



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US:

For more general information on Newcastle Sociology visit the website:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/sociology/about/>

For more information on Sociology staff, visit the website:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/subject/#sociologystaff> (go to the bottom of the page for Sociology staff and click on individual members of staff to get more information about research interests and publications)

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To find out more about doing a PhD in Sociology at Newcastle University visit the website below:

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You are welcome to visit us at any time of the year to meet staff and current postgraduates. To arrange a visit or to request further information please contact:

Postgraduate Secretary

Telephone: 0191 222 5200

Fax: 0191 222 5421

Email: gps@ncl.ac.uk

The University Postgraduate Prospectus contains information on fees, funding, University accommodation, study facilities, sports and social amenities, the students' Union, the city and surrounding area. Copies of the Prospectus are available from:

Enquiries Service: Telephone: +44 (0) 191 222 8672 Fax: +44 (0) 191 222 6139

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries/>

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/> or can be accessed online at:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>

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Photos: John Donoghue





SOCIOLOGY AT NEWCASTLE

BODIES, IDENTITIES AND EXPERIENCES • CULTURE AND MATERIAL LIFE •
DEVELOPMENT AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH • ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY •
IMAGINING PASTS AND FUTURES • SEXUALITIES AND GENDER • SOCIAL
INEQUALITIES • SOCIOLOGY OF ETHICS • SOCIOLOGY OF LAW, LIFE &
CULTURE • SOCIOLOGIES OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES





Newcastle University

Newcastle University has grown from a School of Medicine and Surgery, established in 1834, to become one of Britain's leading research-led universities, with a strong and vibrant interdisciplinary base. The Complete University Guide 2010 noted that 'all of the academic schools at Newcastle are research active and academic staff are leaders in their field,' and the Sunday Times 2008 University Guide emphasises that 'teaching excellence today spans all faculties.'

Over 16,000 students from some 110 different countries are attracted to the university's taught programmes each year, including over 4,200 postgraduate students. The University has a reputation for excellent teaching which has been recognised through success in external assessments conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Newcastle University is among the top 20 higher education institutions in the UK in terms of research power, according to the influential professional publication, Research Fortnight.

The University offers exceptional education experiences, providing students with an excellent academic and personal grounding for their career. The University has an excellent record for graduates going on to further study or research or in gaining employment.

The City of Newcastle

Voted Britain's best student city in a survey by 'AccommodationForStudents.com', Newcastle is one of the most exciting, friendly and cosmopolitan cities in the UK. Newcastle has an international airport and is 3 hours by train from London.

The university campus is located in the heart of the compact city centre. The stunning North East coastline is 30 minutes away from the campus via the efficient metro system.

Newcastle is a fairly inexpensive place for students to live compared to many other places in the UK. Newcastle boasts an excellent array of museums, art galleries and music venues and has a diverse range of restaurants, cafes, bars and clubs. Extensive shopping facilities include the city centre boutiques, designer stores and markets and Europe's largest shopping and leisure complex, the MetroCentre.





Foreword

Robert Hollands

Head of Sociology

Welcome to Newcastle Sociology. We have a strong track record of excellence in teaching, research and post-graduate study, underpinned by a diverse and vibrant community of academic staff and post-graduate researchers. Located in the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology we offer an intellectually stimulating and friendly environment for post-graduate and undergraduate study. Research-wise, 85% of our output was deemed world-leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised in the last Research Assessment Exercise, and hence our research driven teaching is cutting edge, as evidenced by consistently good results in National Student Surveys. Whether you are a prospective PhD candidate, an MA student or an undergraduate, we invite you to join us here at Newcastle Sociology and to contribute to our continuing success. We look forward to meeting you.





