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Co-convenors

Jo Hope (FSHI book prize)

Gareth Thomas (FSHI book prize lead)

Committee

Hazel Marzetti (ECR, Phil Strong Memorial Prize)

Catherine Coveney (Mentoring, FSHI book prize)

Simon Carter (Programme Committee Lead, Social programme)

Victoria Cluley (Social Media, Programme Committee)

Hilllary Collins (EDI, Programme Committee)

Sonali Shah (EDI, Social programme)

Julia Swallow (Mentoring, FSHI book prize)

Amelia Talbot (ECR, Sandpit event, Phil Strong Memorial Prize)

Maria Jesus Vega Salas (Programme Committee)

Rose Watson (Sandpit event, Programme Committee)

Chris Elsey

Kylie Baldwin (on maternity leave)

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

Jen Remnant

Sarah Hoare

54th Annual Conference

This was our first in-person conference after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was held at Lancaster University . In keeping with our commitment to EDI we trialled a hybrid format for this conference, hiring technicians to run each stream synchronously online and in person. We welcomed 240 in person delegates and 22 (36 registered) online attendees. 212 delegates were from the UK and a further 28 delegates came from a further 14 countries. 206 abstracts were submitted and 183 were accepted. The conference hosted 2 special events in total, comprising 1 Committee Events (Cost of Living special event), and 1 titled 'Race to Recruit' . We had 21 free places taken up. While overall evaluations for the conference were good, there were a number of issues with the venue's management of the event, including errors in assigning rooms and organising meals and a lack of support for technical and other issues during the conference. BSA staff were successful in negotiating a reduction in the fees charged in recognition of their errors.

Opening and closing plenary speakers were Professor Janice McLaughlin and Dr Ruth Pearce.

55th Annual Conference

The 55th Annual conference will take place at the University of Sussex in Brighton on 13th-15th September 2023. The final decisions have been made on abstracts and special events, and a reserve list has been created. An ECR event is planned, as well as a Sandpit networking event. We are offering online content for one month at a nominal fee for people unable to attend the conference this year. This will include all sessions where speakers give permission to be filmed, using the Panopto system used by the University of Sussex. This content will also be made available to those who attend the conference in person. Videos will be edited by an external contractor and this cost will be covered by Wellcome's contribution towards networking and hybrid content. Plenary speakers have been confirmed as Professor Alison Pilnick and Dr Ros Williams.

Future plans

We continue to explore what is feasible in terms of hybrid content for the conference, attempting to balance cost with demand and quality. This year we are trialling a new approach using existing software and venue capacities and we will consider the uptake and evaluation of this approach in planning next year's conference.

We have thought more about succession and passing expertise forward this year, encouraging people to be involved in their roles for a couple of years where possible so that there is overlap in the roles allowing key information to be passed on. We are also attempting to document the role requirements in more detail when it is not possible to maintain continuity. We have noted, as have other study co-convenors, that it is difficult to find people to volunteer for roles and we have had members of the committee step down early due to workload and other commitments. We have therefore expanded the membership of the committee to reduce the overall workload on each member, given the intense workload demands in the university and allied sectors.

We are also exploring whether our mentoring scheme could be amended in line with the less labour-intensive approach taken in the BSA-wide scheme, or whether the schemes might be combined in the future.

Finances

The hybrid event support cost £15,120.00, but due to claiming a partial refund from University of Lancaster plus, the additional Wellcome funding of £5,087.00 the actual cost to the group finances was £6,200.00

Phil Strong Memorial Award

We had two applicants (University of Sheffield and University of Cambridge). We had one winner as the other didn't comply with the prize T&C.

The winner was Siyi Wang and was awarded £1200.

She has been granted an extension recently to use the 2022 funds until later this year.

Medicine, health and illness stream at BSA Annual Conference 2022 and 2023

2022

- Co-convenors of stream- Sasha Scambler and Flis Henwood
- 37 submitted which was 7% of the conference programme
- 5 rejected, 4 reserve list and 0 withdrawals 28 papers presented
- Plenary delivered by Ellen Stewart

2023

Sociology of Health and Illness stream BSA annual conference

1. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness – Chairs Report delivered by Ellen Annandale

Foundation Awards: The following awards were made during 2021-2022.

