INTRODUCTION

The design and delivery of effective, fair and efficient social policy lies at the heart of the pursuit of societal well-being. Population ageing, international migration and now the economic crisis and relentless pressures on public spending, raise difficult questions about future directions in this field.

Social Policy at Kent has a long and distinguished history and is one of the largest social science research communities in the country. The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) is the largest grouping of scholars in this field in the UK. It received top ratings in both the 2001 and 2008 Research Assessment Exercises. Our academics are recognised as world authorities, writing books and articles that define the fields in which they work, contributing to the formation and analysis of policy, and acting as leading commentators on contemporary social and cultural trends.

Excellent research culture

Members of the School have attracted large research funds (in excess of £12 million over the last five years) and have an enviable track record in gaining funding for PhD students. School staff take part in international symposia and research projects, and staff act as consultants and advisers to a wide variety of government departments, professional organisations, research funding bodies and learned journals.

Every postgraduate student in the School benefits from an unparalleled research culture, first-class teaching and individually tailored supervision. Ranked as one of the best UK centres of excellence since research league tables began, we are part of the South East ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, and were, in 2011, awarded a prestigious EU Erasmus Mundus graduate programme. With academic and professional seminar series, workshops and a Global Skills Award on offer, plus the opportunity to work with dozens of world class academics, we welcome you to a unique academic environment dedicated to helping you realise your potential.

The atmosphere in the School is informal and friendly, helped by excellent staff-to-student ratios and frequent international visitors. The lively and diverse postgraduate community is reflected by a broad and flourishing range of staff/graduate seminars, workshops and study groups.

“The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research is an amazing community to be part of. Here, you can meet the people who are making a difference to the issues in sociology and social policy, who are writing the books, and who are stimulating the debates worldwide.”

Jonathan Dean
PhD Social Policy
Dynamic publishing culture

Recent staff books include: *New Paradigms in Public Policy* (Peter Taylor-Gooby); *Trust Matters in Health Care* (co-author Mike Calnan); *The Handbook on Third Sector Policy in Europe* (Jeremy Kendall); *Child Social Work Policy and Practice* (Derek Kirton); *Drugs and the World* (Axel Klein); *Feminism and Criminal Justice: A Historical Perspective* (Anne Logan); *Crossing Frontiers: International Developments in the Treatment of Drug Dependence* (Alex Stevens); *Reframing Social Citizenship* (Peter Taylor-Gooby); and *The Body in Health and Social Care* (Julia Twigg).

Recent journal contributions include: *British Medical Journal; British Journal of Sociology; Culture, Health & Sexuality; Ethnicity & Health; European Journal of Social Policy; European Sociological Review; European Journal of Industrial Relations; Journal of Civil Society; Journal for Cultural Research; Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies; Journal of Marriage and Family; Journal of Mental Health; Journal of Social Policy; Policy and Politics; Research in Urban Policy; Social Policy and Administration; Sociological Review; and Sociology of Health and Illness.*

Funding and teaching opportunities

The School is part of the South East Doctoral Training Consortium, one of only 21 centres to have been awarded ESRC Accreditation and funding for PhD Studentship Awards. It also offers other scholarships and awards for research students. Funding applications must be submitted by March each year.

In recent years, the School has received funding from bodies including ESRC, the EU, British Academy, European Commission, Anglo-German Foundation, NATO, Kent Police, Equal Opportunities Commission, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust.

International expertise

Students benefit from the diversity of the backgrounds of SSPSSR staff as well as the student body. Many staff or students hail from continental Europe, Africa, North America and South-East Asia. This diversity enriches and enlivens the exchange of experiences, interests and ideas at the School, and fosters a cosmopolitan character.

A global outlook

Social Policy postgraduate programmes build on this international expertise and milieu, promoting an understanding of the connections between international, national and local social policies. A particular emphasis within SSPSSR is how NGOs and ‘civil society’ institutions, including the market and family, play crucial roles alongside the state in providing social welfare.

Policy; European Sociological Review; European Journal of Industrial Relations; Journal of Civil Society; Journal for Cultural Research; Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies; Journal of Marriage and Family; Journal of Mental Health; Journal of Social Policy; Policy and Politics; Research in Urban Policy; Social Policy and Administration; Sociological Review; and Sociology of Health and Illness.
Trude Sundberg is studying for a PhD in Social Policy.

Why did you choose Kent?
I had a growing interest in welfare and attitudes towards it, and so was looking for a way to take this forward. I completed a Master’s degree and had been working for a few years, but realised that I was at a point where I wanted to pursue a research degree. My long-term goal has always been to work within academia and, to do that, I needed to get a PhD.

I contacted a number of professors at different universities, but I decided to choose Kent because the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research has a very good reputation, particularly in my chosen research area, and my supervisor is well known internationally. I also liked the fact that the academics are friendly and approachable.

How have you found the supervision process?
It’s been the best part of my studies so far. I feel that any time I have a question or need support, my supervisor is there to help and to point me in the right direction, and academically he is very supportive and open. The academic staff have got time for their PhD students and the contact between staff and students is probably the thing I most appreciate about being at Kent.

