

Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Unit of assessment: 23: Sociology

a. Overview

Since 2008 LSE sociology has been undergoing a vigorous process of rebuilding, with seventeen new appointments (Bhatt, Calhoun, Cubucku, Friese, Hall, Jones, Latour, Madden, McQuarrie, Pardo-Guerra, Savage, Stark, Tarr, Thompson, Wajcman, Wilson, Zeiderman). We have focused our activities into three research foci: (i) Economies, Risk and Technology; (ii) Urban Change, Culture and Connection and (iii) Politics, Human Rights and Injustice, all addressing major global challenges involving economic, social, cultural and political issues. Our effectiveness in hosting top quality research is demonstrated by our success in spending nearly £9 million in external research income since 2008, including a central role in the major ESRC Research Centre, CARR - the Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation - and the interdisciplinary work of LSE Cities. Our commitment to public sociology is evidenced by the fact that our current staff have convened 150 research events at LSE and abroad since 2008. Altogether, members of the unit have published 26 books, 121 refereed articles, and 74 book chapters in the current period and 69 PhDs have been awarded.

b. Research strategy

The heart of our strategy has been a refocusing of our research clusters from the ten groups highlighted in our 2008 RAE return to a smaller number of areas focusing on key ‘drivers’ of global social change. (Our strategy is overseen by the Department's Research Committee, which now has a dedicated administrative officer.) Accordingly, we have disinvested from the BIOS Research Centre and concentrated on broader sociological concerns within science and technology studies. Our interests in race, racism and ethnicity have been recast into a wider concern with stratification and inequality. We have disinvested from social psychology, from community health and development, and from management, all of which were distracting our energies away from core sociological concerns. We have strengthened our intellectual links with the Gender Institute following its formation as an autonomous unit at the LSE.

Concerns with escalating inequalities and injustices motivate our critical research agenda, leading us to focus on the tensions of global social change. Most of our colleagues have strong interests in forms of ‘situated theory’, which criticises grand epochal thinking in favour of ‘middle range’ theory attuned to the complexity and specificity of contemporary challenges. In this spirit we have strengthened our interests in the role of science and technology, finance and economic change, urbanisation, the cultural dimensions of social stratification, and new cosmopolitan political agendas around human rights and political conflict. These are all areas where we can actively engage with current sociological debates and demonstrate a distinctive LSE presence which seeks interdisciplinary engagement across the whole of the social sciences.

Our staff have made major contributions to exploring the limits to cosmopolitan politics (Bhatt, Calhoun, Cubucku, Latour); political violence (Cubucku, Foster); social and representational patterns of gender and global inequality (Ali, Hemmings, Wilson); new frameworks for understanding social class stratification and political cleavages (Archer, Savage); inequalities in working time (Wajcman); finance, markets, value and risk (Dodd, Hutter, Pardo-Guerra and Stark); the significance of large scale urbanisation, migration and social cohesion (Burdett, Hall, Jones, Madden, Savage, Tonkiss, Zeiderman); changing cultural hierarchies (Savage, Slater); and the reworking of relationships between science, biology and the social sciences (Ali, Friese, Latour, Thompson). Accordingly, most of our staff conduct fieldwork outside the UK, and we prize our empirical expertise on every continent in the world (specifically Archer on politics in American and Australia, Bhatt on global terrorist networks, Burdett on international cities across the globe, Calhoun on culture and politics in the US and Africa, Cubucku on Western discourses of human rights, Jones on neighbourhood sustainability in Australia, Friese, Latour and Thompson on scientific cultures in the US and Europe, Madden and McQuarrie on urban politics in the United States and India, Moon on reconciliation in Argentina and South Africa, Slater on new media and development in South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, Stark on Hungarian factories, Wilson on

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gender and development in India, and Zeiderman on urban change in Colombia). We see this commitment to empirical global sociology as also embracing strong interests in social change in the UK, as is evident in the research of Hall and Jones on urban change in London, or Savage on the changing British class structure. Our vision is for LSE sociology to embrace a fundamentally international sociology, critically interrogating theoretical claims about the relationships between economic, political, social, spatial and cultural change using sustained fieldwork and empirical inquiry across the world, but also recognising our own situated position within London, the UK and Europe.

