



**BSA Event: Publishing from your
PhD: Crafting Articles and Reviews
with Sociological Research Online**

Sociological Research Online Editors



Focus of Today

1. Welcome to the event and introduction to the BSA
2. Introductions and why we write
3. Book Reviews (20 min)
4. Sociology in Action (30 min)
5. Methodological Papers (20 min)
6. Q&A from audience (whenever, wherever, but 30 mins at end)



A reading list

Sociology in Action

Fitzgerald, D. (2023). Normal Island: COVID-19, Border Control, and Viral Nationalism in UK Public Health Discourse. *Sociological Research Online*, 28(2), 596-606. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13607804211049464>

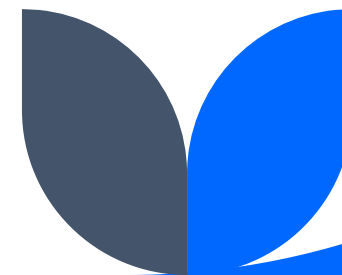
van Emmerik, C. (2024). Ethical Reflexivity, Care, and Slippery Data: Lessons From Working With the Mass Observation Project. *Sociological Research Online*, 29(3), 758-766. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13607804231164486>

Humphrey, H., & Coleman-Fountain, E. (2024). Creating Time for LGBT+ Disabled Youth: Co-production Outside Chrononormativity. *Sociological Research Online*, 29(1), 233-242. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13607804231155001>

Methods papers

Harvey, O., van Teijlingen, E., & Parrish, M. (2024). Using a Range of Communication Tools to Interview a Hard-to-Reach Population. *Sociological Research Online*, 29(1), 221-232. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13607804221142212>

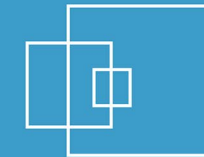
Chappell, P., Tse, M., Zhang, M., & Moore, S. (2017). Using GPS Geo-tagged Social Media Data and Geodemographics to Investigate Social Differences: A Twitter Pilot Study. *Sociological Research Online*, 22(3), 38-56. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1360780417724065> – **SAGE PRIZE WINNER 2018**



Why we write



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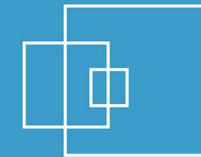
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Book Reviews



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Book reviews *SRO*

- 'Easy' first paper for a PhD student.
- Write about a book you have to (or want to) read anyway.
- Gain broader insights into your field of study.

SRO book review editors



Review Editors

Roderick Condon

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Tamanna Shah

Ohio University, USA

Edwin van Teijlingen

Bournemouth University, UK

Writing a Book Review

Edwin van Teijlingen and Katharine Venter

Summary

This chapter offers advice on how to write a high-quality, useful, and interesting review of a published book. Writing a book review is different from writing an academic paper or book chapter and needs some special considerations, which we outline in this chapter. This guidance is based on our experiences as authors of book reviews for several different academic journals as well as book-review editors for the international journal *Sociological Research Online* (published by the international academic publisher SAGE).

Introduction

The process of doing a book review has five broad steps. The first is to approach book-review editors to volunteer to review a book on a topic

Academic Writing and Publishing
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Writing a book review



Sociological Book Review: Step-by-step guide

<https://www.sociologygroup.com/book-review/>



Book reviews of between 500-700 words in length across the entire spectrum of sociological interests and concerns.

