

Group Name: BSA Medical Sociology Group (Main)
Oct 2012-Sept 2013

1. Established

The main Medical Sociology Group was established in 1968 and the MedSoc Group held its first Annual Conference in York in 1969.

2. Current membership figures

We have no formal membership, but there are over 1000 subscribers to the MEDSOCNEWS JISMAIL list. At the September 2013 conference in York 362 people attended, representing the largest conference to date.

3. Study Group Expenditure and Study Group Income

Thanks to another large and well-managed conference (with considerable input from the BSA Durham office) the study group continues to be financially very healthy. The balance has remained relatively steady during the year and reserves stood at £157,305.41 on 30 September 2013.

As reported previously, the committee has been working to a plan to reduce this surplus over a number of years, and has continued by funding continuing initiatives from the 2012-13 year as well as a few new initiatives. This issue remains a priority for the group, and the committee hold a number of finance meetings each year. Key to these discussions are the principles that: 1) we should avoid amassing funds as far as possible until our reserves are at or below a sum equivalent to annual expenditure; 2) we should redistribute the surplus in ways that are adjustable in the short or medium term to give future committees flexibility; 3) we should invest in each of our key areas of concern (teaching, research, and communication) in ways that either grow the medical sociology community overall or increase connections within it in line with the MedSoc Group Constitution.

During 2012-13 we continued with innovations set in motion during the previous year, including:

- continued reduction in the 2012 conference fee by 10% for BSA members
- continued to offer free places at the 2013 conference, but increased this from 30 to 32
- continued to offer up to £400 per year to regional and special interest study groups (currently 10 groups, although not all active during this financial year)
- contributing to the administrative costs of producing MedSoc Online, the online newsletter for the community (£7280 p.a.)
- support for an early career researcher event the day before the Annual Conference in 2013 (£4481)
- ongoing support costs for the Cost of Living blog (cost 2012-13 £436)
- support (in the form of registration and travel bursaries) for postgraduates and early career researchers to attend an event co-organised with the Society for Social Medicine

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Income | £75,581 | £90,452 | £103,607.86 |
| Expenditure (on conference and study groups) | (£69,622) | (£65,799) | £122,544.63 |
| Management Fees | (£20,852) | (£23,590) | £24,298 |
| MSo and Blog | | (£9,800) | £8236 |
| Surplus | (£9,894) | (£8,737) | £(??) |

4. Aims of the Study Group

The objects of the group shall be to foster the development of teaching and research in the sociology of health and illness and communication between persons interested in these areas. In

pursuit of these aims the group will organise an annual conference, encourage and support the establishment of regional groups, publicise its activities through relevant and appropriate channels of communication*, and undertake such other activities to promote these objects, provided that these activities are legal and legally charitable.

(Ref. http://www.britisoc.co.uk/media/61891/MedSoc_Constitution_Dec_2013.pdf)

*Minor change in the constitution, voted at and approved by the 2013 AGM. The reason for this change is to make the constitution less restrictive in terms of current and future communications, i.e. to allow us to respond to most relevant channels of communication as and when they arise without constitutional change

5. Review of the year

The 2013 Conference

Delegates:

The 45th Medical Sociology Conference took place in York; there was an overwhelming interest resulting in closing bookings six weeks earlier than the deadline. The conference has grown again for the fourth year running, and this year is the largest to date with 362 delegates. 19.5% of delegates were international, an increase from 2012, and represented every continent. The committee increased the number of funded places again this year with 22 allocated to Postgraduate Students, 5 to unwaged and 5 to sociologists outside academia.

Programme:

From 424 abstracts received, 222 were offered oral presentation slots, with 50 posters and 33 on the reserve list. Twenty nine papers were withdrawn prior to the programme being published (most of these slots were filled with papers on the reserve list) and 4 papers were withdrawn after printing. Four symposia were accepted.

