

Medium and Long-term Societal Effects and Impacts of COVID-19.

The Covid-19 pandemic is associated with far-reaching public health and economic consequences, and the medium- and long-term social effects demand sociological analysis. The impact of bereavement and long Covid, the consequences of isolation and job loss, and the changes to working practices and the organisation of home have unsettled our interpersonal and public lives in equal measure. While the global pandemic has been described as non-discriminatory, the experience of the disease has been uneven. Infection, contagion and recovery rates can be tracked by social and economic markers, and the economic consequences are also differentiated by class, ethnicity, gender and place.

The importance of sociology has been recognised both within and beyond the discipline. For example, a recent article in [The Lancet](#) explicitly points to the central issue of social inequality in the transmission and experience of Covid.

The aggregation of these diseases on a background of social and economic disparity exacerbates the adverse effects of each separate disease. COVID-19 is not a pandemic. It is a syndemic. The syndemic nature of the threat we face means that a more nuanced approach is needed if we are to protect the health of our communities.

In similar vein, [Danny Dorling](#) has observed that the understanding of, and response to, the pandemic requires broader social science: both geographical and sociological input.

It's social, not medical, science that tells us most about the disparate spread of this pandemic... In short, the geographical map of the disease today is a product of various factors, many of them deeply embedded in the diverse ways Britons live their lives. But in the discussions around Covid, social scientists – those who look at people's lives in the round – are too often absent... We also need to know why rates of transmission in London, which contains some of the poorest places in the UK, have remained so low. Perhaps because the virus can no longer spread as easily there as it did initially. Again, the explanation is, in large part, sociological... To understand ...this pandemic, you must first understand how the country lives and works.

A number of recent sociological articles have also outlined the importance and the breadth and depth of sociological enquiry:

- [A Sociology of Covid-19](#)
- [Covid-19/Sociology](#)
- [Sociology and the Social Sciences in the Covid-19 Crisis](#)

Sociologists are already producing Covid-19 related research and analysis, addressing issues at both the macro and micro levels. This research is helping to build a picture of the complex and interacting issues that seem likely to impact society in the future. There are at least 200 sociological research projects related to Covid-19 currently in progress that we are aware of according to the titles of abstract submissions to the British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2021.

1) Sociological Analysis and Evidence Relating to Covid-19

Outlined below are some of the key issues and risks we see as emerging in the post-pandemic period presenting challenges for policymakers, government agencies, public institutions, service providers and a broad range of other stakeholders.

Topic area	Post-Covid medium- and long-term challenges, risks and opportunities
General	<p>The key risks to the UK post-COVID are readily apparent in terms of the potential for changes to employment and housing. Social disorganisation, increased mental health issues and substance abuse, declining interpersonal trust and social cohesion, rising crime and possibly further support for populist/radical politics particularly of the far right is predicted (Wirth, 1938; Inglehart and Norris, 2016; Judis, 2016; Mudde and Kaltwasser, 2017).</p> <p>For these challenges to be tackled effectively, social and economic adjustment is required on a scale not seen since 1945, potentially including a reassessment of welfare (UBI?), changes to taxation, and financial, labour and housing market regulation, which taken together would represent a fundamental realignment of the relationship between the individual, the economy and the state.</p>
Employment / work	<p>Unemployment, underemployment and work insecurity will clearly be an ongoing issue given the pandemic’s impact on retail and related services, including the move to online shopping. Hospitality and entertainment will also likely take some time to recover given ongoing reticence amongst sectors of the public regarding social mixing and the failure of businesses in this sector.</p> <p>Over half of people who worked from home during the pandemic would like to work more flexibly in the future. New research from the universities of Kent and Birmingham found that 86% of those surveyed had worked from home at some point during the first lockdown. The ‘Working from home during Covid-19 Lockdown’ project found that 52% of all parents and 66% of non-parents wanted to work more flexibly in the future.</p> <p>Such a move to more home working could further impact on retail, hospitality and other services in city centres, as well as transport. These factors may well further weaken a labour market already under threat from automation and, of course, Brexit. The latter is likely to increase current levels</p>

