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Co-convenors

Flis Henwood

Jen Remnant

Committee

Kylie Baldwin, Social Programme; Simon Carter, Social Programme/Communications; Hillary Collins, ECR Representative; Catherine Coveney, Programme Committee; Sarah Hoare, Programme Committee (co-lead); Yesmean Khalil, Early Career Researchers

Representative/Phil Strong Memorial Prize; Shadrek Mwale, Programme Committee; Sasha Scambler, Programme Committee (co-lead)/FSHI book prize; Gareth M Thomas, FSHI Book prize (lead); Michelle Webster, Programme Committee/Mentoring.

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

Ewen Speed and Sasha Scambler, BSA Liaison/Medicine, Health & Illness stream convenors for BSA Annual Conference

50th Anniversary Conference

The conference welcomed 320 delegates (compared with 299 in 2017). 260 delegates were from the UK and a further 40 delegates came from a further 20 countries, including a group of 10 delegates from Japan. 433 abstracts were submitted, 225 were accepted. 17 were offered poster presentations. The conference hosted 9 special events in total, comprising: 2 Committee Events (Cost of Living special event and a Convenors Event: 'Later with MedSoc'), and 7 other special events (including a Scottish MedSoc event). Opening and Closing Plenaries were presented by Lesley Doyal and Jon Gabe, respectively and there was an additional Panel Plenary focusing on Inequalities with Ellen Allendale, Hannah Bradbury and Graham Scambler.

17 free places were awarded from the 24 on offer; 9 students and 8 unwaged sociologists attended. The conference continued with the successful mentoring corner with mentees being able to sign up for mentoring both before and during the conference (spaces permitting).

51st Annual Conference

The 51st Annual conference will take place at the University of York, 11-13th Sept 2019. The programme committee are about to meet. Plenary speakers have been confirmed as Amy Chandler and Ruha Benjamin.

Future plans

Centring EDI

We are making an explicit attempt to make our conference and satellite events more accessible, and develop more inclusive environments for medical sociologists. This results, in part, from some negative feedback from our last conference regarding access.

Keeping a history

As part of the 50th anniversary conference, numerous historical documents were collected by colleagues involved in setting up the Medsoc group. The process is underway to create a digital archive of these material. At present we are working through potential copyright issues.

Finances

At the end of the financial year 2016, the BSA audited accounts showed a credit balance on the MedSoc account of £95,173. For the end of the financial year 2017, it was £99,190. Funds were utilised in the year so that reserves remained consistent. Conference fees remained the same for 2018 as 2017 with registration for the full conference at £295 for BSA members and £420.00 for non-members. Based on current forecasted figures, the 2018

conference was planned to make a deficit of just under £9,000, compared to a surplus of £9,000 from last year.

Phil Strong Memorial Award

There were 3 nominations for the Phil Strong award in 2018 and the prize was awarded to Maria Jesus Vega Salas.

Medicine, health and illness stream at BSA Annual Conference 2018 and 2019

2018

- Co-convenors of stream- Ewen Speed and Paul Whybrow.
- 64 abstract submissions, resulting in 29 papers, 4 roundtables and 2 posters.
- 9 papers rejected, 9 on a reserve list and 11 withdrawals.
- Plenary delivered by Judith Green.
- Paul Whybrow stepped down as Co-convenor of the stream and is replaced by Sasha Scambler for 2019 conference.

2019

- Co-convenors of stream- Sasha Scambler and Ewen Speed
- 24 papers and 2 posters
- Rejected, reserve list and withdrawals
- Plenary delivered by Ellen Stewart

Regional Medsoc Groups

MedSoc London

Convenor: Oliver Bonnington

Summary: Medsoc London has not provided an annual report.

Previous report: No contact with BSA for over a year.

MedSoc East Midlands

Convenor: Nicky Hudson

Summary: The East Midlands Medical Sociology Group events and activities are organised and run by a small group of representatives: Nicky Hudson, De Montfort University (lead convenor), Kylie Baldwin, Cathy Herbrand, Andy Northcott and Jess Turner, De Montfort University; Katie Coveney, Loughborough University; Charlotte Overton, Nottingham University.

