





Welcome to our story

Much has changed in society over 25 years, but the one constant has been our mission to make a scholarly and social contribution to supporting positive change.

"Bristol University Press (BUP), created in 2016, is our third publishing imprint. It started with SAUS Publications in 1990 when I joined the University of Bristol to disseminate social policy research, followed in 1996 with Policy Press.

In those early years there was no internet and no email; we had our own printing press and distributed all our publications from our small basement office. Now that our titles are accessed in 180 countries, that predigital world seems impossible to imagine.

Since those earliest days, our work has shown the damage done to individuals and society by social problems and structural inequalities and how enlightened, evidence-based interventions can mediate this and positively change lives.

Policy Press established a reputation for publishing rigorous, peer-reviewed, policy-and practice-relevant social research with a strong social justice stance. BUP has taken that a step further to tackle a broad range of global social challenges.

Social challenges, from the local to the global, have of course become greater and ever more urgent: as 2020 has showed us we can no longer talk about social justice without focusing on racial, gender and environmental justice.

The pandemic has demonstrated the need for all citizens to have functional health and care, and reliable jobs and income supported by effective governance. Equally important is the sustainability of our planet and economies and the guarantee that technology is used for social good.

We want our readers to engage with our content – intellectually, emotionally and practically – and change the way they see and do things. The last 25 years have seen a technological, cultural and societal transformation that has underpinned our publishing. The next 25 will be equally exciting.

My heartfelt thanks to all our authors, readers and partners for working with us to understand, and offer solutions to, the many challenges we face. Together we can try to move closer to a society that is caring and compassionate to its people and planet, challenging injustice and discrimination in all its forms."

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ALISON SHAW, CEO,
BRISTOL UNIVERSITY PRESS

"It's wonderful to see the Press going from strength to strength to now be such a significant publisher."

DANNY DORLING, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, AUTHOR OF INJUSTICE AND MANY OTHER TITLES

"Bristol University Press and Policy Press form an unstoppable alliance engendering hope for us all."

PETER BERESFORD, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, AUTHOR OF PARTICIPATORY IDEOLOGY AND MANY OTHER TITLES

A bold new university press is born

We were thrilled when the University of Bristol invested in our vision to create a new imprint. Policy Press had grown incrementally over 20 years and we were ambitious to address more social, economic, political and environmental issues at an international and global level.

In 2016 the University of Bristol was forming a new strategic plan, which coincided with Policy Press's 20th anniversary and its acceptance of the Independent Scholarly and Professional Publisher of the Year award. The time was right to take the next step and create BUP to broaden our reach, amplify the University's values and priorities, while simultaneously securing Policy Press as an imprint focusing on progressive social change.

The University's support has enabled us to expand our committed and enthusiastic publishing team, double our organisation in size and product numbers, and increase the disciplines and interdisciplinary areas within which we publish.

We now have 21 subject lists ranging from the Policy Press areas aligned to social and public policy, to newer areas such as law, business

and management, politics and international relations, and science, technology and society within BUP.

Both the Press and the University are committed to high-quality research and education that encourages new ideas and approaches, alongside wider societal impact among policy makers, professionals and wider society. Our shared objectives highlight international engagement, equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability.

The trust the University has placed – and continues to place – in us is the all-important seed from which our mutual growth and successes will flourish.

"The Press is exceptional because it is a successful mission-driven publisher with a strong commercial focus."

IVON ASQUITH, CHAIR, BUP BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD



The importance of partnership and collaboration

Our authors, editors, reviewers and partners are our life-blood. Since we are a non-profit university press, they come first and they have made our first 25 years immensely rewarding.

We work with an incredible and diverse range of authors, and our editors help to develop and frame their ideas. We embrace multiple perspectives, from those of early career researchers to senior scholars, professionals working in government, policy and practice and activists and 'experts by experience'.

Every book and journal article is treated with respect and care. What matters is that the analysis, insights and stories our authors share are crafted and delivered to the highest possible standard through scrupulous peer review, editorial input, design, marketing and sales. Our Author Hub, including our Journal Authors Toolkit, is our online portal to the package of support we provide but that is just the tip of a personalised service that we are proud to offer.

We push scholarly boundaries by encouraging emerging sub-fields and multi/inter/trans-disciplinary work within our forward-thinking journal and monograph programmes. Our textbooks, policy and practice content and our scholarly trade books for a general audience are all widely admired for their contribution.

Helping authors' work reach as many people as possible is critical. Publishing low-priced versions of all our books is one strategy as is offering green and gold models of open access for books and journals. Our content is also available either free or at a reduced rate for emerging economies through Research4Life via Policy Press Scholarship Online, to help ensure access for all.

We also love working with partners who share our ethos and aims, from scholarly and publishing associations, series and journal editorial boards, to research funders and practice-focused organisations. Some of our collaborations remain strong after 25 years and long may they continue.

