



**Durham**  
University

Department of Sociology

**CRIMINOLOGY**

**PRE-APPLICATION OPEN DAY 2023-24**

WILL CRAIGE – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

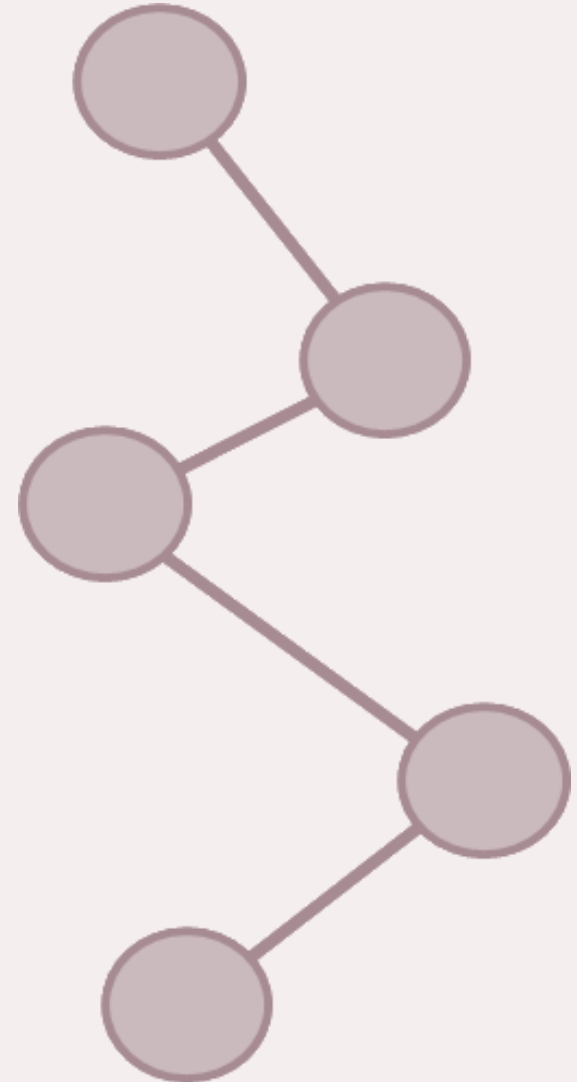
# What we will do today...

**Who are we and what do we do?**

**What we teach and how we teach it**

**Why Criminology at Durham?**

**Questions**



**WHO ARE WE  
AND WHAT WE  
DO**



# Durham University Department of Sociology...

We are a **community of academics engaged in teaching, research and scholarship in the fields of Sociology and Criminology**



Our degree programmes are intertwined with our **research and scholarship**:

We **teach** in areas we **research, write and advise** in...

...and we're keen to **get our students involved** in **research and scholarship** too!

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# Our Degrees...

We offer degrees in: **Criminology; Sociology; and Anthropology and Sociology** (with the Department of Anthropology)

Our standard offer for all programmes is:  
A-level **AAB** or equivalent

Applicants from **low-participation areas** may be eligible for a **reduced “contextual” offer**

We currently receive **~150 new Criminology and Sociology** students in a year

# Criminology at Durham...

Criminology is concerned with understanding **crime and deviance, victimisation and the institutions of criminal justice**



E.g. Why do people engage in criminal / deviant behaviour?

E.g. Why are some people victimised and what are the consequences?

E.g. What is the role and effect of criminal justice institutions?

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# Criminology at Durham...

Criminology is concerned with understanding **crime and deviance, victimisation and the institutions of criminal justice**

**Durham Criminology** is interested in answering these questions from a **Sociological** perspective  
It is **not** about **psychology, law** or **operational police work**

E.g. Why do people engage in criminal / deviant behaviour?

E.g. Why are some people victimised and what are the consequences?

E.g. What is the role and effect of criminal justice institutions?

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# Crime and Society...

