

SOCIAL SCIENCES

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



April 2021

Social Science in the media

Book of the month –

Stanley Milgram's obedience study is one of the classic pieces of research in psychology. Find out the untold story in 'Behind the Shock Machine', available [here](#).



TV of the month -

One of the topics that is applicable to both Sociology and Psychology is the nature vs. nurture debate. Is our behaviour due to our biology (nature) or our environment (nurture)? A fascinating documentary [Twin Sisters: A World Apart](#) tells the story of twin girls separated at birth and brought up in different countries, offering an insight into the relative importance of nature and nurture.

Social Science in the news

An important aspect of both psychology and sociology is conducting research. Ensuring that the research is trustworthy is really important as research can have serious implications for people. We talk about the difference between correlation and causation in research (is there a relationship between two variables, or does a variable cause the effect). This issue is currently being debated with the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccination and its alleged links to blood clots. This [article](#) highlights the importance of properly constructed empirical research, with single blind designs and control groups.

Wellbeing and mental health

Tuesday 29th March saw temperatures heat up to sweltering 24C, becoming officially the UK's hottest March day in 50 years. As we emerge from a very difficult, dark winter we can look forward to sunny days and lighter evenings, and there is evidence to suggest that sunlight can have a positive impact on our mood. Click [here](#) to learn more about the sun's impact on our body's biological cycle and the mental and physical effects of reduced exposure to sunlight.