

BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY GROUP Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8th September 2016, 12:45 – 13:45
Room 145, First Floor, Conference Aston, Aston University

Thirty eight members of the BSA Medical Sociology Group attended the meeting. It was chaired by co-convenor Fiona Stevenson. Sandria Charalambous was responsible for minute taking.

1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2015 and available to view on pages 117 to 119 in the conference programme, were agreed to be accurate and correct.

2. Matters Arising – A huge thank you from Fiona Stevenson to all of the MedSoc committee for organising this year's conference.

3. Convenor's Report - This report was delivered by Fiona Stevenson.

The 2016 MedSoc conference was down in numbers both bookings and abstract submissions. There were 259 delegates in 2010, 305 in 2011, 334 in 2012, 362 in 2013, 366 in 2014, 369 in 2014 and 293 this year.

The 48th Medical Sociology Conference received 406 abstracts, 197 were offered oral presentation slots, with 159 presenting after speaker withdrawals, with 36 posters and 7 symposia/special events including the committee events: Cost of Living Symposium (organised by Ewen Speed and kindly hosted by Ted Schrecker). Delegates' attending this year's conference was confirmed to 293, 197 for the full conference and 47 as day delegates. The committee maintained the number of funded places again this year with 22 (2 withdrawals) allocated to Postgraduate Students. There were no applications received from unwaged or sociologists outside academia. It was mentioned that the committee will review the funded places policy. 19 funded places allocated to committee members, BSA Staff and invited speakers down from 33 from last year. There continues to be a healthy international interest in the conference with 18% of delegates attending the 2016 conference coming from Norway, Australia, Denmark.

Conference Innovation

As from last year the Mentoring@MedSoc has been formalised more by asking delegates to volunteer as mentors during the booking process. This year the committee was able to book some sessions in advance but made more sessions available during the conference where delegates were able to book a session at the registration desk. The feedback from these sessions has been positive and Mentoring@MedSoc will continue in 2017. "Pecha Kucha" presentations continue in the programme following their successful trial in 2014. 7 symposia were part of the 48th Annual Conference. The committee continues to encourage submission for symposia and special events for the 2017 conference.

Early Career Researchers' (ECR) Event – The ECR Workshop has taken place at the 48th Annual Conference with 25 attendees. The MedSoc committee would like to thank the organising committee Sarah Hoare and Jen Remnant.

Report from the 'Medicine, Health and Illness Stream' at the BSA Annual Conference April 2016 from Sally Brown: 50 papers were submitted to the stream (a reduction compared to previous years, ie. 80 in 2015), 36 were offered oral slots, 8 'roundtable discussion' and 2 poster slots, with 3 withdrawals from the conference programme. The committee would like to thank Ian Rees Jones for delivering the Stream Plenary for 2016 which very well received. The MedSoc committee would also like to thank Sally Brown and Julia Hiscock for all of the work undertaken to ensure the success of the Medicine Health and Illness Stream and for helping to promote Medical Sociology. Planning for the 2017 Stream Plenary has started with Catherine Pope as the proposed speaker. Sally Brown and Julia Hiscock will step down as stream co-ordinators succeeded by Ewen Speed and Paul Whybrow. The abstract submission deadline is 14th October 2016 and the stream co-ordinators would like to encourage more symposia/special event proposals.

Regional / Special Interest Groups – There continues to be very buoyant actives from most of the Regional Groups, the current active regional groups are East Midlands, North West, North East, South West, Wales, West Midlands, London, Scottish, South Coats and Yorkshire. All regional groups are self-sustaining and can draw on a fund of money which will remain at £400/year per group to help support their activities. New proposals are welcome from regions that currently do not have a study group. Please contact any to the MedSoc committee for more information.