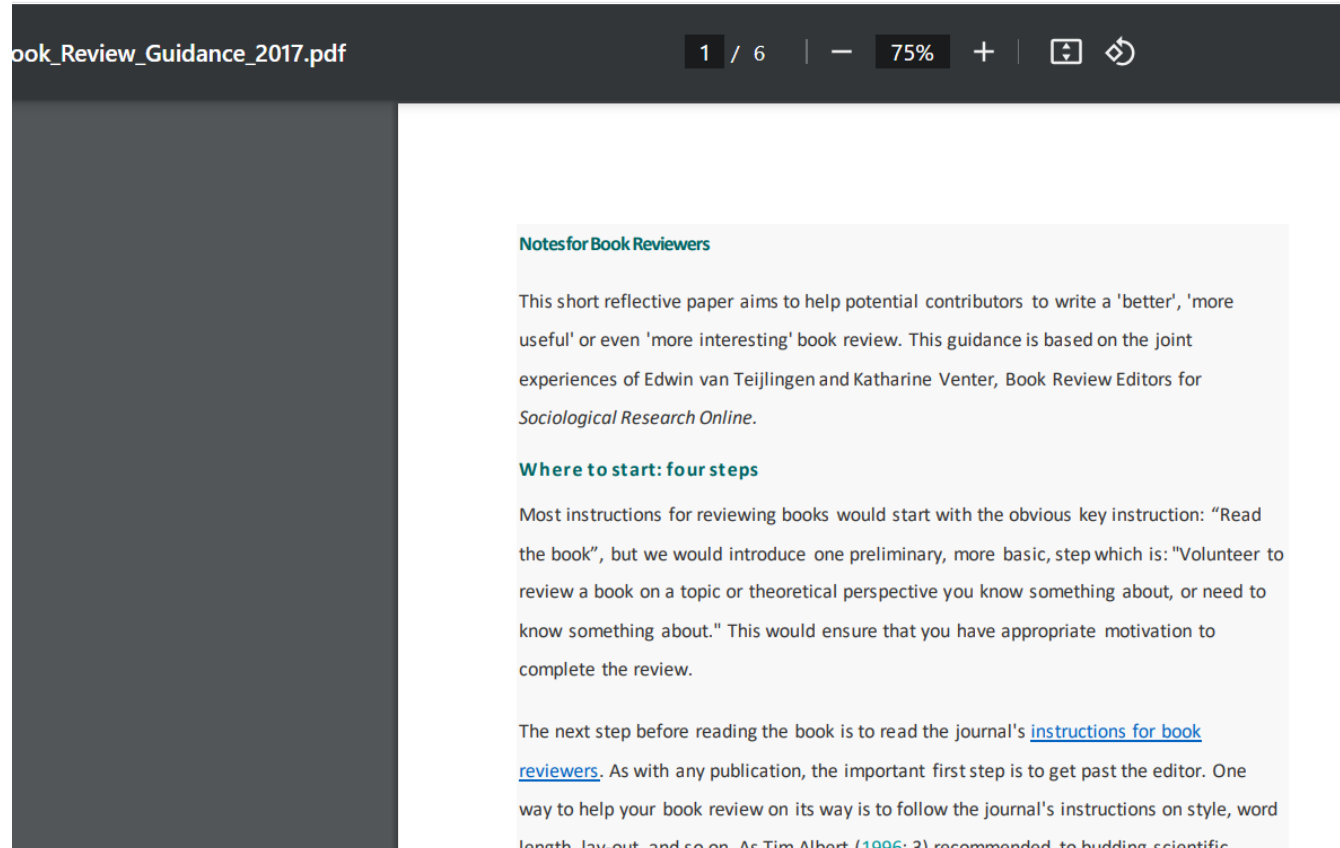
If you would like to write a book review, please first send a request to the Review Editors at sro.journal@britsoc.org.uk with the details of the book you would like to review and a brief outline of your background in the subject area. Please do not submit your book review until you have had your request approved.

Book reviews are not peer reviewed, but may still require revisions as requested by the Review Editors. The Review Editors may also make their own edits before final acceptance.

Book reviews should be written so as to provide readers with an overview of the scope of the contents as well as a critical evaluation of the same. The evaluative content of reviews should, however, be constructively expressed; overly or destructively critical reviews will not be accepted. Please see our [Book Review Guidance](#) for more information on writing your review.

SRO offers advice on writing a book review:

journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/SRO/SRO_Book_Review_Guidance_2017.pdf



https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/SRO/SRO_Book_Review_Guidance_2017.pdf

Book reviews should be prefaced with bibliographic information in the following form:

Title of Book

Author/s or Editor/s Personal then Surname/s

Place: Publisher

Year

ISBN

Price, hb or pb

pp.

Please do not send books to the BSA or Sage for review, as we are unable to send them out to editors and reviewers. Any unsolicited books received will be donated.



12 BSA news

Book review
editors:

- Give you advice and tips.
- Edit your review (light touch only as they haven't read the book you are reviewing).

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

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

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

When I started, the journal had some general advice to give to book reviewers in terms of the required reference style and word length, etc, of the review. After editing many draft book reviews, and some were cut/edited quite drastically, I wrote a piece



Professor Edwin van Teijlingen

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

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

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

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

Examples recently published book review (2025)



Restricted access

Book review

First published Feb 4, 2025

[Book Review: Roadmap For a New Modernity](#)

Emil Øversveen 




Restricted access

Book review

First published Jan 29, 2025

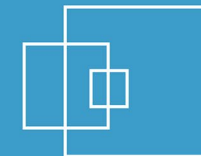
[Book Review: *The New Minority: People Without a Migration Background in the Superdiverse City*](#)

Jiancheng Gu 

Sociology in Action



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What is 'Sociology in Action'?

Sociology in Action papers are an opportunity for researchers to publish shorter, peer-reviewed pieces which present emerging evidence in embryonic or experimental research.

A space wherein...

