



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



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.UK/SOCIAL-POLICY-
SOCIOLOGY-SOCIAL-
RESEARCH/POSTGRAD
UATE**

WELCOME FROM THE SSPSSR PGT DIRECTOR

As our spring semester comes to a close, most of PGT students are now beginning their dissertation research, the most exciting part of the postgraduate journey!



Some of the research our students are undertaking this year includes topics on surrogacy and social work, philanthropic giving in the 18th century, work/life conflicts in South Korea, preventing drug addiction in Singapore, and the impact of COVID-19 on student wellbeing. This research and more is poised to have considerable impact for a variety of public, professional and academic bodies. On top of this, the University of Kent was just recognized as **third in the country for research excellence!**

With all this hard work in the field and at the keyboard, it's important to make space for some relaxation, too. This summer, we'll be enjoying a mini writer's retreat in the Canterbury countryside. The division has a lot of fun stuff planned, too, including the June 6th-10th postgraduate community week which consists of group breakfasts, board games, and writing workshops.

Here's to a happy, healthy, productive, and **sunny** summer in Kent!

Cory Wren

CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION (CCP)

The Centre for Child Protection (CCP) runs an online, part-time and distance learning MA, PCert and PDip in Advanced Child Protection. Our students are predominantly in child protection practice from a variety of different backgrounds including (but not limited to) health, education, social care, police, law and international settings. Juggling child protection practice, MA learning and life is a big ask – but we are so proud of the determination our students show to this demanding, rewarding, and essential area of work. We would like to say a huge congratulations to our students who will be graduating in July 2022!



Some of our students have shared the outcomes of their dissertation topics and the impact it has had on their practice:

[*Hayley Cameron*](#) * [*Jacky Cador*](#) * [*Sam Wright*](#) * [*Kendra Houseman*](#)

Others have shared how their child protection practice has developed over the years during and post-study:

[*Brenda Etukey Meyer*](#) * [*Johansen Kasenene*](#)

This year's **Olive Stevenson Prize** has been jointly awarded to **Sally Kearney** and **Matthew Lea**. The **Child Protection Progress Award** goes to **Sherice Malcolm** who achieved an upward progression of 17.55% from Year 1 to Year 2. Congratulations!

Year 1 MA Advanced Child Protection students convened at the end of the semester. This was the first time students have come to Medway and it was a blended classroom with some students physically in the room and others joining us via MS Teams. After the tribulations of COVID-19, it was wonderful to gather again.

TIZARD CENTRE

Congratulations to our prize winners! **Georgina Natalia Zucchini Watts** has won the **Edward Newell Prize** awarded to a student on the Tizard Centre's Autism Studies Postgraduate programme who has made an excellent academic contribution and is charitably minded. **Daniel Jonathan Caprice** has been awarded the **Outstanding Achievement** in Postgraduate Studies at the Tizard Centre awarded for the student in the Tizard Centre Master's programme with the highest average mark. **Laura Mary Waller** has been recognized for most **Outstanding Effort**. **Laura Duque Martinez** has been recognized for the **best mark in a Tizard final year module**.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT IN CRIMINOLOGY

A master's student working with Dr Nikhaela Wicks is conducting a super important and timely dissertation. She will be conducting an **ethnography alongside Drill artists**, exploring their perspectives of governance and how this is navigated and negotiated in order to perform at night-time events and share Drill music online. We have anonymized this student's name for ethical purposes as she is marketing for a music company and the participants could therefore become easily identifiable should her name be shared.

SUBMISSIONS:

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FIND US ONLINE:

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

PHILANTHROPY

Two of our former MA Philanthropic Studies students, **Lydia Todd** and **Jayne Lacny** (both 2018-2020) have had publication success. Lydia has published her MA dissertation as a sole-authored paper in *Voluntary Sector Review*: '[It is not what you do, it is how you do it: exploring the techniques UK hospices use on Facebook to create online engagement.](#)' Jayne has co-authored a peer reviewed paper in the *Journal of Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*, with Dr Ali Body: '[Philanthropic Tales: A critical analysis of how philanthropic citizenship is represented in children's picture books.](#)'



Ligia Pena, current PGT student in the Centre for Philanthropy, **presented a paper at the Association of Fundraising Professionals** in Las Vegas on 2 May at which she translated the research findings of 10 studies on fundraising for the practitioner audience. One of the Centre for Philanthropy's core goals is to help bridge academia and practice, so we are delighted that our students are assisting in this mission.

On 22 April around 70 students and alumni from the MA Philanthropic Studies programme gathered on campus for a conference and dinner. It was such a delight to get everyone together – including many students we had never met in person due to the lockdown.

The **2022-23 Blackbaud Scholarships** have been awarded to **Nicola Edwards** and **Laura Helyer**. Congrats!

CONSIDERING A MASTER'S DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT?

The School for Social Policy, Sociology, and Social Research at the University of Kent warmly invites you to apply for a master's degree in Sociology, Criminology, International Social Policy, Philanthropy, or Methods of Social Research.

Watch a [15 minute video](#) explaining what the purpose of a MA degree is, how to apply, how to fund your studies, and what PG study at Kent is really like.

There are several scholarships available with a deadline at the end of July. Applications for a MA in SSPSSR are accepted until the end of July.

This year, we are proud to welcome students who have finished with at least a 2.2. Students who have traditionally been excluded from pursuing postgraduate studies now have the opportunity to participate. The postgraduate experience is certainly advanced, but students have a deeper integration with the program with extensive collaboration and mentorship from supervisors.

A master's degree takes one year for full-time students. This includes modules relevant to the chosen program of study and a dissertation project (part-time students can spread their study across two years). Master's degrees are helpful for giving you an edge on the job market, granting you authority in your field, preparing you for a job in research, and more. Learn more on the [website](#).

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