Postgraduate Programmes
2016/17
Introducing Sociology at Warwick

Our department
We are a friendly, lively and interactive department with a stimulating environment where postgraduates can work and study, at all levels of study. Rated 23rd in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2014/2015, we are internationally renowned for our research and teaching in sociology. We are also rated as one of the top UK departments, as confirmed by our consistently highly placing across the range of national league tables; ranked 4th in the UK by the Guardian University Guide 2016; 5th by The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016; and 7th by the Complete University Guide 2016.

Our teaching
Our postgraduate teaching programme is designed by high-calibre academics whose research is published and discussed around the world. Our courses are fresh and relevant and they’ll introduce you to the latest thinking, underpinned by cutting-edge research. Your course will be taught by our diverse research interests. Our teaching informs our postgraduate research. Our research is designed by high-calibre academics whose research is published and discussed across the spaces of postgenomic life. Our department is structured with five vibrant research clusters:

- Theories and Methodologies
- Culture, Media and Creativity
- Body, Science, and Society
- Inequalities and Social Justice
- Politics, Community and Civic Engagement

Our research
Our research areas are varied. We have considerable strengths in areas such as: gender studies, social theory, health and illness, migration and ethnicity, work and employment, political sociology, the sociologies of religion, bioscience, markets, knowledge and media. This is important and relevant to you because our research informs our postgraduate teaching. As you’ll see later in this brochure, all of our MA programmes have compulsory core modules. In addition to these, you’ll have the freedom to select from our specialist choices. These core and specialist choices are informed by our diverse research interests.

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The research clusters feed into the interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research centres including: The Social Theory Centre; The Centre for a Study of Women and Gender; and The Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity. These centres are led by members of our Department, and they interact across our research cluster areas, as well as across disciplines within the University and beyond. Working across these themes and issues ensures that we are outward looking in our research. You can read more about our centres on the web pages: warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/sociology/research/centres

Events
In addition to your seminars and independent study, you are invited to get involved in the intellectual life of the department. Events include regular seminars as well as conferences, documentary screenings, workshops, and debates. By engaging with these areas beyond the classroom, at various events throughout the year, you will widen your perspective and explore the diverse reach and applications of sociology.

Sociology departmental seminar series - these are weekly during the term time and offer an opportunity to interact with staff and other students. There are often guest lecturers from beyond Warwick and recent events have included:

- Developing speculative methods to explore speculative shipping: Mail art, exchange and futurity
- Decentering Beauty in Latin America
- The Culture of Competition in Modern Liberal Societies
- Topological Experiments: Visualising the spaces of postgenomic life

We also have a Graduate seminar series, with regular events including presentations from Warwick and visiting postgraduates on their work in progress. Past events have included:

- Sexuality, Desire and Care Work
- Gender in Organisations and Language
- Hermeneutics of Bodies and Stigma
- Mediated Gender and Connectivity

Our research centres also host their own visiting speaker programmes. Previous sessions include:

- Exploring Shame & Stigma: An Interdisciplinary Workshop
- Narcissism and Melancholia: Reflections on a Century
- Everyday market lives
- Gender and Climate Change workshop
- Guest Seminar by: female power in our great ape cousins: The roots of female dominance and social bonds in bonobos
- Graduate seminar series in: Sexuality, Desire and Care Work; Gender in Organisations and Language; Spaces of Fear, Inequality and Gender

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You’ll be joining an intellectually stimulating environment, where many scholars are well known internationally. We are as committed to teaching as to research. As teachers, our aim is to be student-friendly, to bring our own research into the seminar room, and to encourage you to begin to engage in your own research. You’ll be given scope to take your work in the directions that attract you.

Support
As you progress to the next level as a university student, you’ll find plenty of support on offer to develop and enhance your study skills, and provide you with advice and feedback.

Your personal tutor will support your academic development throughout your programme. They will discuss your academic progress, advise on matters such as module choices, and act as your referee for job or further academic applications.

Module tutors can provide specific advice about the subject matter of individual modules and also advice in terms of specific essays and assignments.

You have workshops throughout the year which are designed to equip you with the skills and information you need to successfully complete your degree. Workshops include essay writing, and the planning, structuring and writing for your MA dissertation.

Your academic support librarian provides targeted support in your subject area, helping you to develop information and research skills during your course. You can also make requests for book purchase, skills training or assistance with your research.

Warwick skills programmes. Warwick also provides a number of excellent academic programmes to support you in your studies and personal and professional development, including the Master Skills Programme, Warwick Skills Portfolio Award and the Academic Writing Programme.

Dedicated spaces
The Sociology Common Room offers you a centrally located space where you can grab a tea or coffee and meet other students and staff in the Department.

