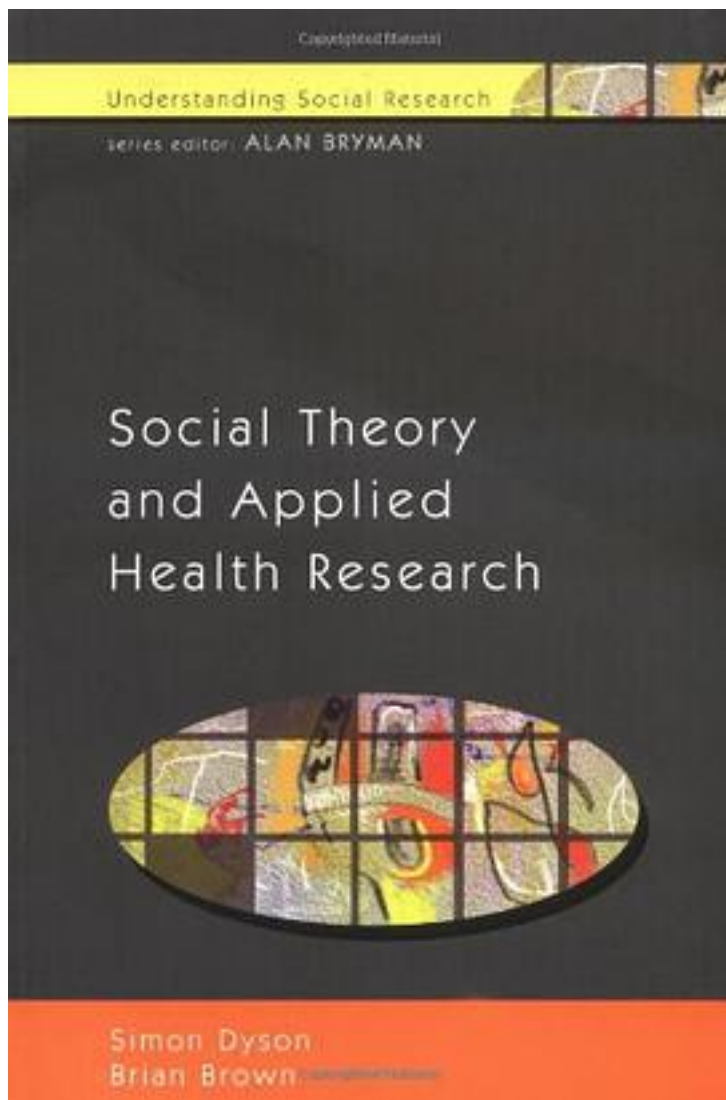


# Social Theory and Applied Health Research



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'This is a small book which covers a great deal of ground clearly, concisely, and with a fluidity which makes it an enjoyable read' - "Journal of Advanced Nursing". 'This book points clearly to the fact that applied research always rests on theoretical assumptions and argues persuasively that good research demands explicit consideration of those assumptions. By setting out the main theoretical paradigms clearly and fairly, it provides a very useful guide for researchers wishing to ensure that their work is properly grounded and appropriately focused, and to students requiring the tools to look under the surface of research claims' - Sam Porter, Research Professor of Nursing, Queen's University, Belfast. What is the relationship between social theory and applied research? How can theory help us to become better researchers? The book provides a resource for students and professionals, particularly in health and social care, who wish to undertake social research. It bridges the divide between assumptions of traditional research on the one hand and the inaccessibility of complex philosophies of research on the other. "Social Theory and Applied Health Research" provides an accessible assessment of dilemmas facing social researchers in trying to make sense of the world of health care. It links theory and method by presenting an account of how reflection can help amend, complement and strengthen a practical research strategy. Using clear diagrams, tables and examples of recent research, the book illustrates principles from social theory from a range of applied research studies. This is essential reading for sociologists and psychologists conducting applied research, as well as the health and social welfare professions, including nurses, therapists, doctors, social workers, youth and community workers, and teachers.

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