

Aim:

Our aim is to bring together medical sociologists and those from related disciplines from across Wales in order to facilitate discussion, collaboration, and networking. The current convenors of the group (Eleanor Johnson and Julie Latchem) are based at Cardiff University.

Membership:

We have a mailing list of 43 members. Events are open to everyone and are publicised via our mailing list, the MedSoc News jiscmail, and on the BSA website. We use our mailing list to circulate funding, publication, and job opportunities as well as conference calls.

Past Activities:

Since taking over as convenors of the group in January 2015, we have tried to expand the group membership as, in the past, events were not attended by people beyond South Wales (particularly Cardiff). This has entailed meetings and email correspondence with academics from across Wales.

In May, we hosted an afternoon event with three speakers (Davina Allen, Carol Wolkowitz, and Fiona Moffatt) entitled 'Practices, Identities and Bodies at Work: A Critical Exploration of Contemporary Health Care'. The event attracted an audience of 46 individuals from across Wales, the South-West of England, and further afield. Dr Wolkowitz discussed the body work economy of South Florida focusing on health, social care, and other services for the area's ageing population of retirees. Professor Allen discussed nursing's 'black hole'. Here, she drew upon her recently study of the everyday practices of nurses in order to elucidate their invisible labour and to consider the contribution of 'organising work' to both the quality and safety of healthcare. Dr Moffatt explored how contemporary UK policy discourse constructs the rights and responsibilities of healthcare professionals in terms of productive healthcare, how this is made manifest in practice, and the implications of this for professional autonomy/identity. These presentations were followed by a lively discussion.

Plans for the Coming Year:

Our plans are to continue to focus on broadening the geographical scope of the group. Though the group represents Wales, our membership mostly comprises of medical sociologists in the South Wales region. There is difficulty associated with organising events that are accessible to those across Wales. As such, we plan on holding two large events in two different locations this year and continuing to collaborate and network via our mailing list. Additionally, we are currently considering recruiting committee members from across Wales so we can provide a broad and varied programme of speakers and social meetings.

Please contact Eleanor Johnson (Johnsone1@cardiff.ac.uk) to express an interest in becoming a committee member of the MedSoc Wales group, to be added to our mailing list, or to enquire about upcoming events.