The PG Hub is a space dedicated to Warwick postgraduate taught and research students. Not only does it offer a workspace and study support, but it is a place to meet other postgraduate students, and access resources including the many social and academic activities on offer. These include writing mentors, sessions such as EndNote training, literature searching and other support workshops and also Yoga sessions and a Summer Fete.

The University Library has a range of study spaces including informal spaces, collaborative spaces for group work, dedicated silent and quiet study floors, and a large number of computers, as well as other specialist technology. You’ll also find study spaces with computer clusters, multimedia resources and bookable rooms in the Learning Grid University 24hrs a day, as well as Learning Grid Routes and Learning Grid Leamington.

Our community and beyond the classroom
You’ll find a wide range of activities available beyond your course where you can get to know staff and students, form friendships, and engage with your interests further. We have departmental end of term socials, which have included a summer barbeque and Christmas lunch.

You’ll be able to find out more about the latest research and debates in sociology, and network with sociologists at the regular conferences, seminar sessions and many other departmental events. Examples include our regular departmental seminars and graduate seminar series, as well as guest speakers and workshops from our Research Centres.

View upcoming activities in our events calendar: warwick.ac.uk/sociology/news

You may wish to take part in our annual study visit in March: in the past this has taken place in such cities as Krakow, Budapest, Seville, Berlin, and Prague. The 2015 trip was to Amsterdam, and focused on thinking about Amsterdam as a post-colonial city. The trip included a lecture on a ‘stigmatised’ neighbourhood of Amsterdam from a Dutch academic, a Black Heritage Tour of the city, and guided visits to relevant museums led by academics and experts.

The Sociology Society is a great way of meeting other students of all levels who are interested in sociology. You’ll find a range of activities on offer, from social and academic events, to mentoring and careers talks. They also undertake a lot of charity work which you can get involved with. Find out more at: warwick.ac.uk/societies/Sociology

Warwick has nearly 300 societies covering a wide range of academic and non-academic interests, which offers socials, guest speakers and other activities.

Warwick Volunteers
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Warwick Volunteers
Our MA courses

We offer four taught MA programmes: MA Sociology; MA Social Research; MA Social and Political Thought; MA Gender and International Development.

Studying for an MA provides you with the opportunity to engage with a particular area of sociology in more depth than you typically can as an undergraduate. It will also provide you with research skills in preparation for employment or further postgraduate study.

Whichever MA programme you choose, you can study from a wide range of modules. Beyond any core modules your course has, you will be able to tailor your course to your interests and aspirations. Page 8 of this brochure lists the modules which are currently available across our MA programmes.

All of our MA programmes can be studied on a full-time basis, two 12-months, or a part-time basis, over a period of 24 months, starting in October each year. Each programme may also be taken as the Postgraduate Diploma (without the dissertation element).

How you’ll study

Each of our MA courses has specified core modules which will be studied alongside a range of optional modules.

All our MA courses follow a consistent structure meaning that you will follow a programme of taught modules making up 120 CATS (academic credits), followed by a 15,000 word dissertation worth 60 CATS. Our modules are generally 20 CATS, so you will cover 6 modules - although your exact pathway will depend on the programme you choose and your selection of optional modules. So, alongside your courses core modules (and your dissertation), you will be required to select a number of optional choices. Each course has different requirements for this. Some allow you free choice across the department, and some will require you to select a number of modules from relevant lists.

For MA Gender and International Development you’ll be required to take three optional modules, and two of these will have to be selected from two lists. For MA Sociology you’ll be required to study four optional modules. You’ll need to choose one from two lists, and two other modules from those offered by our department. For MA Social Research you’ll be required to select three optional modules of your choosing. For MA Social and Political Theory you’ll be required to choose four optional modules from our departmental list.

We offer a wide range of optional modules reflecting the great breadth of research areas we have in our department. So, beyond any core modules your course may have, you will be able to tailor your course to your interests and aspirations. You will have a personal tutor who will be able to advise you on your academic progress as well as discuss aspects such as which modules are best for you.

If you’re a full-time student you’ll undertake taught modules, and submit assessed essays for these, during the academic terms: autumn, spring and summer terms. You will also begin planning your dissertation and generally you will undertake your supervision sessions for this with your agreed supervisor during the summer term. As long as you pass your taught components, you will then focus on completion of your MA dissertation in the summer months of July and August.

If you study part-time then you will study your taught modules over two years: with teaching taking place during the academic terms. The order in which you study your modules will be agreed following discussion with your course convenor. You will also begin planning your dissertation in year two.

Your dissertation

As long as you pass the taught part of your course, taught MA students will go on to write a dissertation of 15,000 words. Your topic and title will be agreed by you in discussion with your supervisor. This is a chance to undertake original independent research, allowing you to focus in depth on an area of your choice, developing a coherent and sustained argument and discussion as part of an extended project.

