

**Institution: University of Sussex**

**Unit of Assessment: UoA 23 Sociology**

## 1. OVERVIEW

During the review period, the University of Sussex has restructured and Sociology now sits within the School of Law, Politics and Sociology (LPS). Since 2008, we have sustained and progressed the agendas and strategies developed in advance of the RAE 2008 in order to continue to produce research across our core thematic clusters: Health, Medicine and Science; Gender and Inequality; Social Theory and Political Sociology. In addition, since 2013 we have initiated a new cluster – Criminology and Transgressions – arising from developments within existing faculty interests and from synergies with Law colleagues. From 2014 the School will move to a newly renovated building designed to support research activity of the highest quality.

Alongside the 14 faculty of the Sociology Department, a further three staff are submitted, as their research activities and agendas sit within the remit of the Sub-Panel and include substantive overlap and collaboration with the Department – Farsides (Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Faulkner (Centre for Global Health) and Schechter (History).

## 2. RESEARCH STRATEGY

During the review period, Sociology's core research aims have been:

- to produce high-quality research by our faculty, researchers and research students that is empirically grounded, builds sociological theory, advances methodology and informs practice;
- to ensure our research engages fully with academic audiences, both nationally and internationally and, in so doing, contributes to sociological understanding and knowledge related to our core thematic priorities of Health, Medicine and Science; Gender and Inequality; and Social Theory and Political Sociology; and
- to ensure that our research is translated to the benefit of society, and that it engages fully with local, national and international audiences and communities outside higher education.

We have established, monitored and developed research strategies to achieve these aims.

- All researchers understand what constitutes high-quality and internationally excellent research and have supported their research activities along the entire research process;
- All research students understand the requirements of good-quality doctoral research and develop into independent researchers. All faculty supervise research students and develop strong supervisory relationships that strengthen students' understanding of their research areas as well as the research process in general;
- The research strengths of new faculty appointed to our Department dovetail with, and augment, the research profiles of existing faculty and our core thematic research clusters. We have identified a newly emerging research priority and cluster – Criminology and Transgressions – and, since 2012, have made excellent appointments (Mason-Bish, Hardie-Bick and Seal) whose research strengthens our existing priorities as well as this newly emerging area;
- Staff and students understand how to establish and build fruitful external partnerships, to secure appropriate research funding from a diverse range of funders, to maximise positive research collaborations and to influence policy and practice agendas;
- In terms of impact, our research addresses issues of social justice by improving awareness and understanding of how key social opportunities, experiences and outcomes are differentiated by background characteristics such as class, gender, occupation, nationality, health status and ethnicity and, more particularly, to address areas where specific groups are disadvantaged.

Our approach has supported the production of the following publications within the REF period (not including people joining in 2013): 14 authored books, 12 edited books, over 85 refereed journal articles – the vast majority of which are published in ISI-linked journals – and over 50 book chapters and commissioned research reports. We have secured over £1.2 million in research funding. We have established and strengthened extensive research networks, relationships and collaborations with a diverse range of non-university partners including: the Fire and Rescue Service; the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); Chronic Pain Australia; the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; the Sussex Partnership Foundation NHS Trust; the National Union of Students; the Survivors' Network; Brighton Dome and Festival Offices; the House of Commons; the House of Lords; Sussex Police; and the Welsh National Assembly.

We have put in place a number of mechanisms to help us to achieve our research aims and implement our strategies.

