

BSA Applied Sociology Special Interest Group (ASG) report

March 2024

1. Membership

As of 13 February 2024, there are 324 registered members of the Group, remaining steady since 2021.

2. Convenors

Katie Powell, Nick J Fox. Katie is lead convenor as of February 2024, with Nick taking responsibility for the Appsoc web site.

3. ASG Podcasts

These were launched in 2022, in collaboration with Sunny Gunessee (a sociology teacher in the south of England). The appsoc.org.uk website now hosts a series of 40 podcasts, featuring interviews with sociology alumni in a wide range of occupations other than academia.

We hope to host Sunny's next series, which are panel discussions on a range of sociological topics.

4. Collaboration with sister organisations

The ASG has links to similar organisations in the US, Canada, South Africa and Australia, to the US social enterprise *Applied Worldwide* and to the initiative *Sociology North*.

5. Talks and publications

- An ASG special event at the BSA annual conference 2023 featured a wide-ranging interview with Sunny Gunessee on the topic of applied sociology careers.
- A commentary entitled 'How can sociologists better support public health practice?' with Katie Powell as lead author will shortly be published in *Perspectives in Public Health*. This was a spin-off publication from an April 2022 Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness seminar run by Katie and including input from ASG.

6. Future Plans

- A survey of ASG members to be conducted in 2024 will seek more information about the profile of applied sociologists working predominantly outside academic settings.
- Develop work/working groups addressing challenges around the contribution of sociological theories and concepts in applied fields (see discussion in *Perspectives in Public Health* paper noted above).

Katie Powell, Nick J Fox, Convenors.