

BSA Disability Study Group

Annual Report for Year 2016-17

1. Established: 2013

2. Membership Figure (2015): 71

Members BSA / Non-Members BSA 20

Associate Members: 51

3. SG Income: 234.15 See also below

4. Aims of Study Group:

To promote the discussion of disability issues within sociology, promote the studies of disability studies, and foster an appreciation of the value of sociological scholarship within disability studies. To encourage and prevent the marginalisation of disabled academics and students in sociology.

5. Review of Year:

A primary focus for the study group has been the development of Disability stream at the BSA conference. We have built up a steadily increasing core group of attenders and are now 'on the map' in terms of a national focus for scholarship on disability. This has enabled us to move from the Frontiers section of the conference streams to the Social Identities / Social Difference stream.

In 2016 the convener of the Disability Studies conference (hosted by Lancaster University) attended the BSA conference and study group conveners also presented the work of the BSA study group at that conference.

We were pleased to have Professor Mark Sherry from Toledo University attend as the keynote presenter at the BSA last year, to coincide with the publication of his important new paper on the need for a sociological approach in disability studies. We have continued to build constructive links from this time with the Medical Sociology Study Group, which included a focus on disability at their annual conference this year.

We are aware that a growing number of delegates are attending the conference in order to network and present at our stream, representing a good source of income for BSA as well as a developing scholarship. We have every expectation that this will be strengthened at the coming conference.

We have two invited speakers at the conference, Viji Kuppan and Larry Arnold who should extend the work of the group, especially in terms of intersectional approaches and the understanding of insider approaches to autism.

6. Membership

Membership continues to grow. Activity on the jiscmail list is low so this will be a focus of development in 2017

7. Key Activities during year 2016-17

It was hoped that we would have an addition event (to those mentioned in 5), but 2016 was a year where all the convenors had substantial external pressures on them

9. Forthcoming:

We plan to have a symposium later in 2017, possibly to coincide with UKDHM. We hope this will attract other/new members from the BSA, and disabled and non-disabled academics. The topic is yet to be confirmed but may be on themes such as intersectionality or people, or for services for people with the label of learning disabilities. If interest and quality is high this may result in an edited collection

10.

Sara Ryan is will take a less active role as convenor from 2016 onwards., but has agreed to be there when needed. We are very grateful to Sara for her hard work in setting the group up and continuing commitment to the group whilst she has been a convenor.

10. Convenors and Contacts:

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