

BSA Scottish MedSoc Group (ScotMedSoc)

Annual Report

1. Established:
2015

2. Current Membership Figure: 90 (on mailing list)

3.	SG Opening	£ 0
	SG Income:	£ 1375.00
	SG Events	£1149.50
	SG Movement	£225.50
	SG Balance	£ 225.50

4. Aims of Study Group:

The BSA Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference is the largest UK event attracting world class research papers from all areas of study within the field of medicine, health and illness. Across Scotland there are many academics and professionals working in or aligned areas of medical sociology. This year we aim to re-establish a regional Scottish group to act as a catalyst for greater networking and connectedness for students, academics and professionals working in Scotland in the broad field of medical sociology. This Scottish Study Group plans to organise regular meetings and an annual Scottish conference to share current thinking, research proposals and findings from hosting Centres, Institutes and individual academics working on health and health service issues from a range of disciplinary perspectives. In Scotland there are a number of active research centres monitoring trends in health and wellbeing, improving our understanding of social and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing, and developing, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, policies and practices to improve health and wellbeing. For example, the Institute of Health and Wellbeing at Glasgow University brings together a large number of researchers from a range of disciplines. It acts as a considerable hub to pursue academic interests around inequalities, perceptions, trials of health service and community-based interventions, and evaluating the impact on health and wellbeing of social, environmental or policy changes. Other examples include,

This Scottish group's aims are:

- to bring together researchers and others with an interest in the sociological study of health and health service related issues
- to foster collaborative working between individuals and organisations
- to offer mentoring to early career researchers and postgraduate researchers
- to build a community of interest on specific medical sociological topics as identified by its membership
- to bring to policy discussion and wider debate in the region a sociological understanding of health issues
- to bolster the existence and raise the profile of medical sociology as a research discipline (and the contribution of relevant research findings to teaching) within the Higher Education institutions of

5. Review of Year:

The Scottish MedSoc group has established a pan-Scottish mailing list drawn from a range of universities and departments.

Our inaugural meeting was held in Glasgow in March 2016. The conference theme was “Public Engagement and Research Impact: Challenges and Opportunities for Medical Sociology” where the opening plenary was delivered by [Professor Catherine Pope \(University of Southampton\)](#). Impact is an increasingly important goal of academic research and aims to ensure that our research benefits wider society, but making such an impact holds challenges, and maximising the reach and scope of our research requires careful consideration for social and public health researchers. We also invited abstracts from researchers to fuel discussion around the conference theme. We then closed the meeting with a panel discussion that invited public engagement specialists to share their experience with attendees.

The meeting was a great success and as well as an excellent plenary we heard a series of excellent presentations. One of the attendees compiled a storify:

<https://storify.com/raharris/bsa-medical-sociology-scottish-group>

Our second meeting, “Knowledge Exchange and Research Excellence: Opportunities and Challenges for Medical Sociologists” was held in Dundee in November 2016 and built on our first meeting in Glasgow. [Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley \(University of Edinburgh\)](#) gave the opening plenary: *Sociology and the co-production of public engagement in biomedicine: collaboration, co-option and critique*. The event further explored the issues of knowledge exchange, public engagement and research impact and the opportunities and challenges that they present for medical sociologists. It also aimed to broaden the scope of this discussion by examining the issue of ‘research excellence’ in academia following the recent publication of The Stern Review (2016) of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and potential implications for early, mid and late career medical sociologists in academia today.

This meeting was also highly successful, with an engaging plenary and lively discussion by attendees around the issues of co-production and collaboration with research participants and the wider public, as well as the place of medical sociologists in academia today and their contribution to research impact.

6. Convenors and Contacts:

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