

**SOC3, Modern Societies II**  
**Global Social Problems and Dynamics of Resistance**

**Paper Structure and Information**

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**Supervisions Coordinator**

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**Aims and Objectives**

- To introduce and explore a selection of global social problems and dynamics of resistance from a sociological perspective.
- To develop a critical understanding of key sociological concepts, approaches and analyses to social problems such as inequality, neoliberalism, development, nationalism, globalisation, social movements, protest, transnationalism, democracy, discourse, political economy, control and pluralism.
- To introduce the sociological notion and methodological tool of intersectionality – bringing gender, race, and class to the fore – to understand social problems and dynamics of resistance in a critically imbricated way and not as one-dimensional struggles upheld by one-dimensional subjects (simply men, simply women, etc.).
- To think and raise questions about the current climate crisis across a range of social problems and dynamics of resistance.

**General Resources and Readings**

Crenshaw, K. (2015). *Kimberlé Crenshaw Discusses 'Intersectional Feminism'*. Interview. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROwquxC\\_Gxc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROwquxC_Gxc)

Bhambra, G. (2014). *Connected Sociologies*. London: Bloomsbury Academic [Online].

Bhambra, G. (2014). *Conference on Connected Sociologies*. Keynote Lecture (Intro in Spanish, talk in English). Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sX-JsrhOIA>

Latour, B. (2018). *Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime*. Cambridge: Polity Press [Online].

Pedwell, C. (2014). *Affective Relations: The Transnational Politics of Empathy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan [Online].

Skeggs, B. (2019). [The forces that shape us: The entangled vine of gender, race and class](#). *The Sociological Review*, 67(1) 28–35.

## Structure of the Paper

The teaching mode for this paper will be in-person. The paper starts with a one-hour Introduction (week 1), delivered by the course organiser and the lecturers. Following this, SOC3 has two sections: *Section One* in Michaelmas and *Section Two* in Lent. Each section has two modules, and each module consists of three two-hour sessions. The paper ends with a revision session in Easter term. The substantive topics are as follows:

### *Section One (Michaelmas):*

#### **1. Global Social Problems (Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova)**

- Lecture 1: State, Border, and Inequality
- Lecture 2: Protests and Social Movements
- Lecture 3: Sociology of Climate Change

#### **2. Policing the Planet: Colonialism, Crisis and Resistance (Dr Scarlet Harris)**

- Lecture 4: Policing, racism and colonial continuities
- Lecture 5: Policing, racism and crisis
- Lecture 6: The abolitionist imperative: Global resistance to prisons and policing

### *Section Two (Lent):*

#### **3. Control and Resistance in Digital Societies (Dr Matt Mahmoudi)**

- Lecture 7: Critical Approaches to the Information Society
- Lecture 8: Social Media and Social Movements
- Lecture 9: Representation and Resistance: The Problematics of Big Data and the Politics of the Selfie

#### **4. Credit and Debt in Unequal Societies (Dr Matthew Sparkes)**

- Lecture 10: Critical approaches to social stratification in indebted societies
- Lecture 11: Consuming credit – Housing, consumption, and culture
- Lecture 12: The ideology of debt and its affects

## Supervisions

Supervision will be organised centrally by the Teaching Associate for SOC3, Dr Rachell Sanchez Rivera ([rs871@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rs871@cam.ac.uk)), in relation to student's interests.

The course is taught by means of 12 two-hour sessions and eight supervisions. Students should plan to have three substantive supervisions in Michaelmas and three in Lent, and then two revision supervisions in Easter term.

Lectures are central to this paper, and students are strongly advised to attend all lectures throughout Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter. Nonetheless, for supervision purposes students should choose one of the two modules of that term's teaching and have all three supervisions on the three topics of that module. As a result, they will cover two of the four modules over the year in their supervision. One of the revision supervisions should be on their Michaelmas topics, and the other should be on their Lent topics.

Students will receive instructions about how to sign up for supervisions at the start of the academic year, with the expectation to have this settled by the first week of Michaelmas.

Lecturers will give some supervisions on their modules, but due to the size of the student cohort, cannot give all of them. The teaching team therefore also consists of a selected group of supervisors whose expertise matches the supervision topics. Students will have one supervisor per part (topics and revision supervision), so two supervisors for the duration of the paper. This supervisor allocation policy aims to balance supervisor expertise and consistency of supervision for students.

To provide a stimulating and varied learning experience, students will receive *one* larger supervision (6-7 students per group) and *two* smaller essay-based supervisions (3 or 4 students per group) for each of their chosen modules. (This means that students will produce a minimum of four essays over the six substantive supervisions, as per Department of Sociology policy.)

Individual supervisors will decide on the teaching format of the larger supervision (e.g., they may be based on critical readings of core text(s) or group presentations). Your designated supervisor will communicate the format and order of the supervisions in the first week of each term.

The reading lists below are meant to provide guidance for students and supervisors. In the two smaller essay-based supervisions, students should answer one of the specified supervision questions provided for those topics.

### Mode of Assessment

This paper will be examined by one five-hour examination paper, divided into two sections according to the two sections of the paper. You will be required to answer three questions, including at least one from each section.

### Timetable

Michaelmas	Lent	Easter
Dr Matthew Sparkes and all lecturers <b>Introduction</b> Wed. 1pm, week 1, 11 Oct	Dr Matt Mahmoudi <b>Control and Resistance in Digital Societies</b> W. 4-6, weeks 1-3, beginning 24 Jan	All lecturers <b>Revision Session</b> W. 4-5, week 2, 8 May
Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova <b>Global Social Problems</b> W. 4-6, weeks 1-3, beginning 11 Oct	Dr Matthew Sparkes <b>Credit and Debt in Unequal Societies</b> W. 4-6, weeks 5-7, beginning 21 Feb	
Dr Scarlet Harris <b>Policing the Planet: Colonialism, Crisis, and Resistance</b> W. 4-6, weeks, 5-7, beginning 8 Nov		

## SECTION ONE

### Section One, Module One: Global Social Problems

#### Module Two Lecturer

Dr Diana Kudaibergenova

#### Module Overview

In this module we will focus on three major social problems and structures: 1) inequality, borders, citizenship and state; 2) protests and social movements; and 3) the sociology of climate change. In understanding these social problems, we will also focus on structures and realities that can both exacerbate them but also attempt to address them. We will critically evaluate the concepts of state, borders, citizenship (in Lecture 1), protests, collective identities, and social movements (in Lecture 2), and the climate change crisis (in Lecture 3) to focus on intersectionality and complexities of inequality.

