

BSA Families and Relationships (FAR) Study Group Report 2023/2024.

Conveners:

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Study Group Aims

The aims of the FAR study group are to provide a space which enables critical discussion and development of sociology of family and relationships (broadly conceived) and also to promote the value of sociology of family/relationships within the discipline and in relation to other disciplines and society more broadly.

Study Group Membership

- Our active JISMail list currently has 440 subscribers (increased from 415 last year), of whom 63 are BSA members.
- Our FAR Twitter/X account has 710 followers (up from 645 last year).

Study Group Activities

- BSA Online Symposium: Families, Relationships, Religious and Non-religious Perspectives (March 2024)

This online event was organised by study group members Dr Morena Tartari (Babeş-Bolyai University) and Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü, (University of Padua), both study group members, as a follow up to last year's event on *Family Relationships and the Environment*. The BSA office and FAR team provided support with event planning and advertising to FAR members. There were key notes from Drs Francesco Cerchiaro and Lois Lee, followed by rapid-fire panel presentations.

- BSA FAR and Human Reproduction workshop: Personal Relationships and Reproductive Technologies (March 2024)

We jointly hosted this in-person workshop with the BSA Human Reproduction study group. It was hosted by De Montfort University and funded by a £1000 grant from the BSA ECR Regional Event Fund which subsidised delegate fees. On the day, 22 delegates attended (despite train strikes), including both social scientists and practitioners. Our keynote speaker was Dr Julie Roberts with a response by Dr Sian Beynon-Jones, followed by short panel presentations. We had positive feedback from delegates and a suggestion for future co-hosted events.

- BSA Annual Conference (online, April 2024)

As in previous years, the FAR conveners reviewed abstracts for the BSA Annual Conference (online this year). The conveners also organised a stream plenary speaker – Professor Anna Tarrant, University of Lincoln. Her talk was entitled, ‘Instigating change through contexts of crises in young fatherhood research: the methodological power of qualitative longitudinal impact research and co-creation’.

- Monthly Reading Group (ongoing)

Laura Way has been leading the online reading group, which runs on an approximately monthly basis, with papers selected by the conveners or group members. The reading group is advertised via email and twitter and we typically have a group of 5-10 members (from across all career stages) attending for a friendly and welcoming discussion.

Finances

At December 2023, we have £504.63 in our account (up from £403.63 last year).