#### *At the Departmental level*

- Each of our thematic clusters has operated as a mechanism for achieving our overall aim and strategy of producing high-quality research around our core themes of Health, Medicine and Science; Gender and Inequality; and Social Theory and Political Sociology. Each cluster provides a working context within which research agendas can be formulated and developed and can flourish, both for individuals and for partnerships. Each cluster has been led by a senior member of faculty – a Research Leader. This person is the first point of contact for faculty in each area seeking help with research queries and issues. In addition we have had an overarching Research Convenor in the Department and each faculty member has been assigned to a general mentor. Support and advice has been available from each of these key figures throughout the research cycle, from finding research partners, building research design, achieving ethical approval, through to generating optimally placed, high-quality research outputs and maximising research impact. Faculty have formulated and assessed their progress against clear research goals via an annual research review process, a five-year plan, formal appraisal, and *ad hoc* mentoring, auditing and Continuing Professional Development needs to ensure that they reach their potential in terms of research activity.
- A Department Research Strategy and Practice Committee, comprising the Head of Department, the Research Convenor and the Research Leaders from each cluster has developed and reviewed strategy, overseen research and provided advice and support on the research design and planning process, writing and publishing, and funding. The committee's work includes, for example: overseeing faculty research performance, at the individual, cluster and collective levels; monitoring staff research activity, outputs, funding applications etc.; advising on target journals to ensure that our research is peer-reviewed at the highest level and placed in high-quality outlets; ensuring faculty are clear regarding expectations of securing external funding to support their research; liaising with School- and University-level research committees to ensure that central strategies are communicated to faculty and align with Departmental strategies and practices.
- Students' progress is carefully reviewed annually. This review process audits the views of both supervisors and students, and ensures that both are satisfied with the supervisory relationship and students' progress. Students' research is assessed, along with their research training needs, and recommendations for meeting any such needs are made via referral to attend one of the wide range of generic and specific Doctoral School courses available. Previous recommendations are monitored during the following year to ensure that students' development needs have been met.

In terms of our Impact Strategy (further described in our impact statement), we have:

- contributed to policy debate and formation at the local, national and international via:
  - appointments to key advisory boards, presentations and panel memberships; and
  - producing research, policy reports and non-academic outputs that contribute to policy-making;
- collaborated and engaged with user-groups and audiences by:

**Environment template (REF5)**

- working with non-university partners throughout the research process; and
- sustaining an extensive programme of research-based outreach and knowledge exchange activities (see impact statement).

In our research, to ensure that we achieve impact and engage fully with non-university partners, we generate research questions with them, collect and analyse data from them, invite research users and beneficiaries onto steering groups to oversee our research and advise on impact value, and disseminate research findings to them. For instance, Bendelow's work has focused on integrated approaches to mental illness, emotional health and well-being by encompassing lay knowledge and public understandings alongside professional perspectives in her research. As part of her research agenda, she has attempted to move 'contested conditions', 'stress' and 'psychological distress' beyond a biomedical model and towards a holistic framework which takes due cognisance of the social context of mental health and illness and encompasses alternative medical systems and healthcare practices. In relation to this, she has developed strong research collaborations with Sussex Police and Sussex Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (also Local Authority/Public Health and voluntary organisations) and has worked with them on refining collective understandings of (critical and) contested mental-health states, especially in relation to individuals being detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, which allows police to detain individuals in public places. Her research questions (Why are a disproportionate number of individuals detained within Sussex?), data-collection (interviewing key members of the Police, the NHS Trust and detained individuals and observing incidents where individuals are subsequently detained) and analyses, are being developed in collaboration with these partners.

*At the School level*

- The School's research strategy and targets are established, reviewed and overseen by the School Research Committee, and have provided a context within which we have monitored our Departmental performance.
- As part of the School provision, we have had a School Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (DRKE) who has acted as a further conduit between faculty and the University's central research management, and a repository of expertise relating to research processes and funding. The DRKE chairs a termly committee developing School strategy.

*At the University level*

- The University's research strategy and targets have provided a context within which we have monitored our performance; for instance, Departmental research funding targets have been agreed between Heads, the DRKE and the PVC for Research.
- The University Research & Enterprise Services Division has provided expert advice – including the provision of drop-in sessions and general and targeted workshops – on funding opportunities and best practice in relation to preparing funding bids, as well as the progression and submission of those bids. Faculty have drawn extensively on this repository of expertise and support.
- Research Governance and Research Ethics Committees have provided a robust framework for guaranteeing that all of our research activity has complied with BSA ethical standards (including authorship policies) while supporting the achievement of research objectives. All staff and research students' projects were reviewed by our associated Research Ethics Committee.

Going forward into the future, we will continue with our existing research aims, strategic priorities and support and delivery mechanisms, but we seek to further strengthen our impact agenda, drawing on examples where we consider this has worked best. We further wish to develop our emerging thematic priority and research cluster Criminology and Transgressions and, relatedly, to develop our emerging but fruitful collaborations with Law and Politics colleagues within our School. This latter plan will be more easily realised in our new School building. Research Leadership roles for each cluster will continue to be undertaken by senior faculty and new appointments will be made to our existing and emerging research clusters to cover faculty losses and to build capacity where funds allow. For example, two new appointments are currently planned for Criminology and Transgressions in 2014.

