

# THE SOCIOLOGY TEACHER

THE JOURNAL OF THE BSA TEACHING GROUP



## The Sociology of War and Violence

Mike Gregson, Lakes College  
West Cumbria

## An anomic world?

Emile Durkheim's concept of anomie applied to Brexit.

## WEBSITE REVIEW:

A brand new website aimed at promoting the teaching of Sociology,  
[www.discoversociology.co.uk](http://www.discoversociology.co.uk)



Patrick Robinson



***I seem to be using the phrase, "A change is as good as a rest" quite a lot at the moment.***

I've used it when talking to students about revising as the year goes by: can they vary what they do for their regular revision tasks so that revision is more stimulating? This may become more important as A levels have returned back to linear assessment and revision of the work in the previous year becomes key for a good grade. For a brand new change in resources, I would recommend that students are steered to <http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/>, the brand new site from the BSA, that offers an on-line source of revision and wider reading. Fuller student review available in this issue.

"A change is as good as a rest" can also be relevant to marking workload as a teacher. I've tried to set my classes homework in which they are writing in different styles or formats so that my marking doesn't always focus on a traditional essay. Essays will always be the core of the marking as the year goes by, but when assessment can be made in other ways, it's worth the change. For example, after I've covered labelling theory in the education topic, I set students a task to pretend they were a headteacher of a school in which they suspected students from the lower social classes were being labelled by teaching staff in a negative way. The task was to write a memo to the staff training them on the evidence of class bias from teachers (summarising the

knowledge and understanding they should have) and then the task was to suggest ideas for teachers to follow in order to stop/avoid labelling. It was an interesting read to see what students could think of, and made a change from only marking essays. There is also potential for employability links if students are writing in an imaginary workplace role: what's the right tone and format for a headteacher's memo to staff? If you have ideas of how Sociology work could be assessed through a variety of written formats, please send your best ideas in and we can collate them for the next issue. Contact/send ideas to me via [prs@cadcol.ac.uk](mailto:prs@cadcol.ac.uk)

***Many thanks for all the contributors to this issue of The Sociology Teacher. All the best for the Winter months ahead, Patrick Robinson.***

Patrick Robinson  
Patrick [prs@cadcol.ac.uk](mailto:prs@cadcol.ac.uk)  
Co-editor of the  
BSA Teacher Group Journal.

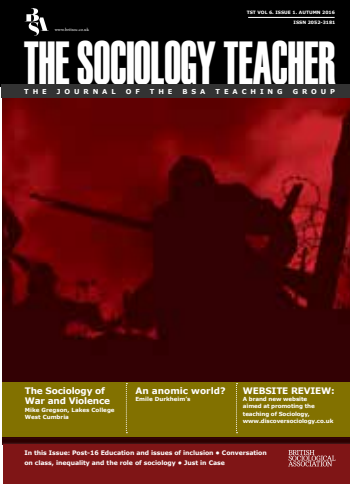
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Could you write for THE SOCIOLOGY TEACHER?



[www.britsoc.co.uk](http://www.britsoc.co.uk)

If you're someone with an idea for something we could include in the journal, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Any aspect of teaching and learning in the Social Sciences can be suitable, but we'd be especially interested in material relating to GCSE and/or KS3, which are currently under-represented in the publication. Articles, classroom resources or offers to provide regular features will all be considered, as will any other ideas for suitable copy. In the first instance please contact commissioning editor, [prs@cadcol.ac.uk](mailto:prs@cadcol.ac.uk) and we will pass your proposal to the editorial board.



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**DEADLINES FOR 2017**

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Wednesday 14 December 2016 (4-6pm)  
National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Society Building, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL
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The BSA Teaching Group is a network of anyone keen to further the interests of sociology teaching from secondary to tertiary education.

The aim of the Group is to encourage and promote the teaching of the Social Sciences in Primary, Secondary, Further and Higher Education. The Group therefore provides opportunities for those teaching in Sociology to develop and share ideas and strategies for the promotion and delivery of the teaching of the Sociology. To this end, one of the main activities of the BSA Teaching Group is the dissemination of information relating to teaching materials and teaching methods. The Group is also active in promoting the interests of Sociology teachers to examination boards, academic bodies, governmental and political agencies and the wider public.

Members of the Group can be found in every sector of education, but the majority are teachers of Advanced Level Sociology. Members are encouraged to be active in the running of the Group, either nationally or through local activities.

