



BSA Postgraduate Forum Event From Thesis to Monograph”: A guide to getting your first book!

With the editors of Sociological Futures (Routledge)

Caroline Oliver UCL; Louise Ryan London Met; Katherine Twamley UCL

Supported by BSA staff Alison Danforth and Jackie Murphy and PG Forum: James Green and
Karen Tatham

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SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



Writing – why bother?

Prof Louise Ryan,

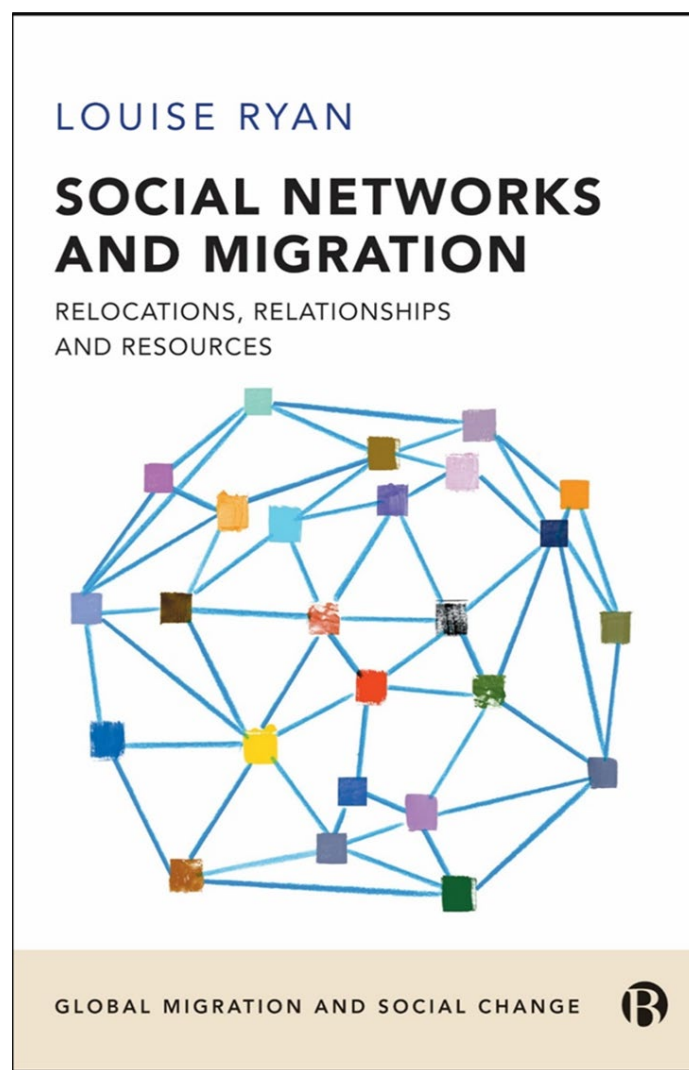
**Director of the Global Diversities and
Inequalities Research Centre,
London Metropolitan University**

- I love writing and for me it is one of the best parts of my job
- Over my career I have published 3 monographs and 7 edited books with another co-authored book and an edited collection underway
- (as well as over 75 peer reviewed journal articles)
- Why?
- Because I feel that I have things to say – ideas and information I feel the need to convey – my work is empirically driven.
- I am passionate about telling stories.
- I used to write stories as a child.
- I enjoy writing both by myself as a solo pursuit but also with colleagues (some colleagues – choose carefully)

Social Networks and Migration

**Policy Press,
2023**

**A true labour of
love bringing
together 20 years
of my migration
research**





Forthcoming publication
FOUR COURTS PRESS



Irish Nurses in the NHS

Louise Ryan, Grainne McPolin and Neha Doshi

From the inception of the National Health Service in 1948, Irish women and men were actively recruited to train and work as nurses in British hospitals. By the 1960s approximately 30,000 Irish-born nurses were working across the NHS, constituting around 12% of all nursing staff.

While many Irish families produced at least one nurse and many of those emigrated, so far there has been little recognition of the enormous contribution of Irish nurses to health care in Britain.