**Durham Criminology** focuses on **cultural, institutional and structural contexts** of crime, victimisation and criminal justice

**Why do people  
commit crime?**

# Crime and Society...

E.g. Merton's "**Strain Theory**" (1938) offers an explanation of crime in reference to **social norms and structures of opportunity**

We derive from society particular goals and aspirations, e.g. **wealth, status, etc...**

...but **not all people** have good access to "**legitimate**" means of realising these aspirations, e.g. **education and a good job...**

...so people may turn to "**illegitimate**" means, e.g. crime, to realise these aspirations instead



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**WHAT WE  
TEACH AND  
HOW WE  
TEACH IT**



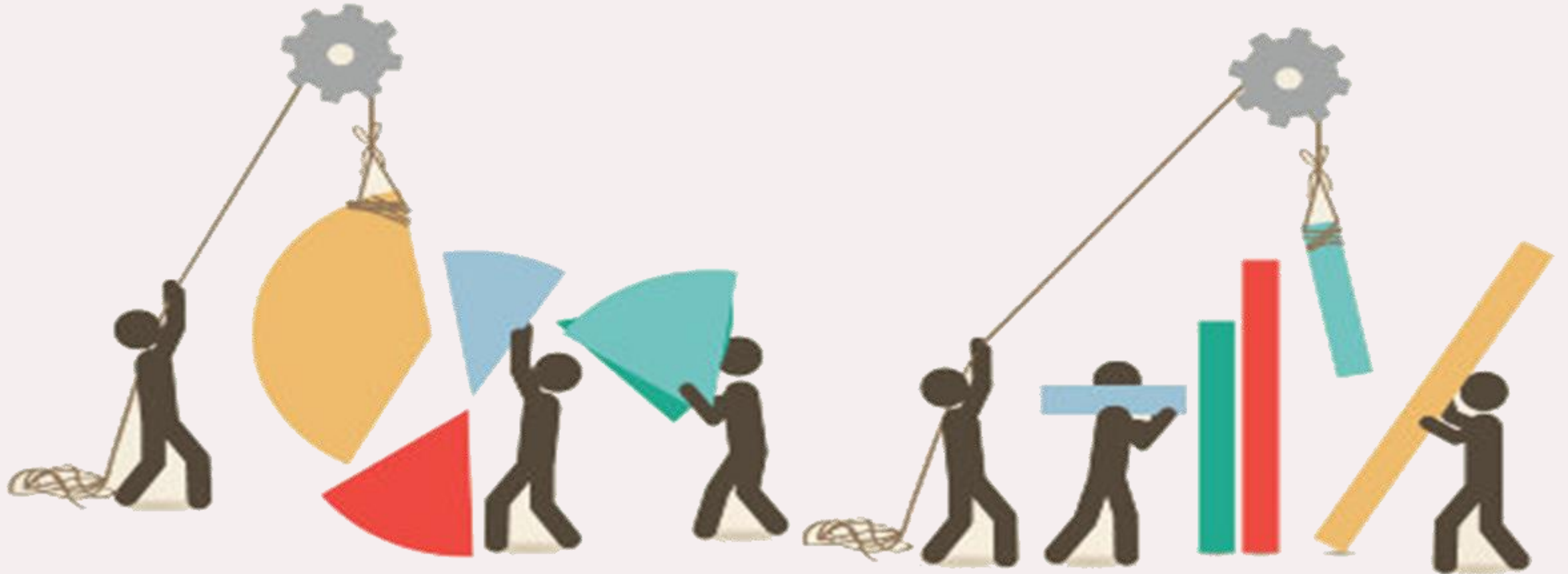
# Criminology Programme Overview...