You will receive support in your dissertation through one-to-one sessions with your supervisor. You will also be prepared through research skills sessions and specific sessions on essay writing and dissertation planning and writing throughout your course.

From the start of your course you will begin considering possible dissertation topics and you will look to confirm a supervisor for your dissertation by the end of spring term. Part-time students will confirm a supervisor for their dissertation by the end of the autumn term in their second year. You will be assigned a dissertation supervisor who has the appropriate expertise in your chosen area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>MA Gender and International Development</th>
<th>MA Social and Political Thought</th>
<th>MA Social Research</th>
<th>MA Sociology</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Life: Wealth and Poverty in Global Capitalism</td>
<td>Lynne Pettigrew</td>
<td>A*</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race, Ethnicity and Social Change</td>
<td>Peter Bastille</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animals in Society</td>
<td>Nicholas Charles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capitalism, State and Market</td>
<td>Nicholas Gane</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Core</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death, Sovereignty and Power in the (Post) Colony</td>
<td>Goldie Oshri</td>
<td>A*</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Analysis and Development Practice</td>
<td>Caroline Wright</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender, Imperialism and International Development</td>
<td>Caroline Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media and Social Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics and Social Theory</td>
<td>Charles Turner</td>
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<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative methods in Social Research</td>
<td>Leon Sealey Huggins, Ros Williams</td>
<td>B*</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>A*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Social Research</td>
<td>Richard Lampard, Wing Chan</td>
<td>B*</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>A*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researching Science, Media and Public Policy in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Ros Williams</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<td>Sex, Gender, Power at Work</td>
<td>Carol Wolkoetz</td>
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<td>Sociology in a Biological Age, Power, Society and Difference</td>
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<td>Sociology of Human Rights</td>
<td>Joke Soboleva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology of Modernity</td>
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<td>State of the Art of Sociology</td>
<td>Leon Sealey Huggins, Stella Charalambous, Hannah Jones</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Science, Media and Public Policy</td>
<td>Steve Fuller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Social Science</td>
<td>Gurminder Bhambra</td>
<td>B*</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ways of Knowing: Gender, Bodies, Power</td>
<td>Cath Lambert, Maria do Mar Pereira</td>
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<td>Core</td>
<td>Core</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

- **C** core module for that degree (compulsory)
- **A** indicates modules from which ONE must be chosen for this course
- **B** for MA Gender and International Development at least one of these modules must also be chosen
- **O** sociology module that can be taken as an option for that degree (optional)
Why are ‘private troubles’ also ‘public issues’? You’ll explore and answer questions just like this on our MA Sociology programme.

MA Sociology is a lively and engaging programme for students interested in how social life shapes individuals’ experiences of the world around us.

Focusing on cutting-edge areas of the discipline, our teaching is carried out by leading, active sociologists. Across sociology and allied social sciences, you’ll gain a thorough understanding of theories and methodologies. Then, by choosing from our wide range of specialist modules, you’ll tailor your programme dependent on your own specific interests.

In all, you’ll be trained to be an active sociologist; able to critically evaluate and consider how we might understand the relationships between individuals and society. Some of the skills you will gain from our programme include: examining individuals’ experiences, and encounters with structures and institutions; reading new empirical research; exploring social theories; and assessing innovative methodologies. These skills will set you in good stead as you progress into an exciting and diverse career.

The taught modules on this programme provide you with a detailed understanding of a range of traditional and emerging social research methods; you’ll then apply this knowledge to your dissertation. The dissertation is your chance to carry out an independent research project on a topic that inspires you, supervised by one of our academics.

You may have already studied sociology, or perhaps you are considering a new intellectual home. Students from different humanities and social science disciplines, who have an interest in obtaining a deep and complex understanding of the social world, are welcomed on to this programme.

Core module #1
State of the Art of Sociology

This module will introduce you to current and cutting edge developments and debates in the field of sociology, linking them to older traditions and currents of the discipline. In the State of the Art of Sociology, you’ll receive a lecture/workshop from a different member of academic staff in the Department each week, focusing on their particular area of specialism, the work in which they are currently engaged, and how this work relates to developments in the wider discipline and beyond. This will enable you to gain an understanding of the limits and possibilities of Sociology as a discipline, through engagement with a wide range of approaches (in terms of methodology, empirical focus and theoretical approaches), to develop your own interests in specific areas of work (in preparation for the dissertation) and to relate these specific interests to other sociological approaches.

By linking the innovative research currently conducted in the Department with longer standing questions in Sociology, the module will challenge you if you have studied Sociology at undergraduate level, as well as acting as an engaging introduction to the discipline if you are new to it. You’ll have the opportunity to hear from a range of experts teaching and researching within the Warwick Sociology Department, and to benefit from their wide-ranging interests and styles of teaching.