#### Lecture 1: State, Border, and Inequality

##### Essential Readings

- Balibar, E., 2009. "Europe as borderland," *Environment and planning D: Society and space*, 27(2), pp.190-215.
- Bhambra, G. and Holmwood, J. 2018. "Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Liberal Welfare State", *New Political Economy*, 23(5), pp. 574-587.
- Bhambra, G.K., 2017. "The current crisis of Europe: Refugees, colonialism, and the limits of cosmopolitanism", *European Law Journal*, 23(5), pp.395-405.
- Bhambra, G.K., 2015. "Citizens and others: The constitution of citizenship through exclusion," *Alternatives*, 40(2), pp.102-114.
- Mann, M., 1984. "The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and results," *European Journal of Sociology/Archives européennes de sociologie*, 25(2), pp.185- 213.

##### Additional Readings

- Bourdieu, P. 2010. *On the State. Lectures at the College de France, 1989-1992*. (especially Lecture of 18 January 1990 and Lecture of 17 January 1991). Cambridge: Polity.
- Bernstein, A., 2013. "An inadvertent sacrifice: Body politics and sovereign power in the Pussy Riot affair," *Critical Inquiry*, 40(1), pp. 220-241.
- Canning, V., 2020. "Corrosive control: State-corporate and gendered harm in bordered Britain," *Critical Criminology*, 28(2), pp. 259-275.
- Mbembe, A. 2018. "The Idea of a Borderless World," *Africa Is a Country* (November).
- Mbembe, A. 2019. "Bodies as Borders," *From the European South*, Vol. 4, pp.5-18.
- Mignolo, W., and Tlostanova, M. 2006. "Theorizing from the Borders. Shifting to Geo- and Body Politics of Knowledge," *European Journal of Social Theory*, Vol. 9(2), pp. 205-221.
- Mitchell, T. 1991. "The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics", *The American Political Science Review* 85(1), pp. 77-96.
- Sardelic, J. 2021. *The Fringes of Citizenship. Romani Minorities in Europe and Civic Marginalisation*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Scott, J. C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

##### Supervision Questions

- How important (or unimportant) is the state for the eradication of inequality?
- Is a borderless world possible?

## Lecture 2: Protests and Social Movements

### Essential Readings

- Tarrow, S.G., 1998. *Power in movement: Social movements and contentious politics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Della Porta, D. and Diani, M., 2020. *Social movements: An introduction*. Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons.
- Fominaya, C.F., 2014. *Social movements and globalization: How protests, occupations and uprisings are changing the world*. Macmillan International Higher Education.
- Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahatta. 2016. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books.

### Additional Readings

- Polletta, Francesca. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Heaney, M.T., 2019. "Intersectionality at the grassroots," *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, pp.1-21.
- Flesher Fominaya, C., 2015. "Debunking spontaneity: Spain's 15-M/Indignados as autonomous movement," *Social Movement Studies*, 14(2), pp.142-163.
- Gómez-Barris, M., 2012. "Mapuche hunger acts: Epistemology of the decolonial," *Transmodernity*, 1(3), pp.120-132.
- Greene, S.A., 2013. Beyond Bolotnaia: Bridging old and new in Russia's election protest movement. *Problems of Post-Communism*, 60(2), pp.40-52.
- Nummi, J., Jennings, C. and Feagin, J., 2019, December. # BlackLivesMatter: Innovative Black Resistance. In *Sociological Forum* (Vol. 34, pp. 1042-1064).
- Calhoun, C., 2013. "Occupy wall street in perspective," *British journal of sociology*, 64(1), pp.26-38.
- Abers, R.N., Rossi, F.M. and von Bülow, M., 2021. "State–society relations in uncertain times: Social movement strategies, ideational contestation and the pandemic in Brazil and Argentina," *International Political Science Review*.

### Supervision Questions

- **Why do certain major social grievances not lead to the formation of social movements?**
- **Is it possible to evaluate the "successes" of social and protest movements? Why or why not?**
- **How do social movements lead to social change? Discuss using examples.**

## Lecture 3: Sociology of Climate Change

### Essential Readings

- Dietz, T., Shwom, R.L. and Whitley, C.T., 2020. "Climate change and society". *Annual Review of Sociology*, 46, pp.135-158.
- Elliott, R., 2018. "The sociology of climate change as a sociology of loss". *European Journal of Sociology/Archives Européennes de Sociologie*, 59(3), pp.301-337.
- Gómez-Barris, M. 2017. *The extractive zone: Ecologies and Decolonial Perspectives*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Klinenberg, E., Araos, M. and Koslov, L., 2020. "Sociology and the climate crisis". *Annual Review of Sociology*, 46, pp.649-669.
- Lidskog, R. and Waterton, C., 2016. "Anthropocene—a cautious welcome from environmental sociology?" *Environmental Sociology*, 2(4), pp.395-406.
- Neimanis, A. and Walker, R.L., 2014. "Weathering: Climate change and the "thick time" of transcorporeality". *Hypatia*, 29(3), pp.558-575.

Whyte, K.P., 2014. "Indigenous women, climate change impacts, and collective action". *Hypatia*, 29(3), pp.599-616.

### **Additional Readings**

MacGregor, S., 2014. "Only resist: Feminist ecological citizenship and the post-politics of climate change." *Hypatia*, 29(3), pp.617-633.

Simon, Z.B., 2020. "The limits of Anthropocene narratives." *European Journal of Social Theory*, 23(2), pp.184-199.

Urry, J., 2009. "Sociology and climate change". *The Sociological Review*, 57(2\_suppl), pp.84-100.

Extinction Rebellion. 2019. *This is Not a Drill: An Extinction Rebellion Handbook*. London: Penguin Books.

### **Supervision Questions**

- Critically assess the concept of sociology of climate change in dealing with the climate crisis.
  - How can sociology help dealing with the climate crisis? What alternative practices and concepts can it offer?
  - Climate refugee problem would have to soon rethink the political idea of borders. Discuss.
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## **Section One, Module Two: Policing the Planet: Colonialism, Crisis, and Resistance**

### **Module Two Lecturer**

Dr Scarlet Harris

### **Module Overview**

In this module, we will take a critical sociological approach to examining the role of the police and policing in different global contexts. Key to our analysis will be an understanding of the development of policing in the context of colonialism, and the subsequent 'boomerang' effect on the policing of the most marginalised in Britain. We will explore how an intersectional approach can enrich our understanding of how policing reproduces and relies on the construction of 'dangerous' others, as well as illuminate the dynamics of resistance to policing as it plays out in different (but interconnected) geographical and historical contexts.

### **Lecture 4: Policing, racism and colonial continuities**

#### **Lecture Overview**

In the first lecture we will critically assess the relationship between policing and colonialism. We explore how, far from being a purely domestic phenomenon, the development of policing in Britain (often considered the birthplace of the modern police force) was intimately tied to the policing of its colonies. We will address the intersections of colonial policing and the management of populations within the 'imperial core', asking: what do these histories mean for how we understand the policing of racially minoritised populations today?