### 3. PEOPLE

#### Staffing strategy and staff development

We have recruited to our thematic priorities and research clusters to ensure continuity of successful research agendas, as well as recruiting more recently to our newly emerging Criminology and Transgressions research cluster. Fincham (L then SL), Seal (SL) and Hinton-Smith (L) were appointed to our Gender and Inequality cluster. Seal's appointment led to an emerging research strand around Criminology and Transgressions which is evident in her work and which strengthened our emergent socio-legal research linkages with Law colleagues. Edmunds (L) and Morosanu (L) were appointed to our Social Theory and Political Sociology cluster and replaced Lentin's important race and ethnicity research strand within that cluster, thus consolidating Sussex's reputation in this area. The recent appointments of Hardie-Bick to this cluster and Mason-Bish to Gender and Inequality further strengthen these clusters but also consolidate our emerging thematic focus on Criminology and Transgressions, as both of their research agendas and activities clearly fall into this area as well as into social theory and inequality. In line with our strategic priorities, all appointments have been secured by candidates with excellent research standing, experience and potential, and who fit within our existing and emergent research agendas.

As part of our research aim to produce high-quality research and our strategy to support individual researchers in their research plans and activities, and over and above the mechanisms described in Section 2, we have utilised the following forms of support:

- The annual research review and appraisal process is maintained as an open, informal opportunity to discuss research issues, goals and problems:
  - We have ensured that discussions and outcomes produced in the context of annual research reviews, and research review meetings, 5-year research plans and appraisal feed into discussions and decisions relevant to research – e.g. workload discussions, consideration of leave, promotion applications and appointment discussions
- Centrally generated regular research income reports for each Department and individual
- New, permanent appointments are given a reduction in their workload to facilitate the transition to managing research alongside teaching
- Research leave from teaching is provided internally on a basis of 1:9 terms. Faculty apply for this leave the year before their entitlement obtains and their application requires a research and publication plan and a subsequent post-leave report. Moreover, faculty have been awarded further leave (up to a year) following a substantial departmental administrative role, e.g. Head of Department and one term following School roles. Key research outputs are the result of internally-supported, e.g. Bendelow's Health, Emotion and the Body (2009). Research leave reports that are completed at the end of periods of study leave ensure research goals have been met
- Part-time status does not impact adversely on research careers, e.g. Phipps was awarded research leave in 2012 immediately following her move to a part-time contract. Will was promoted immediately following her move to part-time status
- Staff receive £1000 per annum to support international conference attendance. Individuals securing external funding receive 10% of overheads in a Personal Incentive Fund to use for future research support, and workload reductions in line with award specifications, but also small reductions of around 10% where no such specification exists
- In the review period, the LPS DRKE has provided funding workshops, and presentations by School faculty who have sat on award bodies/committees
- An annual research half-day during which all Sociology staff give short, informal presentations on recent and future research agendas to ensure we are all fully informed of our current activities and plans and can identify commonalities in emerging interests
- Regular LPS-wide research half-days focused on common research themes across Law, Politics and Sociology faculty, e.g. a 'Gender Workshop' (2010).

By utilising our support mechanisms, we have successfully supported the career development of all researchers, from long-standing faculty members through to post-doctoral fellows, and have ensured

**Environment template (REF5)**

that the latter category of staff flourish within the Department or are in a position to progress in their careers elsewhere, e.g. Hinton-Smith (Sussex), Sassatelli (Goldsmiths), Masquelier (Surrey). High-quality publications, developed with support from, or in collaboration with, existing faculty members, have been produced following their research periods in the Department including: Sassatelli *Becoming Europeans* (Palgrave Macmillan 2009), which was awarded the Philip Abrams prize; Scott, S., Hinton-Smith, T. (postdoc), Härmä, V. (doctoral) and Broome, K. (postdoc) (2012) 'The reluctant researcher: shyness in the field', *Qualitative Research*, 12(6): 715-34.

Staff submitted from outside of the Department undertake research in their own School locations in a context with access to the same over-arching and centralised University research structures and similar School-level support structures.

