



## WHAT IS SSPSSR?

As one of the biggest and best schools for social science in Europe, the **School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR)** attracts students from all over the world. We're interested in making a difference. We don't just explore how society works but whether we can make it better.

## UNPARALLELLED RESEARCH QUALITY AT KENT

*The Complete University Guide 2022* ranked Kent:

- **2nd** for Sociology research quality
- **3rd** for Social Policy research quality
- **3rd** for Social Work research quality

*The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022* ranked Kent:

- **1st** for Criminology research quality
- **1st** for Sociology research quality
- **1st** for Social Work research quality
- **2nd** for Social Policy research quality



FIND US ONLINE:  
[HTTPS://WWW.KENT.AC  
.UK/SOCIAL-POLICY-  
SOCIOLOGY-SOCIAL-  
RESEARCH/POSTGRAD  
UATE](https://www.kent.ac.uk/social-policy-sociology-social-research/postgraduate)

## WELCOME FROM THE SSPSSR PGT DIRECTOR

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, a major university restructuring, and the shift to our new database system, students and faculty have been greatly relieved to welcome students back to face-to-face teaching this year. We were able to enjoy several social events as well! During welcome week, PGT students, partners, friends, foreign exchange students, and faculty convened for a pub crawl in city centre Canterbury. For Halloween, we had dinner and drinks at the Foundry Pub before a spooky (albeit rainy) ghost tour.



A little fun has been so important given the realities of 2021. The economic, political, and social difficulties associated with the pandemic and worsening climate change have driven home **the importance of higher education in the social sciences**. Here at the University of Kent, we're creating the next generation of problem-solvers. Our PGT students are currently developing their dissertation proposals and will begin research in the spring. I can't wait to find out what they discover.

Here's to a safer and healthier 2022!

*Cory Wren*



## PHILANTHROPY

---



Our MA Philanthropy Studies program is taught by distance learning to fit around jobs and family life, but our wonderful students are always welcome on our beautiful campus. Dr Beth Breeze pictured here welcomes **Stephen, Marianne & Claire.**

One of the students in the very first cohort of the MA Philanthropic Studies (2016), **Helen Abnett**, has been awarded funding to continue to a PhD at Kent which she has now successfully completed. Dr Abnett has now secured a job at the University of Birmingham.

**Sarah Jane O'Neill**, who joined the MA Philanthropic Studies in Summer term 2021, taking a stand-alone module, has now joined the full MA programme and was recently appointed as the first Director of the Beacon Collaborative, the organisation representing and promoting philanthropy in the UK.

**Marina Jones**, also a member of the first MA Philanthropic Studies cohort, has had her MA dissertation on charitable legacy pledges accepted for publication in the *Journal of Philanthropy and Marketing*, co-authored with our colleague Dr Claire Routley.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY

---

The International Social Policy program enjoyed an autumn hike in the countryside surrounding campus along with program director Jeremy Kendall. The University of Kent is bordered by fields, woods, and even a section of the historic Crab and Winkle Way. The Crab and Winkle Way, a path for pedestrians and cyclists, takes its name from the six-mile railway line which used to link the towns of Canterbury and Whitstable. Its route takes in the Blean woods, one of the largest and most distinctive areas of ancient woodland in England. The city of Canterbury is just a 25-minute walk from campus with medieval buildings, lively bars, atmospheric pubs and a wide range of shops.

### SUBMISSIONS:

c.l.wrenn@kent.ac.uk

### FIND US ONLINE:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/social-policy-sociology-social-research/postgraduate>



This academic year, we're delighted to host students from **Turkey, India, South Korea**, and the **Americas**. The postgraduate programme takes a policy analytic approach to provide students with an advanced understanding of current debates, theories and concepts relevant to international social policy. Students learn about the common features of social policy arrangements internationally and the variety and differences that characterise welfare across the countries and regions of the world.

## SOCIAL WORK

---

**The Stephanie Tawengwa Prize for Outstanding Dissertation** is a tribute to Stephanie's intellectual excellence and her commitment to social work values, and a fitting way for her to be remembered each year, by recognising and celebrating these same qualities and values in our current student group.

The prize this year went to **Emma-Beth Cochrane**, whose dissertation was entitled: *"It's not the diagnosis, it's the person."* A qualitative study of stigma and the experiences of women with a diagnosis of Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder/Borderline Personality Disorder in the UK.

**Enoch-Mayokun Akinlade** and **Edgar Karungi** have excelled on their practice placement with London Borough of Bexley by presenting an Appreciative Enquiry on Race.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL ARKELL

---

A paper critically assessing a new form of guidance on alcohol consumption during pregnancy has been co-authored by Kent Law School PhD scholar Rachel Arkell and published in the peer-reviewed academic journal *Health, Risk & Society*.

Before beginning her doctoral studies, Rachel completed an LLB in European Legal Studies, an LLM in Medical Law and Ethics, and an **MA in Methods of Social Research**, all at the University of Kent. Rachel hopes to pursue a career in research and says her PhD supports this aspiration "by giving me the opportunity to foster my research skills and connect with individuals and organisations who share my research interests."

**SUBMISSIONS:**  
c.l.wrenn@kent.ac.uk

**FIND US ONLINE:**  
<https://www.kent.ac.uk/social-policy-sociology-social-research/postgraduate>