

# A Guide to HSPS Sociology Part IIB Papers 2020-2021

**Sociology Options presentation: Wednesday 6 May, 12.00 noon,  
online**

Information on current Sociology papers can be found on the Sociology website:

<https://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/current-students/current-undergraduates/part-iib>

**DEADLINE for registering your choices: 22 May 2020**

If you have any queries, contact [paperchoices@hsps.cam.ac.uk](mailto:paperchoices@hsps.cam.ac.uk)

## Part IIB 2020-2021: Paper Titles Available

### Sociology

Soc 5	Statistics and Methods
Soc 6	Advanced Social Theory
Soc 7	Media, Culture and Society
Soc 8	War and Revolution
Soc 9	Global Capitalism
Soc 10	Gender
Soc 11	Racism, Race and Ethnicity
Soc 12	Empire, Colonialism, imperialism
Soc 13	Health, Medicine and Society
Soc 15/Crim 4	Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System
Crim 5	Social Order, Violence and Organised Forms of Criminality <i>(only available to Joint Soc/Crim track)</i>

**Dissertation** 6,000-10,000 words on a topic chosen by the student.

### Other HSPS and affiliated subjects:

#### Social Anthropology papers:

SAN5 Ethical Life & the Anthropology of the Subject  
SAN6 Power, Economy & Social Transformation

#### Part II Options:

Paper SAN4 <i>(available to Joint Soc/San track)</i>	The Anthropology of an Ethnographic Area: a)Africa e)Pacific f)Inner Asia g)Europe
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Paper SAN8 Development, Poverty and Social Justice

Paper SAN9 Science and Environment

Paper SAN13 Gender, Kinship and Care

#### Politics and International Studies papers:

POL6	Statistics and Methods in Politics and International Studies
POL9	Conceptual issues and texts in politics and international relations
POL10	The History of Political Thought from 1700-1890
POL11	Political Philosophy and the History of Political Thought since 1890
POL12	Politics and Religion
<b>POL13</b>	<b>British and European Politics</b> <i>(available to Single Sociology track)</i>
POL14	US Foreign Policy
POL15	The politics of Africa
POL16	Conflict and Peacebuilding

- POL17**      **Politics of the International Economy** (*available to Single Sociology track*)
- POL18      Politics of Gender
- POL19      Themes and Issues in Politics and International Relations
- POL20      The politics of the future, 1880-2080
- POL 21      China in the international order

**Psychology papers:**

- PBS 6    Developmental Psychopathology
- PBS 7    Social Psychology
- PBS 8    The Family

**Biological Anthropology papers:**

- B2      Human Ecology and Behaviour
- B3      Human Evolution
- B4      Comparative Human Biology

## Paper combinations

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB SOCIOLOGY stream

- (i) one paper chosen from SOC5–13;
- (ii) two further papers chosen from SOC5–15, one of which may be substituted by a **dissertation** on a subject approved by the Head of the Department of Sociology;
- (iii) one paper chosen from POL13, POL17, SAN8-13, or B2-4 of the Archaeology Tripos, Papers PBS 6–8 of the Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Tripos or a further paper chosen from SOC5–15.

(Note: Papers B2-4 can be taken only if they were not taken in Part IIA ;  
Papers POL13, POL17 can only be taken if POL3 or POL4 was taken at Part IIA;  
SOC 5 CANNOT BE TAKEN IF IT WAS TAKEN IN PART IIA)

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB SOC/SOC ANTH joint stream

- (i) two papers chosen from SOC5–15;
- (ii) one paper chosen from SAN5 or SAN6, **AND** one paper chosen from SAN4–SAN13;
- (iii) a candidate may substitute for one paper a **dissertation** within the field of sociology or social anthropology.

(Note: Candidates can only choose any individual paper from the range of papers that they did not take in Part IIA; SOC6 can only be taken if SOC2 was taken in ptIIA)

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB POL/SOC joint stream

- (i) two papers chosen from POL6, POL10–21;
- (ii) two papers chosen from SOC5–15;
- (iii) a candidate may substitute for one paper a **dissertation** within the field of Politics or Sociology.
- (iv) A candidate may not offer more than one of POL19 or POL20 or a dissertation.