**Research students**

Twenty-eight research students have successfully completed their doctorates in the review period. Research students have been provided with desk space and computer facilities in a designated Sociology room next to faculty offices. Minimum supervision guidelines are established as 20 hours per year per FTE. Students and supervisors have been reviewed annually by Sociology's Graduate Convenor and LPS's Director of Doctoral Studies; progress, performance and training needs are assessed from both the student and the supervisors' perspective. The required training has been covered within our ESRC-recognised postgraduate programmes, regardless of students' funding status and is offered from the Doctoral School on campus. The Doctoral School has operated as a main point of contact for all research students and has ensured their training, supervision standard and general provision. It represents a distinctive development at Sussex that has sat beside our academic schools. The School has further recognised that PGR students and post-doctoral researchers are a fundamental and vital part of our research community. It has provided a comprehensive programme of academic, professional and social opportunities to ensure a positive research experience for students and the successful completion of their doctorate, and has supported the transition to academic research and related careers. Doctoral students have been encouraged to present themselves as professional researchers-in-training. The Doctoral School has overseen the quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation of doctoral programmes in conjunction with LPS's Director of Doctoral Studies.

The coherence of our Departmental research themes and clusters has ensured that research students have entered an environment where they will meet both staff and other research students working in fields related to their own. Our research profiles and networks mean that we attract a diverse range of students from a wide variety of national and international contexts, including Korea, Turkey, Nigeria, the Gambia and Egypt and, in the case of more mature researchers, often with extensive occupational experience in the areas they wish to research, including in School headship roles, human resource management, marketing, medical practitioner roles, IT consultancy, lectureships in overseas universities and NGO-worker roles etc. This diversity adds a commitment, dynamism and real-world orientation to the doctoral research environment. Additionally, we all work hard to develop and sustain strong and effective research relationships with students and to foster a vibrant research culture that cultivates lively debate while providing a supportive context within which students can flourish as new researchers. For instance, Phipps is Director of Sussex's Centre for Gender Studies, a programme and research centre embedded within Sociology which has provided both a vital and supportive academic home for students working on gender-related issues throughout the University. As part of this role, she has co-ordinated PGR academic and social activities and professional networking opportunities, and provided first-point-of-contact pastoral and academic support etc. Students are supervised by two members of faculty, at least one of whom is within the Sociology Department, but the offer of inter-disciplinary supervision teams is one of our strengths. For instance, successful students have been co-supervised by Sociology faculty and supervisors from History (Schechter), Geography, Anthropology and Development Studies, Brighton and Hove Medical School (Farsides), Education, Law and Economics.

Students have been encouraged and supported by faculty to take up dissemination, networking and publication opportunities outside the University during their PhD study and advisory relationships are sustained after they secure their degrees – e.g. encouragement for Shaw's organisation of the BSA's Climate Change Study Group book launch and discussion event at the British Library Conference

Centre (2012), and support provided during the preparation of the first article from his thesis in the top-ranked climate-change journal *Global Environmental Change*. The Department, School and School cluster within which Sociology has sat has enjoyed ESRC site-recognition for postgraduate training and research throughout the review period and has allocated a number of ESRC doctoral awards each year. A number of our research students have had their doctoral research supported by external awards from other national or international funding bodies and other organisations, including: the British Council, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Istanbul Bilgi University and American Express. In the review period, most research students were offered some mentored teaching within the Department, or were employed as part-time research assistants. Within the School, Fincham instigated and oversaw the student-led research student workshop, a fortnightly forum where students have presented their work-in-progress to fellow students and faculty, and which has enriched the research culture. Additionally the University-wide system of University scholarships and discounts has existed for current PGT students, and aspiring UG students have been able to compete for Junior Research Fellowships, to encourage them to work with faculty on an proposed research project over one summer, with a view to them converting this experience into a PGR proposal. Within Sociology, for instance, one aspiring doctoral student – Forsyth-Harris – worked with Hinton-Smith on erotic capital in summer 2012.