In addressing these issues, we have emphasised our capacity for methodologically robust research, notably in qualitative methods, where our commitment to ethnographic research (Cubukcu, Foster, Friese, Hall, Jones, Latour, Madden, Slater, Tarr, Thompson and Zeiderman) is unusually strong in British sociology. This strength intersects with the LSE Department of Methodology (where Jones and Tarr are based), which has enhanced its interests in qualitative methods in recent years through an alliance with us, including through shared post-graduate teaching. We also collaborate with the Gender Institute (where Hemmings and Wilson are based), which is the largest centre for interdisciplinary research in transnational gender studies in Europe, and which itself combines an emphasis on empirical work in global political economy with cultural and theoretical innovation. We have identified the need to enhance our quantitative methods expertise and plan to make further appointments in this area.

Our three research clusters all host large post-graduate teaching specialisms with an international student body, and have an association with large-scale funded research centres.

1) *Economies, Risk and Technology*

This cluster combines our distinctive expertise in the sociology of economic life and risk regulation with our capacity in science, technology and society. Our interests in economic sociology range from sociological studies of money itself (where Dodd's work has highlighted Nietzsche's contributions alongside Simmel's, and reflected on the significance of the current financial crisis, notably with his work on the laundering of money), through the regulation of the risks generated by economic life (Hutter's work on anticipating and managing risks), to the socio-technical organisation of markets (through Pardo-Guerra's studies of the automation of the London Stock Exchange and recent work on art markets). Slater's work brings together interests in actor network theory to develop new perspectives on the cultural economy of new technology in different parts of the global south. These interests in the technological dynamics of social change intersect with Wajcman's studies of the impact of mobile communications on the speeding up of social relations and in Savage's interests (supported through extensive grants from the ESRC) in the relationship between new research methods, technical change and class formation. Our interests in STS is represented in the work of Friese (in her studies of the remaking of 'nature' in the context of developments in cloning methods and infrastructure of zoos) and Thompson (in her studies of how the stem cell debate involve the rise of a "procurial" bio-economy).

Through Hutter's role as Director of CARR and as Professor in Risk Regulation, this cluster was associated with the ESRC Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR) which had core funding from the ESRC from 2000 to 2010. CARR was established to define and bring about a new field of study, namely risk regulation studies. This built on the study of regulation as a dimension of government, drawing on the legal and political sciences, and on sociological and management perspectives on issues in risk and risk management. The strength of CARR's contribution is its ability to 'think across' different areas on the basis of a number of cross-cutting themes. CARR's research has focused on different organisational and institutional settings, and comparative work on risk regulation has been conducted across a variety of dimensions, including the public-private sector divide, different domains and also different countries. Its broad comparative remit is perceived as increasingly valuable in relation to practitioners and other users who tend to be domain-focused. Between 2008 and 2010 CARR hosted 16 conferences and lectures, 17 workshops and two public debates. The appointment of Stark to work in CARR as Centennial Professor in 2013 testifies to the ongoing significance of sociological research to its concerns.

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The Department has a distinctive cluster of urban sociologists working alongside urban designers, planners, ethnographers and anthropologists who address the scale and dynamism of processes of urban transformation. Research at LSE Cities examines the physical and social shaping of environments, infrastructures, institutions and localities as they emerge in relation to cultural hierarchies, modes of power and ordering, and forms of inclusion and exclusion. As Director of LSE Cities and Professor of Urban Studies, Burdett has led a series of major projects charting comparative socio-spatial aspects of urban life with an emphasis on the rising significance of Asian, African and South American cities. The research employs innovative social, spatial and visual approaches to explore and analyse contemporary urban conditions, and to conceptualise urban futures. Tonkiss has contributed to the analysis of urban change by examining the links between social and spatial divisions in cities, connecting with the work of Sennett, Jones, Savage and Zeiderman.