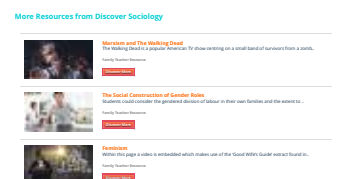
**THE SOCIOLOGY OF WAR AND VIOLENCE**



**CONVERSATION ON CLASS, INEQUALITY AND THE ROLE OF SOCIOLOGY**




**WEBSITE REVIEW**





# The Sociology of War and Violence

Mike Gregson, Lakes College West Cumbria



**This** is one of six sociology units taught on the Access to Higher Education Level 3 Diploma at Lakes College West Cumbria. Ascentis a National Awarding Organisation, encourage tutors to submit proposals for new units, 'The Sociology of War and Violence' was submitted in 2014 with approval to run during the academic year 2015-16. This article will briefly outline the justification for writing the unit, current sociological interpretations of war and violence, ideas about lesson preparation and classroom delivery, how the students' responded and what work they produced.

The study of war has traditionally been the preserve of

historians, politicians and the military. Giddens, A. and Sutton, P.W. (2013:1028) argue that

*'As a discipline, sociology has not given the study of war as much prominence as it could and should have done, preferring to leave it to historians and military theorists.'*

The suggestion here is that Sociologists have an important role to play in contributing to the understanding of the motivations and far reaching consequences involved in war and violence. The observation that warfare encourages individuals to do



BOOK REVIEW: BY NATALIE DAVISON

ISBN: 9780241971543

## Stuffocation

‘Memories live longer than things’

by James Wallman.

**In Stuffocation, James Wallman takes us on a journey from the origins of mass consumerism in the 1920s (a US government led initiative to tackle over-production) to what he suggests will be the future – a focus on ‘experiential buying’.**

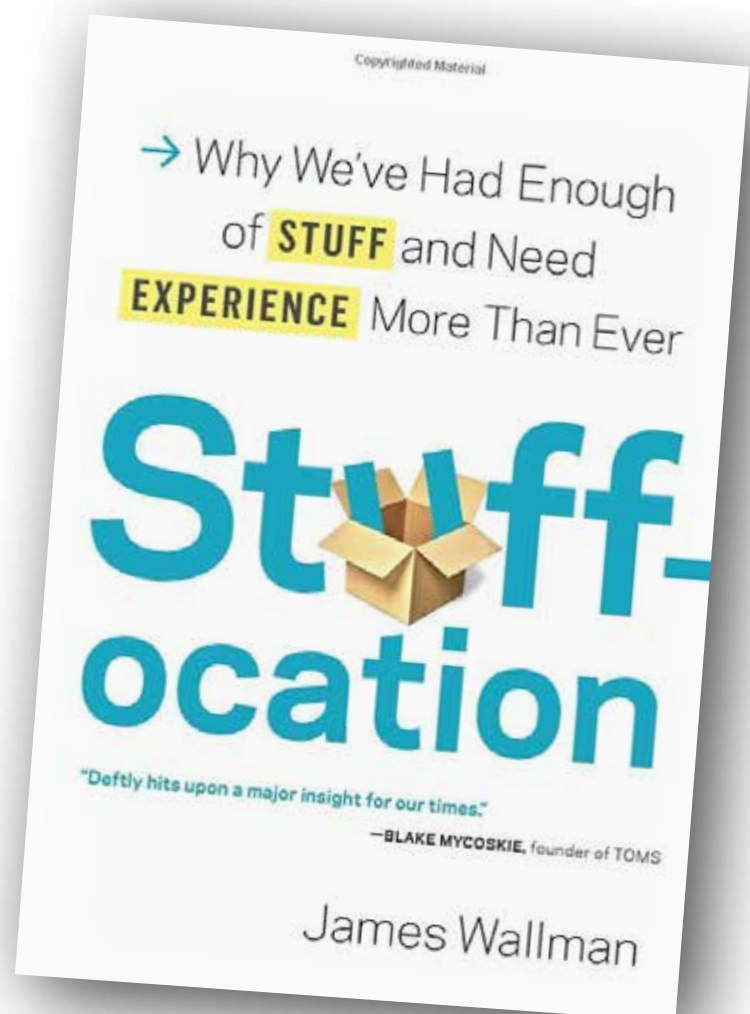
The idea is that as citizens in an increasingly materialistic and consumerist society we are becoming dissatisfied by the quest for the next ‘must have’ item. Items that are usually unfulfilling after a short period of time either because they do not live up to the hype or they are replaced by an even more up-to-date version (iPhone anyone?). Experiential buying is, as the name suggests, buying experiences instead.

As a successful trend forecaster, Wallman is perfectly placed to predict and plot future social trends and his research driven background is evident in his writing. Mixing real-life examples, academic research and statistics, Wallman brings to life a series of people who have made a host of changes to their everyday lives in an attempt to tackle their ‘stuffocation’. From families who sold up, packed up and went travelling to those who made smaller changes closer to home but still with big benefits.