...emergent research approaches can be presented,

...new themes are identified, and

...embryonic data can be discussed.

This area is intended to facilitate *introducing* rather than concluding research.

https://youtu.be/_TBqG5zzUWQ

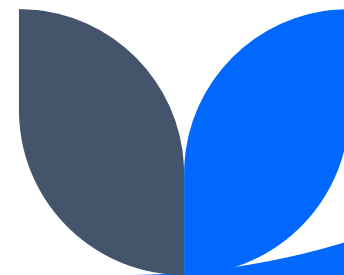


What is 'Sociology in Action'?

Pieces may address:

- New sociological agendas, questions and projects
- A commentary on existing work
- Emergent and possibly speculative data and findings
- Identify new sociological themes and debates

Above all, we would like submissions that provoke conversation, addressing one of our aims as a Journal - to foster sociological communities and engagement and stimulate debate.



What is 'Sociology in Action'

Examples of recent desk rejects
(indicating SIA is not the right place)

- Reviews of literature which do not identify anything 'new'
- Condensed full manuscripts of finished projects
- Those where the link to sociological theories, concepts, debates etc is not clear



What is 'Sociology in Action'

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Looking at these examples, can you see why these made suitable SIA pieces?

What is 'Sociology in Action'

Submissions for this area will:

- Undergo a double blind peer review process and authors will have the opportunity to engage in further dialogue post-publication
- Stimulate sociological debate and dialogue

Be suitable for CVs, satisfy funding requirements, and support promotion prospects...



As a submission format for PGRs...

Opportunity to publish a shorter, peer-reviewed piece of emerging findings, for example, during your PhD,

Credible publication,

Provides a DOI and is REF'able.



Format

Sociology in Action pieces should be between 2000 - 4000 words,

Submissions should be submitted as a Word document and include a title, abstract, main text and bibliography. The piece should present a clear argument.

Figures and tables may be included, either as separate files or as part of the Word document



Something to reflect on...

Is there anything already you feel you could develop from your PhD into a SIA submission?

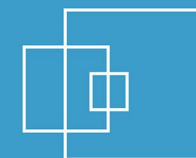
Or, is there something in the course of your PhD you think you might be able to?



Methodological Papers



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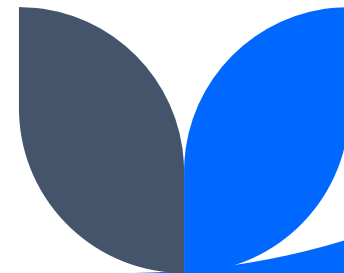
Writing up methods?

- “SRO publishes high quality applied sociology, focusing on theoretical, empirical and methodological discussions that engage with current political, cultural and intellectual topics and debates.” (Journal Aims and Scope)



Why write a methods paper?

- Sociologists are as keen to know how you did things as what you found out
- Your methods can be an important site for creativity and innovation – and exploiting new technologies
- An opportunity for reflexivity - how you positioned yourself in the field, what went well, what went wrong...



Case study paper 1. - Using a Range of Communication Tools to Interview a Hard-to-Reach Population

- “This article is intended for sociologists who wish to broaden their methods for conducting research interviews.”

Introduction

Undertaking qualitative research with hard-to-reach and often secretive populations, such as substance users, is challenging ([Shaghghi et al., 2011](#)). This article shares the authors’ experiences of using a range of interviewing tools with people who use unprescribed anabolic androgenic steroids (AAS). AAS-users are deemed hard-to-reach ([Richardson and Antonopoulos, 2019](#)). This is due to AAS use being illegal in many countries and the stigma and stereotyping experienced by users, making them likely to be secretive about their use and keen to retain a level of anonymity ([Sagoe, 2015](#); [Settanni et al., 2018](#)).



