

This intricate machinery we call society is much like a palpable appliance with its very own *modus operandi*. It is intriguing to realise that as much as it is a collectivity whose systematic progress is predictable, it is simultaneously a group of individuals all minding their own business. Understanding how this gigantic apparatus, as well as the people it comprises, work, is a challenging enterprise, but I believe that through an interdisciplinary study of the social and human sciences, it is a fruitful undertaking that promotes self-reflexivity both at the individual and the societal level.

My interest in society goes back to primary school, when I began pondering over my own and my friends' places in the school, which, being bilingual, offered a class that also engendered curiosity in me about the Anglo-Saxon world through its culture and history. In secondary school, I started participating in debate and attended two national competitions. I joined the editorial staff of the school newspaper in grade 9, and have been an author ever since, writing articles about education and modern society, among others. As a result, my focus shifted towards issues such as social stratification, inequality, and marginalisation. I began listening to TED talks and podcasts as well as reading sociology and psychology books and articles, together with novels on feminism, mental illness, LGBT individuals, and trauma. Realising how social phenomena like prejudice and stereotypes have a considerable psychological dimension, I took psychology classes in grade 11 and 12, which illuminated how awareness of individual behaviour complements societal perspectives. Consequently, I made up my mind to study sociology in an interdisciplinary context in the UK.

In 2017, I was admitted into an English-language programme where I took modules in sociology, anthropology, psychology, and statistics and methodology. Here, I explored the relationship between intergroup behaviour and relative deprivation, power and privilege, oppression and intersectionality. I read works of Smith, Yuval-Davis and others regarding nationalism and feminism, as well as classics, including Marx, Weber and Durkheim. I wrote numerous essays, predominantly about discourses concerning ethnic and sexual minorities. An online course on global inequality, and works of Connell, Wilkinson & Pickett and others broadened my horizons on societal divisions and injustice.

In 2018, wondering how children perceive our complex social world, I joined studies on children's theory of mind and cooperation conducted by Eotvos University and Central European University. In my role in running experiments, I became more familiar with research methods and experimental designs. Following my preoccupation with discourses, I became part of a research project on gossip and reputation networks at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which attempted to prove that most gossip is positive. Synchronising various data, I have come to discover the complexity of information flow in a community.

Affiliated with a Catholic community, I built social ties with homeless people and attended a youth conference in Rome in 2018, where we shared our experiences aiding marginalised groups. I also joined a civil organisation pursuing integration in education, where I helped children living in impoverished regions. Aside from it being an enlightening and heartfelt experience, it made me wish for a job involving direct contact with children in need.

I am confident that studying sociology in an interdisciplinary manner in the UK will help me comprehend the complex relations between individual, society, culture and politics, and address and tackle social issues both locally and globally. I believe the confluence of these fields is difficult to fathom, nevertheless, vital to understand the various perspectives of ourselves as human beings, and the world as our habitat.