(Note: Paper SOC5 cannot be taken if a candidate is also taking POL6)

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB SOC/CRIM joint stream

- (i) two papers chosen from SOC6-SOC13
- (ii) papers CRIM4 and CRIM5;
- (iii) a candidate may substitute for one paper a **dissertation** on a subject within the field of Criminology or Sociology

**Important:** Students will have chosen a stream in their second year. They are **not permitted to switch tracks between Part IIA and Part IIB** unless they switch from a Joint to a Single track (for example Soc/Soc Anth part IIA to Sociology part IIB)

## Sociology Paper Descriptions

**(Note: All these papers will be assessed by a 3 hour-examination only)**

### *Soc 5: Statistics and Methods*

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Education Tripos.*

In this course students will learn about a range of quantitative and qualitative methods and how they may be applied to explore issues in social science. Students will have the opportunity to apply new skills and knowledge in lab sessions, exploring real-life data. A wide range of statistical methods for data analysis will be covered, from simple descriptive statistics through to multivariate regression, logistic models and factor analysis. The course will also cover survey design, sampling methods, techniques in interviewing, and the principles of ethnography. At the end of the course students will:

1. Be aware of the different approaches to carrying out empirical research and the epistemological backgrounds that inform the approaches
2. Be able to read and understand empirical research published in books and journal articles
3. Know how to perform basic statistical analysis using STATA software, and to interpret findings correctly
4. Have a solid foundation in basic methods and statistics, which will enable progression to more advanced courses, if desired

The focus of this course will be on research methods as practical tools to address real-life questions relevant to sociologists and social science. No prior expertise in mathematics or statistics is necessary. The skills and knowledge gained from studying on this course will be of benefit to students embarking on a substantial research project such as a dissertation, as well as useful for those interested in a career involving the use and interpretation of data.

### *Soc6: A subject in sociology I*

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim, Pol/Soc tracks*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2020-21, it will be **Advanced Social Theory**. This course offers students the opportunity to pursue their interests in contemporary social theory at an advanced level. The aim of the course is to encourage students to use social theory in order to think creatively, constructively and critically about the ways in which the social and political world is changing today. The course takes for granted an intermediate level of knowledge of classical and contemporary social theory; students are expected

to develop and extend their knowledge of key thinkers by reading their work in greater depth during this course. However, the course itself is organized around problems and issues, not around thinkers and texts. The emphasis is on encouraging students to practise social theory by thinking theoretically about particular problems and issues. The course seeks to bring social theory alive by getting students to draw on the resources of social theory in order to understand the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how it is changing.

### ***Soc7: A subject in sociology II***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks.*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2020-21, it will be **Media, Culture and Society**. This paper focuses on the sociological study of media and of cultural and symbolic forms, ranging from youth subcultures to media power and communications media, including television, the press and the internet. The precise topics and scope of the paper vary each year, but may include the political economy of media and culture; the study of media and cultural institutions; online privacy and surveillance; journalism and news; audience studies and the role of ethnography, identity and representation in relation to culture and media; theories of the public sphere and of cultural citizenship; the changing nature of political communications; theory and analysis of digital media and the internet and their implications for social and political life.

### ***Soc8: A subject in sociology III***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks, and to students of the Education Tripos*

In 2020-21, it will be **War and Revolution**. War and revolution are two of the most extreme forms of social interaction. Violence and wholesale disruption test the bonds of social life to the limit. What drives people down that path? And how do they conduct themselves in these extraordinary circumstances? The paper explores these questions theoretically, then examines two extended historical cases: The United States of America from the revolutionary and civil wars to the two world wars, the Cold War, and war on terror; and Iran from the rise and fall of the Pahlavi monarchy to the dilemmas of the revolutionary republic and its military activities in Iraq and Syria.

Please note that the two-hour lectures will be divided into five in Michaelmas, four in Lent, and a revision in Easter (total of 20 hours).