#### **Essential Readings**

Chowdhury, T. (2021) 'From the colony to the metropole: race, policing and the colonial boomerang' in Duff, K. (ed.) *Abolishing the Police*. London: Dog Section Press, pp. 85-93. Available at:

<https://issuu.com/dogsectionpress/docs/abolishingthepolice>

- Elliott-Cooper, A. (2021) *Black Resistance to British Policing*. Manchester: Manchester University Press [Chapter 5: 'All out war: surveillance, collective punishment and the cutting edge of police power'].
- Nijjar, J (2018) Echoes of Empire: Excavating the Colonial Roots of Britain's "War on Gangs", *Social Justice*, 45(2/3): 147-161.

### Additional Readings

- Brown, M. (2002) "The Politics of Penal Excess and the Echo of Colonial Penalty" *Punishment & Society*, 4(4): 403–23.
- de Noronha, L. (2020) *Deporting Black Britons: portraits of deportation to Jamaica*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (especially Chapter 7: 'Post-deportation: citizenship and the racist world order').
- French, D. (2012), "Nasty not nice: British counterinsurgency doctrine and practice, 1945–1967", *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 23(4–5): 744–761.
- Kemp, T. and Amis, P. (2021) 'Why Borders and Prisons, Border Guards and Police?' in Duff, K. (ed.) *Abolishing the Police*. London: Dog Section Press, pp. 52-67. Available at: <https://issuu.com/dogsectionpress/docs/abolishingthepolice>
- Moore, J. M. (2014) "Is the empire coming home? Liberalism, exclusion and the punitiveness of the British State" *Papers from the British Criminology Conference*, 14(1): 31–48.
- Moore, J. M. (2016) "Built for inequality in a diverse world: The historic origins of criminal justice" *Papers from the British Criminology Conference*, 16(1): 38-56.
- Newsinger, J. (1981) "Revolt and Repression in Kenya: The "Mau Mau" Rebellion, 1952-1960" *Science & Society*, 45(2): 159-185.
- Newsinger, J. (1992) "Minimum force, British Counter-Insurgency and the Mau Mau rebellion" *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 3(1): 47-57.
- Vitale, A. (2017) *The End of Policing*. London: Verso (Especially Chapter 2: 'The Police Are Not Here to Protect You').
- Whittaker, H. (2015) "Legacies of Empire: State Violence and Collective Punishment in Kenya's North Eastern Province, c. 1963–Present" *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 43(4): 641–57.

### Supervision Question

- What does an analysis of the colonial history of policing reveal about police racism in the present?

## Lecture 5: Policing, racism and crisis

### Lecture Overview

In this lecture, we will consider the role of policing in the context of multiple contemporary and overlapping crises. We will focus on the seminal work of Stuart Hall and colleagues to examine the relationship between policing and political crisis, before exploring how the policing of particular populations both depends on and contributes to the construction of racialised and gendered threats to the nation. We will adopt an expansive understanding of policing to consider how discourses of 'foreign criminals', 'terrorists' and 'gangs' animate multiple forms of criminalisation, securitisation and state violence at the current conjuncture.

### Essential Readings

- Hall, S., Critcher, C., Jefferson, T. Clarke, J. and Roberts, B. 2013 [1978]. *Policing the Crisis: Mugging, the State, and Law and Order*. London: Red Globe Press [Chapter 8 and Chapter 10].



Bhattacharyya, G., Elliott-Cooper, A., Balani, S., Nisancioglu, K., Koram, K., Gebrial, D., El-Enany, N., de Noronha, L. 2021. *Empire's Endgame: Racism and the British State*, London: Pluto Press [Part 1: Racializing the Crisis].

### Additional Readings

- Abbas, M-S. (2019) "Producing 'internal suspect bodies': divisive effects of UK counterterrorism measures on Muslim communities in Leeds and Bradford" *The British Journal of Sociology*, 70(1): 261-282.
- Alexander, C. (2008) *(Re)Thinking 'Gangs'*. London: Runnymede Trust. Available at: <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/RethinkingGangs-2008.pdf>
- Bhattacharyya, G. (2008) *Dangerous Brown Men: Exploiting Sex, Violence and Feminism in the 'War on Terror'*. London: Bloomsbury.
- de Noronha, L. (2018) "The Figure of the 'Foreign Criminal': Race, Gender and the FNP" in Bhatia, M., Poynting, S., and Tufail, W. (eds.) *Media, Crime and Racism*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 337-358.
- Gilroy, P. (1982) "The Myth of Black Criminality" in M. Eve and D. Musson (eds.), *The Socialist Register*. London: Merlin Press, pp. 19—19.
- Graham, K. (2016) The British School-To-Prison Pipeline. In L.A. Palmer and K. Andrews (eds.) *Blackness in Britain*. London: Routledge, pp. 130-142.
- Harris, S., Joseph-Salisbury, R., Williams, P. and White, L. (2021) "A threat to public safety: policing, racism and the Covid-19 pandemic" *Institute of Race Relations*. Available at: <https://irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/A-threat-to-public-safety-v3.pdf>
- Holmwood, J. and Aitlhadj, L. (2022) *The People's Review of Prevent*. Available at: <https://peoplesreviewofprevent.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/mainreportlatest.pdf>
- Kundnani, A. (2014) *The Muslims are Coming! Islamophobia, Extremism, and the Domestic War on Terror*. London: Verso.
- LeBrón, M. (2020) "They Don't Care if We Die: The Violence of Urban Policing in Puerto Rico" *Journal of Urban History*, 46(5): 1066-1084.
- Sayyid, S. and Vakil, A. (2010) (eds.) *Thinking through Islamophobia: global perspectives*. London: Hurst & Co.
- Tufail, W. (2015) "Rotherham, Rochdale, and the Racialised Threat of the 'Muslim Grooming Gang'" *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 4(3): 30-43
- Williams, P. and Clarke, B. (2016) "Dangerous associations: Joint enterprise, gangs and racism" *Centre for Crime and Justice Studies*. Available at: <https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/sites/crimeandjustice.org.uk/files/Dangerous%20associations%20Joint%20Enterprise%20gangs%20and%20racism.pdf>
- Williams, P. and Kind, E. (2019) "Data-driven policing: the hardwiring of discriminatory policing practices across Europe" *Open Society Foundation*. Available at: <https://www.statewatch.org/media/documents/news/2019/nov/data-driven-profiling-web-final.pdf>
- Valluvan, S. (2019) *The Clamour of Nationalism: race and nation in twenty-first-century Britain*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (Chapter 3: Valuing the nation: liberalism, Muslims and nation-state values)

### Supervision Question

- Explain the relationship between 'moral panics' and policing at the current conjuncture.
- In what ways are race and gender imbricated in the construction of 'dangerous others'?