4. Financial Report – Kerry Collins, BSA Company Secretary presented the financial report

At the end of the financial year (31st December 2015) the BSA audited accounts show a credit balance on the MedSoc account of £112,323. Again the funds were utilised in the year so that reserves decreased in line with planned expenditure. The conference fees increased by £10 for a full conference registration but continues to be below the 2009 prices (£285). Based on current forecast figures for this year's conference and working towards a deficit, it is anticipated a planned deficit of around £7,000, a lesser deficit from last year's conference. It will be generated (based on 292 delegates) compared with £9k deficit (365 delegates) last year. This deficit has been planned to spend down the surplus fund and has been undertaken by the following measures: 1) maintaining reduced fees for BSA members, 2) funding 32 free places for the conference, however only 22 were taken, 3) supporting the early career researcher event 4) funding the Cost of Living blog and MSo, 5) supporting the regional and special interest groups. Based upon the forecasted deficit for the 2016 conference, the closing balance for 2016 should be about £99,732. Communication continues to be focused upon with the further development of the Cost of Living Blog.

5. MedSoc Committee Nominations

There were 2 committee vacancies: 1 Postgraduate Researcher (PGRS) member vacancy and 1 ordinary committee member vacancy.

3 nominations were received for PGRS and 2 for ordinary members.

Votes were collected at the AGM and after a count of votes Zahira Latif was elected as the PGRS representative and Louise Laverty as ordinary committee member. Nominations for the ordinary committee member vacancy were Shadreck Mwale and Louise Laverty. Nominations for the Postgraduate Researcher vacancy were Zahira Latif, Victoria Palmer and Rebecca Patterson.

It was suggested that the nomination process is to be reviewed for next year.

The MedSoc committee would like to formally thank Ewen Speed and Sarah Hoare for all their work and commitment during their period on the committee.

6. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness – Trustee's Report delivered by Hilary Thomas

Post Graduate International Conference Travel Grants supported four awards.

Two awards were supported for The Mildred Baxter Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Five applications were awarded for the Symposia and Workshop Support Awards.

More information on the Foundation and the support they provide can be found on their website.

The Foundation has decided to renew the publishing contract with Wiley for the next seven years.

7. Sociology of Health and Illness – Editor's Report delivered by Ian Rees Jones

The journal is now in its fourth year of the editorial team, based in Cardiff, with the Foundation contracting it on a three year basis. There was a large increase in the number of papers submitted since the Cardiff team has taken over. In 2012-2013 529 original and revised papers were submitted and 631 papers until 31 August 2016. All papers are read by Ian Rees Jones and Gareth Thomas firstly, to reject any papers that do not follow the journals guidelines. The next step is for another editor to read the papers and then the 3 members of the team to decide which papers will go for review to the editorial team. As a result of the high increase of paper submissions the journal is now publishing more papers. The acceptance rate as of last year is 20%. The Impact Factor for the journal this year is up to 1.988. The queue from acceptance to print publication currently stands at 8 months. Submissions guidelines and guidance for papers can be found on the Foundation's website. The journal are undertaking a wide range of publicity and marketing activities. The journal is looking at having special/themed issues published. There's work being done on the website and usage of YouTube to promote papers giving the author autonomy on how to promote their papers once published.

8. Cost of Living Blog

The Blog continues to publish every week throughout the year except Christmas week. The blog had 50 publications last year, 19 of which were guest articles and the rest were supplied by the editorial team. They held a combined workshop with Open University, in April, on Digital Health, which was successful. They have received 29,000 page views over the last year, 60% from the UK, 14% from the USA and 10% from Europe and the rest from around the world. It was recorded that 42% of the access was from mobile devices. The most popular blog of last year was 'Saving Helen' by Lesley Henderson. The Cost of Living Blog Team encourages people to submit their papers and the guidelines can be found on the website.

9. Phil Strong Memorial Prize

It was reported that no nominations were received for the Phil Strong Memorial Prize. The committee has confirmed that we will review it. It was also suggested the criteria should be widened in order to accommodate more potential applicants. It was suggested that since there were no applications for this year, the committee should award two for 2017 and the members to raise profile and promote the prize.

10. MedSoc Committee Update

After six years being on the committee Ewen Speed is stepping down as co-convener and is succeeded by Sasha Scambler.

11. Any other business

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at the University of York, during the 49th Annual Conference on Thursday 14th September 2017.

The minutes of the 2016 AGM will be printed into the programme of the 2017 conference.