

Curriculum Vitae

Sam Baars

Personal profile

I am a social researcher with a particular interest in the ways in which young people's occupational aspirations are shaped by the areas they live in. My broader research interests lie in the sociology of education, school-to-work transitions and area typologies. I use both qualitative and quantitative methods in my research, with experience of a range of data collection and analysis techniques.

I am a strong advocate of the need for social research to be public-facing and publicly engaging, and am in the process of publishing a paper which explores the role of embedded research in furthering these goals. I am passionate about communicating my research to a range of academic and public audiences, maintaining a public-facing blog and twitter feed as well as contributing to standard academic channels such as conferences and journals. I enjoy teaching, and see this as a core component of academic research. I am particularly interested in research skills training, and have a wide range of experience in this area. I developed and delivered a workshop on research ethics and stakeholder engagement to undergraduates as part of the Manchester Sustainable Cities Project, in which students worked with external project partners to design and conduct real research projects. I also developed and delivered an annual research workshop to around 100 undergraduates, which covered the entire research process, from design to writeup, in order to allow them to incorporate their own research into their final year dissertations. I have also trained and facilitated undergraduates to conduct research in the local community, in order to provide hands-on research experience as well as building links between the university and the public. I was recently awarded £3000 by the University of Manchester to set up a social enterprise called *Research It!* which will support young people from local schools to conduct their own community-based research projects, with the help of researchers from nearby universities.

I pride myself on excellent interpersonal skills, and indeed see these as vital to working successfully with other academics and research participants. I enjoy working as part of interdisciplinary teams, such as when I produced a short film on the history of Wythenshawe with academics from the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures and when I conducted a research project on Enquiry Based Learning with postgraduates from the School of Physics and Astronomy. I also started an interdisciplinary reading group as part of the [cities@manchester](#) initiative. As well as enjoying the spirit of collaboration, I am extremely self-motivated and work effectively on my own, managing the progress of my thesis, my personal development and taking advantage of the myriad opportunities that present themselves in a university setting.

Research skills

- Research with young people
- Filmed interviews
- Phenomenographic analysis
- Multilevel modelling
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Research areas

- Sociology of education
- School-to-work transitions
- Class and inequality
- Area typologies

University-based work experience

2009 - 2013

PhD Intern, Manchester Leadership Programme

Responsibilities included:

- Conducting a PhD in Social Change in partnership with external community funders
- Tutoring on the Leadership in Action undergraduate course unit
- Designing and running an annual 'Doing Research' workshop for 100+ undergraduates
- Designing and running the Wythenshawe Community Researchers volunteering opportunity for undergraduates

2009 - 2010

Student Intern, Centre for Excellence in Enquiry Based Learning

Responsibilities included:

- Designing and delivering a workshop on research ethics and stakeholder engagement for undergraduate students on the Manchester Sustainable City Project
- Producing a short film 'Engaging with EBL' exploring students' experiences of enquiry-based learning
- Facilitating university-wide training workshops in EBL for students and staff
- Presenting at national teaching and learning conferences

Education

2009-

PhD Social Change

The University of Manchester

2008-9

MSc Social Change (Distinction)

The University of Manchester

2005-8

BA Politics, Philosophy & Economics (2.1)

The University of Oxford

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