What other support do you receive as a research student?
The Graduate School offers a good range of transferable skills training courses, including workshops on coaching, academic writing, how to be a researcher and how to get published. You also have the opportunity to work towards the nationally recognised PGCHE teaching qualification, which is fantastic if you are planning to go on to work in academia as it puts you in a very strong position.

How does the postgraduate student experience differ from that of an undergraduate?
Being a PhD student requires a lot of discipline, dedication and other skills sets – a completely different approach to things. But I find it helpful to talk to other research students and the School runs research seminars which expose you to other people’s research and open you up to new ways of thinking.

What’s next for you?
Obviously I’d like to pursue a career in academia. But I worked as a researcher before coming to Kent, so if I don’t follow an academic path, I want to do something research-based – for example, social research for an NGO – because I’m very enthusiastic about it and I enjoy doing it.

Do you have any advice to offer potential research students?
Make sure you choose a topic that you are sure of and want to take further. It has to be important enough for you to research for several years and to really immerse yourself in.

IMPRESSIVE CAREER PROSPECTS
Kent has an excellent postgraduate employment record: over 90% of our postgraduate students who graduated in 2010 found a job or further study opportunity within six months.
EXCELLENT CAREER PROSPECTS

A postgraduate qualification from Kent opens up a wealth of career opportunities by providing an impressive portfolio of skills and specialist knowledge.

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment. Employers recognise that a postgraduate qualification demonstrates a wide range of skills. At Kent, we provide a comprehensive package of skills development training programmes, careers advice, and volunteering and paid work opportunities to help enhance your career prospects.

Skills training
During your programme, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills. Kent also helps you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of postgraduate employment, such as the ability to adapt to challenges, analyse complex real-world problems and develop original ideas that can be applied to all aspects of employment.

The Graduate School
The Graduate School co-ordinates the Transferable Skills Training programme for research students, in which you can access a wide range of lectures and workshops. These provide training, personal development planning and career development skills. The Graduate School also delivers the Global Skills Award programme for students following taught programmes of study, which is specifically designed to consolidate your awareness of current global issues and improve your employment prospects.

Exciting career options
Kent has an excellent record for postgraduate employment: over 90% of our postgraduate students who graduated in 2010 found a job or further study opportunity within six months. We constantly monitor how well our programmes meet the demands of today’s increasingly competitive and globalised job market.

Our MAs in International Social Policy and Civil Society, NGO and Non-Profit Studies are especially valuable for those interested in entering or consolidating careers in public services and social services. Skills in policy analysis are developed and honed in order to provide an exceptional capacity to use evidence and argument within a range of roles and professions at local, national and international levels in relation to social welfare.

Those seeking to work in policy evaluation, research, advocacy, management and administration within the public, private (for-profit) and Third (NGO or civil society) sectors, or professionally seeking to foster collaborative partnerships across traditional sectoral boundaries, will particularly benefit from the combination of breadth and depth provided by our programmes.

Careers Advisory Service
Our Careers Advisory Service can help you to plan for your future by providing one-to-one advice at any stage in your postgraduate studies. It also provides online advice on employability skills, career choices and applications, and interview skills.

Further information
For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, visit our Employability web page at www.kent.ac.uk/employability
Beth Breeze was awarded a PhD in Social Policy from Kent in 2008 and is now working as a researcher in charitable giving and philanthropy.

Why did you choose Kent?
Kent is the nearest university to where I live and it was my great fortune that an academic who I hugely admire is based here and was willing to supervise my PhD. Therefore, it was logistically and intellectually my number one choice.

What attracted you to the course?
I had always intended to do a PhD, but wanted to work outside of universities first. After ten years working in political and charitable organisations, I felt ready to study at the highest level, and was glad to be able to come and do that at Kent.

My research involved studying the most significant philanthropists operating in the UK in order to understand the meaning and purpose of their charitable giving behaviour.

What about the facilities?
The Templeman Library was a fantastic resource – it had most of the literature that I needed, and anything that wasn’t on the shelves came quickly through inter-library loan. I also attended courses run by the University that helped me master new technical skills, such as using the software packages, EndNote and SPSS.

In a typical day, I might be working on any one of the three research projects that I am currently running: a survey of donations worth £1m or more, interviews with committed donors about how they choose which charities to support, and a study of fundraising in European universities.

As well as doing the research and writing up the findings, I spend quite a lot of time disseminating knowledge, including writing articles for mainstream and charity sector press and giving presentations to fundraising staff to keep them up-to-date on the latest research.

Once or twice a year, I get to attend academic conferences, which can be in really interesting places – there’s an annual gathering of people who study charities held in various cities around North America and I’m presenting a paper at a conference in Istanbul next month.

Finally, what advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
If prospective students are looking for a university that has world-class academics, great facilities, a beautiful location and a friendly atmosphere, then they should definitely consider coming to Kent.
The taught postgraduate programmes in Social Policy at both the Canterbury and the Medway campuses build on the international expertise within the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research.