Esteban Castro

Sociology Research Director



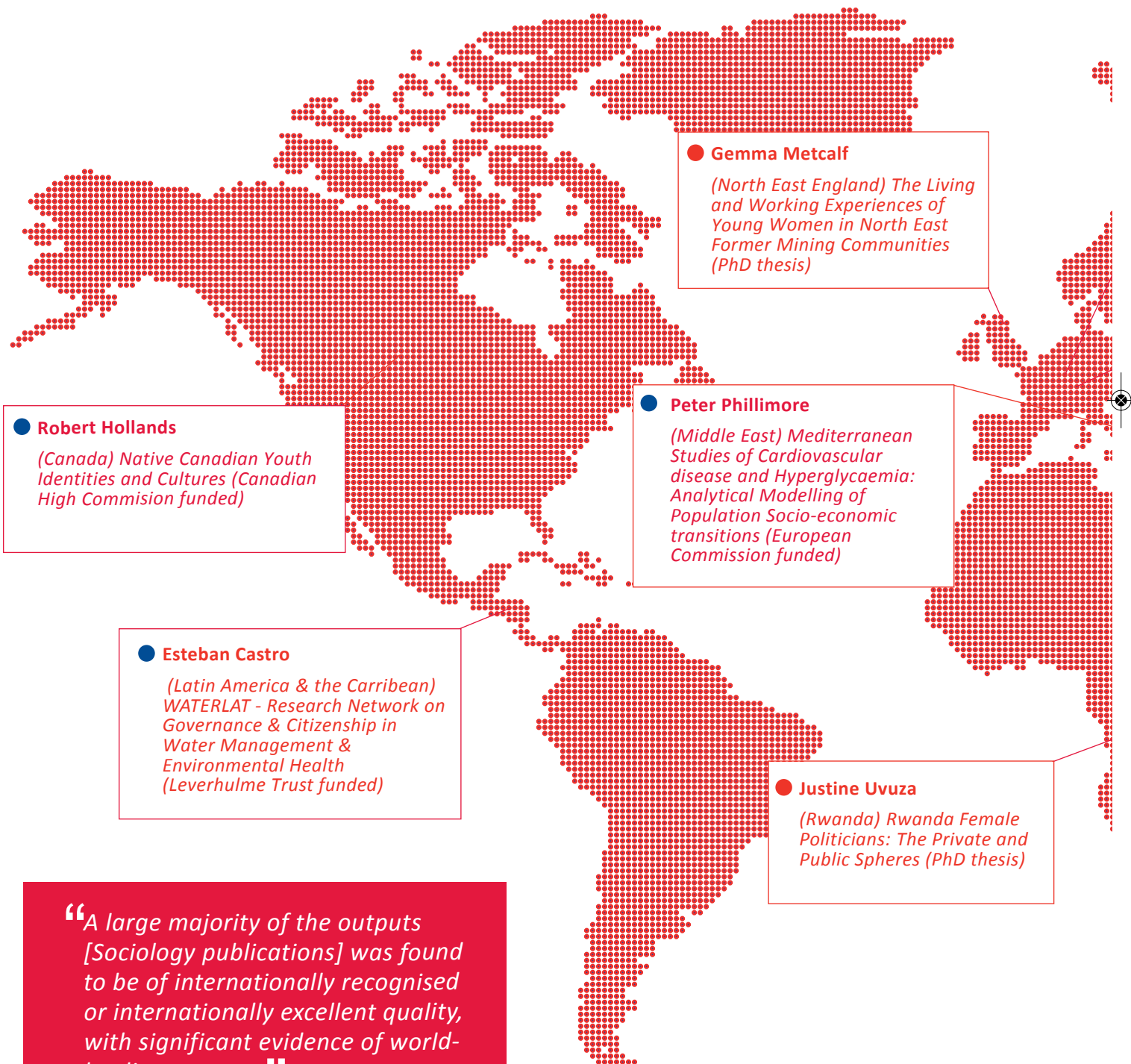
Sociology at Newcastle is a research-intensive academic environment involving over 50 members including our thriving postgraduate research community and our specialist research centre, PEALS (Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences). Research in Sociology at Newcastle is firmly grounded in the epistemological and methodological foundations of the discipline, has a very strong international profile, and an inter- and trans-disciplinary vocation. Our researchers bring together insights from the broader field of the social sciences, most particularly from anthropology, economics, and political science, and have also developed close ties with history, the humanities and the techno-sciences, especially with disciplines focused on the interface between society, health, and the environment. Sociology's researchers are also actively involved in transdisciplinary developments that transcend academic boundaries and engage with the wider public both in the production of knowledge and in the validation of knowledge results, which is especially important in policy-relevant research areas. Another important feature of research at Newcastle University's Sociology is its international character. Not only do our researchers and students come from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, but also our research interests also focus on a wide range of countries and regions, including Britain, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic and Europe more generally; North America; Iberian America, especially Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Mexico; Asia, particularly India and Nepal in the South, and Palestine in the Middle East, and Australia. We have strong academic ties with academics and institutions in these regions and countries.