Throughout the module, you’ll be encouraged to make links and consider contradictions between and within different approaches to sociological research, theory and practice. What’s more, you’ll be developing writing and presentation skills early in the module in order to share your analysis and learn from one another, taking a lead in shaping your own understandings and developing special interests within Sociology.

Core module #2
Understanding Social Science

This module introduces some of the standard methodological and theoretical problems posed by social inquiry. Many of the issues relate to one key question: are the methods of the social sciences essentially the same or essentially different from those of the natural sciences?

The very idea of a ‘social’ science implies two things. First, that it is somehow distinct from ‘natural’ science, and second that it is some sort of ‘science’. But what is science? The topics to be addressed in this module include introduction to social research; questions in the philosophy of knowledge relating to science, realism, language and materials; objectivity in the social sciences; challenges to objectivity via standpoint epistemology; and the feminist and postmodern/postcolonial challenges to objectivity.

The issues will be illustrated through specific readings, but you are also encouraged to pursue parallel arguments in different sources in relation to your own interests.
This programme offers a strong grounding in the methodologies of Sociology and allied social sciences, whilst allowing you to explore specialist aspects of the discipline. While you may wish to pursue a career in social research and many other fields, the degree also provides a firm basis for PhD-level research, and completion of the module is accepted by the ESRC in lieu of Year 1 of the 1+3 Doctoral Training Programme for students who may later be successful in obtaining funding by the ESRC.

If you follow the MA Social Research Methods route, you will achieve a detailed understanding of a range of traditional and emerging social research methods, and the opportunity to apply this knowledge in an independent research project that forms their dissertation. This programme encourages you to focus on cutting-edge sociology, with teaching that directly relates to the research interests and activities of academic staff.

In order to provide a strong core in social research methods, there are three one-term mandatory modules in social research methods, beginning with Understanding Social Science and moving onto specialist modules in Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods. Through these, you’ll learn about latest innovations and debates in methodology as well as practice-based learning. You’ll then be able to choose three optional modules from a range of specialist modules. You’ll then progress to research and write your own 15,000-word dissertation with personal supervision from one of our leading scholars.

Overall we aim to encourage a critical understanding of the possibilities of Sociology in terms of empirical research, methodological innovations, theoretical developments, and their interrelations.

Core module #1
Understanding Social Science
You’ll be introduced to some of the standard methodological and theoretical problems posed by social inquiry, the relationship between them and its significance for contemporary debates within the social sciences. The first half of the course will explore recurring questions within the social sciences, such as the possibility of naturalism and the nature of social explanation, as well as how successive theoretical innovations have striven to reposition social inquiry in relation to these questions. These sessions will include social ontology and competing perspectives on its significance, or lack thereof, for social inquiry before moving on to key developments in contemporary social theory from structuralist theory onwards (relational sociology, realist social theory, actor-network theory and analytical sociology). These issues will then be explored in terms of two substantive themes which have recurrently concerned the social sciences: social change and the relationship between self and society. It will address the history of the social sciences but also the social sciences as part of history, attending to the ways in which social scientific disciplines have been part of the very changes they also aim to study. In doing so, it will lay the groundwork to understand the pressing challenges facing the social sciences today: the crisis of social scientific authority, ‘transactional data’ produced via social media and the possibility for a computational social science.

Core module #2
Qualitative Methods in Social Research
Qualitative methods are rooted in interpretivist approaches to the social sciences that state that to know the social worlds we study, we need to understand the meanings that human subjects hold. Qualitative traditions of social research thus stress the importance of gaining access to the meanings possessed by human beings, since it is on the basis of such meanings that human agency and sociability become intelligible. Ethnographic traditions of social research have thus emphasized the importance of studying social life in its ‘natural settings’ and through the participation of the researcher in those worlds. This has been complemented and revised by other qualitative research techniques and practices aimed at accessing the experiences, meanings and understandings possessed by human subjects, and how these are best represented through the construction of sociologically valid knowledge.

Core module #3
Quantitative Methods in Social Research
This module aims to develop practical quantitative research methods skills, and a critical appreciation of such methods. The module covers the collection or generation of primary quantitative data, the secondary analysis of data from large-scale surveys, and the interpretation of existing data sources or published data, including official statistics. The evaluation of existing research instruments and the development and design of new questionnaires are dealt with, as are the conceptual and contextual factors determining the meaning and value of quantitative data.
If you're interested in questioning the concepts of gender and development, as well as giving priority to issues and debates identified within specific countries, rather than relying on predominantly western literature, then this is the programme for you. This programme is an international, interdisciplinary and analytical course which does not assume that development is about the ‘third world’ modelling itself on the west, nor about women modelling themselves on men.

Our programme will give you a thorough understanding of the centrality of gender relations in development and how gender is cross-cut by other significant differences, such as sexuality, race/ethnicity, (dis)ability and social class. Through our two core modules you will achieve a rigorous theoretical and conceptual foundation linked to a strong practical focus on issues and policies of gender and development. A third optional module will give you a detailed understanding of methodological debates in social research.