### ***Soc9: A subject in sociology IV***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Economics Tripos.*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2020-21, it will be **Global Capitalism**. These lectures seek to develop an understanding both of capitalism in general - its fundamental structure and functioning - and of its national varieties. Last, the global extension of capitalism receives consideration. The course of lectures covers three main areas. The first examines general theories of the structure of capitalism in both the classical and modern literature; its historical development and fundamental institutions, such as the firm, the market etc. Second, some of the major capitalist economies are examined in detail, particularly the USA and Japan. Third, two important related issues in the development and change of capitalist economies are examined: the question of globalization and 'varieties of capitalism'; and the transition to capitalism in post-communist societies.

***Soc10: A subject in sociology V***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Education Tripos*

In 2020-21, it will be **Gender**. This 20-week Part Two paper introduces key theorists, concepts and developments in the sociology of gender and contemporary feminist theory.

Lectures outline the feminist analysis of sex, gender, the sexual division of labour, intersectionality, and the gendered economies of production and reproduction. The paper includes lectures on masculinities, new reproductive technologies, affect and embodiment, international feminism, black feminist thought, and trans/queer theory. The paper is offered in a lecture/seminar format and a key text (or texts) are required reading which students are expected to prepare in advance.

***Soc11: A subject in sociology VI***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the PBS Tripos.*

In 2020-21, it will be **Racism, Race and Ethnicity**.

This course explores the emergence of modern notions of race and ethnicity, contemporary forms of racism, processes of racialisation, and the social and political forces that have shaped them. Key questions will include: How are racial ideas conceptualized and justified through a variety of biological, social and cultural discourses? How did race and ethnicity come to be defined and embedded in the context of colonial and post-colonial rule? What are the, often complex, relations between ideas of race, the production of difference and identity, and the pervasiveness of social exclusion? Why does race remain such a powerful determinant of individual and collective identities? What is the specificity of ethnicity in contemporary society? Why and how does race and ethnicity matter?

***Soc12: A subject in sociology VII***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Economics Tripos.*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2020-21, it will be **Empire, Colonialism, Imperialism**.

This paper is especially concerned with three topics. Firstly, the paper encourages us to think about the processes of empire, colonialism and imperialism from a sociological viewpoint. In doing so, we will consider Marxist and the modernity/coloniality approaches to the world system. Secondly, the paper seeks to investigate how empire, colonialism, and imperialism structure knowledge production – both in the past and the present. In doing so, we will consider debates over the ‘decolonial option’ in sociology and the social sciences, considering how we can work against the ‘imperial episteme’. Lastly, this paper outlines so-called ‘hidden figures’ of sociology, highlighting the critical sociological work and traditions being done at the borders of the modern, colonial world system.

This paper will be examined by a substantive piece of coursework, and a two-question exam. The coursework will involve a 5,000 word written essay; possible titles for the coursework will be provided by the course organiser and uploaded to Moodle. The exam will be three-hours long, and you will be asked to choose one question from Section A and one from Section B.

### ***Soc13: A subject in sociology VIII***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth, Soc/Crim and Pol/Soc tracks; and to Students in the BBS Tripos*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2020-21, it will be a paper on **Health, Medicine and Society**. This paper provides students with a critical survey of principal themes and debates in contemporary medical sociology. It explores the major social causes of health and illness in modern societies with special reference to such factors as social class, gender, ethnicity, and age; provides students with a sociological grasp of the issues and problems associated with chronic illness; investigates a variety of key topics in the sociology of mental health; and, finally, develops a sociological analysis of the major organizational, professional, and technological components of medical institutions and medical practice in contemporary society. The paper also explores new methods of health care delivery with an eye to understanding their roles in either fostering or minimising social inequalities pertaining to health and illness. In addition to these substantive topics, the paper also examines cutting edge theoretical approaches to the study of health and illness in society, including: social constructionism, feminist theory, the sociology of the body, the sociology of science, and phenomenology. In short, the paper explores a wide range of both substantive and theoretical issues pertaining to the nature and distribution of health and illness in modern societies.