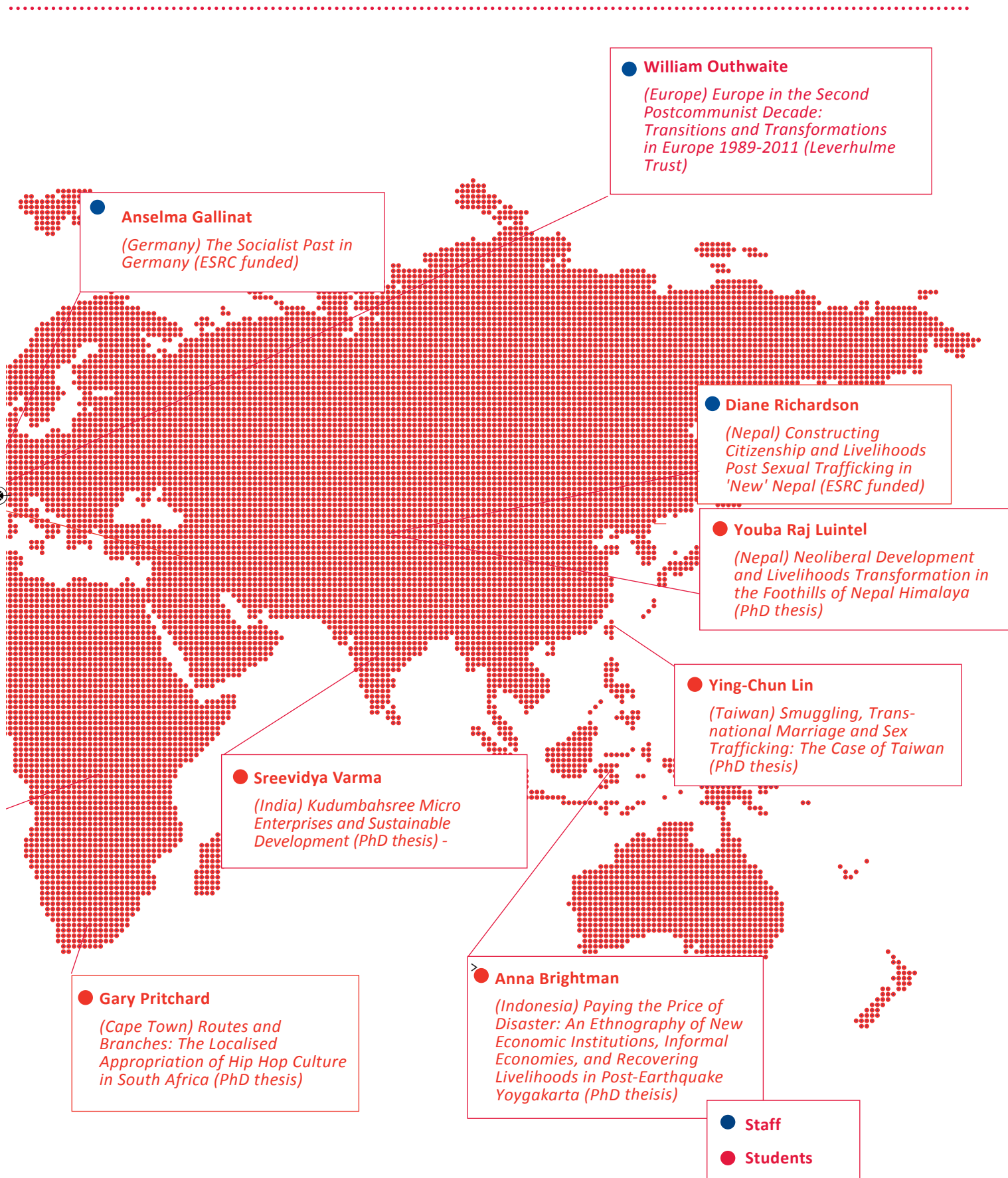
International Project Map

Showcasing the location of sociology staff and student research



“A large majority of the outputs [Sociology publications] was found to be of internationally recognised or internationally excellent quality, with significant evidence of world-leading outputs.”
(Commentary from the Sociology RAE2008 Panel)







Newcastle Sociology Research Themes

Bodies, Identities and Experiences

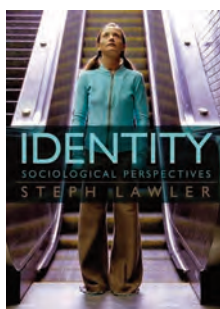
Mark Casey • Emma Clavering • Cathrine Degnen • Ruth Graham • Erica Haimes •
Stephanie Lawler • Janice McLaughlin • Mónica Moreno Figueroa • Diane Richardson
• Jackie Scully • Yvette Taylor • Simon Woods

This research theme embraces many staff interests, as an understanding of the social significance of bodies, identities and experiences -- and the relationship between each of these terms -- is a major area of activity in the discipline. Among the related topics being investigated by Newcastle sociologists are 'anomalous' embodied experience such as the ageing body, the disabled body, and disordered eating; embodiment, identity and fragmentation, for example in the provision of body tissues for research and other purposes; other work examines more broadly the interaction of the body and class, gender, race and sexuality.

Culture and Material Life

Claire Blencowe • Elaine Campbell • Mark Casey • Esteban Castro • Susan Coulson
• Robert Hollands • Robin Humphrey • Stephanie Lawler • Peter Phillimore • John Vail

This research theme is concerned with exploring the intersections of culture, economic life and social institutions and practices. We focus on cultural institutions and arenas such as urban cultures (night time economies, cultural festivals, music, film) and consumption (travel and tourism). Our work explores visual, discursive and performative cultures, as well as social processes within the cultural economy and creative sector such as cultural labour and sustainable livelihoods; the cultural politics of security, governance and surveillance; risk taking and cultural entrepreneurship; cultural bricolage and gift economies; circuits of valuation and worth in arts worlds. Researchers investigate the cultural construction and understandings of identity and self, memory and belonging, nature and risk. We consider how notions of justice, rights and citizenship are culturally mediated, challenged and produced across a diverse range of social arenas and institutions (criminal justice, sexuality, race, and public services).



“Newcastle is the best city in the UK for international students to live”





'Development' and the Global South

Esteban Castro • Mónica Moreno • Peter Phillimore

We are concerned with processes of long-term structural social change in the context of 'developing' regions, with a particular focus on Latin America, South Asia, and more recently the Middle East. Some of this work explores the legacy of imperialism, the processes of state formation in newly independent countries, the emergence of new identities as a result of ethnic and cultural interweaving, the syncretistic irruption of capitalist social relations and the resulting asymmetric incorporation of 'developing' countries into the world system, the adoption, adaptation or imposition of Western social and political ideas and practices in the Global South and local reactions against these processes. Topics under research include the development of sociological thinking in Iberian America, the impact of neoliberal reforms and the emergence of post-neoliberal alternatives, migration and the formation of transnational communities, and the deepening of structural social inequalities in a context of rapid capitalist development since the 1990s. Research on the Middle East focuses on health, and the rapid emergence of chronic medical conditions such as heart disease and diabetes in countries with health systems under-resourced for such growing demands.