One element of the programme is **Criminological theory...**



# Criminology Programme Overview...

Another element is **research methods and design...**



# Criminology Programme Overview...

And the rest comprises of **substantive themes and topics...**



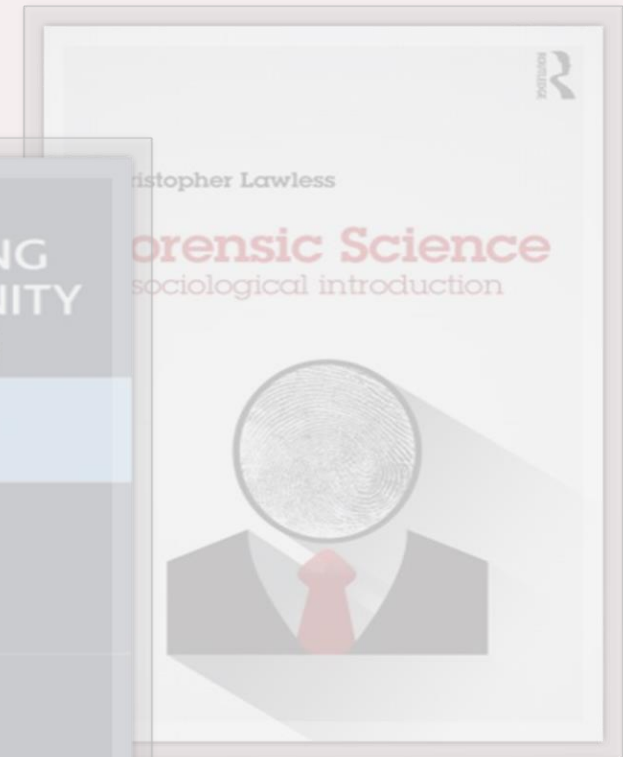
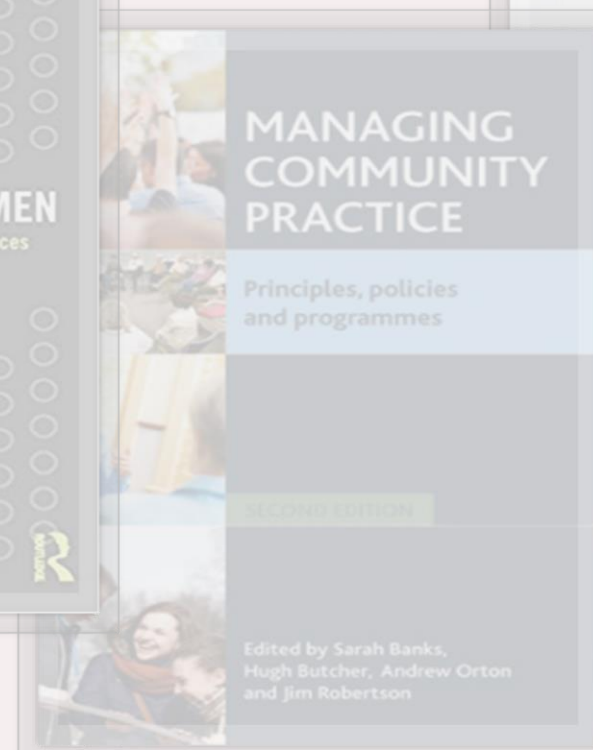
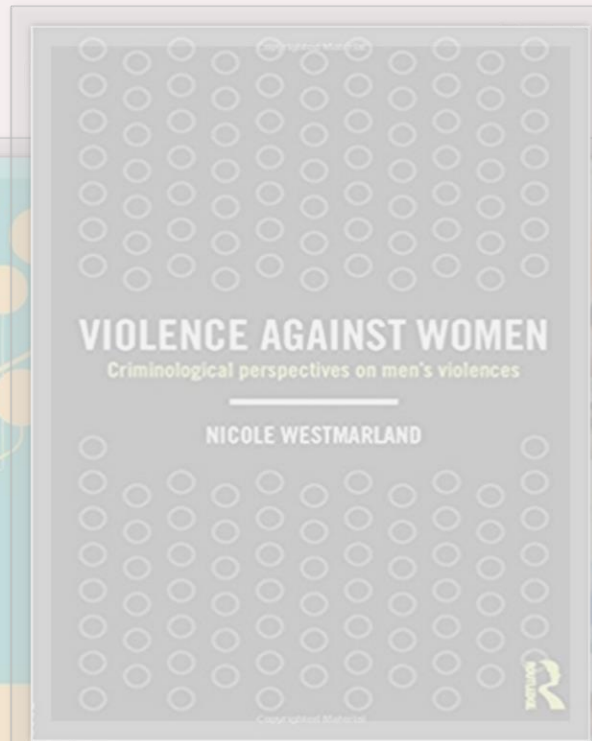


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Higher Education and Social Inequalities



