

**Name: BSA London Medical Sociology Group.**

**Established: before 1985**

**Number of members: we have no formal membership, but mostly 10-20 people attend our meetings; about half are BSA members. We have roughly 100 names on our regularly up-dated e-mailing list, and also circulate notices of meetings on Medsoc News jiscmail.**

**Expenditure: £217**

**Income: Zero**

**Aims: to disseminate new sociological knowledge, and encourage contacts between those interested in medical sociology in London and the South-East.**

### **Review of the year:**

Yet again the London group continued to operate successfully in 2012/13. As in previous years our meetings have been wide ranging in content, with presentations on the use of focus groups in medical sociology, Deleuze and assemblage theory, community HIV interventions in India, suicide and the life course, the challenges of research with men who have sex with men, and ecological public health. Each session concluded with a gathering in a convenient local venue where - over food and drinks - we could talk informally with the speaker, share useful information about people or events, and discuss matters of recent interest within the field of health and illness (and, of course, well beyond).

Once again the local organizing committee has tried to ensure that our programme addresses a wide range of concerns within medical sociology. We are well aware of the increasing pressure on people's time and for some periods in the last few years average attendance at our meetings has tended to drift lower - despite a core of regular attenders who welcome the regular opportunity to meet others with a shared sociological viewpoint. Our decision in Autumn 2010 to focus future meetings on general topics rather than specific research - broad theoretical issues, methodological questions, and aspects of teaching - continues to bear fruit, and in the last year numbers attending our meetings have been encouraging (and occasionally impressive). We have therefore continued to base our programme for 2013 on these same guidelines.

Unfortunately our committee has lost two long-serving members in the last year: Iain Crinson (Mailing list) and Miranda Leontowitsch (Treasurer). We thank them both for their past efforts in making the group a success, and the remaining members - Jacqueline Davies, and Annie Nixson - for their work throughout 2012. We were very fortunate that Heidi Lempp agreed to take on the vital mailing list role for 2013, and welcome her to the committee.

Finally, as always, we would like to thank Kings College London for waiving room charges for our meetings, the Dept. of Nutrition & Dietetics for its technical assistance, and above all the British Sociological Association for the financial support that makes our existence possible.

### **Concluding remarks:**

We intend to arrange a full and varied programme of meetings in 2014, and greatly welcome suggestions for speakers, or offers of talks, fitting our established the guidelines as outlined above.

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**To join the London Group mailing list email:** [heidi.lempp@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:heidi.lempp@kcl.ac.uk)

**Future meetings in 2013** will be held monthly on Wednesdays at 6 - 7 p.m. in:

King's College London, Room 1.16, Franklin Wilkins Building, Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH.

<b>10 April</b>	<b>Paedophiles in society: reflecting on sexuality, abuse and hope</b>	<b>Sarah Goode</b> University of Winchester
<b>8 May</b>	<b>From Sociology of Health and Illness to Public Health Social Science - personal reflections on four decades of work on sociology and health</b>	<b>Gerry Stimson</b> London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
<b>12 June</b>	<b>ConDeming the NHS: healthcare reform and the failure of countervailing powers</b>	<b>Ewen Speed</b> University of Essex
<b>Summer Break</b>		
<b>9 Oct</b>	<b>Using Bourdieu in health research</b>	<b>Sasha Scambler</b> Kings College London
<b>13 Nov</b>	<b>Varieties of performativity: how law and regulation shape new medical technology</b>	<b>Alex Faulkner</b> University of Sussex