Environment and Society

Esteban Castro • Lisa Garforth • Pete Phillimore • Cathrine Degnen

Among other issues, we study the changing discourses of sustainability and the cultural resources available for imagining greener futures, as well as social constructions of nature, in particular visual and narrative representations of environmental and nature ideals. Some of this work addresses the significance of the concept of the carbon footprint in relation to contemporary understandings of climate change. We also carry out research on environmental politics and the conflicts this produces, the relationship between social and environmental justice, environmental citizenship and governance, globalization and the environment, and the interrelation between environmental and social change. We have developed extensive studies on the political ecology of water, social conflicts emerging from the privatization of natural resources and essential public services, the human impact of air and water pollution and environmental degradation, and emancipatory social struggles for the defence of the environment as a common good and the substantive democratization of environmental governance. One strand of our work links public health with environmental politics, around for example the chemical industry or recent epidemics such as foot-and-mouth.





Newcastle Sociology Research Themes

Imagining Pasts and Futures

Claire Blencowe • Mark Casey • Cathrine Degnen • Anselma Gallinat • Lisa Garforth • Robert Hollands • Stephanie Lawler • William Outhwaite • Jackie Scully • Yvette Taylor • John Vail

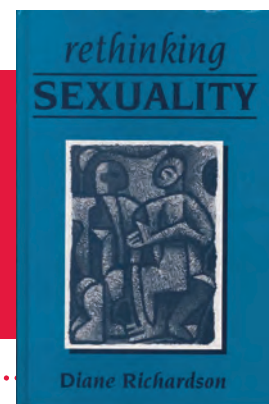
This research theme is concerned with the social imagination of pasts and futures. Memories of the past are shaped by visions of the future as well as conditions and contexts of the present, just as visions of the future are related to understandings of the past and shape actions in the present. Staff interests related to this theme include the imagination of alternatives within capitalist democracies and environmentally sustainable futures, the complex interrelations between communist pasts and post-socialist futures in Europe, the social importance of utopias. Staff are interested in social and individual memory-work, in particular its significance for identity, the ageing self and temporality, and the bio-technological modification of memory. Other research interests include ideas of progress and retrogression in relation to class, and the intersection of pasts and futures in relation to education, urban and social regeneration, nationhood, and social thought.

Sexualities and Gender

Mark Casey • Janice McLaughlin • Diane Richardson • Yvette Taylor

Within the subject area there is a strong, long standing and internationally recognised body of innovative work theorising and researching sexuality and gender, including their intersections with citizenship, tourism, religion, intimacy, parenthood, notions of risk and sexual health, sexual trafficking, institutional regimes, space and place and the politics of difference/diversity. The work is embedded in a range of empirical work, generating theoretical engagements regarding political and social notions of identity, the significance of geography, the continued relevance of class and contemporary citizenship and rights disputes and claims. By working across the different social, political, cultural and economic contexts of the UK, Ireland, the USA, Nepal, Latin America, and Australia, we push forward debates in feminisms, critical theory, queer ideas, post-colonialism, and transnationalism.

“The staff approach postgraduates with respect and are always warm and helpful”





Social Inequalities

Claire Blencowe • Mark Casey • Esteban Castro • Robert Hollands • Stephanie Lawler •
Mónica Moreno Figueroa • William Outhwaite • Geoff Payne • Diane Richardson •
Yvette Taylor • John Vail

Research on social inequalities is a crucial component of our work as sociologists at Newcastle. We are interested in understanding how social inequalities emerge, change, shift their premises, are reproduced, perpetuated and entrenched, bringing together qualitative and quantitative approaches. Our research is wide ranging, looking at both long-term macro-sociological trends and micro level analysis on inequalities of age, social class, gender, race, ethnicity, education, and their practical manifestations such as poverty, destitution, and other forms of social exclusion. We examine, among other issues, how people experience ideas of social class in their daily personal lives; how is inequality shaped across time and place; how gendered embodiments of racism are 'felt', as a starting point to address their consequences in both private and public realms; how multiple drivers of social differentiation interact to produce and reproduce structured patterns of durable inequality; how does policy shape inequalities rather than simply responding to these and how does this constructs regional, national and international relations?

Sociology of Ethics

Claire Blencowe • Anselma Gallinat • Erica Haimes • Janice McLaughlin • Jackie Scully •
Simon Woods

Several members of staff have an interest in the way that societies develop ideas about the 'right way' to live. Our interests range from a focus on the conceptual, policy and applied issues of the relationship between sociology and ethics, to the socio-ethical impact of novel technologies, differences between medical, cultural and social understandings of risk, and empirical research into the construction of moral understandings around social change, political transformations or technological innovation. This theme is particularly strong within, but not confined to, the PEALS Research Centre.

“I was inspired to study at Newcastle University because of its exceptional reputation for research”





Newcastle Sociology Research Themes

Sociology of Law, Life & Culture

Elaine Campbell • Ruth Graham • Claire Blencowe

This research theme develops a sociological imagination at the interstices of law, medicine, biopolitics and culture. It incorporates work which explores the ways in which professional practices and knowledges are conceptualised in terms of legitimacy and regulation, with a particular focus on the professions associated with reproductive health and disability/chronic illness. Another strand of our work is to investigate the dialectical relationship of law, ethics, governance and culture (art, cinema, photography, comedy, novels, for example), and central to this aspect is the critical application of poststructuralist theories and concepts which are both interrogated and advanced through research. This includes developing a theoretical analyses of cultural biopolitics. We are concerned to apply the knowledge and progressive thinking developed through our research work to the undergraduate classroom and to postgraduate/doctoral studies. This is enhanced through our collaborative research and public engagement with professionals, policy-makers and practitioners.