(a) Post Graduate / Early Career International Conference Travel Grants. 10 available and 5 awarded

(b) Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowships. 5 available and 4 awarded

(c) Symposia & Workshops Support Awards. 6 available and 6 awarded

(d) Research Grant Development Awards. 4 available and 3 awarded

There are currently 8 trustees out of a maximum of 10, their names and roles are:-

Professor Ellen Annandale (chair)

Professor Rose Barbour (treasurer)

Dr Jenny Douglas

Professor Judith Green

Professor Stephani Hatch

Professor Ewen Speed

Professor Justin Waring (secretary)

Professor Sue Ziebland

Please help to promote the awards and spread the word.

The website will be undergoing a refresh very soon and is planned to be ready in the next few months so please visit and help spread the word about the foundation awards.

Regional Medsoc Groups

MedSoc London

Membership: Our activities are advertised amongst an informal mailing list of over 20 seminar attendees or others who have contacted us asking to be informed of future events. We also advertise our events on various mailing lists and social media. The group is open to BSA members and non-members. As all of our events are free to attend, we do not collect details on BSA membership.

Events: Since re-launching the MedSoc London group in 2022, our focus has been on contributing to the creation of a strong community of medical sociologists in London (and beyond). In doing so we have also taken 'community' as a point of focus of a series of seminars organised in central London locations. This has included the following presentations:

- 15th December 2022

Propositions on how to change a medical monolith: revitalising the commons with everyday activism.
Hannah Cowan, Kings College London.

- 4th April 2023

Walking beyond the gate: Places of people who use drugs and experience homelessness in Tower Hamlets.
Praveena K. Fernes, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

- 1st May 2023

Researching psychosocial disability: navigating questions of care and ethics as a disabled researcher. Akriti Mehta, London School of Economics and Political Science.

- 21st June 2023

Something to Cry About?: exploring gendered social support in weight-loss groups and its relevance to inequalities in care driven by governance of the 'obesity crisis'. Oli Williams, Kings College London.

Future plans: We plan on continuing to grow the regional group over the coming year, including through continuing our successful seminar series. Fay Dennis will be on maternity leave from Summer 2023 and for that period Tom Witney will be covering her role.

Expenditure: No events required expenditure

Balance: £0

Convenors: Emily Nicholls (emily.nicholls@ucl.ac.uk) and Fay Dennis (currently on maternity leave).

MedSoc East Midlands

Group to remain open. Nothing to report at this time due to the effects of the UCU strikes. Planning is currently underway for an upcoming event 2023/24.

MedSoc North East

No update provided

MedSoc North West

No update provided

MedSoc Scotland

No update provided

MedSoc South Coast

Convenors: Jo Hope & Shadreck Mwale

There has been no activity and no expenditure in this group this year. The current co-convenors will be seeking support from the BSA to find new co-convenors for this group going forward.

MedSoc South West

Name: South West Regional Medical Sociology Group

Established: Unknown (current convenor (GL) involved since early 2000s)

Number of members: 42 active members currently, approximately 20 of these are BSA members.

Income balance: £680.50 (as of 31.12.22)

Aims:

- to bring together sociologists and others interested in the sociology of health and illness/medical sociology (including post-graduates and early career researchers)
- to reflect on substantive, theoretical and methodology issues in the area of the sociology of health and illness/medical sociology
- to run events – including seminars and conferences – focusing on the sociology of health/medical sociology for colleagues in the South West region and beyond

Review of the year:

- Professor Gayle Letherby and Dr Tracey Collett continue as convenors of the group.
- The study group organised an online conference on 4th February 2022 (9.00am- 5.00pm ONLINE): **Health and Illness Interactions.**

The programme was as follows:

9.00-9.10 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Tracey Collett and Gayle Letherby