Based on 45 interviews, this book tells the stories of Irish nurses in their own words using rich oral history and photographs. From the rigours of training to the fun of dancehalls, the book explores their life experiences as nurses and also as Irish migrants in British society.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Louise Ryan is a Senior Professor of Sociology and director of the Global Diversities and inequalities research centre, London Metropolitan University, and has extensively researched Irish migration to Britain.

Grainne McPolin is a radio producer and podcaster. She is a former nurse having spent many years of her career working in Britain's National Health Service hospitals.

Neha Doshi is a PhD researcher and Associate Lecturer at London Metropolitan University. Her research focuses on race and media.

IMISCOE Research Series

Elif Keskiner
Michael Eve
Louise Ryan *Editors*

Revisiting Migrant Networks

Migrants and their Descendants in
Labour Markets

IMISCOE

OPEN ACCESS

 Springer





An End to the Crisis of Empirical Sociology?

Trends and challenges in social research



SOCIOLOGICAL FUTURES

Edited by Linda McKie and Louise Ryan

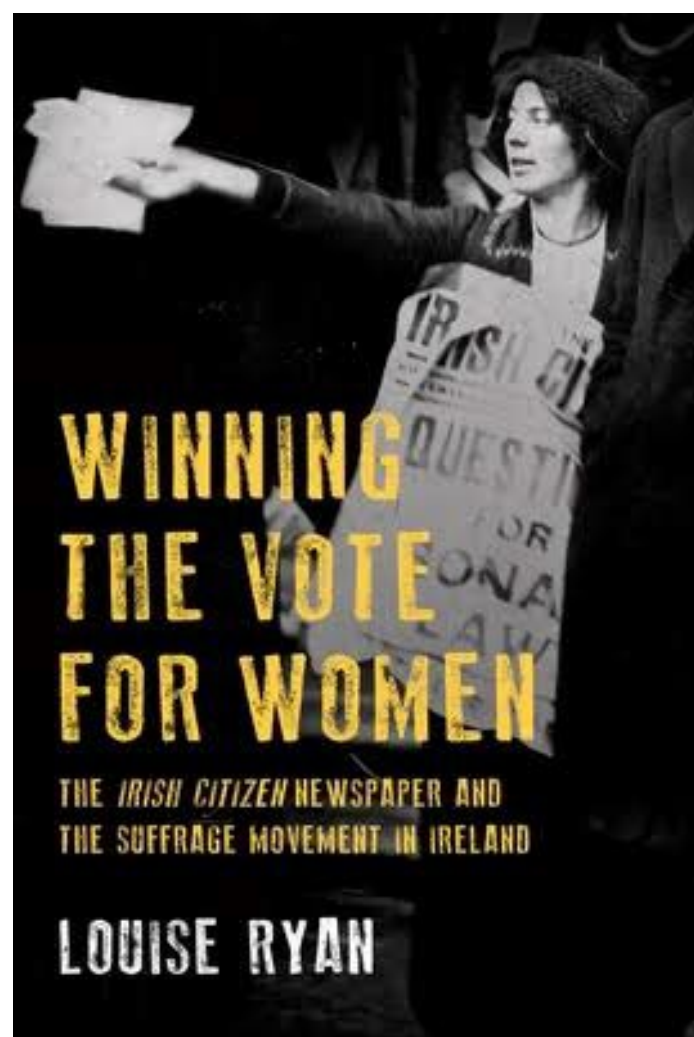
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From PhD to
successful monograph

It's all a matter of
timing.

Tapping into the
zeitgeist.