These programmes benefit anyone who wishes to enhance their understanding of how modern societies design, organise and deliver policies, provisions and their allied institutions to support the well-being of their citizens.

The Canterbury programmes emphasise an understanding of the connections between international, national and local social policies. A particular emphasis within SSPSSR is how non-state ‘civil society’ institutions, the market, and the family play crucial roles along with the state in providing social welfare.

The Medway programme pathway on Commissioning provides an essential foundation for a career in management in this field. The Criminal Justice pathway equips you with advanced knowledge on policy and research.

**Canterbury programmes**

**International Social Policy MA**

This MA programme provides you with an advanced understanding of current debates, theories and concepts relevant to international social policy. You learn about the common features of social policy arrangements internationally, and the diversity and difference that characterises welfare in different countries. The programme enables you to apply theories and methods of social policy in exploring specific social policy fields, such as health, migration, pensions, education, social care, poverty and social exclusion, urban development and family policy. You become familiar with the use of primary and secondary data in areas relevant to social policy and are equipped to think critically about the development of social welfare systems in a global age.

**Course content**

**Core modules include:**
- Comparative Social Policy
- Design Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry
- Key Issues in Comparative Social Policy
- Techniques of Data Analysis
- A supervised 15,000 word dissertation.

**Optional modules include, but are not limited to:**
- Culture, Health and Social Care
- The Family, Parenting Culture and Parenting Policy
- Foundations of Sociology
- Fundraising and Philanthropy
- Humanitarian Issues in Forced Migration
- The Idea of Civil Society
- International Migration Issues and Perspectives
- Politics and the Sociology of the Environment
- Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector
- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Analysis
- Race, Difference and Belonging
- Social and Political Movements
- Social Suffering
- Terrorism and Modern Society
- Worlds of Work.
Civil Society, NGO and Non-profit Studies MA

Strengthening the profile and capacity of civil society is now seen as a top priority by political commentators, social scientists and policy makers all over the world. There has never been a greater need to develop a critical yet constructive understanding of the actions, behaviours and institutions that populate the space between states and markets, ranging from local voluntary associations to national social enterprises and transnational charities. This MA draws deeply on the unique combination of scholarly and practical knowledge of the third sector, social movements and philanthropy situated in the School. The course is led by internationally renowned civil society experts. You develop an in-depth understanding of the evolution of the meanings of civil society across time and space and the role its organisations and institutions play in political, social and economic life. Learning takes place in a range of arenas and styles including formal lectures, interactive and participatory seminars and small-group work – and includes strong theoretical and applied components.

Course content

Core modules include:
• Design, Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry
• The Idea of Civil Society
• Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector.

Optional modules
• Environmental Politics
• Fundraising and Philanthropy
• Human Rights in a World of States
• Humanitarian Issues in Forced Migration
• International Migration: Issues and Perspectives
• International Social Policy
• Key Issues in International Social Policy
• Qualitative Research
• Quantitative Analysis
• Social and Political Movements
• Social Suffering
• Techniques of Data Analysis
• Worlds of Work

Assessment

Modules combine various forms of coursework; a research dissertation also acts as a modular component of the course in its own right.

Methods of Social Research MA

This MA provides training that prepares you to work as social science researcher and/or to appreciate and make effective use of social research in a variety of different settings. The programme has ESRC recognition for 1+3 studentships.

It provides essential training to enable you to go on to employment involving the use of social research or to further research in the social sciences. It covers the principles of research design and strategy, including formulating research questions or hypotheses and translating these into practicable research designs. It helps you to prepare your research results for wider dissemination in the form of seminar papers, conference presentations, reports and publications, suitable for a range of different audiences, including
TAUGHT PROGRAMMES (CONT)

academics, policy makers, professionals, service users and the general public.

Course content
Core modules include:
• Design, Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry
• Quantitative Analysis
• Techniques of Data Analysis
• Using Secondary and Qualitative Data.

Optional modules
You choose two optional modules from those on offer in Master's programmes across the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Assessment
Modules combine various forms of coursework, including essays and reviews. You also prepare a research dissertation with the support of a supervisor.

Medway programmes

Social and Public Policy (Commissioning) MA
This part-time, flexibly taught programme based at our Medway campus gives you an advanced understanding of the practice of commissioning of public services, within the context of social and public policy. It is aimed at those who are working (or who want to work) in commissioning roles and want to increase their understanding of business practices, legal frameworks and policy contexts in order to improve their commissioning practice and their career prospects.

Optional modules
• History of Social Policy
• Policy Project
• The Policy Process
• The Practice of Ethics
• Qualitative Research
• Quantitative Research
• Social Problems and Policy
• A wide range of other social policy modules from across the School

Assessment
Assessment is by a range of methods, including coursework essays, the dissertation and assessed policy projects. There is also an opportunity for accreditation of prior learning to count towards the diploma or degree.

Course content
Core modules include:
• Current issues in Public Sector Management
• Public Law
• Understanding social research
• Value Chain Management
• Dissertation of 12-15,000 words.