In addition, there were five events organised/commissioned by the committee: two symposia: 'Architecture, Embodiment and Healthcare' (organised by Sarah Nettleton) and 'Cost of Living' (organised by Ewen Speed & Simon Carter); two 'Author-Meets-Critics' sessions with Roberto Abadie and Nelly Oudshoorn (FSHI book prize winners 2012 and 2011); and a 'Meet the editors' event. The plenary presentations were: Prof Kathy Charmaz who spoke about 'Computers, Cyborgs ... Webs and Medical Sociology?' and Prof Sarah Cunningham-Burley, whose talk was entitled, 'What we talk about when we talk about disease: reconfiguring the disease and the patient in contemporary biomedicine'.

AGM:

The Conference also includes the group AGM, where, in addition to financial reports from the committee and discussion of its aims for the forthcoming year, we hear reports from the Sociology of Health and Illness editorial board and the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness. Fifty six group members attended the 2013 AGM.

MedSoc Event for Early Career Researchers

Following the success of the inaugural event in 2012, an early career researcher event took place on the day preceding the conference. The event was organised by the two postgraduate research student members of a committee (elected at the AGM in 2012): John Gardner and Laura Knight. The event involved a number of workshops by senior and established scholars on aspects of a career in medical sociology. It was attended by approximately 55 delegates.

Prizes

The winner of the 2012 Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness Book prize was Michael J. Montoya for his book *Making the Mexican Diabetic*. The Phil Strong memorial prize was awarded to Jeremy Booth, University of York.

Organising Committee

The end of the 2012-13 year saw several committee members coming to the end of their terms, including: Kate Weiner and Catherine Will (who have both served 4 years as ordinary committee members and 2 years as co-convenors); Sally Brown (4 years); Shirlene Badger (4 years); and John Gardner (PGRS).

Following elections at the 2013 AGM we welcomed the following new members: Catriona Rooke, Anika Baddeley, Paul Whybrow, Fiona Stevenson, Tim Banks (PGRS).

Jude Robinson started her term as co-convenor, with Helen Eborall. Other committee members include.

Current committee members:

Helen Eborall (ordinary member 2008-2012, co-convenor 2012-2014); Jude Robinson (ordinary member 2010-2013, co-convenor 2013-2015); Julia Hiscock (2010-14); Ewen Speed (2010-14); Ian Spencer (2011-15); Denise Hinton* (2011-15); Anika Baddeley (2013-17); Catriona Rooke (2013-17); Fiona Stevenson (2013-17); Paul Whybrow (2013-17); Laura Knight (PGRS 2012-14); Tim Banks (PGRS 2013-15). (*NB stepping down mid-year, to be replaced by Lynne Stobbart).

Ex-officio: Catherine Will and Sally Brown (BSA Medicine Health and Illness stream co-convenors 2013-15).

6. Key activities 2013-14

The 46th Annual Medical Sociology Conference will be held at Aston University in September 2014. The chosen venue has a larger capacity than last year's facilities in recognition of the growth of the conference over recent years. Plenary speakers – already confirmed - will be Prof. Arthur Frank and Dr. Tiago Moreira.

We will also host a stream at the 2014 BSA Annual Conference in Leeds, and sponsor a plenary by Professor Gareth Williams at this event. The committee thanks Sally Brown and Catherine Will for acting as co-convenors for this stream, as this is a significant extra workload in addition to the core committee activities around the MedSoc annual conference, and have been happy to fund this involvement and plenary.

In addition to ongoing innovations for the conference – our main work each year – the committee has three active sub-committees working towards other elements of the group's remit:

1. A teaching sub-committee is working on different initiatives to foster and support the teaching of medical sociology in the UK.
2. A communications sub-committee is working on plans to bring all the MedSoc group's online activities into one place.
3. A prize sub-committee is working on ways in which MedSoc funds could be used to different prizes to recognise achievements in UK medical sociology.

7. Co- convener names:

Helen Eborall & Jude Robinson

8. Contact details:

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9. Study Group Website link

The main BSA Medical Sociology web page is <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/medsoc/>.