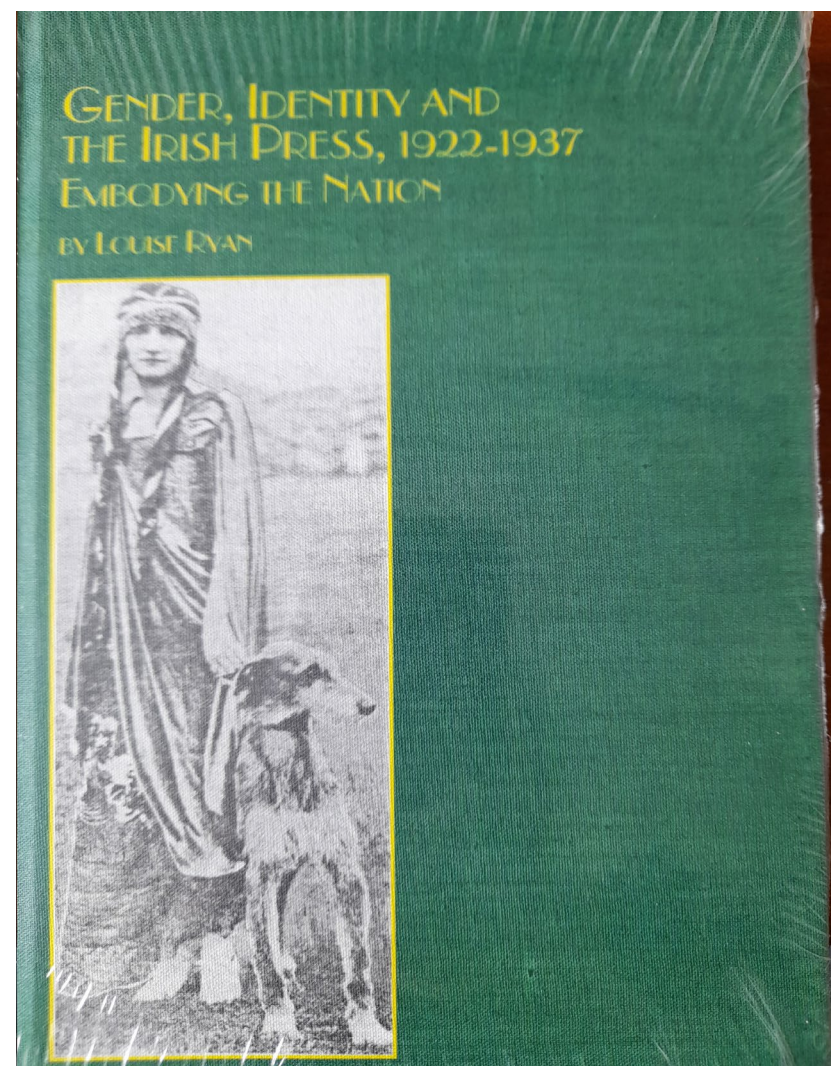
Finding the right
publisher.



Monographs

Gender Identity and the Irish Press, 1922-1937:
embodying the nation (2001).

Wrong publisher and wrong
time.



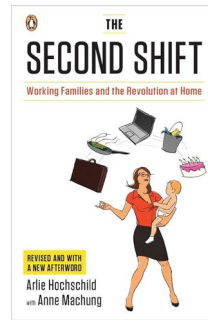
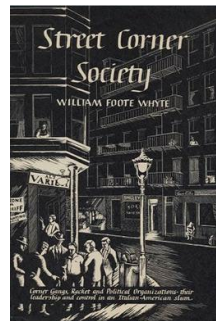
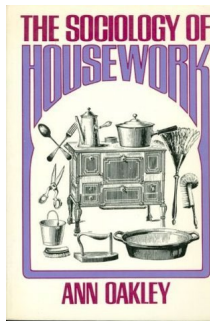
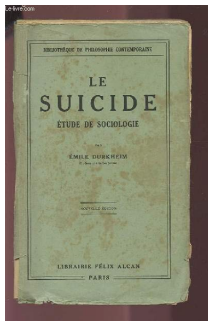
Katherine Twamley