## Lecture 6: The abolitionist imperative: global resistance to prisons and policing

### Lecture Overview

In our final lecture, we will turn to the question of resistance and alternatives to policing. We begin by exploring the development of the North American prison abolition movement, before examining how the concept of abolition has been applied to questions of policing and criminal justice in various global contexts. In particular, we will focus on intersectional approaches to police and prison abolition, and the ways in which abolition calls not only for the dismantling of carceral systems, but the creation of new institutions and ways of relating to ourselves and each other.

### Essential Readings

- Davis, A. (2003) *Are Prisons Obsolete?* [Introduction and Chapter 4].
- Davis, A. (2011) *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture*. Seven Stories Press. [Introduction]
- Elliott-Cooper, A. (2021) *Black Resistance to British Policing*. Manchester: Manchester University Press [Chapter 6]
- Gilmore, R.W. (2007) *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*. Berkeley, CA: Univ of California Press [especially Introduction and Chapter 5].

### Additional Readings

- Abdo, N. (2014) *Captive Revolution: Palestinian Women's Anti-Colonial Struggle within the Israeli Prison System*. London: Pluto [Especially Chapter 1: Forgotten History, Lost Voices and Silent Souls: Women Political Detainees].
- Bradley, G. M. and de Noronha, L. (2022) *Against Borders: The Case for Abolition*. London: Verso
- Coyle, M. J. (2018) "Who Is Mired in Utopia? The Logics of Criminal Justice and Penal Abolition" *Social Justice*, 45(4): 79-116.
- Davis, A. (2006) '[Racialized Punishment and Prison Abolition](#)', in *A Companion to African-American Philosophy*. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, pp. 360–369.
- Davis, A. (2016) *Freedom is a constant struggle: Ferguson, Palestine and the foundations of a movement*. Chicago: Haymarket Books.
- Davis, A., Dent, G., Meiners, E. R., and Richie, B. E. (2022) *Abolition. Feminism. Now*. London: Penguin.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (1998) *Black Reconstruction in America: 1860-1880*. New York, NY: The Free Press. [Especially 'XVI: Back Toward Slavery']
- Ghabin, T. (2022) "The Future-Making of Prisoner Resistance" *Jadaliyya*. Available at: <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/43979>
- Gilmore R.W. and Lambert L. (2018) "Making Abolition Geography in California's Central Valley". *The Funambulist*. Available at: <https://thefunambulist.net/magazine/21-space-activism/interview-making-abolition-geography-california-central-valley-ruth-wilson-gilmore>
- Kurd, Z. (2021) "Police Power in the Aftermath of Black Lives Matter" *Social Justice*, 47(3-4): 137-150
- Purnell, D. (2021) *Becoming Abolitionists*. London: Verso [Especially 'Introduction: how I became a police abolitionist'].
- Smith., R. J. (2011) "Graduated Incarceration: The Israeli Occupation in Subaltern Geopolitical Perspective" *Geoforum*, 42(3): 316-328.
- Stanley, E. A., Spade, D. and Queer (In)Justice (2012) "Queering Prison Abolition, Now?" *American Quarterly*, 64(1): 115-127.
- Sudbury, J (2004) "A World Without Prisons: Resisting Militarism, Globalized Punishment and Empire" *Social Justice*, 31(1): 9-30.
- Taylor, K. Y. (2016) *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books (Especially 'Chapter 6: Black Lives Matter: A Movement, Not a Moment')
- Thompson, V. E. (2021) "Policing in Europe: disability justice and abolitionist intersectional care" *Race & Class*, 62(3), pp.61-76.
- Vitale, A. (2017) *The End of Policing*. London: Verso

Winder, A. (2020) "Anticolonial Uprising and Communal Justice in Twentieth-Century Palestine"  
*Radical History Review*, 137(1): 75–95.

### Supervision Question

- Critically discuss the claim that police and prison abolition is as much about 'presence' as it is 'absence'.
  - How might an intersectional approach to abolition enrich our understandings of policing and prisons?
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## SECTION TWO

### Section Two, Module Three: Control and Resistance in Digital Societies

#### Module Three Lecturer

Dr Matt Mahmoudi

#### Module Overview

This module examines how global social problems and related modes of resistance play out *in*, or are increasingly born out *of*, digital societies. We underpin this examination by first looking at talk about technology, namely how technologies are often discursively equated with progress, and how and why these discourses travel and have impact across the globe. In particular, we will draw on critical race and digital studies (CRDS) to look beneath these discourses, to the dynamics of coloniality and inequality reproduced and augmented by technology production, use, and disposal. This will help us develop three lenses to combine and aid us in our analysis: an intersectional lens, critical political economy lens, and decolonial lens.

Next, we look at the role of social media in recent social movements, thinking in particular about the power and counter-power of networks. Finally, we will examine resistance through representation, focusing on the contested practice of selfies, reels, and other content focused on the self, and on the problematics that big data and artificial intelligence tools pose for representation. Throughout, we will be attuned to continuity versus change in digital societies, as well as implications for equality, pluralism, accountability and the environment. We will also keep a critical eye on the methods used to research phenomena in digital societies, and specifically the relationship between these methods and the claims made.

#### Lecture 7: Critical Approaches to the Information Society

##### Lecture Overview

This lecture introduces students to the discourse of the information society, in which technology is understood as driving progress. We will critically assess this claim, using examples like the mining of minerals for mobile phones, the content moderation of social media posts, the gender imbalance on Wikipedia and the disposal of e-waste. We will investigate three approaches for studying technology critically: the political economy approach, the intersectional approach, and the decolonial approach.

##### Essential Readings

Benjamin, R. (2019) [\*Race after Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code\*](#). Cambridge, UK: Polity. ['Introduction']

- Glendinning, C. (1990) 'Notes toward a Neo-Luddite Manifesto', The Anarchist Library.
- Hall, S. (2001) 'Foucault: Power, Knowledge and Discourse', in Wetherell, M., Taylor, S., and Yates, S.J. (eds) *Discourse Theory and Practice: A Reader*. London, UK: SAGE Publications, pp. 72–81.
- Mansell, R. (2010) '[The Life and Times of the Information Society](#)', *Prometheus*, 28(2), pp.165–86.
- McMillan Cottom, T. (2020). Where Platform Capitalism and Racial Capitalism Meet: The Sociology of Race and Racism in the Digital Society. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 6(4), 441–449. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649220949473>
- Noble SU and Tynes BM (2016) [The Intersectional Internet : race, sex, class and culture online](#), New York, NY : Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.

