

Wendy Kay Olsen  
Honorary  
Social Statistics  
Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research

## Employment

### Emeritus Professor

Honorary  
Social Statistics  
The University of Manchester  
1 Aug 2025 → present

### Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research

The University of Manchester  
1 Oct 2004 → 30 Dec 2025

## Research output

### Systematic Mixed-Methods Research for Social Scientists

Olsen, W., 29 Jul 2022, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. 245 p.

### Hierarchical Modelling of COVID-19 Death Risk in India in the Early Phase of the Pandemic

Olsen, W., Bera, M., Dubey, A., Kim, J., Wiśniowski, A. & Yadav, P., 15 Dec 2020, In: The European Journal of Development Research. 32, 5, p. 1476-1503 28 p.

### Shame Slippage and Norms Among Rural Working-Class Women: A Struggle

Olsen, W., 1 Jun 2020, *Women in the Changing World: Issues and Challenges*. Bhowmick, A. & Wahab, E. O. (eds.). Murshidabad, West Bengal, India: Mittal Publications, p. 39-56 18 p.

### Liberalization and Financial Exclusion in Sri Lanka

Olsen, W. K., 25 May 2020, *Globalization and Identity: Development and Integration in a Changing World*. Carling, A. (ed.). I.B. Tauris, p. 109-128 20 p. (Globalization and Identity).

### Social Statistics Using Strategic Structuralism and Pluralism

Olsen, W., 26 Jul 2019, *Contemporary Philosophy and Social Science*. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, p. 237-262 26 p. (Contemporary Philosophy and Social Science).

### Bridging to Action Requires Mixed Methods, Not Only Randomised Control Trials

Olsen, W., 10 Apr 2019, In: European Journal of Development Research. 31, 2, p. 139-162 24 p.

### The Gender Pay Gap in the UK: Evidence from the UKHLS

Olsen, W., Gash, V., Kim, M. S. & Zhang, M., 1 Jun 2018, Reference: DFE-RR804 ed. London: Department for Education . 36 p. (Government Equalities Office Working Papers Series)

### Social Statistics Using Strategic Structuralism and Pluralism

Olsen, W., 1 Jan 2018, (Accepted/In press) *Frontiers of Social Science: A Philosophical Reflection*. Nagatsu, M. & Ruzzene, A. (eds.). London: Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

### The Entrapment of Unfree Labour: Theory and Examples From India

Olsen, W. K. & Morgan, J., 7 Jun 2015, In: Journal of Developing Societies. 31, 2, p. 184-203 20 p.

### Strategies For Social Justice Via Economic Theory

Olsen, W., Neff, D., Rangaswamy, J. & Ortet, V., 1 Mar 2015, *Economics of Social Justice: A Handbook for Students*. Kennett, M., Cum, I. & Nathan, S. (eds.). Reading, UK: Green Economics Institute , p. 214-256 43 p.

**Comment: The Usefulness of QCA Under Realist Assumptions**

Olsen, W. K., Jul 2014, In: Sociological Methodology. 44, p. 101-107 6 p.

**Adaptation of the Rural Working Class in India: A case study of migrant workers**

Olsen, W., Reddy, B. & Clark, D. (Editor), 1 Feb 2012, *Adaptation, Poverty and Development: The Dynamics of Subjective Well-Being*. London: Palgrave Macmillan Ltd, p. 181-214 33 p.

**Data Collection: Key Debates and Methods in Social Research.**

Olsen, W. K., 1 Jan 2012, London: Sage Publications Ltd.

**Informality and Institutional Change in Child Labour: An Indian Case Study**

Olsen, W. K. & Watson, S., 7 Jul 2011, *host publication*.

**Aspiration Problems for the Indian Rural Poor: Research on Self-Help Groups and Micro-Finance**

Olsen, W. & Morgan, J. (Collaborator), Jun 2011, In: Capital And Class. 35, 2, p. 189-212 23 p.

