



## **BSA Pre-Conference Day 2020**

09:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-11:00	Joint Introduction: Ask an ECR
11:00-13:00	Morning break off groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>PGF – Successful PhD Balance: Managing Self, PhD and Life</i></li><li>• <i>ECF – Navigating Funding as an ECR: Barriers and Opportunities</i></li></ul>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH and networking
14:00-15:30	Afternoon break off groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>PGF – PhD Presentations – Building Confidence in Presenting Research</i></li><li>• <i>ECF - Teaching session A (with a focus upon ECR's issues) – Teaching in Higher Education as an ECR: Pitfalls and Possibilities?</i></li></ul>
15:30-16:00	Comfort break
16.00 – 17.00	Blurred Lines & Teaching as a PGR: Boundaries and Barriers
17:00-17:30	Joint Conclusion: PG to EC: Building Bridges

### **Initial Group Session**

#### **Joint Introduction: Ask an ECR**

Our joint opening session will allow the PG and ECR members to come together and address issues relating to Postgraduate and Post-Doctoral life. In past PGF events many delegates have expressed confusion between what many institutions and industry roles would require more than a PhD. It became clear that what was being pushed through supervisors may not relate entirely to what employers expect. With increasing numbers of PGs teaching, publishing taking on side projects we need to understand what sets us apart. We begin the day by opening the floor to delegates providing them with an opportunity to put themes, issues, questions or comments of interest to the ECR panel for consideration and comment. Delegates are welcomed to share themes and issues that they will to explore throughout the day through the thematic sessions on offer.

### **Morning Break Out Session's**

PGF

- 1) Successful PhD Balance – Managing self, PhD and Life

In this session we are aiming to work with someone from the *Fistral* company or an academic (current or past) to give advice to PGR's on balancing life as a postgraduate student. Many of our past delegates have expressed what is an almost collective experience in trying to have a life outside of the

PhD. This session will focus on valuable techniques and strategies that delegates can adopt to work around the PhD lifestyle. These themes may include:

- ✓ What is *important*?
- ✓ What is balance?
- ✓ How to strategize time management.
- ✓ What does effective balance look like?
- ✓ Family, relationships and children alongside PhD could also be a topic of interest to some delegates.
- ✓ Time will be given for a Q&A

ECF

#### 1) Navigating Funding as an ECR: Barriers and Opportunities

This workshop is open to early career researchers and postgraduate students with an interest in understanding how social science funding for sociological projects work within UKHE. Key questions and themes that this event will aim to address in a critical yet supportive, practical way include:

- What is ‘funding’, what drives it and why bother?
- What funding exists and where for early career researchers?
- How do I take a research idea from initial conception to full research proposal?
- Interdisciplinary proposals: The perils and possibilities
- Money, money, money: On the danger of chasing bids
- You are not your proposal: Learning from ‘unsuccessful’ proposals

### **Afternoon Break Out Session’s**

PGF

#### 2) PhD Presentations – Building Confidence in Presenting Research

This session will be used to give PGR delegates (and ECR’s if they feel the session would be beneficial) a platform to present on their research, research ideas and any papers they are working on/published. The aim of this session is to work with each other to advise and build confidence in presenting research. As the BSA’s Annual Conference can be a daunting space for many PGRs to consider and present research we felt it a positive use of the time and space to work with delegates in building essential skills. We may also look to bring in a speaker to give a short session prior to these presentations and advise post-presentation. These will be a maximum of 5 minutes.

ECF

#### 2) Teaching in Higher Education as an ECR: Pitfalls and Possibilities?

Given the dearth of academic job doctoral and early career researchers are under increasing pressure to equip themselves with the skills that employment within the academy demands. Much of the discourse surrounding postdoctoral employment focuses upon the demands of publishing, the ability to demonstrate a future research alongside the capacity to win funding. Teaching is all too often considered a side-line activity within the academy with the Research Excellence Framework somewhat enforcing this. At the same time, many early career scholars get jobs that are entirely teaching-focused and thus have little opportunity to develop their career through publications and research projects. This workshop centres teaching as both an academic passion and skill to be considered and honed as part of the doctoral and postdoctoral experience and, at the same time, as something that early careers scholars get disproportionately assigned resulting in lack of time and possibility to progress into a lectureship. This

session will discuss the pitfalls and possibilities of teaching in UKHE as a postdoctoral early career researcher and what can be done to best balance teaching and research in the early stages of our careers.

### **Joint Group Session:**

#### **Blurred Lines & Teaching as a PGR: Boundaries and Barriers**

In this session, the PG Forum and ECF will come together to discuss boundaries and barriers in teaching in HE. We will be sharing experiences of teaching as PhD students and early career academics and addressing issues of unpaid labour, the importance of teaching versus focus on research and how important teaching during your PhD/early career actually is in order to secure a lectureship in the future

### **Final Group Session**

#### **PG to EC: Building Bridges**

The event will be drawn to a close by reflecting upon the key issues of the day. While many may perceive ECR-dom to be far out of reach, they are most likely to relate to the struggles faced by PGRs. To close the day we want to bring the Forums together and explore ways in which we can continue to interlink on issues faced on both sides of the academy.