBN: 0-7619-2757-3

The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research has been a landmark text since the publication of the first edition in 1994. Like the second edition, this third edition is virtually a new handbook, including 16 totally new topics. Organised into six logical sections, covering all aspects of qualitative research, the editors have compiled knowledge from a fascinating variety of disciplines and contexts, giving a holistic representation of the field. The result is a masterpiece which I found to be an invaluable source of reference – as well as a thoroughly good read! I particularly enjoyed Linda Tuhiwai Smith's chapter on 'Researching the Native in the Age of Uncertainty', which, along with the epilogue written by the editors, provides a fascinating insight into the perspectives of indigenous communities on issues such as Western Research Ethics. I was also intrigued by Annette N. Markham's chapter about 'Online Ethnography', which highlights issues relevant in the study of 'cyberspace' and 'CMC' (computer-mediated communication), as well as reflecting on wider concepts such as 'Othering'.

At £85.00 it is quite an investment, and, weighing in at 5lb 3oz, it is not really very portable. However, this book is a benchmark volume and, with a detailed bibliography at the end of every section, would definitely be the qualitative research text on my Desert Island Discourse list. A great deal of time and thought has clearly been invested in the book's preparation, for example the photograph on the front cover showing whirling Muslim dervishes, was selected to symbolize themes of the handbook, including the broader incorporation of perspectives from previously overlooked cultures and communities. My only real criticism would be that it is a shame that the same care and attention to detail could not have been extended to the proof reading. As a self-confessed pedant I did, at times, find reading the text quite painful due to the significant number of typos. However this did not detract from my overall enjoyment of the book and I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in qualitative research.

Sara Louise Elliott Edwards

University of Liverpool

☼☼☼ **Understanding Social Statistics**

Jane Fielding and Nigel Gilbert
London: SAGE Publications
2006
vii+351pp
£22.99 pbk
ISBN: 1-4129-1054-4

Let's start with the criticisms. For me too much of the book is given over to the mathematics of social statistics. Using the book one can teach – or learn – a course in generating statistics from data and then understand other people's efforts. One is lead by the hand through SPSS. So one can learn to follow the routines and gain some understanding of them but I felt there was not enough emphasis on why one might want to. Space might have been found for this by junking the mathematics.

Where the need for statistics can be inspired by a teacher this makes an excellent adjunct; augmenting such courses and the help functions within SPSS. Usefully there is an accompanying website with data from the General Household Survey and World Bank. Moreover, as a second edition the opportunity has been taken to update – though I still found some typos. Updating is an issue. The book is based on SPSS for Windows 14 and contains many new screenshots but I've only got 13. However, the lay out of the book is enhanced and those interested in coding frames and weighting will find enhanced discussion.

We teach SPSS, because it is the 'industry standard' but perhaps it is too intimidating for students. I know I could teach the elements of statistics and of SPSS that are sufficient to pass our validated course but am aware that vast amounts of the programme are a mystery to me, as my own use has been on a strictly 'need to know' basis, so live in fear that a student might ask what all the other bits did.

Nic Groombridge

St Mary's College, a College of the University of Surrey

Got something to say?

At last! Sociology gets a voice

After a lot of hard work and deliberation, the BSA discussion forum has been launched on the main BSA website. We have introduced the forum for you, our members, and non-members with the intention of bringing together sociologists across every discipline.

The aim of the forum is to create a bustling virtual community of sociologists and to actively encourage the discussion of key topics, bringing together experts and novices alike in order to create debates worthy of Burawoy!

The forum is an ideal platform to have your say, whether it be asking for advice from your peers, sharing your opinions with like-minded individuals or

debating the latest news headlines and their impact on society. Sociologists are invited from around the world to share their ideas and thoughts on the topics that matter most to them.

We have great hopes for the forum and see it as an ideal opportunity for anyone with an interest in Sociology to make themselves heard. For those of you already established within the field of Sociology, the forum allows you to showcase your expertise and help other aspiring sociologists. For those of you at the beginning of your sociological journey, the forum can open the door to a wealth of knowledge and potentially grant entry into some of Sociology's leading minds.

Now we have done the hard work, all we need are willing volunteers who are eager to engage in topical, possibly controversial, but most of all notable debates. Anyone interested in moderating their own section of the forum, please contact Donna Willis: donna.willis@britsoc.org.uk

To have your say on the forum, you must register. However, the good news is that this is free and open to everyone. So, come on, have your say and give sociology the voice it deserves!

Donna Willis
BSA Website and IT Officer



Special issue 2008

Call for Papers

Sociology and the future of the research relationship

Sociology draws on data derived from a variety of research methodologies which have different implications for the relationship between researchers, research participants and contexts, and wider research constituencies. This relationship is a dynamic one and it is currently being re-assessed in the context of changes in research technologies (e.g. visual and digital), governance (ethical and legal frameworks) and ongoing debates about epistemology (the nature and purpose of knowledge). This special issue will bring together contributions which reflect on the

current state of the research relationship and its future. In particular we would be interested to receive papers which critique theory and practice on this topic across the full range of substantive areas of sociological investigation.

The special issue will be edited by Graham Crow and Catherine Pope. The editors welcome contributions from sociologists working across the range of interests published in the journal and from those at early stages of their career as well as those who are more established.

Opening date for submissions: Monday 1 January 2007
Closing date for submissions: Friday 31 August 2007

Special issue 2009

Call for Tenders

Tenders are invited for a team of guest editors to produce a special issue of *Sociology* in 2009, Volume 43. The issue will be published in October 2009. The special issue will be on a theme of the guest editors' choice.

