

2026 Scottish Sociology study group Symposium Report to BSA.

Account balance: £305.20

Membership: 64

Convenor details: Dr Paul Gilfillan, Queen Margaret University. pgilfillan@qmu.ac.uk

Aims of the Group: To bring together sociologists researching contemporary Scotland from a sociological perspective (broadly conceived).

Future plans: To organise an event / symposium with sociologists working and researching in the Northern Irish context.

The principal event organised by the Study Group in 2025 was a one-day symposium At Abertay held on 27 June, with keynote address by Prof. David McCrone.

Publications of note in 2025 by study group members include the convenor's new article: *Sociology as science of liberation: a case-study of manual laborers*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03906701.2025.2469061>

In November 2025 Study Group member Dr Stuart Waiton (Abertay University) invited Justice for Innocent Men director Marsha Sturgeon to address criminology students about "rape shield" laws in light of the UK Supreme Court ruling that Scotland's courts have risked depriving defendants of a fair trial. In April 2026, Abertay university cleared Waiton of all 300 complaints received after Sturgeon's appearance at Abertay.

Previous co-convenor of the Study Group (Prof. Alex Law) published his new book on Sociology and the Scottish Enlightenment:
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781003044949/roots-sociology-alex-law>

His podcast interview discussing his new book can be found here:
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-roots-of-sociology>

Work to prepare for the 2026 symposium which will be held at and sponsored by Glasgow University began in earnest at the end of 2025 with the help of Dr Maureen McBride and Dr. Gareth Mulvey. Date: Friday 11 September 2026.
Venue: Roma Cultural Centre, 43 Nithsdale St., Glasgow G41 2PZ.

The keynote speaker will be the new BSA President **Professor Les Back**.
Title: **New Ethnicities, Old Racisms in Glasgow**

Paul Gilfillan,
Queen Margaret University
BSA Scottish Sociology Study Group Convenor, June 2026