



# Sociology (including Joint Honours) at Durham

Dr Kimberly Jamie

Associate Professor of Sociology

@DurhamSociology on Instagram, Twitter

# Sociology Open Days 2023

This presentation session will be 40-45 minutes presentation, 15 minutes for questions

We have a stall in the TLC for quick questions

Please scan the QR code for many, many more details about our programmes

Email us at: [soccrim.admissions@durham.ac.uk](mailto:soccrim.admissions@durham.ac.uk)

# Today's Dream Team!



Dr Kimberly Jamie,  
Associate Professor, Director of Admissions  
2<sup>nd</sup> year Sociology of Health & Medicine  
3<sup>rd</sup> year Sociology of Work, Sociology of Reproduction



Dr Will Craige (in the TLC),  
Assistant Professor, Director of Education  
1<sup>st</sup> year Research Methods  
2<sup>nd</sup> year Research Methods in Action  
3<sup>rd</sup> year Dissertation

...And thanks to Judith behind the scenes!



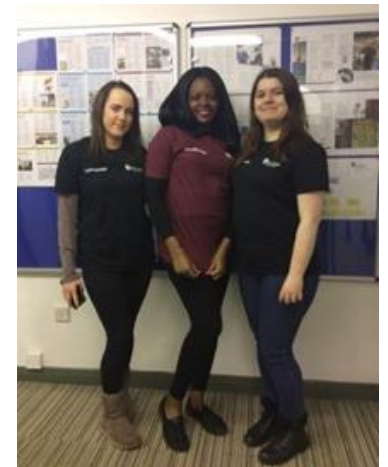
*Lottie, probably knows more  
than any of us!*

# Our Department

We offer: BA Sociology, Anthropology & Sociology, Criminology, and Combined Honours in Social Sciences

We are: committed to sociological research which influences knowledge, policy and society

We want: Students who are engaged, critical, ready to debate, and knowledgeable about the world around us



# Our Research

- Research strengths:
  - Communities and social justice
  - Health and social theory
  - Higher education and social inequality
  - Violence and abuse
  - Criminal justice, social harm and inequalities
- We write the books and articles that you will read on your course and we want you to engage with us about these!
- We also use our research to make a difference



# A Sociology Degree at Durham I

- Three years of learning around theory, methods and research-led substantive content (there is also an opportunity for a placement year)
- You will have the opportunity to discuss, debate, create and critique
- Year One: Compulsory modules on:
  - Theory
  - Methods
  - Critical scholarship
  - Major social transformations
- Plus optional modules from Department or elsewhere...

# A Sociology Degree at Durham II

- Year two: Compulsory theory and methods modules. In methods, you can try out research for yourself.
- Year two: “Stem” modules in core research theme areas: *Sociology of Health & Medicine*; *Sociology of Education*; *Violence and Abuse in Society*; *Communities and Social Justice*
- Year three: Dissertation on a topic of your choice plus optional modules
- Dissertation topics have included:
  - Medical discrimination against ‘fat’ women (published)
  - Everyday work of hairdressers (published)
  - Social norms of death announcements online (published)
  - Relationship between colourism and racism
  - Free labour in the video gaming industry
  - Impact of Covid-19 on the Deaf community



# Examples of Optional Modules

- In the Department:
  - *Hate Crime*
  - *Feminist Anti-violence Activism*
  - *Issues in Criminal Justice*
  - *Cyberculture and Cybercime*
  - *Sociology of Forensic Science and Criminal*
  - *Crime, Justice and the Sex Industry*
  - *Sociology of Mental Health and Illness*
  - *Health and Place*
  - *Sociology of Reproduction and Parenthood*
- From elsewhere:
  - *Harry Potter and the Age of Illusion (Education)*
  - *Sex, Reproduction and Love (Anthropology)*
  - *Environment and Society (Geography)*



# How you'll be Taught

- We pride ourselves on being excellent teachers and we teach and assess in innovative and interesting ways
- Lectures and seminars but also fieldtrips, student-led sessions, student conferences, workshops
- Assessments are not all exams but also self-defined essays, wikis, reflections, posters, presentations
- Formative support throughout
- Year 1: 9-10 contact hours per week

**CHOOSE YOUR PLAYER**

**LEVEL 1**

**WORKING CLASS**

**MIDDLE CLASS**

**UNIVERSITY**

**Who wants to be an A GRADE STUDENT?**

**REASON**

**I NOW B LATER**

**Why do middle-class children perform better in the education system?**

**Access to different kinds of capital**

**Middle class values**

**Parental attitudes and interest**

**Why do working class children underachieve in the education system?**

**Underrepresentation of working class in higher education**

**Uniformity with the 'widerouted code'**

**All-school subculture**

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# Sociology in Action



# Student Experience

- Students always welcome at department talks and seminars
- Student Society organises seminars, events, talks and nights out
- Opportunities for study abroad
- Opportunities for undercalculated placement year
- Success with Laidlaw Scholarships:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRVbyWqukEc&feature=youtu.be>
- First Generation Scholars group