Deadline for tenders: Monday 26th February 2007

Further information on both of these special issues can be found online at
www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/specialissues

INDIVIDUAL

Pamela Abbott has moved from the Kigali Institute for Science and Technology, Rwanda to the Kigali Institute of Education, Rwanda. She would be interested in hearing from any members in teacher education who would be interested in exploring possibilities for collaboration and supporting capacity building.

Stephen Ball has been elected as a Fellow of the British Academy.

Kalwant Bhopal has left the University of Greenwich to take up a Readership in Education at the University of Southampton.

Malcolm Cowburn has moved from University of Sheffield to the University of Bradford to take up a Senior Lecturer's post.

Robert Miller has been promoted to personal Chair of Sociology in the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University, Belfast.

Peter Rogers has moved from research at Manchester University to a Lecturing position in Cultural Studies and Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Chris Rojek has left NTU on 1st July to become Professor of Sociology and Culture at Brunel University, West London.

Paul Stewart is moving to the University of Stirling to take up the post of Professor of Work and Employment in the Department of Management and Organisation.

Andrew Timming has been appointed as Lecturer in International and Comparative Human Resource Management / Employment Relations at the Manchester Business School, University of Manchester.

Matthew Waites is moving from Sheffield Hallam University to the post of Lecturer in Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Applied Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow.

INSTITUTIONAL

Aberdeen

David Inglis has been promoted to Professor of Sociology

Richard Giulianotti has been promoted to Reader in Sociology. He has subsequently left the Department to take up a Professorship in Sociology at the University of Durham.

Professor **Bernie Hayes** has joined the ESRC's Research Grants Board.

Professor **John Brewer**, a member of the ESRC's Training and Development Board, has also joined the International Advisory Board of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences.

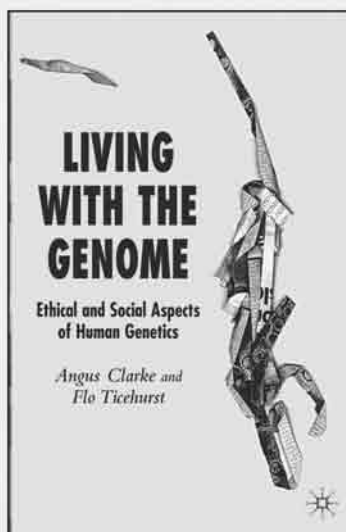
Keele

Sociology at Keele (within the School of Criminology, Education, Sociology and Social Work) has undergone a major expansion with the arrival of 7 new colleagues. **Jenny Hislop** arrived in 2005 as lecturer in Social Gerontology; in September 2006 we welcomed **Lydia Martens** (Senior Lecturer in Sociology, previously at Durham), **Gurminder Bhambra** and **Sharon Boden** (Lecturers in Sociology, previously at Sussex and Warwick respectively), **Andy Zieleniec** (Joint lecturer in Sociology & Social Geography, previously at Glasgow), **Emma Head** and **James Hardie-Bick** (Temporary Lecturers in Sociology, previously at Leeds and Bath / Durham respectively).

These new colleagues will strengthen both the Research Institute for Lifecourse Studies with research in the areas of the research clusters on Ageing; Families and Consumption & Domestic Life and Risk; and the Research Institute for Law, Politics & Justice with research on Human Rights, Postcolonialism and Urban/Environmental issues.

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Bootlegging

In November 2004, I saw three concerts by Tom Waits. Immediately afterwards, I tried to source recordings of the shows. Normally, through a process of trading recordings with other collectors around the globe, this would take me a couple of months. This time, I discovered EasyTree. EasyTree is, or rather was, a website dedicated to the trading of concert recordings. It published a 'tracker' which guided your computer into downloading the show using BitTorrent, a form of online file sharing. Over the next few weeks I, along with a few hundred other people, downloaded all eight shows of Waits' European tour. EasyTree became one of my most visited sites on the web. Imagine my distress when finding a message that EasyTree had closed down because of legal threats.

The material available via EasyTree are known as 'bootleg' recordings. Bootlegs feature either recordings of live concerts or studio outtakes (songs that didn't make it onto a finished album). The defining characteristic of bootlegs is that they feature music not released by an 'official' label. This makes bootlegs distinct from, say, counterfeit recordings, which copy the sounds and cover art of an official release. EasyTree was particularly fastidious in ensuring that absolutely no officially released material was available via their site. They are collected by people like me, who own all of the officially released work of their favourite artists, but still want more. So why am I prevented from consuming as much of Tom Waits' music as I want? Economically, it makes little sense for the industry to try to prevent bootlegging. Despite proclamations from the recording industry, bootlegging is inherently small scale. Commercially available bootlegs (while EasyTree was a trading site, with no money involved, there is a small scale industry which distributes via record fairs and mail order) are produced in quantities up to about 500. The extremely popular recording of Tom Waits' Hammersmith show (4th most popular torrent on the site) was downloaded by about 3500 people on EasyTree. Such figures pale in comparison to recordings released in the legitimate industry: it is estimated that an album released by a major label has to sell 300,000 copies just to break even. It is even plausible

that bootlegging has a positive economic effect on the music industry, not least in acting as a stimulus and source of all those expensive box-sets with 'previously unreleased' tracks on them. When analysed financially, all the effort and costs that the industry expends in stamping out bootlegs just isn't worth it.

