

# Careers in the Sociology of Alcohol in Academia & Beyond

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019, BSA London Meeting Room, 10am-4:30pm

A one-day event for Postgraduate & Early Career Researchers

Are you a Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher interested in finding out more about pursuing an academic career researching alcohol, and alternative alcohol-related career pathways that exist? Then join us to hear about and discuss potential careers with a range of experienced researchers and practitioners.

## PROGRAMME

10-10:30: Registration

10:30-10:45: Welcome and introduction

10:45-11:30: **Negotiating the world of research funding as an early career researcher**

Speakers: Paul Woodgate, Research Funding Adviser (Humanities & Social Science) at the Wellcome Trust, will discuss the funding available for ECRs conducting social science research on alcohol from the Trust, and Deborah Toner, Associate Professor of History at the University of Leicester, will address her early career experiences of applying for and managing AHRC funding for her project 'Consuming Authenticities: Time, Place and the Past in the Construction of "Authentic" Foods and Drinks'.

11:30-1:00: **Academic Careers**

- **Betsy Thom, Professor of Health Policy, Middlesex University, *Hanging on to sociology - just!***

Amid some personal ramblings, Betsy will reflect on the opportunities and challenges of working within medical (largely psychiatric) and public health environments and some of the dilemmas around current 'conflict of interest' issues in the alcohol field. She will also consider gender and 'gendered' ways of working within academia, survival tactics, and the role of serendipity.

- **James Kneale, Senior Lecturer in Geography, University College London, *Careering or careening? Trying (and mostly failing) to do interdisciplinary work in alcohol studies.***

James will discuss the value and difficulties of working across disciplinary boundaries, his mostly-unplanned second career researching drink and temperance, and the problems of working in what can be a bitterly divided field. He will also suggest that while saying 'no' is a vital skill, it can sometimes be worth saying 'yes' to extra work.

- **Thomas Thurnell-Read, Lecturer in Cultural Sociology, Loughborough University**, *Confessions of a 'drinking expert': reflections on engaging the media in alcohol studies research'*

Thomas' contribution will briefly outline how he came to study alcohol, drinking and drunkenness from a sociological perspective and then reflect on his various (and varied) experiences of being interviewed about his research for radio and print media. He will conclude with some advice about how to talk about alcohol research work to non-academic audiences and how to make the most of opportunities for media engagement when they arise.

1-1:45: Lunch

1:45-3:15: **Careers beyond academia**

- **Eric Carlin, Director, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems**, *'Recovering academic?': my experience*

Eric will discuss his experience of working in and around health and social services, including drugs and alcohol; his chequered academic history; his redemptive experience of doing a part-time PhD; his current balancing of academic and research work with advocacy activities related to alcohol and more general social policies; and his perspectives on opportunities for PhD students and early career researchers (and why we need them).

- **Doreen Joy Barber, Community Engagement Lead, Cloudwater Brew Co.**, *On Passion and Pints: What It Takes to Have a Career in Beer*

Doreen will discuss her role at Cloudwater Brew Co. and previous jobs in the UK beer industry after earning her MA. She will talk about the vibrant and at times chaotic industry of craft beer in the UK and in Europe, and what one should expect and some suggestions of what sort of experience to build if looking to work within the beer industry. She will also mention how much Pierre Bourdieu and cultural capital haunt her in her work life.

- **William Haydock, Senior Health Programme Advisor, Public Health Dorset**, *Reflections from an unusual career in local government*

Having done a PhD in sociology, thinking about how people's drinking relates to ideas of gender and class, William now works for a local council as a commissioner of treatment services, making sure there is appropriate support for people who are dependent on alcohol or other drugs. This presentation will offer some reflections on what has been an unusual career path, emphasising that it is OK to make mistakes. These can reveal that the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence and help you work out what you really enjoy.

3:15-4:00: **Roundtable: Publishing from your PhD**

Speakers: Emily Nicholls, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Portsmouth and author of *Negotiating Femininities in the Neoliberal Night-Time Economy: Too Much of a Girl?* (Palgrave Macmillan), and members of the academic careers panel

4-4:30: Concluding remarks

**Registration:** BSA member £5; non-BSA member £10. Registration is now [OPEN](#)  
[www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/alcohol.htm](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/alcohol.htm)