

BSA Theory Study Group Annual Report (2023)

Name: Theory Study Group (THE)

Appointment of Conveners July 2022

Number of members: 470 on JISCmail, out of whom 77 are BSA members and 393 are non-members; 7,127 followers on X.

Income: closing balance at 31/12/23 was £525.

Aims:

Key aims of THE include:

- provide a forum for those interested in sociological and social theory
- host events on current debates in the field of sociological theory
- coordinate the organisation of the Theory stream at the annual BSA conference
- facilitate research on and about sociological theory and its history

Review of the year:

Over the past year, we organised multiple events - discussing social theory in relation to the social theory of W.E.B. Du Bois and B. R. Ambedkar (April 2023), theorising with art and music (June 2023), exploring social theory and the production of everyday life in eco-conscious households (October 2023), exploring the meaning and practice of 'rest' through a disability politics perspective (November 2023), and holding a discussion with Martin Hägglund (2024). We have also planned a series of events for Autumn 2024. In the run-up to the BSA 2024 Annual Conference, we reviewed the abstracts submitted to the Theory stream and we chaired seven panels in April 2024. We have also been approached by the Immanuel Wallerstein Open Global Lecture initiative (organised by the Latin American Council for Social Sciences and the Institute for Social Research, Frankfurt) and we are planning a long-term arrangement.

4th April 2023, 4pm

- Karida Brown and Scott Stroud in Conversation: Pragmatism, Critical Social Theory, and the Alternative Trajectories of W.E.B. Du Bois and B.R. Ambedkar
 - **Chair:** Sebastian Raza-Mejia
 - **Discussants** Kumud Ranjan
 - **Speakers** Karida Brown and Scott Stroud

- **Organiser:** Sebastian Raza Meija

21st June 2023, 4pm

Theorising with art and music (in collaboration with BSA Sociology of Art Study Group)

- **Chair:** Lisa McCormick
- **Speakers** Fiona Greenland, Laura Harris, Alexander C. Sutton, Dominik Zelinsky
- **Organiser:** Lisa McCormick

4th October 2023, 4pm

Social Theory and The Production of Everyday Life in Eco-Conscious Households with Kirstin Munro

- **Chair/discussant:** Ioana Cerasella Chis
- **Speaker:** Kirstin Munro
- **Organiser:** Ioana Cerasella Chis

11th October 2023, 4pm (in collaboration with the University of Cambridge)

BSA Presents: Discussion with Martin Hägglund

- **Chair/discussant:** Sebastian Raza Meija
- **Speaker:** Martin Hägglund
- **Organiser:** Sebastian Raza Meija

One of the conveners of the Study Group, Ioana Cerasella Chis, also secured PGR Forum funding of £1,080 to organise a Symposium that was held on 1 November 2023, called [‘Approaching Rest, Work, and Activism through the Lens of Disability Politics’](#)

3-5 April 2024 (BSA conference)

- **Chairs of Theory Stream panels:** Joe Davidson, Sebastian Raza Meija, and Ioana Cerasella Chis

Forthcoming events in 2024 (confirmed so far):

3 August 2024 (all day)

The Legacy of Margaret Archer (OneDay Symposium, University of Warwick)

- **Organisers:** Sebastian Raza Meija and Mark Carrigan

[provisional date/time] 18 September 2024 (4pm)

Event on academic freedom and the politics of 'free speech' (online)

- **Speaker:** Jana Bacevic
- **Organiser:** Ioana Cerasella Chis

6 November 2024 (4pm)

The Frankfurt School Beyond Its Centenary: Exploring Contemporary Critical Social Theory and its Critique of Political Economy (online)

- **Speakers:** Stephan Lessenich, Chris O'Kane, Cecilia Sebastian, Esteban Torres
- **Organiser:** Ioana Cerasella Chis

Two other potential events are currently being planned for Autumn 2024 (online) on the production of social theory and sociology in the context in which higher education institutions are being significantly restructured and the landscape of journal publishing is undergoing rapid change.

Concluding remarks

In 2024 and 2025, we plan to organise further events on the relevance of sociological theory in contemporary society - especially in the context of societal and institutional crises that have created barriers to producing social theoretical research.

As per BSA Theory's agreement with the New Materialism Study Group, next year's Theory Stream will be facilitated by the NM Study Group. The Theory Study Group will resume its involvement in the Theory Stream for the 2026 Annual Conference. This arrangement should be revisited with the new convenors and updated as needed.

Convenors:

Co-convenors Ioana Cerasella Chis (icc108@student.bham.ac.uk / ioana.chis.research@gmail.com), Sebastian Raza-Mejia (slr75@cam.ac.uk), and Joe Davidson (joed35@ymail.com) will continue to organise events and other activities on behalf of the BSA Theory Study Group.