Sociologies of Health and Life Sciences

Mark Casey • Emma Clavering • Cathrine Degnen • Ruth Graham • Erica Haines • Steph Lawler • Janice McLaughlin • Peter Phillimore • Diane Richardson • Jackie Scully • Yvette Taylor • Simon Woods

This overarching research theme covers a very wide range of approaches to understanding the social causes, consequences and cultural experience of illness and disease, and the part played by the life sciences and medicine in the contemporary social world. Staff interests related to the theme include explorations of the social meanings of parenting and reproductive health, incapacity, and loss, sexual health including teenage pregnancy and HIV/Aids, health inequalities, anthropologies of health, illness and risk, non-professionals' understandings of science and biotechnology, and health policy relating to disability and chronic illness. This research often stems from collaboration beyond Sociology and PEALS with the Institute of Health & Society, the Institute for Ageing & Health, and the wider Faculty of Medical Sciences, and takes place in collaborations with researchers worldwide, including Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, North America, and Australia.

“...enabled me to study part-time...whilst also providing high standards of supervision ”





Cross School Research Networks

American Societies

Esteban Castro • Robert Hollands • Mónica Moreno Figueroa • John Vail • plus other university staff

Sociology has an active leadership in research activities connected with the Americas, from Canada in the North to Argentina in the South. Among other issues we have a strong presence in the Americas Research Group (www.ncl.ac.uk/niassh/americas/), an interdisciplinary network of researchers from across the university working on a diversity of topics connected with the region. We are interested in such issues as the legacy of imperialism in the Americas, the social and political causes that explain why Latin America is the most socially unequal region in the planet, the prospects of the region's recent re-democratization, or the influence of the neoliberal experience (1980s-1990s) in the continent. Also, our research explores the continued relevance of US and European policy towards Latin America in explaining the region's recent history, the main drivers and impacts of Latin American migration patterns, what are the main factors that help explaining the particular social identities characterizing the countries of the region, and the specific contributions of Latin American social and political thought to contemporary debates on global democracy, development, and social inequality.

Visual and Aesthetic Cultures

Elaine Campbell • Mónica Moreno-Figueroa • with other school staff

This theme is concerned with key sociological and political questions about justice, legitimacy, rights, citizenship, freedom and democracy as well as issues of racism, exclusion and recognition, the body and embodiment processes, beauty and femininity. We are interested in how these notions are visually and aesthetically mediated, challenged, resisted and produced. One strand of our research work involves critical explorations of how such matters as security and freedom, crime and punishment, law and order, surveillance and governance, are made meaningful in visual, emotional, aesthetic, performative and discursive ways. Another strand is concerned with issues defined and produced by, or in relation to, visibility itself and how notions of 'race' and beauty, gender exclusion and racism, are engaged with the material visible field. The interest is then in how to make use of the visible to 'understand' while acknowledging the need to denounce that same visibility as core to the production of forms of social exclusion.





PEALS - Policy Ethics and Life Sciences

Janice McLaughlin, Executive Director of PEALS

We are surrounded by many innovations in the medical sciences that affect people's lives. For example research on stem cells which holds out the promise of curing conditions such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's; increased knowledge of the genetic basis of a range of health problems; and continued improvements in reproductive technologies which both help more people have children and also select which kind of children they want. Of course these developments raise complex social and ethical problems. The Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences



(PEALS) research centre is now internationally recognised for leading the field in examining the complex questions raised by innovations in the medical/life sciences. We do so via research projects funded by research councils, the EU and charities, which produce both academic publications and materials taken up by policy makers and practitioners concerned with the regulation of such new areas of medical science as they come in to everyday use in healthcare. We are happy to supervise PhD's in the health and life sciences within PEALS and alongside our Sociology colleagues.

Emma Clavering PhD , Research Associate, PEALS

I have been at PEALS over the last 3 years, and seen it continue to grow in national & international standing during that time. On a personal note, I have found it refreshing, challenging and exciting to be part of a team of people working across areas of bioethics, public engagement, social science, and beyond. Alongside the obvious value of doing research as part of a research-dedicated centre, PEALS enjoys close links with colleagues in Sociology at Newcastle. This has meant a great deal for me as I did my PhD and gained my early research and teaching experience there - experience I now carry with me into my current areas of interest at PEALS.





PhD Programme

Sociology at Newcastle hosts a vibrant and diverse PhD community of, currently, 34 students. Our doctoral students are engaged in a wide range of sociological, anthropological and criminological research ranging from sex-trafficking to self-harm, emotion to embodiment, transnational marriage to tourism, gift-giving to gay and lesbian families. The richness and range of our doctoral scholarship is the result not only of the scope and imagination of staff expertise, but is also a reflection of the international mix and socio-cultural diversity of our PhD students. Nepal, China, India, Mexico, Oman, Rwanda, Canada and the US, for example, alongside EU and UK students, are all represented at Newcastle making it an exciting and dynamic place to study.

Within the newly formed Economic and Social Research Council created Doctoral Training Centre (in collaboration with Durham University), we provide the sole post-graduate training pathway in Sociology. We are able to award ESRC-funded studentships and we have an excellent track record in developing funded collaborative studentships with a variety of organisations and agencies. We are keen to work with prospective students to explore different ways to fund and support doctoral scholarship, through knowledge transfer partnerships or as an integral aspect of funded research, for example.