#### 4. INCOME, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Our research agendas and strategies have supported high-quality research from individuals at all levels. We encourage all members of staff to submit funding bids at least once annually, and utilise the range of systems (see Section 1 above) that are in place to support this. We have been awarded 23 grants from, *inter alia*, ESRC; Leverhulme Trust; Medical Research Council; Marie Curie Foundation; European Commission; Wellcome Trust; European Science Foundation; European Social Fund; and the British Academy. Since 2008, we have seen an increase in applications, the spread of awards has become more broad-based and the majority of our faculty have been awarded grant income. We continue to collaborate on research applications, research and publications with faculty from a wide range of disciplines: Economics, Psychology, Politics, Law, and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School within the institution, and Psychiatry, Education, Cultural Studies and Political Economy nationally and internationally. Our research clusters, research committees and formal and informal mentoring systems ensure that all funding bids can be reviewed before submission by a researcher with the relevant expertise and in line with School policy. We have been awarded over £1.2 million in external funding in the review period to date from a diverse range of funders, e.g.:

- EU-funded and focused grants (£299k) to support work on Eurofestivals and a (£96k) grant to support research on Varieties of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe
- Interdisciplinary EPSRC funding with Informatics colleagues for Supporting Shy Users in Pervasive Computing (£259k) award
- BA/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship funding (£45k) for Diagnosing Dangerousness and Vulnerability: Police Use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act across Sussex
- Wellcome Trust funding (£184k) for The Ethics of Translational Research: From 'Unnatural Entities' to Experimental Treatments (Biomedical Ethics programme)
- ESRC awards (£89k) for The Experimental Method and Effectiveness in Cardiovascular Disease and DIY Heart Health: Accounting for the 'Use' of Over-the-Counter Statins
- National Union of Students (£9k) for the Campus Culture and the Experiences of Women Students in Higher Education project.

In some cases, these awards enriched the research environment, producing high-quality outputs, as well as user engagement, and brought in new members of staff. For instance, Delanty's and Scott's awards supported new post-doctoral fellows (e.g. Hinton-Smith; Sassatelli; McDonnell) and doctoral students (e.g. Harma).

All staff have their own office and networked computing facilities. We have access to:

- technical training and support for computer queries/problems; and
- a high-quality library (including online access to many holdings).

As a School, LPS will move into a new building currently being reconfigured and refurbished to house us on a permanent basis. The building plans include the provision of high-specification academic workspace, as well as social space.

## 5. COLLABORATION OR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCIPLINE OR RESEARCH BASE

Our strategic framework has provided a vital and sustainable research context and supported a range of our research activities under our thematic clusters in the review period. Our staff and research students have consequently developed significant collaborations with, and made significant contributions to, the discipline of Sociology and a variety of user communities at the local, national and international levels.

In terms of publications, collectively, staff have published the following in the review period: 12 sole-authored or co-authored books; eight edited books; 25 book chapters and 63 refereed journal articles, the majority of which are in high-ranked ISI-linked journals.

Evidence of collaboration and contribution to the discipline within each research cluster has included:

### *Health, Medicine and Science*

- Bendelow's work has made significant contributions to the sociology of chronic pain, emotional health and integrative medicine and, collaborating with Scott on a Wellcome Trust-funded project ('Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorders'), to the understanding of critical mental-health states; this latter strand of research has led to collaborations with Sussex Police and the NHS and to her appointment as Honorary Senior Research Fellow for Sussex Partnership NHS Trust. Bendelow's further contributions to the discipline include the Convenorship of the BSA's Medical Sociology Group (–2008) – under her organisation the BSA's annual Medical Sociology Conference was held at Sussex in 2008; membership of the BSA's Executive Council (–2011); Trustee of the Foundation for Sociology of Health and Illness (2010–) which awards PhD studentships, early-career fellowships, and international travel and symposium awards.
- Farsides' work, focused on empirical bioethics, specifically on the experience of scientists and health-care professionals operating in ethically contested fields of biomedicine (e.g. organ donation), has led to key appointments to a number of high-level policy fora, including the Nuffield Council of Bioethics Working Party on 'Human Bodies: Donation for Medicine and Research' and the UK Donation Ethics Committee.
- Faulkner's work, focusing on the innovation, regulation, law, governance and uptake of new medical technologies in the UK and EU, as well as India and China, led to his appointment to the NICE Medical Technologies Advisory Committee (2009–12), and his Co-Convenorship of the 'Governance' Working Group of EU FP7 Co-operation in Science and Technology 'Bio-Objects' Network Action, promoting collaborations for research from members within Europe and beyond. From 2013 he will represent the discipline in his capacity as sole Expert Advisor to the Welsh National Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee's 'Inquiry into access to medical technologies in Wales'.
- Will has built on her interest in evidence in healthcare, developing work on the interpretation of clinical trials in both policy and clinical practice, and has been awarded a scholarship with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (2012–) to explore the ways in which public and patient values and views can be incorporated into clinical guidance. She has also pursued work on lay health practices, including healthy eating and the use of prophylactic medication, and acted as Co-Convenor of the BSA's Medsoc Group (2010–12), with responsibility for the group's annual conference.