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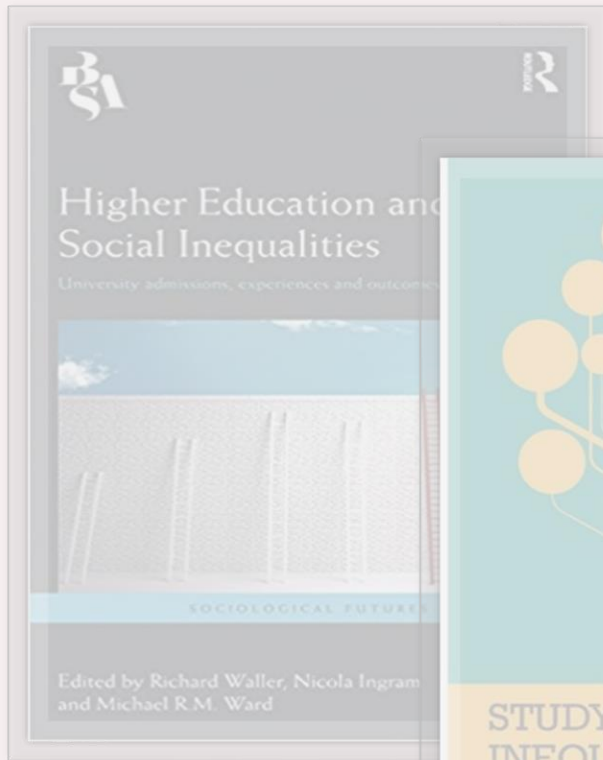
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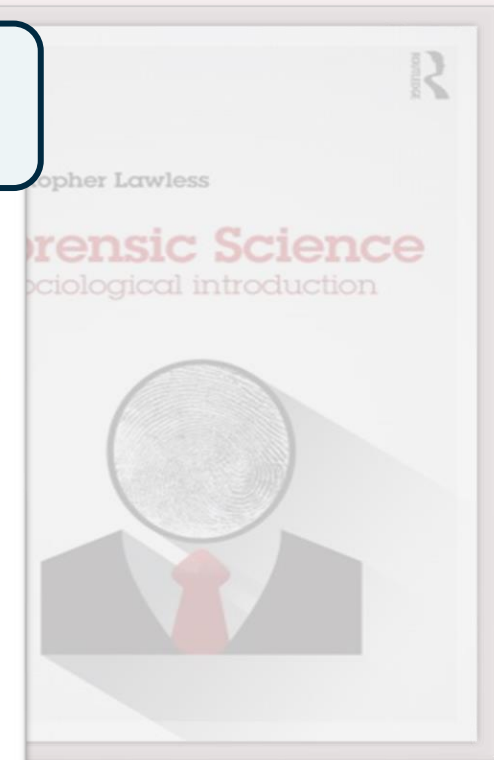
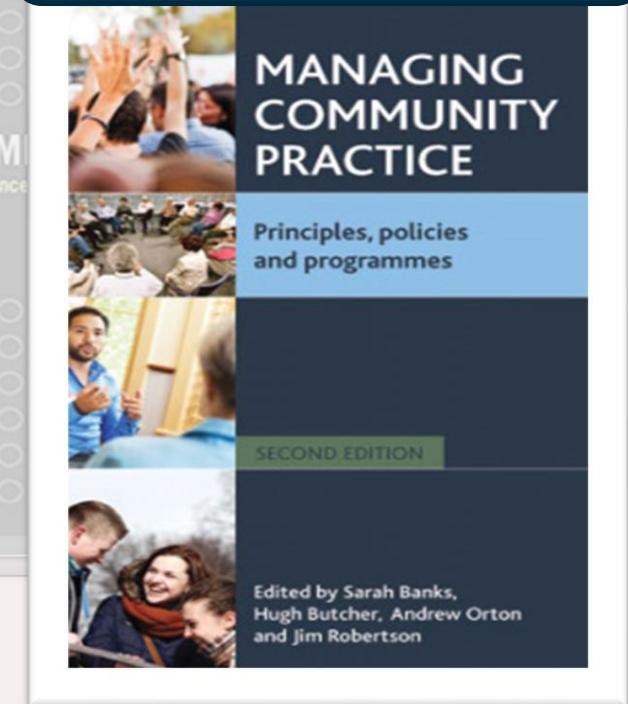