We remain committed to seeking out the most insightful collaborators and content from around the world, while maintaining our service-oriented practice and bold publishing strategy. If you would like to join our community, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

"It was an absolute delight and pleasure to publish with Policy Press, not least because their values of social justice and inclusion closely align with my own."

KALWANT BHOPAL, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, AUTHOR OF WHITE PRIVILEGE



"Criminology has a home at Bristol University Press, and this is testament to their encouragement of critically aware authors whose writing pushes the boundaries and makes an impact."

HELEN JONES, BRITISH SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

"I was, I gather, author of the first book to be published by Policy Press. Along with their journals, they have developed an unrivalled niche for social policy publications in the UK market and internationally."

GRAHAM ROOM, AUTHOR OF BEYOND THE THRESHOLD

"BUP are publishing excellent work and have people and processes that make authors feel valued. In an age of information megacorporations, its a pleasure to support an alternative model of publishing."

MARTIN PARKER, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, AND AUTHOR OF *LIFE AFTER COVID-19*

"I have witnessed at close hand the transformation of Policy Press from a department-based producer of occasional papers in the 1990s to one of the most productive academic presses in the UK in the 2020s."

RANDALL SMITH, EMERITUS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

"The British Society of Gerontology benefits immeasurably from our longstanding partnership with Policy Press. We love working with a publisher that shares our commitment to developing new and exciting perspectives on ageing."

PROFESSOR THOMAS SCHARF, PRESIDENT, BRITISH SOCIETY OF GERONTOLOGY

"The Press is a vital resource for scholar activists and teachers everywhere. SSSP is especially grateful for our partnership and looks forward to publishing the Social Justice Agenda for many years to come."

COREY DOLGON, PRESIDENT, SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS. US

"Having worked with Bristol University Press/Policy Press as their UK sales partner since 2008, we particularly admire and appreciate the consistency and quality of the publishing and the professionalism of the marketing that supports it."

LEE MORGAN, COMPASS ACADEMIC SALES TEAM

IN 2021/22 WE AIM TO PUBLISH

BOOKS ACROSS BUP AND POLICY PRESS. IN 2015/16 WE PUBLISHED 130 BOOKS

IN 2015/16 WE PUBLISHED EIGHT JOURNALS. BY 2021/22 THIS WILL BE

IN 2016, POLICY PRESS HAD 18 STAFF. WE NOW HAVE A TEAM OF

ACROSS EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION, OPERATIONS, SALES, MARKETING AND FINANCE

OUR BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED IN

DIFFERENT PRINT AND DIGITAL FORMATS

OF OUR BOOK REVENUE NOW COMES

OUR AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE HAD

VISITS FROM 193 COUNTRIES IN 2020

TRANSFORMING SOCIETY LAUNCHED IN 2018. IT NOW HAS OVER

188,000

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

OUR DIGITAL CONTENT IS USED BY

OUR OPEN ACCESS CONTENT IS ACCESSED MONTHLY IN OVER

COUNTRIES

WE HAVE PUBLISHED OVER

OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL ARTICLES

72%

OF OUR BOOKS COMMISSIONED ARE INTERNATIONAL IN AUTHORSHIP

463

ARTICLES IN 2019/20 FROM

COUNTRIES

OUR BACKLIST BOOK LIST IS NOW OVER

Our DNA: Publishing with a purpose

Ideas, their cross fertilisation and ability to pollinate social, political and cultural change have always fascinated us. Our commitment to aiding the transformation of research into education, policy and practice is hardwired into the Press's DNA.

We publish rapidly to influence debates as they emerge while retaining scholarly rigour. Working papers, reports and 'shorts' – all published within 12 weeks – were a core part of our publishing 25 years ago. Shorts recently have ranged in topic from Brexit and reforming Irish abortion law to financing climate change and the threat to global democracy. Our digital-only Rapid Responses – published in just six weeks to ensure their timely impact – have been instrumental in responding to the pandemic as part of our COVID-19 Collection.

We invest in projects that have a social but not a commercial value like the free online magazine Futures of Work. Our Transforming Society blog and podcast are part of our drive to make academic research accessible to a wider audience.

We create free content to encourage social action, from a reading guide for *Radical Empathy* by Terri E Givens, to a ten-point plan aimed at employers to tackle the discrimination uncovered in *The Class Ceiling*. This research by Sam Friedman and Daniel Laurison fed directly into a change of policy at Channel 4 television and featured prominently in Amol Rajan's *How to Break into the Elite* documentary.

