**What did I enjoy about the census project by Sophie Millett studying Sociology**

I am particularly interested in the disability rights movement and the changes to attitudes regarding disabilities. The census project gave me the opportunity to explore the changes to language describing disabilities in more depth. It was interesting to see the type of language that was used in the 1911 census and how much this language has changed and why. For example, being able to compare the differences between the language used to describe someone with a learning difference from the 1911 and 2011 census and the causes for it being dominant theoretical perspectives at the time.

I discovered that at the time of 1911 and the years beforehand, eugenics and the medical model was a dominant way of thinking about disabilities. Eugenics being the idea that to perfect the human race, individuals with undesirable characteristics which at the time included disabilities, needed to be separated from society. The medical model suggests that the individual is disabled by the impairment. Both eugenics and the medical model is shown within the 1911 census terminology on disability such as ‘lunatic’ and ‘imbecile’. However, in the 2011 census terminology differs. For example, to describe someone with a learning difference they class them having a ‘learning disability’ or learning difficulty’, instead of ‘imbecile’. Indicating that with the rise of the social model, which indicates that society disables individuals, less stigmatising and more sensitive language is used to describe disabilities. Thus, the census project has given you and I the insight into how language describing disabilities has changed over the years and to be mindful of the language we use.