If you join the Stuffocation mailing list at [stuffocation.org](http://stuffocation.org), you’ll receive a free sample chapter of the book. The website also contains some useful Book Club questions that might be useful if using some of this material in a lesson or discussion with students.

**Stuffocation by James Wallman**  
**ISBN: 9780241971543**

Available from  
<http://stuffocation.org/buy/>





## BSA Teaching Group COMPETITION



NATIONAL A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS!

# WIN A IPAD MINI!

We look forward to reading your entries!

The BSA Teaching Group's National A Level Competition invites essays and short videos from sociology students allowing you to win an Apple iPad Mini and £250 for your school. Register your interest now via by emailing your submission to Claire Simmons, Membership Development Officer.

The A Level Competition is open to anyone currently studying at A Level, AS Level, Scottish Higher Level or equivalent post-16 qualification in sociology, and we encourage you to be as creative as possible with your answers!

This year's question is 'what are the causes of social consensus and conflict in society today?' The aim of this question is to try and help students identify social issues within society and link it to the modules you have studied or are about to study. To enter all you need to do is submit a 2,000-word written piece or a 10-minute podcast or video clip.

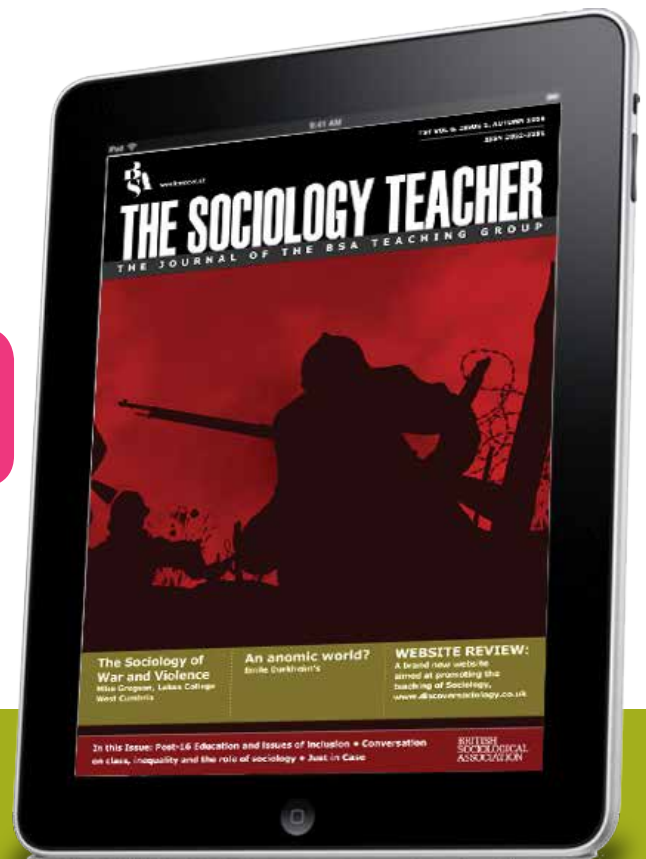
Previous years have covered topics such as 'what is the important topic for sociologists to study over the

next 20 years?', 'Changing Society – what is the role of the sociologist?' and 'why is sociology important?' These questions have received some fantastic answers from all over the world. Students have also commented on how much fun it is to take part in these competitions, enjoying the discussion sessions with their teachers and classmates.

You have until Friday 9 December at 5pm to submit your entry either via email to: Claire Simmons or via cd/USB to:

Claire Simmons, Membership Development Officer,  
British Sociological Association,  
Bailey Suite, Palatine House,  
Belmont Business Park, Belmont,  
Durham DH1 1TW.

The British Sociological Association (BSA) is the national subject association for sociologists in the UK and its primary objective is to promote sociology. The BSA is the largest sociological network in the UK and is the public face of sociology in Britain.





**Sociology teachers in schools and sixth form colleges, are now offered full BSA membership at the concessionary rate of £57pa (Jan to Dec), with the following benefits:**

- Exclusive access to the BSA members area <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/>
- Huge discounts on conference and event registration
- Up to 50% discount on selected SAGE Publications books and journals
- FREE access to SAGE Sociology journal Collection with over 45,900 articles
- Choice of international BSA *Journals, Sociology or Work, Employment & Society*
- Three issues per year of the BSA's popular magazine, *Network*
- BSA National Sixth Form Sociology Competition and of course existing, valued Teaching Group member benefits, which include:
  - FREE subscription to The Sociology Teacher, the online journal published three times a year which includes articles written by leading academics in the Social Sciences, reviews of recently published books and other informative editorial.
  - Regional staff and student events which include member discount
  - Regular news and views, ideas and proposals for lessons and a range of useful resources
  - Support enabling you to raise the profile of Social Science teaching in your own region



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