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**Mixed fortunes:  
graduate premium  
ups and downs** 6

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# T H E

TIMES  
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EDUCATION

**Next-day delivery**

Will ranking the speed of reviewers get results? 8

**Face-off over face time**

When burkas do and don't cause problems 26

**Oh, the places I'll go**

Grown-up gapper swaps books for backpack 28

**Bored with the USA?**

The shifting state of American studies 40

**Don't sweat it**  
Tips on running a research lab

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## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

**Shakespeare on Page & Stage: Selected Essays****Stanley Wells****Oxford University Press**

Sir Stanley, as he became this year, delivers a bumper 30 chapters of essays on you-know-who, written over the past half-century plus. Violence in *Titus Andronicus*, the “failure” of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Leigh Hunt, William Hazlitt, Peter Brook, the sonnets and the ghosts, and some wise and puckish thoughts on being a General Editor of Shakespeare for two publishers are among the standouts in a volume that is wrapped, not surprisingly, in peers’ fond superlatives for “one of Shakespeare’s greatest critics”. He looks chuffed with himself in David Fallow’s portrait in oils on the inside dust jacket, and rightly so.

**Fertility Holidays: IVF Tourism and the Reproduction of Whiteness****Amy Speier****New York University Press**

An anthropologist turns a keen, empathetic eye on a corner of the worldwide baby business: lower middle-class North Americans travelling to the Czech Republic for fertility treatments, relatively low-cost medical expertise and, Speier contends and interviewees mostly confirm, “white” babies. It is a tale of “intimate labour”, stigma, profit, ethical dilemmas, increasingly globalised for-profit medicine and accounts of hope and despair played out in tidy Prague bed and breakfasts. Beautifully written, rich with a sense of place and of humanity.

**The Corruption of Capitalism: Why Rentiers Thrive and Work Does Not Pay****Guy Standing****Biteback**

Lies, power, corruption and more lies: the economist author of the term-coining 2011 work *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, shoots fact-fuelled broadsides at the guilty of the new Gilded Age with a steady arm, en route to a compelling, general reader-friendly exposition of his call for a basic income. Not surprisingly, John McDonnell, Paul Mason and Robert Reich have offered kudos for this bracing, pugnacious evisceration of the sins of rentier capitalism that reads like a thriller – although alas, none of the baddies is fictional.

**Citizen’s Wealth: Why (and How) Sovereign Funds Should Be Managed by the People for the People****Angela Cummine****Yale University Press**

Exceedingly impressive work from a rising academic star, who argues for governments to “help transform sovereign funds managing sovereign wealth into community funds managing citizens’ wealth”, emphasising that “too few...have acknowledged that the money in these funds is ultimately the property of citizens, not their governments”. Sizing up SWFs from Singapore and New Zealand to Alaska, and returning repeatedly to the recent experience of Chile (and the Santiago Principles that grew out of it), this study is sharp, focused and persuasive.



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collection of easily portable houseplants and antiques, an attempt at homely permanence within a cycle of rented accommodation.

A particularly moving contribution is the autoethnography from Agnes Bosanquet, who charts her journey through motherhood and PhD completion, including caring for her baby through critical illness. The negative reactions she received to her feminist research methods highlight the glacial pace of change in academia and the resistance to knowledge producers who refuse to worship the false prophet of objectivity.

The editors and contributors are quick to point out that the experiences recounted here are not unique to academia. Academics are not alone in facing the uncertainty of zero-hours positions, in being shunted from one three-month contract to the next or in accepting underemployment in ancillary roles just to be physically near the career that they would actually like. The book sensibly ends with a lively chapter on practical strategies

for resistance, but I feel that this could have been more of a feature throughout, perhaps asking each author to provide her own suggestions.

This text is a starting point: in beginning to solve problems, we first have to name them, and the collectivising of struggles is an important act in itself. I have to admit to a certain level of cynicism as to what can be achieved, however, as all of us, even on comparatively stable contracts, live and work with the brutal reality of our own replaceability. As several of the chapters in this volume so succinctly discuss, this awareness limits what we are prepared to challenge and it reacts unfavourably with the surrounding fog of that most well-worn neoliberal deceit: the story that structural unfairness does not exist, and that the only thing holding you back is yourself.

**Finn Mackay** is senior lecturer in sociology, University of the West of England, and author of *Radical Feminism: Feminist Activism in Movement* (2015).

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**London's Olympic Legacy: The Inside Track**

**Gillian Evans**  
**Palgrave Macmillan**  
A telling study of fudges, cock-ups, broken promises, venality, unaffordable housing and the screwing-over of allotment gardeners. Evans, an anthropologist, had "unprecedented access" to the organisations, institutions and individuals involved with London's 2012 Olympic Games and all the goodies that were supposed to follow, but largely didn't. She trails Tessa Jowell via evenings at Elena's L'Étoile with Boris Johnson and the "very macho", "very curiously dysfunctional" culture of the Olympic Park Legacy Company, highlighting "the potential for publicly funded projects worldwide to become devices for a highly paid, constantly circulating elite to extract private value from the public purse". A 19-point "Lessons from London" is stuffed with insight, should any of the less admirable dramatis personae here, or their counterparts elsewhere, care to read it.

**Karen Shook**