**Aspiration problems in Indian microfinance: A case study exploration**

Olsen, W. & Morgan, J., 1 Dec 2010, In: Journal of Developing Societies. 26, 4, p. 415-454 40 p.

**Institutional change from within the informal sector in indian rural labour relations**

Olsen, W. & Morgan, J., Nov 2010, In: International Review of Sociology. 20, 3, p. 533-553 20 p.

**Moral reasoning about gender pay gaps**

Olsen, W., 16 Jan 2010, In: International Journal of Green Economics. 3, 2, p. 142-156 15 p.

**Aspiration Problems in Indian Micro-Finance: A Case Study Exploration**

Olsen, W. K. & Morgan, J., 2010, In: Journal of Developing Societies. 26, 4, p. 415-455 40 p.

**Editor's Introduction: Realist Methodology: A Review**

Olsen, W. K., 2010, *Realist Methodology: Benchmarks in Social Research Methods Series*. London: Sage Publications Ltd , Vol. 1. p. xix-xlvi (Social Research Methods Series).

**Knowledge and Meta-Knowledge in Realism: Vol. 4 of Realist Methodology**

Olsen, W. K., 2010, London: Sage Publications Ltd. (Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)

**Policy-Related Factors Offsetting Women's Low Pay in the UK, 2004-7**

Olsen, W., Heuvelman, H., Gash, V. & Vandecasteele, L., 2010, London: Government Equalities Office. 40 p. (Government Equalities Office)

**Poverty as a Malaise of Development: A Discourse Analysis in its Global Context**

Olsen, W. K. & Boran, A. (Editor), 2010, *Poverty: Malaise of Development?*. Chester: University of Chester Press, p. 33-65

**Practical Realist Ontology**

Olsen, W. K., 2010, London: Sage Publications Ltd. (Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)

**Realist Empirical Research: Vol. 3 of Realist Methodology**

Olsen, W. K., 2010, London: Sage Publications Ltd. (Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)

**Realist Methods: Volume 2 of Realist Methodology**

Olsen, W. K., 2010, London: Sage Publications Ltd. (Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)

**The Gender Pay Gap In The UK 1995-2007**

Olsen, W., Heuvelman, H., Gash, V., Vandecasteele, L. & Walthery, P., 2010, London: Government Equalities Office. 89 p. (Government Equalities Office)

**Beyond Sociology: Structure, Agency, and Strategy Among Tenants in India**

Olsen, W. K., 1 Jan 2009, In: Asian Journal of Social Science. 37, 3, p. 366-390 25 p.

**Causality and Interpretation in Qualitative Policy Related Research**

Olsen, W., W. K., Byrne, D., Duggan, S. & Ragin, C. (Editor), 2009, *Handbook of Case-Study Research*. Sage Publications Ltd

**Gender Equality? Approaches and Quantitative Evidence Sources For Understanding the Circumstances of Men and Women in the UK**

Olsen, W., Purdam, K. & Afkhami, R., 2009, In: Radical Statistics. 99, p. 12-33 22 p.

**Moral political economy and moral reasoning about rural India: Four theoretical schools compared**

Olsen, W., 2009, In: Cambridge Journal of Economics. 33, 5, p. 875-902 27 p.

**Non-Nested and Nested Cases in a Socio-Economic Village Study**

Olsen, W. K., Byrne, D. (Editor) & Ragin, C. (Editor), 2009, *Handbook of Case-Study Research*. Sage Publications Ltd

**Poverty reduction: Fuzzy sets vs. crisp sets compared**

Olsen, W. & Nomura, H., 2009, In: Sociological Theory and Methods. 24, 2, p. 219-246 27 p.

**The Role of Agency in the Development Process and Development Planning**

Olsen, W., W. K. & Garikipati, S., Dec 2008, In: International Journal of Development Planning. 30:4, p. 327-338

**Defining Objectivity In Realist Terms: Bridging to Praxis**

Olsen, W., W. K. & Morgan, J., 2008, In: Journal of Critical Realism. 7, 1, p. 107-132 26 p.