The group doesn't have a formal membership but approximately 35 people attend each of our seminars. As of the end of 2017, our regularly updated mailing list holds over 67 contacts and our seminars are also shared amongst 20 JISCMail mailing lists and local networks.

The aim of the study group is:

- To facilitate the dissemination of sociological knowledge and to generate debate, networking and collaboration in the East Midlands.

The group has hosted one major seminar in the last 12 months: 'Using STS approaches in Health Improvement Research'.

On Thursday 21st June 2018, in collaboration with the Nottingham University Business School, the East Midlands Medical Sociology Group hosted a conference funded by the

British Sociological Association and The Health Foundation. This conference included a keynote lecture from Dr Catherine Will, Reader in the Sociology of Science and Technology, University of Sussex: 'Thinking practice with care. An exploration of the risks and rewards of practice based approaches to the 'problem' of antibiotics' and two presentations from Alexandra Stelmach, University of Nottingham: 'Making sense of new reproductive risks: metaphors and narratives of foetal programming in interviews with scientists' and Charlotte Overton, University of Nottingham 'Of distribution and drift: the role of everyday technologies in the implementation of care bundles'. Approximately 25 people attended the event. Delegates were a mixture of students, university and NHS researchers and clinicians from across the Midlands. The cost of this event ranged between £5 (Student BSA Members and Non BSA Students), £10 (BSA Members) and £15 (Non BSA Members). Refreshments were provided.

The planning of the next event is underway and is scheduled to take place early summer 2019.

Opening Balance: £316.27

Closing Balance: £252.97

(Information prepared by Jess Turner Jessica.turner@dmu.ac.uk)

MedSoc North East

Convenors: Bethany Bareham, Holly Standing and Rebecca Patterson

Summary: Medsoc North East has not provided an annual report.

Previous report:

MedSoc North West

Convenor: Donna Bramwell

Summary: MedSoc North West has had limited activity over the last year and is in need of additional support from Medical Sociologists in the North West to reinvigorate the group, aid with event organising and establish social media presence (Twitter).

Currently the group has a mailing list of 73 members. The division between BSA members and non-BSA members is unknown.

There have been two informal get togethers for medical sociologists in the North West, hosted at the University of Manchester to discuss and plan events for 2019

No funds were spent by Medsoc North West in 2018.

MedSoc Scotland

Convenors: Shona Hilton, Sara Macdonald and Suzanne Grant

Summary: Scottish Medsoc was established in 2015 and has a current mailing list of 60 members.

The Aims of Study Group 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 Higher Education institutions.

Medsoc Scotland began 2018 with a symposium: 'Health Inequality in Scotland: the Glasgow effect and beyond'.

Scotland, at one time dubbed the sick man of Europe, has always had notoriously poor health. More recent reports suggest that the overall health of the nation is improving, with most Scots living longer and deaths from both lung and heart disease decreasing. However, this good news masks the persistent gaps in health outcomes between those living in the richest and poorest communities. Much of the debate around health inequalities has focused on urban populations and in particular the well-established 'Glasgow effect'.

Symposium speakers included academic and clinical colleagues:

- The social and political determination of health in contemporary Glasgow: Findings from the Scottish Office archive. Professor Chik Collins, University of the West of Scotland.
- Lay perspectives on health inequalities and potential policy responses (and implications for researchers). Dr Katherine Smith, University of Edinburgh.
- GPs at the Deep End: beyond the inverse care law Dr David Blane, University of Glasgow.
- Wealth, prosperity and wellbeing: is there an Aberdeen effect? Dr Chris Yuill, Robert Gordon University
- Health Inequalities: The Highland Context Professor Sandra McRury, University of the Highlands and Islands.

The meeting closed with a panel discussion. It was a useful symposium that highlighted the need to keep health inequality firmly on the Scottish MedSoc agenda.