**Professor of Sociology and
Chair of the UCL Sociology
Network**



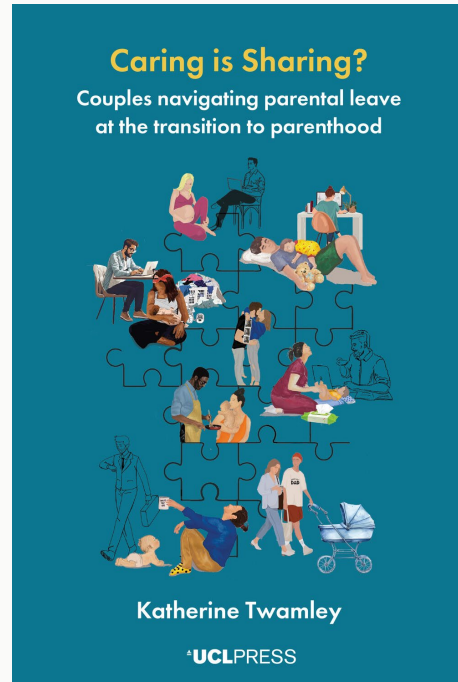
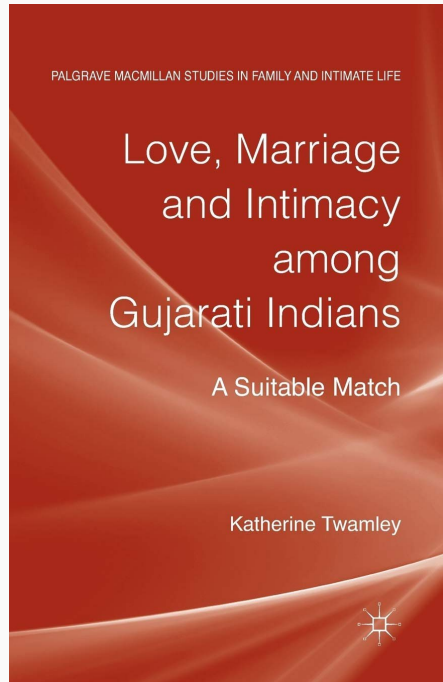
What is a monograph?

‘A printed specialist book-length study of a research-based topic, usually but not necessarily written by a single academic author from their own primary research or its equivalent’.



Peter Williams, Iain Stevenson, David Nicholas, Anthony Watkinson & Ian Rowlands, 'The role and future of the monograph in arts and humanities research', *Aslib Proceedings*, 61 (2009), 67-82, at p. 67.

Why write a monograph (and not an article or edited collection)?

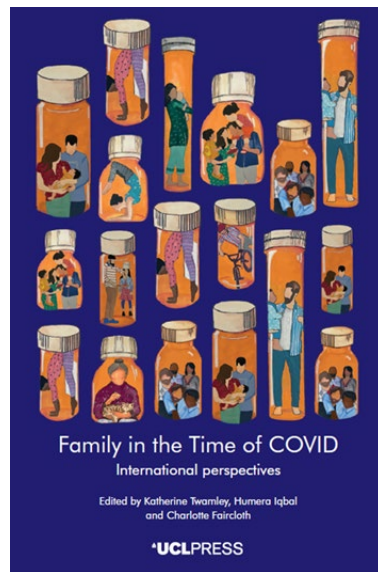
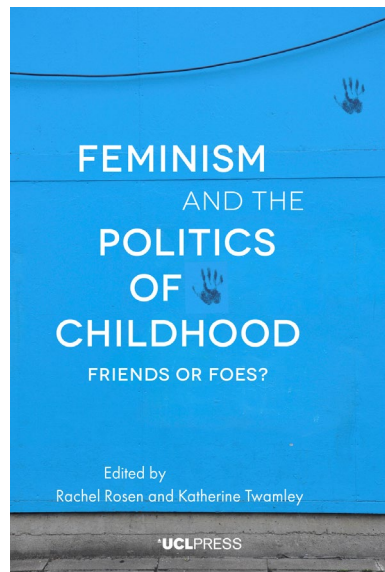
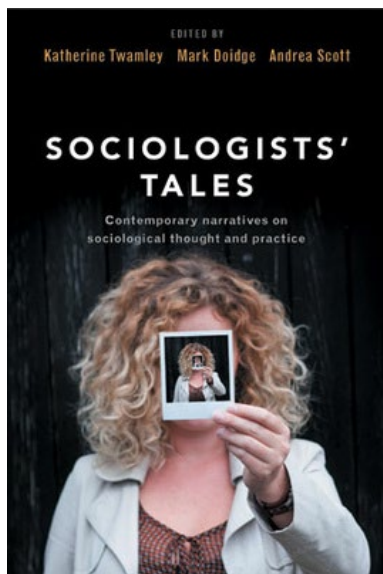


- Writing norms within your (sub)field
- Establish name in a particular area / topic
- Project suits a book
- You want to write a book
- Potentially reach different audience

Not
necessarily
an
either/or...