Social and Public Policy (Criminal Justice) MA
The flexibly taught, part-time programme based at our Medway campus gives you a thorough understanding of the social science ideas and research methods that are applied to the study and development of criminal justice policy and practice. This includes an advanced understanding of strategies that can be used to reduce social harm and crime, with a particular emphasis on the policy and practice of prisons, probation and the police. It uses UK and international examples to help you develop your ability to study and create effective criminal justice policy and practice.
The programme starts with a four-day residential workshop at Medway. It then includes a mixture of core modules, which are taught through distance learning, supported by video and podcast lectures, web seminars, discussion fora and online tutorials. Optional modules are provided through blended learning, with a mixture of distance learning and on-campus provision in the evenings and at weekends.

Course content
Core modules include:
- Comparative Crime Prevention
- Policy and Politics of Criminal Justice
- The Policy and Practice of Prisons and Probation
- Understanding Social Research
- Dissertation of 12-15,000 words.

Optional modules
- The Policy Process
- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Research
- Social Ethics
- Social Problems and Policy
- Theories of Crime and Deviance
- A wide range of other social policy modules from across the School.

Assessment
Assessment is by a range of methods, including coursework essays, the dissertation and assessed policy projects.

Social and Public Policy (Urban Regeneration) MA
This programme is based on a core of social science modules designed to encourage a critical and rigorous understanding of urban policy and its social impacts. The core modules provide an understanding of the ideological underpinnings, aims and outcomes of contemporary urban policy. A range of optional modules provides the basis for a tailored course in which issues of social policy, public commissioning, criminal justice policy, social ethics, environmental issues, health, risk or social movements may also be explored.

Assessment
Assessment is by a range of methods, including coursework essays, the dissertation and assessed policy projects.

For further information, or to register interest, please contact the School’s Postgraduate Office on: +44 (0)1227 827613/7958/3684 or sspssr-pg-admin@kent.ac.uk
Below is a selection of the modules currently offered on the taught postgraduate programmes.

Comparative Social Policy
This module explains the value of cross-national comparative and international approaches in studying social policy. It covers the main theoretical approaches in the field and uses the examples of different national approaches to social policy to illustrate them. It discusses social policy at the level of the European Union and analyses the role of non-governmental organisations alongside that of the state. The module considers various issues that affect contemporary policy-making including globalisation, migration, labour-market changes, issues of gender and family change and the responses to the economic crisis.

Design Philosophy and Ethics of Social Research
This module introduces key issues and problems in the process of philosophy, design and ethics of social enquiry. You are taught to think about the assumptions you are making when you undertake social research as well as a set of practical techniques for carrying out your own research. The module outlines the main issues in choosing a research problem and specifying research questions; provides an overview on the large variety of research designs in social sciences; introduces basic issues in the philosophy of social sciences; enables you to assess critically the range of designs available to social scientific researchers.

By the end of the module, you should be able write good research proposals, carry out research projects and critique the research of others.

Culture, Health and Social Care
In this module you have the opportunity to examine the health and social care needs of forced migrants, drawing on research from around the world. This includes engagement with the issues affecting different categories of forced migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, IDPs and returnees. You have the opportunity to learn about and critically evaluate cutting-edge service initiatives in the fields of health, mental health, education, social work and housing.

The Family, Parenting Culture and Parenting Policy
The module explores the sociological analysis of the term ‘parenting’ and the social history of debates about ‘the family’ and the sociology of privacy. The module also examines the changing meaning of childhood, motherhood and fatherhood, the meaning of the term ‘intensive parenthood’ and its relation to expertise and risk culture. You investigate the relationship of policies linking family life to broader social policy and critiques of state intervention in family life and of particular contemporary parenting policies.

Foundations of Sociology
This module provides a guide to the foundations of sociology by exploring the most influential traditions of writing in the discipline and examining how these were forged on the basis of an ongoing dialogue with the legacy of the Enlightenment. After situating sociology in its historical, philosophical and theological contexts, the module analyses how the founders of the discipline developed a series of competing visions of those processes elementary to social and moral life. The second part of the module moves away from these classical visions of sociology to those post-classical attempts to reconstruct the discipline on the basis of alternative concerns such as conflict, culture and post-modernity. Here you study a number of perspectives that have contributed to a fragmentation of the discipline. The module aims to provide you with critical insights into the ways in which sociology has been configured as a discipline in response to key junctures in its history.

Fundraising and Philanthropy
This module provides an up-to-date overview of current academic knowledge about philanthropy, and industry knowledge regarding fundraising practice. You gain an understanding
The Idea of Civil Society

The module provides an up-to-date overview of how key social science thinkers have understood and analysed the relevance and contribution of civil society in their models and theories. It explores how contemporary scholars have continued to use their ideational frameworks to explore current social, political and economic problems and issues. It starts by acknowledging some of the key antecedents to contemporary notions of civil society in classical and pre-modern thought and then systematically reviews how leading theorists of, and commentators on, post-Enlightenment social and political developments have defined this sphere and accounted for its roles and contributions in their formulations. Most of these writers have crossed what we now think of as disciplinary boundaries. In each case, their basic socio-political models are reviewed, their accounts of civil society explicated and critiqued and the applications of their contemporary interpreters to civil society issues explored.