The major issue is not economics but control. The record industry wants complete control over its products, to present them in the way it wants, give us access when they want. This makes them just like any other capitalist industry trying to control the market for their product. But it isn't just a market, it's also culture. The copyright regime that supports record labels' control of music is premised upon the notion that individuals create things out of thin air and therefore deserve absolute control over their creations (the fact that they have to sell their right of absolute control to large corporations is slightly more than coincidental). Now, Tom Waits is a very talented guy, but he doesn't create things out of thin air. His style has been influenced by Harry Partch, Captain Beefheart, Charley Patton, Blind Willie Johnson and countless others. Should they be given a share of his royalties? His current work is shaped not only by direct collaboration but also through his experience of contemporary culture and the more ineffable circulation of cultural meaning generally. So how should society be rewarded for their contribution to these songs?

Perhaps we should give up the mirage of individualised creativity. Rather than establishing an elaborate profit and loss account in which we try and work out exactly who contributed what to which song, perhaps we should start thinking about the rights of the public rather than the just those of artists. That way, rather than restricting the circulation of culture, we could encourage the flow of ideas and meanings and help develop new artists who may be inspired and influenced by hearing a recording of Tom Waits' Hammersmith performance. That's how culture works.

Lee Marshall
University of Bristol

ROUTLEDGE SOCIOLOGY

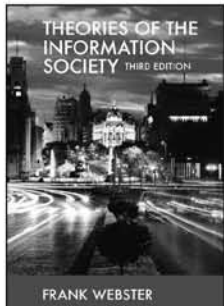
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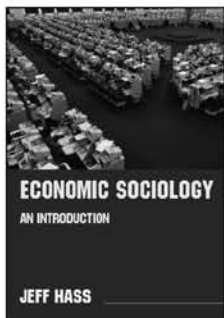
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Alison Petersen

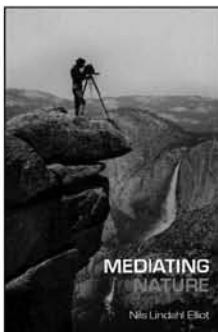
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International Review of Sociology

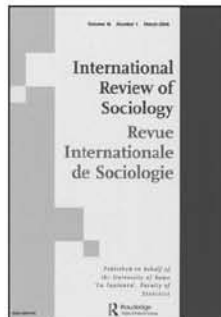
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That'll Teach 'Em?

Last year a *Guardian* journalist Tom Whipple went back to school, despite his own degree qualification, to investigate whether A-Level exams were getting easier, generating a familiar and disputed battle over standards, credentials and possible slippages. In the spirit of solidarity with the accused, Tom Whipple undertook, and excelled, in AS-level Sociology, apparently delighting in his 97% first class pass. Not for him was the Connexions leaflet distributed amongst his associates, post-results, advertising 'alternative pathways'.

The preferred straight-through route from school to university is itself problematised by the cyclical attention on exam standards, threatening to position successful students as 'failures' (alongside those who've always been marked as such). While drives to increase university participation are heralded as equalising and transformative, exam results are mocked and dismissed; so is the younger generation becoming cleverer, albeit with a lapsed grasp on grammar and spelling? Are journalists and politicians conspiring to produce a myth of

an A-level golden age? Will apparent fears and hopes in making grade create a steady stream of journalists – even academics – ready and willing to go back to school? If HE is the ever-promoted destination of school leavers then academics, in a sense, become eternal students, similarly needy of scrutiny, standardisation and regulation. Abbreviated lettering, from the QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority) to the RAE, serves to warn and punish cheats and slackers.

The TV series *That'll Teach 'Em* bolstered the positioning of the present against the past, sentimentally recounting the good old days when O grades outnumber ASBOs. The series took current GCSE pupils back in time to a 1960s Secondary Modern, complete with a military-style PE lessons, for the boys, and home economics for the girls. Like the series *Brat Camp*, where teenagers are sent to remote locations to gather logs and generally redeem themselves, the lessons learnt are in the realisation of luck and opportunity. Experiments on animals in Biology may well have ended (though experiments on children for the purpose of entertainment proliferate), gone too are physical punishments, but the endless measuring against past and anticipated future generations seems admonishment enough.

