

# BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY GROUP

## Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 12:45 – 13:45**  
**Lantern Room, Hamish Wood Building, Glasgow Caledonian University**

Fifty members of the BSA Medical Sociology Group attended the meeting. It was chaired by co-convenors Flis Henwood and Sasha Scambler. Elaine Forester was responsible for minute taking.

### 1. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and available to view on pages 151 to 153 in the conference programme, were agreed to be accurate and correct.

### 2. Convenor's Report - This report was delivered by Sasha Scambler.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medical Sociology Conference received 433 abstracts, compared with 377 in 2017, with 225 offered oral presentation slots, and 182 presenting after speaker withdrawals, with 230 presentations at the conference in total including posters, Pecha Kucha's and Special Events. (9 special events including the committee events) In summary the demand for conference continues year on year, with over 300 delegates registered to attend this year. The anonymised scoring of abstracts will continue for the 2019 conference as all of those involved with the conference programme do feel this system of abstract reviewing works extremely well and it has been noted in the conference feedback that the quality of the abstracts improved year on year. The committee maintained the number of funded places again for the 2018 conference, with 17 applications received and 24 places offered, 9 were allocated to students and 8 to unwaged or outside academia delegates. The committee will continue to utilise funds to support members of the group to attend the conference whenever possible. In total 27 funded places have been allocated this year to committee members, BSA Staff and invited speakers down from the 30 in 2017. There continues to be a healthy international interest in the conference with 18% of delegates attending in 2018 from overseas.

#### Conference Innovation

As the Early Career Day in 2017 had low attendance, a radical approach was tried for this year's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. The ECR programme ran parallel to the first day of the main conference allowing those who had registered for the both the conference and the ECR day to alternate their attendance. The success of this will be measured in the post conference survey but as the registered numbers has increased significantly from 18 in 2017 to 74 in 2018 it is likely this format will continue in 2019.

Following on from the success of the plenary panel of speakers which was introduced in the 2017 conference, the committee have decided to add a third plenary in the format of a panel of speakers. This additional plenary will be delivered on the second day of the conference after lunch. Professor Ellen Annandale, Professor Hannah Bradby and Professor Graham Scambler will speak on the subject of "Inequalities". Again, the success of this additional plenary will be determined via the post conference survey and reviewed and the next committee meeting at the end of the year.

The opening plenary was delivered by Professor Lesley Doyal. The closing plenary delivered by Professor Jonathan Gabe, this has been brought forward to the beginning of the last day of the conference to help attendance.

**Report from the 'Medicine, Health and Illness Stream' at the BSA Annual Conference April 2018 from Ewen Speed:** 64 papers were submitted to the stream (a decrease from the 88 in 2017 and slightly up from the 50 in 2016). 29 were offered oral presentations, 4 roundtable and 2 posters. 9 abstract were reserve listed and 9 rejected, with 11 abstracts withdrawn before the conference. The committee would like to thank Judith Green for delivering the Stream Plenary titled 'On Not-Knowing, Ignorance and Health' at Northumbria University. The Stream Plenary speaker for the 2019 conference is Shona Hilton.

**Regional / Special Interest Groups** – The committee are in the process of contacting all of the groups who fall under the umbrella of the main Medical Sociology Group to inform them of the organisational structure and reporting. This structure was included in the AGM slides and will be part of the 2019 conference programme. 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 committee for more information.

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

At the end of the financial year (31<sup>st</sup> December 2016) the BSA audited accounts show a credit balance on the MedSoc account of £95,173 and for the end of the financial year (31<sup>st</sup> December 2017) as small increase to £99,190. Again the funds were utilised in the year so that reserves remain almost the same as planned. The conference fees remained the same as 2017 with registration for the full conference at £295 for a BSA member and £420.00 for a non-member.

Based on current forecasted figures, this year's conference is planned to make a deficit of just under £9,000, compared to a surplus of £9,000 from last year.

#### **4. MedSoc Committee Nominations**

There are 3 committee members leaving at the end of September. The committee would like to thank Donna Bramwell, Sharon Spooner and Zahira Latif for all of their hard work and commitment to the group.

Therefore 3 committee vacancies are available: 1 Postgraduate Researcher (PGRS) member vacancy and 2 ordinary committee member vacancy.

1 nomination was received for PGR role and 4 for ordinary members.

Votes were collected at the AGM and after a count of votes Hillary Collins was allocated the PGR role and Simon Carter and Gareth Thomas as ordinary committee members.