	<p>of involuntary flexible working in the gig economy. Increasing pressure on the welfare system and potential political problems may ensue from these developments, given that this will also likely also have the effect of widening already high levels of social inequality (ILO, 15 May 2020).</p> <p>Lockdown during the pandemic has highlighted the benefits of greener, less-polluted environments and could help to accelerate the shift to carbon neutrality possibly enhancing the growth of the Green Economy which in turn could offer significant opportunities for new types of employment.</p>
<p>Housing / homelessness</p>	<p>The impact of COVID 19 on the housing sector represents a further challenge. High housing costs and housing insecurity, interacting with job insecurity has undermined public health and well-being for some time. The worsening of this position due to the pandemic has the potential to inflame existing social and political tensions. It may also be noted that many of those housed in the relatively high cost and insecure private rented sector are young people who are more likely to be employed in retail and hospitality, i.e. the most exposed sectors of the labour market (Abbs and Marshall, 2020). A large number of the latter are already under threat of eviction and potential homelessness when government support in terms of furloughing and constraints on eviction end (Shelter, 6 July 2020).</p> <p>As well as a reassessment of the role of the state in housing, possibly including a new perspective on public housing as a resource for a broader constituency, repurposing of former retail and other economically unviable commercial property, if conducted appropriately and creatively, might offer some opportunities for addressing current housing issues as well as revitalising run down high streets.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Research is highlighting the negative impact of COVID-19 on the education of children with school closures, interrupted learning and unequal access to resources and learning support. The rapid switch to online teaching at both pre-tertiary and tertiary levels has had both negative and potentially positive impacts. Inequalities in access to learning resources and support is likely to have lingering consequences for some individuals without targeted intervention. The detrimental effects on the physical and mental health of teachers and lecturers are also likely to continue into the medium-term and will also require</p>

	<p>specialist support to mitigate against losing staffing resource. The rapid development, adaptation and adoption of online teaching technologies could enhance accessibility and widen participation in education. There may be significant implications for the Higher Education sector in terms of changes to teaching methods and learner access as a result of the digital pivot.</p>
<p>Food & Food Security</p>	<p>Evidence suggests that food insecurity, already an increasing issue in the UK, has also risen during the pandemic. The Trussell Trust have experienced a significant rise in food bank use, projecting a 61% increase in demand for its services this winter, the latter modelled on data from Herriot Watt University (Trussell Trust 6 September, 2020). While it is difficult to assess how this will develop, food insecurity may well be an ongoing social, health and, indeed, political issue, given the collected impact of post-pandemic unemployment and insecure work, as well as the effects of Brexit on supply chains and prices.</p> <p>From a wider, long term perspective, COVID-19 has also flattened the curve of meat consumption in China, due to increased recognition of the impact of such zoonotic diseases, and is likely to accelerate the existing shift towards plant-based meat alternatives and lab-grown meat (The Guardian, 2 December 2020) impacting food consumption, food production systems, and food-related employment.</p>
<p>Retail and consumption</p>	<p>In a general sense, the threat to in person shopping posed by a pandemic-accelerated trend towards online retailing, together with the failure of significant numbers of high profile, longstanding retail businesses, has the potential to undermine key aspects of consumerism that has been a mainstay of the UK economy in recent decades. Dealing with this, will not only require sensitive handling of the employment issues, but potentially a reassessment of the direction of the UK economy as a whole.</p>
<p>Health / exercise</p>	<p>The ability to overcome pandemics is linked to health (both physical and mental). Being fitter and healthier means more people can resist diseases. Public health needs to take into account physical activity as a means of promoting physical and mental health, and with it, the public’s ability to fight diseases.</p> <p>Grassroots sport has been dramatically affected by the pandemic. This has occurred in two ways – opportunities</p>