Hall, Jones and Madden specialise in ethnographic approaches to urban life in specific neighbourhood contexts, with pioneering ethnographies in London and New York, including Hall's study of the vitality of ethnically diverse urban neighbourhoods in London and Jones's study of the South Bank complex (also in London). Their work cross-fertilises with Savage who has applied his interests in cultural inequalities to the spatial mapping of cultural capital; Slater's ethnographic studies of the use of new media in global contexts; and Zeiderman's ethnographic studies of risk in Bogota. These intersect with Hemmings' and Wilson's interests in the relationship between sexuality and 'culture', development practices and 'Western meanings', and political economy and sexuality.

A major funded research centre, LSE Cities brings together interdisciplinary research, outreach and teaching activities through the Urban Age programme and research strands on space and society (Burdett, Sennett, Tonkiss, Hall, Colantonio), cities and the environment (Rode), and urban governance in conditions of uncertainty (Zeiderman). This has led to innovative research on form, structure and governance of cities which are widely disseminated through publications and a highly utilised website. Since 2008, outreach activities at LSE and abroad have attracted over 5,000 participants at conferences and seminars, and collaborations with over 30 international research institutions and research centres. New methods of research into the culture and economic resilience of urban life have been pioneered by Centre staff, including ethnographic studies of urban streets, the connections between urban design and performance, as well as collaborative work on cities, health and well-being. The role of urban governance and democratic engagement is being pursued through new research projects investigating environments at risk in the emerging world (including fieldwork in Karachi, Bogota and Johannesburg). Since 2008, LSE Cities has organised over 100 seminars, conferences and events, attended by over 7,000 people in London and abroad, and raised over £7 million from the public and private sector.

3) Politics, Human Rights and Injustice

This research cluster builds on a strong intellectual tradition in the department related to the sociology of politics and human rights and is focused on several research themes. These include the social bases of political parties and movements, especially the origins, development and contemporary fortunes of social democratic parties and labour movements (where Archer's work on the American Labour movement has been highly influential); the remaking of urban political engagement and social capital (McQuarrie, Savage); the political sociology of cosmopolitanism (where Cubukcu's work focuses on the entanglement of international law and cosmopolitan ideals with the ethics and politics of violence. Calhoun offers a powerful critique of more optimistic visions of the cosmopolitan agenda) while Moon's work on atrocities, suffering and transitional justice, and Bhatt's work on the geo-sociology of religious violence, sovereignty and the transformation of warfare consider the sociology of violence and wars. The work of this research cluster has a strong international focus covering north and south America (Archer, Moon) and South Asia and the Middle East (Bhatt, Cubukcu, Wilson).

The cluster is associated with the major interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Human Rights

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which was developed by Stan Cohen in 2000 and which is currently directed by Bhatt. The Centre's intellectual activities link to research strengths in normative and policy-oriented approaches to human rights (particularly in projects related to Russia and the UK, or linked to global poverty and economic and social rights), as well as critical approaches concerned with science and human rights, global finance, transformations in sovereignty, warfare and violence, international solidarity and the global uprisings, and secularism and human rights. The Centre also hosts three interdisciplinary research groups focused on: 'Atrocity, Suffering and Human Rights' (Moon), 'Internationalism, Cosmopolitanism and the Politics of Solidarity' (Cubukcu) and 'Philosophies of Violence' (Bhatt). Each of these research groups holds regular seminars and events and their activities have contributed to the British Sociological Association's first ever human rights stream at its Annual Conference (April 2011), contributions to a Special Issue on human rights of the BSA journal, *Sociology* (Bhatt, Moon) and a Special Issue of *The Journal of Civil Society* on European social spaces. The Centre for the Study of Human Rights runs an extensive, internationally-oriented programme of public engagement activities and events and has raised over £0.5 million since 2008 in income related to research and graduate scholarships, including an annual funded PhD scholarship. The Centre has run over 114 academic and public events since 2008, with staff contributing 131 academic and public talks, and through its expert certificate courses engaged directly with 549 practitioners from government and NGO sectors.