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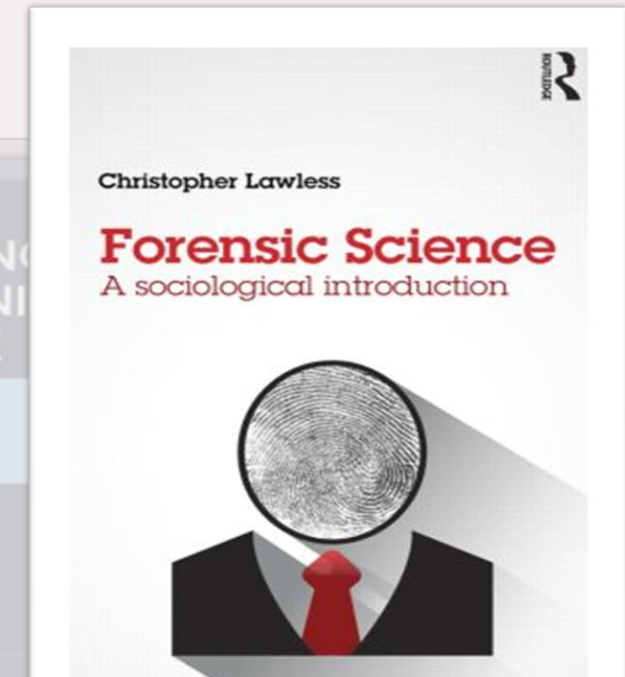
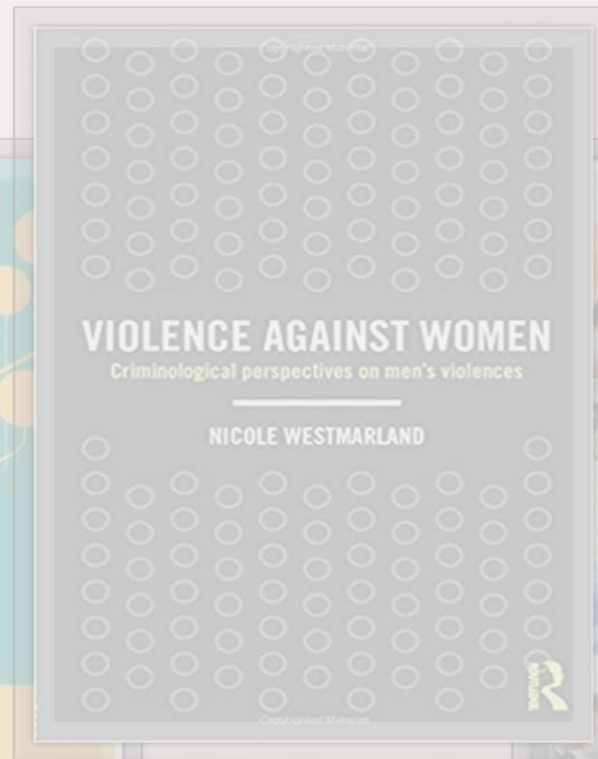
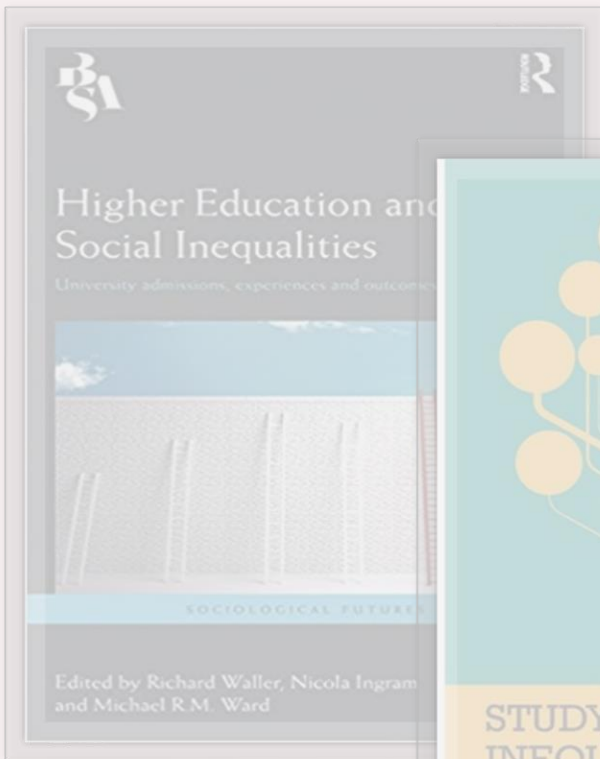