Doctoral scholars at Newcastle form an integral part of the research community and are key participants, contributors and nurturers of an innovative and lively research culture and environment. Our PhD students are involved in the organisation and development of Sociology's research clusters, and regularly lead and deliver special events and workshops, as well as seminar series, reading groups and conferences. Doctoral students are encouraged to develop a mixed portfolio of research and training skills, through contributions to our teaching programme and other disciplinary activities.

Research at Newcastle is world-leading, cutting-edge and interdisciplinary, and has a reputation for being theoretically sophisticated as well as having impact and relevance for policy and practice. In addition to working and engaging with the philosophical, theoretical and methodological work being developed and explored at Newcastle, PhD students also benefit from the connections which Sociology has built up with policy-makers, professionals and practitioners working within international, national and regional contexts. Newcastle's doctoral programme in Sociology is, then, ideal for students who are planning an academic career as well as those hoping to move into careers in the public, private and/or third sectors.

To find out more about doing a PhD in Sociology at Newcastle University visit the website:
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/sociology/postgrad/research>





Current PhD Student Profiles

Danna-Mechelle Lewis



I was inspired to study at Newcastle University because of its exceptional reputation for research and because some of the leading academic names in sociology and criminology work here. The University's reputation also gives me confidence that I will be awarded a nationally distinguished degree which will hold me in good stead as I progress through my career. The University is well organised and offers excellent research facilities. The facilities for doctoral students are very accommodating. I have an office with a personal computer as well as access to administrative facilities such as photocopying, printing and stationery. Newcastle is a friendly, safe and clean city that offers a metropolitan lifestyle. As the city grows and develops, it offers an increasingly cosmopolitan approach to living. This compact and intimate city is unique in providing a warm, sociable and friendly atmosphere unlike any other major city in the UK.

Pete Steggals

Having worked with self-harmers in prisons, I became both interested in self-harm in the community and frustrated with the lack of a social perspective in understanding this phenomenon. I decided to do the PhD so that I could be a part of a new sociological approach to self-harm and provide a fresh perspective on what is otherwise a purely psychological or psychiatric subject. I received ESRC funding for both my MA and my PhD through the 1+3 award. The staff approach postgraduates with respect and are always warm and helpful – this makes a massive difference in my day-to-day experience of the school and my life as a postgraduate researcher. The overall approach of both the school and the postgraduate programme is highly professional: the focus is on producing versatile and well-equipped social researchers who can use a variety of methods in a diverse range of contexts.





Ingrid Young

Prior to starting my PhD at Newcastle, I worked at the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, where I focused on HIV and health in developing countries. I worked specifically on research communications and bridging the gaps between research, practitioners and policy makers, and this included a research secondment exploring sexual rights and HIV in India. I chose to come to Newcastle for several reasons. I was offered an ESRC CASE studentship, which not only meant funding during the degree, but also the opportunity to work closely with non-academic partners. I am looking at sexual health in the North East, and as a result of the CASE partner organisations, I have been able to work closely with key practitioners in designing and implementing my research. What I like best about Sociology is its informal and friendly nature. It has been quite easy to establish a strong network of colleagues and friends that I can go to for information and advice. I also find the faculty and research staff that I have met generally very friendly, supportive and inclusive.





PhD Alumni Profiles

Meena Poudel

After submitting my PhD, I was recruited by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Azerbaijan, where I was advising the Azerbaijani government on policies to address the problems of human trafficking. I am currently working as a Research Associate/Fellow on an international ESRC Research Project titled: Post Trafficking Livelihood in Nepal: Women, Sexuality and Citizenship: <http://www.posttraffickingnepal.co.uk/> The project is being jointly implemented by the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology at Newcastle University, Shakti Samuha (a local NGO in Nepal) and the Nepalese IMO. This project is based on the concluding recommendations of my PhD research, and it continues my committed and long term social activism on trafficking, human rights, gender and development through sociological theories and feminist perspectives.



Ruth McGovern

Prior to commencing my research I had been working as a drug and alcohol social worker in the local authority. At the time there was disagreement as to whether a crack cocaine market existed locally,



with some suggesting that it was becoming a problem in the area. I initially set out to find out whether this market existed and if it did, what was its nature and scale. I was also very interested in the cultural and daily-living experiences of this group. I decided to develop the study through doctoral research at Newcastle University. I was aware of Newcastle University's reputation nationally, as well as the significant research experience and expertise within the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology. Newcastle University enabled me to study part-

time, offering the flexibility to also continue to work, whilst also providing high standards of supervision. Before graduating, I gained employed within Newcastle University as a researcher whilst studying for my PhD. I have been working within the team for 2 years and have recently been awarded a further 5 years funding. I am hoping to use this time to develop my research experience and publish my PhD research.





Mark Rimmer

I finished my PhD in 2006. Since then I was awarded an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship which took me to Leeds University and the University of Amsterdam. Today, I lecture in media studies at the University of East Anglia. My doctoral research was developed through an ESRC CASE Studentship in partnership with The Sage Gateshead. The subject of the CASE studentship - Songs in the key of life: the musical habitus and young people's community music participation - was a big factor in my decision to study at Newcastle. I'd been involved in a range of music making activities previously and I relished the opportunity to take a social scientific approach to the role of music in communities.