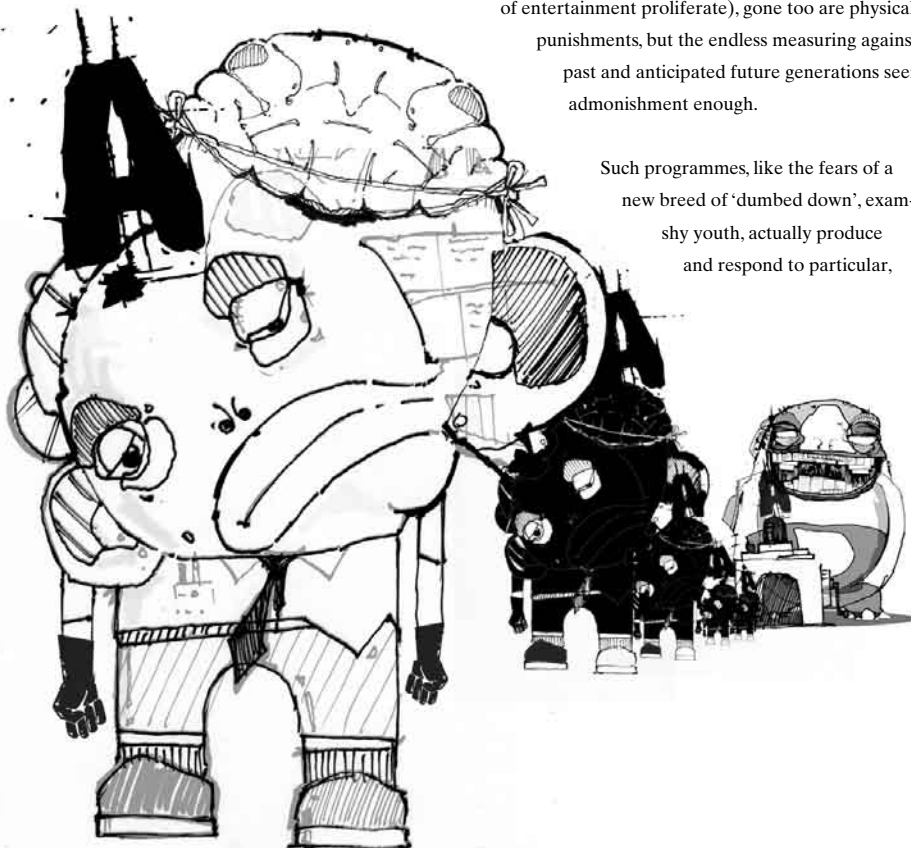
Such programmes, like the fears of a new breed of 'dumbed down', exam-shy youth, actually produce and respond to particular,

middle-class concerns: since when do working-class kids generate anxiety over attaining four As or four Bs? The kids in the programmes are succeeding, middle-class pupils, heading for star grades and entry to higher education. Their elite and often public school status adds fuel to the accusations of dumbed down standards, when these successes can't succeed in the 1960s time warp. I expect the auditioning requires a confident parental knowledge, familiarity and engagement with educational, social and psychological services – a positioning of children as troubled investments, rather than deviant lost causes. Middle-class children are offered the chance to surpass their working-class peers, even exceeding them as 'brats'. Unlike their peers, these 'brats' will be rescued and reformed, for their *potential* is never questioned, unlike that of working-class children. Send them to state schools, not to the USA!

Tom Whipple, in his *Guardian* article, never disclosed which school he attended (again) but this clearly matters a great deal in the larger debate. While he downloads resources from the Assessments and Qualification Alliance (AQA) and purchases a series of past papers and revision guides, others are left without the means or know how to access these supposedly universally available, time and energy saving devices. Such resources perhaps only teach them, and us, about the safety and certainty of some pathways and the fraught and 'failing' nature of others.

Often when working-class pupils access higher education it is to post-1992 universities, studying what Tom Whipple highlights as 'new', 'modern', 'trendy' subjects. Like the focus on boys' educational underachievement, compared to girls' strong performance, the issue is obscured somewhat by lack of attention to outcomes, the sole focus being on 'put-through', rather than on issues of retention and results. In presenting Sociology as a more accessible subject Tom Whipple underscores the potential impact of Sociology on educational debates, but in pointing to the ease of Sociology he underestimates the efforts needed in affecting change; in really teaching everyone a lesson or two.

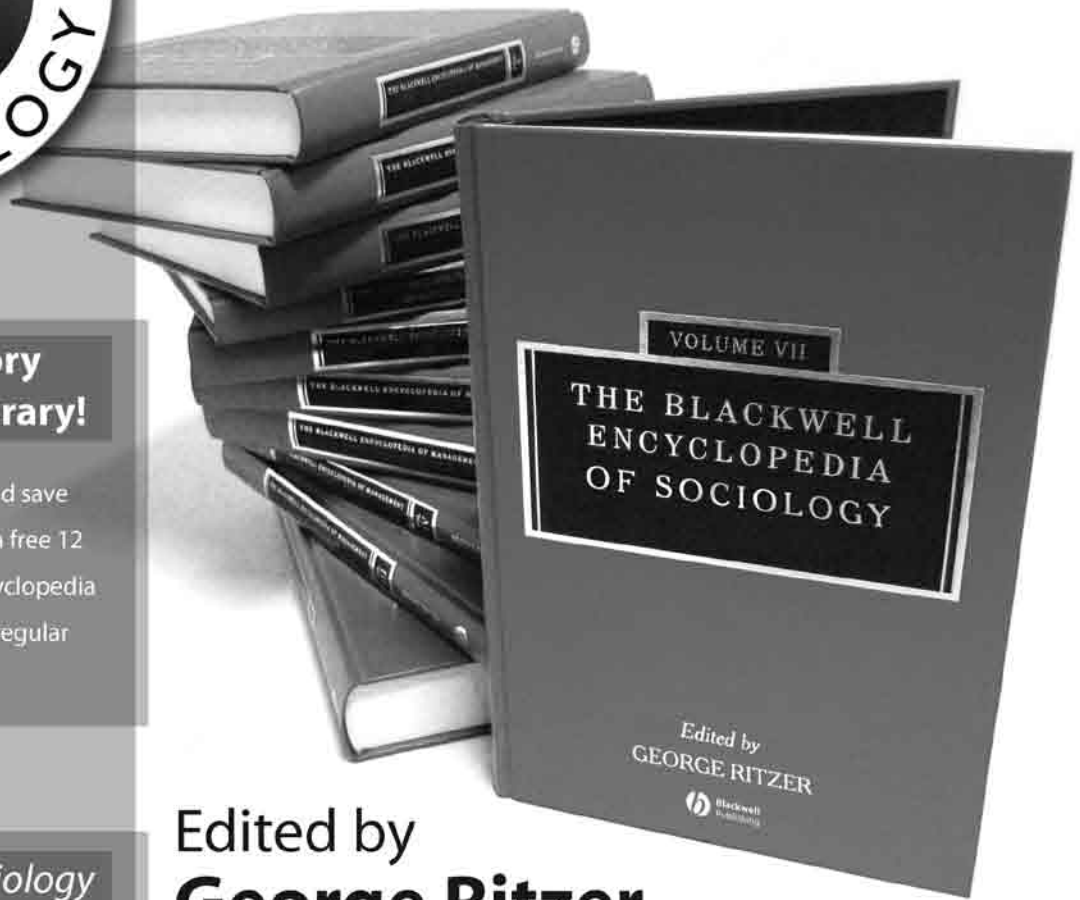
Yvette Taylor
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ISBN: 1-4051-2433-4