	<p>to do sport and to watch sport. Both can have a positive impact on mental health, and doing sport has some positive health benefits. Sport clubs can also provide a community focus. They provide a focal point for social activity, which brings different sections of society together, can build community cohesion, and also become spaces of communication and support in difficult times.</p>
<p>Mental health</p>	<p>Beyond the experience of the pandemic itself, increasing isolation, distance from support networks, and economic insecurity will have a residual negative and potentially enduring impact on already high levels of mental ill health, impacting on health, social and other services (Godinic et al, 2020).</p> <p>A study from Oxford university found that women suffered a larger decline in wellbeing than men during the lockdown, falling from a score of 25.1 to 22.7, compared with 25.9 to 24.7 for men. Wellbeing was measured by summing 12 items scored on a Lickert scale from 0 to 3, including ‘ability to concentrate’ and ‘losing sleep’.</p> <p>Research at Surrey University indicates that COVID-19 stands to impact perinatal mental health significantly. The pandemic might reasonably be expected to heighten pressures across the board during pregnancy and maternity by bringing higher socio-economic risks for women, exacerbated psycho-social risks, maternal isolation, halted routine contact with health-care professionals and familial/peer networks, relationship stresses and heightened maternal anxiety. These are significant sources of additional pressures perinatally. COVID-19 and its broader socio-economic impacts, social distancing measures and changes to ante-natal and post-natal support services are likely to impact maternal mental health perinatally (before and after childbirth) with short and long-term risks for women, babies and families. In addition, such impacts in pregnancy and maternity will be experienced differently across communities, as evidence already exists that mothers from vulnerable groups and minority communities are at greater risk of poor mental health perinatally. In addition, minority-ethnic mothers face increased risks.</p>
<p>Personal and social issues</p>	<p>Research on life during lockdown provides evidence of the deterioration in people’s satisfaction with life as a direct result of Covid 19, significantly due to reduced</p>

	<p>levels of direct contact with people outside of the immediate family. This highlights the importance of social interaction and the impact that the lack of social interaction has on mental health and wellbeing. In the short-term, Covid containment measures are likely to increase negative impact on life satisfaction and this is likely to have a greater effect on inter-personal relationships which in turn is likely to have more lasting negative impacts on mental health and family stability. This finding reflects results from other similar studies and points to the urgent need to address the social impacts of the lockdown. Increased rates of domestic violence, for example, are one tangible outcome that needs urgent attention from policy makers and service providers.</p> <p>The impact of Covid on disabled people has been disproportionate and significant, as evidenced in a number of blog articles including a four-part series on lessons to be learned from the pandemic, Disability Studies and disabled people. As Erin Pritchard points out in how the pandemic has eroded disability access, over the past 30 years, disabled people have fought hard to get equal access to public places and services, but what they have seems to be disappearing. One example is the way that modern technology which is replacing older facilities is not being made accessible. For older and disabled people self-service checkouts are mostly inaccessible. As a result of the pandemic, social distancing has accelerated the implementation of self-service checkouts in retail outlets. If more and more self-service checkouts are to be introduced then they need to be accessible for older people and a wide range of disabled people. This could be seen as an opportunity to improve services for disabled people and increase sales in the retail sector.</p>
Gender	<p>Research has also pointed to gendered impacts of Covid restrictions. Women disproportionately already carried the double burden of work at paid employment and then at home before the coronavirus. The pandemic has created job loss, work instability, financial hardship and great insecurity. There has been time squeeze and work intensification for some, a desperate search for new jobs for others, alongside more unpaid care with school and nursery closures. If they are unable to manage the existing and additional pressures placed upon them, workplaces, child and elder care will all be severely affected. For some women, such as cleaners and non-essential shop workers, the pandemic has put jobs at risk and cut hours, with stark financial ramifications. For others in close contact with customers, clients and patients, such as those undertaking</p>