MA's in Sociology at Newcastle

Sociology at Newcastle University offers an exciting range of Masters programmes for applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds: MA Sociology and Social Research, MA Applied Policy Research and MA Sociology. The first two of these, the MA Sociology and Social Research and MA Applied Policy Research, provide specialist research training and are recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as offering the requisite skill training for preparation for a PhD. If you prefer a non-research training Master's programme, then the MA in Sociology is designed to equip students from a range of academic and professional backgrounds with an awareness and understanding of the theoretical traditions and concepts that shape sociology.

We are proud of our interdisciplinary research tradition. Our members of staff have expertise in sociology, social policy, political science, criminology, anthropology, and women's & gender studies. Joining our postgraduate community offers you the opportunity to develop your interests across these areas.

All our MA teaching is research-led. This means that all our members of staff are research active, publishing regularly in high-esteem journals and writing monographs, and that in turn, they teach in their areas of expertise. This ensures that you are studying with experts in the field and using cutting-edge materials and concepts. Furthermore, the quality of this teaching is exemplary: our current External Examiner has commended us for our "excellent programmes which employ a range of teaching methods to impart both practical and intellectual skills and critical thinking...I particularly wish to note the enthusiasm staff demonstrate for their subject and teaching".

Our teaching provision for the modules you would take here is based on small group seminars that emphasises student participation and discussion. You will also be researching and writing a dissertation, and this is done with the support of a personal dissertation supervisor here in Sociology. The dissertation supervisor also serves as personal tutor throughout your time at Newcastle University, and is your first port of call for support and advice on the degree programme. This ensures both continuity to your studies as well as fostering integration into the department.

For more information about our post-graduate taught programmes visit the web-link:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/sociology/postgrad/taught/>





MA Testimonials

Kitty Nichols

My postgraduate experience at Newcastle has been brilliant! The efficient and well organised department in which all staff are friendly, knowledgeable and approachable really allowed me to settle in well and to feel valued as part of the wider GPS team.

The modules covered on a range of stimulating topics and delivered enthusiastically and passionately by staff who are leaders in their fields, have been thoroughly enjoyable. The course has allowed me to develop my critical thinking, further previous knowledge and provide me with confidence and skills which I feel will be beneficial in any working environment and useful a long time after graduation!!

Steve Crossley

I work full time in the public sector and the flexibility to study for an MA part-time appealed to me - and also to my employers. I chose the MA in Sociology and Social Research and I thoroughly enjoyed the 2 years that I spent studying. The content was varied with modules covering such diverse topics as the cultural economies of cities, the development of the self, the intersectionality of inequalities and sociology's relationship with the environment. The module leaders were all excellent - knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects, but also keen to hear student's perspectives. This was all backed up by faculty modules giving a good grounding in a range of research methods which supported the preparation and submission of the course dissertation.

Since I started the course, I have secured two different jobs within the public sector and I believe that the skills I developed, allied to the knowledge I gained, have played a large part in helping me to do this. I have also continued, in my own time, to read about many of the topics that I was introduced to during the course. I would thoroughly recommend studying at the Sociology dept in Newcastle Uni.





Undergraduate Degrees in Newcastle Sociology

We teach two degrees within the Sociology subject area: BA Honours Sociology (L300) and BA Honours Politics and Sociology (LL32). There are approximately 250 undergraduate students studying across the two degrees over the three years of study.

We work hard to make sure that our undergraduate teaching is lively, relevant, and well-organized. It is also based on the latest cutting-edge research. All teaching staff are active researchers and teach optional modules based on their own specialisms, so students are taught by experts in the field. As well as the compulsory modules which make up the core of our degrees, we offer a range of optional modules and are one of a small number of schools in the country to offer modules in Social Anthropology as part of our Sociology undergraduate degree.

Our staff are committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of our undergraduate provision. In a recent review of our teaching we were commended for our student-friendly approach. Our assessment and feedback, and personal development and planning, were considered to be 'exemplary' and we consistently receive good feedback from the National Student Surveys. We have an active Staff-student Committee, run by students themselves, but more generally, our undergraduate students have good access to staff members through the personal tutoring system and through dissertation supervision, as well as through lectures and seminars.

Details of the structure of our undergraduate degrees can be found at:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/sociology/undergrad/>





Our undergraduate students say....

'It's hard to express just how much I enjoy studying Sociology at Newcastle. If you're interested in understanding what is happening all around you, you'd be hard pressed to find a subject more likely to challenge your assumptions and give you the tools to work it out. The Lecturers and Teaching Assistants at Newcastle have encouraged and supported me to achieve the best that I can, providing not only guidance on what to study, but also how to get the most from it; their feedback has been invaluable. My experience so far has been fantastic and I highly recommend both the subject and the University' (Jacqui Close, stage 3 Sociology student).



'I continue to thoroughly enjoy studying Sociology at Newcastle University and have found the diverse range of modules to be thought-provoking and motivating. The lecturers are all very enthusiastic about the subjects they teach which comes across in lectures therefore increasing one's own engagement; they also have open office hours which are useful for discussing any academic problems or feedback from assignments. Seminars are particularly valuable as they encourage the exchange of different viewpoints thus revealing new ideas and aiding better understanding of varying theories. The format of the course has developed my critical thinking, writing skills, and self-management - all of which are important when considering future employment. The personal tutor system is also useful as it allows students to discuss future prospects as well as current academic progress' (Fay Oldroyd, stage 3 Sociology student).