Gayle Letherby

Having worked for 10 years as a qualified nursery nurse Gayle began a Sociology degree at Staffordshire Polytechnic in 1987. Her PhD focused on experiences of infertility and involuntary childlessness and was supported by a university scholarship. Gayle's first full-time job was as a Lecturer at Coventry University. Eleven years later she took up a post as Professor of Sociology at the University of Plymouth. Gayle is currently the Chair of the BSA Executive Committee.

In your list I see some old friends and some authors or titles that are new to me. How did you go about making your selection?

It's been really hard and of course I would like to take a suitcase full. In the musical version of DID people mostly choose music that relates to their lifecourse in some way as well as pieces they particularly like. I've changed my mind a couple of times about my selection here but decided on books that are relevant to my intellectual and political development as a feminist sociologist. They are all books that I like and that I find I return to again and again.

Your first choice, *The Sociological Imagination*, would probably appear on many castaways' lists; do you have a particular reason for this selection?

I know it is a popular choice. My interest in auto/biography must already be evident and I've been particularly impressed and influenced by Mills' views on intellectual craftsmanship (sic) – the view that we should use our life experience in our intellectual work – and by his argument that the social scientist is part of and not apart from society. When I began my PhD I fitted the medical definition of infertility and described myself at that time as involuntarily childless. So the auto/biographical aspects of sociology have always been of concern to me. I was fortunate that quite near the beginning of my doctoral studies the BSA study group auto/biography was formed and this supported me in my approach. I also use Mills a lot in my teaching to get students to begin and continue to 'think sociologically'. Recently I have been encouraging students to read and reflect on the debate in the UK (in *Sociological Research Online*) and the US on the future of sociology/public sociology, not least so they can see the relevance of Mill's work on the sociological imagination for sociological thinking, writing and research today.

Why *Breaking Out Again* rather than the original *Breaking Out*?

I came across the original copy of *Breaking Out* when browsing in the library as a second year undergraduate. Finding Liz Stanley and Sue Wise's book was the beginning of an exciting epistemological journey for me. My feminist consciousness had been awoken during my A level year but it was during degree and postgraduate studies that I really became fascinated by feminist methodological and epistemological debate. On my desert island I would have to have a book that engaged with these issues. I continue to be influenced by the work of

Stanley and Wise although I don't always agree with them. But then everyone's ideas change, adapt, reform and I think differently about some issues than I did 5, 10, 15 years ago so I've chosen *Breaking Out Again* to remind me of the importance of intellectual movement and development.

Arlie Hochschild's *The Managed Heart* is highly influential. Why is it particularly significant to you?

Several reasons. It's symbolic of the fact that it is possible and indeed essential to think sociologically about so-called personal and private feelings (and experiences) and to reflect on how these feelings are relevant to our 'public' selves. Arlie Hochschild's work is also one example of how feminism's focus on the personal as political and theoretical has opened up new topics for research and reflection and new intellectual spaces. I've also found Hochschild's ideas to be relevant to all of the research and writing that I do. So, amongst other things, I've reflected on managing emotion within research relationships; the emotion work that involuntary childless individuals undertake in explaining their situation; or the emotional labour of employees who work in higher education or who work on the railways. Like many people my interests are eclectic and issues of power and emotion enable me to make connections across the areas that interest me.

You next choice, Barbara Katz-Rothman's *The Tentative Pregnancy* has a very arresting title.

Barbara Katz-Rothman has written several books about different aspects of pregnancy and/or motherhood. As she often writes auto/biographically her approach, as well as her substantive interests, relate to my own. In *The Tentative Pregnancy* she focuses on some of the moral, ethical and social implications of (new) reproductive technologies by drawing on empirical research with pregnant women to consider the impact of amniocentesis. Because this test takes place quite late in pregnancy and some women/couples may decide on termination following the results of the test Katz-Rothman discovered that often women would not act as though they were pregnant – for example by not wearing pregnancy clothes and not preparing for the baby(ies) that they hoped to have. Thus, their response to their pregnancy is tentative.

In an article, Katz-Rothman writes about the emotions involved in this research, both for her and for her respondents, and argues that doing research is 'hard work'. This article and Katz-Rothman's book were important for me as a postgraduate, in that they encouraged me to reflect on the auto/biographical elements in my own work and on the

research process. The Tentative Pregnancy was also significant given its focus on just what is meant by reproductive choice and control.

Next, we have a novel, Joanna Trollope's *Other People's Children*. Tell me about this.