- **Twamley K** and Sidharth J (2019) Negotiating respectability: comparing the experiences of poor and middle class young urban women in India *Modern Asian Studies* 53(5)
- **Twamley K**, (2013) The globalisation of love?: Examining narratives of intimacy and marriage amongst middle-class Gujarati Indians in the UK and India. *Family, Relationships and Societies* 2(2), pp. 267-283
- **Twamley K** (2013) Love and desire among middle class Gujarati Indians in the UK and India. *Culture Health & Sexuality* 15(3): 327-340
- **Twamley K** (2012) Gender relations among Indian couples in the UK and India: Ideals of equality and realities of inequality. *Sociological Research Online* 17(4) 5
- **Twamley K**, Pryce A, Kielmann K, (2012) "I want love to be arranged!" Courtship and Marriage in the Context of Globalisation: Baroda, India. In Mawani S and Mukadam A, *Gujarati Communities Across the Globe*, Trentham Books

What about edited collections?



Dr Caroline Oliver

**Associate Professor of
Sociology**

**Co-Director of the Centre for
Sociology of Education &
Equity, UCL**



Crafting a proposal

1. **Outline:** Title, abstract, chapter precis, length, word count, competitor books.
2. How it is different from your PhD
3. Sample chapter?
4. Seek feedback from experienced authors



The Sociological Futures book series, now in its seventh year, aims to be a flagship for new and innovative theories and approaches to 'the social' in the 21st century. We are interested in focused proposals for monographs and edited collections featuring contemporary work that is theoretically and methodologically innovative, has local and/or global reach, and engages or reengages with classic debates in sociology bringing new perspectives to important and relevant topics. We are looking for more titles and invite proposals to be a part of the series, including proposals covering topics such as:


- race and ethnicity
- climate change
- work and employment
- pandemics and health crisis
- digital sociology
- cities/urban sociology

The series offers a means to reach a wider audience and acts as an established publishing outlet for sociologists at all career and publishing stages, from the well-established to emerging sociologists from all parts of the world. The series appeals to students, offering a selection of key texts on a focussed topic in one place as well as being attractive to scholars looking for longer form research on classic and emerging sociological themes.

The Series Editors welcome suggestions for topics and book proposals at any time. We accept proposals for monographs and edited collections of approximately 70,000-80,000 words with a focused theme. Volumes are peer reviewed at both proposal and manuscript stage and have the support of the Series Editors, the BSA and Routledge.


Series Editors

Eileen Green	Professor Emerita Teesside University, UK
Théo Leschevin	Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, France
Caroline Oliver	UCL, Institute of Education, UK
Shuang Qiu	University of Keele, UK
Louise Ryan	London Metropolitan University, UK
Katherine Twamley	UCL, Social Research Institute, UK



What makes a proposal convincing?

- You need to appeal to both publishers and academics; understand who might be reviewing the proposal and how the audience will be broader than for a PhD;
- Assessed based on appeal of topic, strength of argument, rigour of data collection and methodology; innovation/new directions, gaps.
- Need to have confidence in the material – can you bring endorsements or previous experience?



Process of approaching a publisher

- Solo or through a series?
- Do your homework on publishers
- Approach publishers at conferences
- See it as a process/conversation/dialogue
- Get involved in publishing to learn by experience