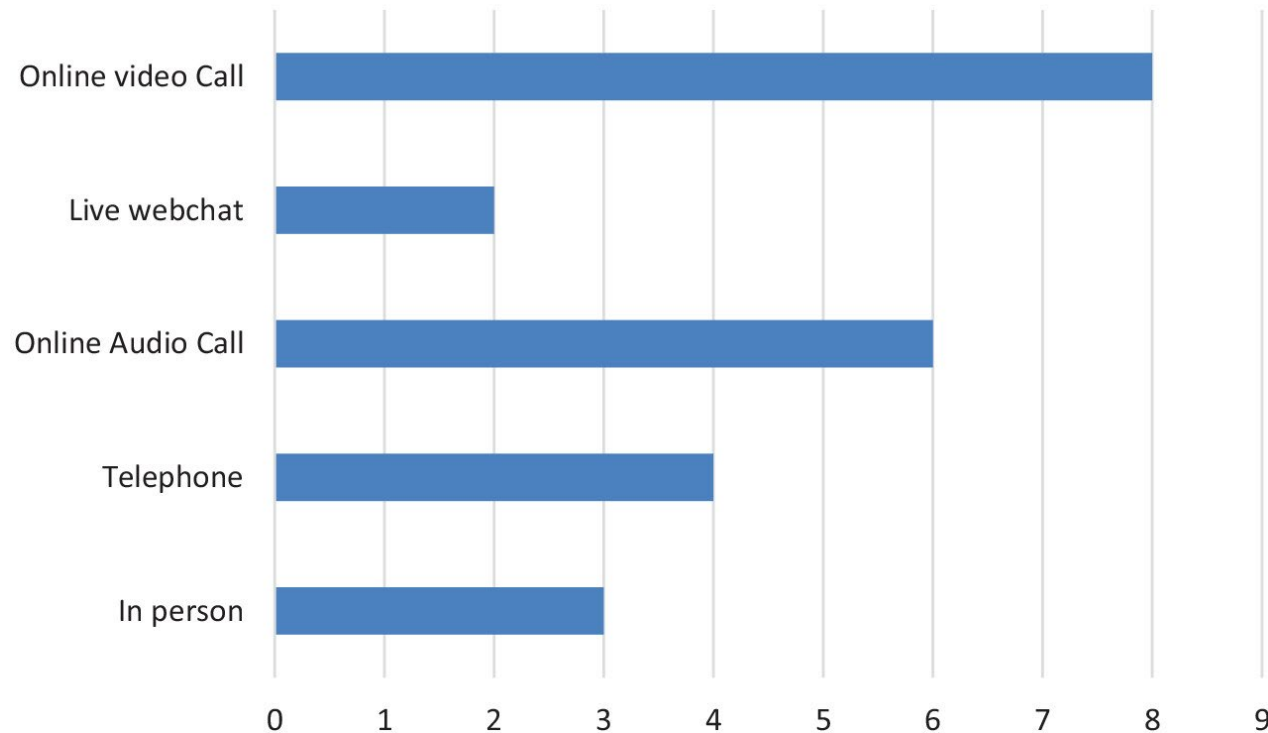


A mixed-methods approach

- Explanatory sequential design
 - questionnaire on AAS -> opportunity to consent to a follow-up interview
 - options: in-person one-to-one interview, join a focus group, via Webchat, a video or online audio call, or a telephone call
- What does people's choice of method tell us about how to access hard to reach groups
- Importance of anonymity as a factor



How did people take part?



Observations

- Accessibility of method
- Affordances – e.g. visual cues in in-person interviews
- Degrees of anonymity/discretion
- Differences in rapport

Case study paper 2 - Using GPS Geo-tagged Social Media Data and Geodemographics to Investigate Social Differences: A Twitter Pilot Study

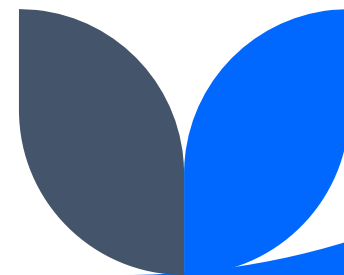
Abstract

This article outlines a new method for investigating social position through geo-tagged Twitter data, specifically through the application of the geodemographic classification system Mosaic. The method involves the identification of a given tweeter's likely location of residence from the 'geo-tag' attached to their tweet. Using this high-resolution geographic information, each individual tweet is then attributed a geodemographic classification. This article shows that the specific application of geodemographics for discerning between different types of tweeters is problematic in some ways, but that the general process of classifying tweeters according to their position in geographical space is viable and represents a powerful new method for discerning the social position of tweeters. Further research is required in this area, as there is great potential in employing the mobile global positioning system data appended to digital by-product data to explore the intersections between geographical space and social position.



Rationale

- Using naturally occurring 'by-product' data for analysing the social world
- Social media/social network data highly promising in creating the social artefacts



Addressing challenges

- “one of the problems with employing social media data to understand users’ perspectives, attitudes and/or opinions is that it is hard to gauge the demographic characteristics of tweeters, so comparisons between different groups of people are hard to make.”
- Can high-resolution spatial data, in the form of global positioning system (GPS) coordinates attached to some social media posts, be used to estimate the social position of tweeters?



Contributions

- outline the potential applicability of this particular innovative socio-spatial method for exploring social differences using GPS data.
- **outline the ‘nuts and bolts’ of our exploratory methodological process, from collecting the relevant tweets to the derivation of socio-spatial classifications, and discuss the pros and cons of our method, as well as the pros and cons of employing geodemographic groups as measures of social position.**

