

**Sociology of Mental Health Study Group AGM and book launch:  
*Mental Health Service Users in Research: Critical Sociological Perspectives*,  
edited by Patsy Staddon**

Founded in 2004, this Group has developed an international, broad-based membership of 240 and an exciting and extensive programme of work. The aims of the Group are to: heighten the profile of the sociology of mental health; provide a forum for dissemination and discussion of work being conducted in this area; facilitate networking, information-sharing and provide a support forum for those working within or studying the sociology of mental health; and provide a core of expertise in this study area.

This year's AGM will include the launch of a new book, *Mental Health Service Users in Research: Critical Sociological Perspectives*, edited by Patsy Staddon and published by The Policy Press. Edited by a service user, and introducing work both by and about service users, the book:

- Shows the value of sociology for contextualising service user research, experiential knowledge and autobiography;
- Moves narrative of service user experience and involvement forward;
- Interrogates how identity shapes knowledge production;
- Addresses imbalances of power: social control by shame and stigma; and
- Examines intransigence of medicine in face of qualitative understandings.

The book is based on a BSA MHSG and Survivor Researcher Network joint seminar series that brought together sociological and survivor/service user perspectives on researching in mental health and was funded by the FSHI.

There will also be opportunity to join the Group, meet other members, review recent activities, and discuss future plans.

**Study Group web site:** <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/medsoc/MedSocMentalHealth.aspx>

**Convenors:** Lydia Lewis, University of Birmingham and Angela Cotton, Edge Hill University.