A special Scottish Interest group event was held at the BSA MedSoc 50th Anniversary conference in Glasgow, funded by the conference. The aim was to show the breadth and reach of Scottish medical sociology and invited contributions from a wide range of colleagues. Contributors included: Rose Barbour, Hannah Bradby, Amy Chandler, Martin Pickersgill, Ewen Speed and Lauren White who all currently work or have worked in Scotland and they were invited to select a research paper with a Scottish pedigree and discuss how the paper had influenced their own work. The format was very successful and provided a lively platform for discussion and a fascinating insight into colleagues' work.

Future plans

- Creation of a Scottish MedSoc executive – meeting scheduled May 2019
- Survey of members to establish training needs, particularly for ECRs and PhD students

No details provided on group spend.

Medsoc South Coast

Convenors: Shadreck Mwale and Chris Allen

Summary: Aims of the group and membership

The group has no formal membership, aiming to raise awareness and use of work in medical sociology within that core community, as well as in cognate areas such as innovation studies, public health, health psychology and health service research along the south east coast of England. Medsoc South Coast do not charge for events, nor gather data on whether those attending are BSA members or not, seeking to have an open approach to membership and encouraging attendance from across universities and beyond. Following the GDPR changes the group has destroyed copies of their mailing list and only advertise via the BSA website, medsocnews jiscmail list and social media, as well as in relevant departments and special interests lists for universities where events are being held.

Summary of activities 2017/8:

Medsoc South Coast ran three workshop events last academic year. The first took place on Friday 10th November 2017 in Southampton, in collaboration with the NIHR CLAHRC Wessex, with a focus on Health and Help Seeking in Social Interactions and Networks. A common theme around the issues raised by antimicrobial resistance helped engage themes across papers from Dr Catherine Will (Sussex), Dr Fiona Stevenson (UCL) and Dr Jaimie Ellis (Southampton).

A second event was postponed due to the UCU strike in February, and eventually took place on 27th June 2018 at the University of Sussex with the title Medical pluralism: fuzzy boundaries and ambivalent careers in the shadow of biomedicine. This focused on contemporary work on complementary and alternative therapies in the social sciences, with Professor Emilie Cloatre (Kent) and Dr Nicola Gale (Birmingham).

A third event took place as scheduled on Friday 13th April 2018 at the University of Sussex, with the title Doing research with people who inject drugs: critical perspectives on ethics, drug effects and harm reduction. The speakers were Professor Roberto Abadie (Nebraska-Lincoln) and Dr Fay Dennis (Goldsmiths).

Planned Activities for 2018/2019

- 11th June 2019- a half day symposium on ethics and genomic medicine in collaboration with the EPPiGEN project will be hosted at BSMS. Speakers include Professor Kate O’Riordan (University of Sussex) Dr Gabrielle Samuel (Kings College London) and Professor Felicity Boardman (University of Warwick).
- A half day event is yet to be confirmed but intends to bring together ECRs in the region.

Financial resources and expenditure.

At the time of compiling this report we have not made any claims for this year. However, it is anticipated that after the 11th of June a sum in the region of £170 for transport and accommodation for Professor Felicity Boardman and transport for Dr Gabrielle Samuel will be claimed. Further costs will also be forthcoming from other future events

MedSoc South West

Convenor: Gayle Letherby

Summary: SouthWest Regional MedSoc Group had one event in the academic year 2017-2018; a day conference for early career researchers. There is nothing confirmed for 2018-2019 but there are plans to organise a day conference focusing on 'Impact' to take place in September 2019.

The group did not provide membership details or financial details.

MedSoc Wales

Convenor: Julie Latchem

Summary: BSA MedSoc Wales was inactive in 2018 with no spend.

The group is planning to organise a session on self-management with good external speakers to re-launch the group and there has been significant interest in a study day on sociological investigation of paediatric care and therapy – dates to be confirmed.

The convenor plans to target social scientists based in Schools of Medicine and Healthcare Sciences for increased membership rather than compete with a well-established medical sociology group on the main campus.

No information was provided on membership numbers. No funds were spent by MedsocWales.