You then choose at least one optional gender/development module:
- Death, Sovereignty and Power in the (Post) Colony
- Market Life: Wealth and Poverty in Global Capitalism
- Sex, Gender, Power at Work
- Sociology in a Biological Age: Power, Sociality and Difference
- Sociology of Human Rights

You will then select from a wide range of exciting and cutting-edge specialist modules, including an optional module in law and development and advanced training in research methods. Optional modules provide opportunities to explore substantive issues that excite you, such as human rights, global capitalism, feminist jurisprudence, the labour process, feminist theory and epistemology and postcolonial theory. With personal supervision from one of our leading scholars, you will then progress to research and write your own 15,000 word dissertation.

Our programme takes place in the unique academic context of both a Women and Gender Studies research centre, with an exciting programme of research seminars and events, and a thriving Sociology department, with a strong international research and teaching profile. You may be a development professional looking to progress your career, a student moving on to graduate study with an interest in development or a researcher seeking a relevant MA as preparation for a research degree; all have prospered on this course and all are welcome!
This MA programme provides you with a thorough grounding in the classics of Social and Political Thought and a deep and varied engagement with their 20th and 21st Century offshoots. This course addresses a range of key concepts and ideas that are central to the analysis of contemporary society, politics and culture, including debates over the basis of contemporary capitalism, neoliberalism, biopolitics, ideology, and the fundamental question of what it means to be ‘social’ and/or ‘human’.

The degree is structured around two core modules. The first of these is State, Capitalism and Market (convened by Professor Nicholas Gane), which uses theoretical resources such as Michel Foucault’s writings on biopolitics to think analytically and critically about capitalism and its recurrent crises. This module looks in particular at the recent financial crisis and the role this crisis has played in the reconfiguration of structural relations between the market and the state. A key part of this module is the critical analysis of political-economic discourses of neoliberalism that argue for the sovereignty of markets and economics over all things ‘social’. The second core module is Politics and Social Theory (convened by Dr Charles Turner) uses the work a wide-range of classical thinkers (for example, de Tocqueville, Marx, Durkheim and Weber) and Twentieth Century writers (Arendt, Schmitt and Rorty) to consider the possibility of developing a sociological understanding of politics. Beyond these two core modules, you can pursue your own research interests and specialisms by choosing four modules from a wide-range of options, and then progressing to research and write their own 15,000 word dissertation. Optional modules include, for example, ‘Rethinking the 20th Century’, ‘Social Research for Social Change’, ‘Feminist Theory and Epistemology’, ‘Market Life’, and ‘Death Sovereignty and Power in the (Post) Colony’.

Core module #1
State, Capitalism and Market
This module uses a range of theoretical resources to think analytically and critically about capitalism and its recurrent crises. You’ll look at the recent financial crisis and the role it has played in the reconfiguration of structural relations between the market and the state. Drawing on Michel Foucault’s lectures on biopolitics, the module will consider the different types of governmentality that underpin these changing relations: from classical liberal forms to new neoliberal ones. The module will centre on this question of neoliberalism and will pay close historical attention to political-economic discourses which argue for the sovereignty of markets and economics over all things ‘social’. Social science, and sociology in particular, has tended to dismiss neoliberal ideas without seriously engaging with them. This is not something that will be done on this module, which instead will pursue a critical reading of the neoliberal canon while at the same time exploring some of the unexpected sociological influences upon the neoliberal project.

Core module #2
Politics and Social Theory
You’ll be introduced to the concept of ideology as a defining feature of politics, especially focusing on the role that both religion and science have played constituting modern political ideologies. As a first approximation, ‘ideology’ refers to what is still called the ‘right-left political spectrum’ that first captured the design of the National Assembly, immediately after the French Revolution of 1789. But the module attends to the various sociological re-alignments associated with the evolution of ideologies through the modern period. Moreover, we will consider whether the concept of ideology continues to serve any useful analytic or even political purpose.
Optional modules

Market Life: Wealth and Poverty in Global Capitalism
What is living in global capitalism like? How do markets affect and inform everyday life? On this module you’ll explore daily life in capitalist societies. You’ll examine how ordinary people understand, engage in and produce different kinds of markets as workers, consumers and citizens. And you’ll consider the everyday ethics of these market practices. This ethics affects extreme questions (should there be a market in body parts?), mundane questions (how do couples share resources?) and those of contemporary political relevance (how are different kinds of work valued?). You’ll look at extremes of wealth and poverty, as well as asking how money is understood and managed in ‘ordinary’ and ‘average’ ways of living, as we shop for treats or sign up for online dating. The focus will be on the present day, and you will be encouraged to bring in readings and insights from any country or region of interest to you: the set readings will explore research from Asia, Europe, South America and the US. You will draw on the theoretical insights and research programme of economic sociology (New Economic Sociology, and research programme of economic geography) and literatures that provide insight into feminism and STS in particular), sociology (New Economic Sociology, and research programme of economic geography) and literatures that provide insight into feminism and STS in particular).