**Indian Tenancy, Moral Reasoning and the Social Structures of Accumulation**

Olsen, W. K., Nov 2007, *Conference on Social Structures of Accumulation, National University of Ireland, Galway, Business School*.

**Measuring Subjective Well-Being From A Realist Viewpoint**

Olsen, W., W. K. & Neff, D., Aug 2007, In: Methodological Innovations Online. 2:2

**Defining Objectivity in Realist Terms: Objectivity as a Second-Order Bridging Concept**

Olsen, W., W. K. & Morgan, J., Mar 2007, In: Journal of Critical Realism. 6, 2, p. 250-266 17 p.

**Pluralist methodology for development economics: The example of moral economy of Indian labour markets**

Olsen, W., Mar 2007, In: Journal of Economic Methodology. 14, 1, p. 57-82 25 p.

**Poverty**

Olsen, W. K. & Hartwig, M. (Editor), 2007, *Dictionary of Critical Realism*. Routledge

**Pluralism, poverty and sharecropping: Cultivating open-mindedness in development studies**

Olsen, W., Oct 2006, In: Journal of Development Studies. 42, 7, p. 1130-1157 27 p.

**The Right to Work and Differentiation in Indian Employment**

Olsen, W. K. & Mehta, S., Sept 2006, In: The Indian Journal of Labour Economics. 49:3

**The right to work and differentiation in Indian employment**

Olsen, W. & Mehta, S., 1 Jul 2006, In: Indian Journal of Labour Economics. 49, 3, p. 389-406 18 p.

**Women Returners**

Olsen, W. K. & Tomlinson, J., Mar 2006, *TI all-day conference, 'Women's Contribution to the Skilled Labour Market'*, London.

**Conference on Comparative Social Science**

Olsen, W. K., 2006, *Conference on Comparative Social Science, Sophia Univ., Tokyo.*

**Globalisation, Liberalisation and A Paradox of Social Exclusion in Sri Lanka**

Olsen, W. K. & Carling, A. H. (Editor), 2006, *Globalisation and Identity: Development and Integration in a Changing World*. I.B. Tauris

**Productivity and Gender and Part-Time Work**

Olsen, W. K., 2006, *GELLM Research Project*.

**The Causes of Women's Educational And Labour Market Achievement in a Cross-National Context**

Olsen, W., W. K. & Nomura, H., 2006, *Comparative Social Science, Tokyo.*

**A Pluralist Account of Economic Growth", Development Studies Association**

Olsen, W. K., Dec 2005, *Poverty Study Group joint meeting with the European Association for Development Institutes (DSA-EADI), Warsaw.*

**The UK Gender Pay Gap**

Olsen, W. K., Nov 2005, *presentation for the NexisLexis Personnel Today executive workshop on Gender Pay Reviews in the UK.*

**A critical epistemology of analytical statistics: Addressing the sceptical realist**

Olsen, W. & Morgan, J., Sept 2005, In: Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour. 35, 3, p. 255-284 29 p.

**Labour Participation in Rural and Urban India**

Olsen, W. K. & Mehta, S., Sept 2005, *Development Studies Association conference.*

**Moral Political Economy and Poverty: Four Theoretical Schools Compared**

Olsen, W. K., Aug 2005, *Conference on Perspectives on Moral Economy, University of Lancaster.*

**Benefits of Sophisticated Local-Level Research as Seen from a Realist Viewpoint**

Olsen, W. K., 2005, *Conference on Understanding Agrarian Change in India: Challenges for Theory and Method.*

**Poverty as a Malaise of Development", keynote speech**

Olsen, W. K., 2005, *University of Chester, School of Communication Studies, Conference on Poverty.*

**Methodological triangulation and realist research: An Indian exemplar**

Olsen, W., 19 Aug 2004, *Making Realism Work: Realist Social Theory and Empirical Research*. Routledge, p. 135-150 16 p.

