

## **BSA Applied Qualitative Health Research Group Annual report 2015**

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### **History**

This special interest study group, which is a sub group of the Medical Sociology, was convened in 2013 and had its first meeting at the Medsoc conference in York in September 2013. A dedicated Jiscmail listserv ([BSA-AQHR@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:BSA-AQHR@jiscmail.ac.uk)) for members was set up which anyone can apply to join; it currently has 126 people registered. There is no dedicated twitter account for the group but members are encouraged to use #AQHR

### **Aims**

The aims of the group are to support and develop young sociologists (postgraduates and early career researchers (ECRs)) who undertake applied qualitative research in healthcare settings. In addition to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, the groups' activities involve networking opportunities. The group has an inclusive ethos, welcoming both BSA members and non BSA members including those who work inside HE institutes and outside of academia.

### **Activities 2015**

We held two meetings of the group. The first in York was a one day event focussing upon the ethical, pragmatic and theoretical processes of doing qualitative health research and involved two plenary presentations from early career academics (Dr Siân Beynon-Jones, University of York and Dr David Hamilton, Newcastle University) and six papers from a range of PhD and ECRs. The group was attended by approximately 30 people. Feedback from this meeting was positive and it generated some tweets using AQHR.

The second meeting of the group took place at the Annual BSA Medsoc conference in York. This was a lunch time session, in which we sought views on the future direction of the group. Approximately 20 people attended this event.

### **Future Activities**

In 2016 we will be holding a one day meeting in London that specifically focusses upon the impact of new technologies on qualitative health research. A call for papers from ECRs and PGs is underway. The second meeting is planned to be convened at the BSA Medical Sociology conference in September. For further details about the group please contact Tim Rapley, [tim.rapley@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:tim.rapley@ncl.ac.uk)