International Migration: Issues and Perspectives

This module provides an introduction to global migration in the 21st century. It presents theories of migration from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and relates contemporary migration to historical precedents. Throughout, you approach migration from the point of view of individual and groups of migrants and relate them to the often-divergent perspectives of governments and other institutional actors. You are introduced to important themes in the study of migration; patterns of population movements; and the different streams of migration around the world. In this way, you gain a solid understanding of migration as one of the most important global issues of today while, at the same time, learn about specific examples of migration and policy response to migration through case studies and real-life examples of migration.
Key Issues in Comparative Social Policy

This module is team taught. Each lecture and its corresponding seminar are delivered by a member of the social policy staff group and topics reflect staff members' expertise in particular policy fields. The module focuses on key challenges for International Social Policy. By looking at social policy in general, but also systematically differentiating its component parts in terms of fields and issues, you are provided with a systematic overview of some of the main spheres in which international and national social policy agendas co-evolve. Individual social policy fields include health, social security, and aspects of education, training and employment policy; with related issue areas including social exclusion and urban policies. While many policy domains are under pressure to change in the context of common socio-economic and processes – including population ageing, globalisation and international migration – the response to these pressures will vary depending on a number of internal and external socio-economic and political factors, whose configuration will vary markedly by country and policy field. Together with the module Comparative Social Policy, this forms a cohesive and coherent approach to social policy from an international and comparative perspective.

Organised Civil Society and The Third Sector

The approach of the module – like its subject matter – is interdisciplinary, drawing on sociology, economics and policy studies to build up a rounded understanding of organisations between market and state. It explores the Third Sector from a number of complementary angles. An overview of key components, processes and issues is first of all provided to introduce and define the subject’s main facets, outlining how this sphere may be defined and the main lines of theory relating to rationales for its existence and importance. Second, public policy relating to this set of organisations is explored. We look at national level approaches, as well as examining the supranational level by giving particular attention to the role of the European Union. Third, the last sessions widen the analysis further, by examining the relationship between globalisation and groups between the market and the state and reviewing the nature of their social, political and economic impacts.

Politics and Sociology of the Environment

This module is particularly concerned with the forms and outcomes of the political contention and mobilisation around environmental issues. These range from pressure groups, formal environmental movement organisations and Green parties to local environmental activism and radical environmental protest. It also considers the relationship between democracy and the environment: is democracy good for the environment? Would more deliberative forms of democracy improve matters? The approach is cross-nationally comparative and
societies such as Britain and the USA. This topic is especially pressing, given the vast amount of change in many Western societies – greater cultural diversity, globalisation and greater mobility, and changing patterns of family and community life. In what ways do notions of race and racial difference, and contestations over belonging, still matter (or not) in societies today? What forms of competing evidence exist in claims about either the continuing (or declining) significance of ‘race’ and notions of difference more generally? Should we attempt to transcend ‘race’ and racial thinking?

Social and Political Movements
This module examines the development of social and political movements. It introduces theories of collective action and social movements and examines them in relation to empirical examples. Topics include the rationality of political participation, violence and radicalism, the roles of intellectuals, ideas and values, implications of new communications technologies and globalisation.

Social Suffering
In recent years, the concept of ‘social suffering’ has been widely adopted in social science as a means to refer us to lived experiences of pain, damage, injury, deprivation and loss. Here, it is generally understood that human afflictions are encountered in multiple forms and that their deleterious effects are manifold; but a particular emphasis is brought to bear upon the extent to which social processes and cultural conditions both constitute, and moderate, the ways in which human suffering is experienced and expressed. With reference to social suffering researchers aim to attend to the ways in which subjective components of distress are rooted in social situations and conditioned by cultural circumstance. It is held that social worlds comprise the embodied experience of pain and that there are often occasions where individual suffering is a manifestation of social structural oppression. This module is equips you with the means to analyse questions such as:
- In what ways do society and culture constitute the experience of pain and affliction?
- How has the social experience of human suffering changed through modern times?
- What is ‘the problem of suffering’ and what are its ‘solutions’?

Techniques of Data Analysis
This module aims to introduce you to several different techniques for analysing qualitative and quantitative data; give you the ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these techniques; and give you the ability to use these techniques in your own research. You are:
- introduced to a range of commonly used data analytic techniques available to social researchers.
Worlds of Work
This module looks at work in a broad and interdisciplinary way. Work and employment have been a core theme in sociology in the past and over the last few years, have become central to an understanding of contemporary society. It takes you through classical and post-classical understandings of employment, before looking at contemporary issues and developments. The module draws on quantitative and qualitative material to understand what is happening to work, what kinds of meanings and identities we gain from it and what work may look like in the future. Topics covered include socialisation into work; the life course; careers; the body and work; deindustrialisation and the experience of labour.