# Admissions

- Typical offer is AAB at A-level, IB 36
- Contextual and merit/potential offers
- We take around 60 students per year on Sociology/Joint Honours
- We want personal statements that show an interest in Sociology and students who are committed and engaged:
  - What particular part of Sociology are you interested in? Why?
  - What key books have you read? What did you think of them?
  - Are you a member of any **relevant** groups/interests? What does this bring to your degree? Hint: everyone likes socialising!
  - Make sure all statements are evidenced in some way
  - **Don't** start your statement with a quote! Please, please, don't do this!

# Our Graduates

- Excellent graduate employability rates
- Employability is core to many of our modules
- Employability skills woven through the whole curriculum
- Our students have gone into jobs in the police force, HR, marketing, management consultancy, civil service and Aldi management scheme
- Many stay for further study with us

# Recent Alumni



**Veera: Tech analyst at Accenture**



**Joshua: Brand Manager at Danone**



**Ben: PhD in the USA**



**Izabella: Community worker**



**Emma: School aspirations coordinator**

# Alumni—Department of Sociology



**Paul David Corrigan**  
(CBE)  
(PhD Sociology 1974)  
Previous Director of Strategy & Commissioning of the NHS London Strategic Health Authority & formerly Labour Party Health Advisor.



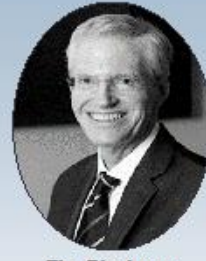
**Vee Chisanga**  
(Masters of Social Work 2016)  
Children's Social Worker in Redcar & Cleveland.



**Richard John Adams**  
(OBE)  
(Sociology 1960s)  
The founder of the UK fair trade Organisations.



**Veera Bukshi**  
(Sociology 2015)  
Currently working as a technology consultant at Accenture.



**Tim Blackman**  
(PhD 1980s)  
Vice Chancellor Middlesex University.



**Emma Lewell-Buck**  
(Social Work 2007)  
Shadow Minister for Children & Families, MP for South Shields.



**Joshua Parker**  
(Sociology)  
Now a Brand Manager at Danone.



**Mo Mowlam**  
(Sociology and Anthropology 1971)  
Former Northern Ireland Secretary who achieved a historic breakthrough with the Good Friday Agreement.



**Lorna Dean**  
(Criminology 2017)  
Went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Law.



**Dr Natasha Kriznik**  
(BA Sociology, MA Social Research Meth., PhD Social Policy)  
Research Associate at the Wellcome Trust, the National Institute for Health Research & the Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre.



**William Herbert Laming**  
(Baron Laming, CBE, PC)  
(Applied Social Studies 1960)  
A British social worker and member of the House of Lords.



**Nelli Stavropoulou**  
(Combined Honours in Social Sciences)  
Currently completing a PhD at the Department of Sociology.



**Pearson Nkhoma**  
(Social Work Studies 2012 and PhD 2018)  
Working for Dignitas International & member of the Centre for Multiparty Democracy in Malawi.



**Helen Mcmillan**  
(Sociology and Social Policy 1988)  
Former Assistant Chief Constable of Northumberland Police & currently (temporarily) Deputy Chief Constable of Cleveland Police.



**Graham Hancock**  
(Sociology 1973)  
Author of 'The Sign & the Seal', 'Fingerprints of the Gods', 'The Message of the Sphinx', 'Entangled', 'War God', 'Magicians of the Gods'.



**Emma Maslin**  
(Education Studies with Sociology)  
Aspirations Coordinator (pre-16) at a school in Hartlepool.



**Lizzie Devlin**  
(Criminology)  
Working as a paralegal at a family law firm.



**George Montagu**  
(Criminology 2015)  
Currently working for the Financial Times Legal & Compliance team in London.



**Ruth Payne**  
(Criminology)  
Working in Newcastle Combined Courts as an administrator and court clerk.



**Ben Turner**  
(Sociology 2017)  
Now studying for a PhD at the University of California, Irvine, in Informatics.



**Rachael Shimmin** OBE  
(Social Work)  
Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire County Council.



**Elliot White**  
(Criminology Inside/Out)  
Starting an MA in filmmaking as a scriptwriter.



**Izabella Chia**  
(Sociology)  
Stayed in the city for an internship with King's Church Durham.



# Preparing to Arrive

“Discovering Sociology” by McCormack et al.

Watch the news, follow politics, know about the social world!

Follow us: @DurhamSociology on Instagram and Twitter

Email us: [soccrim.admissions@durham.ac.uk](mailto:soccrim.admissions@durham.ac.uk)