The future

The Department is still in a period of transition after substantial staff turnover. It now has a clear sense of purpose with further LSE investment already planned for future years (including three permanent assistant/associate professorships to be recruited in 2013-14). We expect the *Economies, Technology and Risk* cluster to undergo major development. Notably, we are developing the sociological aspects of risk regulation work, formerly housed in CARR, as part of core Departmental activity associated with economic sociology and we are seeking to recruit in this area. We are seeking to further profile our strengths in science and technology studies, linked to the recruitment of Latour and Thompson, possibly through new graduate programmes. We are exploring ways of pooling our interests in health and science studies (involving Friese, Jones and Thompson to collaborate with other health researchers at the LSE).

Mike Savage is leading an initiative across the LSE to develop an International Institute on Inequality – which has emerged as the most popular issue identified as part of the LSE strategic review on 'big issues facing the world which LSE should be addressing'. LSE's Departments of Anthropology, Government, Social Policy and Economics have shown great interest in this initiative, which it is hoped will see the launch of a Masters and Doctoral programme. We are also seeking to enhance our expertise in quantitative methodological skills to complement our existing strengths in qualitative methods, and are seeking to collaborate with the Department of Methodology to enhance our profile in research methods more generally.

Within *Urban Change, Culture and Connection* we are seeking to build further links between LSE Cities and other urban researchers in the Department, as well as the LSE more generally through our hosting of the School's urban@lse network. This will be underpinned by the expansion of our specialist doctoral programme in Cities, and by expected further appointments in urban sociology. In the *Politics, Human Rights and Injustice* cluster we plan to make an additional appointment to link political sociology to our interests in political economy and inequality.

c. People, including:**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

Our appointment strategy is strongly aligned with developing our research clusters, while also being attentive to new and important developments within the discipline as a whole. Our approach is founded on a 'democratic' strategy which nurtures talented researchers at all levels of seniority. We have concentrated on more junior appointments and have deliberately reduced our number of Centennial Professors. As a result of these changes we have been able to invest strategically in our revised research clusters. All our appointments since 2008 have been 'research led', whereby research record and potential is a paramount consideration. We have recruited new staff

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exclusively from strong research universities including Harvard, Berkeley, Stanford, Davis (California), New York University, Australian National University, Edinburgh, Goldsmiths, Sciences Po, and York.

All non-professorial staff have a designated mentor and regular Career Development Meetings (keenly enforced by Departmental rules), and an important part of these meetings is discussion about research career development and research profile. The Department's workload allocation model gives a one third reduction in teaching for junior staff. The LSE has a rigorous 'Major Review' process (somewhat akin to the American tenure system), which all lecturing staff undergo at some point in their first eight years at the School. All Sociology staff who have undergone Major Review since 2008 have passed. In 2013 a New Career Structure was introduced which differentiates between three academic grades (Full, Associate and Assistant Professor) and which mandates high quality research as one key precondition of promotion.

The UoA pursues a policy of equal opportunities for progressing the research careers of its staff. An annual calculation of workloads ensures that the teaching and administrative load across staff members is roughly equally distributed. Clear and explicit promotion criteria and guidelines are made available annually to all staff. Non-professorial staff submit CVs once a year to a meeting of the Professoriate which looks at all staff for potential Departmental sponsoring of promotion requests, whether the individuals themselves have specifically requested being considered for promotion or not. Equality and Diversity Training is introduced into the Academic Induction Programme, and is supported by regular events. The unit has an egalitarian gender profile at Full (four female and four male), Associate (five F, four M) and Assistant (two F, two M) Professorial grades. Staff are given specified annual research budgets of £875, augmented by generous provision from the Department budget which has about £50,000 per year to support research and which funds a lively programme of conferences and workshops. LSE Cities and Centre for the Study of Human Rights also have substantial budgets to support the research of colleagues. All researchers employed at LSE Sociology since 2008 have remained in employment in academic or related research fields, and we do not depend on a cadre of long term research staff working on short term contracts. Research staff are co-located with other academic colleagues in Sociology, are invited to Departmental meetings and play a lead role in the organisation of interdisciplinary reading groups, of which there are currently four in the Department (on inequality, human rights, urban studies, and the sociology of risk). The LSE has been actively supporting the development of the revised *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* 2008 and has been recognised by the European Commission for improving the working conditions and career development opportunities for its researchers. The LSE was awarded 'HR Excellence in Research' badging in December 2010.