### *Gender and Inequality*

- Fincham's pioneering work – on mental health, suicide and the concept of the sociological autopsy – has led to his invitation to act as expert panellist on the Best Practice Forum For Children in Public Care convened by Lord Listowel at the House of Lords (2012) and subsequently to his membership of the associated Institute of Childhood Trauma and Recovery. Since 2011, he has co-convened the

## Environment template (REF5)

British Sociological Association study group Work, Employment and Economic Life.

- Phipps' research on gender and sexual violence has led to a number of appointments with key user-groups, testifying to its significance and contribution – to the NUS, Brighton and Hove City Council's Senior Officers Strategy Group for Sexual Violence and Abuse, and the Board of Trustees of the national Survivors' Network organisation. She has chaired the Feminist and Women's Studies Association (2009–12). Her work on sexual violence within higher education has led to developing collaboration with the National Union of Students (NUS), for whom she has acted as an expert consultant, and from whom she has recently received an award to research 'lad culture' on campuses. She is co-founder and curator of the Safe Studies Network, a collective of academics, policy-makers, third-sector workers and journalists interested in issues around violence against women students.
- Hinton-Smith's research has focused on gender, equalities, education and the social inclusion of marginalised groups. Her work on lone parents in HE represents the first sustained programme of enquiry into this area and led to her collaborations with Gingerbread One-Parent Families, and professional research work and policy input for Kate Green MP, UK Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities (2011).
- Seal was a new appointment to the Department in 2012 – she is established as a key contributor to research on gender representations of women who kill, cultural representations of transgression, historical understandings of 'dependency' and public responses to capital punishment.
- Woodfield's research focuses on gender differences and inequalities in the context of higher education and employment, and has made a significant contribution to academic and policy debates in under-researched areas, such as men in HE, and has led to collaborations with the Fire and Rescue Service, including invitations to act as expert observer and commentator to the Service's national and regional equalities and diversity events, and with key national organisations including the Equality Challenge Unit and the Higher Education Academy. In 2008 she was appointed to the ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship Referee College and to the ESRC Peer Review College in 2010.

*Social Theory and Political Sociology*

- Delanty's research has concentrated on a social-theory approach to Europe and on cosmopolitanism in relation to political community and modernity and has led to him developing strong international collaborations as part of his EU-funded research projects and consortia. The Department is home to the *European Journal of Social Theory* and Delanty is the journal's Chief and Founding Editor. He is therefore centrally placed within a network of academics in the social and human sciences, and the Department provides an important context within which future discussion and dissemination events are organised. For example, Sussex hosted, under Delanty's leadership, Beyond Capitalism and Democracy, the 9th Annual Conference of the International Social Theory Consortium (2010). Delanty has held a visiting professorship in the review period at Barcelona University (2013) and delivered 36 overseas plenary or keynote addresses on his research. In the REF period he was appointed to the ESRC Peer Review College for four years.
- Edmunds is a 2012 appointment with a growing profile for her research on Islam, human rights, citizenship and cosmopolitanism, leading to collaborations with, for instance, the Muslim Council of Britain's Research and Documentation Committee (2010).
- Martell's work focuses on socialism, social democracy, social movements and globalisation, and has led to international collaborations and invited international presentations and input into national and international policy networks, e.g. Policy Network's 'Amsterdam Process' – a series of publications and policy meetings of advisors, politicians and academics – as well as other European think-tanks, Wiardi Beckman Stichting and Brussels-based Foundation for European Progressive Studies and their policy processes, and has presented on 'Internationalism in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Democracy' in Brussels (2011), an invitation-only event attended by politicians (including the former Prime Minister of Denmark, the former Chancellor of Austria, and a number of MEPs), policy advisors and academics.
- Schechter has been appointed Editor of the '*Critical Theory and Contemporary Society*' book series for Bloomsbury/Continuum.