I've read all of Joanna Trollope's novels and I like them. I particularly like the way that the children in her books are real characters, rather than seen only through the perspective of adults. This book is also significant to me in that it links to my own academic interests and my personal life. Trollope's focus is always on family relationships and in this book she concentrates on the stepfamily focusing on three connected households. Trollope provides both a candid and moving account of the complexities of contemporary family life. Not surprisingly as well as enjoying the book as a novel when I first read it I found myself wanting to make notes for my work on non/motherhood and non/parenthood.

Finally, *Womanwords* by Jane Mills.

I love this book. It's a dictionary of words used to describe women – everything from Amazon to spinster and cupcake to whore. Jane Mills provides historical and sociological definitions, starting with the root of a word and following through with the whys and wherefores of changes in use and meaning. Mills reveals how meanings have been altered, redefined and confused over time. Did you know, for example, that in the 16th century 'gossip' referred to a woman's female friends who were invited to be present at a birth or that the word 'feminism' originates in the Latin femina, meaning woman, or properly 'the suckling one' or the 'sucked one'? Mills is concerned with the relationship between language and power and language and resistance and I find something different every time I dip into this book. On occasion it makes me laugh in addition to making me cross so it's a must.

Alternatives to the Bible or Shakespeare?

Yes, instead of the Bible I'd like to take some music. Similar to many people music reminds me of people, places and past experiences; it moves me to tears and makes me smile. I don't think I could live happily without it. Again, like many people I guess, I have eclectic tastes: I especially like 1970s rock and disco; Irish and English folk; Gilbert and Sullivan and Glenn Miller. I also like Tchaikovsky and Debussy, brass band music, and all sorts of things from 1930s Jazz to Katie Melua. So, I'll need a bit of time to get the compilation tape together.

And instead of Shakespeare?

Another Trollope – Anthony this time. I've read the first three books in the *Barchester Chronicles* series but would like the time to read the set.

That's a very tempting idea! And what about your luxury?

Well if I can't take my mum – Dorothy – which I'm sure I can't, the next two essentials would be my swimsuit and my pyjamas. As I'll be all alone I won't need the swimsuit so I'll take the pyjamas please – the ultimate in comfort clothes.



Gayle Letherby's Desert Island Discourse Choices

⋮ **The Sociological Imagination** 1959, Harmondsworth: Penguin
Mills, C. Wright

⋮ **Breaking Out Again: Feminist Consciousness and Feminist Research** 1993, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
Stanley, Liz and Wise, Sue

⋮ **The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling** 1983, California: University of California Press
Hochschild, Arlie

⋮ **The Tentative Pregnancy: How Amniocentesis Changes the Experience of Motherhood**
1993, New York: WW Norton and Co.
Katz-Rothman, Barbara

⋮ **Other People's Children** 1998, New York: Berkley
Trollope, Joanna

⋮ **Womanwords** 1991, London: Virago
Mills, Jane

⋮ **Instead of the Bible: A compilation tape**

⋮ **Instead of Shakespeare: Anthony Trollope's Barchester Chronicles**

⋮ **Luxury: Pyjamas**



Sociologists

Outside Academia:

The development of new group within the BSA

April 2006 saw the launch at the BSA Annual Conference of a new group formed to raise awareness of the experiences, achievements and hopes of BSA members who do not fit the 'traditional' profile of institutionally based sociologists.

The group 'Sociologists Outside Academia' (SOAg) emerged initially through the coming together of a small number of BSA members who shared the common experience of being situated largely outside of academia and who had faced a lack of recognition and status as professionals, little institutional support and a degree of marginalisation from the wider sociological community.

SOAg was formed to support such members, with aims and objectives to:

- ⌘ **Strengthen the idea that we are first and foremost sociologists regardless of our circumstances.**
- ⌘ **Raise the profile and value of sociologists working largely outside the academy.**
- ⌘ **Raise the status of sociological work undertaken beyond an academic context.**
- ⌘ **Raise awareness of the need to support new and 'budding' sociologists.**
- ⌘ **Provide a forum through which our interests, views and concerns can be related to the BSA so that appropriate support and recognition is afforded to all sociologists.**

The group has two representatives sitting on the BSA Executive Committee to ensure matters affecting members 'outside academia' can be fed directly to Executive level for consideration.

The responses from non-academics and academics alike to our Annual BSA Conference 'Meet and Greet' session and

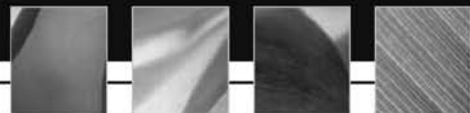
to our first group newsletter *Sociology for All?* were overwhelming and although it is early days, a diverse membership is growing steadily. Already, many issues have been raised including the difficulties that a lack of institutional affiliation brings regarding academic library access, financial support to attend conferences and other sociological events and the lack of status and identity associated with being an 'independent' sociologist / researcher. These issues are now under consideration by the relevant BSA committees. Reassuringly, in his address in the Annual Review 2005/06, the outgoing Chair of the Executive Committee, Professor John Brewer, stated the Association's commitment to reaching 'sociologists outside the academy' and to work to 'establish access to academic libraries for BSA members who are not in academic institutions' (p.4). We are consequently very proud that our group is already making an impact.