### Additional Readings

- Agarwal, R. and Wankhade, K. (2006) 'Hi-Tech Heaps, Forsaken Lives: E-Waste in Delhi', in Pellow, D., Sonnenfeld, D. and Smith, T. (eds.) [Challenging the Chip](#). Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, pp. 236-46.
- Boyd, d. (2010) '[Transparency is not Enough](#)' In *Gov2.0 Expo*. Washington, DC.
- Brock, A. (2011) '[Beyond the Pale: The Blackbird Web Browser's Critical Reception](#)', *New Media & Society*, 13 (7): pp. 1085–1103.
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- Fairclough, N. (2014) [Language and Power](#). 3rd edition. London: Routledge. [Chapter 4: 'Discourse, Common Sense and Ideology']
- Ford, H. and Wajcman, J. (2017) '["Anyone Can Edit", Not Everyone Does: Wikipedia's Infrastructure and the Gender Gap](#)', *Social Studies of Science* 47 (4), pp. 511–27.
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- Mansell, R. (2012) [Imagining the Internet: Communication, Innovation, and Governance](#). Oxford, UK: OUP Oxford. [Chapter 3: 'Social Imaginaries of the Information Society']
- Mosco, V. (2004) [The Digital Sublime: Myth, Power, and Cyberspace](#). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. [Chapter 2: 'Myth and Cyberspace']
- Roberts, S. T. (2016) 'Commercial Content Moderation: Digital Laborers' Dirty Work', in Noble, S. U. and Tynes, B. M. (eds) [The Intersectional Internet: Race, Sex, Class, and Culture Online](#). New York: Peter Lang, pp. 147–60.
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### Supervision Question

- How can we critically understand the concept of the information society?

- Is the concept still relevant to the dynamics at play today?

### Thinking and Talking Question

- What is the connection between information society discourses and racial inequality and dispossession?

## Lecture 8: Social Media and Social Movements

### Lecture Overview

This lecture both builds on the previous lecture's concept of discourse and introduces the metaphor of the network to interrogate the use of social media by social movements. We will first examine how this relatively recent adoption of social media follows a long tradition of social movements' use of media for symbolic counter-power, including the anti-globalisation Zapatista movement, a very early adopter of online mobilization tactics. We will go on to look at several more contemporary examples, including the 'Twitter Revolution' in Iran, the #BlackLivesMatter movement in the United States, #YaMeCansé in Mexico, and Extinction Rebellion in the UK. In each case, we will focus on how technology intersects with the power relations within and around these movements, including those related to race, gender and sexuality as well as to corporate and state power.

### Essential Readings

- Castells, M. (2013) [\*Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age\*](#). Cambridge, UK: Polity. ['Opening: Networking Minds, Creating Meaning, Contesting Power']
- Shapiro, R. (2015) '[Rhetorics of Hope: Complicating Western Narratives of a "Social Media Revolution"](#)', *Literacy in Composition Studies* 3(1), pp.156–74.
- Tufekci, Z. (2017) [\*Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest\*](#). New Haven: Yale University Press. [chapter 5: 'Technology and People']
- Tynes, B. M., Schuschke, J. and Noble, S. U. (2016) 'Digital Intersectionality Theory and the #Blacklivesmatter Movement', in Noble, S. U. and Tynes, B. M. (eds) [\*The Intersectional Internet: Race, Sex, Class, and Culture Online\*](#). New York: Peter Lang, pp. 21–40.

### Additional Readings

- Aouragh, M. and Alexander, A. (2011) '[The Egyptian Experience: Sense and Nonsense of the Internet Revolution](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 5, pp. 1344–58.
- Bennett, W.L. and Segerberg, A. (2012) '[The Logic of Connective Action](#)', *Information, Communication & Society*, 15(5), pp.739–768.
- Bonilla, Y. and Rosa, J. (2015) '[#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States](#)', *American Ethnologist* 42(1), pp. 4–17.
- Castells, M. (2011) '[Network Theory: A Network Theory of Power](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 5, pp.773–787.
- Christensen, C. (2011) '[Discourses of Technology and Liberation: State Aid to Net Activists in an Era of "Twitter Revolutions"](#)', *The Communication Review*, 14(3), pp.233–253.
- Clark, M. D. (2019) '[White Folks' Work: Digital Allyship Praxis in the #BlackLivesMatter Movement](#)', *Social Movement Studies* 18(5), pp. 519-34.
- Easterling, K., (2014). *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space*. Verso.
- Fenton, N. and Barassi, V. (2011) '[Alternative Media and Social Networking Sites: The Politics of Individuation and Political Participation](#)', *The Communication Review* 14(3): 179–96.
- Freelon, D., McIlwain, C. and Clark, M. (2016) '[Quantifying the Power and Consequences of Social Media Protest](#)', *New Media & Society*, 20(3), pp. 990-1011.
- Fuchs, C. (2012) '[Behind the News: Social Media, Riots, and Revolutions](#)', *Capital & Class*, 36(3), pp.383–391.

- Gerbaudo, P. (2012) *Tweets and the Streets: Social Media and Contemporary Activism*. London: Pluto Press [[Introduction](#)].
- Jakubowicz, A. H. (2017) '[Alt Right White Lite: Trolling, Hate Speech and Cyber Racism on Social Media](#)', *Cosmopolitan Civil Societies*, 9(3), pp. 41-60.
- Maxfield, M. (2015) '[History Retweeting Itself: Imperial Feminist Appropriations of "Bring Back our Girls"](#)', *Feminist Media Studies*, 16(5), pp. 886-900.
- McPherson, E. (2017) '[Social Media and Human Rights Advocacy](#)', in Tumber, H. and Waisbord, S. (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Media and Human Rights*. London: Routledge, pp. 279–288.
- Mejias, U.A. (2012) '[Liberation Technology and the Arab Spring: From Utopia to Atopia and Beyond](#)', *The Fibreculture Journal*, 20, pp. 204–17.
- Natale, S. and Ballatore, A. (2014) '[The Web Will Kill Them All: New Media, Digital Utopia, and Political Struggle in the Italian 5-Star Movement](#)', *Media, Culture & Society*, 36(1), pp. 105-121.
- Nummi, J., Jennings, C. and Feagin, J. (2019) '[#BlackLivesMatter: Innovative Black Resistance](#)', *Sociological Forum*, 34(S1), pp. 1042-64.
- Ott, K. (2018) '[Social Media and Feminist Values: Aligned or Maligned?](#)', *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 39(1), pp. 93-111.
- Pearce, K.E. and Kendzior, S. (2012) '[Networked Authoritarianism and Social Media in Azerbaijan](#)', *Journal of Communication*, 62(2), pp.283–98.
- Russell, A. 2005. '[Myth and the Zapatista Movement: Exploring a Network Identity](#)', *New Media & Society* 7(4), pp. 559–77.
- Sengupta, A., Bouterse, S., Allmann, K. (2018) '[Build an internet for, and from, us all](#)', *Nature*.
- Vie, S. (2014) '[In Defense of "Slacktivism": The Human Rights Campaign Facebook Logo as Digital Activism](#)', *First Monday* 19(4).
- Youmans, W.L. and York, J.C. (2012) '[Social Media and the Activist Toolkit: User Agreements, Corporate Interests, and the Information Infrastructure of Modern Social Movements](#)', *Journal of Communication*, 62(2), pp.315–329.

