

## **BSA Families and Relationships Study Group**

### **2022/23: Report**

#### **Convenors:**

Dr Julie Walsh, University of Sheffield, [j.c.walsh@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.walsh@sheffield.ac.uk)

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Dr Laura Way, Lincoln University, [LWay@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:LWay@lincoln.ac.uk)

Maternity leave - Dr Julia Carter, University of West England, [Julia.Carter@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Julia.Carter@uwe.ac.uk)

#### **Study Group Membership:**

- According to the JISCMail list we currently have 415 members (as of May 2023).
- Julie Walsh attended the Study Group Convenors Meeting in November 2022
- The FaR Twitter account, @BSA\_FARGroup, which advertises group activities and member interests continues to grow where we now have 645 followers. We found this a really effective tool for raising awareness of group activities, events, and the Families and Relationships stream during the BSA conference, and will continue to grow our audience on this forum in the coming year.

#### **Changes in Co-convenorship & Committee Membership:**

- After the usual period of four years, in 2022/23 Katherine Twamley and Charlotte Faircloth stood down from the co-convenorship role. After a call for expressions of interest, Leah Gilman and Shuang Qiu joined the team and, when Julia Carter started a period of maternity leave in March 2023, Laura Way came on board. This is with a view to Julie Walsh leaving the role in the autumn.

#### **Study group activities:**

- BSA Annual Conference 2023: As usual, we have been stream co-ordinators for the BSA Families and Relationships stream at the BSA Annual Conference, sorting approx. 66 abstracts and allocating them into panels. The conference was in person for this first time since the pandemic, and a big success. Panels were chaired by volunteers, which was a great experience, and there was good feedback from audiences about the quality of papers presented and the ways in which they had been organised. Members also responded well to the plenary speaker - Professor Katharine Charsley – from the University of Southern Bristol, who spoke about: *'Kept apart: Couples and families separated by the UK's family immigration system'*.
- Last year, we piloted a continued to run an online FaR reading group. The group was popular, and members asked for the frequency to be reduced to one every six weeks, and for session to be held at an accessible time for those with childcare responsibilities. So far, we have held four sessions this years and feedback has continued to be positive.
- In May 2023, we held an online 'BSA Families, Relationships and the Environment Webinar'. The keynote speaker was Dr Catherine Walker from Newcastle University, with Professor Lynn Jamieson (University of Edinburgh) arranged as the discussant. A call for papers was distributed, asking people to present their 'ideas in development' related to the topic and a good deal of interest was generated, and 10 scholars presented their work. The event was a great success and received positive feedback, with 25 people attending the event.

#### **Future plans:**

- At the conference we held a Study Group Lunch and discussed what we have been doing in the previous year and what members would like the group to do in the coming year. Feedback was positive and members commented on the ways in which activities, particularly the reading group, had supported and developed networking opportunities. Suggestions to continue you this in the future included: developing a buddy scheme to support academic writing and mentorship; exploring working together to submit a BSA ECR grant application; continuing the reading group and considering submitting a themed section proposal. It was agreed that we will hold a planning meeting at the start of the 2023/24 academic year.

**Financial Situation:**

- In our most recent statement, the study group had £403.63 in the budget.