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PhD Student
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For further details go to: www.britisoc.co.uk/specialisms/OutsideAcademia.htm





New to Routledge for 2006

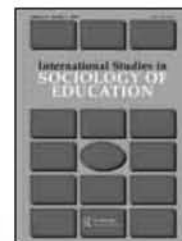
International Studies in Sociology of Education

Volume 16, 2006, 3 issues per year
Print ISSN: 0962-0214 Online ISSN: 1747-5066

Editor: Suzy Harris - *University of Sheffield, United Kingdom*

International Studies in Sociology of Education is an international journal, first published in 1991, which seeks to publish material from current research projects in the sociology of education from around the world, and to offer insights and ideas which seek to move the debates forward on their respective topics. The three issues published each year are devoted to a particular theme.

The Journal publishes papers in the sociology of education which critically engage with theoretical and empirical issues, drawn from as wide a range of perspectives as possible, and aimed at moving debates forward. The Journal is international in outlook and readership and papers are received from across the world.

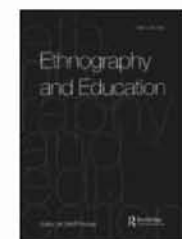


Ethnography and Education

Volume 1, 2006, 3 issues per year
Print ISSN: 1745-7823 Online ISSN: 1745-7831

Editor: Dr. Geoff Troman - *Roehampton University, UK*

Ethnography and Education is an international, peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles illuminating educational practices through empirical methodologies, which prioritise the experiences and perspectives of those involved. The journal is open to a wide range of ethnographic research that emanates from the perspectives of sociology, linguistics, history, psychology and general educational studies as well as anthropology. The journal's priority is to support ethnographic research that involves long-term engagement with those studied in order to understand their cultures; uses multiple methods of generating data, and recognises the centrality of the researcher in the research process.



Other Sociology of Education journals published by Routledge

British Journal of Sociology of Education

Volume 27, 2006, 5 issues per year
Print ISSN: 0142-5692
Online ISSN: 1465-3346
Chair Person of Executive Editors:
Len Barton - *Institute of Education, University of London, UK*



Gender and Education

Volume 18, 2006, 6 issues per year
Print ISSN: 0954-0253
Online ISSN: 1360-0516
Editors:
Debbie Epstein - *Cardiff University, UK*
Emma Renold - *Cardiff University, UK*
Mary Jane Kehily - *The Open University, UK*



Race Ethnicity and Education

Volume 9, 2006, 4 issues per year
Print ISSN: 1361-3324
Online ISSN: 1470-109X
Editor:
David Gillborn - *Institute of Education, University of London, UK*



Discourse

Volume 27, 2006, 4 issues per year
Print ISSN: 0159-6306
Online ISSN: 1469-3739
Editors:
Bob Lingard - *University of Edinburgh, UK*
Martin Mills - *The University of Queensland, Australia*
Victoria Carrington - *University of Plymouth, UK*



Journal of Education Policy

Volume 21, 2006, 6 issues per year
Print ISSN: 0268-0939
Online ISSN: 1464-5106
Editors:
Stephen J. Ball - *Karl Mannheim Professor of Sociology of Education, Institute of Education, University of London, London UK*
Ivor Goodson (Founding Editor) - *Education Research Centre, Mayfield House, University of Brighton, Brighton, UK*



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The BSA supports almost 40 study groups, each providing specialist events and networking opportunities. The sheer number of groups reflect the rich diversity of your research interests: from youth to ageing; from animals to the environment; and, as highlighted below, from work to leisure...

Work Employment and Economic Life Study Group Relaunch

When Tim Strangleman suggested re-launching the BSA work study group with an event based around discussion of our new edited collection, *A New Sociology of Work?*, I think we felt a little ambivalent. We were torn between our great, perhaps excessive, pride in what to three of us was our first book, and a general reluctance to engage in anything that smacked of vulgar marketing.

The session began with us speaking a little about what had prompted us to put together the collection: our frustration with a too narrow understanding of what research into work ought to be, its focus on paid employment and its tendency to take for granted what work is and what work means. Our purpose in putting together the book was to stretch and pull at the notion of 'work', so our contributors were asked to relate what they research to this question of 'what is work?'. The resulting collection considers parenting, care, sex work, volunteering and other case studies for what they reveal about contemporary work.

Mike Savage then picked up on the theme of what had happened to the sociology of work, discussing the history of sociology, and the changing fortunes of the study of work. In relating this to the study of class, he picked up a theme that proved to be important in the subsequent discussions. Tim Strangleman then presented his own take on this, a brave questioning of what the sociology of work should look like, and a call for new generations to step beyond the limitations of labour process approaches.

There followed what is traditionally described as 'a lively discussion', where methodological issues were particularly at the fore. The 9am on a Sunday morning slot was not the graveyard shift we had feared it might be, and we must thank the twenty early risers who came along.

Rebecca Taylor, PSI
Lynne Pettinger, University of Essex

BSA Leisure Study Group Relaunch

On 26 May 2006 the Centre for Scientific and Cultural Research into Sport at Roehampton University hosted the first meeting of the newly formed BSA Leisure and Recreation Study Group entitled 'Theorising Leisure: The Consumer Experience'. The reforming of the Study Group after lying dormant for over ten years, sought to bring together sociologists with an interest in researching leisure consumption.

The meeting generated a day of debates about the positioning of 'leisure' within sociological theory. Karenza Moore's ethnographic research on trance clubbing preceded Rupa Huq's analysis of the usefulness of 'sub-culture'

in understanding youth and leisure practices. Joan Ormrod's paper drew on the example of surfing in the 1970s as a way of examining historical and cultural changes in leisure practices. Ken Roberts offered a paper which posed some interesting possibilities for the future of leisure sociology, and Lynne Pettinger revived debates surrounding the relationship between work and leisure. The final three papers drew on research into contemporary leisure practices. Karl Spraklen's paper explored 'black metal music' and Jack Fawbert considered the uses of sociological theory in the replica football shirts industry. Finally, Andrew Parker and Samantha Lyle examined the recent concept of 'chav culture' and

its relationship to contemporary leisure practice.