'The sociology department is a warm and friendly place to be a student. On many occasions, staff have gone out of their way to help out myself and fellow students. This, combined with a high-level of teaching and knowledge, makes the subject area a great place to study. The facilities provided through various computer clusters, some of which operate 24hrs a day, the library and remote access mean that working, whether at home or uni, night or day, is fully supported' (Ben Donnison Layton, recent graduate BA (Hons) Sociology).





Staff Research Interests

Claire Blencowe (Teaching Fellow): social and political theory (esp. post-structuralism); biopolitics; vitalism; culture and power; immanent authority; history of political thought and values

Elaine Campbell (Reader in Criminology): cultural criminology; the cultural politics of criminal justice, governance and human rights; the sociology of visual cultures; critical visualities and visual methodologies

Mark Casey (Lecturer in Sociology): sexuality - lesbian and gay urban and rural lives, gay male travel; gender; space, place and identities; tourism and travel; low cost air travel in the EU

José Esteban Castro (Professor of Sociology): historical and comparative sociology; development and developing countries (emphasis on Latin America); environmental sociology and political ecology

Susan Coulson (Teaching Fellow): sociology of work; cultural and creative industries; cultural policy; gender, work and households

Cathrine Degnen (Lecturer in Social Anthropology): medical anthropology; ageing, self and subjectivity; anthropology of Britain; place and social memory; nature-culture

Anselma Gallinat (Lecturer in Sociology): anthropology of post-socialism; ethnography; memory, history and morality; nation-building and belonging; narrative and rhetoric; eastern Germany

Lisa Garforth (Lecturer in Sociology): utopia, culture and society; sociology of environment; sustainable futures; gender, science and knowledge

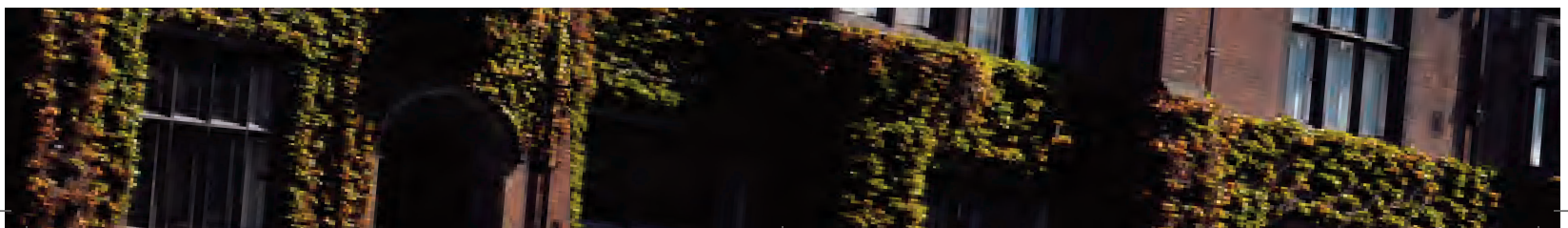
Ruth Graham (Lecturer in Sociology): medical sociology; reproductive loss; sociologies of disability and chronic illness; qualitative methodologies; socio-legal studies

Erica Haines (Professor of Sociology): families, kinships, identities, medicines and states; the relationship between Sociology and Ethics; socio-ethical issues in provision of human tissue to science and medicine

Robert Hollands (Professor of Sociology): sociology of cities; creative and cultural economies; alternative urban cultures and transformative arts; youth studies

Robin Humphrey (Director of Postgraduate Research Training): biographical methods; writing across boundaries: explorations in research, writing and rhetoric in qualitative research; student experiences of higher education

Stephanie Lawler (Reader in Sociology): social relations of class and of gender; the social dimensions of taste and aesthetics; the sociology of identity; emotions; mothering and non-mothering





Janice McLaughlin (Reader of Sociology and Executive Director of PEALS): childhood disability; social implications of genetics; feminist social theory; sociology of family

Monica Moreno Figueroa (Lecturer in Sociology): mestizaje (mixed-race discourses in Latin America), 'race' and practices of racism; embodiment, beauty, and feminist theory; visual culture and the sociology of emotions; Mexico and Latin America

William Outhwaite (Professor of Sociology): social theory (esp. critical theory); philosophy of social science; history of social thought; contemporary Europe

Geoff Payne (Professor of Sociology): social research methods; social mobility; communities; class; gender; ethnicity; poverty

Peter Phillimore (Professor of Social Anthropology): environmental anthropology and risk politics; anthropology of chronic illness; inequalities in health; South Asia

Jackie Scully (Reader in Social and Bioethics and Director of Research, PEALS): moral understandings in bioethics; ethics and identity; embodiment, especially disability; feminist bioethics; empirical methodologies in bioethics

Yvette Taylor (Senior Lecturer in Sociology): citizenship; class inequalities and identities; education; families and intimacy; gender and sexuality; place and space

Diane Richardson (Professor of Sociology): sociology of sexuality and gender; sexual politics and citizenship; intersections between feminist and queer theory; sexual trafficking

John Vail (Lecturer in Sociology): egalitarian political economy, transformative arts and alternative cultural economy, market society and commodification, projects for social justice

Simon Woods (Senior Lecturer Director of Teaching & Learning, PEALS): interdisciplinary research on social, ethical, and legal aspects of the life sciences; research ethics and governance; social philosophy and bioethics; palliative care and end of life issues