TAUGHT MODULES (CONT)

- introduced to the logic motivating the different techniques,
- taught how to select the most appropriate analytic technique for the data you have collected and your research question
- introduced, through hands on experience, to data analytic computer programs
- taught to analyse data and write up your results.

You are not be expected to become an expert in any of the techniques; instead, you are given a good working knowledge of the techniques and a foundation to develop your expertise if you wish.

Terrorism and Modern Society
Following the events of September 11 2001 public concerns surrounding the related threats associated with terrorism have inevitably deepened. This module provides a general introduction to terrorism and poses a series of questions that rarely feature in mainstream crimino logical and sociological discourse. A central aspect of the module is an examination of the actual risk posed by international terrorism and whether or not the threat is enhanced by the fears and anxieties generated by a risk-averse culture.

“The International Social Policy programme is ideal if you want to gain a full understanding of the policy process and how this influences social policy development. The international focus allows you to broaden your study beyond the typical social policy course.”

Leigh Stewart
MA International Social Policy
Within the School, there is a breadth and depth of expertise and we can offer high-quality supervision across a wide range of social and public policy areas.

There are further details on the research activities and publications of individual members of staff and the School’s research units on the website. In addition to regular meetings with individual supervisors, all research students take a research training programme.

Research units and research areas relevant to Social Policy

The School and its Social Policy component have several research units which act as a focus for postgraduate students working within those areas. Other research interests within the School have been grouped under certain headings for guidance. However, there is often a degree of overlap between groups and your research project does not have to fall neatly within any one of them.

Centre for Health Services Studies and Health Care & Services Research (CHSS)

The Centre for Health Services Studies has a strong record in attracting research grants from the European Union Framework Programme, ESRC, Department of Health, Health Education Authority, and NHS Executive, as well as local health authorities and trusts. It is a designated NHS R&D support unit and a public health institute. Particular areas of expertise include risk assessment and management, care of vulnerable adults including older people, and public health.

The interests of staff in CHSS and SSPSSR more broadly cover a range of issues within the fields of health services and health policy. Particular interests include: health care organisation and policy; risk assessment and management; primary care; public and user views of health care; health inequalities; occupational therapy; care work in health and social care; body work; psychoanalysis, mental health; and race, ethnicity and health. Current or recent thesis topics include: women's health in Uzbekistan; improving men's health: the role of healthy living centres; women, the body and madness.

Personal Social Services Research Unit and Social Care Research (PSSRU)

The PSSRU is the largest social services research unit in the UK, and operates at three sites: the University of Kent, the London School of Economics and the University of Manchester. Facilities at Kent include the Griffiths Library of Community Care (a reference library of more than 10,000 books, journals and other literature linked to the Unit’s field of study). Research focuses on needs, resources and outcomes in health and social care: major concerns are resourcing, equity and efficiency from the perspective of users, agencies and others.

More broadly, work in this area at SSPSSR is diverse both in terms of subject areas and approaches. Like much of the School’s work, it has a strong cross-national dimension. Academic staff interests include: the care of frail older people; consumerism and welfare; community care; informal care; carers and service support; childcare services, adoption and foster care; the voluntary or third sector and the mixed economy of care; and the body and social care.

There is also a strong focus in the School on the relationship between migration and social care. Current or recent thesis topics include: gender and management in Iceland’s social services; teenage pregnancy and young motherhood in the care system; agency responses to domestic violence in Taiwan and the UK; Caribbean welfare regimes; household poverty in Georgia.

Centre for the Study of Philanthropy, Humanitarianism and Social Justice (CSPHSJ)

The Centre is dedicated to understanding the social processes and cultural experiences by which people acquire moral dispositions to care for the needs of others.

We conduct research into the ways in which our capacity for fellow feeling is socially cultivated, corporately structured, politically
However, there is also research which takes cross-national comparison as its major focus. This includes analysing policy formation and policy impact on individuals, families and social groups within different states and within a global context.

Using the framework of studying different welfare regimes, academic staff research a wide range of topics, while graduate students conduct research projects in every part of the world. Many of these projects involve overseas students making comparative studies involving their own country and European or UK services. Recent cross-national work has included projects examining home care services for older people, formal and informal social care systems, institutional change and the future of welfare reform, gender and family, globalisation, housing, and community activism.

Sociology of the Body
Staff working in this area seek to understand the complex relationships between embodied subjects, and the social and cultural forms, relationships, institutions and structures that shape and are shaped by these factors. This includes research on clothing and fashion, the embodiment of age, and the body in health and social care. Thesis topics within this cluster have included Goth sub-cultures, female body builders, tattooing and piercing, and the embodied sociology of private spaces.

Work, Employment and Economic Life
This area represents a long-standing interest within SSPSSR at Kent. Currently, ten members of the School are researching and teaching in this broad field, representing staff in sociology, social policy, criminology and cultural studies. Themes studied include: age, generation and employment; deindustrialisation; gender, ethnicity and class at work; historiography of work sociology; moral economy; organisational sociology; policy effects on formal and informal labour; visual representation of work; work identity and meaning; work/life balance; workplace ethnography and oral histories.
Staff in the School are leaders in their fields and have specialist interests that are constantly changing and developing. This research keeps us at the forefront of new developments and has been consistently rated as excellent in the Research Assessment Exercise.