### Supervision Question

- Do social media revolutions exist?
- Do social media platforms enable or foreclose the possibility for resistance and social movements?

### Thinking and Talking Question

- What are the tensions arising from environmental and/or racial justice movements' uses of social media?

## Lecture 9: Representation and Resistance: The Problematics of Big Data and the Politics of the Selfie

### Lecture Overview

This lecture will introduce the concept of representation and examine how the power relations around representation have (or have not) changed in the digital age. We will use the examples of selfies and of big data as case studies, examining the differences in the claims to representation made by these types of information, as well as in the ways these types of information are represented. In particular, we'll also consider the implications of platform and infrastructure power, especially when these govern the main channels through which social movements engage in resistance – how is state and corporate power entangled or challenged through e.g. community standards, content moderation, and censorship? Or through enabling tools of policing and surveillance, e.g. predictive policing and facial recognition? We will then circle back to the political economy approach to reflect on the environmental consequences of the 'cloud,' in which such digital representations tend to be stored,

before returning to the decolonial approach and considering the emancipatory potential and challenges of 'refusal'.

### Essential Readings

- Boyd, d. and Crawford, K. (2012) '[Critical Questions for Big Data: Provocations for a Cultural, Technological, and Scholarly Phenomenon](#)', *Information, Communication & Society* 15(5), pp.662–79.
- Cervi, L., & Divon, T. (2023). Playful Activism: Memetic Performances of Palestinian Resistance in TikTok #Challenges. *Social Media + Society*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051231157607>
- Milner, Y., Traub, A. (2021), '[Data Capitalism + Algorithmic Racism](#)', Data For Black Lives report.
- D'Ignazio, C. and Klein, L. (2019) *Data Feminism*. MIT Press Open. [Chapter One: '[Bring Back the Bodies](#)']
- Hall, S. (2013) *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. Second Edition. Milton Keynes: SAGE Publications Ltd. [Chapter 1: 'The Work of Representation' and Chapter 4: 'The Spectacle of 'The Other']
- Senft, T.M. and Baym, N.K. (2015) '[What Does the Selfie Say? Investigating a Global Phenomenon](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 9, pp. 1588-1606.
- Sobande, F. (2021). Spectacularized and Branded Digital (Re)presentations of Black People and Blackness. *Television & New Media*, 22(2), 131–146. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1527476420983745>

### Additional Readings

- Amnesty International (2020), '[We Sense Trouble: Automated Discrimination and Mass Surveillance in Predictive Policing in the Netherlands](#)'
- Amnesty International (2019), '[Surveillance Giants: How the Business Model of Google and Facebook Threatens Human Rights](#)'
- Andrejevic, M. (2014) '[The Big Data Divide](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 8, pp. 1673-89.
- Brager, J. (2015) '[The Selfie and the Other: Consuming Viral Tragedy and Social Media \(After\)lives](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 9, pp. 1660-71.
- Burns, A. (2015) '[Self\(ie\)-Discipline: Social Regulation as Enacted Through the Discussion of Photographic Practice](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 9, pp. 1716–33.
- Chouliaraki, L. (2017) '[Symbolic Bordering: The Self-Representation of Migrants and Refugees in Digital News](#)', *Popular Communication*, 15(2): pp. 78–94.
- Crawford, K., Gray, M. L. and Miltner, K. (2014) '[Critiquing Big Data: Politics, Ethics, Epistemology](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 8: pp. 1663-72.
- Duguay, S. (2016) '[Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer Visibility Through Selfies: Comparing Platform Mediators Across Ruby Rose's Instagram and Vine Presence](#)', *Social Media + Society* (April-June), pp. 1-12.
- Gangadharan, S. (2020), 'Digital Exclusion: A Politics of Refusal', in *Digital Technology and Democratic Theory*, eds. Bernholz, L., Landemore, H., Reich, R.
- Eubanks, V. (2018) '[High-Tech Homelessness](#)', *American Scientist* 106(4): p. 230.
- Hall, S. (2006) 'Encoding/Decoding', in Durham, M. G. and Kellner, D. M. (eds) [Media and Cultural Studies: Keywords](#). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 163–73.
- Kitchin, R. (2014) [The Data Revolution](#). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications Ltd. [Chapter 1: 'Conceptualising Data']
- Lyon, D. (2014) '[Surveillance, Snowden, and Big Data: Capacities, Consequences, Critique](#)', *Big Data & Society*, 1(2), pp. 1-13.
- Mahmoudi, M. (2019) '[Race in the Digital Periphery: The New \(Old\) Politics of Refugee Representation](#)', *The Sociological Review*.
- Markham, A. N. (2013) '[Undermining "Data": A Critical Examination of a Core Term in Scientific Inquiry](#)', *First Monday* 18(10).



- Mosco, V. (2014) [\*To the Cloud: Big Data in a Turbulent World\*](#). Boulder: Routledge. [Chapter 3: 'Selling the Cloud Sublime' and Chapter 4: 'Dark Clouds']
- Nkonde, M., 2019. [Automated Anti-Blackness: Facial Recognition in Brooklyn, New York](#). *Harvard Kennedy School Journal of African American Policy*.
- Nemer, D. and Freeman, G. (2015) '[Empowering the Marginalized: Rethinking Selfies in the Slums of Brazil](#)', *International Journal of Communication*, 9, pp. 1832-47.
- Rettberg, J. W. (2017) 'Biometric Citizens: Adapting our Selfies to Machine Vision' in Kuntsman, A. (ed) [Selfie Citizenship](#), London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 89-96.
- Rosenberg, D. (2013) '[Data before the Fact](#)' in Gitelman, L. (ed) '*Raw Data*' is an Oxymoron. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 15-40.
- van Dijck, J. (2014) '[Datafication, Dataism and Dataveillance: Big Data Between Scientific Paradigm and Ideology](#)', *Surveillance & Society*, 12(2), pp.197–208.
- Vivienne, S. (2017) '["I Will Not Hate Myself Because You Cannot Accept Me": Problematizing Empowerment and Gender-Diverse Selfies](#)', *Popular Communication* 15(2), pp. 126–40.
- Williams, A. and Marquez, B. A. (2015), '[The Lonely Selfie King: Selfies and the Conspicuous Prosumption of Gender and Race](#)', *International Journal of Communication* 9, pp. 1775-1787.
- Yadlin-Segal, A. (2019) '[What's in a Smile? Politicizing Disability through Selfies and Affect](#)', *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* 24(1): pp. 36–50.

