



**SOCIAL POLICY**

**SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TEACHING STAFF 2026**

Staff member nominating the book	Book Title and Author	Comments
Emily R. Adrion	<p><b>The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality, 2015</b> Deaton A</p>	Exploring all the way the domestic and international policy issues pressing in on us today.
Eleanor Brooks	<p><b>The Body Economic</b> David Stuckler and Sanjay Basu</p>	<p>Compares the impact of economic recessions through history upon human health, explaining how bad government policy can make worse (and good government policy can make better) this impact. Its focus on austerity policies has relevance across Social Policy issue areas and the case studies are drawn from around the world.</p>
	<p><b>The Entrepreneurial State</b> Mariana Mazzucato</p>	<p>Challenging the myth that the private sector is the best creator of innovation. Mazzucato argues that, in fact, the State can invest, promote and support innovation far earlier and far better than the private sector and that, in doing so, it could socialise the rewards, as well as the risks, of innovation-led economic growth. Again, the models of growth, assumptions about economic development and interaction between State and market have broad relevance and the case studies touch on a number of social policy sectors.</p>
Daniel Clegg	<p><b>Who Killed My Father, 2018</b> Edouard Louis</p>	Both books are offering powerful accounts of working class lives under capitalism in past and present.
	<p><b>Germinal, 1885</b> Emile Zola</p>	



Daniel Clegg	<b>Poverty Safari</b> Loki/Darren McGarvey <a href="https://www.panmacmillan.com/authors/darren-mcgarvey/povertysafari/9781529006346">https://www.panmacmillan.com/authors/darren-mcgarvey/povertysafari/9781529006346</a>	
Niccolo Durazzi	<b>The Grapes of Wrath, 1939</b> John Steinbeck	From a social policy perspective, there are excellent insights as to how structural changes in the economy affect individuals' labour market status and, as a consequence, their lives and the lives of their families / communities.
Alison Koslowski	<b>The Ant and the Grasshopper</b> Aesop	Showing that core Social Policy debates have been happening for thousands of years. One of Aesop's Fables, it is a moral tale about work, planning, supporting others, compassion (or lack of it) and the complexities of being human.
Lindsay Paterson	<b>Why Knowledge Matters: Rescuing Our Children from Failed Educational Theories, 2016</b> Hirsch E. D.	Hirsch shows that the basis of successful learning by students of all social backgrounds and all cultural traditions is knowledge – not skills, not learning styles, not teachers' expectations of students, not any of the other fashionable theories that have come and gone in recent decades, but the immersion of the student in the best and most diverse ideas that we have inherited from the past.
	<b>The Art of Statistics,</b> David Spiegelhalter (Penguin, 2019)	Understanding statistics is a necessary part of engaging properly with public policy. This book is an outstandingly clear introduction to the importance of statistics – not a technical work, but written with a view to explaining why understanding statistics is important for every citizen. Spiegelhalter is not only an expert statistician, but also one of the world's leading exponents of the importance of statistics for democracy.



Lynne Robertson-Rose	<b>Catch 22</b> Joseph Heller	To reflect the dammed if you do, dammed if you don't issues facing the government.
Jay Wiggan	<b>Political Aspects of Full Employment</b> Michele Kalecki	Published in 1943 this article squeezes into its meagre 10 pages a lucid account of the complex power relations at the core of policymaking and anticipates by 35 years the reasons why a policy of full employment would eventually be abandoned during the 1970s. Quite simply if you want to understand the world we live in today then reading this article will be of considerable help.
	<b>Lecture: Why People Vote for Those Who Work Against Their Best Interests</b> □ Link : <a href="https://bit.ly/33WbFpA">https://bit.ly/33WbFpA</a>	This is not a book but a lecture given by Professor Mark Blyth of Brown University. He picks up the themes in the Kalecki paper and uses these to explore and explain the changing macro policy picture and the rise of national populism across the globe.