Social policy group and allied researchers: staff research interests

**Dr Ben Baumberg**
**Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy**
Disability; the workplace; inequality; the benefits system; addictions policy; corporate social responsibility; the relationship between evidence and policy. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/baumberg.html

**Dr Kate Bradley**
**Lecturer in Social History and Social Policy**
History of social policy; charities; youth crime, justice and welfare. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/bradley.html

**Dr Beth Breeze**
**Researcher**
Philanthropy; giving; charity. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/breeze.html

**Professor Mike Calnan**
**Professor of Medical Sociology**
Diffusion and innovation in health care and technology; trust and health care; dignity and the provision of health and social care for older people. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/calnan.html

**Dr Heejung Chung**
**Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy**
The labour market; issues surrounding work-life balance and gender; the impact of national policies and gender norms on the level of work-family conflict of individuals and the gender gap in the conflict levels; labour market flexibility; employment insecurity. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/heejung_chung.html

**Dr Jeremy Kendall**
**Senior Lecturer in Social Policy**
Civil society and the third sector: theories and policies; the mixed economy of welfare and international comparisons of national welfare systems; the EU, international institutions and their relationship to social policy, to civil society and to the third sector. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/kendall.html

**Dr Derek Kirton**
**Reader in Social Policy and Social Work**
Child welfare policy and practice, and especially the areas of adoption and foster care; remuneration for foster carers; the later life experiences of people growing up in the care system. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/kirton.html

**Dr Ellie Lee**
**Senior Lecturer in Social Policy**
Health policy, in particular reproductive health and parent-child relations; contraception; abortion;
ACADEMIC STAFF (CONT)

assisted conception; ‘designer babies’; maternal mental health; infant feeding.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/lee.html

Dr Anne Logan
Director of Studies, Criminal Justice Studies (Medway campus)
History of feminism; history of criminal justice; gender, voluntary work and professionalism.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/logan.html

Dr Alisoun Milne
Reader in Social Gerontology
Mental health and later life, including early diagnosis of dementia, the social causes of depression, the mental health of care home residents, and links between long-term caregiving and mental illness; service evaluations, including a home treatment service for people with dementia and a community development service to reduce isolation among older people.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/milne.html

Dr Lavinia Mitton
Lecturer in Social Policy
Government tax and social security policies, and how they affect people, particularly in relation to the family and income inequality; the history of social policy and long-term change in economic and social conditions.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/mitton.html

Professor Ann Netten
Professor of Social Welfare
Economics of health and social care; costing services, informal care and regulation; care homes for older people; measuring outcomes of social care; economic evaluation of criminal justice.
www.pssru.ac.uk/staffDetails.php?id=Netten

Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby
Professor of Social Policy
Risk; comparative cross-national work on European social policy; theoretical developments in social policy.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/taylorgooby.html

Professor Julia Twigg
Professor of Social Policy and Sociology
The body, and temporal and spatial ordering; age and ageing; disability; medicine and health care; food, diet and health; home care; public and private space; carework and the care workforce; the sociology of food.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/twigg.html

Professor Sarah Vickerstaff
Professor of Work and Employment
The relationship between paid work and the life course; the employability of older workers; the apprentice model of vocational training and intermediate skills acquisition and the transition from school to work.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/vickerstaff.html

Dr Jo Warner
Senior Lecturer in Social Work
Risk; mental health; social work; documentary analysis; gender.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/warner.html

Dr Lucy Williams
Visiting Research Fellow
Social networks and social support systems of refugees, asylum seekers and other minority groups; strategies and tactics of migration, integration, assimilation and identity formation; cross-border marriage migration and family re-unification; user-involvement and the management of voluntary organisations.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/williams.html
APPLYING TO KENT

General entry requirements
If you wish to apply for a higher degree, you must normally have a first or second class honours degree in a relevant or appropriate subject, or the equivalent from an internationally recognised institution (for more information on requirements for international qualifications, visit www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/country).

English language
The University requires all non-native speakers of English to reach a minimum standard of proficiency in written and spoken English before beginning a postgraduate degree.

You should provide us with either an IELTS certificate with a minimum score of 6.5, including 6.0 in reading and writing, a TOEFL certificate with a minimum of 90 including 22 reading, 21 writing, 21 listening and 23 speaking (internet-based) or, alternatively, you can provide us with the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English grade C.

If you do not reach the required standard, you can apply for one of our pre-sessional courses. For further information, please see www.kent.ac.uk/cewl

Only English language tests taken up to a maximum of two years prior to the date of registration will be accepted for admission to the University. Please note that if your university studies have been completed entirely in English, you may be exempt from providing an English test certificate. Please contact the European Office or International Office for clarification (see www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/contact.html)

Making an application
You can apply for a Kent higher degree electronically via our website at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/apply

If you do not have access to the web, please contact the Recruitment and Admissions Office at the address overleaf, for a paper copy of the application form.