ii. Research students

Since 2008 there has been a major review of the organisation and training of PhD students at the LSE. This has involved shifting towards a 'fully funded' model which only admits strong doctoral students who have full time funding and tightening up on the registration of students who have exceeded the four year timescale or who are showing inadequate signs of progress. The LSE offers considerable financial and infrastructural support for research students, normally being able to award at least four full time studentships in Sociology a year (two funded by the ESRC via the DTC, and two from LSE funds). In addition, over £100,000 a year is awarded to support student research, with 41 sociology beneficiaries in 2008-09, 48 in 2009-10, 45 in 2010-11 and 38 in 2011-12, as well as an annually-run 3-year PhD Scholarship in Human Rights.

The Doctoral Programme Director ensures consistency and dissemination of best practice across programmes. LSE is part of ESRC's Doctoral Training Centre network and all programmes provide core compulsory and assessed training in social research methods (quantitative and qualitative) and in subject-specific courses at basic and advanced level. In addition, students can take optional courses available within the Department, the Department of Methodology and throughout the LSE. The majority of core training is provided in the first year of PhD study.

All PhD programmes offer training in transferable skills development, and our weekly seminar for first year MPhil students ensures that students can apply these in their own research. The

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dedicated School infrastructure for transferable skills training is provided by the Academic and Professional Development Division (APDD) and for research methods and skills training by the Methodology Department. The Department of Sociology teaches compulsory seminar courses for PhD students at all years of their study. The Department is part of the LSE wide mobility scheme which funds students to study at overseas universities.

Students' progress is monitored by the UoA annually and reported to the School. There is a formal first year review of progress, based on a written submission by the students. Upgrade to PhD is expected to take place 24 months after initial registration. Since 2008 we have also introduced a substantial review of progress to ensure that a plan for a timely submission is in place. Course assessment and meetings with supervisors serve to provide early warnings of any problems, but the annual student progress reviews and the upgrade process provide formal exit points for any student deemed unable to complete a PhD despite ample support provided by the supervisors. Many PhD students who have graduated since 2008 have gone onto academic careers including posts at the Universities of Cardiff, Oxford, Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, Warwick and in universities in the US (California), Chile, Russia, South Korea, Tanzania, and Hungary. Others have gone on to research careers including at the OECD, New Economics Foundation, the National Research Council in Italy and in consultancies and government agencies.

We have developed innovative schemes for supporting research students. We run an annual residential conference for post-graduate students at Cumberland Lodge which is organised by PhD students themselves and brings in leading speakers. In addition, the trans-Atlantic NYLON (New York: London) network, which was co-founded by Richard Sennett and Craig Calhoun and is now facilitated at the LSE by Tonkiss, provides a forum of exchange for researchers who share a broad interest in culture and qualitative research methods and with the ways social processes turn into concrete cultural forms through practical activity. LSE PhD students run a regular seminar in parallel with those of graduate colleagues in New York and Berlin, and meet at annual conferences with their peers from the US and Germany. The LSE hosted the annual conferences in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and several leading publications have been derived from these events.