	<p>personal care in care homes and hospitals without full PPE, it brings life-threatening health risks.</p>
<p>Crime / security</p>	<p>There is a clear relationship between economic insecurity, social disorganisation, social inequality and crime, all of which are likely to grow in the aftermath of COVID 19, together with a decline in interpersonal trust. The underlying causal factors that may influence increased crime levels are associated with similar processes as described below in the section on political and social instability.</p> <p>One obvious impact has been increased levels of domestic violence globally but also in the UK. Research by the Women’s Aid charity has revealed increased levels of abuse during the lockdown.</p>
<p>Trust / communication / media</p>	<p>Compounding the dual impact of work and housing insecurities, a largely unacknowledged impact of social distancing during the pandemic is that this may well have subtle, residual effects on interpersonal trust (compounding any decline of trust in institutions and government re handling of the crisis) (Fell, 2020).</p> <p>As Tony Shenton points out, scientific disagreements are to be expected when the relevant evidence is wide-ranging or difficult to obtain, but ‘lay’ publics start to suspect that the scientists employed by corporations or the government may not be acting in a way that it truly impartial. For example, when Jenny Harries – Deputy Chief Medical Officer – was asked why the UK did not implement the World Health Organisation’s advice to “test, test, test” her response was more political than scientific, according to some observers. On other occasions, scientists have criticised the government because they feel they are being used to provide cover for political decisions. Although one has to be careful about making comparisons between the coronavirus and the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, it does reveal what can happen when there is a lack of trust between ‘the public’, ‘experts’ and politicians.</p>
<p>Social class and deprivation</p>	<p>As Danny Dorling’s recent piece in the Guardian notes (see attached cover letter) the negative effects of COVID 19 have been unevenly distributed in terms of social class, as well as intersectional inequities of gender and ethnicity, compounding the longstanding, pre-existing unequal distribution of social ‘bads’.</p> <p>It seems likely that this divide will inevitably widen in the event of the continuing contraction of low to medium level</p>

	<p>retail and service jobs experienced during the pandemic, potentially intensified by the impact of Brexit on the UK’s remaining manufacturing sector amongst others. A division between middle class professionals, semi-professionals and lower skilled workers has also been observed with respect to the differential capacity to work from home.</p> <p>It has also been notable that, for those already unemployed, under-employed and casualised workers heavily dependent on the benefits system, the extent of assistance for those at the very bottom end of the income scale has seemed meagre in relation to the support for workers via furloughing and various forms of assistance for business. The extent to which this is impacting on the poorest has been highlighted by a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, suggesting that destitution in the UK, once thought to have been a condition of a bygone era has been on the rise in recent years, while being further exacerbated by COVID. A key issue here has been the erosion and recasting of the benefits system from one focused on ‘social security’ to a meaner and more punitive set of arrangements, particularly due to the combined effects of the benefit freeze and universal credit.</p> <p>The above raises a wide range of issues, including the way in which increasing numbers of the newly unemployed and insecure workforce respond to finding themselves in starkly straitened circumstances. How the benefits system deals with those experiencing ‘long COVID’ is also a potential matter of concern. All of these factors, further affected by Brexit, raise serious potential risks for wellbeing, mental health, crime and political stability.</p>
Race and ethnicity	<p>While there is growing evidence of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on ethnic minorities in the UK regarding both health and financial outcomes resulting from COVID-19, emerging research cautions against narrow genetic explanations. Social scientists are pointing to the wider structural issues associated with socio-economic inequality which disproportionately impact on people from ethnic minorities. Striking are the comparative extremes of adversity experienced by BAME people in the UK as a direct result of the pandemic and at a time when racism and antiracist activism abound. Rightly so, there are calls to track changes in the physical, financial and mental wellbeing of BAME people as the UK enters the next phases of the pandemic and post-pandemic. Importantly, health and social services will need to put in place effective targeted interventions to support BAME people at the greatest risk of</p>

	destitution and harm especially in the context of potential social unrest.
Political and social stability	<p>Social atomisation and declining trust create fertile conditions for political manipulation, while increasing engagement with social media that has arisen during the pandemic also exposes people to the emotionally and politically amplifying effects of online ‘filter bubbles’ (Kornhauser, 1959; Pariser, 2011).</p> <p>The tensions generated by many of the factors described here, mediated via social media, may well create the potential for social unrest while rendering disaffected sectors of the population more vulnerable to the overtures of radicalising groups and populist political discourse (Inglehart and Norris, 2016; Mudde and Kaltwasser, 2017).</p>
Climate	<p>Decline in transport/commuting may continue to have a positive effect on air quality that was observed during the lockdown period of the pandemic while reducing fossil fuel consumption.</p> <p>The shift towards plant-based and lab-grown meat alternatives, accelerated by COVID-19 and concerns about such zoonotic diseases, could also help slow climate change due to changes in land usage and agricultural models.</p>
Finance	<p>In addition to Brexit, one further major risk that could well compound the UK’s problematic transition from the current crisis relates to the potential for financial sector turbulence, and quite feasibly a repeat of something akin to the 2007/8 crash. As has been starkly revealed by the pandemic, asset values in key global stock markets have once more become significantly detached from the ‘real’ economy, with indices breaching historic highs in the midst of a deep economic contraction, effectively due to an ongoing reliance on central bank stimulus (Halligan, 2020; The Washington Post, 9 September 2020). The managed unwinding/deflating of what appears to be an asset price bubble will be necessary to avoid an abrupt correction that further exacerbates the socio-economic challenges cited above (von Mises, 1951).</p>