**Modelling Gender Pay Gaps**

Olsen, W. K. & Walby, S., 2004, Manchester: Equal Opportunities Commission. 80 p. (EOC WORKING PAPER SERIES)

**Triangulation in Social Research: : Qualitative and Quantitative Methods Can Really Be Mixed**

Olsen, W. K., Haralambos, M. (Editor) & Holborn, M. (Editor), 2004, *Developments in Sociology*. Causeway Press Ltd

**Questionnaires in realist research: A case study of rural small-scale industry in Ghana**

Olsen, W., Hara, T. M. & Edusah, S., 13 Aug 2003, *Applied Economics and the Critical Realist Critique*. Routledge, p. 197-219 23 p.

**The Use of Questionnaires in Research on Ghanaian Small-Scale Industry**

Olsen, W., W, K., Hara, T., Edusah, S. & Downward, P. (Editor), 2003, *Applied Economics and the Critical Realist Critique*. London: Routledge

**Triangulation and Empirical Research**

Olsen, W. K., New, C. (Editor) & Carter, B. (Editor), 2003, *Critical Realism and Empirical Research*. London: Routledge

**Triangulation, Time, and the Social Objects of Econometrics**

Olsen, W. K. & Downward, P. (Editor), 2003, *Applied Economics and the Critical Realist Critique*. London: Routledge

**The Impact Of Women's Position In The Labour Market On Current UK Productivity And Implications For Future Productivity Growth. The Cabinet Office Women and Equality Unit**

Olsen, W., W, K. & Walby, S., 2002, London: Office of Public Sector Information.

**The Politics of Money: Economic Democracy and Sustainable Society**

Olsen, W., W, K., Hutchinson, F. & Mellor, M., 2002, Pluto Press.

**Understanding Livelihoods and Lived Experiences**

Olsen, W., W, K. & Johnson, H., 2002, *Section 3 in the Poverty and Inequality Theme of the Open University course, The Chal-lenge of Development*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press

**Stereotypical and Traditional Views About the Gender Division of Labour in Indian Labour Markets**

Olsen, W. K., 2001, In: *Journal of Critical Realism*. 4, 1, p. 11-17 7 p.

**Social differentiation and the market for eating out in the UK**

Olsen, W. K., Warde, A. & Martens, L., Jun 2000, In: *International Journal of Hospitality Management*. 19, 2, p. 173-190 17 p.

**Contract Labour and Bondage in Andhra Pradesh (India)**

Olsen, W., W, K. & Ramanamurthy, R., 2000, In: *Journal of Social and Political Thought*. 1(2)

**Hopes for the Future: Generational and Gender Differences in Stereotypes about Suitable Occupations for Young People in India**

Olsen, W. K., 1999, *Development Studies Association conference*.

**Village Level Exchange: Lessons from South India**

Olsen, W. K. & Harriss-White, B. (Editor), 1999, *Agricultural Markets From Theory to Practice: Field Experience in Developing Countries*. Macmillan Publishers Ltd

**Journal of International Development, introductory article and co-editor of the issue**

Olsen, W. K., 1998, In: *DSA Conference (Special Issue)*.

**Marxist and Neo-Classical Approaches to Unfree Labour in India**

Olsen, W. K., Brass, T. (Editor) & van der Linden, M. (Editor), 1998, *Free and Unfree Labour: The Debate Continues*. Bern; Berlin; New York: Peter Lang

**Micro-Enterprise, Women and Civil Society: Hypotheses Drawn from Rural Research in Andhra Pradesh, India, 1994-96**  
Olsen, W. K., Sinha, S. M. (Editor) & I. Alexander, P. (Editor), 1998, *Proceedings of the Conference on Recent Research on Micro-Finance*.

#### **Rural Indian Social Relations**

Olsen, W. K., 1996, Delhi: Oxford University Press.

