

## **BSA Media Study Group Annual Report, 2016-17**

The British Sociological Association's News Media Study Group was devised in 1999 and later rebranded to the 'BSA Media Study Group' in 2006 to widen its appeal and its membership base. The group continues to provide an important space for British media sociologists to discuss relevant issues and research. It also benefits greatly from the popularity of its subject matter among sociologists as is demonstrated annually in their participation in media-related streams and panels at the annual BSA conference and their attendance at Media Study Group events. The group continues to maintain a small but reasonably secure membership, (104 based on the subscriptions rate to the jiscmail list – March 2017), who interact through posts on the groups' jiscmail discussion list often to update other members on relevant research and information on conferences and publications in addition to discussions at the group's events.

A chief aim of the group is to provide space for those early career researchers and established academics with an interest in this area to introduce and discuss relevant research whatever its stage of development. To this end, the group has devised some cutting edge and interesting study days over the last few years. It has hosted events on youth and the media (2009), death and the media (2010), the media, demonstration and protest (2011), frame analysis (2012), journalism and environmental issues (2014) and most recently an event on gender and crime (2016). The subject for the group's annual event for this year, 2017, has yet to be decided. Nevertheless, it will follow the established pattern of providing a relaxed and intimate space to listen, engage and interact with developments in this subfield of sociological analysis.

Dr Julian Matthews, March 2017.