

## Welcome

*This anniversary conference celebrates 50 years since the establishment of Sociology as an integral part of the Cambridge curriculum with the creation of the Social and Political Sciences Committee in 1968.*

On 29 May 1968 the University recommended the establishment of the Social and Political Sciences Committee, and this recommendation was formally approved two months later. Under the chairmanship of Philip Abrams, the Committee was charged with the responsibility of developing a teaching programme in social and political sciences – what was to become known as the Social and Political Sciences Tripos, or SPS for short. The original SPS Tripos was designed as a Part II (students had to take another subject first and they could then transfer to SPS in their second or third year) and it was made up of four disciplines: sociology, social anthropology, social psychology and political science. Teaching for the SPS Tripos began in Michaelmas Term 1969. Although a number of distinguished sociologists were working in Cambridge before 1968, this was the year when the University formally established a framework that would enable sociology to be taught as an integral part of a multidisciplinary social sciences degree. In 1968 the University also appointed its first Professor of Sociology, a position that was held by Professor J.A. Barnes until his retirement in the early 1980s. In 1988 the Social and Political Sciences Committee was replaced by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, and the SPS Tripos was expanded into a full three-year Tripos with a one-year Part I and a two-year Part II. The formal establishment of the Department of Sociology as a separate entity came later, in 2004, when the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences was divided into three constituent departments.

## Oral Histories Project

Hear staff members' experiences at the Department of Sociology; their reflections on the successes and challenges facing the Department, as well as visions for the future. Available on Youtube at "Cambridge Sociology" and at:

<https://www.50years.sociology.cam.ac.uk/oral-histories-project>

## Monday 12th November

14:30-14:45	Introduction & Welcome	Riley Auditorium
14:45-16:15	<a href="#">Sociology at Cambridge: Past, Present and Future</a>	Riley Auditorium
16:15-16:30	Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Elton Room
16:30-18:30	<a href="#">Keynote by Prof Patricia Hill Collins</a>	Riley Auditorium
18:30	Drinks Reception	Elton Room

## Tuesday 13th November

09:15-09:30	Introduction & Reflection	Riley Auditorium
09:30-11:00	<a href="#">Inequalities Panel</a>	Riley Auditorium
11:00-11:30	Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Garden Room
11:30-13:00	<a href="#">Changing Political Economies Panel</a>	Riley Auditorium
13:00-13:30	Buffet Lunch	Garden Room
13:30-15:00	<a href="#">Decolonising Sociology Panel</a>	Riley Auditorium
15:00-15:30	Tea, Coffee, Cake and Fruit	Garden Room
15:30-17:00	<a href="#">Institutional Change Panel</a>	Riley Auditorium
17:00-17:30	Closing Reflection and Conclusion	Riley Auditorium
17:30	Drinks Reception	Garden Room

## Panels

### *Sociology at Cambridge: Past, Present and Future*

This panel will consider the trajectory of Sociology at Cambridge from its early years to the present moment, as well as where it is likely and should be heading in facing urgent social problems.

### *The Sociology of Inequality*

The purpose of this panel is to address and problematise a phenomenon that is located at the very epicentre of the discipline of sociology, namely inequality. We wish to draw on and showcase the expertise in our department – across domains of research and levels of seniority – in ways that are conducive to collective discussion and mutual learning.

### *Changing Political Economies*

This panel addresses the historical antecedents, contemporary characteristics, and future trajectories of a political economic landscape characterised by processes of neoliberalism and financialisation. We will explore the conceptual arsenal at our disposal for understanding changing political economies, and highlight the consequences of the increasing weight of finance on the workings of the economy, the work force, higher education and party politics.

### *Decolonising Sociology*

This panel will primarily focus around a discussion of 'What does decolonising sociology mean?' Consequently, this session will pay attention to the historical 'colonisation' of sociology, as well as how thinkers, systems of thought, topics of study, and geographical areas have historically and presently been excluded from sociology's canon and periphery.

### *Institutional Change*

The purpose of this panel is to engage with work being conducted by members and former members of the Sociology community at Cambridge to change institutions – from the outside in as well as from the inside out.



**50 Years of Sociology**

A conference to celebrate and reflect on the past, present and future of sociological study at Cambridge

**12-13th November 2018**

*Memorial Court, Clare College*

[www.50years.sociology.cam.ac.uk](http://www.50years.sociology.cam.ac.uk)

 **UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
Department of Sociology