

MSc Social Research - Summer Reading Recommendations

If you would like to get inspired over the summer, here are some suggestions. This summer reading list is not compulsory, but aims to give you a sense of themes and topics you will be exploring during your studies with us.

Texts, audiobooks and online talks by academics at the School of Social and Political Science (SPS)

Accessible resources by SPS academics, many of whom will be teaching you!

Dr Orian Brook | Chancellor's Fellow in Social Policy; Programme Director, MSc Social Research

- [Panic! Social Class, Taste and Inequalities in the Creative Industries \(PDF\)](#)
- [Culture is bad for you \(free Audiobook\)](#)

Dr Carin Runciman | Senior Lecturer in Social Policy

- [Why formal employment is not a guaranteed path to social equality](#)

Dr Peaks Krafft | Lecturer in Computational Sociology; Co-Director, MSc Digital Sociology

- [Algorithmic bias with Dr Peaks Krafft – UAL Tech for All Conference \(Online Talk\)](#)

Dr Emma Davidson | Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Qualitative Research Methods

- [Saying It Like It Is? Power, Participation and Research Involving Young People](#)

Emily Kenway | PhD student, Social Policy

- [Homeless Britons say cost of addiction is forcing them into modern slavery - so why are they not being recognised as victims?](#)

Professor Magnus Course | Professor of Creative Anthropology; Head of Social Anthropology

- [How Scottish Gaelic is helping protect Scotland's seas](#)

Dr Valeria Skafida | Senior Lecturer in Social Policy

- [The UK is offering payments to abuse victims - but it may not be enough to help them leave](#)

Dr Jackie Gulland | Senior Lecturer in Social Work

- [Households, bubbles and hugging grandparents: Caring and lockdown rules during COVID-19](#)

Dr Sudeepa Abeysinghe | Senior Lecturer in Global Health Policy

- [Pandemics, Science and Policy](#)

Dr İdil Akıncı-Pérez | Lecturer in Race and Social Policy

- [Think migrants just live off the state? Here are 41,500 reasons why the opposite is true](#)

Additional Resources

Alan Bryman's book **Social Research Methods** is an excellent introduction to research methods. It's available from The University of Edinburgh library, but you can pick up an inexpensive second-hand copy (there are many editions available).

Vries, RD. (2018). **Critical Statistics: Seeing Beyond the Headlines**. London: Bloomsbury Publishing is an entertaining and engaging read, accessible to non-expert statisticians (again, it's available in our University library, but second-hand copies are inexpensive).

The “**Glasgow effect**” (referring to the higher rates of early deaths in Scotland’s second city) is a fascinating example of how the interaction of population demographics and behaviour, context such as deprivation and economic opportunity, and policy decisions including urban regeneration and wholesale relocation of communities, contributes to a wicked problem with a misleading name.

- [Watch David Walsh of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health discuss his research](#)