### Supervision Question

- How is representation mediated and weaponised in an age of surveillance giants, AI, and Big Data?
- How are digital spaces reclaimed or instrumentalized towards resistance-oriented goals?

### Thinking and Talking Question

- What shapes the representation of the climate crisis in the digital age?

## Section Two, Module Four: Credit and Debt in Unequal Societies

### Module Four Lecturer

Dr Matthew Sparkes

### Module Overview

This module introduces one of the most significant social, economic, and cultural developments of the neoliberal era: the unprecedented rise in personal debt. We will explore the underlying dynamics behind these changes, as well as the far-reaching implications for social (in)equality, identity, culture, and politics.

The module is focused on a sociologically informed critical exploration of personal debt outside of the dominant worldview of economists and bankers. We will start by examining how personal debt feeds into social inequalities (and the other way around) while contemplating entangled questions regarding marketisation, exploitation, domination, and extraction. We then shift to consider the cultural impacts of debt, and how unequal societies influence how and why people turn to credit. Finally, we will examine struggles over debt, including how experiences of debt may unfold as individualising compliance or a collectivising resistance to its logic.



## Lecture 10: Critical approaches to social stratification in indebted societies

### Lecture Overview

The first session deals with the structural impact of personal debt. We start with a brief historical analysis of personal debt, before examining the core factors driving its rise and significance in the neoliberal era. We will then shift our focus to three key approaches grappling with the stratifying consequences of personal debt: the stratification approach, the critical Marxist approach, and the classification situations approach. Throughout, we will consider how these processes intersect with questions of class, race, and gender.

### Essential readings

- Dwyer, R. (2018). [Credit, debt, and inequality](#). *Annual Review of Sociology*, 44, 237-261.
- Adkins, L., Cooper, M. and Konings, M. (2019). [Class in the 21st century: Asset inflation and the new logic of inequality](#). *Economy and Space*, 0(0), 1-25.
- Burton, D. (2008). [Credit and Consumer Society](#). London: Routledge.
- Fourcade, M. and Healy, K. (2013). [Classification situations: Life-chances in the neoliberal era](#). *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, 38 (8), 559–72.
- Graeber, D. (2011). [Debt: The First 5,000 Years](#). NY: Melville (Esp. Chapter 1).
- Soederberg, S. (2012). [The Mexican Debtfare State: Dispossession, Micro-Lending, and the Surplus Population](#). *Globalizations*, 9(4), 561-575.

### Additional Readings

- Adkins, L. (2020). [Debt, complexity, and the sociological imagination](#). In M. Featherstone (Ed.), *The Sociology of Debt* (pp. 27-48). Bristol: Policy Press.
- Aitken, R. (2017). [‘All data is credit data’: Constituting the unbanked](#). *Competition & Change*, 21(4), 274–300.
- Charron-Chenier, R. and Seamster, L. (2020). [Racialized Debts: Racial Exclusion From Credit Tools and Information Networks](#). *Critical Sociology*.
- Deville, J. (2020). [Digital subprime: tracking the credit trackers](#). In M. Featherstone (Ed.), *The Sociology of Debt* (pp. 145-174). Bristol: Policy Press.
- Dimsky, G. (2009). [Racial Exclusion and the Political Economy of the Subprime Crisis](#). *Historical Materialism*, 17(2), 149–179.
- Dimsky, G., Hernandez, J. and Mohanty, L. (2013). [Race, Gender, Power, and the US Subprime Mortgage and Foreclosure Crisis](#). *Feminist Economics*, 19(3), 124–151.
- Krippner, G. (2017). [Democracy of Credit: Ownership and the Politics of Credit Access in Late Twentieth-Century America](#). *American Journal of Sociology*, 123(1), 1-47.
- Langley, P. (2008). [Financialization and the consumer credit boom](#). *Competition & change*, 12, 133–147.
- Lazzarato, M. (2009). [Neoliberalism in action: Inequality, insecurity, and the reconstitution of the social](#). *Theory, Culture & Society*, 26 (6), 109–33.
- LeBaron, G. (2014). [Reconceptualizing Debt Bondage: Debt as a Class-Based Form of Labor Discipline](#). *Critical Sociology*, 40(5), 763–780.
- Montgomerie, J. (2007). [The Logic of Neoliberalism and the Political Economy of Consumer Debt-led Growth](#). In S. Lee and S. McBride, (Eds). *Neo-Liberalism, State Power and Global Governance* (pp. 157-72). Dordrecht: Springer.
- Payne, C. (2013). [The Consumer, Credit and Neoliberalism](#). London: Routledge.
- Skeggs, B. (2015). [Introduction: Stratification or exploitation, domination, dispossession and devaluation](#). *The Sociological Review*, 63, 205–222.
- Sparkes, M. and Wood, J. (2020). [The Political Economy of Household Debt and the Keynesian Policy Paradigm](#). *New Political Economy*.

Sparkes, M., Wang, S., and Wels, J. (2023). Debt, Credit Payment Holidays, and their Relationship with Mental Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United Kingdom. *Society and Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21568693231169783>

### Supervision Question

- How can we critically understand the stratifying consequences of the rise in personal debt?

## Lecture 11: Consuming credit – Housing, Consumption, and Culture

### Lecture Overview

The second session deals with the cultural impact of credit. Drawing on case studies from Anglo-America, Latin-America, and Europe, we will explore why people turn to credit and explore how this alters places, spaces, and identities. The first part of the session examines unequal access to home ownership, including how the growth in access has had conservatising, individualising and securitising effects. In the second part, we will explore how consumer credit is used to both delineate and resist cultural and symbolic boundaries, and examine whether consumer credit is integral to the construction of social identity in increasingly unequal societies. We will end by discussing the consequences of these practices for understandings of social mobility.

### Essential Reading

- Burton, D. (2008). *Credit and Consumer Society*. London: Routledge.
- Featherstone, M. (2020). *The Sociology of Debt [Introduction]*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Kus, B. (2015). *Sociology of Debt: States, Credit Markets, and Indebted Citizens*. *Sociology Compass*, 9(3), 212–223.
- Langley, P. (2014). *Consuming credit*. *Consumption, Markets and Culture*, 17 (5), 417–28.
- Roberts, A. (2016). *Household Debt and the Financialization of Social Reproduction: Theorizing the UK Housing and Hunger Crises*. In Susanne Soederberg (Ed.), *Risking Capitalism: Research in Political Economy* (pp. 135-164). Emerald Group Publishing Ltd.
- Sparkes, M., (2019). *Borrowed identities: Class(ification), inequality and the role of credit-debt in class making and struggle*. *The Sociological Review*, 67, 1417–1434.
- Tyler, I. (2015). *Classificatory struggles: Class, culture, and inequality in neoliberal times*. *The Sociological Review*, 63, 493–511.