**Communities and Social Justice**



# Criminology Programme Overview...

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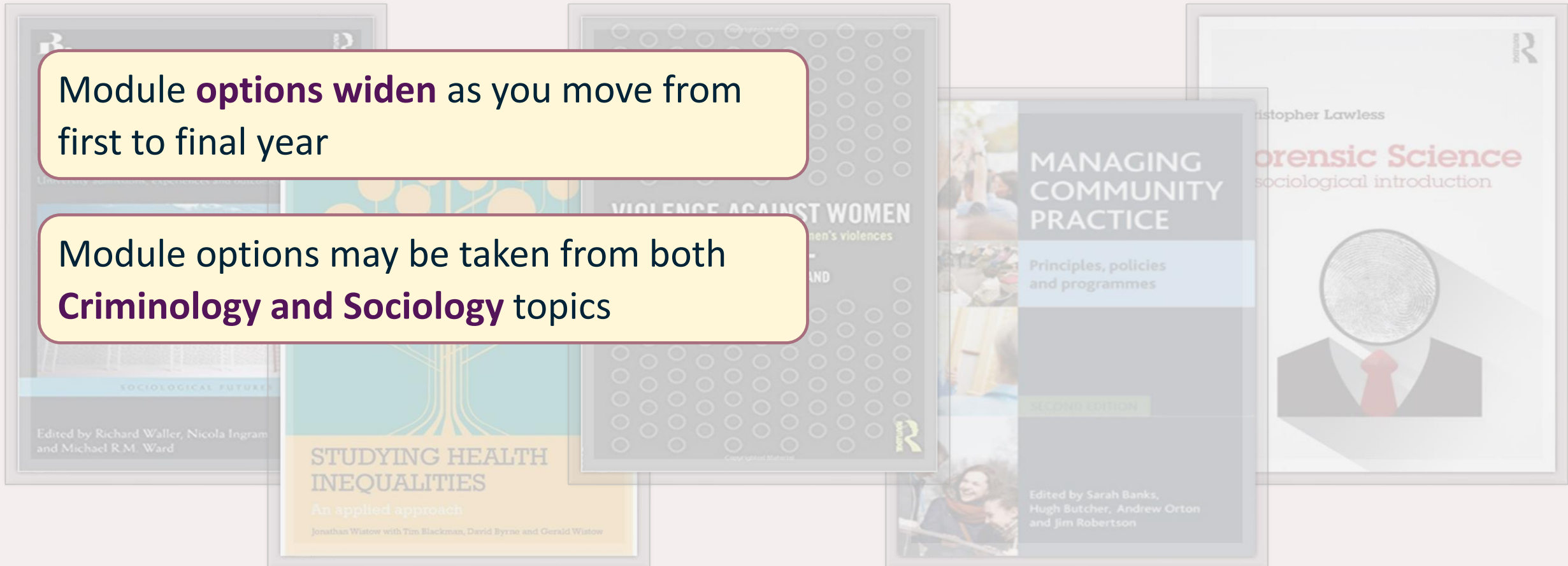
**Criminal Justice, Social Harm and Inequalities**