#### **Data Analysis and Economic Modelling**

Olsen, W. K. & Mackintosh, M. (Editor), 1995, *Economics and Changing Economies Open University textbook for course D216*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press

#### **Distress Sales and Rural Credit: Evidence From an Indian Village Case Study**

Olsen, W. K., Morrissey, J. (Editor), Lloyd, O. (Editor) & T., J. (Editor), 1994, *Poverty, Inequality and Rural Development*. Macmillan Publishers Ltd

#### **Researcher as Enabler: An Alternative Model for Research in Public Health**

Olsen, W. K., 1994, In: *Critical Public Health*. 5(3)

#### **Competition and power in rural markets: a case study from Andhra Pradesh**

Olsen, W., 1993, In: *IDS Bulletin*. 24, 3, p. 83-89 6 p.

#### **Random Samples and Repeat Surveys in South India**

Olsen, W. K., Devereux, J. (Editor), Hoddinott, S. (Editor) & J., J. (Editor), 1992, *Fieldwork in Developing Countries*. Harvester Wheatsheaf

#### **Workbook for the Seventh Edition of An Introduction to Positive Economics**

Olsen, W., W. K., Lipsey, R. & Forrest, D., 1989, London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

## **Projects**

#### **Bonded Child Labour in South Asia: Building the Evidence Base for DFID Programming and Policy Engagement**

Haythornthwaite, S. (PI) & Olsen, W. K. (Col)

8/08/17 → 31/01/18

#### **Enriching Social Science Teaching with Empirical Data (ESSTED)**

Brown, M. (Col), Olsen, W. K. (Col), Wathan, J. (Researcher), Carter, J. (Researcher), Thomson, S. (Researcher), Purdam, K. (Researcher), O'Shea, S. (Researcher), Heath, S. (Researcher), Rhodes, J. (Researcher), Edwards, G. (Researcher), Purewal, N. (Researcher), Turnbull, N. (Researcher), Ford, R. (Researcher) & Gains, F. (Researcher)

#### **Norms, Labour Supply and Poverty Reduction in Comparative context**

Olsen, W. K. (PI) & Sen, K. (Col)

1/01/14 → 30/11/17

#### **Patterns in Politics & Society: Promoting the Enrichment of Undergraduate Teaching with Quantitative Methods**

Olsen, W. K. (PI), Brown, M. (Col), Carter, J. (Col), Chandola, T. (Col), Heaphy, B. (Col) & Plewis, I. (Col)

26/03/12 → 25/03/15

#### **Statistical Modelling**

Onah, C. N. (PI), Shlomo, N. (PI), Chandola, T. (PI), Schoch, D. (PI), Cuitún Coronado, J. (PI), Aparicio-Castro, A. (PI), Thestrup, S. (PI), Olsen, W. K. (PI), Cernat, A. (PI), Shryane, N. (PI), Wisniewski, A. (PI), Smith, D. (PI), Aparicio-Castro, A. (PI), Shafie, T. (PI), Hannemann, T. (PI), Morales-Gómez, A. (PI), Mellon, J. (PI), Troncoso Ruiz, P. (PI), Taub, J. (PI), Murphy, J. (PI), Guest, E. (PI), Kim, J. (PI), Watson, J. (PI), Pashazadeh, F. (PI), Hoór, D. (PI), Jones, P. (PI) & Gosling, Z. (Support team)

1/08/19 → 30/09/22

**Strategic Explanations of the Gender Pay Gap With Multilevel Modelling: A Scottish Comparison with the UK**

Olsen, W. K. (PI) & Purdam, K. (Col)

1/10/16 → 30/09/19

**Teaching quantitative methods in disciplinary context: integrating quantitative method and evidence into the Social Science undergraduate curriculum**

Brown, M. (PI), Chandola, T. (Col), Olsen, W. K. (Col), Plewis, I. (Col), Russell, A. (Col) & Wathan, J. (Col)

26/03/12 → 25/03/15

**Impacts**