A revised/updated constitution was circulated via the MedSoc mailing, printed copies were available at the AGM, and they can also be viewed online. They have been updated to reflect outdated reference to MedSoc Online etc and to remove the 'The' at the beginning of the Sociology of Health and Illness title. It was proposed that changes be made to the way in which nominations are received for new committee members. These proposed changes were discussed at the 2017 AGM and were to be clarified in the 2017 November meeting. All vacancies were advertised via JISCmail as agreed, however as only 1 nomination was received via the newly proposed system it was decided to revert back to the old way of receiving nomination from those attending the conference. As no mini biographies were available for those attending the AGM to read, all those who had submitted a nomination while attending the conference were asked to stand at the AGM and introduce themselves to the meeting. Voting was then actioned by handing out voting slips to all of the AGM attendees who were current members of the BSA. The results for the vote will be posted in the conference notice board on the morning of the last day of the conference.

#### **5. SHI Editorial Board Nominations**

8 nominations have been received and all applicants' details have been circulated via listserv. Voting closes at 17:00 on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September and the winners will be announced to the conference notice board on the last day of the conference.

#### **6. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness – Chairs Report delivered by Jonathan Gabe**

i) **Trustees.** Prof H Thomas is resigning as Secretary and Trustee from the date of this meeting, along with Prof C. Williams. On behalf of the current Trustees I thank them for their work over previous years. Prof S. Nettleton is taking over as Secretary on 13 September 2018. Prof IR Jones and Prof S Zieband were nominated as Trustees during the year and will commence their appointment on 13 September 2018.

ii) **Contract for Editorial Services with Cardiff University:** The Contract with Cardiff University for the provision of Editorial Services for Sociology of Health and Illness ceases at the end of September 2018, after 6 years. On behalf of the Trustees I thank the editors from Cardiff for their work over this period.

iii) **Contract for Editorial Services with Sussex and Brighton Universities:** The Contract to provide Editorial Services for Sociology of Health and Illness with Sussex and Brighton Universities is in the process of being finalised. The new team starts its first term of three years in October 2018.

#### **iv) Foundation Awards:**

The following awards were made during 2017-2018.

##### **(a) Post Graduate International Conference Travel Grants.**

During the year 26 applications for these awards were received by the Foundation, as against 22 applications during the previous year. Thirteen awards were made against twelve in 2016-17.

##### **(b) Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowships.**

These were advertised twice during the financial year. There were 11 applications across the two rounds and two were awarded, one in the first round and one in the second. One was awarded to Jennifer Remnant of St Andrews University, the other to Charlotte Kuhlbrandt of King's College London.

##### **(c) Symposia & Workshops Support Awards.**

There were 13 applications for these awards during the year (against 15 in 2016-17), and 6 were supported by the Foundation.

##### **(d) Research Grant Development Awards.**

There were eight applications over two rounds (there were 6 in 2016-17). Three awards were made.

**Proposed schedule of awards to be made in 2018-19:** As well as supporting the continuing work of the new editorial team Sussex and Brighton, the Trustees intend to advertise and fund two Mildred Blaxter Fellowships, up to 16 Post-Graduate travel awards (with the maximum value of £800), up to six Symposia/Workshops, and up to four Research Grant Development Awards. Details of how to apply for the awards and closing dates for applications are provided on the Foundation's website.

## **7. Cost of Living Blog**

Continue to publish weekly posts, in past 12 months, site has had 24,000 page views, from approx. 14,000 viewers. The most popular post was one by Carl Walker from University of Brighton on 'Toxic Universities', followed by one from Jen Remnant on 'Compulsory Coupledness'.

For 6 years the BLOG has been operating, they have had 170,000 page views on the site. The most popular post in this time was a blog by Lesley Henderson on 'Domestic Violence in the Archers', followed by a piece on 'Representations of Disabled People', by Sasha Scambler.

The current page rank on Google is 5. The site had visitors from across the world with the majority of readers in the UK and North America. There are now 10 members of the editorial collective. The managing co-editors are Simon Carter and Ewen Speed with Editors Hannah Bradby, Charlie Davison, Judy Green, Lesley Henderson, Jen Remnant, Sasha Scambler, Carl Walker and Catherine Will.

They are always happy to accept guest contributions.

## **8. Phil Strong Memorial Prize**

The 2018 prize received 3 nominations from Maria Jesus Vega Salas, University of Bristol, Kay Polidano, Keele University and Sian Hewitt, University of Leicester. The winner of this year prizes will be announced at the conference dinner. All 3 met the criteria and the applicants names were put into a hat from which the winner was selected.

## **9. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness Book Prize 2018**

5 books were nominated this year with the three short listed books from Amy Chandler, Self-Injury, Medicine and Society: Authentic Bodies. Lynn Tang, Recovery, Mental Health and Inequality and Gareth, M. Thomas, Down 's Syndrome Screening and Reproductive Politics. The winner will be announced at the Conference Dinner.

## **10. MedSoc Committee Update**

After one year being co-convenor Sasha Scambler is stepping down and resuming her previous roll on the committee as ordinary member of for the next two remaining years and is succeeded by Jen Remnant.

## **11. Any other business**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in the Galleria Bar, University of York, during the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM will be printed into the programme of the 2019 conference.