# Criminology Programme Overview...

And the rest comprises of **substantive themes and topics...**

Module **options widen** as you move from first to final year

Module options may be taken from both **Criminology and Sociology** topics



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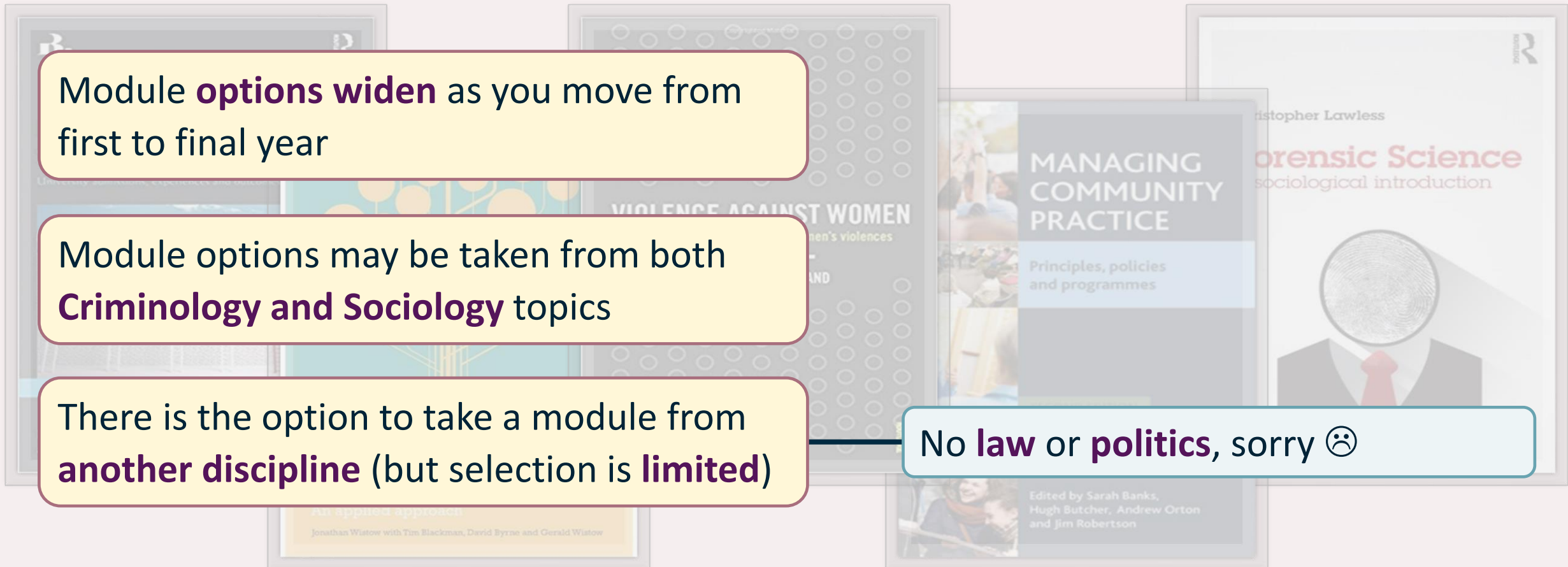
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Module **options widen** as you move from first to final year

Module options may be taken from both **Criminology and Sociology** topics

There is the option to take a module from **another discipline** (but selection is **limited**)

No **law** or **politics**, sorry 😞



# Teaching and Assessment

**Teaching** comprises of lectures, seminars, practical workshops and independent study...



...while **assessment** comprises primarily of **coursework** like essays and reports, with only a **small number of exams**





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**WHY  
CRIMINOLOGY  
AT DURHAM?**