Death, Sovereignty, and Power in the (Post) Colony
The relationship between sovereignty and death has long preoccupied social and cultural theory in thinking through the formation of state sovereignty and law in the European context. In colonial and postcolonial contexts, these concerns have been inflected to illuminate the generation of death worlds and the struggle for justice. This module draws on critical postcolonial and Indigenous scholarship to examine political cultures of violence and death and how these death worlds also generate multiple forms of resistance and emancipatory political movements including non-violent as well as militant quests for justice, freedom, self-determination and sovereignty. Focusing on specific case studies, this module will explore how the present nexus of biopolitics, geopolitics and necropolitics is an uneven juncture through which a master narrative of ‘the war on terror’ and a neoliberal rationale are invoked and governmentalised in different contexts. In this nexus, colonial categories of racial and religious difference continue to be relevant in a present, allegedly ‘post’ colonial era.

Furthermore, the module will examine how division between the ‘West’ and the rest may sometimes become untenable in the context of transnational state and non-state alliances, activism, and solidarities.

Sex, Gender, Power at Work
On this module, you’ll focus on the gendered social processes that are central to current changes in paid and unpaid work. You’ll be introduced to research on gender, race, class, sexuality and power that has helped to bring about a re-conceptualisation of the meaning of work and its place in people’s lives. The course locates formal employment within wider social processes, but views it as a crucial site of gender power as well as resistance. It’ll emphasise the relevance of both structures and cultures in reshaping women’s and men’s employment patterns and experiences, exploring the implications of globalised production chains, state policies, and shifting constructions of gender for changes in overall patterns of employment, the relation between paid and unpaid work, and experiences of work in different employment sectors. You’ll learn not only about gender in formal employment in organizations and global factories, but also forms of reproductive labour, including the centrality of paid and unpaid care work, sex work and egg ‘donation’ and surrogacy.

Sociology in a Biological Age: Power, Sociality, Difference
We live, according to some, in the century of biology. Insights from the biosciences, such as genomics and synthetic biology have offered up new ways to understand how our bodies and minds work. What can a sociological approach bring to these new forms of sociality and politics that are taking shape in the 21st century? With what consequences for forms of social difference such as gender and race? How do legacies of colonialism and imperialism impinge upon the kinds of futures envisioned by contemporary science?

By engaging with these questions, you’ll be required to work with a variety of sociological perspectives on the contemporary life sciences. Objects of attention range in scale from molecules to personhood to environments of risk. The texts for this course attend to diverse contexts of laboratory practices, clinical encounters, postcolonial politics and broader social debates. The course will develop your ability to think critically and communicate effectively about the interactions between science and social relations.
Sociological accounts of contemporary society have increasingly shifted away from talk of capitalism or industrial society towards a broader concern with modernity. The benefits of such an approach are most obvious in the attention which is given to the non-material aspects of the social, and in the attendant interdisciplinary character of theorizing about modernity.

The aim of this course is to reflect some of these changes without at the same time sacrificing what has been gained through more traditional approaches. The first part, then, concentrates on the institutional analysis of modern society - its politics, economics and ideology if you like. But at the same time it focuses upon a basic tension which runs through most of these mainstream accounts, namely the struggle between individual striving for personal freedom and autonomy, and the increasing capacity of human beings to master or control their surroundings. This tension has been played out in theories of functional differentiation, cultural contradictions, the civilising process and the disciplinary society. These accounts will be covered in Sociology of Modernity I. Sociology of Modernity II has a rather different character, and addresses some of the conceptual dilemmas and paradoxes attendant upon any attempt to theorise modernity.

Uncovering Science, Media and Public Policy

This module will provide you with an empirically based and conceptually engaged perspective on science and professional life and practice at the intersection of science, media and public policy. This perspective includes consideration of longstanding concerns about democratic versus technical decision-making; public engagement and the implications of scientific controversies in the mediated public sphere. Across many domains of science and professional life, the sciences seek to influence publics through entertainment, news and social media, education, dialogue and debate. On this module, you’ll identify ways in which such attempts to influence or engage public perceptions of the sciences can be investigated through specific case studies. There have been particular flashpoints at the nexus of science, media and public policy in recent years. Controversies over human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, genetically modified crops, alternative medicine, the role of new media as both information resource and research site for science, advocates, the idea of the citizen-scientist, scientists as political advisors, actors and entertainers, the public about science, science, media and public policy. Among the topics covered include: science’s public accountability, science and social divisions, the power of peer review in authorising scientific knowledge, the comparative demands of scientific and journalistic inquiry, the role of public relations in science, the idea of science as a cultural product, media’s duty to educate, inform and entertain the public about science, scientists as political advisors, actors and advocates, the idea of the citizen-scientist, the role of new media as both information resource and research site for science. Emphasis will be placed on the two-way influence of theory and practice, as well as the challenges posed by the representation of specific types of scientific knowledge in specific media. This term’s module will pay special attention to changing media representations of ‘humanity’ -- including trans/posthumanity - in light of recent developments in science and technology, focusing on practices of ‘anticipatory governance’, whereby the public come to be mentally prepared for the prospect of quite radical innovation. There may be relevant external guest speakers.
What do Warwick Sociology MA graduates do?