2) Current Covid 19 Research Projects Examples

Title / working title	URL link	Author Year	Current / recent related research
Life in Lockdown: the impact on inter-personal relationships	https://lockdownnetworks.wordpress.com/	Ryan, Louise et al /2020	Current, in progress
COVID 19, perinatal mental health and the digital pivot	https://epubs.surrey.ac.uk/857117/	Das, Ranjana 2020	Current, in progress
COVID 19, pressure on working class women	https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/working-class-women-worst-affected-lockdown-spring	Warren, Tracey et al 2020	Current, in progress
'It's like a warzone': Jay's liminal experience of normal and extreme work in a UK supermarket during the Coronavirus outbreak	https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0950017020966527	Cai, Minjie et al 2020 (2 December)	Current, just published
Media Framing and the Threat of Global Pandemics: The Ebola Crisis in UK Media and Policy Response	https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1360780418811966	Pieri, Elisa 2018 (3 December)	Recent pandemic- related

3) Selection of Further COVID Related Work Submitted for the Forthcoming BSA Annual Conference 2021

Of the 646 abstracts submitted for the conference, over 200 include the words Covid and/or pandemic. Below are a selection of 40 examples.

1. "Covid-induced digital pivot" impact on academic research methods and the way that people access and experience leisure activities - *Prosser, B., University of Brighton*
2. How Covid lockdowns have made individuals reshape how they work, study, socialise and participate in cultural or leisure activities as most practices have become digitalised. What kind of online activities will remain in the post-Covid world? This research also relates to the Covid-induced digital pivot. – *Yadovich, Neta et al, Uni of Haifa*
3. Disproportionate impact of Covid on the least well paid and most precarious, here especially in arts and culture noting impact on BME workers in this sector. There is an opportunity here to "build back better" with government-funded schemes as cultural activities come re-emerge. - *Barrett, M., University of Warwick*
4. Collective experience of livestreamed events vs face-face events. How widespread do we think livestreaming will continue to be? There is an opportunity here to improve accessibility in the longer-term / creating further jobs in cultural sector specific to digital access? - *Vandenberg, F., University of Rotterdam*
5. With increase in the desire to be "away from the crowds", there is a possibility that there will be a repopulation of lower-populated rural areas, with tensions but also possible opportunities for housing, business, agricultural, and cultural development. – *Wilson, Ruth et al, The James Hutton Institute*
6. Impact of pandemic on social integration of migrant workers. - *Kramer, L., University of York*
7. The “tandem impact” on parents and children of the stress associated with Covid and lockdown. Medium- and possibly longer-term impact on parent and children in respect of mental health and relationships. - *Brik, A.B., Hamad Bin Khalifa University College of Public Policy*
8. The dual impact of pandemic stress (elsewhere being referred to as postcovidstress disorder - see #POSTCOVIDSTRESSDISORDER and #PCSD) on mothers who gave birth during Covid and their children and medium- and possibly longer-term impact on their mental health and that of their children and their ongoing relationships. - *Das, R., University of Surrey*
9. Positive and negative impacts of Covid lockdown on young fathers relationships with their children (together v separated) and need for medium- and longer-term interventions to mitigate the negatives and enhance positives. – *Tarrant, Anna et al, University of Lincoln*
10. Impact of Covid on attitudes towards end-of-life decisions such as euthanasia. Possible debates within public, healthcare and social work settings. - *Karumathil Anjana et al, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru*
11. Further debates about end of life, here focused on the gradual outsourcing of decisions and customs around death to experts and practitioners. Will there be a further outsourcing of the end of life post-pandemic? - *Woodthorpe, K., University of Bath*

