



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University

# LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES MINI LECTURES

ALL

## **Business, Law or Social Sciences at BCU – What Makes our Degrees Unique?**

What makes studying a business, law or social sciences degree at Birmingham City University unique? In this presentation, students will explore the range of degree programmes and specialist pathways available within these subject areas. More importantly, they will learn about the fantastic opportunities at BCU to enhance their employability, develop transferable skills and support their career prospects.

BLACK STUDIES

## **Black History and Contemporary Black Cultures**

One of the strengths of Black Studies is that its history helps us to understand the present. In this session, we will explore the roots of contemporary issues like representation, activism, education, immigration and globalisation. Drawing on the research strengths of the team, we will discuss how Blackness in Britain can be understood in the histories that have produced the current moment. The session will connect to topics across sociology, media studies, history, politics and related further education programmes.



Session dates are negotiable. For further information or to book, please get in touch via [www.bcu.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges)

### **The Social Construction and Criminalisation of Minority Sexualities**

In this session students will be encouraged to engage critically with the concept of sexuality. We will consider how behaviours and actions that are now commonly associated with LGBT identities have been considered through history and with an international perspective. This session introduces students to the long history of official criminalisation and policing of gender and sexuality alongside informal social controls that seek to maintain established gendered hierarchies. The intrinsic relationship between sexuality and gender will be considered and examples are drawn upon to illustrate how spaces for gender and sexual minorities are policed and legitimate LGBT status is reserved for particular people.

### **Organised Crime and Gangs: The Lived Experiences**

This presentation will be delivered by Dr Mohammed Rahman, whose academic research primarily concerns the 'affective dimensions' of members' part in criminal groups in the West Midlands. Through narrative criminology, the talk will concentrate on the lived experiences of individuals that have participated in gangland and organised criminality.

### **Intimate Partner Homicide**

This session explores the phenomenon of intimate partner homicide, with a specific focus on female victimisation. The context and key stages of those killings will be explored, making specific references to individual case studies that will help reinforce main points.

### **How Families and Communities Support Desistance from Sexually Offending**

This session draws upon PhD research and focuses upon the contributions made by partners and family members. It also considers the gendered nature of offering such support, the personal toll it takes on the women involved, and the complex relationship between formalised and informal support structures. There will also be consideration of the public perception of those who remain supportive of a partner or family member who has sexually offended, and their depiction as necessary in halting recidivism and yet somehow 'abnormal'. The primary focus of this mini lecture is on the lived experience of these women and how their perception of self is shaped by this aspect of their daily lives.



### **A Day in the Life of a Law Student**

Law academics and their current students give an insight into a typical day of a student on our law courses.

### **Careers in Law**

This session will see students participate in activities around law, delivered by academics and legal professionals. Students will learn about the different career paths, from the unknown to the typical routes.

### **Are Racists Protected by Discrimination Law? How to Think like a Lawyer**

This session gets students to consider a 'hard case', that is, a legal question which has no single obvious answer. This class looks at the real-life case of a bus driver who was sacked because he was elected to represent a racist political party and who then tried to claim that he was the victim of racial discrimination. Students will be shown how to compare their own interpretation of the law with that of the judges in the case.

### **Are we Creating Disabilities?**

This session will be based around the way in which we view disability. It will explore some of the main models of disability including the medical, social and human rights models of disability. Students will then consider how this fits into our legislative provisions for the disabled and consider whether the way we currently try to provide protection is actually causing more problems and how we might aim to resolve this.

### **What is Law?**

What do we mean when we say that something is the law? One answer is that a law is a type of rule, but clearly there are many rules which are not law: for example, rules of etiquette, school or club rules and moral rules. During this session, students will explore the concept of law, how it developed and whether it should be intertwined with moral values. Students will debate the function of law by looking at the theories of legal philosophers Hart and Devlin. In conclusion, we will discuss the following matter: If something is immoral, should it also be illegal?

### **The Story of Mr C: The Capacity to Consent to Medical Treatment**

In this mini lecture we discuss the law relating to consent to medical treatment and its historical development. There is a specific focus on those that might struggle to give valid consent because of mental health difficulties. We explore the interesting story of Mr C, who moved the law forward.



## POLICING AND CRIMINOLOGY

### **Use of Police Force and the Taser System**

When Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police Act in 1829, he envisaged a different organisation to previous forms of law enforcement and public governance. Rather than controlling society, the 'new police' would work in conjunction with and obtain the consent of the communities they served. The use of force continues to be a contentious aspect of policing. Successive governments have grappled with balancing the need to protect officers from harm whilst ensuring that a culture of violent tactics and practices are not endorsed. The lecture will examine police use of force and debates surrounding the potential challenges that such actions can have to civil liberties, democratic freedoms and police legitimacy.