I applied to the Department of Sociology at Warwick in 2011 when I was about to obtain my BA in Sociology at the University of Warsaw (Poland). I really liked the broad spectrum of available modules and became very excited about meeting some of the sociologists whose names and books were already familiar to me.

From today’s perspective I am very satisfied with my decision to pursue a part-time MA in Sociology at Warwick. When I was entering the programme I was interested predominantly in social theory and sociology in general but when my interests shifted a little towards social policy, it was no problem at all I simply chose two inspiring social policy modules for my second year. Since finishing the first year of the degree I have been working for a leading Polish think-tank, the Institute of Public Affairs. I had a summer internship there and currently we are collaborating on a regular basis.

Thanks to my British experience, I am now able to produce analyses and undertake research on social policy issues in the UK and the European Union which were my focus at Warwick. I work on a wide range of topics, such as the welfare system reform, youth unemployment, activation policies and social economy. Plus, I often translate research articles from English to Polish and I really enjoy the feeling that I am contributing to the spread of knowledge.

In sum, I would recommend MA in Sociology at Warwick to anyone interested in social science but especially to those who are a little unsure about their future career track. The course will give you the flexibility you need.

Maciej Sobocinski
MA Sociology

Examples of our Sociology MA graduates’ job titles include:

- Management Trainee, NHS
- Teacher, Birmingham City University
- Researcher, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation
- Project Intern, Lokahi Foundation
- Research Trainee, Office for Public Management (OPM)
- Learning Coach, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College

Our Sociology MA graduates have gone on to the following further study:

- PhD in Social Sciences, Loughborough
- PhD in Sociology, University of Manchester
- PhD in Sociology, Goldsmiths
- PhD in Politics, Warwick
- PhD in Social Policy, University of Warwick
- PhD in Sociology, University of Warwick

Over 72% of our 2012/2013 sociology graduates who were available for work or study, gained employment or further study within six months of graduation.

Esther Akinnuwa, Broadcast Journalist
MA Sociology

I studied at Warwick for 2 years for a part-time Masters degree in Sociology. My time at Warwick was a time when I truly discovered what I wanted in life not necessarily the exact career but I knew I wanted to document women from all walks of life.

That’s why I delved into journalism, I took some advice from visiting fellow Dr Robert Beckford because I knew I wanted to tell stories about women from all over the world. It was fitting to get into journalism.

Following my experience at Channel 4, I had networked with a few people there and heard about a journalist platform called Podium where I discovered Sky News’s Standup Be Counted campaign. Sky News Producers asked me to post videos about younger voters, which was uploaded to the website and on TV during the campaign.

I was privileged to be interviewed by Eammon Holmes on Sunrise, which was invaluable experience. I also covered the evening debate between Miliband and Cameron. Being surrounded by established journalists was an amazing experience. In addition, I have also covered stories for other channels such as TVC News which reports from African Diasporas.

Getting my Master’s degree at Warwick is what facilitated me to get all this experience, as I gained a huge amount of confidence in myself and my opinions about how I view the world.

Esther Akinnuwa
Broadcast Journalist
MA Sociology
Abigail Hunt
Policy and Advocacy Manager
MA Gender and International Development

I finished my MA Gender and International Development in 2009, and at that point had worked for a few years in the UK on policy related to violence against women. I was keen to continue working in the policy field, but I also wanted to put into practice the in-depth theoretical knowledge about women’s rights and international development I had gained on the MA.

Since graduating, I have worked at the European Women’s Lobby in Brussels and spent several years in Burkina Faso where I worked as a gender advisor to the Ministry for Women and then for a nongovernmental organisation. I have recently returned to the UK and have since been appointed to a policy and advocacy role at an international women’s rights organisation based in London.

I am sure that taking the MA Gender and International Development was a key element contributing to the career path I have taken in recent years, and I am really pleased I made the decision to study at the University of Warwick. Even though a few years have passed I often reflect on the conversations I had with my tutors and the other students on my MA course, and these continue to inform my work to this day. In short, I would highly recommend this course to anyone interested in a career related to international women’s rights and development.