MedSoc West Midlands

Convenor: Geraldine Brady

Summary: No report has been submitted by Medsoc West Midland

Previous report: West Midlands- been established over 20 years; met with newly established medical sociology Interest Group (MSIG) at Univ of Warwick- challenges of being a sociologist in a medical school; joining with the MSIG and the East Midlands MedSoc group to host an event celebrating 50 years of medical sociology in the Midlands

MedSoc Yorkshire

Convenor: Barry Gibson

Summary: The Yorkshire MedSoc group had a very quiet year in 2018 for various reasons. In contrast 2019 has started brightly holding one meeting so far and a second meeting planned for the 28th of June 2019 on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Intersex Health. The group is run by a number of academics from across the region each of whom rotate leadership on events.

The group had a meeting on the 31st of January, masterminded by Dr Kate Weiner and supported by Prof. Barry Gibson seeking to celebrate the Foundation for Sociology of Health and Illness (FSHI) book prize (Link: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/medical-sociology-groups/medical-sociology-medsoc-study-group/prizes/foundation-for-the-sociology-of-health-and-illness-book-prize/>). This prize was awarded at the 50th Anniversary of the British Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Conference in Glasgow Caledonian University in 2018. Two of the three nominees, Dr Gareth Thomas and Dr Amy Chandler, were

available to speak and both delivered fascinating talks about the work leading to their books. The Yorkshire MedSoc group also sought presentations from early career researchers, with two PhD students presenting. Natalie Richardson from the Department of Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield and Penny Ralph from the University of Huddersfield both presented their ongoing research.

It is the Yorkshire way to set a meeting early in the year as a test of endurance for speakers and attendees. As always the weather did not disappoint with speakers and attendees had to brave the snow and resulting disruption! Speakers made it through with slight adjustments to their plans and with slight adjustments to the programme in order to accommodate cancelled trains and allow speakers to head home early in case of further disruption. Having said this Dr Chandler (University of Edinburgh) managed to make it to Yorkshire with minimal disruption (the blizzard was coming from the South to the North). She started the meeting talking about her book on "Self-Injury, Medicine and Society: Authentic Bodies", presenting on the sheer complexity and diversity of such practices whilst questioning 'dualistic interpretations' of these practices and offering a much more 'nuanced' and 'embodied' response. After braving his way through horizontal snow and cancelled trains Dr Gareth Thomas (University of Cardiff) arrived and gave a talk about his book "Down's Syndrome Screening and Reproductive Politics". His talk was also fascinating as he introduced how he had experienced conducting his ethnographic work in the clinic where prenatal screening was 'normalised' in to 'routinised' daily activities.

After Gareth's presentation Natalie Richardson (University of Sheffield) presented her ongoing work exploring how palliative care workers manage witnessing suffering in their professional work. Her particular focus on this presentation was on how touch enabled professionals to manage the various boundaries of work in the hospice setting. After this talk Penny Ralph (University of Huddersfield) finished the meeting with a presentation and discussion into her PhD research on how sexual concerns are handled as an often neglected aspect of occupational therapy.

At the time of writing Medsoc Yorkshire have just planned their next meeting which will be held in the University of Huddersfield on the subject of "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Intersex Health" on the 28th of June 2019 between the times of 1.00-6.00pm. This meeting is being organised by Dr Surya Monro and will focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health issues.

The group has also been invited to deliver a special event at the 51st Annual Medical Sociological Conference which is in York. This is intended to replicate the success of the Scottish Special Event run in Glasgow at the 2018 conference.

[Special interest Medsoc Groups](#)

[MedSoc ECR](#)

Convenors: Yesmean Khalil and Hillary Collins

Summary: The 6th annual MedSoc ECR event took place in 2018 on the first day of the 50th BSA Medsoc Annual Conference and was well attended. 74 delegates signed up as having an interest in this. The event was integrated into the conference more widely to much success, and will be replicated for the 2019 conference. In view of the competitive and

precarious employment environment faced by ECRs, the 2018 programme centred on four key issues:

- Making research impact and raising your profile in academia and beyond
- Getting published and developing a publication strategy
- Applying for a lectureship post and
- Self-care and wellbeing.

The event was an opportunity for delegates:

- To explore issues affecting PG students/ECRs in medical sociology and applied health research.
- To explore ways of progressing careers/doctoral studies while maintaining wellbeing.
- To build connections with other medical sociologists and applied health researchers.

