

BSA Max Weber Study Group Annual Report for Year 2015

The Max Weber Study Group was started in the early 1990s and over this period has held regular international conferences. The aim of the group is to provide a space in which current and new members put Weber's thought to work in order to discuss and think through the issues of the present as well as update themselves in international developments in Weberian scholarship.

Current membership: 39 members, both BSA and non-BSA.

Main activities in 2015

The main event in 2015 was the international conference staging 'Weber/Simmel antagonisms' at the University of Edinburgh, on 10-11 December.

The format of the conference was inspired after the staging of the Tarde/Durkheim debate by Latour/Karsenti, but rather than recreating a real debate with prominent actors, we invited outlines for short 'imagined dialogues' between Weber and Simmel on topics which were addressed by both. The 13 selected dialogues did not address topics of merely scholarly interest but rather captured problematics mattering today – as this is of particular import to our Weber group.

In addition, Lawrence Scaff delivered this year's annual *Max Weber Studies* lecture: 'Political Leadership and Political Education in a Subverted World'.

The conference also saw the launch of the 'Young Weberians' network by Victor Strazzeri, currently a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin.

The conference gathered 45 Weber and Simmel established and early careers scholars as well as PhD students from the UK, Europe (and Turkey), North America and Latin America.

A special issue of the *Journal of Classical Sociology* is currently under way on the basis of a selection of the dialogues. We are also hoping to upload the filmed dialogues on the Edinburgh University website some time this year.

The other activity worth mentioning for 2015 has been the contribution of the group to the DfE Consultation on the draft GCSE Contents for Sociology. The government's response to the consultation is available at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504026/GCSE_A_level_reform_subject_content_government_response.pdf

Finance: The current balance is £ 696.07.

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