

BSA Families and Relationship Study Group Annual Report

Name: Families and Relationships Study Group

Established: active since 1969

Number of members: risen from 352 to 360

Aims: The Study Group aims to facilitate interchange between all those interested in the broad area of families, intimacies and personal relationships.

- To provide a forum to bring together the diversity of studies of families, households and relationships of members working across academic disciplines.
- To promote dialogue between those who focus on the sociology of families, intimacies and relationship and specialists in gender, sexuality and relationships research, taking in the broad range of possible substantive and theoretical concerns of contemporary sociology and forging new connections.
- To encourage links between established and early career researchers regionally, nationally and internationally, providing an opportunity for networking and the development of collaborative research across the fields of study.
- To interrogate the key concepts and theoretical frameworks which are deployed in sociological analyses of families and relationships.
- To complement the work of university based research centres by providing a national network and hub for discussion.

Review of the year

Membership of the Families and Relationships Study group has risen steadily and we now have 360 members (from 19 countries). The vibrancy and high level of interest in this broad area is further demonstrated by the number of paper submissions received for the BSA Annual Conference, Families, Relationships, Lifecourse Stream and high profile plenary speakers.

Current convenors for the group have been in post from April 2014. However, Kathryn Almack will be stepping down as convenor in April 2017 and we will be looking to appoint a new convenor to carry on alongside Jo Woodiwiss. As convenors we ensure that the email list continues to provide a dynamic channel of communication, enabling members to hear about up and coming events, job vacancies, studentships and fellowships, and new books published in this field.

The membership of this group, as measured by the email list, has expanded this year and the Study Group continues to go from strength to strength. In addition to publicising research, events and publications that might be of interest to members, twice a year we also invite members to send in updates which we compile to send out a bulletin of activities and other news to all members. We regularly ensure contributions from members' activities are represented in the newsletter Network.

Events in 2016 hosted or sponsored by the F&R study group:

April 2016 - Successful stream at the BSA annual conference.

We also had a stream plenary at the conference delivered by Professor Jennifer Mason

May 2016 – workshop exploring LGBT parenting research held at the Morgan centre, The University of Manchester and supported by

Events planned for 2017

As we as the annual BSA conference we are also planning to hold a joint BSA study group event with Visual Sociology SG at the University of Huddersfield – details to be confirmed.

Convenor contact details:

Dr Jo Woodiwiss, Division of Criminology, Politics and Sociology, University of Huddersfield
j.woodiwiss@hud.ac.uk

Professor Kathryn Almack (until April 2017), University of Hertfordshire
k.almack@herts.ac.uk