***Soc15: Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System (Paper 34 of the Law Tripos)***  
*Also serves as Crim4 in the Joint Soc/Crim Track*

The Paper aims to give students an informed and critical understanding of key issues in Law, Criminal Justice and Penal Policy in England and Wales (with



reference to other countries where relevant). It does so in five ways. Firstly, by helping student to read the evidence for patterns of crime and for pathways into and out of offending in the context of i) fads, fashions and political ideas in criminal justice, ii) our knowledge of individual, family and situational risk factors, and iii) offender rehabilitation and desistance from crime. Secondly, by looking at the principles of punishment and at empirical evidence for the effectiveness of different crime reduction strategies. Thirdly, by considering the legal framework of sentencing and the theoretical and practical dilemmas facing judges and magistrates. Fourthly by examining some of the challenges faced by the criminal justice and penal system in dealing with specific groups of offenders such as adolescents, women, and those who are regarded as 'dangerous'. Finally, there is consideration of community penalties, prisons and parole, and broader questions of gender, equality and fairness in contemporary criminal justice.

***Crim5: Social Networks and Crime: Social Order, Violence and Organised Forms of Criminality***

***(Only offered to students in the Joint Soc/Crim Track)***

This course offers an analytical exploration of social order, violence and organised forms of criminality. Particular emphasis will be placed on the mechanisms underpinning such phenomena. The course adopts a comparative approach to tease out similarities – and differences – between phenomena observed in different locales across the world and/or at different points in time. The course begins in Michaelmas Term by looking at violence in a series of seminars devoted to the study of long-term trends in violence, global patterns of violence in contemporary societies, the relationship between social inequality and violence, and violence as an economic activity. The course then discusses issues related to order and governance supplied, respectively, by States and illegal actors (e.g., organised crime groups).

In Lent Term, the course focuses on specific forms of organised crime: drugs production and trafficking; human trafficking; migrant smuggling; cybercrime; gangs and Mafias.

The course is multidisciplinary and draws on concepts from sociology, law, criminology, history, industrial economics, political economy and political theory.

***Sociology Dissertation***

Students may offer a dissertation of between 6,000 and 10,000 words in place of a paper; they choose a topic and approach a supervisor of their choice. For many students the opportunity to study a topic of their choosing in depth is the most rewarding part of the Tripos. Students are advised to start considering a topic and supervisor for their dissertation before the end of their second year; Directors of Studies can help with these decisions. Many

students do fieldwork or read for their dissertations over the summer vacation before the start of the third year. Titles should be submitted as soon as possible, but not later than the second week of Michaelmas term, and must be approved by the Head of the Sociology department. Before undertaking fieldwork students will need to submit a research ethics and risk assessment form, available from the website. In addition to individual supervision, workshops will be provided to assist students with the collection and analysis of data. The dissertation is submitted in the first week of Easter term.

### **Undergraduate Administrators**

If you have any queries about a particular subject, or need to notify us of any changes, please contact the relevant Administrator:

Archaeology:	James Walpole, <a href="mailto:jw2078@cam.ac.uk">jw2078@cam.ac.uk</a>
Politics & IR:	Rosalie Vanderpant, <a href="mailto:rv352@cam.ac.uk">rv352@cam.ac.uk</a>
Social Anthropology:	Claudia Luna, <a href="mailto:cl353@cam.ac.uk">cl353@cam.ac.uk</a>
Sociology:	Odette Rogers, <a href="mailto:ohmr3@cam.ac.uk">ohmr3@cam.ac.uk</a>
Psychology:	Jo Simmonds, <a href="mailto:teaching@psychol.cam.ac.uk">teaching@psychol.cam.ac.uk</a>

Or you may contact the Faculty Teaching Administrator, Hayley Bell, [hab41@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hab41@cam.ac.uk)

### **Part IIB Option Sessions for HSPS Departments:**

<b><u>Politics and International Studies</u></b>	Thursday 30 April
<b><u>Sociology</u></b>	Wednesday 6 May 12.00 pm
<b><u>Social Anthropology</u></b>	Monday 4 May 2.00 pm