### Additional Reading

#### Debt and Housing

- Ariztia, T. (2014). *Housing markets performing class: middle-class cultures and market professionals in Chile*. *The Sociological Review*, 62, 400–420.
- Castellanos, M. Bianet (2020). *Indigenous Dispossession Housing and Maya Indebtedness in Mexico*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Davis, M. and Cartwright, L. (2020). *'Deferred lives': Money, debt and the financialised futures of young temporary workers*. In M. Featherstone (Ed.), *The Sociology of Debt* (pp. 91-118). Bristol: Policy Press.
- Halawa, M. (2015). *In New Warsaw*. *Cultural Studies*, 29(5-6), 707-732.
- McClanahan, A. (2017). *Dead Pledges: Debt, Crisis, and Twenty-First Century Culture*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Montgomerie, J. and Büdenbender, M. (2015). *Round the Houses: Homeownership and Failures of Asset-Based Welfare in the United Kingdom*. *New Political Economy*, 20(3), 386-405.

### Consumer Credit and Consumption

- Berenthal, M. J., Crockett, D., and Rose, R. L. (2005). [Credit Cards as Lifestyle Facilitators](#). *Journal of Consumer Research*, 32(1), 130–145.
- Gonzalez, F. (2015). [Where are the Consumers?](#) *Cultural Studies*, 29(5-6), 781-806.
- Hodson, R., Dwyer, R., and Neilson, L. (2014). [Credit Card Blues: The Middle Class and the Hidden Costs of Easy Credit](#). *The Sociological Quarterly*, 55, 315–340.
- Lloyd, A. and Horsley, M. (2021). [Consumer culture, precarious incomes and mass indebtedness: Borrowing from uncertain futures, consuming in precarious times](#). *Thesis Eleven*, 1-17.
- Marambio-Tapia, A. (2017). [Narratives of Social Mobility in the Post-Industrial Working Class and the Use of Credit in Chilean Households](#). *OpenEdition Journals*.
- Montgomerie, J. (2009). [The pursuit of \(past\) happiness? Middle-class indebtedness and American financialisation](#). *New Political Economy*, 14, 1–24.
- Sullivan, T. (2008). [Debt and the simulation of social class](#). In R. Brubaker, R. Lawless, & C. Tabb (Eds.), *A Debtor World: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Debt* (pp. 36–59). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

### Supervision Questions

- **To what extent is credit use cultural? Critically discuss with reference to housing and/or consumption.**

## Lecture 12: The ideology of debt and its affects

### Lecture Overview

The final session moves on to examine the problem of debt and the related experience of indebtedness, including the ideologies and materialities that sustain it. We will look specifically at how recent sociological approaches spotlight the role of politicians, the media, creditors, and credit reference agencies in propagating and upholding a stigmatising discourse of moral obligation to repay, often unpayable, debts. We will also consider the paradoxical duality between individualising compliance to this debt logic as well as instances of collectivising resistance to its seemingly unstoppable rise and how these are (and should be) increasingly intertwined with environmental justice.

### Essential Reading

- Dawney, L., Kirwan, S., & Walker, R. (2018). [The intimate spaces of debt: Love, freedom and entanglement in indebted lives](#). *Geoforum*, 110, 191-199.
- Deville, J. (2012). [Regenerating market attachments](#). *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 5 (4), 423–39.
- Featherstone, M. (2020). [Ecologies of indebtedness](#). In M. Featherstone (Ed.), *The Sociology of Debt* (pp. 231-250). Bristol: Policy Press.
- LeBaron, G. and Roberts, A. (2012). [Confining Social Insecurity: Neoliberalism and the Rise of the 21st Century Debtors' Prison](#). *Gender and Politics*, 8(1), 25–49.
- Lazzarato, M. (2012). [The Making of the Indebted Man: Essay on the Neoliberal Condition](#). Los Angeles: Semiotext(e)/MIT Press.
- Montgomerie, J. and Tepe-Belfrage, D. (2018). [Spaces of debt resistance and the contemporary politics of financialised capitalism](#). *Geoforum*, 98, 309-317.
- Sparkes, M. (2020). [‘I Just Felt Responsible for My Debt’: Debt Stigma and Class\(ificatory\) Exploitation](#). In J. Gardner, M. Gray, and K. Moser, (Eds). *Debt and Austerity* (pp. 125-150). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

### Additional Reading

- Block, F. (2014). [Democratizing Finance](#). *Politics & Society*, 42(1), 3–28.

- Deville, J. (2014). [Consumer credit default and collections: The shifting ontologies of market attachment](#). *Consumption, Markets & Culture*, 17 (5), 468–90.
- Kirwan, S., Dawney, L., and Walker, R. (2020). [‘Choose your moments’: Discipline and speculation in the indebted everyday](#). In M. Featherstone (Ed.), *The Sociology of Debt* (pp. 119-144). Bristol: Policy Press.
- Efrat, R. (2006). [The Evolution of Bankruptcy Stigma](#). *Theoretical Inquiries in Law*, 7(2), 365– 393.
- Forkert, K. (2014). [The new moralism: Austerity, silencing and debt morality](#). *Soundings*, 56, 41–53.
- Haiven, M. (2020). [The art of unpayable debts](#). In M. Featherstone (Ed.), *The Sociology of Debt* (pp. 195-230). Bristol: Policy Press.
- Lapavistas, C. (2009). [Financialised capitalism: Crisis and financial expropriation](#). *Historical Materialism*, 17, 114–148.
- Montgomerie, J. (2010). [Neoliberalism and the Making of Subprime Borrowers](#). In M. Konings (Ed.), *The Great Credit Crash* (pp. 103-118). London: Verso.
- Poster, W. R. (2013). [Hidden Sides of the Credit Economy: Emotions, Outsourcing, and Indian Call Centres](#). *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 54(3), 205– 227.
- Simms, A. (2009). [Ecological Debt: Global Warming and the Wealth of Nations](#). London: Pluto Press.
- Sweet, E. (2018). ‘Like you failed at life’: Debt, health and neoliberal subjectivity. *Social Science & Medicine*, 212(212), 86–93.
- Tyler, I. and Slater, T. (2018). [Introduction: Rethinking the sociology of stigma](#). *The Sociological Review*, 6 (4), 721–43.
- Walker, C., Hanna, P., Cunningham, L., and Ambrose, P. (2014). [‘A Kind of Mental Warfare’: An Economy of Affect in the UK Debt Collection Industry](#). *Australian Community Psychologist*, 26(2), 54– 67.
- Walker, C. (2011). [“Responsibilizing” a healthy Britain: Personal debt, employment, and welfare](#). *International Journal of Health Services*, 41 (3), 525–38.

### **Supervision Questions**

- **Resistance to and compliance with debt co-exist. Critically discuss.**
- **How useful is the concept of stigma as a classificatory form of power for understanding the ideology of debt?**