12. The rapid adoption of home working during the pandemic and its changing impact on mental health over time moving. Expect greater amount of home working as a result of the digital pivot during the pandemic with HSE / employer interventions needed to mitigate negatives of home working. - *Eccles, N., Wellspace*
13. Future of support for the resettlement of prisoners and people on community sentences. Possible changes increasing online support systems informed by Covid. - *Parsons, Julie et al, University of Plymouth*
14. Exacerbating impact of Covid on existing inequalities. There is a need to acknowledge, analyse and develop better interventions to address persistent and worsening inequalities. - *Finger, A., no current affiliation*
15. New health & safety issues related to call centre workers. Possible HSE changes and future pandemic planning to protect workers from emerging communicative diseases. - *Roque, I., Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra University*
16. Additional impact of Covid-19 on low-paid and precariously employed workers. There is a need to support and protect workers from further deprivation e.g. those on zero hours contracts and those undertaking agency work. - *Beresford, Ruth et al, Sheffield Hallam University*
17. Impact of Covid on poverty in the UK, drawing on the Family Resources survey, exacerbating the changing profile of poverty. Since 2010, the likelihood of falling into deep poverty has increased for women, children, Black people, larger families and those in full-time work. There is a need to change modes of poverty measurement and introduce policies to mitigate poverty. - *Edmiston, D., University of Leeds*
18. The impact of Covid on social integration processes relating to migrants. - *Paraskevopoulou, A., Anglia Ruskin University*
19. Community responses to Covid-19 and impact on social cohesion and traditional understanding s of 'social mobility'. There is a need to recognise that there is equal value to non-traditional markers of social mobility i.e. level of educational achievement, occupational position and income. - *Folkes, L., University of Gloucestershire*
20. National disparities in approaches towards disability discrimination and added impact of Covid on the disability discrimination. There is a need to ensure disabled population is not disproportionately impacted in a negative way. - *Sepulchre, M., Uppsala University*
21. Exacerbating impact of Covid on conflict-affected populations. There is a need to enhance support services to these populations to mitigate possible knock-on impacts on other populations. - *Sharapov, Kiril et al, Edinburgh Napier University*
22. Exacerbating impact of Covid on young people's ability to secure residential independence and the implications for wellbeing, family relationships, and the reproduction of (dis)advantage. - *Hyde, E., University of Leeds*
23. Age-based inequalities during the pandemic have been laid bare by the care home crisis and there are fears of a 'lost generation' of younger people whose studies and employment prospects have been damaged. Such inequalities risk intensifying intergenerational conflict with associated impact on wellbeing. - *Lovatt, Melanie et al, University of Stirling*

24. Impact of Covid on decisions of pregnant women about where to give birth relating to the fear of being alone during birth and the risk of hospital-acquired infections. There is a need for better preparedness for heightened infection control scenarios relating to maternal care and child birth - *Greenfield, M., King's College London*
25. Impact of Covid on indigenous populations. - *Alcantara, M.B., University of Sao Paulo*
26. Impact of Covid on health and social care students who became 'early entrants' into their professions during the pandemic. Their stories can inform future policy on the scaling up of certain workforces during pandemics. – *Adams, Norman et al, Robert Gordon University*
27. An analysis of the public response to the UK government's Covid public health strategy and the extent to which responses have been shaped by a perceived failure of modern biotechnology and a re-assertion of traditional social divisions in the context of the long-established public health strategy of quarantine and social distancing. – *Crinson, I., St. George's, University of London*
28. Risk and preparedness and the use of new technological monitoring devices during and post-pandemic. There is a need to ensure technologies are not used or perceived to be being used for inappropriate post-pandemic personal information intrusion. – *Bedolla, A., University of Bristol*
29. Covid as both interrupter and consolidator of the autonomy and social responsibility of science in modern societies noting science's (dys)function as a primary producer of insight on the pandemic. Potential for undermining of public trust. – *Hempel, F., University of Bremen*
30. Accelerating impact of Covid on the dependence on digital technology for accessing online resources and associated opportunities for government and commercial companies to data-mine and establish more sophisticated algorithmic systems. There is a need to develop ethical policies for digital technology usages AND to address digital media literacy. – *Tamari, T., Goldsmith's, University of London*
31. Exacerbating impact of Covid on BAME groups in respect of inequalities of access to digital media and understanding of content for example in home schooling environments. There is a need to ensure ethnic groups already disadvantaged by Covid are not further disadvantaged by lack of support to enable them to access and engage with digital media content. – *Kaur, Herminder et al, Middlesex University*
32. Predicted that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is likely to transform teaching and research in Higher Education over the next twenty years, a change accelerated by the pandemic. However, most of the literature focuses on technologies and is written by computer scientists with little regard to ethical and social implications. There is a need to research potential impacts from a social perspective. - *Cox, A., University of Sheffield*
33. The potential for the loss of the neutrality of cyberspace as more people use it to live and work, accelerated by Covid, and the old world of borders and discriminatory differences begin to colonise the new online world. There is a need for better anticipatory regulatory measures. - *Garnett, P., University of York*
34. The impact of Covid on UK businesses and the knock-on impact on individuals livelihoods outside of the UK, here women garment factory workers in Bangladesh. Acknowledgement of referred impact in other countries. – *Abbott, Pamela et al, University of Aberdeen*