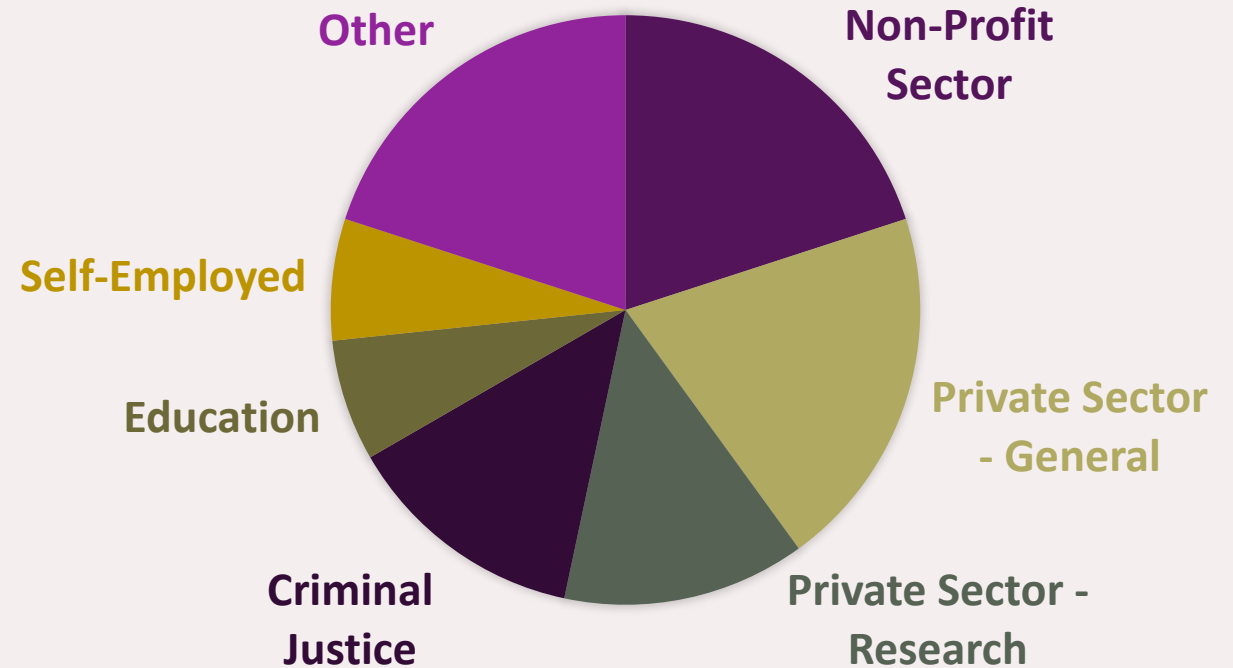
# Our Graduates...

**Excellent graduate prospects:** we are in the top 5% for Criminology graduate outcomes

Like most degrees, **Criminology is not vocational**, i.e. it does not train you for a specific career path...

...so our graduates go on to do **all manner of different things**

## GRADUATE DESTINATIONS (2015-16)



(Please note these data are quite rough!)

# Inside Out Prison Exchange...

Inside Out offers the opportunity to learn about issues in criminal justice **alongside inmates at a local Durham prison**



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03gj6gp>

# Work / Community Placement...

## Placement Year Option

- Opportunity to do a **paid work placement** between your **second and third year** of study
- University **support** to find a placement
- Fantastic opportunity to get **work experience** and **put your degree to practical use!**
- [www.durham.ac.uk/study/careers-employability-enterprise/our-services/develop-yourself/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/careers-employability-enterprise/our-services/develop-yourself/)



## Community Placement Module

- Opportunity for a **50-hour placement** with a community organisation as part of the **final year of study**
- Smaller scale opportunity for **work experience** and to **take your degree out of the classroom**
- Counts towards final degree

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# Study Abroad...



For info see: [www.dur.ac.uk/international/studyabroad](http://www.dur.ac.uk/international/studyabroad)

# Research Opportunities...

**E.g. Laidlaw  
Scholarship Scheme**



**Laidlaw Scholars**  
Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme

An opportunity to do a supervised research project and undertake leadership training over two years

**E.g. Collingwood  
Research Internships**



Some colleges offer opportunities for paid research internships over the summer

**E.g. MITACS Research  
Internship**



International research internship scheme supporting research in Canadian universities



# Public Engagement (Sociology in Action)...

*Fake News*



*Writing Identity*

*Sociology Sings Back*

February 2020

REVOLUTION

12.30-14.00 The Big Sing Song – Nicky Rushton  
AKA: Our Singer/Songwriter reveals the 4 songs  
About OUR Sociology

St Oswald's Church Institute - Church Street  
Durham University DH1 3DQ.

11.30-12.30 Catherine Donovan and Nicky Rushton In  
discussion Catherine and Nicky lead a discussion of  
the Sociology Protest Song project with contributions  
from staff involved and external participants

12.30-2.00 Pop Up Choir Students, Staff, members of  
the community and others are invited to join a pop up  
choir and learn and sing through four songs

A small black and white photograph of a person playing a violin, located in the bottom right corner of the collage.

Q&A





**Durham**  
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**Website:**

[www.dur.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.dur.ac.uk/sociology)

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[@DurhamSociology](https://www.instagram.com/DurhamSociology)

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