Over the past five years our books have won 11 international awards, with many more shortlisted, a clear recognition of the quality of the work we are publishing and, we like to think, the value we add editorially. Over that time the Press has been a finalist in three major publishing trade awards, and won the Web Marketing Association's Best Publishing Website, was highly commended in the ASPIRE award for the accessibility of our content, and was shortlisted for the University Press Redux Sustainability Award.

We are proud of the impact of so much of our content and choosing titles to highlight is hard, but here are some successes:

- Senior Norwegian politician Torild Skard's Women of Power led to the United Nation's Staff College course, Leadership, Women and the UN. The course promotes a more genderbalanced workplace within and beyond the UN, strengthening the voice of women at the leadership table.
- Claire Ainsley, now Head of Policy for the UK Labour Party, challenged stereotypes in the area of socioeconomic position and class in the groundbreaking *The New Working* Class, and her insights into authentic political engagement are being put into action.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, drew on *The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice* for his highly critical report on UK poverty, calling it 'one of the best in the field'.

"BUP focuses on challenging the status quo – its brilliant publishing driven by a mission that's designed to inspire, motivate and challenge."

MANDY HILL, MD, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, AND JUDGE FOR THE UNIVERSITY PRESS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD 2020

"The enthusiasm the Press shows for lifting up research on marginalised groups is something we cherish and still don't take for granted as editors in political science."

PHILLIP AYOUB, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE, LOS ANGELES AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND GENDER



The passion and people behind the Press

We are proud to bring our expertise, knowledge and dedication to bear on the social and scholarly mission at the heart of the Press. We are also immensely grateful to our extended team of freelancers, suppliers, sales representatives and vendors who all play a significant role in our work around the globe. Without them, quite frankly, we would be unable to do what we do.

All members of the team are experts in the areas they work in and care about the topics on which we publish. From the commissioning and series editors who thoughtfully develop our books and journals, to everyone involved in production with their meticulous attention to quality and detail, and the sales and marketing teams who work collaboratively and creatively to highlight our mission and publishing, we are driven by a desire to produce and promote outstanding work that makes a difference.

This sense of meaning and purpose means that our team lives the ethos of the Press. Cross-company groups, such as our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, help shape our policies, and our Charity Team help to organise our collective social action.

We fundraise for, and provide practical support to, a different charity each year, and our activities have included planting 500 trees in the space of one morning, decorating a homeless refuge, completing a 24-hour danceathon and knitting for babies of asylum seekers. Our peer reviewers can pledge their fees to our charity and in 2019/20 they contributed £11k to a homeless organisation providing vital support through the pandemic.

From those of us who were there at the start, through to those who joined along the way, we are united by a determination to make a positive difference to the world, and by a belief in fair, ethical, inclusive and collaborative work practices and purpose-driven leadership.

"My experience of the staff of PP/BUP, through their support for Discover Society, as an editor of the Gender and Sociology book series and now as an Editor in Chief of the Global Social Challenges Journal, has been overwhelmingly positive. They are a pleasure to work with."

SUE SCOTT, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY



Our vision and legacy

Today we sit among an impressive, thriving and supportive community of traditional and new university presses, while retaining our unique social mission.

We have listened, and continue to listen, to what our communities need, and work to provide that: from publishing policy and practice research in the 1990s when it was rare, through to being the first Press to appoint a Publisher for Interdisciplinarity in 2019. Collaborating with our Editorial Board, Business Advisory Board and international Library Advisory Board, as well as gaining feedback from our customers, contributes significantly to our thinking and direction.

Looking forward we will keep true to our core values around social and environmental justice and deep, rigorous scholarly content. Open access will be central to our vision as a means of reducing inequalities in access to high-quality research – much needed if we are to address social issues in the Global South and Global North.

The launch of our new content platform, Bristol University Press Digital, in late 2021 will give readers access to our research and texts including our open access *Global Social Challenges Journal*. Our content will be categorised in a range of ways for ease of use, including by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As signatories of the UN SDG Publishers Compact, we will continue to publish work that informs and inspires action on tackling inequalities, reducing poverty and building economic growth in a sustainable way, while also developing our own sustainable practices and acting as champions of the SDGs during the Decade of Action (2020–30).

As language and frameworks around impact, engagement, sustainability and EDI shift and change, BUP will continue to champion these central principles, both in how we work and through the products we produce. As well as publishing about diversity issues, we also encourage diversity of authorship: for example, all the books in our Key Issues in Social Justice series are authored by those who are from under-represented or marginalised communities themselves.

As social challenges and injustices have transformed over the past 25 years there is no escaping the need now to think and act globally as has been shown by COVID-19. We will keep providing a space for writing that helps to protect the vulnerable, to give people a voice and address structural inequality, wherever it ovicts

We established BUP to outlive us for decades and even centuries to come. It is our intention to serve all our communities, including those most affected by social injustice, helping to address global social challenges, ignite debate and instigate social, environmental and cultural change.



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