35. Impact of Covid crisis period on sustainable trade standards audit work highlighting the complexity and challenges for certification work and the potential for negative impact on associated employment as well as on climate change. . – *Timma, Jill et al, Coventry University*
36. Changing ways of accessing informal work via online platforms accelerated by the impact of Covid. – *Octavia, J., Warwick Institute for Employment Research*
37. Acceleration of online food delivery during the pandemic and the potential for the retention of increased volumes of online food delivery post-pandemic and the unknown impacts of the reduction of human interaction in this ecological system. – *Huang, W., Marymount Manhattan College*
38. The exacerbating impact of Covid on racial injustices, widening inequalities, precarity and austerity, distrust in institutions and hostility towards migrants and refugees. There is an opportunity for innovation and transformation based on the experience of work with one of the most superdiverse areas of Birmingham within the EU project "Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together" (USE-IT!). – *Grzymala-Kazłowska, Alexandra. et al, University of Birmingham*
39. Negative impact of Covid on the music and events sector and the pandemic's role in forcing the creation of new forms of collective, yet often disembodied, experiences through online platforms. There are opportunities for new forms of digital access to leisure activities. – *Holmes, Helen et al, - University of Manchester*
40. Disproportionate negative impact of Covid on the disabled people, with the pandemic exposing pre-existing weaknesses in the provision of health and social care, adversely impacting people with pre-existing health conditions affecting their freedom, choice, dignity and control, creating new barriers and increasing their disablement. There is a need to improve the social care system and support for independent living to attain a 'new normal' that overcomes the syndemic problems experienced by disabled people now. – *Brunner, Richard et al, University of Glasgow*

4) References

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5) Further BSA COVID-19 Resources

From the pages of the BSA website:

- [World in Motion: Early Reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on Global Higher Education - Special Issue of Educational Review](#), deadline: **30 November 2020**
- [Campaign for Social Science Policy Monitor - COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreak Expert Database](#)
- [UK Government COVID-19 Expert Database](#)
- [UKRI funding for ideas that address COVID-19](#): Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Call for rapid response papers – [Special Issue of The European Sociologist: Pandemic \(Im\)Possibilities](#)
- [Nuffield call for project proposals](#)
- [Discover Society Rapid Response COVID-19](#)
- [Cost of Living Blog](#)

- [Campaign for Social Sciences - COVID-19 video series](#)
- [Campaign for Social Science - Social sciences responding to COVID-19 hub](#)
- Watch the video from [Covid-19 Sociology Symposium Webinar](#)
- [Covid-19 UK Parliament news](#)
- [Select committees re Covid-19](#)
- Research and analysis on Covid-19:
 - [Commons Library](#)
 - [POST](#)
 - [Lords Library](#)
- [Knowledge Exchange hub](#)
 - [Expert database](#)
 - [Insights published from expert database](#)
- [Edinburgh Decameron: Lockdown Sociology at Work](#)
- SAGE Publishing - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Research](#)
- ISA Digital Worlds - [Global sociology and the coronavirus blog](#)
- [The Syllabus – coronavirus readings](#)
- Karen Kendrick – [Is this What Sociology is for?](#)
- Deborah Lupton – [Digitised Quarantine](#)
- Funda Ustek-Spilda et al – [The Untenable Luxury of Self-Isolation](#)