

## **BSA Yorkshire Medical Sociology Group Annual Report 2015**

The British Sociological Association Yorkshire Medical Sociology Group was formed in the Autumn of 2013 by Kate Weiner (Sheffield), Paul Bissell (Sheffield), Christopher Till (Leeds Beckett), Anne Kerr (Leeds), Sarah Nettleton (York), Ellen Annandale (York) and Barry Gibson (Sheffield). Our convening group continues to involve

The group aims to:

- To provide a forum for the discussion of the sociology of health and illness
- To enable effective networking for academics and others outside of academia to discuss the sociology of health and illness
- To promote early career researchers by providing a platform for them to showcase their work
- To build wider interest in the sociology of health and illness in the region
- Enable broad debate on topics relevant to the sociology of health and illness

Our first meeting was convened by Dr Barry Gibson in the University of Sheffield at the School of Clinical Dentistry on 24th February 2014. We had around 50 delegates attending the meeting from all kinds of backgrounds including clinical medicine, psychology and occupational therapy. Of particular note was the support we received from colleagues coming in from London, Manchester and the North East MedSoc group. We deeply appreciated this support. The day started with a speed networking event led by Paul Bissell before Mary Dixon-Woods spoke on patient safety. The discussion after her talk was lively and engaging. We also had three additional talks by Sian Beynon-Jones (York), Ana Manzano (Leeds), Charlotte Jones (Sheffield). All of these talks were both engaging and very well received. There was lively discussion after each session. We also had plenty of opportunities for discussion and networking. Finally we discussed future directions for the group.

Our second meeting was convened by Christopher Till at Leeds Beckett University on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. At this meeting there was more time for speed networking and we had around 25 attendees. Maggie Mort presented our key note on telecare. Other presentations included Esmee Hanna (Leeds Beckett), Natalie Wotherspoon (University of Sheffield) and Peter A Bath and Julie Ellis (University of Sheffield). Once again we had people coming in from the Manchester, Hull and the North East for what was another lively day. The discussion throughout the day was lively and positive with a clear desire amongst those present for the group to expand its reach and impact.

Our third event was hosted by the University of York on January 16th 2015. This meeting was convened by Sarah Nettleton and Ellen Annandale. We had over 30 people present at the meeting and once again the discussion was lively. This meeting featured a keynote by Deborah Lupton (Canberra University) speaking on Digital health data, big and small: some critical sociological reflections. Other presentations came from early career researchers John Gardner (University of York), Chrissy Buse (University of Leeds) and Clare Jackson (University of York). More details of each talk can be found on Christopher Till's Blog (<https://christopherharpertill.wordpress.com/2014/11/>) Once again we were very happy to welcome BSA members from all over the North of England. We decided to take a break over the summer and reconvene in the Autumn.

Our next meeting will be convened by Julie Seymour in Hull and the Keynote address will be by Graham Scambler on inequalities in health. At this meeting we will hold our first AGM.