A GUIDE TO SOCIOLOGY ON THE INTERNET

As we discuss in Chapter 10, the internet has revolutionised the way people can engage with sociology. Students of sociology regularly seek media sources as a way of understanding social issues. While there is no substitute for peer-reviewed journal articles and research monographs as the primary medium for reading sociology, websites devoted to sociological ideas can be a useful source for information and inspiration. In this section, we discuss some of the best free websites dedicated to sociology.

**Discover Society** - https://discoversociety.org/

This website is published by a not-for-profit collaboration of sociologists, to provide high-quality social research, policy analysis and commentary on contemporary issues. The target audience is an interested general reader, but given that the topics discussed are normally based on published research, it can be an excellent place to read about contemporary issues and have your sociological imagination provoked through the diversity of its coverage.


The online magazine of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the website is unique in being available in 17 languages. Alongside updates on the work of the ISA, it covers contemporary research and critical commentary on world events. The wealth of international topics covered on this site makes it a great resource for thinking about the international nature of sociology.

**Family Inequality** - https://familyinequality.wordpress.com/

Focussed on issues of the family and social inequality, Professor Philip N. Cohen provides regular blog posts about a range of social issues. We mentioned his post on Princess Diana and Prince Charles being the same height, despite many pictures suggesting otherwise, in Chapter 6; his website is packed full of other great pieces that equally showcase how sociology can challenge and change our views of the world.

**The Society Pages** - https://thesocietypages.org/#/home

Hosted by the University of Minnesota, The Society Pages (TSP) hosts articles, blogs and podcasts about social issues such as crime, politics, gender, race and culture. All blogs are research-based and writing is targeted at public audiences interested in sociological issues.

**Global Social Theory** - http://globalsocialtheory.org/

This website offers a clear and concise introduction to key social theorists from a global perspective. It covers important thinkers, concepts and topics and comes from a postcolonial perspective.
Organised by Professor Gurminder K. Bhambra, whose work we cite in Chapter 2, the website can be a tool for finding out about global social theories, and discovering new social theorists.

**The Conversation -** https://theconversation.com

A website that presents academic research in an accessible and engaging way. Although the scope of the site is not limited to sociology, sociological research is still featured heavily. There are different sites according to geographic regions, and many pages involve the author of academic research providing an accessible summary of their findings.

**BEYOND THE WEBSITE: PODCASTS AND SPOKEN WORD**

**Thinking Allowed -** http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05

The long-running UK radio show dedicated to discussing sociological research is without equal. Hosted by sociologist Laurie Taylor, each episode tends to feature two sociologists discussing their research. It simply describes its content as featuring “new research on how society works”.

**Social Science Bites -** https://www.socialsciencespace.com/about-socialsciencebites/

A set of introductory podcasts that involves leading social scientists discussing how the social world is created, and how sociology improves our understanding of why people behave the way they do. There is a wide range of topics, and a substantial archive to explore.

**Revisionist History -** http://revisionisthistory.com/

This podcast by Malcolm Gladwell is not purely sociological, but interrogates how historical events can inform our understanding of the world. The podcasts on educational inequality in Season 1 and racism in Season 2 are brilliant expositions of the structural and social ways in which social divisions are entrenched in American society.

**Goldsmiths, University of London -** https://www.gold.ac.uk/podcasts/app/front/podcastsbydept/61/50

While many universities have podcasts featuring their academics, the Podcast series at Goldsmiths is particularly accessible and engaging. They include podcasts from academics such as Professor Les Back, and his Postcards from a Sabbatical series may be of particular interest.

**Office Hours, TSP -** https://thesocietypages.org/officehours/

Part of The Society Pages website (see above), this podcast series provides podcasts of sociologists discussing their recent research. Regularly updated, with a US focus.