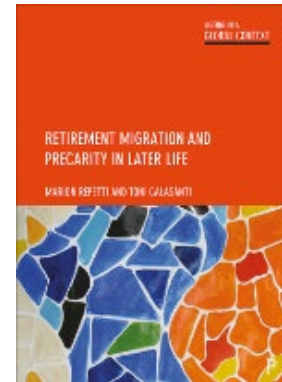
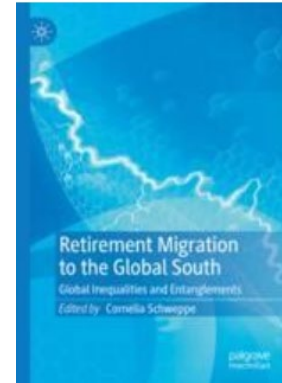
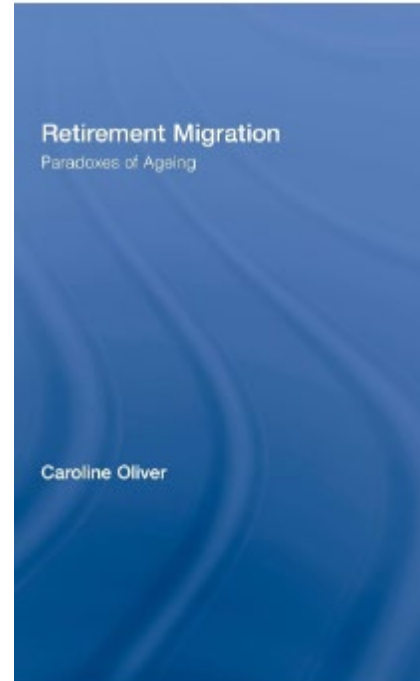


What distinguishes a thesis from a monograph?

- Audience, voice and purpose of each piece of writing is different.
- Thesis: narrow and already informed audience and demonstration of your skill and rigour.
- Book: audience may be broader, including newcomers to field, e.g. undergraduates; voice and tone different to be an engaging read.
- Ultimately also judged by goal of commercial success – it should sell!
- Don't think it's a simple repackaging – it may need a fundamental rethink!

Writing tips: Or....from 'Old Age Travellers' to 'Retirement Migration'

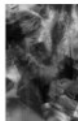
- Create a new mindset around this piece of work – see it as an opportunity to reimagine the work; enjoy the lesser (but not absent) formal expectations!
- Listen to advice and suggestions by people who know their stuff; pay attention to the contract.



What's right for you?

Sociology

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SAGE Publications Ltd®
Volume 44(1): 49–66
DOI: 10.1177/0038038509351627



A Bourdieusian Analysis of Class and Migration: Habitus and the Individualizing Process

- **Caroline Oliver**
University of Cambridge
- **Karen O'Reilly**¹
Loughborough University

ABSTRACT

This article explores the phenomenon of lifestyle migration from Britain to Spain to interrogate, empirically, the continued relevance of class in the era of individualizing modernity (Beck, 1994). Lifestyle migrants articulate an anti-materialist rhetoric and their experiences of retirement or self-employment diminish the significance of class divisions. However, as researchers who independently studied similar populations in the Eastern and Western Costa del Sol, we found these societies less 'classless' than espoused. Despite attempts to rewrite their own history and to mould a different life trajectory through geographical mobility, migrants were bound by the significance of class through both cultural process and the reproduction of (economic) position. Bourdieu's methodological approach and sociological concepts proved useful for understanding these processes. Employing his concepts throughout, we consider the (limited) possibilities for reinventing habitus, despite claims of an apparently egalitarian social field.

KEY WORDS

Bourdieu / British / class / habitus / lifestyle / migration

Introduction

The centrality of class as the basis for understanding inequalities in western capitalist societies has shifted over recent years (Savage, 2000; Skeggs, 2004). The influential works of contemporary social theorists, notably Giddens (1994) and Beck (1994), and arguably Bauman (2007; see Atkinson, 2008) on

Retirement Migration Paradoxes of Ageing

Caroline Oliver



Some useful links:

[BSA Postgraduate Forum - How to join](#)
[British Sociological Association – Become a member of the BSA](#)
[Sociological Futures - Book Series](#)
[Sociological Futures - Proposal Form](#)

[Sociologist Tales](#) – Available at Bristol University Press with a 25% discount

Links to Funding Sources suggested in the chat:

[Mildred Blaxter - Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)
[The Sociological Review Foundation Fellowship](#)
[UKRI Funding Finder](#)

Contact details:

[Alison Danforth](#) – BSA Publications Manager
[Jackie Murphy](#) – BSA Membership Officer

[James Green](#) – Postgraduate Forum Convenor
[Karen Tatham](#) - Postgraduate Forum Convenor

X/Twitter

James Green - <https://x.com/jfrederickgreen>
PG Forum - <https://x.com/BSAPGForum>

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