It is anticipated that the study group will act as a useful precursor to the 2007 Leisure Studies Association Annual Conference, 'Whatever Happened to the Leisure Society?'. It is also hoped that this will be the first meeting of many for this Study Group. Any queries about the Study Group, including ideas for forthcoming events and requests to be included on the email list should be directed to the convenor, Dr Emma Casey: e.casey@kingston.ac.uk.

Dr Emma Casey
Dr Eileen Kennedy
Helen Pussard



Welcome New Members

1 April 2006 to 31 August 2006

We welcome the following new members to the British Sociological Association.

New members during this period: 76

Permission granted from 35 members to publish their details here.

Miss Megalambal Arumugam

University of Leicester

Mr Steve Ball

Cornwall County Council

Dr Jo Brayford

University of Wales, Newport

Mrs Elizabeth Ann Breeze

University of Kent at Canterbury

Mr Paul A Brook

Manchester Metropolitan University

Reverend Christopher Paul Burkett

University of Chester

Mr Steven Curd

Oxford Brookes University

Mr Matthew Durey

University of Durham

Mrs Jacqueline Ellis

University of Chester

Miss Julie Ellis

University of Sheffield

Mr Chris Fitch

Royal College of Psychiatry

Ms Jean Gardiner

University of Leeds

Dr William Gibson

University of London

Mr Kevin Harris

University of Kent at Canterbury

Ms Amy Hinterberger

London School of Economics

Miss Catherine Jefferson

University of Sussex

Mr John B Lever

University of the West of England

Dr Orla McDonnell

University of Limerick

Mr Jack Nye

Lancaster University

Mr Florian Pichler

University of Aberdeen

Dr Jon Prosser

University of Leeds

Ms Marjolaine Roger

University of Kent at Canterbury

Ms Anna Elizabeth Rogers

University of Leeds

Miss Carrin Ferris Runciman

University of Glasgow

Ms Jo Sanderson-Mann

The Open University

Ms Hanna Schmidt

The Open University

Mr Peter Schofield

King's College, London

Mr Tom Shirley

University of Cambridge

Ms Lynne Stobbart

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

Dr Clare Thetford

University of Liverpool

Mr Thomas Thurnell-Read

University of Warwick

Mrs Zahra Tizro

University of York

Mr Martin Paul Webber

King's College, London

Mr Stephen Wilkinson

Liverpool Hope University College

Dr Roger Yates

University of Wales, Bangor

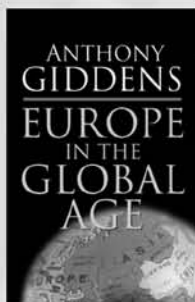


NEW MEMBERS 35

Sociology from Polity

21 years of Independent Thinking

polity

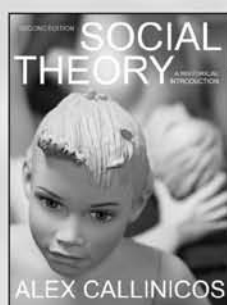


Europe in the Global Age

Anthony Giddens

Over recent years the European social model has come under great strain in many states within the European Union – unemployment, for example, remains stubbornly high. Anthony Giddens argues that the traditional welfare state needs to be rethought, and life-style change has to be brought into the heart of what 'welfare' means.

October 2006 256 pages Hb £40.00 9780745640112 / Pb £12.99 9780745640129



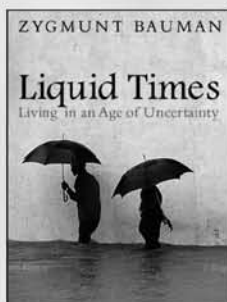
Social Theory **New second edition!**

A historical introduction

Alex Callinicos

This remarkably lucid text has been carefully updated to ensure that it engages with the most up-to-date debates in social theory. Callinicos assesses the significance of contemporary debates about globalization, including the recent re-emergence of critiques of capitalism and imperialism in the work of Michael Hardt, Toni Negri, Luc Boltanski, Eve Chiapello, David Harvey, Robert Brenner, Giovanni Arrighi, and Slavoj Žižek.

January 2007 368 pages Hb £60.00 9780745638393 / Pb £16.99 9780745638409



Liquid Times

Zygmunt Bauman

Zygmunt Bauman's brilliant writings on liquid modernity have altered the way we think about the contemporary world. In this short book he explores the sources of the endemic uncertainty which shapes our lives today and, in so doing, he provides the reader with a brief and accessible introduction to his highly original account, developed at greater length in his previous books, of life in our liquid modern times.

December 2006 128 pages Hb £40.00 9780745639864 / Pb £9.99 9780745639871



The Environment

A Sociological Introduction

Philip Sutton


This engaging book is unique in presenting environmental issues at an introductory level that assumes no specialist knowledge on the part of readers. It is written in a remarkably clear and accessible style, and uses a rich range of empirical examples from across the globe to illustrate key debates. A carefully assembled glossary and annotated further reading suggestions also help to bring ideas to life.

February 2007 200 pages Hb £40.00 9780745634326 / Pb £15.99 9780745639871

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