MedSoc Environment & Health

Convenor: Nick Fox (standing down as of 2019), Sara MacBride-Stewart, Richard Compton (interim)

Summary: The Environment and Health group had some successes in 2018-19. Including, for the first time there, a stream at the 50th Anniversary Medsoc Conference in September. This stream is expected to continue depending on submissions.

The group convenors also edited a special issue of *Health* – available [here](#).

Nick Fox has been an active co-convenor but has decided to stand down. The group is in need of further members/convenors to reinvigorate the group.

No information has been provided regarding group membership or group spend.

Deconstructing Donation

Convenor: Laura Machin (on research sabbatical)

Summary: No report has been submitted by the Deconstructing Donation special interest group.

Previous report: 109 members in mailing list; 3rd annual conference in December 2017- the sociology of donation theme at this conference led to special themed section in Sociology of Health and Illness.

Sociology of Mental Health

Convenors: Ewen Speed, Richard Moth and Andrew Fugard.

Summary: BSA Sociology of Mental Health Study Group Annual Report 03 May 2019. The group's aims are to:

- Heighten the profile of study in the area of sociology of mental health;
- Provide a forum for the communication and discussion of work being carried out in the area;
- Facilitate networking and information-sharing between those working within or having an interest in the sociology of mental health;
- Provide a forum of support for those interested in studying mental health and distress from a sociological perspective;
- Provide a core of expertise in the area of sociology of mental health.

Events:

The Group organised an event entitled 'Building alliances: Mental health activism and the academy', with a number of prominent MH activists speaking. This marked the re-launch of the study group. This event took place in October 2018. It was held at Birkbeck in London and was over-subscribed. There were a number of positive outcomes of the day and the convenors have continued to work on building alliances with other groups in the field.

Membership and networking:

In March 2017 the Study Group co-convenors set up a BSA Sociology of Mental Health JISCMail list (SOCMH@jjiscmail.ac.uk) in order to develop more effective communication with Study Group members.

Future activities:

In Feb 2019 the convenors were approached by Professor Nik Rose and Professor Nick Manning (both Kings College, London) who were interested in aligning their sociology of mental health research group with the BSA study group. There are plans for the KCL group to submit a number of papers for the annual conference in York, as well as planning a stand-alone 'sociology of mental health' research workshop, sponsored by the study group and KCL, to be hosted in London in Summer 2019.

Ethnic and Religious Minorities Health

Convenor: Zahira Latif

Summary: No report has been submitted by the Ethnic and Religious Minorities special interest group. This is a new group, having been established late 2018.

Previous report: N/A

Applied Qualitative Health Research

This group is no longer active.

Cost of Living Blog

Editors: Simon Carter and Ewen Speed

Summary: The 'Cost of Living' blog has been operating for 6 years and during this time it has published an article every week except for short breaks during Christmas and Easter. Every article published is peer appraised by two editors. Over this period, there have been 170,000 pageviews (54% UK, 15% USA, Europe 11%, Rest worldwide). Over the last year there have been 23,000 pageviews of our articles.

The majority of our articles are written by the Editorial Collective (Ewen Speed, Simon Carter, Hannah Bradby, Charlie Davison, Judy Green, Lesley Henderson, Chris Till, Jen Remnant, Sasha Scambler, and Carl Walker).

About 25% of our articles are from guest authors. We welcome post from guest authors and have a policy of aiding authors to develop their work for publication on the blog.

The blog is an engagement blog to bring sociological analysis and understanding to a wider audience. Over the last few years our authors have been contacted by the Financial Times and the Guardian as a result of blog articles.

One of our authors (Lesley Henderson) was invited to site on a European Union working group as a result of an article published on the blog.

Report Summary

The Medical Sociology Study Group committee would like to thank the regional and special interest groups for sending on their individual annual reports, which have been collated here. The committee experienced difficulty in collecting the reports, sending round numerous emails and delaying the deadline by over a month. It is the hope that the committee can develop stronger connections with regional and special interest groups to better support convenors to get their reports sent in in a timely manner.