If you are applying for a research degree, it is strongly recommended that you contact the School in the first instance so that you have an opportunity to discuss your study plans with the programme director.

How to complete the online application form
The online form will take up to 20 minutes to complete and can be saved and returned to at any time.

There are five sections to the online form:
• Choosing your course and giving us basic personal information
• Email verification
• Completing the form
• Checking and submitting the form
• Sending in additional paperwork by email or post.

A decision on your application cannot be made until all the additional paperwork has been received so it is important to send them in as soon as you can. In addition to filling in the application form, you also need to provide:
• evidence of your academic qualifications. Please ask the institution which awarded you your Bachelor’s or Master’s
APPLYING TO KENT (CONT)

degree (or equivalent) to send us an interim or final transcript (a list of all the modules/courses you have taken with the mark achieved for each) or letter certifying your award

• references from two academic referees. All references must be in English. The University needs both references before it can make a decision whether or not to offer you a place. Email addresses of referees must be provided as referees will be asked to submit references via our secure website. References not submitted by the approved electronic route must be made in writing on official letterheaded paper

• evidence of language ability. All international students required to apply for a visa must ensure that they meet the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) eligibility requirements for English language

• if you are a research applicant, you must also submit an outline of approximately 1,500 words of the research project you wish to undertake

• any other materials or documents you would like to be considered in support of your application.

All application materials must be sent to the Recruitment and Admissions Office. You can send this information by fax to +44 (0)1227 827077, or by scanned attachment to admissionspg@kent.ac.uk or by post to:
Recruitment and Admissions Office,
The Registry, University of Kent,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, UK.

Packages sent by registered post or by courier are normally the most secure. The Recruitment and Admissions Office will acknowledge receipt of all application materials as quickly as possible. If you have not received an acknowledgement within a reasonable amount of time, you should contact us again.

Application deadline
There is no fixed closing deadline for applications. However, we strongly recommend that you apply as soon as possible and no later than three months before the start of term. If you wish to apply for on-campus accommodation, an application must be made online by the end of July.

Tuition fees
For the most up-to-date information on tuition fees, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/fees

Further information
Please contact:
Graduate Admissions Secretary,
School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research,
University of Kent,
Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7NY, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827613
F: +44 (0)1227 827005
E: sspssr-pg-admin@kent.ac.uk

Terms and conditions: the University reserves the right to make variations to the content and delivery of courses and other services, or to discontinue courses and other services, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. If the University discontinues any course, it will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative. To register for a programme of study, all students must agree to abide by the University Regulations (available online at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations).

Data protection: for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons, the University needs to process information about its students. Full registration as a student of the University is subject to your consent to process such information.
Kent: the UK’s European university
Kent is known as the UK’s European university. Our two main UK campuses, Canterbury and Medway, are located in the south-east of England, close to London, and we have specialist postgraduate centres in Brussels and Paris.

We have a diverse, cosmopolitan population with 125 nationalities represented. We also have strong links with universities in Europe, and from Kent, you are around two hours away from Paris and Brussels by train.

World-leading research
A great deal of the University of Kent’s research has been ranked as world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour, according to the Government’s most recent Research Assessment Exercise. Kent staff were found to be engaged in research of international and world-class standing.

Strong academic community
Kent’s postgraduate students are part of a thriving intellectual community that includes staff and students from all our locations. In addition to lectures, seminars and one-to-one supervisions, you benefit from a rich and stimulating research culture. We have also recently invested in Woolf College, a modern facility on the Canterbury campus dedicated to postgraduates, which combines accommodation, and academic and social space.

A global outlook
Kent has a great international reputation, attracting academic staff and students from around the world. Our academic schools are engaged in collaborative research with universities worldwide and we offer a range of opportunities to study abroad and an approach that is truly global.

The Graduate School
As a postgraduate student, you also have the support of the Graduate School, which promotes your academic interests, co-ordinates transferable skills training programmes and facilitates cross-disciplinary interaction and social networking.

Funding
Kent provides a variety of financial support opportunities for postgraduate students. These range from research studentships, location-specific funding, sport and music scholarships, and funding specifically for overseas fee-paying students. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/pgfunding

Enhanced career prospects
At Kent, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment. During your studies, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills. We also help you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of work.

Location
Canterbury and Medway

Faculty
Faculty of Social Sciences

School
School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

Contact
Graduate Admissions Secretary, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NY, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827613
F: +44 (0)1227 827005
E: sspssr-pg-admin@kent.ac.uk

Applications
Online at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/apply

Further information
For information about applying to Kent, or to order a copy of the Graduate Prospectus, please contact:
The Recruitment and Admissions Office, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
F: +44 (0)1227 827077
E: information@kent.ac.uk

The University also holds Open Days and postgraduate recruitment events throughout the year. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays
COME AND MEET US

We hold Open Days and postgraduate events throughout the year.
For more information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/opendays