9.10-9.50 Mia Alexander, Dawn Swancutt, Ross Watkins, Rod Sheaff, Jenny Lloyd, Lorna Burns, Jonathan Pinkney, Mark Tarrant (presented by Mia Alexander, University of Exeter) *'Having jumped through all the hoops with the odd back flip thrown in', the online portrayal of lived experiences of specialist weight management programmes.*

Chair: Tracey Collett

9.50– 10.30 Tanisha Spratt (University of Greenwich) *Re-thinking Notions of Empowerment, Agency and Personal Responsibility Amongst UK GPs in Contemporary Obesity Discourse*

Chair: Tracey Collett

10.30-11.10 Sarah D. Adomah (The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust) **TBC**

Chair: Tracey Collett

11.30-12.10 Harriet Marks (University of Plymouth) *You're Fine, Try Harder: Gluten Free Interactions*

Chair: Gayle Letherby

12.10-12.50 Louise Owusu-Kwarteng (University of Greenwich) *Taking the Proverbial – an auto/biographical reflection of being diagnosed AND LIVING with Thrombocytopenia Purpura (TTP)*

Chair Gayle Letherby

12.50-13.30 Kerry Gilbert (University of Exeter) *Listening to learn: Using audio discussions to understand student journeys towards self-efficacy in learning*

Chair Gayle Letherby

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14.00-14.40 Jennifer Patterson (University of Greenwich) *INTO THE WILD: Uncertainty and sustainable Human-Environment interaction*

Chair: Kerry Gilbert

14.40-15.20 Alina Beltechi (University of Plymouth) *Student and staff perspective on university provision for mental health support*

Chair: Kerry Gilbert

15.30-16.10 Sara McKelvie (University of Oxford) *Clinical Decision Making in Uncertainty; An Ethnography of a Complex Intervention in the Ambulatory Emergency Care setting*

Chair: Louise Owusu-Kwarteng

16.10-16.50 Tracey Collett and Gayle Letherby (University of Plymouth)

Who do you think you are? Work, identity, expertise and insults

Chair: Louise Owusu-Kwarteng

16.50-17.00 THANKS and CLOSE Tracey Collett and Gayle Letherby

- Following this we were approached *Frontiers in Sociology* to edit a special edition of the journal (on Health and Illness Interactions). This is proceeding and is edited by Tracey Collett, Gayle Letherby, Louise Owusu-Kwarteng, Tanisha Spratt.

On the 3rd April 2023 we organised a conference entitled 'Health and Illness Action and Agency: substantive, methodological and pedagogic concerns'. Nine papers were presented. We will write more on this in our 2023 report.

Concluding remarks:

- We are pleased to have a inter-disciplinary membership including people at all stages of their academic careers and aim to continue to grow our membership. We are finding that the mixture of face-to-face and zoom meetings is encouraging this.
- Following the success of our day conference in April and in discussion with active members we are planning an event focusing specifically on creative approaches to studying and re/presenting medical sociology. We hope to run this in the academic year 2023-2024. We also hope to run an online seminar in this period (theme to be decided).

Convenor contact details:

Professor Gayle Letherby and Dr Tracey Collett

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MedSoc Wales

No update provided

MedSoc West Midlands

No update provided

MedSoc Yorkshire

No update provided

Special interest Medsoc Groups

MedSoc ECR

Convenors: Amelia Talbot and Hazel Marzetti.

The ECR group are organising a pre-conference event, during conference lunch and sandpit event room.

MedSoc Environment & Health

No update provided

Deconstructing Donation

Membership

The Group's mailing list has a total of one hundred and thirty six active members. Membership consists of approximately; 35 based internationally, with the remaining members based at UK institutions; and 8 members based within NHS settings, 6 based within third sector organisations, with the remaining members based at academic institutions. The members range from doctoral students, senior academics, and those working with donor-related and donation-focused organisations.

Aims

The aims of the group are to foster sociological exploration of the notion of 'donation', and to initiate inter- and multi- disciplinary dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the field of donation.