Sophie Perrins
MA Social Research

On completion of my MA Social Research I was keen to be able to apply what I’d learned in whatever employment I took up. My initial job search was extensive, covering many fields and disciplines including academia and further research. As my search progressed I found myself more and more drawn to jobs that used research creatively, having been particularly inspired by a module called Visual Sociology whilst I was at Warwick.

I now work at a company called Latimer Group. Latimer is a youth centred social enterprise committed to affecting social change through creative media and film production. The company creates media campaigns, usually films, tackling a diverse range of social issues. I’ve worked on various campaigns, from a film for the charity ‘fender’ tackling the early warning signs of domestic violence, a series of films exploring girls involved in gangs, to, more recently, a Channel 4 documentary for Cutting Edge.

Since all the media campaigns are led by focus groups of young people, I’ve found that the process of social research has lent itself to this way of film making. I am intending to build on the experience to pursue a career in documentary film making and feel that my MA in social research will definitely help me to achieve this! I would absolutely recommend this course to anyone interested in research methods. I found it to be not only a really interesting course, but also one that really prepared me to follow my chosen career path.
Once you have decided which MA programme is right for you, you can begin preparing your application. There are three basic questions to ask before you submit your application:

Do I meet the entry requirements?
Do I have all of the necessary documents to hand?
Will I be able to submit my application in time?

Once the answer to these questions is ‘yes,’ you can head to the Warwick website and submit your application electronically at warwick.ac.uk/pgapply.

Entry requirements

There are four entry requirements that you must meet in order to be eligible for our MA programmes:

1. An upper-second class (2:1) honours degree or equivalent. Your undergraduate degree should be in the area of sociology or a closely related subject. However, all serious applications from other disciplines will be considered.

2. A strong academic reference. When you apply, you will be able to supply your referee’s contact details, and we will request a reference from them directly. If you graduated more than two years ago, you may supply a professional referee instead if you are no longer in touch with your undergraduate tutors.

3. A good statement of purpose. This personal statement is your opportunity to explain why you would make a great MA student. Typical statements are 1-2 pages long; you should include:
   a. Your motivation. Why this particular MA, and why Warwick?
   b. Your background. How has your education, extracurricular activities, and/or professional experience prepared you for rigorous postgraduate study in this area? This is particularly important if your undergraduate degree is not in the area of sociology.
   c. Your expectations. How does this degree fit into your future plans—what do you hope to gain from it?

4. Fluency in English. If English is not your first language, you must have an IELTS score of 7.0 with no more than two components at 6.5 and none below 6.0. If your previous education was in the UK or another English speaking country, you may be exempt from this requirement, but please enquire to be certain. Please also note that taking a pre-sessional English course at Warwick or elsewhere is not sufficient to replace an IELTS score at the required level.

Supporting documents

In order to make a decision on your application, we will need to see some documents that demonstrate you meet our requirements. You should supply these electronically in the first instance; when you receive an offer, Admissions will tell you precisely which original hard copies are required to secure an unconditional offer.

When you submit your application, you will receive a link where you can upload your documents for review:

1. Transcript. If you have not yet finished your degree, you can send us an interim transcript and simply state in your application what your final classification, GPA, or average is expected to be.

2. Reference(s). As mentioned above, we will contact your referees directly, but if they do not respond in a reasonable timeframe we may contact you and ask that you remind them to submit your reference.

3. Statement of purpose. You can either paste your statement into the space provided on the application form or, if it’s too long to fit in the allocated space, upload it as a pdf or Word document.

4. English test (if applicable). You do not need to supply your IELTS certificate straight away; however, please ensure you arrange to take your English test sooner rather than later so that you can secure an unconditional offer in time to apply for your visa (if needed) and start your course on time.

Timings

We review applications on a rolling basis, so you should submit your application as soon as you are ready. We will normally make a decision on your application within 4 working weeks of receiving all necessary documents.

Overseas candidates must apply no later than 31 July; while there is no deadline for Home/EU candidates, we strongly recommend applying by 31 July as well in order to ensure enough time is left to sort out logistics such as accommodation.

If you plan to apply for funding, please read the scholarship criteria carefully: if you need an offer in order to apply for funding, please allow enough time for your MA application to be processed. Deadlines and details about scholarships available can be found at warwick.ac.uk/sociology/pg/funding

Further information

- Further information about fees and funding, including scholarships available for MA students can be found on our fees and funding webpages: warwick.ac.uk/sociology/pg/funding
- Find out more detail about our courses and our department by visiting our departmental website: warwick.ac.uk/sociology
- Visit the university to get a feel for yourself. See warwick.ac.uk/pg/visits
- If you have any questions about your eligibility or about the application process, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us at christine.wilson@warwick.ac.uk
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