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights runs an LSE Human Rights Doctoral Forum and another in collaboration with Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and the Centre of Governance and Human Rights at the University of Cambridge. LSE PhD students have spearheaded the development of a Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies group from 2008 which now includes members from across London and which holds an annual symposium and seminars. PhD students in the Department also played a key role in developing the e-journal www.criticalcontemporaryculture.org which is subsidised by the Department and whose launch in 2012 had a range of submissions: academic articles from students, creative writing (plays and a poem) and art pieces. More generally we are actively reviewing how students are embedded in our research clusters. For example, in the Economies, Risk and Technology cluster research students are helping to run a reading group for staff and MSc students and a workshop is planned for the coming year, and there are ten PhD students involved in a reading and discussion group on inequalities which began in 2013.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Nearly £9 million pounds in research income have been received since 2008, including 75 specific grants to UoA staff since 2008, spread across all of our research clusters. Funding has come from the major research councils such as the ESRC, AHRC, EPSRC, MRC, European Commission, British Academy, Leverhulme, Nuffield, and Wellcome. This includes core ESRC Centre funding to CARR until 2010 and prestigious awards including two ESRC Professorial Fellowships to Rose (since left the UoA) and Savage.

LSE Cities has attracted major research funds, with over £7 million since 2008. These include significant private sector funds, notably from the Alfred Herrhausen Foundation, which has funded LSE Cities with over £4 million. Other supporters of LSE Cities include The Grosvenor Estate, the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, the European Commission, HEFCE, NESTA, Ove Arup, the Dutch

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and French Governments, the Global Green Growth Institute, and the European Investment Bank. LSE Cities uses these funds to invest in academic research. A major grant from the Mellon Foundation has also initiated a new strand of work on the connections between the humanities and social sciences in the study of cities (Burdett, Sennett, Hall).

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights has received over £500,000 million since 2008, including funds from the ESRC, Stiftung Mercator, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and other bodies. Of particular interest is the Laboratory for Advanced Research on the Global Economy, which initiated its 'Investment and Human Rights Project' funded by Government of Norway; the large EU-funded Human Rights Programme in the Commonwealth of Independent States comprised of 'Defending the Defenders' and the 'CIS Human Rights Network for Conscripts', both of which work with a consortium of civil society organisations; and the 'Human Rights Futures' project, funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, which analyses the future direction of human rights in the UK, including in relation to the European Convention and European Court.

As part of the on-going effort to upgrade LSE facilities, the School has sanctioned a capital development spend in excess of £250 million over the next ten years. A large proportion of this spend is planned for the expansion of research facilities. The Department of Sociology has been earmarked for special investment and over half of our colleagues moved to new and enhanced offices in summer 2013 with a new administrative hub and common room to be shared by staff and students.

The British Library of Political and Economic Science consists of over four million separate items as well as extensive electronic research collections, including provision of access to 50,000 e-journal titles and over 200 datasets. The LSE Library is funded by HEFCE as one of only five National Research Libraries in the UK and carries Designated Status from the Arts Council as being of outstanding national and international importance. In 2012 it became home to the Women's Library which has particular importance for researchers in our UoA. The Library has created the LSE Digital Library which enables primary research material of the future to be acquired through the collection of born-digital materials such as archives of emails, personal papers and web-based political and official publications. A specialised Research Support Services team co-ordinates and develops tailored services for researchers and runs LSE Research Online (LSERO), LSE's institutional repository which collects references and full-text of all research by LSE staff and makes it available free of charge to the public via the internet. All sociology staff are enrolled into the LSE experts directory showcasing research and consultancy expertise to a wider international audience. Sociology has a dedicated, professionally qualified Academic Support Librarian who provides advice and support on information sources, scholarly communication issues, including intellectual property rights and compliance with open access mandate requirements.

Most PhD students choose to work in the Department, where they are guaranteed office space and IT facilities and are interspersed amongst faculty. The LSE Library also provides specific facilities and support for PhD students, such as a separate quiet study room with 56 seats. Training is provided through a six week information and research skills course specifically for PhD students. This covers literature searching, using the internet, finding specialist research materials, data, reference management, sharing research and building networks.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Although mindful of our historic role as one of the pioneers of modern sociology in the UK, we recognise that this is an ambivalent legacy, and that we need to demonstrate that we are an effective force in current and emerging currents of sociology. We see our role therefore as forging an effective conduit between our extensive international sociological networks and the nurturing of sociological research within the UK, through being centrally involved in UK based journals, networks and organisations. We have increasingly hosted workshops designed to collaborate with other Departments (for instance, the Culture and Stratification network hosted with City, Manchester and York which began with a large workshop at the LSE in September 2013).