Previous activities

- Conferences
A conference took place on 27th June 2016 at Lancaster University. Three guest speakers presented at the conference, including the artist from the Museum of Water discussing the donation to body fluids to art projects and Reverend Cannon Dr Paul Denby discussing the award for organ donation. Thanks to additional funding from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the call for abstracts was extended to incorporate additional themes: cultural influences, transplantation, risk, and quality.

At the 2016 conference, delegates discussed the possibility of 'hosting' the Deconstructing Donation Conference at different Universities in order to capture researchers at different locations in the country who might be unable to travel to Lancaster University for various reasons. As a result, Dr Maria Fannin from Bristol University agreed to host a Deconstructing Donation

conference on 7th December 2017. Professor Annelien Bredenoord, Department of Medical Humanities, UMC Utrecht, agreed to act as the plenary speaker for this conference. The theme of the conference was the Future of Donation.

A conference was planned to be held in London in Summer of 2020. This was cancelled due to covid restrictions.

- A special event at BSA MedSoc Conference
An application to BSA Annual Conference 2020 was submitted by Petra Nordqvist, Jessie Cooper, Leah Gilman, Katie Coveney and Laura Machin for a panel session to take place on the theme Bodies and Donation. However due to covid restrictions the event was cancelled.

- Invited Publications

Sociology of Health and Illness Special Issue: Following a proposal by Beck Dimond, Lucy Frith and Laura Machin to Sociology of Health and Illness Journal in July 2015, a themed section within the journal focusing on the sociology of donation was published in 2018. We wish to thank Louise Locock et al, Julie Kent et al, and Rhonda Shaw for accepting our invitation to submit papers to be included in the themed section.

Sociology Compass: Following a proposal submitted by Laura Machin, Lucy Frith and Richard Williams to Sociology Compass, a paper was published in 2020 that advances the case for a 'sociology of donation'. The paper critically discusses how a sociology of donation can be used to further current understandings of 'donation' and identify the challenges facing such a proposal, as well as exploring what a sociology of donation might entail.

Future activities

- Conference
Dr Jessie Cooper has agreed to host the Deconstructing Donation Conference at City, University of London on 8th December 2023. Professor Rosamund Scott, The Dickson Poon School of Law has agreed to act as the plenary speaker for this conference.
- New Group Convenors

Dr Laura Machin intends to step down from convening the group in 23/24 and new convenor/s for the Group are being sought.

Group Budget

As of 31st December 2022, the account balance for the Medical Sociology (Deconstructing Donation) study group was £1,217.17.

Current Convenor Contact Details

Dr Laura Machin, Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics, Lancaster University

l.machin@lancaster.ac.uk / 01524 594 973

Sociology of Mental Health

Co-convenors:

Ewen Speed

Baptiste Brossard

BSA mental health study group report

During the academic year 2022/2023 the mental health study group welcomed Baptiste Brossard as a new co-convenor with Ewen Speed. It resumed activity through the organisation of a monthly online seminar. The website has been updated accordingly and the JISC mailing list now includes 113 attendees, but not all of this number were BSA members - seminar attendees will be invited to register but the seminar will remain open to everyone. A special event will be organised as the BSA medsoc conference in Brighton to increase the visibility and foster the dynamic of the group, and the online seminar will be continued in 2023/2024.

Ethnic and Religious Minorities Health

Convenor:

Summary:

Applied Qualitative Health Research

This group is no longer active.

Cost of Living Blog

1. Editors: Cost of Living Blog

Cost of Living Blog update provided by Ewen Speed and Simon Carter

All in good form with lots of submissions and lots of output As it's been 3 years since the last report in person received 35,000 views in the last 12 months so very healthy indeed. The twitter account is still active and mainly used to re-tweet the blog content / articles. Thanks

go to the MedSoc committee for the financial support to help with the year cost of running the blog.

The managing co-editors are Simon Carter and Ewen Speed with Editors Hannah Bradby, Charlie Davison, Judy Green, Lesley Henderson, Jen Remnant, Sasha Scambler, Christopher Till and Carl Walker.

They are always happy to accept guest contributions.