### **Policing and Vulnerable People**

A session which focuses on both the harms that can be inflicted upon vulnerable people, during interactions with the police, and the complexity of vulnerability. The mini lecture will also focus on debunking the media myths and stereotypes associated with mental illness and how prospective officers need to 'unlearn' these to fully understand the communities they serve. Vulnerabilities and the intersectional identities of officers will also be considered.

### **What Makes a Good Stop and Search?**

Stop and search remains one of the most controversial police powers. This session explores the different stop and search powers available to officers and how they are exercised in practice. Adopting an evidence-based perspective on stop and search, we will consider the effectiveness of stop and search powers and the impact it has on communities. We will review videos of stop and search and discuss what makes a 'good' stop and search from a policing and community perspective.

## SOCIOLOGY

### **Women Reclaiming the Streets: Using Urban Sociology and Human Geography to Understand Gender and the City**

How is gender shaping, and shaped by, urban space? Using urban sociology and human geography, we can see city space in a new way. Whilst geographies of fear can exclude women from feeling safe and participating in public spaces, we also focus on the movement to reclaim the streets: fighting back against poor urban design and patriarchal atmospheres.



## **Consuming Social Life? Understanding the Sociology of Leisure**

Sociology has tended to ignore the role of social space in shaping the lives and experiences of individuals in society, often seeing it as the background against which social life plays out. Drawing on the 'spatial' turn within sociology as well as the discipline of human geography, this mini lecture will examine the ways in which space and place shape our everyday lives. Using examples of leisure spaces (e.g., the pub, restaurants, shopping centres, carnivals and fun fairs, and other places of consumption), we will think about how people are constituted into these specific spaces and places and how they facilitate place-based identities, community-making practices, spatial politics of in/exclusion as well as informal social control and the regulation of space.

## **Thinking Sociologically about Music**

How can sociology contribute to an understanding of music? This session provides an introduction to some of the key sociological ideas and perspectives on music, focusing on the social and historical settings in which musical forms are produced and consumed, and the ways in which music relates to social identity.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

### **How do we Look at the Brain?**

An introduction to the techniques that psychologists use to examine the brain. The session will include elements on scanning and neuropsychology, as well as exploring the use of such techniques to diagnose and treat brain injuries.

### **Geographical Profiling and Catching Serial Murderers**

How offenders live and move through their daily environment leaves digital, physical and psychological traces. These traces can be used as clues to help understand the patterns and movements made by serial offenders – which can often be used to solve cases, and prevent other serial offences from happening. This talk will show your students the principles of how geographical profiling works in serial offender cases, and will focus on the geographical profiles left behind by some of the most notorious serial murderers in the UK.

### **Why Criminal Profiling does not Work**

The idea that criminals' crime scene behaviours may contain clues to their identity is a fascinating idea, known as criminal, or behavioural profiling. Despite the FBI taking it seriously, and countless movies and TV shows dedicated to criminal profiling, there is very little scientific evidence to suggest that offender profiling ever leads to the identification and apprehension of offenders in serial murder cases. This talk will look at the case of the BTK serial murderer and you will see how FBI criminal profilers failed to identify this killer, several times, over a 30-year period.



## **The Psychology of Stalking Behaviour**

Stalking and pathological predatory behaviour is something that has only recently been taken seriously by police and law enforcement. It is understood that stalking behaviours are on the rise and the impact this has on victims can be huge and deeply damaging, with victims being made sick, losing their jobs and their family-life being destroyed. In some cases, victims have been murdered by their stalker. This talk will look at the different types of stalking and stalker pathologies and how it can be prevented, focusing on some well-known stalking cases.

## **The Psychology of Happiness**

More than ever before, governments acknowledge the importance of happiness for their citizens. Health and happiness is on the national agenda for most governments, and there is an economic argument to be made for spending money to make people feel happier – as it will cost governments less in the long run. This talk will look at how happiness is measured by the UK government and what happiness actually means to psychologists.

## **What are Personality Disorders?**

In the last few years, we have heard more about different types of personality disorder and the problems they pose for people. This talk looks at the different types of personality disorder, how they are diagnosed, how they develop, and the implications for those diagnosed with personality disorders. The talk will also focus on the supposed links between crime, violence and personality disorders such as Narcissistic or Psychopathic.

## **Social Identity and Food Choices**

This session will explore a qualitative interview research study of the way in which social identity functions in how post-menopausal female cancer survivors decide what to eat.

# **YOUTH WORK AND COMMUNITIES**

## **Working in Youth Work and Communities**

Students will explore careers working with young people and communities in various areas such as the public-sector, non-governmental organisations/ voluntary field or private sector. They will be introduced to contemporary issues that impact youth and community work, including social, cultural, political and economic factors and how the role of a youth worker can empower and support positive change. They will gain knowledge about our Youth Work and Communities degree, and how this can jump-start a successful career in a range of professions including youth work, community development and engagement, children and young people services, supported housing and criminal justice.



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