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All our clusters allow core sociological concerns to engage in wider ranging interdisciplinary collaborations. Economies, Risk and Technology involves a close collaboration with the Department of Management through CARR; Urban Change, Culture and Connection brings sociologists to work alongside architects and planners and has strong links with the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, LSE London, the Department of Methodology, the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and LSE Health. Politics, Human Rights and Injustice involves close collaboration with the Department of Law through the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

We are enthusiastic supporters of the British Sociological Association. In 2008 we hosted the largest ever British Sociological Association conference, with over 700 delegates. We have also financially supported the BSA's Early Career Theory Symposium. Staff have given 118 plenary or keynote lectures since 2008, and 191 papers were given overseas, and 155 in the UK. Members of the Department organised or chaired 117 lectures or conferences at the LSE since 2008, around one event per fortnight. Especially significant events also include the series of *Urban Age* conferences in 2012, and CARR's *Working Across Boundaries: Analyzing Risk & Regulation* major conference in 2009.

Twelve staff have been closely associated with the organisation of major journals. Most prominently, the LSE hosts the *British Journal of Sociology* which has the highest impact factor of any UK sociology journal. The BJS very consciously avoids being partisan towards LSE Sociology. The BJS annual lecture has effectively showcased leading edge research from across the world, with speakers including Beverley Skeggs (Goldsmiths, 2013), Yasemin Soysal (Essex, 2011), John Hagan (North-Western, 2010); Loic Wacquant (Berkeley, 2009), Robert Sampson (Harvard, 2008) and Judith Butler (Berkeley, 2007). In 2012 the editorship of BJS moved from Richard Wright to Don Slater, and Dodd, Hutter, Moon and Tonkiss have also been actively involved in the journal's management. The LSE also houses the leading interdisciplinary journal *Economy and Society*, of which Tonkiss is Managing Editor and Dodd a member of the editorial board.

Other journals where our staff serve on the Advisory or Editorial Boards include *Visual Studies*, *Identities*, and *Gender and Education* (all Ali); *Journal of Industrial Relations* (Archer); *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (Bhatt); *Social Studies of Science*; *Information, Communication and Society*; *Science, Technology and Human Values*, and *Gender, Work and Organization* (all Wajcman), *Economy and Society* (Dodd, Tonkiss); *City* (Madden and Tonkiss), *Big Data and Society*; *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* and *Sociological Review* (all Savage, who also chairs the Editorial Board of the last and has spearheaded its restructuring as a charity), *Regulation and Governance* (Hutter), *Feminist Review* and *Subjectivity* (both Hemmings, who also edits the 'Thinking Gender in Transnational Times' book series for Palgrave).

Within the wider discipline, our staff are key members of major international research networks including Council Member of the ASA's Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology (Friese), Director of the LSE's Ralph Miliband Programme (Archer), Advisory Board member of the Cultures of Governance and Conflict Resolution in Europe and India (CORE) (Bhatt), of the ESRC centre for Micro-Social Change at Essex (MiSoC) and the Centre for Census and Survey Research at Manchester (both Savage), Co-chair of the ESA Economic Sociology Section (Dodd), and President of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (Wajcman).

Sociologists have been strongly involved in the LSE's emergence as a leader in social media and are committed to pursuing interests in digital sociology. Our colleagues contribute to the <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy> (for instance by Archer, and Savage on the Great British Class survey) which was also featured by <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences> which won the 2013 prize for the knowledge exchange and transfer initiative of the year. Hall is on the Editorial Board of the new Social Research Association's digital www.discoversociety.org.