

BSA Sociology of Alcohol Study Group Annual Report (2020/2021)

Name: Sociology of Alcohol Study Group

Established: July 2011

Number of members: We currently have 106 people registered with the Jiscmail list, 19 of these are BSA Members and 87 are Non BSA Members

Income: On the 1st January 2021 we started with a study group account balance of £1626.62; on the 31st March 2022 our account balance was £1,666.92 Costs were incurred from subsidising four Non BSA members, who were early career researchers or people outside of academia, to attend our events, but a small profit was made from Non BSA members who paid to attend the event in 2021.

Key aims of the Sociology of Alcohol Study Group include:

- To support and promote the emergent subject field of sociology of alcohol and related fields
- To support researchers in the sociology of alcohol and related fields
- To support the aims of the BSA

Review of the year:

- In December 2019 Kat Jackson joined the group as co-convenor when Laura Fenton stepped down.
- Claire Markham regularly maintains the study group Twitter account which has 1,446 followers. This helps to maintain the profile of the study group, and links with other BSA study groups.
- Kat Jackson oversees the Jiscmail list and circulates relevant messages when received.
- The convenors organised a half day online event on 17th September 2020 called **Alcohol Transitions: Past, Present and Post- Pandemic**. A call for abstracts was circulated and three abstracts were received, all presented at the event. Twenty-one people registered to attend. The presentations were as follows:
 - 1.) **The Use of Drinking as a Collective Representation of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Ireland, Dr John O'Brien, Sociology, Waterford Institute of Technology**
 - 2.) **“I want my alcohol to be consumed outside the home, which is difficult now”: Understanding drinking transitions and altered drinking spaces since the COVID-19 lockdown in the UK, Dr Emily Nicholls, Sociology, University of Portsmouth and Dr Dominic Conroy, Psychology, University of East London**
 - 3.) **Changes in patterns of alcohol consumption during COVID-19 lockdown and how this impacted on people with and without mental health conditions, Dr Emma L Davies, Psychology, Oxford Brookes University**
- In 2021 the convenors organised another half-day online event on 15th September 2021 called **‘Thinking critically about lived experience of alcohol in social science research and teaching’**. A call for abstracts was circulated and six abstracts were

received, five people were able to present on the day. Twenty people registered to attend and the presentations were as follows:

- 1) **“Tell me about your drinking...?” Pints, Personal Stories and Positionality in Alcohol Research, Dr Emily Nicholls, Lecturer, University of York**
- 2) **Lubricating the field: reflections on wine, emotion, and the research process, Zara Babakordi, ESRC PhD student, Newcastle University**
- 3) **Alcohol – The Friendly Foe, Diane Goslar, Expert by experience**
- 4) **Whose harm is it anyway? Representativeness of lived experience voices in the context of alcohol use and policy, Dr James Morris, Centre for Addictive Behaviours Research Fellow, London South Bank University**
- 5) **The Personal is Pedagogical? Using lived experience and vulnerability in teaching settings, Dr Sharon Greenwood, Lecturer, University of Glasgow**

The presentations from this event are currently available on the BSA web page.

- Convenors Dr Claire Markham and Dr Samantha Wilkinson recently published a book chapter alongside Dr Laura Fenton titled: ‘Bright Lights, No City: Investigating Young People’s Suburban and Rural Drinkscape’. This was published in the edited book by David Farrugia and Signe Ravn (2022), titled: *Youth Beyond the City: Thinking from the Margins*’ Bristol University Press: Bristol. pp. 116-134.

Concluding remarks:

We are pleased to have been able to run two successful events during the pandemic period. An ambition of the current convenors is to make the group as accessible as possible to early career researchers, people with lived experience of heavy alcohol use and people working outside academia. We were happy to have a PhD student and an expert by experience presenting at our 2021 event and we provided them with additional support before the events. Moreover, the backgrounds of attendees, who included academics and people with lived experience, highlighted the breadth of people that the study group appeals to. We are currently considering opportunities for a face-to face event in 2023 or 2024.

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